

Background

This document is guided by the decisions made by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), particularly those related to the Governance Paper that concern the MCSD composition (Decision IG 17/4).

The MCSD is a forum for debate and exchange of experiences on sustainable development issues that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region. It would therefore be appropriate to involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in the work of the Commission, so as to ensure the greatest possible dissemination of the concepts promoted by the MCSD.

In addition to representatives of the Contracting Parties, local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic stakeholders, three new categories have been agreed that should represent:

- the scientific community;
- intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development;
- eminent experts in the field of the topics of the MCSD meeting agenda.

In order to implement the decision, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for approval, with prior consultation with the MAP focal points and MCSD members, the criteria and procedure for the selection of the MCSD members from the academic and scientific community, the intergovernmental organizations and eminent experts as provided for in the Governance paper.

As indicated in the Almeria report, the proposed criteria and procedures for the selection of representatives of the new categories keep in mind that efforts should be made to ensure participation of representatives from both environmental and development sector related to the topics of the agenda of each meeting of the MCSD.

Also, the criteria and procedures strive to ensure an appropriate geographical representation, and media participation as requested by the Contracting Parties.

1. Criteria

General criteria

- *Have a broad vision and a Mediterranean focus;*
- *Represent or be an active member of a national or Mediterranean networks or knowledge community;*
- *Have relevant expertise in issues of importance to the MCSD, including priority areas and crosscutting issues;*
- *Be active in the field of sustainable development;*
- *Be willing to share and exchange with other members their expertise and experience, on the occasion of MCSD meeting and during the intersession (e.g. through contribution to specific working groups);*
- *Play a dynamic role in the activities of the MCSD, notably assuming leading roles or providing/looking for support;*
- *Be willing to engage and become champions of the MSSD implementation in their domain of influence;*
- *Have an explicit interest and effective involvement in Mediterranean activities.*

Specific criteria for scientific community

- *Have a significant list of publications in domains that are relevant to the MCSD work programme and MSSD priority areas of actions: energy and climate change; information and communication; integrated coastal management; management of water demand, marine pollution; sustainable development indicators; sustainable tourism; sustainable agriculture; urban development;*
- *Be familiar with the MAP programme of work and activities;*
- *Be familiar with the Barcelona system;*
- *Have contributed or contribute consistently to increased understanding of environmental, social or economic issues at stake in the region through collaborative action oriented research or teaching.*

Specific criteria for intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development

- *Be engaged in significant regional or country level programmes of relevance to the MCSD work programme and MSSD priority areas of actions;*
- *Be involved in regional or subregional cooperation frameworks, facilities, policies or financial mechanisms.*

Specific criteria for eminent experts

- *be distinguished Mediterranean personalities recognized in the environment, social or economic domains;*
- *have a recognised policy influence at the regional or country level;*
- *entertain distinct connections with decision makers and policy leaders.*

2. Methods of nomination

For the categories "scientific community" and "eminent expert", the selection will carefully respect the principle of balance geographical representation between the North, South, East and West.

Scientific community

The representatives of the scientific community will be selected through proposals made by the MAP components and partners that transmit the candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP. Spontaneous candidature may also be solicited and considered by the Secretariat.

Intergovernmental organizations

The representatives of the intergovernmental organizations will be selected through proposals made by the Secretariat of MAP that will solicit candidature directly.

Eminent experts

Cooptation will be encouraged among the Contracting Parties. Expressions of interest will be solicited directly by the MAP Secretariat.