



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



29 June 2009
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 337/Inf.12
Original: French
ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the MAP focal points

Athens, Greece, 7-10 July 2009

**REPORT OF THE 12th MEETING
OF THE MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE**



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7 July 2008
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 327/3
Original: French
ENGLISH



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12th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee
Athens, Greece, 19 and 20 June 2008

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Report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

Introduction

1. The Twelfth Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was held at the premises of the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) in Athens (Greece) on 19 and 20 June 2007.
2. The list of participants is contained in **Annex I** to this report.

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda

3. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. by Mr Paul Mifsud, MAP Coordinator, who welcomed the members of the Steering Committee who had been elected by the MCSD Meeting in Istanbul in May 2007. Mr Ufuk Kucukay (Turkey) conveyed the regrets of Mr Kadioglu, who had been retained by other obligations and had entrusted him with the duty of chairing the meeting on his behalf. He wished the participants a productive meeting with a view to the next meeting of the MCSD in 2009.
4. The Coordinator indicated that the Annotated Agenda had been drawn up in a more lively manner with each item being accompanied by relevant questions to which the Steering Committee was invited to respond, or at the very least to provide indications. The purpose was to stimulate the discussion by indicating the principal outcomes that were expected. The meeting adopted the Annotated Agenda set out in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/1, which is reproduced as **Annex II** to this report.

Agenda item 1. Preliminary remarks by the Coordinator: Summary of the Secretariat's Progress Report

5. Mr Mifsud briefly presented the "Report by the Secretariat for the Twelfth Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee" (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/2), which focussed on the four principal objectives assigned to the present meeting: (1) examination of the Progress Report on MCSD activities, including support National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) in eight countries and the progress of MAP components on MCSD related activities; (2) developments since the last MCSD Meeting, including the decisions and recommendations of the Contracting Parties in Almeria concerning the terms of reference, functioning and work programme of the MCSD, and other developments outside the MAP system such as the Union for the Mediterranean initiative, Horizon 2020 and the GEF Project, concerning which presentations would be made; (3) the Work Programme 2008-2009 and the Roadmap to the next MCSD Meeting; and finally (4) considerations for the preparation of the next MCSD Meeting. He recalled that the MCSD would henceforth hold meetings every two years and no longer on an annual basis: this decision adopted in Almeria was in practice the confirmation of a provision contained in the MCSD Rules of Procedure since 2000. This was one more reason for the fuller involvement of the Steering Committee in the preparation of meetings, as strongly recommended by the MCSD Meeting in Nicosia in 2006, and for the strengthening of its

synergies with the MAP components and with developments outside the MAP system in the region. Finally, the Coordinator recalled that the former meeting of Directors of the MED Unit and the RACs had been formalized in an Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), which met four times a year and, at its first meeting in February 2008, had favourably received the draft selection criteria and method of nomination of candidates representing new categories of MCSD members, which had been prepared by the Secretariat and on which the Steering Committee was invited to comment. In conclusion, the Coordinator informed the Steering Committee of his participation in the 16th Meeting of the UNCSD, which could provide an opportunity for examining means of developing more solid interaction with that body, particularly in terms of harmonizing the themes that were being addressed. The Mediterranean had given rise to a side event at CSD-16 thanks to Montenegro, which had presented its National Strategy for Sustainable Development, which was a success story in this field.

6. In this respect, one representative noted that the visibility of the MCSD within the UNCSD was an issue that had arisen repeatedly over the years, or in other words the question of organizing the MCSD programme so that it was synchronized more effectively with that of the UNCSD, which would permit more active and rational participation by the Mediterranean in the world Commission. Two other participants shared this view, one of whom proposed participation in the form of side events in the New York Commission, while the other noted that other regional Commissions appeared to be more visible within the UNCSD, even though they were not necessarily more active or representative.

7. The official responsible for sustainable development in the Coordinating Unit noted that the issue of the visibility of the MCSD arose because the official system of geographical representation in the United Nations did not allow the Mediterranean to be present as such at the UNCSD, as it was on the borderline between three continents. It would therefore need to become politically stronger to ensure its admission and recognition, which required a long-term effort. Mr Mifsud indicated that it was the first occasion on which he had participated in a meeting of the UNCSD, and that he had noted that the multiplicity of side events undoubtedly had the effect of decreasing their impact and their audience. He was more of the view that it was necessary to take advantage of the work carried out within the UNCSD through its integration and application at the regional and local levels. He had also noted that when thematic work or side events took place with the active participation of major groups, they were more productive and instructive.

8. The representative of local authorities strongly supported the idea proposed by the MAP Coordinator of taking advantage of the new Dutch presidency of the UNCSD with a view to the organization at its next meeting in May 2009 of an MCSD side event. He added that this could be undertaken through the European Union and would offer the MCSD the opportunity, in partnership with the DESA/CSD, to present a model of sustainable development at the level of the Mediterranean. Another speaker considered that visibility should not be sought for its own sake, but in order to demonstrate at the international level that there were pilot activities which could succeed at the regional level.

9. Finally, in reply to a member of the MCSD who emphasized the importance of sustainable production and consumption, Mr Mifsud indicated that the Barcelona Centre had carried out a great deal of work in this field, that it was associated with the Marrakesh process and that, as proposed by the speaker concerned, it would be ensured that it addressed themes not yet covered by the process, such as agriculture, waste management and transport.

1.1 Support for the policy process at the national level

10. The official responsible for sustainable development, by way of introduction to his presentation of this section of the report, emphasized the extreme complexity and constant evolution of the context of the MCSD (see the MCSD diagram reproduced in **Annex III** to this report), which explained the difficulties that could be encountered in interacting with a multiplicity of actors at the international, regional and local levels. For example, it was possible to point to 500 environmental agreements at the international level, without mentioning the various regional strategies, initiatives and processes. The governance of agreements took place through their meetings of Contracting Parties, and for each country there were a similar number of focal points (for biodiversity, desertification, climate change, etc.). This difficulty reoccurred at the national level in terms of support for the formulation of NSSDs.

11. With regard to the four countries in the first phase (Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic), the greatest success had been experienced in Montenegro through the conjugation of three factors: political commitment at the highest level, the involvement of ministries other than the Ministry of the Environment and the fact that MAP support had been provided at a propitious time when the country had just gained independence. With regard to the second phase covering four other countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia), the difficulties and delays in the formulation of the NSSDs could be attributed to various reasons, such as periods of institutional transition and reform, and sometimes political instability. Only Tunisia had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding and was on the right path, and could target achievements that were already solid in the field of sustainable development.

12. The representative of Morocco described the experience of his country. MAP support had been provided when Morocco had already drawn up a first NSSD in 1997-98, which it had not been possible to implement despite its excellent quality. The reformulation of another strategy five years later had therefore met with a certain level of scepticism, added to a period of institutional restructuring during which the Department of the Environment had on several occasions been moved from one Ministry to another. He wondered whether it would not be preferable to rely on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development to commence work on certain of the priority fields of the Strategy, based on their urgency. It would then be easier to unite these local actions around an NSSD and then to exchange promising experiences at the regional level, where appropriate. The establishment might also be envisaged of a symbolic prize to recompense a pilot action in the field of sustainability, a town or association that was particularly dynamic in this field.

13. In view of the specific conditions in the various areas and basins of the Mediterranean (Adriatic, Middle East, Maghreb, Ionian Sea, etc.), one representative called for a subregional approach which would allow two or more countries to focus on common priorities, possibly in the context of pilot activities which could be replicated in other subregions.

14. In reply to a request for information, the Secretariat indicated that it had no recent information on Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic. The first working session on the challenges and opportunities of NSSD formulation in 2006 had shown that these two countries had completed the formulation process, but they had not subsequently sent information or reports on the implementation of their respective strategies. In the final analysis, once an NSSD had been formulated, its implementation was the sole responsibility of the national authorities. But in this respect the time had come to update the previous review and assessment of NSSDs and

preparations should also be made with a view to the 2010-2011 period of an evaluation report on the implementation of the MSSD at the regional level.

