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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the Protection of the
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related Protocols

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**SECRETARIAT PAPER REGARDING THE REORIENTATION
AND RESTRUCTURING OF MAP (MAP II)**

UNEP
Athens, 1995



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PHASE II

Draft proposal by the Secretariat

The Contracting Parties,

Having considered the results of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) since its adoption in 1975,

Taking into account the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols, the Genoa Declaration (1985), the Nicosia Charter (1990), the Tunis Declaration for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1994), the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) in particular Agenda 21, and the results of the Conference "MED 21" on Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (1994),

Noting that the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Basin have experienced in the last twenty years of their collaboration, an unprecedented rate of growth, particularly in areas such as urbanization, industrialization, agriculture, tourism, transport as well as in the exploration and exploitation of the region's resources,

Recognizing that the Mediterranean Basin is a good example of an "ecoregion" likely to constitute a pilot area for a regional review and demonstration of the UNCED decisions, in particular, to make sustainable development a reality of the 21st Century,

Realizing that continuous uncontrolled development, coupled with wasteful patterns of production and consumption, and pervasive poverty and population growth are leading to an aggravated environmental pollution of the marine and coastal areas, and to a deterioration of the fragile Mediterranean ecosystems,

Recognizing that development is a fundamental right of all peoples and countries of the Mediterranean region, and taking into consideration the importance of the environmental dimensions of development, it is of paramount requirement to integrate developmental and environmental considerations into a programme of specific achievable action to protect the environment and support sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin within the framework of Agenda 21 and related international conventions as well as Med 21, for both present and future generations,

Emphasizing that the integration of environment and development will require from all Mediterranean countries to promote substantial changes in their economic policy and management of terrestrial and marine resources of the Mediterranean Basin,

Stressing the need for strengthened partnership based on the respect of sovereignty and the principles of equity and equality among all Mediterranean countries for the achievement of sustainable development,

Aware of the need for MAP to take into account the absolute necessity of sustainable development and to give it a new impetus,

Also recognizing that the experience, of the last two decades of Mediterranean cooperation, has shown that the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) which is a management process adapted to the specific conditions and needs of coastal areas, is a true manifestation of environmentally sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal areas. This process requires to be more action orientated and better defined with a view to being an important tool for the implementation of Agenda MED 21,

Desirous to refocus MAP's activities on the management and protection of the environment in accordance with the recommendations of UNCED and Agenda 21, giving priority to the marine environment, its biological resources and the coastal region,

Stressing the importance that MAP is more closely associated with the implementation of all international agreements concerning the Mediterranean,

Have agreed to adopt the:

**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND COASTAL AREAS MANAGEMENT**

with the following components to be implemented by MAP and the Regional Activity Centres, in cooperation with international regional and non-governmental organizations:

- I Sustainable management of resources;
- II Conservation of nature, landscape and sites;
- III Assessment, prevention and control of pollution;
- IV Information and public participation;
- V Legal framework; and
- VI Institutional and financial arrangements.

PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Twenty years after the adoption of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the context in which the Plan is implemented has considerably changed for the following reasons:

- the main problems related to pollution and to mismanagement of the natural resources are today better known. Consequently, higher priority should be given in future to concrete actions rather than to research;
- financial mechanisms previously not existing have been established by the World Bank, UNDP, EIB and the European Community to support the formulation of environmental strategies and to finance investments related to anti-pollution activities and environmental management; and
- local authorities started being recognized at national level by playing a more important role in the Mediterranean.

In this new context, the Mediterranean Action Plan show two specific characteristics :

- it brings together the riparian Mediterranean countries and the European Community in an entity provided with decision power which defines its own policy and controls its implementation; and
- considering its perspective of continuity, MAP can work on the medium- and long-term basis.

