

20 October 2023
Original: English

23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023

Agenda Item 3: Thematic Decisions
Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Session

**Report of the 20th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Marseille, France,
14-16 June 2023)**

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED WG.560/6



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

3 July 2023
Original: English

20th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Marseille, 14-16 June 2023

Report of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2023

Table of contents

	Pages
Report	1-14
Annexes	15-57
Annex I List of Participants	
Annex II Agenda of the 20 th Meeting of the MCSD	
Annex III Welcome Speeches and Opening Remarks/ Statements	
Annex IV Conclusions and Recommendations	

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of France and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and in consultation with the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee, the 20th Meeting of the MCSD was convened in Marseille, France, on 14-16 June 2023.
2. The list of participants is provided in Annex I of the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Mitja Briceelj, President of the 19th MCSD, Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention (full statements provided in Annex III), and the following High-level Representatives from the host country - France:
 - Ms. Anne Claudius-Petit, President of the Commission for the Energy Transition, waste strategy, air quality, representing Mr. Renaud Muselier, President the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Delegated President of Regions of France
 - Ms. Samia Ghali, Deputy Mayor of Marseille represented Mr. Benoît Payan, Mayor of Marseille
 - H.E. Minister Mr. Hervé Berville, State Secretary for the Sea attached to the Prime Minister of France (full statement provided in Annex III)

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

- a) Election of the Steering Committee*
- b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*
- c) Organization of Work*

4. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as contained in document UNEP/MED WG.560/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.560/2. The Meeting adopted two timetable changes to accommodate the availability of high-level speakers. The updated agenda of meeting is included in Annex III of the present report.
5. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD elected its Steering Committee in accordance with the MCSD Constitutive Documents, Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure, as follows:
 - President: Ms. Anne-France Didier, France
 - Vice-President: Ms. Asli Topalak, Türkiye, (ex officio, as representative of the Presidency of the Contracting Parties)
 - Vice-President: Mr. Mohammed Maktit, Morocco
 - Vice-President: Mr. Lotfi Ben Said, Tunisia
 - Vice-President: Mr. Najib Saab, Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
 - Vice-President: Mr. Almotaz Abadi, UfM Secretariat
 - Rapporteur: Mr. Josep Canals Molina, MedCities

Agenda item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2021 – May 2023

6. The Coordinator presented the progress report, as contained in document UNEP/MED WG.560/3, and acknowledged the effort and contribution of all MCSD members, focusing on activities deriving from Decisions adopted at the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 22) (Antalya December 2021) and included in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2021-2023 and the upcoming global events as an opportunity to promote the work of UNEP/MAP and the MCSD.

7. Several representatives of the Contracting Parties, Members of the MCSD thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive overview provided, acknowledging the good progress achieved since the last meeting of the MCSD. They highlighted the need to further strengthen the role of the Regional Seas programme, enhance visibility and partnership with Med partners, as well as beyond the region, strengthen outreach and information sharing to raise visibility of the work done by UNEP/MAP at the global and regional levels, with representation in all global and regional events of relevance, stressing the need for in person participation of UNEP/MAP with an adequate delegation. It also called to foster collective action towards a prosperous Mediterranean region by 2050 leaving no one behind. Several participants highlighted the need for sub-regional collaboration giving as examples the Danube Strategy and Alpine Strategy considering them as good opportunities to demonstrate better efficiency in the coming period to work together and minimize negative impacts of climate change, as well as the Alpine Strategy which address biodiversity and resilience to climate change and Water, Food, Energy and Climate Change (WFECC) and Security Nexus. Therefore, there is a need to find a way to invite other neighboring regions to join our effort, and to be proactive in working in both bottom-up and top-down directions.

8. MCSD members and representatives of Partner organizations provided information on work undertaken since the 19th meeting of the MCSD.

9. UfM Secretariat confirmed its commitment to a solid partnership with UNEP/MAP to ensure more synergies. Regarding the Blue Med Partnership, he shared that it is important to ensure doing it step by step while building synergies. The UfM is working with EIB and EBRD to help mobilize funding through donors and contributions from development cooperation and equity funds, etc., as well as mobilizing the beneficiary countries on an equal basis and ensuring alignment with the UfM Sustainable Blue Economy Ministerial Declaration and its Roadmap for implementation. He also confirmed that, as part of both PAMEx/PLIFF and of the BlueMed initiative, UfM will continue coordinating and building links among them, and with mechanisms such as Blue Economy Working Group, engaging with beneficiaries' countries and donors to set up successful projects.

10. PAM shared that the Mediterranean region is heavily affected by accelerating, irreversible impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, which leads to an urgent need to develop new economic models for sustainable development, accommodating the outcomes of UNFCCC COP28 and Barcelona Convention COP23. Joint work engaged with WTO and COP28 Presidency to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of COP and address linkages between climate change and international trade. At Med COP in Tangier, PAM will discuss local governments' role in climate resilience and sustainable development, promoting circular economy models based on a carefully planned energy transition and green energy sources to reduce dependence to fossil fuels and favor energetic security.

PAM also scheduled the 2nd Economic Forum Euro Mediterranean of the Gulf on 14-15 December 2023 in Marrakesh focused on energy transition, renewable resources, and mobilizing the private sector to design innovative sustainable development models. PAM will launch the First Permanent Parliamentary Forum on Renewable Energies with a multi-stakeholder's approach and engage in improving air quality through the implementation of the Med SOx ECA decision and support the work engaged on a Med NOx ECA decision engaged by the Barcelona Convention PoW 2022-23.

11. Slovenia saluted progress regarding the Mediterranean cooperation with the Black Sea. The country also highlighted that the MCSD is the only leading body of the globe where multiple actors get together and discuss sustainable development at the regional level.