15. Mr Francesco Saverio Civili, MED POL Coordinator, added that the refocusing of activities at the subregional level was now an obligation for MAP as a whole as a result of the adoption of the ecosystem approach, which would be applied progressively over the coming years on the basis of an appropriate roadmap. This refocusing at the subregional level could be implemented more practically through the identification of strategic and operational objectives, including for the implementation of the MSSD.

1.2 Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components

16. Without entering into detail, Mr Mifsud invited the members of the Steering Committee to give their views, if they so wished, on the results of the various themes covered by the MCSD as set out in the relevant section of the Progress Report, namely on: the themes led by the Blue Plan (indicators of sustainable development, sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture and sustainable transport), SPA/RAC (Specially Protected Areas and biodiversity), MED POL (reduction of pollution of the marine environment), CP/RAC (sustainable production and consumption) and INFO/RAC (information and communication in relation to the MCSD). The Coordinator drew attention to the Concept Note on MCSD Working Groups (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.2) and to the brief proposal contained in the paper for the structuring of the discussion on: how the concept, composition and functioning of working groups could be improved; in more practical terms, how working groups could strengthen the capacities of countries to meet their commitments at the regional and international levels; and finally on how to facilitate interaction and synergy between the work of the MCSD and the activities of the various MAP components.

17. Mr Civili described the main activities of MED POL in relation to one of the MSSD's seven priority fields of activities (Chapter 2.7), namely sustainable management of the sea, coastal zones and marine resources. He recalled what had been achieved since the formulation of the SAP and the corresponding National Action Plans (NAPs) to prepare the ground for the implementation of action to reduce pollution. However, in view of the limited resources available to MAP and MED POL, one of the principal tasks had been to facilitate the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the actions envisaged in the NAPs. MED POL had therefore made a major contribution to the preparation and launching of the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem, which would offer an unprecedented stimulus at the financial level in assisting eligible countries to implement the reforms and investments envisaged in the SAP MED and the SAP BIO. Finally, in the context of the Horizon 2020 initiative, the EIB had worked in cooperation with MED POL to identify bankable projects in relation to all the priority actions of the NAPs. In conclusion, the MED POL Coordinator recalled that, following a long wait, the amended LBS Protocol had recently entered into force, which had major implications, including the overriding obligation to implement the SAP under the terms of Article 15.

18. The official responsible for sustainable development submitted three points to the participants which it appeared essential to the Secretariat to clarify so as to be able to progress in the discussions: (1) should working groups be confined, as had been the established practice since the beginning of the MCSD, to issuing recommendations, or should the recommendations be accompanied by operational considerations to facilitate their implementation at the national

level? (2) working groups operated in isolation: could it be envisaged that they should work in synergy and complementarity (for example, the links between energy and transport)? (3) how could the various horizontal issues that were being addressed by working groups on an individual basis be integrated?

19. According to one representative, the second point raised by the official responsible for sustainable development effectively encompassed the impression gained from a reading of the section of the paper on the activities of the working groups: each of them operated “in its own corner”, with the RAC that was leading the work, without the integration that was emphasized as being necessary throughout the MSSD. From the beginning, at its first meeting in Rabat in 1996, it had been decided by the MCSD to establish thematic working groups with task managers (generally a country) and supporting technical centres, which appeared to be more rational. Subsequently, the lack of follow up in the implementation of the recommendations adopted had been manifest, for example through reports, as had often been proposed. Finally, confining work to issuing recommendations failed to address the implementation aspect or to examine, for example, the necessary financial resources or North/South cooperation. Another participant endorsed this view. The establishment of working groups at a higher level was also advocated, for example, in relation to climate change, which should be addressed through all of its contributory aspects, including energy, transport, agriculture, tourism and other horizontal aspects such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration and sustainable consumption and production. A fourth representative commented on the relevance of these observations to the Steering Committee itself, which should ensure that its work was integrated with that of the working groups and the MCSD, particularly since the holding of one meeting of the MCSD every two years placed greater obligations on the Steering Committee to maintain continuity between its sessions.

20. The MAP Coordinator referred to the “impression” described by the first speaker and indicated that in his view it was much more than just an impression: the MAP components did not work in synergy and this problem needed to be addressed head on, particularly at a crucial moment for MAP when, with adoption of the ecosystem approach, the ICZM Protocol and the establishment of Executive Coordination Panel, greater integration was required at all levels. For example, the Blue Plan was engaged in excellent work on indicators, sustainable tourism and its other themes in general, but this work could not be fully effective unless it was associated with other components and partners and lost its exclusive nature. The Secretariat therefore fully endorsed the recommendations that had just been made by the Steering Committee, which involved returning to the original objective of the working groups from which they had become distanced over time through an insidious slippage towards the RACs. The MCSD therefore needed to reappropriate the working groups for itself, take decisions on its own account concerning their establishment and their themes, agree on task managers, as envisaged in its constitutional texts. Sustainable development was primarily a matter of dialogue and compromise, and was not the sole responsibility of the technical unit, nor of specialists working in isolation. The working groups needed to return to this spirit in their work.

21. Following the discussion, the Coordinator thanked the members of the Steering Committee for their contributions, which would substantiate a series of useful conclusions for the future action of the working groups.

Agenda item 2. Developments since the last MCSD meeting

2.1 Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria

2.2.1 *Decision IG 17/4: Governance Paper*

22. The MAP Coordinator informed the Steering Committee of the decisions adopted by the Contracting Parties in Almeria in the section of the Governance Paper concerning the new terms of reference of the MCSD. The changes essentially consisted of updating certain of the missions entrusted to the MCSD and extending its composition through the inclusion of three new categories: the scientific community; intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development; and eminent experts in fields that were relevant to the MCSD programme of work and/or the agenda of its meeting. The relevant section of the Governance Paper had been attached to the Secretariat's Progress Report to help the Steering Committee in its discussions. Clearly the decisions of the Contracting Parties were not up for discussion, but the Steering Committee might wish to give its views on the implications that they might have for the work of the MCSD and even regarding certain amendments to its Rules of Procedure.

23. Moreover, in decision 17/4 on governance, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for approval, following prior consultations with the MAP Focal Points and MCSD members, the criteria and procedures for the selection of the MCSD members representing the three new categories accepted for membership. The Secretariat therefore wished to obtain the views of the Steering Committee on the draft selection criteria and method of nomination which had previously been discussed by the first meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel in February 2008, so that they could be transmitted to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties when the draft text was submitted for approval at its next meeting.

24. During the discussion on this point, the Secretariat was requested to specify the definition of intergovernmental organizations and to integrate universities more clearly into the notion of the scientific community. In response to two members who called for broader representation of socio-economic actors and eminent experts in the MCSD, the reply was given that the composition had been officially adopted by the Contracting Parties and that it was not therefore up for review, but that the draft criteria and method of nomination of the three new categories could be reviewed if necessary, subject to approval by the Bureau. In this respect, certain members of the Steering Committee considered that the Mediterranean origin of experts should not be an absolute criterion, as there could be excellent specialists on issues of interest in the Mediterranean in countries not covered by MAP. Another participant contested that the Mediterranean origin of all members should be a requirement, as reference was being made to eminent experts as members of the MCSD. However, nothing prevented well-known experts or institutions from outside the region from being invited to a meeting of the MCSD, as had been done in the past, as observers or to give introductory presentations. It was also agreed that, with regard to the specific criteria for the scientific community, the fields of competence should not be limited to those set out in the MCSD's programme of work or the seven priority fields of activities specified in the MSSD, as it was the calling of the MCSD to be open to issues that went beyond the scope of MAP and the Convention, particularly at a time when new problems and issues were continually arising, sometimes on an urgent basis.

25. Turning to the implications of the changes that had been made to the MCSD's terms of reference in Almeria, it was emphasized that the intersessional period was now two years, which

would make it necessary for members not to lose contact with each other and for working groups to remain active and vigilant when addressing their themes. The Steering Committee therefore had a more significant role to play in this respect in terms of follow-up and guidance, even outside its meetings, as it was responsible, in collaboration with the Secretariat, for ensuring the continuity of the MCSD's work.