These characteristics have to be properly utilized for the activities covered by the Mediterranean Action Plan taking into account its experience and financing capacity:

- the information on environment and development related to the sea on the littoral zones or the coastal zones, should be kept as a basic activity of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and related Protocols should become a priority. The Mediterranean Action Plan will intervene in this context to provide technical and institutional assistance;
- the planning activities and the management of the land and the natural resources will be developed in such a way so that the countries will be in a position to make the necessary choices for the management of the more and more rare resources;
- the Mediterranean Action Plan will carry out its activities systematically seeking cooperation with the financial institutions and the new networks developed in the Mediterranean. Upon request, it will assist the riparian countries in formulating environmental management programmes eligible for the funding; and

- the sustainable development issues will be progressively introduced in the framework of the new Commission. Priority will be given to the exchange of experiences in order to prepare specific activity programmes.

I SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

The complex interactions between the environmental components (soil, inland water, forest, coast and sea) and the socio-economic sectors (agriculture, industry, energy, tourism and transport) require the integration of environmental policies into development policies and tackling the issue in a systemic and prospective approach, in order to define and understand the dynamics of the relationships between environment and development, and to highlight the opportunities and conflicts with a view to developing the resources of the Mediterranean in a sustainable manner.

Nowadays the development of advanced tools, techniques and methods for the observation and study of environmental conditions and changes, allow to improve the control and planning of environmentally compatible undertakings, and to this purpose they should be used.

On the basis of the above mentioned consideration, this component is divided into the topics which are among those of major concern for the Mediterranean Basin. These topics were identified by the Contracting Parties to be tackled during the third decade of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) through the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) with a view to maintaining the quality of the Mediterranean environment and especially in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development in all Mediterranean countries. Other important issues such as agriculture, industry, energy and "littoralisation" which are of main concern of other specialized bodies, will be dealt with here, mainly as far as they are related to the topics within this component:

(a) Integrated Coastal Management

The protection and the development of the coastal areas and the management of their resources, in the Mediterranean region, is a promising and challenging factor in the framework of Mediterranean cooperation. The coast is used for a variety of purposes which interact and compete with one another. The foreseeable population trends towards urbanization on the coast and the development outlook for the different sectors of activities, particularly the tourist and water sectors, appear to presage even more far-reaching upheavals at the horizon of 2000 and 2025. This requires the preparation of coastal zone management plans which would integrate all the results in one concrete implementation instrument.

The main objectives of this programme are:

- to ensure that the complex problems of the coast and the management of its resources are tackled in an integrated approach through coastal zone management plans;

- to review and develop planning policies in order to support the best possible use of the limited Mediterranean coastal zone and the sustainable management of its resources;
- to strengthen and develop institutional capacity, coordinating mechanisms and integrated management for the coastal zone and its resources;
- to create mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement and participation of all concerned, particularly communities and people at the local level, in decision making relevant to coastal zone management;
- to prepare an inventory of the coastal zones most threatened by future development;
- to place under protection in each country, a significant part of the coastal strip, through legislation, purchase, agreements with local populations or private owners; and
- to promote and develop an environment and development observation, monitoring and evaluation function for the coastal regions utilizing sound, best and appropriate tools and techniques such as Remote Sensing, Environmental Impact Assessment, Geographical Information System, Carrying Capacity Assessment for tourism, Systemic and Prospective analysis and environmental economic incentives as well as most recent and scientifically sound information on global and climate change.

(b) Water Resources

The quality and supply of the scarce fresh water resources in the Mediterranean region, vital for various purposes, including human consumption as well as agriculture, industry, tourism and other economic components will be a major factor in shaping Mediterranean cooperation, solidarity and stability for decades to come. The interaction and the possibility of conflict between these various environmental and economic components should be tackled through integrated plans of water resources management.

The main objectives of this programme are:

- to assess, monitor and evaluate the qualitative and quantitative status of water resources, through inter-alia, appropriate and pertinent indicators;
- to set up mechanisms to incorporate various effects of water use in the economic decision-making process through the preparation of integrated plans for water resources management;
- to establish integrated water management authorities, endowed with appropriate legal and financial resources;

- to ensure adequate financial resources for the development of appropriate technologies relating to integrated water resources management in developing Mediterranean countries; and
- to develop adequate information channels, involving NGOs for better public awareness.

