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19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Videoconference, 7–9 June 2021

**Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters**

**Provisional Annotated Agenda**



## **Introduction**

1. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and in consultation with the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee, the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD is being convened on 7–9 June 2021.
2. Slovenia generously offered to host the meeting in the municipality of Izola. Due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held through videoconference, virtually hosted by Slovenia. Modalities for connection through electronic means will be communicated to the participants in due time.
3. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for the plenary sessions. Working documents will be in English and French. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session.
4. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda (Document UNEP/MED WG.493/1) were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

5. The meeting will be opened at 10:00 on Monday, 7 June 2021, by Ms. Ivana Stojanovic, President of the MCSD. After a welcome address from the Host Country, the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat will also make opening remarks.

### **Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters**

- a) *Election of the Steering Committee*
- b) *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*
- c) *Organization of Work*

<b>Working and Information Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/1	Provisional Agenda
	UNEP/MED WG.493/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants

6. The Rules of Procedure of the MCSD will apply.
7. The meeting will proceed to the election of the MCSD Steering Committee which, according to Rule 17, is composed of a President, five Vice-presidents and a Rapporteur, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, and shall include four members representing the Contracting Parties, including *ex officio* the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, and three representatives from the six groups foreseen by the Terms of Reference of the MCSD.
8. The meeting will be invited to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda contained in Document UNEP/MED WG.493/1 and annotated in the present document.
9. It is expected that the MCSD will discuss all the items of the Agenda during its two-and-a-half-day meeting, including the adoption of conclusions and recommendations. It is envisaged to close the meeting at 14:30 on 9 June 2021.
10. The Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD will be distributed to the Members of the MCSD for their perusal, comments and approval through electronic means.

**Agenda item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2019 – May 2021**

<b>Working Document</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.6	MSSD Reporting Table – Focus on Targets and Flagship Initiatives (March 2021)

11. The Secretariat will present the progress in MCSD and MSSD related developments since the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 June 2019), as contained in Document UNEP/MED WG.493/3.

12. The Members of the MCSD will be invited to report on their own efforts to support the MSSD implementation and the work of the MCSD and will comment on the Progress Report.

**Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**

**a) Promoting the MSSD in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Peer Learning from Voluntary National Reviews**

<b>Working and Reference Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/7	Peer Learning: Structures and Processes for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Mediterranean Countries
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.8	Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Questionnaire filled-in by Contracting Party-MCSD Members
		Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (SIMPEER). Editions 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 <a href="https://planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/cahier20_SIMPEER_EN.pdf">https://planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/cahier20_SIMPEER_EN.pdf</a>

13. The Secretariat will introduce Document UNEP/MED WG.493/7 “Structures and Processes for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Mediterranean Countries”, for consideration and comments from the MCSD towards finalization and dissemination.

14. The MCSD Members representing Contracting Parties which went or will go through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2020 and 2021 will be invited to report on their experiences at the HLPF. A discussion will follow.

**b) MSSD Flagship Initiatives**

<b>Working and Information Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.6	MSSD Reporting Table – Focus on Targets and Flagship Initiatives (March 2021)
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.7	WeMed Mediterranean Sustainability Award

15. Following a brief presentation by the Secretariat about the status of implementation of the MSSD Flagship Initiatives, the MCSD Members and partners which took the lead or provided support in implementing the following MSSD initiatives will be invited to introduce a short presentation of main achievements, challenges, and perspectives; a discussion will follow those presentations:

- Support the Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas: *The MedFund*
- Promote the “Green list” (IUCN World Parks Congress) in riparian states: IUCN Med

- Promote the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award: Secretariat
- Create a sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean – *MedUrbanTools*: Med Cities
- Undertake regional assessments, as well as knowledge exchanges, of high- and low-tech solutions to achieve waste reduction: MIO-ECSDE
- Create a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation – *WeMed Mediterranean Sustainability Award*: SCP/RAC
- Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: MIO-ECSDE and/or MEPIELAN
- Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements: MEPIELAN

**c) *Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard***

<b>Working and Information Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	UNEP/MED WG.493/4	Strengthening the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.3	Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and SCP Indicators: Factsheets

16. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) will introduce Document UNEP/MED WG.493/4 for presenting the work done and perspectives to strengthening the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the Regional Observatory on the Environment and Development. The MCSDD will be invited to provide guidance on the way forward towards submission of the updated dashboard and Plan Bleu’s proposals to UNEP/MAP Focal Points and to COP 22.

**d) *Mid-Term Evaluations of the MSSD and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production***

<b>Working and Information Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	UNEP/MED WG.493/5	Mid-Term Evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development – Draft Final Report
	UNEP/MED WG.493/6	Mid-Term Evaluation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean – Draft Final Report
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.4	MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation: Outputs from the Stakeholder Consultation

17. The consultants in charge of the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and of the SCP Regional Action Plan will introduce Documents UNEP/MED WG.493/5 and WG.493/6, focusing on the draft results and recommendations of the mid-term evaluations, for consideration and comments by the MCSDD in view of their finalization towards submission to UNEP/MAP Focal Points and to COP 22, with proposals on the way forward for the next period of implementation of those strategic and forward-looking documents.