26. The issue was once again raised of the lack of interest in the MCSD by civil society, particularly socio-economic actors and local communities, which had been observed from the beginning, with one speaker considering that this lack of interest could be explained by the fact that the MCSD's work did not correspond to the very tangible expectations of these sectors. For example, enterprises would not be happy with recommendations of a political and strategic nature, but sought practical solutions to the challenges of environmental protection and sustainability, for instance through pilot activities in the field. The MCSD's work therefore needed to be oriented in this direction if these sectors were to be drawn in.

27. The Secretariat endorsed this observation, while at the same time recalling that efforts of this nature had already been made in relation to several of the themes addressed by the MCSD. For example, the theme of sustainable tourism had given rise to sessions and workshops in which the actors most directly concerned had been associated, such as hotel operators, tourist agencies and local communities from touristic towns and sites.

2.1.2 Recommendations of the Twelfth Meeting of the MCSD

28. The Steering Committee considered information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.4, containing the MCSD recommendations that had been adopted in Almeria. The members of the Steering Committee were invited to give their views and proposals so as to contribute further to the implementation of the recommendations.

29. One speaker considered that the very existence of the MCSD depended on the issue of implementation, which had already been raised previously, as in the long term recommendations that were not applied and were left to gather dust on the shelf would undermine the value of the work that had been carried out. One solution would be for the MCSD to provide countries with expertise to help them integrate a theme, such as energy, into the various sectors and, based on the expertise provided, to organize meetings of decision-makers and other stakeholders and to participate in evaluating the results of processes that had been implemented. Another member of the Steering Committee proposed that the recommendations should be targeted, or in other words accompanied by the establishment of numerical objectives, such as a specific percentage of renewable energy within a specific timeframe based on a particular volume of investment, as a means of providing a practical basis for implementation and evaluation. Another speaker recalled the relationship between this proposal and the use of indicators, which were also essential to achieve progress in terms of implementation and evaluation and on which MAP, through the Blue Plan, had already undertaken valuable work. Finally, it was considered that, as objectives established too precisely could appear too restrictive and general for countries at differing stages of development and with different levels of human and financial resources, the option should also be envisaged of engaging in pilot activities in one or more such countries on specific themes that would be accompanied and followed by the MCSD.

2.1.3 *MSSD implementation plan*

30. The Committee considered information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.5, containing then MSSD implementation plan adopted in Almeria. The members of the Steering Committee were invited to give their views and make proposals on the MSSD implementation support tools other than working groups and on the role that the MCSD could play in the various strategic orientations of the MSSD. The official responsible for sustainable development observed in this respect that the MSSD deliberately omitted to address certain Mediterranean issues, such as fish and migration, which were directly related to sustainable development but were not covered by MAP or the Convention. Could the MCSD address these issues?

31. It was agreed that, on the first point, the Steering Committee had already drawn attention in earlier discussions to the value of pilot actions at the subregional and local levels, and demonstration activities carried out in one country for the benefit of other countries. With regard to issues not covered by MAP, it had to be reiterated that the MCSD should be open to all issues. It had demonstrated this in the past by addressing, for example, agriculture and rural development, and the management and prevention of natural risks. The RACs dealt with certain themes of this nature. For example, SPA/RAC was examining the issue of specially protected areas in the high seas outside national jurisdictions and, by analogy, fishing rights. It might consequently be easier to refer a very specific theme to the MCSD that had been addressed by a RAC. But what was missing was a mechanism for the introduction of themes that sometimes became topical in an unexpected and urgent manner. Once again, with the extension of the intersessional period to two years, it was the responsibility of the Standing Committee, with its manoeuvrability and all the means available, including meetings and electronic mail, to take responsibility, maintain contact, realign the work of the working groups and propose issues for the next meeting of the MCSD that were not covered by the officially approved programme of work.

2.1.4 *The Almeria Declaration*

32. The Secretariat drew that attention of the Steering Committee to the Almeria Declaration, which was annexed to the Annotated Agenda of meeting. This Declaration contained very important decisions by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. By way of illustration, the MED POL Coordinator indicated that the Declaration called for the preparation of a risk assessment framework and for liability issues for the storage of carbon dioxide streams (carbon sequestration) in sub-seabed geological formations in the Mediterranean to be addressed. MED POL had been approached by a Contracting Party which had undertaken to carry out this study, probably before the end of the year, and which might lead to the need to amend the Dumping Protocol. The views of the members of the Steering Committee were therefore requested on the role that the MCSD could play in the implementation of other decisions in the Declaration.

33. Two members of the Steering Committee recalled that the issue of carbon sequestration was very controversial and that an EC Directive was to be prepared on it. Another member considered that the issue of climate change in the Mediterranean, which was at the heart of the Declaration and had already been addressed by the MCSD in relation to energy and transport, could be covered by a working group which would address the other aspects referred to in the Declaration: species and habitats sensitive to the changes that would result from the various scenarios described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the economic

value of the products and services of marine ecosystems in relation to disruptions resulting from climate change.

34. The Secretariat indicated that the Party that would undertake the risk evaluation was a Member State of the European Union and that it would therefore work in harmony with the European Commission. In relation to the issue of biodiversity and climate change, SPA/RAC was carrying out a study and had made a presentation at the recent Bonn Conference on the Biodiversity Convention.

2.2 Developments outside the MAP system

2.2.1 *The Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean*

35. Mr Antoine-Tristan Mocolnikar, responsible for environmental and sustainable development issues in the Office of the President of the French Republic, described the initiative taken by his country in relation to the Union for the Mediterranean. This initiative was the result of a commitment made in March 2008 by the French President and the German Chancellor and included a joint political process at the level of all Heads of State and Government on an equal footing, namely those of EU countries and countries in the Mediterranean geographical area, and a series of very operational and tangible projects in which sustainable development would be one of the principal themes. The summit of Heads of State was planned for 13 July 2008, when France had taken over the revolving presidency of the European Union. The MAP Coordinator had been invited to this summit, as well as other representatives of United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations. The provisional title of the Union for the Mediterranean was "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", which meant that the EuroMed *acquis* would be retained and integrated into the new entity. The content and institutional context of the Union for the Mediterranean were at present in the conditional and remained flexible, since it would be the specific responsibility of the summit on 13 July to decide upon them. Negotiations were being held and everything was changing on a daily basis, including draft versions of the Declaration. In any event, France was absolutely determined that the bodies and legal instruments established by the Barcelona Convention and MAP since 1975, and particularly the MSSD, which it considered to be remarkable, should take on their full value in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean. Accordingly, certain programmes, such as MED POL for depollution and the RAC in Split for integrated coastal management would be rendered more dynamic and might receive substantial resources for this purpose. In the view of the French Executive, it was not the case that the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean would replace the Secretariat of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, as the former would essentially be a political Secretariat at the service of Heads of State and Government.

36. Mr Mocolnikar briefly described the principal projects that France intended to promote for the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean: depollution of the sea, water strategy, solar plan, maritime transport and highways, coastal protection, development of marine reserves and protected areas. He referred to certain other envisaged fields of action, such as strong links between Conventions, including the Barcelona and Desertification Conventions, and he indicated that the water strategy would be launched at a major conference in Amman in October 2008. He observed that several projects of French inspiration had been inspired by the priority fields of the MSSD. With regard to climate change, the issues related primarily to adaptation and attenuation, with developments that would be included in the perspective of a Euro-African climate strategy. Any observations with potential additions or amendments on the framework that had just been described and the documents and draft

versions of the Declaration, which were being made available to the participants, could be addressed in writing to the speaker and would be duly taken into account at the appropriate level.

37. The MAP Coordinator and the members of the Steering Committee thanked Mr Molcinikar for his presentation and noted that the initiative was very ambitious and had the merit, even before its official launching, of placing the Mediterranean at the forefront of international issues and of engaging in a dynamic with a will that could be beneficial to the environment and development in the region based on the *acquis* of over 30 years of sustained cooperation between the coastal States. Moreover, in the Almeria Declaration, the Contracting Parties had taken note of the Rome Declaration of December 2007 concerning the Union for the Mediterranean and had emphasized the need for the process to build on MAP and the Barcelona Convention, in respect of which Mr Molcinikar had given a commitment in relation to the will of his country.