(c) The Soil

Soil erosion, forest fires and desertification in the Mediterranean region are the most worrying threats, in particular to the water, agriculture, grazing and forest sectors. The Mediterranean land constitutes a very fragile ecosystem, especially in the arid lands and coastal wetlands. The desertification process causes degradation and decline in productivity and aggravate the social problems within this region.

The up-to-date knowledge of the real conditions and changes of all these components should be considered a priority requirement for effective actions and for decision-making.

The main objectives of this programme are:

- to assess, monitor and evaluate soil degradation, through inter-alia appropriate and pertinent indicators;
- to intensify effective measures, including control and protection techniques to prevent and combat soil loss, forest fires, degradation of grazeland and desertification;
- to prepare an inventory of all aspects of this issue and analyze the reasons for success or failure of soil management related to the characteristics of the soil erosion, desertification and forest including the socio-cultural and socio-economic aspects of the problem;
- to ensure the implementation of relevant decisions on soil erosion, desertification and forest fires, taken by FAO, UNEP and IUCN. Also, to adhere to the principles of the UNCED declaration relevant to the management, conservation and ecologically sound use of forests, the United Nations Convention on Desertification (1994), and the commitments, at the Mediterranean level, contained in the Genoa Declaration and the Nicosia Charter; and
- to enhance the contribution of Mediterranean NGOs, active in the field.

(d) Urbanization

Most of the Mediterranean countries, particularly those located in the south and east of the Mediterranean Basin, have been witnessing in the last four decades an urban growth in all its forms, particularly the uncontrolled expansion of urban development on the coast, along the major transport axes and in agricultural areas near the large urban centres. The outlook stipulated by MAP studies indicates that

the proportion of the urban population will continue to increase in all Mediterranean countries, and whatever kind of development pursued, urbanization will continue at a rapid pace in the Mediterranean Basin. This suggests that there is a need to be more attentive to the relations between urban development and the environment, due to the fact that the urban growth affects land consumption, water resources, wastes load, air quality and noise, urban planning and green spaces. Updated information for a sound control and planning of the urban extension and expansion should be essential and could be provided by applying advanced monitoring techniques.

The main objectives of this programme are:

- to assess, monitor and evaluate urbanization and its impacts on environment, through inter-alia, appropriate and pertinent indicators;
- to promote research, information and cultural exchanges, as well as technological assistance as regards town planning and management of Mediterranean cities;
- to develop professional networks among cities and protected sites in the Mediterranean region;
- to extend the permanent protection of the coastal areas, through strengthening laws and regulations, and to introduce environmental considerations in land use policy, with a view to protecting and managing the most precious localities and landscapes in the process of sustainable development; and
- to develop municipal and inter-municipal sustainable development strategies, through land use planning and land development control.

(e) Tourism

The development of the tourist sector in a sustainable manner is an important factor in the Mediterranean region, in view of the fact that the Mediterranean region has become the world's leading tourist area. Tourism is one of the major determining factors for the environment and development of the Mediterranean Basin. It plays an important role in improving the economic conditions in many Mediterranean countries, but in the meantime it has its own severe impact on land and marine resources and other environmental components, particularly soil, water, coastal land use and the sea, its impact on historical and natural sites as well as its effects on noise and atmospheric pollution. As the outlook for the development of tourism in the Mediterranean is towards expansion, this development should remain compatible with sustainable development in order to achieve economic benefits and avoid the negative environmental and development impacts.

The main objectives of this programme are:

- to assess, monitor and evaluate the tourism and its impacts on environment, through inter-alia, appropriate and pertinent indicators;

- to reaffirm that tourism should remain a decisive factor for development, cooperation and peace in the Mediterranean region;
- to encourage regional and international cooperation that gives importance to environmentally friendly tourism that is integrated into sustainable development;
- to prepare an inventory of natural, cultural and human tourist resources and carrying out a periodic environmental impact assessment and carrying capacity assessment on the effect of tourism on the Mediterranean ecosystems and environment; and
- to organize vocational training and educational programmes that are appropriate to sustainable development of tourism.