**Agenda item 5: Recent and Future Assessment and Foresight Studies**

*State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED); and,*

*Roadmap on MED 2050 Foresight Study: State of Play and Next Steps*

<b>Working and Reference Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.5	MED 2050 Foresight Study: State of Play and Next Steps
	UNEP/MAP and Plan Bleu (2020). State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean. Nairobi	
	SoED Summary for Decision Makers	
	SoED Key Messages <a href="https://planbleu.org/en/soed-2020-state-of-environment-and-development-in-mediterranean/">https://planbleu.org/en/soed-2020-state-of-environment-and-development-in-mediterranean/</a>	
	Demographic Trends and Outlook in the Mediterranean. Plan Bleu Notes No 38, October 2020 <a href="https://planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Note38_-English-version.pdf">https://planbleu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Note38_-English-version.pdf</a>	

18. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will introduce key findings and messages from the SoED report, which is the most comprehensive Mediterranean assessment of its kind in a decade and which was released in October 2020 as a UNEP publication: see references in Document UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.1. The presentation will focus on environmental issues which put the Mediterranean basin under pressure and on the identification of drivers of environmental degradation from key economic sectors. Plan Bleu will also introduce levers of action that decision-makers can ‘activate’ to achieve a green transition and a resilient, inclusive recovery for reversing current trajectories.

19. A general discussion will follow for possible recommendations to support the Contracting Parties in taking concrete steps in incorporating the SoED concerns, main finding and key messages in their environmental policies, in line with Decision IG.24/04 adopted at COP 21.

20. Complementing the presentation of SoED, the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will also present the work done in 2020-2021 in the framework of the MED 2050 Foresight Study, as well as the next steps and perspectives towards the inclusion of the MCSD in this participatory exercise.

***First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)***

<b>Working and Reference Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	MedECC (2020) Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report [Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.)] Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP, Marseille, France, 600pp, in press <a href="https://www.medecc.org/first-mediterranean-assessment-report-mar1/">https://www.medecc.org/first-mediterranean-assessment-report-mar1/</a> MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report – Summary for Policymakers <a href="https://www.medecc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MedECC_MAR1_SPM_ENG.pdf">https://www.medecc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/MedECC_MAR1_SPM_ENG.pdf</a>	

21. As invited speakers, the Coordinators of the independent network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), will present the main findings and key messages of the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) “Climate and Environmental Change in the

Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future”. They will also introduce the most recent developments and perspectives of the MedECC work.

22. A discussion will follow to collect general feedback and detailed comments from the MCSD towards recommendations in view of the submission, for consideration and possible endorsement, of the MAR1 Summary for Policy-Makers (SPM) by the UNEP/MAP Focal Points and by COP 22.

23. The MCSD is also expected to formulate conclusions on MedECC’s perspectives, including in view of a long-term support to this successful regional initiative, as a recognized science-policy interface within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system and for further collaboration with the MCSD on climate and environmental matters.

**Agenda item 6: Roundtable: Achievement of the SDGs and Transition towards a Sustainable Blue Economy for a Post-COVID Green Renaissance in the Mediterranean**

<b>Working and Reference Documents</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
	UNEP/MAP Strategic Response to the COVID-19 Crisis (June 2020)	<a href="https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/mediterranean-action-plans-strategic-response-covid-19-blueprint-action">https://www.unenvironment.org/unepmap/mediterranean-action-plans-strategic-response-covid-19-blueprint-action</a>

24. The SoED and MedECC MAR1 ‘twin reports’ warn on the hefty toll that the global triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is taking on the Mediterranean region, which is not on track to achieve the SDGs, confirming the urgency of a green renaissance in the post-COVID era: unless urgent and resolute action is taken to halt current trends, environmental degradation could have serious consequences for human health and livelihoods.

25. Those publications during a global pandemic of zoonotic origin provide a “wake-up call” in favor of the one-health approach to bolster the region’s resilience, a renewed call for “Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development” (MSSD subtitle).