38. Mr Emilio d'Alessio, representative of *Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane*, wished the initiative success, as it could act as a synthesis and point of convergence for a multitude of structures, efforts and projects that were often dispersed. In three days, the first Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean would be held in Marseilles. A declaration would be adopted which would support the Union for the Mediterranean, but would also offer an occasion to emphasize the need for the Union to associate not only national authorities, but also civil society, local communities and regional authorities, particularly in relation to issues such as adaptation to climate change and the attenuation of its impacts.

39. Mr Abdelfetah Sahibi, representative of Morocco, considered that this initiative was welcome if it meant that the Euro-Mediterranean partnership would develop into a true North-South partnership. In the EuroMed Partnership, there had been an environmental component with a programme (SMAP), a dynamic and a strategy. In the case of the Union for the Mediterranean, contributions had been requested from the various countries which had replied by making very varied proposals which covered in part those enumerated by Mr Molcinikar on behalf of France. In other words, the impression was gained of an addition or juxtaposition of projects, but without there being a true vision, programme or strategy resulting from such projects. And with regard to the depollution of the Mediterranean, it was not a question of working "in synergy with", but quite simply on the basis which already existed (national MED POL programmes, the SAP and the NAPs, the GEF Project, etc.), which already been the position of Morocco when the Horizon 2020 initiative had been launched. For all aspects relating to sustainable development, the MCSD should be the natural receptacle of the process, finally envisaging the possibility of the effective implementation of its recommendations through the political stimulus of the Union for the Mediterranean.

40. Mr Civili, MED POL Coordinator, while approving the position of the previous speaker, observed that it was not possible in relation to the Union for the Mediterranean and the depollution project to speak of a lack of vision or strategy, since the vision and strategy already existed, based on all the important texts of the MAP and the very full legal framework provided by the Convention and its Protocols, of which the most relevant, such as the LBS Protocol, had been updated and had entered into force.

41. The official responsible for sustainable development, the Secretariat of the MCSD, wondered how the MCSD could interact with the Union for the Mediterranean process in such a manner that existing strategies would in practice be internalized, and what financing

mechanisms were envisaged. For example, would there be a donor conference, as initially announced?

42. In the view of Ms Alenka Burja, representative of Slovenia, the presentation that had been made indicated that the Union for the Mediterranean would essentially be a political initiative and dynamic. In this case, what types of formal links could be established between a system such as that of the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean.

43. Mr Molcinikar indicated that clearly all of these issues would not find a magic answer on 13 July, but would be resolved progressively over time, taking into account the very diverse nature of the legal texts concerned. He confirmed that from the outset the intention had been to exploit existing strategies and initiatives and for this purpose to establish a high-level political forum which could develop detailed and inter-related links between all these pieces in the puzzle to create a very tangible and more coherent whole. With regard to financing, there had been the idea to establish a Mediterranean financing agency, somewhat along the lines of the FEMIP, although priority was currently being given to the establishment of financing mechanisms on a project-by-project basis, in the same way that Horizon 2020 had in some way become the financial arm of MED POL.

2.2.2 Implementation of Horizon 2020

44. Mr Civili recalled the background to Horizon 2020, an initiative of the European Commission and the EuroMed Partnership, which had resulted in December 2006 in a declaration and a full programme, giving effect to the will to confer a new dynamic to all the existing efforts. It currently consisted of four components which were at different stages of implementation, of which the most advanced was called "pollution reduction projects", which was itself subdivided into specific projects on municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial emissions. Two other components were "capacity building measures" and "research", which were not yet well developed. The fourth "review and monitoring", in which MED POL and the RACs were actively involved, included the establishment of a review mechanism to measure the progress achieved and the creation of a steering committee. Responsibility for the pollution reduction component had been entrusted to the EIB so that it could identify bankable projects with the assistance of MED POL through its data on the basis of the National Action Plans (NAPs), in the context of a broad participatory process. Technical files had been prepared, with a total of 44 bankable projects identified and negotiations were being pursued on financing so that the eligible countries could benefit from loans or other advantageous instruments. Although at first a little surprised by an initiative which did not appear to take much into account the Mediterranean *acquis*, MAP and MED POL were bound to welcome the recognition of their work and the synergies that had since developed on this basis with the prospect of good results for the region.

45. Mr Mifsud emphasized the relevance of Horizon 2020 in relation to the MCSD and the MSSD. Indeed, when formulating the MSSD, it had been anticipated that the strategy could facilitate the implementation of the objective launched by the European Union to "depollute" the Mediterranean. In this way, emphasis had been placed on the importance of the work carried out over the years by MED POL and MAP through national monitoring programmes, the formulation of the SAP and the NAPs and their development on a large scale today by the GEF Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean initiative.

46. In reply to three members of the Steering Committee, the MED POL Coordinator provided further clarifications. The technical work carried out by MED POL with the EIB consultants during joint visits to countries had been completed. Of the 44 projects identified as being bankable, only approximately two per country would be retained and would principally address the issues of municipal waste and industrial emissions, making around ten in total. The bankable projects were not accompanied by feasibility studies, but a number of these studies had been carried out during the first GEF Project and would not therefore need to be undertaken again.

47. A representative considered, in view of what had occurred in his country, that the financing of so-called bankable projects was not yet clear and finally came down to interest-free loans. The problem consisted of the availability of more attractive formulae with other donors. It was the "bankability" of projects which appeared up to now to be their most salient characteristic, whereas it would have been necessary at the same time to ensure a context of political and legislative support and the strengthening of capacities. With regard to the links to be established between the MCSD and Horizon 2020, in view of the very technical aspect of the depollution of the sea, it might be envisaged that this could be integrated into a working group on a broad theme, such as ICZM, in which related problems could be addressed, such as the re-use of water for agriculture, climate change, etc.

48. According to Ms Tatjana Hema, Programme Administrator at the MED Unit, while the direct link between the MCSD and depollution was admittedly that the latter contributed to sustainable development, the best way of making this tangible was to integrate the technical projects of Horizon 2020 into the National Sustainable Development Strategies established on the basis of the NAPs in most countries.

49. Mr Civili considered that the depollution component of the 2020 initiative could not be reduced to the bankability of projects, as all the additional aspects that had just been mentioned had been taken into account in the GEF Project based on the priorities established by the countries themselves in their respective NAPs.

50. Ms Virginie Hart, GEF Partnership, considered that the MCSD could be associated with the examination and follow-up component of Horizon 2020 based on the sustainable development indicators formulated in the context of the MCSD. The Secretariat added in this respect that in countries in which one or two 2020 projects were being undertaken, the representatives of these countries on the MCSD could make contact with the institutions responsible for the implementation of the projects. In more general terms, it was necessary at all levels to see where contacts could be made with a view to promoting synergies.

2.2.3 GEF Strategic Partnership

51. Ms Virginie Hart, Task Manager, International Waters, UNEP Division of GEF Coordination, presented the GEF Project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem", of which the preparation phase had been completed and approved by the GEF Council. It was intended for GEF eligible Mediterranean countries. Implemented by UNEP and the World Bank, and cofinanced by GEF, it associated numerous competent organizations, international financing institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors. The Partnership was intended to have a leverage effect on political/legal/institutional reforms, as well as on additional investment to reverse the degradation of the Mediterranean Sea basin with its

coastal habitats and biological marine resources, in the priority areas identified by the SAP MED, the SAP BIO and the NAPs, and it was also intended to prepare the ground for the implementation of the new ICZM Protocol. It included two complementary components: the Regional Component "Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas", led by UNEP and implemented by MAP/UNEP; and an "Investment Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership", led by the World Bank.

52. Ms Hart then addressed the themes and activities that the Strategic Partnership shared with the priority fields of the MSSD and the working groups of the MCSD, such as "water resource and demand management", "energy and climate", "agriculture and rural development", "sustainable tourism" and "ICZM". It was therefore necessary to envisage how the GEF Project would contribute to the implementation of the MCSD's recommendations, analyse all the Conventions and initiatives relating to each working group of the MCSD and develop dialogue between the working groups and the implementing agencies of the GEF Project so as to ensure the harmonization of outcomes and identify future needs and shortcomings.