(f) Transport

The evaluation of air and land transports, related to the development of the economic activities will exercise a growing pressure on the coastal zone. In particular, the number of cars is expected to treble in the next thirty years. It is essential to give special attention to this clear trend which strongly affects the quality of the environment of the coastal zones.

The main objectives of the programme are :

- to assess and follow up the means and the intensity of the transports in the coastal zone by using appropriate indicators;
- to develop the research and encourage alternative solutions to the transport which are less detrimental for the environment; and
- to ensure the information on the policies and the technologies of transport contributing to sustainable development, including those related to public transport.

II CONSERVATION OF NATURE, LANDSCAPE AND SITES

The Mediterranean, with its varied and unique landscapes, ecosystems and habitats, together with its thousand-year long heritage made evident by the innumerable historic sites, represents for its inhabitants and for the millions of tourists who visit it every year a common heritage which deserves to be protected and conserved for the present and future generations. However, the negative impacts of uncontrolled urban, industrial and touristic development and the lack of appropriate environmental strategies are now becoming very evident. The deterioration of several sites of high naturalistic and historic interest caused by the massive occupation of the coastline and the discharge and the dumping of large amounts of solid and liquid wastes into the sea together with the over exploitation of natural resources, constitute a threat to the conservation of this unique

Mediterranean landscape and a threat to the survival of indigenous Mediterranean species and to the preservation of the ecological balance.

This component of the Mediterranean Action Plan aims at proposing to the Contracting Parties a system of activities which will assist them to protect and sustainably manage the natural and cultural Mediterranean heritage, thus contributing to the sustainable development of the region.

The proposed activities keep into full account the results of UNCED in particular Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, Agenda MED 21, the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and all the related international and regional agreements.

The activities will be implemented by the Contracting Parties in coordination with, and with the assistance of, the MAP secretariat and the competent Regional Activity Centres. This cooperation and coordination will also be extended, as appropriate, to the relevant programmes of the European Community, the World Bank and UNDP and international bodies, i.e. UNESCO, IUCN, the secretariats of the Bonn Convention, the Bern Convention, the RAMSAR Convention, the World Heritage Convention, the MAB Programme, as well as NGOs and networks especially active in specific fields, in order to create an integrated and efficient synergism in the region and avoid duplication of work.

The activities will be carried out at five levels: collection of data and assessment of the present status; legislation; planning and management; enforcement and compliance control; and public information and participation.

(a) Collection of data and assessment of the present state

It is of primary importance to make an over-all assessment of the state of the biological diversity in the Mediterranean and to create at national and regional level a database of the areas, the sites and the species in need of special attention and protection.

As a result:

- at the regional level, the Contracting Parties will, together with the MAP secretariat, prepare inventories of sites of special natural, cultural and archeological importance, inventories of species of common Mediterranean heritage and lists of threatened and/or endangered species; and
- at the national level, the Contracting Parties will prepare inventories of sites of special natural, cultural and archeological importance, including underwater sites, and of areas containing rare or fragile ecosystems, that are reservoirs of biological diversity and that are important for threatened and/or endangered species.

Such inventories and lists, which will be prepared according to common criteria jointly established by the Contracting Parties, will be kept regularly updated

and will constitute the basis for action. In their preparation, the use of remote sensing will also be considered among other techniques.

(b) Legislation

It is essential to provide the identified sites and species with a special status. As a result, the Contracting Parties:

- will adopt the inventories of species and sites of common Mediterranean heritage; and
- will establish specially protected areas with the ultimate aim of extending the permanent protection of their coastal areas.

(c) Planning and Management

Considering on the one hand the extensive deterioration of several coastal zones of the Mediterranean and, on the other hand, the existence in the region of evident needs to accelerate social and economic development, it is obvious that a proper planning and sustainable management of sites and species carrying a special status are the key elements for the maintenance of the natural and cultural characteristics of the Mediterranean Basin.