26. To foster discussions on a sustainable, resilient and inclusive future through a sustainable blue economy for a post-COVID green renaissance in the Mediterranean, a roundtable is envisaged gathering the following speakers: Ambassador Sergio Piazzi, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) about parliamentary diplomacy in support of regional multilateralism and solidarity for the environment and sustainable development; Julien Rochette, Ocean Programme Director, IDDRI, about regional marine governance in times of crisis; a representative of the European Commission to introduce the practical aspects and implementation of the new Agenda for the Mediterranean in the context of the EU Green Deal; Najib Saab, Secretary General of AFED, about Green Recovery plans in the Arab world; Simone Cresti, Manager of SDSN Med, about transformation hubs to achieve the SDGs and Mediterranean youth solutions for the SDGs; a representative of SCP/RAC about regional measures to support green and circular businesses in the Mediterranean; a representative of Italy on national initiatives on Sustainable Blue Economy in the context of global and regional commitments; and, a representative of the Municipality of Izola, Slovenia, about the promotion of green entrepreneurship and local cooperation in the context of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

27. The outcome of this panel discussions and respective reactions from the MCSD Members may represent the first elements that the MCSD may consider in view of feeding the relevant discussions at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, December 2021) and in the preparation of its Declaration.

**Agenda item 7: Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System: draft Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027, draft Programme of Work 2022-2023, Inputs for COP 22 Ministerial Declaration**

<b>Working Document</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/8	Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System
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28. The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.493/8 to stimulate discussions within the MCSD on integrating sustainability considerations into the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System.
29. The MCSD is expected to produce opinions on the overall draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2022-2023, which is the first biennial PoW of the forthcoming UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027.
30. This agenda item will also launch the consultation on the preparation of the draft Ministerial Declaration of COP 22: the MCSD is expected to facilitate the identification of issues of relevance to the Ministerial Session and Declaration of COP 22.

**Agenda item 8: MCSD Membership**

<b>Working Document</b>	UNEP/MED WG.493/3	Progress Report for the Period June 2019 – April 2021 and Specific Issues
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31. The MCSD will be invited to review the MCSD Membership's proposal from the Secretariat, as included in Document UNEP/MED WG.493/3, for agreement by consensus towards submission to the UNEP/MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for decision by the Contracting Parties.

**Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters, Including Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the MCSD**

32. The MCSD will be invited to discuss and decide upon the date, venue and agenda of 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, to be set for May/June 2023.
33. The meeting will consider other issues that may be raised by the participants.

**Agenda item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations**

34. The Rapporteur will submit for adoption a set of conclusions based on the discussions under all agenda items.
35. The report of the meeting will be circulated to the Members of the MCSD at a later stage for adoption.
36. The meeting is expected to be closed by the President of the MCSD at approximately 14:30 on Wednesday, 9 June 2021.
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### Timetable

(The timetable should be read in local time in Athens, Greece: GMT+3)

<b>Monday 7 June 2021</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Documents</b>
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:30 – 11:00	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters a) Election of the Steering Committee b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda c) Organization of Work	UNEP/MED WG.493/1 UNEP/MED WG.493/2 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.2
11:00 – 12:00	Agenda item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2019 – May 2021	UNEP/MED WG.493/1 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.6
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>	
12:30 – 13:30	Agenda item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2019 – May 2021 ( <i>cont'd: comments and inputs from MCSD Members</i> )	UNEP/MED WG.493/1 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.6
13:30 – 14:30	Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) a) Promoting the MSSD in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Peer Learning from Voluntary National Reviews	UNEP/MED WG.493/7 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.8
14:30 – 16:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
16:00 – 17:15	Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) ( <i>cont'd</i> ) b) MSSD Flagship Initiatives	UNEP/MED WG.493/1 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.7
17:15 – 18:00	Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) ( <i>cont'd</i> ) c) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard	UNEP/MED WG.493/3 UNEP/MED WG.493/4 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.3
<b>Tuesday 8 June 2021</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Documents</b>
10:00 – 12:00	Agenda item 5: Recent and Future Assessment and Foresight Studies State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED) Roadmap on MED 2050 Foresight Study: State of Play and Next Steps First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR 1) of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)	UNEP/MED WG.493/1 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.5 Reference documents included in UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.1
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>	
12:30 – 14:30	Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) ( <i>cont'd</i> ) d) Mid-Term Evaluations of the MSSD and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)	UNEP/MED WG.493/3 UNEP/MED WG.493/5 UNEP/MED WG.493/6 UNEP/MED WG.493/Inf.4

14:30 – 16:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
16:00 – 18:00	Agenda item 6: Roundtable – Achievement of the SDGs and Transition towards a Sustainable Blue Economy for a Post-COVID Green Renaissance in the Mediterranean	UNEP/MED WG.493/2 UNEP/MED WG.493/3
<b>Wednesday 9 June 2021</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Documents</b>
10:00 – 11:30	Agenda item 7: Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System: draft Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027, draft Programme of Work 2022-2023, Inputs for COP 22 Ministerial Declaration	UNEP/MED WG.493/8
11:30 – 12:00	Agenda item 8: MCSD Membership	UNEP/MED WG.493/3
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>	
12:30 – 13:00	Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters, Including Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the MCSD	
13:00 – 14:15	Agenda item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations	UNEP/MED WG.493/9 – to be issued after the meeting
14:15 – 14:30	Closure of the Meeting	