53. After indicating that it would be an unprecedented project for the region, bringing together a multiplicity of partners with an overall budget, including cofinancing, which could exceed USD 250 million, the MAP Coordinator also announced the establishment of a Project Management Unit which would be especially entrusted with the implementation of the Regional Component, with the recruitment of three persons to the MED Unit. An agreement was to be concluded in this respect between UNEP/MAP and UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi.

54. During the discussion that followed, emphasis was placed on the need to encourage and attract enterprises to engage in the Partnership, for example through demonstration activities of what could be gained by an industry through clean production and water and energy savings. The question was also raised as to the absence of activities relating to air quality in urban agglomerations.

55. Ms Hart indicated that, from the outset, the Project had taken into account the importance of the private sector at many levels and in several fields, for example with the assistance of UNIDO for the transfer of best available technologies and MED POL for action in relation to POPs. The private sector had also been associated with information and communication concerning the Project through INFO/RAC and the replication of demonstration activities. The MCSD could have an essential role to play in view of its composition, which included the representatives of the major groups, and the appointment of GEF Focal Points would make it possible to develop contacts at the national level with the various MAP Focal Points and MCSD members.

56. With regard to air quality, although activities were envisaged on this admittedly important subject, the MED POL Coordinator recalled that, in view of its primary marine vocation, MAP had long focussed on one aspect of this issue by promoting studies of pollution flows reaching the Mediterranean Sea by atmospheric means.

Agenda item 3. Work programme 2008-2009 and roadmap to the next MCSD meeting

57. The MAP Coordinator presented document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/inf.8 containing the programme of work and budget 2008-2009 of the MCSD, as approved by the Contracting Parties in Almeria. The programme of work might appear fairly modest, partly in view of financial constraints, but also because part of the allocations made for activities were contained in the budgets of the various RACs for the implementation of the MSSD or for the organization of meetings or workshops relating to the themes of the working groups.

58. The official responsible for sustainable development presented document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.9 "Elements of a Road Map to the 13th MCSD Meeting" and described certain of the envisaged activities.

59. One representative called for the roadmap to be complete, or in other words for it also to contain, in addition to the activities carried out by the Secretariat, all the activities undertaken by the RACs and other components in relation to the MCSD and the MSSD. It would also be necessary to decide how the activities proposed by the present meeting of the Steering Committee would be prepared for the next meeting of the MCSD. Another member called for a proposal to be made to the next meeting of the MCSD of a tangible pilot activity, the results of which would serve for demonstration purposes, for example in a Maghreb country, of a solar energy production centre, or in an important city in the South, a programme of sustainable mobility, in direct relation to the theme of climate change. Similarly, a report on the environmental situation in the various Mediterranean countries would be useful to provide the meeting of the MCSD with information on the progress achieved and to allow comparisons. Finally, it was once again proposed that the members of the Steering Committee should communicate more frequently between meetings within the scope of their technical possibilities.

60. The Secretariat acknowledged the pertinence of these proposals or modifications, while indicating that it had to ensure, if they were to be taken into account before the next meeting, that they remained within the limits of the MCSD programme and budget as approved in Almeria, and that they would require recourse to outside expertise, particularly in relation to the specific aspects of climate change.

61. In reply to a representative who, with a view to ensuring that the Secretariat was the first in line to set an example, called on the MED Unit and MAP in general to adopt an internal management method based on ecological criteria (purchase of supplies, green maintenance products, recycled paper, energy saving, etc.), the Coordinator replied that MAP followed closely in this respect the instructions issued by UNEP Nairobi to all its centres and programmes.

Agenda item 4. Considerations for the preparation of the next MCSD meeting

62. The MAP Coordinator explained that this item of the agenda was intended to stimulate an open and general discussion between the members of the Steering Committee and the Secretariat on the elements of the next meeting of the MCSD, so that it could be lively, well structured and focussed on sustainable development issues that were essential and highly topical. It would be useful in this respect to determine the theme around which the next meeting would be structured. This could be climate change, which had been shown by the discussions at the present meeting to be among its principal concerns. In this respect, document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.11 proposed elements for discussion.

63. The discussion demonstrated consensus on the following points. On the form of the meeting, the Secretariat's proposals in its Progress Report were accepted as being fully rational: coordinating RAC presentations into a single presentation, associating local actors and those from enterprises more closely, promoting an interagency platform, etc. With regard to the Contracting Parties, it was recommended that they should be urged to extend their representation to ministries other than the Ministry of the Environment which were also closely involved in sustainable development (transport, economy, finance, tourism, energy and labour).

64. Climate change needed to be the central theme of the next meeting. However, as it had already been the theme of the last meeting of the MCSD and of the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria, it would be necessary to go into greater depth and focus on the aspect which was undoubtedly of greatest concern to Mediterranean countries, namely adaptation. Moreover, it would need to be linked to the aspects that had already been addressed by thematic working groups and the related horizontal issues. Serious preparatory work therefore needed to be carried out on this theme for the next meeting, which should be undertaken by the MCSD itself in relation with the Secretariat and the Steering Committee. For this purpose, it was proposed that it should be entrusted to a special team, a task force composed on a voluntary basis with a small number of members who were sufficiently representative of the various categories of the MCSD. Finally, the Steering Committee emphasized that the preparatory work and the next meeting of the MCSD needed to be held in the perspective of the crucial world conference that would be held several months later in Copenhagen in 2009 to conclude the new agreement on CO₂ reductions that would replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expired in 2012. The MCSD should take the opportunity of this conference to submit a communication summarizing the position of Mediterranean countries on an issue that was of prime concern to them.

65. Mr Mifsud noted the proposals of the Steering Committee. He indicated that, for the establishment of the task force and the method to be followed, the Secretariat would be in contact at a later stage with the members of the MCSD, and that those members of the Steering Committee who so wished could clearly also participate and indicate their wish to do so. In his view, the preparatory work for the MCSD should not exclude recourse to external expertise, such as that of UNEP or other organizations which had already carried out salient work in the field of climate change. With a view to the organization of the next meeting, discussions were being held with a country; however, if they were unsuccessful, the thirteenth meeting of the MCSD could also be held in Athens. The dates and place of the meeting would naturally be determined with the host country.

66. With the consent of the participants, it was decided that the draft conclusions of the meeting, drawn up by the Secretariat, would be supplemented to take into account the latest discussions and that it would be sent to the members of the Steering Committee for consideration, amendment and approval. Furthermore, the draft report of the meeting would also be sent to them at a later stage. The conclusions, as approved by the Steering Committee, are reproduced in **Annex IV** to this report.

Closure of the meeting

67. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed on Friday 20 June 2008 at 12.30 pm.

ANNEX I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****MCS D Steering Committee members****BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA****MR. TARIK KUPUSOVIC**

Special Advisor to the Minister
 Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment
 Hydro Engineering Institute
 Box 405, S. Tomica, 1
 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Tel/Fax: 387 33 207949
 Fax: 387 33 212 466
 Email: heis@heis.com.ba
 E-mail: tarik.kupusovic@heis.com.ba

COORDINAMENTO AGENDE 21 LOCALI ITALIANE**MR. EMILIO D'ALESSIO**

Presidente della Associazione Agende
 21 Locali Italiane
 Comune di Ancona
 Piazza 24 Maggio, 1
 I-60124 ANCONA
 Tel: 0039 071 222 2433
 Fax 0039 071 222 2676
 E-mail: emilio.dalessio@comune.ancona.it

LEGAMBIENTE- LEAGUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**MR. LUCA STASI**

Policy Officer
 International Department
 Via Salaria 403 - 00199 Roma, Italy
 Tel: 390686268329
 Fax: 390686218474
 E-mail: l.stasi@legambiente.eu

