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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties  
to the Convention for the protection of the  
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related  
protocols

Istanbul, 25-26 March 1987

### PROGRAMME ORIENTATION AND STREAMLINING OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPONENT

Position paper by the Executive Director

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## Introduction

1. The Mediterranean Action Plan and the Barcelona Convention have always been oriented towards action that would reduce the pollution of the sea through integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the Mediterranean Basin.
2. During the initial stages of each MAP component efforts had to be directed to identify pollution problems, assess the capability of coastal States in dealing with such problems, and improve their institutional capability through equipment and training. Research data collection and network development were given priority, at least temporarily, over the essential action orientation of the programme.
3. On the 10th anniversary of MAP in 1985, the Contracting Parties had an opportunity to review past progress and to indicate its direction for the future. In the Genoa Declaration they focussed attention on the need for a great acceleration of action, and for more concrete action.

## Programme orientation

4. The Executive Director now proposes to reflect the directives of the Genoa Declaration more fully in the programme, by focussing all MAP activities around the development of an environmentally sound, integrated coastal management plan for the Mediterranean.
5. Under this orientation each MAP activity will contribute visibly to improving the quality of the marine and coastal area of each country and, as a result, the Mediterranean Basin as a whole. Focussing on the coastal area will stress the benefits to be derived from participation in MAP activities as well as the risks involved in non-participation. In particular, National Monitoring Programmes should be seen as providing data for better coastal management to national and local authorities, not simply as an input into a regional, scientific programme. This programme will naturally remain important, because a regional picture is essential, but it should be stressed that when a national monitoring programme is missing or is incomplete, it is the country, not the regional programme, that stands to lose the most. The same applies to the transmission of reports on emergencies and on dumping, or to participation in the networks of the Priority Actions Programme and Specially Protected Areas.
6. In order to mark the transition to the new orientation, it is proposed to consider 1988 as an experimental year during which at least one country on the North and at least one country on the South of the Mediterranean will designate one or more of its coastal regions to work with the secretariat towards the goal of integrated coastal planning. In 1989 the objective should be to involve one or more coastal regions in each coastal State. In the 1990-91 biennium all coastal regions would participate in the programme.

7. As part of the exercise the appropriate planning organizations would be identified, links would be established with other relevant national or local organizations and a state of pollution report would be produced at the end of the year, leading to a long-term plan for that region.

8. The exercise would be expected to utilize the Blue Plan Scenarios, the networks developed by PAP, with its guidelines and manuals, the formats for reporting on sources and levels of pollution, on dumping permits and quantities dumped, on accidents and contingency plans.

9. Each regional plan would incorporate the targets of the Genoa declaration (sewer outfalls and treatment plants, port facilities, specially protected areas, historic centres, etc.).

10. The exercise would receive, if the country so requires, expert advice through the Co-ordinating Unit. Once local projects are identified in the regional plan, UNEP could assist in the follow-up through its Clearing House. It would contact sources of financing, bilateral or multilateral, in order to make regional solidarity more visible and concrete in the protection of the Mediterranean.

11. The EEC could play an important role through its Integrated Mediterranean Programmes in the EEC member countries, and through specialized programmes that may be open to other coastal States.

12. The role of the Co-ordinating Unit would be

- (a) To take the initiative for exchange of information with other Mediterranean programmes, and for obtaining relevant information from other sources;
- (b) To participate in the review/planning exercises in the designated coastal regions;
- (c) To analyze, synthesize and present information on sources and amounts of pollution in the Mediterranean, prepare assessments of pollution by specific substances and periodic assessments of the State of pollution of the Mediterranean. The use of cartography, maps, and remote sensing data would be expanded;
- (d) To propose common measures (quality criteria and emission standards).

13. On the basis of reports and proposals put forward by the secretariat the Contracting Parties would take policy decisions on the development of the programme and its financing, would review the progress of the Action Plan and adopt the new measures required.

### Institutional Matters

14. In conjunction with the approach outlined in the previous paragraphs, the institutional arrangements by which the Contracting Parties develop their consensus on policy, programme and budgetary matters could also be streamlined.

15. At present there is some duplication between the working groups established for individual MAP components (WGSTC, NFP/BP, NFP/PAP, NFP/SPA, ROCC correspondents) and the Committee of the Whole of the Contracting Parties meetings. Frequently the same officials meet at a few months' interval to reconsider the same programme and budget, with resulting duplication of efforts, reopening of debates, and delay in decisions.

16. It is proposed that the WGSTC and a Committee on Environment and Development be established as standing subsidiary bodies of the Contracting Parties, to which the Parties assign the preliminary review and recommendation on designated programme and budget components. The two committees would meet in April-May of each year.

17. Their reports would be received by the Bureau for comments before transmission to the Contracting Parties.

18. The Ordinary Meetings of Contracting Parties would take place, as customary, in odd years. They would consider specific recommendations from their two subsidiary organs, analyzed and commented upon by the Bureau. The Contracting Parties meetings could therefore be shortened to two-three days, which would allow for higher-level representation. The Parties would deal exclusively with policy matters, discuss and adopt common measures, and adopt the programme and budget for the next biennium.

### Administration and management

19. In order to match the streamlining of the decision-making process, it is proposed to review the programme management side as well. With the present location of Regional Activity Centres there is some inevitable duplication of posts and functions. It is proposed to carry out a review of the present arrangements to realign functions and post levels in order to reduce administrative costs.

20. The efficiency of the reporting and management function within the programme as a whole should be improved by taking advantage of computer-based facilities which are now available.