As a result, the Contracting Parties will develop and adopt planning and management strategies as well as specific action plans related to the identified sites and species.

The development of the tourist industry, for its potential negative effect it may play on protected areas, sites and threatened and/or endangered species, but also for its potential positive influence it may have to the economic and general development of the coastal areas, should be given special attention. It should therefore be managed in balance with conservation objectives and upon careful studies of carrying capacity but at the same time with the ultimate aim of making the unique landscapes and sites available to the public.

The Contracting Parties will in parallel carry out research on the identification of processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have adverse effects on the conservation of the Mediterranean biological diversity.

It will also be essential to carry out regular monitoring and periodic evaluation of the status of conservation of sites and species given special status.

Special attention will be given to the identification of the specific needs and the provision of training in the scientific, technical and management-oriented fields for the personnel involved in the management and coordination of the plans and programmes adopted as well as for the strengthening of the national institutional capabilities.

(d) Enforcement and compliance control

The Contracting Parties will endeavor to implement fully the management policies and the protection measures established and, to this effect, will establish national control mechanisms. The establishment of enlarged national committees, in charge of the monitoring of the compliance with the agreed commitments, should also be considered.

The necessary measures will be also taken to ensure the implementation, at national level, of all international and regional agreements, policies and action plans adopted in order to protect species and habitats.

(e) Public information and participation

The Contracting Parties will give appropriate publicity to the establishment of protected areas, to the designation of protected species and sites and to the existing regulations.

Educational programmes should be developed to inform the public and the youth in particular of the interest and the value of specially protected areas and protected species and sites.

Specific programmes should also be organized aiming at promoting and encouraging the participation of the public in the protection and the conservation as well as the management of specific species and sites, through the launching of appropriate activities such as campaigns, demonstrations, conferences.

III ASSESSMENT, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION

In line with the concepts and recommendations of UNCED and in particular Agenda 21, this component of MAP provides the basis for decision making related to marine pollution, in the process of achieving sustainable development.

During the last twenty years, individual Mediterranean countries and the Mediterranean region as a whole, made considerable progress in the protection of the environment against pollution, particularly through the Mediterranean Action Plan. Despite such progress, the coastal region of the Mediterranean is under considerable stress and risk of pollution (microbiological contamination, nutrients, halogenated hydrocarbons, oil, heavy metals, litter) from various sources (rivers, industry, tourism, urban, transport, etc.) having deleterious effects on human health, marine life and quality of sea food and causing undesirable phenomena like eutrophication and algal blooms. Such problems require coordinated actions of assessment, prevention, combating and control of pollution.

The notions of inseparable nature of socio-economic development and environmental protection, and sustainable development as the ultimate goal, are of particular relevance to this component.

The development of suitable measures for the prevention, mitigation, combating and control of pollution from all sources, and a continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of their implementation, are the central goals of this component. All other activities are subsidiary to these goals and contribute to their more efficient achievement. By concentrating on these goals, this component is expected to provide critically important inputs into practically all other components of MAP, notably in sustainable management of resources, and thus make a significant contribution to the development of the Mediterranean region in a sustainable manner.

The main objective of this component is:

- to assist the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations embodied in the Barcelona Convention, its protocols, and in various pollution control measures adopted by the Contracting Parties.

The specific objectives of this component are:

- to assess the load of pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea through air and from land-based and off-shore sources, and the trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment, attributable to pollution in particular;
- to formulate and implement measures for prevention and control of pollution, including establishment of port reception facilities, and to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of such measures;
- to maintain and promote contingency plans on national and sub-regional level and means for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances;
- to formulate and implement appropriate measures to prevent and eliminate pollution of the Mediterranean Sea which can be caused by transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal; and
- to assist the Contracting Parties in the implementation and enforcement of control measures.

The activities in this component will be implemented, as in the past, in cooperation with the relevant specialized United Nations Agencies (FAO, UNESCO and its IOC, WHO, WMO, IMO, IAEA).