MOROCCO**MR. ABDEL FETAH SAHIBI**

Chef de la Division de la coopération internationale
 Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines de l'Eau et de
 l'Environnement
 Secrétariat d'État chargé de l'Eau et de
 l'Environnement
 Direction du Partenariat, de la Communication et de
 la Coopération
 4 place Abou Bakr Essedik
 Avenue Fal Ould Amir- Agdal, Rabat, Maroc
 Tel.: +212 37 772662
 Mob.: +212 69780586
 Fax: +212 37 772640
 E-mail: sahibi@environment.gov.ma,
 sahibi@minenv.gov.ma, asahibi@hotmail.com

SLOVENIA**MS. ALENKA BURJA**

Undersecretary
 Department of Environmental policy, Environment
 Directorate
 Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
 Dunajska 48, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
 Phone: +386 1 4787 383
 Fax: +386 1 4787 421
 GSM: + 386 41 943 358
 E-mail: Alenka.Burja@gov.si

UNION MÉDITERRANÉENNE DES CONFÉDÉRATIONS D'ENTREPRISES – UMCE-BUSINESSMED**MS. KHADIJA GHANEM**

Co-ordinator
 Committee of the Environment and Sustainable
 Development
 2, rue Hadhrumet Notre Dame- Belvédère 1002 -
 Tunis -Tunisia
 Tel: + 216 71 280 177
 Fax: + 216 71 281 495
 E-mail: k.ghanem@umce-med.org

TURKEY**MR. UFUK KUCUKAY**

Head of Section
 Foreign Relations & EU Department
 Ministry of Environment and Forestry
 Tel:+90 312 207 5403
 Fax:+90 312 207 5454
 E-mail: ukucukay@cevreorman.gov.tr

MS.GULSUN YESILHUYUK

City Planner
 Foreign Relations & EU Department
 Ministry of Environment and Forestry
 Tel:(90)312-207 5387
 Fax:(90)312-207 5454
 E-mail: yesilhuyuk@yahoo.com

Sogutozu Caddesi No.14/E
 Bastepe, Ankara, Turkey

OBSERVERS

MEDITERRANEAN UNION

MR ANTOINE-TRISTAN MOCILNIKAR

Mission Union pour la Méditerranée
Présidence de la République
55, rue Faubourg
St Honoré, 75008 Paris, France
Tel.: +33 1 48362723
Fax: + 33 1 42661093
E-mail: Antoine-tristan.mocilnikar@um-elysee.fr

UNEP/GEF

MS. VIRGINIE HART

Task Manager, International Waters
UNEP Division of GEF Coordination
48, Vas. Konstantinou, P.O. Box 18019
11610 Athens, Greece
Tel: ++30 210 7273122
E-mail: virginie.hart@unep.org

COORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

MR. PAUL MIFSUD

Coordinator
Tel: 302107273101
E-mail: paul.mifsud@unepmap.gr

MR. F. SAVERIO CIVILI

MED POL Coordinator
Tel: 302107273106
E-mail: fscivili@unepmap.gr

MS. TATJANA HEMA

Programme Officer
Tel: 302107273115
E-mail: thema@unepmap.gr

MR. PHILIPPE ALIROL

Sustainable Development Officer
Tel: 302107273149
E-mail: p.alirol@unepmap.gr

Coordinating Unit for the
Mediterranean Action Plan
48, Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue
P. O. Box 18019
116 10 Athens, Greece
Fax: 30210 7253196-7

ANNEX II

**ANNOTATED AGENDA
of the Steering Committee Meeting with possible leading questions (in italic) and
expected outputs (in bold)**

Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

The President of the Steering Committee of the MCSD and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP will open the meeting.

The draft Agenda will be proposed to the meeting for adoption

Introduction by the Coordinator

- Summary of the Secretariat Report

After introducing the Report of the Secretariat, the Coordinator will inform the Steering Committee on the decisions of the Executive Coordination Panel and on his recent participation to the CSD -16 Meeting. Members of the Steering Committee will explore the questions:

- *How can MCSD develop stronger interactions with CSD, in terms of programme, activities and information exchange, etc?*

Outputs: strategic principles, components and criteria to guide and evaluate MCSD functioning and work programme

1. Progress report on MCSD Activities

1.1. Support to policy process at the country level (SD Officer)

1.1.1. Support to NSSD

1.1.2. Pilot activities: Island Strategy for Sustainable Development

After the presentation, the Steering Committee will be invited to answer the following questions:

- *How could national level activities such as support to NSSD and ISSD be supported by MCSD and more broadly the other elements of the MAP system?*
- *How can the MCSD members and the Steering Committee contribute to raise the profile of NSSD in the concerned countries?*
- *What other pilot activities could be considered at the country level and what could be the implementation modalities?*

1.2. Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components (Secretariat)

After the presentation, the Steering Committee will be invited to answer the following questions:

- *How can the Working Groups concept, composition and functioning be improved to increase the effectiveness of the support provided by the MAP system to MSSD and its implementation?*
- *In particular how can Working Groups and pilot actions help increase the capacities of the countries to take policy measures and initiate actions with the view to implement their commitments at the regional (e.g. Barcelona Convention and its Protocols) and international levels (Commitments under various MAEs, UNCCC and UNCBD in particular)?*
- *How to foster interactions and synergies between MCSD work and the activities of the different MAP component?*

Note: On the first two points, a "Concept note on working groups" gives some elements to substantiate the discussion.

Outputs: strategic principles, components and criteria to guide and evaluate MCSD functioning and activities

2. Developments since the last MCSD Meeting (Secretariat)

2.1. Almeria CPs Meeting

2.1.1. Decisions IG 17/4: Governance Paper

a) MCSD Mandate

Based on the new mandate of the MCSD, the Steering Committee will discuss the possible arrangements -working groups or/and other means- and activities that are necessary for the MCSD to perform its missions, i.e. (i) assist in the adoption and implementation of SD policies; (ii) ensure follow-up of MSSD implementation; (iii) promote experience exchange on SD integration and implementation of international commitment; (iv) assessment of bottlenecks to implementation; (v) produce opinion on the MAP system functioning including its work programme and outputs.

The following question will be addressed:

- *How should the MCSD constituting documents (i.e. Rules of Procedures) be amended to reflect the new mandate?*

b) MCSD Composition: new categories and criteria for members selection

The Steering Committee will be invited to make comments and suggestions on the proposed selection criteria and method of nomination

On more general issues, the Steering Committee may want to discuss:

- *What should be the role and responsibilities of individual MCSD member, in particular during inter session period?*
- *How to involve more and better the civil society and the business community in the different working groups and the MCSD work in general?*

c) MCSD functioning

Based on the previous MCSD Rules of Procedure and the MCSD functioning as described in the Governance paper, the Steering Committee may want to discuss the following:

- *How the new frequency of MCSD Meeting, - that is now decided to be every two year- impact on the Working Groups and the entire MCSD programme of work and its cycle?*
- *What criteria could be used to identify the sectoral and inter sectoral issues and themes? (i.e. MCSD decision making process)*
- *What type of outputs can be expected from MCSD beyond Recommendations to the Contracting Parties?*
- *How to ensure synergies between MCSD and other MAP components, in particular what should be the role of the different RACS in the functioning of MCSD?*
- *How to organise the flow of information within MCSD and between MCSD and other actors?*
- *How can MCSD monitor and evaluate its functioning?*
- *What should be the role of the Steering Committee?*

Outputs: strategic principles, components and criteria emerging from the discussions will be used to prepare new Rules of Procedure for the MCSD, revisit MCSD Rules and Procedures MCSD Work Programme and structure the next MCSD meeting agenda

2.1.2. Decisions IG 17/16: MCSD Meeting Recommendations

The Steering Committee will consider whether the MCSD can contribute further to the implementation of the CPs decisions on "Energy and Climate Change" and "Water demand management". A strategic question would:

- *Once its recommendations are approved by the Contracting Parties, should MCSD continue its work on a given issue to support implementation or should*

it switch to another topic and leave implementation support to the other MAP components?

