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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 Protocols

Tripoli, 16-17 November 1998

**PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT  
SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES  
INCLUDING DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES  
(MARCH - NOVEMBER 1998)**

**“Proposed Recommendations on MAP/NGO Cooperation”**

## Introduction

1. During their last meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols (Tunis, 18-21 November 1997), decided to "undertake a methodological reflection in relation to NGOs participation in MAP" and for this purpose, decided to "establish a Working Group composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties" to review this subject and propose the necessary recommendations.
2. At its last meeting (Tunis, 28 March 1998), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties reviewed the subject, made various comments and requested the Secretariat to convene the meeting of the Working Group and report to the next Bureau meeting, the results of the deliberation of the Working Group.
3. In conformity with those decisions, the meeting of the Working Group was convened at the MAP premises, in Athens, on 9 October 1998.
4. The meeting thoroughly reviewed a secretariat report including draft recommendations on the subject and made various amendments and modifications thereon.
5. The following draft recommendations have been suggested by the Working Group on MAP/NGO Cooperation for the consideration of the Bureau:

## Proposed Recommendations

The main objectives of MAP/NGO cooperation are:

- to advance the general purposes of MAP and to promote the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the decision of the meetings of the Contracting Parties;
- to secure expert information, opinion and advice and technical cooperation and assistance from international, regional and national NGOs;
- to enable NGOs which represent important sections of public opinion in the Mediterranean to express the views of their members on environmental issues, raise public awareness and influence public opinion and behaviour for the benefit of the environment.

With a view to attain these objectives, the following specific recommendations are suggested for the consideration of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties:

### A. At the Contracting Parties level

1. At the regional level, the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to create the appropriate working conditions for NGOs and to facilitate their involvement and active participation in tasks for which they are specialized, or have expertise, through a capacity building programme involving financial assistance, legal assistance (such as bringing cases to courts), preparation of environmental projects and techniques of raising public awareness.
2. At the national level, encourage partnership between Contracting Parties, the private sector and relevant NGOs, which could produce positive results in dealing with specific environmental and sustainable development issues.

At the national level, encourage NGOs role in organizing and supporting "public hearings" towards particular environmental issues.

**B. At the NGOs level**

1. NGOs shall fully cooperate with the Mediterranean countries and MAP Secretariat for the furtherance of the objectives of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
2. NGOs shall provide the MAP Secretariat regularly with information on their activities and changes in their structures.
3. NGOs shall build and strengthen national and regional networks, with wider representation of Mediterranean NGOs in the Networks.
4. NGOs shall cooperate individually or collectively (Networks) in the implementation of MAP programmes and shall prepare qualitative inputs to policy and research projects of MAP.
5. The sharing of experience and lessons, communication and exchange of information within the various NGOs shall be strengthened.
6. Encourage Networks of NGOs to be present in MAP meetings by relevant experts.
7. NGO Networks shall guarantee that they would act as focal points of the various NGOs they represent.
8. NGOs shall disseminate information on MAP activities through their Newsletter, Internet web pages and through other channels in order to make MAP's efforts and importance in the Mediterranean more known to the public at large.
9. NGOs shall be encouraged to invite MAP representative to participate in their Ordinary meetings.

**C. At the Secretariat level**

1. The MAP Secretariat shall strengthen and upgrade its support to NGOs from the Southern and Eastern parts of the Mediterranean region, which aims at upgrading their capabilities and encouraging their active participation in MAP activities.
2. The MAP Secretariat is to play a facilitating and enabling role to help NGOs build on and strengthen existing mechanisms of collaboration and networking.
3. The Secretariat shall prepare a Capacity Building Programme for Mediterranean individual NGOs and Networks of NGOs accredited to MAP which would encompass, inter alia, the following:
  - a. ways and means for promoting the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, and the decisions of the Contracting Parties;
  - b. access to information and techniques for raising public awareness towards environmental and sustainable development issues;
  - c. training programmes and workshops;

- d. financial assistance to NGOs which are responsive to local and national needs and to Networks for regional projects of benefit to a wider community, through a reasonable increase in the MAP budget line for assistance to NGOs, in conformity with UNEP/MAP financial regulations;
  - e. legal assistance to NGOs;
  - f. establishment of new networks and strengthen the existing ones;
  - g. entrust NGOs to act as executing agencies of relevant MAP projects, in particular, in the field of management of biodiversity conservation projects.
4. Establish a small Advisory Group composed of representatives of the Contracting Parties, the NGOs incorporated in the MAP list and of the Secretariat, to meet annually with the objective of addressing and supervising MAP/NGOs cooperation.
  5. Review and update on a regular basis, the MAP/NGOs profile database.
  6. Devote one-page in MAP Bulletin "Medwaves", to NGOs activities.
  7. Explore the possibility of a multi-patriate collaboration of NGOs, international and regional financial institutions, the MAP Secretariat and the Contracting Parties, in the form of joint projects.
  8. The MAP Secretariat is to designate a MAP official with overall responsibility towards NGOs.
  9. The MAP Secretariat is to provide information to NGOs on projects being financed through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) or through joint projects of MAP and regional and international financial institutions.
  10. Encourage a broad participation of NGOs in MAP activities, not just a selected few.
  11. A selection of NGOs to be incorporated in the MAP/NGO List of Partners shall be based on the real profile (competence in the thematic field) of the organization which will be illustrated in a Dossier to be submitted by the NGO in question containing information on:
    - main objectives and field of competence of the organization;
    - NGO constitution, terms of reference, or articles of association;
    - activity and financial reports;
    - bulletins and media articles published by the organization.
  12. The selection of organizations to be incorporated in the MAP/NGO list of partners is to follow the same criteria used in the selection of the members of the MCSD, namely selection of organizations representing three categories: Local Authorities, Socio-economic Actors and Environmental NGOs.
  13. The selection process shall start with an official request of the organization, a proposal by the MAP Secretariat to be reviewed by the meeting of the MAP National Focal Points for subsequent approval by the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.