The main programmes of work of this component are:

(a) Assessment of pollution related problems

Scientific assessment of the pollution related problems of the Mediterranean region is one of the basic prerequisites for the development of a rational approach towards the sustainable development of the region. Monitoring programmes should be based on adequate observation and monitoring techniques (including modern techniques such as remote sensing and biomonitoring) and should incorporate mandatory data quality assurance programmes.

The specific objectives of this programme are:

- to identify sources, assess present levels and keep under periodic review trends in the load of pollutants reaching the Mediterranean Sea through air and from land-based and off-shore sources;
- to assess, in coastal waters, estuaries and open waters, the levels, trends and risks of pollutants and their potentially harmful effects on marine life, fisheries, and human health;
- to prepare on a regular basis a list of alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean; and
- to provide the Contracting Parties, and other interested groups and individuals, with information about the general and specific pollution related problems and potential short- and long-term threats to the Mediterranean region.

(b) Pollution prevention, combating and control

Scientific assessment of the pollution related problems of the Mediterranean region is only the first step towards action to prevent and control pollution and its effects. Therefore, the substantive focus of this component will shift from the assessment of the problems related to pollution to the development of proposals for concrete pollution combating and control measures and their implementation and enforcement.

Compliance with the provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols (in particular the LBS, Dumping, Emergency and Offshore protocols), and specifically with the decisions and recommendations adopted by the meetings of the Parties to the Convention, is the key to a successful environmental protection of the Mediterranean Sea.

The specific objectives of this programme are:

- to develop proposals for concrete pollution combating and control measures, including contingency plans on national and sub-regional level and establishment of port reception facilities, required by the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, as well as the decisions and recommendations of the Contracting Parties;
- to develop technical guidelines for the implementation of adopted measures and to assist developing countries in the implementation and enforcement of control measures; and
- to monitor, on a continuous basis, the implementation and the effectiveness of the implementation of pollution combating and control measures adopted or recommended by the Contracting Parties; and to inform the Contracting Parties of the results of such monitoring.

(c) Supporting measures

This component can not be implemented in a meaningful way without a strong national institutional basis supported with adequate financial resources, equipment and experts. While the situation in developed countries of the Mediterranean region seems adequate to deal with the implementation of this component, the capacity of the developing countries will need further strengthening.

The specific objectives of this programme are:

- to provide advice on legal, technical and fiscal policies, strategies, and practices which may contribute to the implementation of the pollution control measures and targets adopted by the Contracting Parties;
- to prepare guidelines, manuals, documents and reference publications relevant to the implementation of this component;
- to organize individual and group training (e.g., seminars, workshops) of national experts (administrators, technicians, scientists) in all subjects relevant to this component.

IV INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

The implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and in particular the components described above, relies not only on the public authorities but also on private firms, the NGOs and the public at large.

The above implies, on the one hand, a growing common awareness of the Mediterranean environmental problems, and, on the other hand, the participation of all the actors involved and liable to influence the decision making process.

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will adopt, in the course of each of their Ordinary Meeting, a programme of activities in the field of public information. Specific activities will be addressed to different sectors of the public such as the young people and the tourists. Specific activities will be also addressed to developing countries to enable them to benefit from an abundance of information on the environmental problems and to implement information policies for the population.

Coordinated information campaigns for the public and the companies will be implemented at the Mediterranean basin level in cooperation with the Contracting Parties and the relevant Inter-governmental organizations.

The Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres will ensure the information on and the participation to, the Mediterranean Action Plan, for the relevant NGOs.

A report on the state of the Mediterranean environment will be published at regular intervals.

V LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The development of the international environmental law has been accelerated in a rapid way since the Stockholm Conference of 1972, the UNCED Conference has placed an emphasis on the increasingly evolving international environmental law in the direction of sustainable development, giving special attention to the delicate balance between environmental and developmental concerns.

Agenda 21 of UNCED emphasized the importance of the full utilization of law as an instrument to achieve a balance among environment, development and socio-economic considerations and contribute to the process of monitoring compliance.