2.1.3. Decisions IG 17/17: MSSD Implementation Plan

Keeping in mind the new MCSD mandate decided in Almeria the Steering Committee may discuss:

- *What are the comparative advantages of various MSSD implementation support tools and mechanisms (e.g. working and expert groups, pilot actions at national levels, regional capacity building, policy dialogues, targeted knowledge management; information and communication)?*
- *What could be the MCSD role in the different MSSD strategic directions)?*

2.1.4. Almeria Declaration

After a short introduction, the SC could discuss how MCSD can contribute to the implementation of the Almeria Declaration that gives special emphasis to Climate Change. The following questions could be addressed:

- *How can MCSD support the implementation of the Almeria Declaration?*
- *Should MCSD be involved and how (e.g. by way of a working group) in the: (i) assessment of Climate Change impact on biodiversity; (ii) assessment of the economic value (product and services) of ecosystems; (iii) better management of energy demand and energy efficiency including alternative energy; (iv) water demand management; and, (v) carbon sinks?*

Outputs: strategic principles, components and criteria emerging from the discussions will contribute to the formulation of the next MCSD Work Programme

2.2. Developments outside the MAP system

2.2.1. Union for the Mediterranean. Presentation by Mr Mocolnikar

Following the presentation, the SC will explore the possible linkages and synergies between the Union for the Mediterranean and MCSD.

2.2.2. Implementation of Horizon 2020 (MEDPOL)

After a brief introduction on Horizon 2020 and the role played by MEDPOL, the SC could discuss how the MCSD can contribute to Horizon 2020 implementation

2.2.3. GEF project. Presentation by Ms Virginia Hart

Following the presentation, the SC will explore the possible interaction between the GEF project and MCSD.

Outputs: strategic principles, components and criteria emerging from the discussions will be used to formalise collaboration with the concerned entities.

3. Work programme 2008-2009 and roadmap to the next MCSD meeting

3.1. Overview of the Work programme and Budget (Coordinator)

3.2. Roadmap to the MCSD meeting (Sustainable Development Officer)

After the presentations, the SC will discuss how best to integrate the different parts of the approved Work programme and Budget that concern MCSD. The following questions could be addressed:

- *How can the overall MAP work programme better reflect the role of the MCSD?*
- *Should not the MCSD work programme be revisited and the proposed cycles adjusted more often to better reflect the dynamics of the programmes and institutions within and outside the MAP system?*

Outputs: Elements for the updating and consolidation of the MCSD Work Programme

4. Considerations for the preparation of the next MCSD meetings (Secretariat)

The purpose is to discuss the possible elements and structure of the next MCSD meeting including a specific focus on Mainstreaming Climate Change in national policies. On this occasion a more general discussion could take place on:

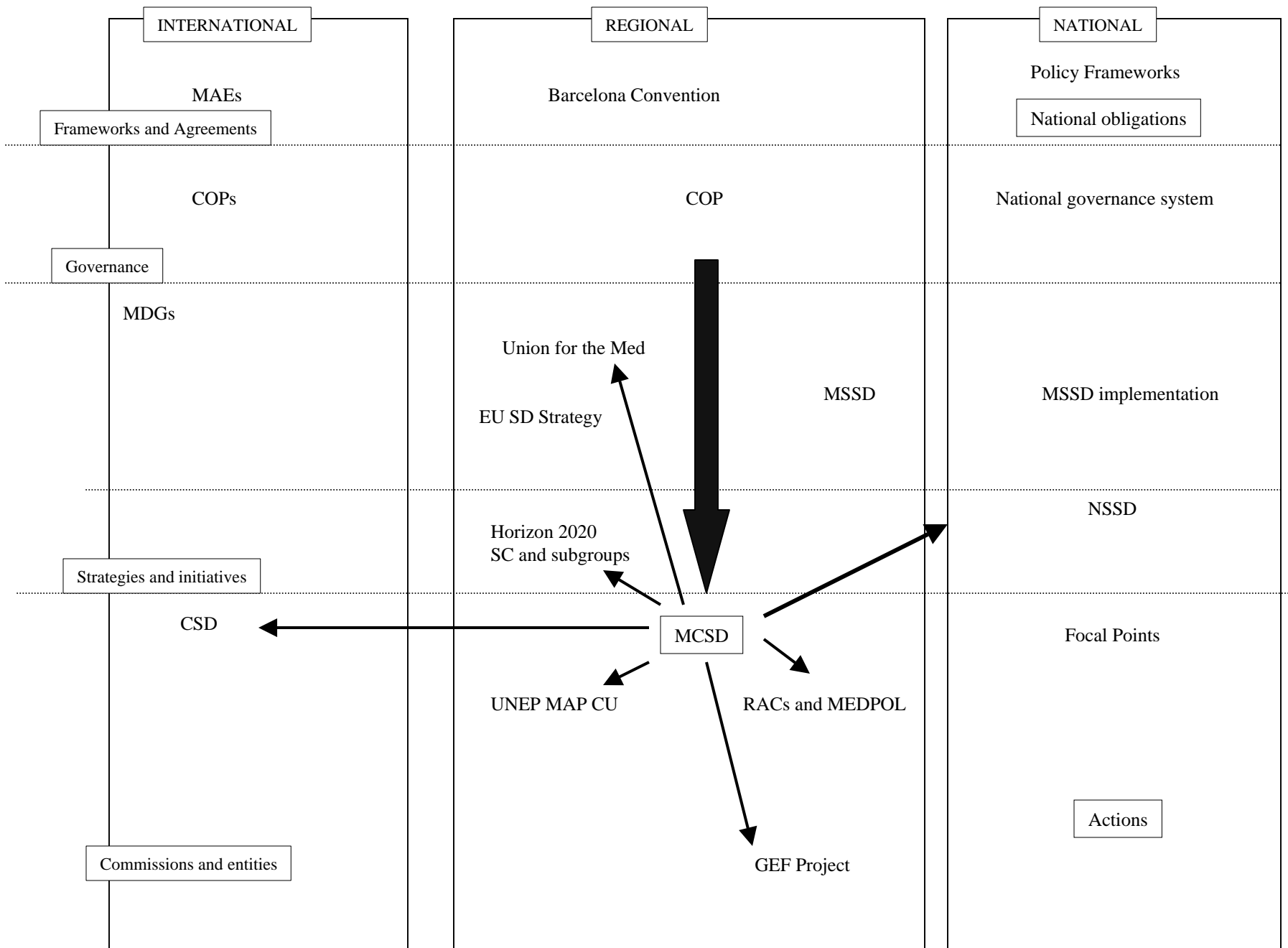
- *What criteria could be used to identify emerging issues and themes for the MCSD meetings?*
- *What could be the structuring elements (key note presentation, group work and dynamics)?*
- *What should be the balance between substantive work and MCSD operational aspects (MCSD self evaluation, linkages with other MAP components, etc.)?*
- *How can the Steering Committee be closely involved in the preparation of the meeting?*

Outputs: Elements for the finalisation of a roadmap to the next MCSD meeting

5. Other matters

DAY 1	
Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda Introduction by the Coordinator	0930 – 1000
1. Progress report on MCSD Activities	
1.1 Support to policy process at the country level (SD Officer)	1000 – 1030
1.2 Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components (Secretariat)	1030 – 1100
<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1.2. Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components (continued)	1100 – 1130
1.2. Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components (continued)	1130 – 1200
2. Developments since the last MCSD Meeting (Secretariat)	
2.1 Almeria CPs Meeting	
2.1.1 Decisions IG 17/4: Governance Paper	1200 – 1300
<i>Lunch</i>	
2.1.2 Decisions IG 17/16: MCSD Meeting Recommendations	1300 – 1430
2.1.2 Decisions IG 17/16: MCSD Meeting Recommendations	1430 – 1500
2.1.3. Decisions IG 17/17: MSSD Implementation Plan	1500 – 1530
2.1.4. Almeria Declaration	1530 – 1600
<i>Coffee Break</i>	
2.2. Developments outside the MAP system	1600 – 1630
2.2.1. Union for the Mediterranean (Mr Mociłnikar)	1630 – 1700
2.2.2. Implementation of Horizon 2020 (MEDPOL)	1700 – 1730
DAY 2	
2.2.3. GEF project. Presentation by Ms Virginia Hart	0930 – 1000
3. Work programme 2008-2009 and roadmap to MCSD meeting (Secretariat)	1000 – 1100
<i>Coffee Break</i>	
4. Considerations for the preparation of the next MCSD meetings (Secretariat)	1100 – 1130
4. Considerations for the preparation of the next MCSD meetings (Secretariat)	1130 – 1300
<i>Lunch</i>	
5. Other matters	1300 – 1430
5. Other matters	1430 – 1500