In the meantime, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (1976) have developed during the twenty years of their cooperation a set of important and far reaching legal instruments with a view to foster their cooperation in the form of the following legal instruments:

- Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona 1976);
- Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Barcelona 1976);
- Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in cases of Emergency (Barcelona 1976);
- Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources (Athens 1980);
- Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (Geneva 1982); and
- Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Madrid 1994).

Efforts should be enhanced with a view to finalize and adopt a protocol on the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea resulting from the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, and to prepare appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment, as well as a protocol on coastal management.

It is of a paramount importance that the Mediterranean countries, in particular developing Mediterranean countries should be supported in their efforts to develop and upgrade their environmental regulations related to the protection of the environment and sustainable development and to be fully involved in the regional and international negotiations dealing with the protection of the environment and sustainable development and be assisted in achieving the early entering into force and effective implementation of regional and relevant international environmental agreements.

Developing Mediterranean countries should also be provided with technical assistance in their attempts to enhance their national legislative capabilities in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development with a view to avoiding duplication and enhance effectiveness.

The full, effective and a prompt implementation of the regionally binding instruments agreed upon by the Contracting Parties is a prerequisite for future cooperation and partnership of the Mediterranean countries in their efforts to protect their environment and develop their region in a sustainable manner.

Linkage between international law, regional instruments and national law should be pursued. Permitting measures and the development of a system of inspectorate and jurisdictional capacity building, in the field of environmental law on the national levels, will contribute largely to the effective implementation of the regional and relevant laws and agreements, related to environmental protection and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

A periodic review and assessment should be undertaken by Mediterranean countries with a view to evaluate and promote the efficacy of their regional law and regulations and to promote the integration of environment and sustainable development policies through effective national laws and regional agreements.

VI INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

(a) Institutional arrangements

At the institutional level, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) will be implemented under the following conditions :

- the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention exercise the functions stipulated in the Convention in the framework of their Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings. They approve the activities and budget of MAP. They establish a Bureau to which they delegate part of their responsibilities;

- a Coordinating Unit is established under the authority of the United Nations Environment Programme. The Unit prepares the Meetings of the Contracting Parties and of the Bureau and is responsible for the implementation of the decisions taken by these organs. The Unit maintains relations and coordinates its activities with International and Non-governmental Organizations. The Unit regularly reports on its activities to the Contracting Parties. The Unit promotes and coordinates the activities of the Regional Activity Centres;
- the Regional Activity Centres are established by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties at the proposal of a member-state. They are responsible, in cooperation with the Coordinating Unit, to carry out the tasks specifically agreed upon by the Contracting Parties and/or to implement the juridical aspects of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
- *ad hoc* scientific and technical advisory committees may be established by the Contracting Parties to follow the implementation of the Protocols or of specific programmes;
- each Contracting Party designates, within its national administration, a national focal point with the tasks to follow up the activities of MAP, to coordinate the national activities in the field of the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and to ensure the dissemination of information. Focal points may also be designated to follow the implementation of a protocol or the activities of a Regional Activity Centre;
- the Contracting Parties involve the local authorities in the activities of MAP;
- the Contracting Parties, jointly, and with the assistance of, the Coordinating Unit, establish an administrative and technical system to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols; and
- a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is established. The MAP Coordinating Unit, in assuring its secretariat functions, ensures the links with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development as well as the national Commissions on Sustainable Development.

(b) Financial arrangements

The Financial arrangements to carry out the Mediterranean Action Plan are established within the budgetary and institutional framework and within the methods of work established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Trust Fund is established within the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure the effective coordination and funding of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

The financial rules of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme related to the accounts and the audit shall be applied to this Trust Fund.

The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan prepares, under the authority of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, budget estimates to be adopted by Contracting Parties. This budget shall be financed by contributions from Contracting Parties, voluntary contributions from Governments, supporting organizations and non-governmental sources as well as counterpart contributions.

The contributions of the Contracting Parties shall be assessed on the basis of a mutually agreed scale of contribution which shall take into consideration the UN scale of assessment.