ANNEX III



CSD Implementation Cycle (Review / Policy Years) Thematic Cluster

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Water	Energy for sustainable development		Agriculture		Transport		
Sanitation	Industrial Development		Rural Development		Chemicals		
Human Settlements	Air Pollution / Atmosphere		Land		Waste Management		
	Climate Change		Drought		Mining		
			Desertification		Sustainable Consumption and Production		
			Africa				
CSD events		CSD 14	CSD 15	CSD 16	CSD 17	CSD 18	

MCSD Work Programme Cycle

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Coordination, Information and Communication, Regional reviews and assessments, Support to Countries and partners, Follow-up of MCSD recommendations							
Water Resources							
Energy & Climate Change							
Marine Pollution from ships							
Integrated Coastal Area Management							
		Quality agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development					
		Sustainable tourism					
			Marine Pollution: LBS Protocol				
			Biodiversity				
				Sustainable Urban Development			
				Sustainable Transports			
					Energy and Climate Change		
					Integrated coastal management		
MSSD events	COP meeting Portoroz	MCSD meeting Nikosi	MCSD meeting Istanbul	COP meeting Almeria	next MCSD meeting COP Morocco		



ANNEX IV

Outcomes of the 12th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee Athens, Greece 19-20 June 2008

FINAL

I) Relation to CSD

1. In addition to the participation of UNEP MAP representatives in CSD events, ensure that the MCSD and CSD programmes are well synchronized. Establish programmatic links between MCSD and UNDESA.
2. Anticipate the organisation of a Mediterranean side event during the next CSD meeting (May 2009). To this end, contact the new Dutch President of the CSD through a SC member in liaison with the Secretariat and work closely with UNDESA. The side event would present a show case of how sustainable development can work at the regional level. The Mediterranean private sector would be associated through the relevant MCSD representative.

II) Support NSSD

3. NSSD formulation is often seen as a complicated process. NSSD implementation often falls short of expectations.
4. NSSD activities proposed to the countries have to be more concrete. A focus on a limited number of MSSD priorities would help the concerned institutions to embark on the process more effectively.
5. Climate Change has to be mainstreamed into national policies, including NSSD and should not lead to the production of yet another strategic papers.
6. Since working at the subregional level would help tackle issues that are more relevant to the countries, consider subregional approach for the implementation of MSSD. In this context the ecosystem approach will prove useful.
7. Pilot activities at the local level are needed to gather experience and demonstrate concrete success stories. The MCSD should explore how to promote concrete sustainable experience, including at the local level.

III) Role, functioning and performance of Working Groups

8. We need to revert to the original practice whereby there is a Task Manager for each WG, (usually a country and not necessarily a RAC). The different RACs support the different WG groups as deemed necessary.

9. Synergies need to be established between different working groups including outside the MCSD and the MAP system (e.g. Horizon 2020 subgroups, Marrakech Task Forces). Exchange of information and cooperation would avoid duplication and parallel process.
10. Now that the MCSD meets on an bi-annual basis, the work of the different Working groups has to intensify with a structured programme comprising specific outputs.
11. RACs have an important role to play in the context of MCSD. Their respective work needs to be more integrated.
12. The SC has to build up a regular (every 4-6 months) review process of the work of the different WG and other MCSD activities. This will foster interaction between the SC and the different WG.
13. WG should always reflect on the implications of their recommendations in terms of financial and resources needed to implement them.
14. When an issue is sufficiently documented to make recommendations, the relevant WG may want to elaborate further on how to implement and monitor them. In addition to a specific strategic document, monitoring would require well-defined targets country by country.
15. A system should be established to follow up the implementation of the recommendations made by the working groups and report regularly.
16. The establishment of a WG on Climate Change would help address specific themes pertaining to climate change, consider issues that are by nature cross cutting (e.g. biodiversity loss, carbon sequestration, sustainable consumption and production), liaise with other initiatives and actors and increase interactions between the different RACs.

IV) MCSD Mandate, Composition and Functioning

17. It is important to maintain communication between MCSD members, particularly now that the MCSD meets on a bi-annual basis. The SC is essential in maintaining this communication.
18. As previously done, ensure the participation as observers of institutions and/or experts that have relevant expertise and experience outside the Region
19. MCSD should attract the members from the civil society and business by making its programme and work more relevant to their direct concerns and interests.
20. MCSD has to go beyond the formulation of recommendations. MCSD can support implementation of the recommendations at the country level by providing expertise, contributing to national level meetings and participating in the evaluation.

21. With biannual MCSD meetings, the work between two sessions becomes even more important. The MCSD needs to work during the intersession period. The SC ensures the continuity of this work by being proactive and contributing to monitoring the work of the different working groups.
22. MCSD has always been opened to SD issues that are beyond the scope of the MAP system. On the occasion of MCSD meeting a leading theme could be identified, not necessarily within the MCSD work programme (e.g. desertification).

V) MCSD interaction with other initiatives outside MAP system

- *Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)*
23. UfM has to build upon the existing strategies in particular the MSSD. There is a need to establish a good interface between MCSD and the UfM. In the long term the possibility of a joint secretariat could emerge.
 - *Horizon 2020 implementation*
 24. Possible synergy with Horizon 2020 implementation can be explored at different levels. One could consider how to associate MCSD with the Horizon 2020 monitoring, beyond the use of SD indicators as developed by the responsible RAC. The establishment of a working group on Horizon 2020 implementation could also contribute to bring forward the political dimension of Horizon 2020. In the countries, efforts have to be made to establish links between NAPs and NSSDs. MCSD members should keep abreast with Horizon 2020 activities in their respective countries.
 - *GEF project and MCSD.*
 25. Interactions can also take place at different level. While the GEF project already has specific activities addressing the private sector concerns, MCSD as a forum of stakeholders can help involve them further. The possible MCSD contribution to monitoring the overall impact with the SD indicators has to be thoroughly thought of. Since the GEF project will also have national Focal Points, a mechanism could be designed to ensure good coordination with other Focal Points of the MAP system.

VI) MCSD Work programme and Roadmap to the next MCSD meeting

26. In addition to the activities undertaken by the Secretariat, the MCSD Work Programme comprises the activities that the different RACs are implementing in the context of MSSD. A consolidated roadmap including the different pilot activities is deemed necessary to give an overall picture, show the convergence of MSSD related activities of the different RACs and indicate the way to the next MCSD meeting.
27. Under the MCSD programme concrete pilot projects have to be identified and experience therein disseminated. Success stories such as sustainable mobility, sustainable agriculture identified on the occasion of WG could be presented on the occasion of MCSD meeting.

28. Whereas the MCSD Work programme has been approved by the COP on the basis of the MSSD, some flexibility should be sought to introduce other topics such as sustainable consumption and production or waste management, e.g. by way of additional working groups.
29. Concrete objectives and outputs for the MCSD work would help monitoring and evaluating achievements.
30. Climate Change will be the structuring theme of the next MCSD meeting. The next MCSD meeting is indeed the opportunity to prepare and articulate the position of the region on climate change issues for the next Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009. MCSD can bring the Mediterranean stakeholders' perspective into the Climate Change dialogue. To do so, a focus on adaptation and North South cooperation is deemed necessary.
31. Other MCSD thematic and cross cutting issues such as water demand management, sustainable agriculture or sustainable tourism can well be handled in the overall climate change framework.
32. The MCSD meeting should attract other Ministries than the Ministries of environment. MCSD should strive to get their early interests as well as other important actors' such as the business and private sector.
33. In order to carry out all the necessary tasks and prepare for the next MCSD meeting, establish a Task Force of MCSD Members, in limited number, on a voluntary basis and in close coordination with the Secretariat.
34. In addition to the Task Force, regular communication and information flow on the above issues has to be established between the Steering Committee members.
35. With the view to increase MCSD visibility, identify fora and other opportunities where MCSD can make a statement or communication, possibly using the proactiveness of the SC members.