12. ECO UNION highlighted the importance of carrying out a critical review of successes, barriers and unachieved objectives of MAP PoW and MSSD for a more ambitious and pragmatic vision, highlighting the role of non-state actors (local and subnational governments, NGOs, etc.) to accelerate decision-making, underlining their pivotal role in achieving the Med SOx ECA decision, that could be replicated for a Med NOx ECA decision. He added that the action of the MCSD must accelerate along with the pressures and impacts to address upcoming challenges pointed by science - drought, biodiversity loss, flooding, fires - with a growing impact on the economy and local communities who heavily depend on ecosystem services. He invited participants to attend the side event they partnered for on sustainable tourism focusing efforts on preventing and reducing its externalities for a true Mediterranean leadership on blue economy engaging all stakeholders across sectors. He recalled the importance of prospective work (MedECC, SOED, etc) including a flagship initiative on sustainable blue tourism.

13. GWP MED congratulated France for undertaking the presidency of the MCSD and commented that the members of the MCSD placed high hopes and expectations, with a rich agenda for the coming years. The existence of the MCSD helped building cohesion and systematic coordination among bodies and with other members, as well as active involvement of several international and regional partners. He renewed his commitment to continue collaborative work and mobilize more political engagement and support to concrete actions.

14. MedCities congratulated the Secretariat on the progress achieved, stressing the important role the local authorities and local diplomacy play especially in the times of trouble and crisis. He added that Mayors when gathering, don't see flags or borders, but common problems and solutions. Therefore, there is a need to enhance the trust in local authorities, as sixty per cents of the SDGs rely on them, although they were not adequately mentioned within the SDG framework. Therefore, it is important for the local authorities to be counted for as allies and part of the solutions, and as active and essential partners in the decision-making processes.

15. CIDCE commented on the importance of strengthened advocacy and the need to discuss how to deepen and feed in the legal indicators. He added that not much progress took place since the COP22, and that the 2nd Session of the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment does not build on the Barcelona Convention Protocol on Land Based Sources. He noted that the regional instrument implementation is expected to be more advanced and faster than the global agreement, adding that there is still need to include it in the regional conventions.

16. AFED introduced itself as an Arab Forum for Environmental and Development gathering 22 Arab countries and members from civil society, private sector and Government bodies, and the only platform where governments' members are observers. He praised UNEP/MAP for the clear overview presented in the progress report, stressing the need to translate decisions and communication into laws, solid proposals and effective initiatives. He gave the issue of migration and asylum seekers as an example, as this issue is expected to gain importance with the accelerated impact of climate change in the region, and the urgent need to start planning to address this issue, in addition to monitoring the international assistance to be conditioned and linked to reform. He also mentioned the impact of pandemic and conflicts on sustainable development in the region and shared that the annual report of AFED issued last week is on the '*Impact of Epidemic and Wars on the Mediterranean Region*'.

17. MedPAN recalled that as the network of marine protected areas (MPAs) managers in the Mediterranean, it strives for progress in terms of MPAs coverage – only 8.3% in the region, against the 30% objective set out by EU, regional and international legislations. Its annual workshop this year will address sustainable tourism, demonstrating its shared concern to deepen the discussion around blue tourism and how to make this sector more sustainable, dubbing the Mediterranean as a triple hotspot for climate change, ecology, and tourism.

18. The EC representative also congratulated France and the Secretariat for conducting this meeting and recalled several new EU policies and frameworks within the framework of the European Green Deal linked to blue economy, and the EC adoption of several important policies and communication on Sustainable Blue Economy, as the blue arm of the European Green Deal, also emphasizing the role of Marine Spatial Planning, in May 2021. She added that in February 2023 the EC adopted a policy package including an Action Plan on Protecting and Restoring Resilient Ecosystems for the Fishery Sector including an energy transition initiative that also addresses the nexus between food, energy and biodiversity. She added that the EU Repower Plan adopted in May 2022 in the context of war to address energy crisis, will lead to just and clean energy transition.

19. Greece provided information regarding INC-2 negotiations and shared that the side event that was organized by PAMEx in Paris succeeded in presenting the political position of PAMEx to a wider global audience the unique and longstanding experience of the Mediterranean and UNEP/MAP system as the first region globally to implement legally binding measures to compact Marine Litters and Plastic Pollution. The participants also called to continue working and highlighting the pioneering role of Mediterranean that adopted a common normative framework in 2013 through a Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter updated in 2021 and a Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/AP) promoting circular economy approach. The new treaty needs to build on and consider the Mediterranean frameworks, since they already have legally binding measures, to ensure the marine environment remains in the scope of this global treaty under negotiation with a strong prevention component, and upstream measures.

20. The Coordinator thanked all members for sharing briefings on their work and provided some clarifications regarding the ongoing work for legal indicators that could continue in the next biennium. She also clarified that at the Mediterranean level as a first step, UNEP/MAP followed the approach of developing legally binding measures under Article 15 of the Land based Sources and Activities Protocol of the Barcelona Convention. With the ongoing work for developing a global treaty on plastic pollution, UNEP/MAP felt that the Mediterranean approach was a good one and time will tell us whether there is a need to develop a protocol on plastic pollution under the Barcelona Convention.

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

a) MSSD Flagship Initiatives

21. Paying tribute to the leaders of the MSSD Flagship Initiatives, as well as to the MCSD Steering Committee's engagement in their regular monitoring, the Coordinator explained that the implementation of those initiatives by MCSD Members and Observers, partners and the Secretariat, illustrates the collective process and the cumulative efforts of all stakeholders, as instrumental towards the delivery of the MSSD. Indicative of regional actions that carry significant potential for results and visibility, the MSSD Flagship Initiatives demonstrate the vision of the Strategy in an exemplary way.

22. Short presentations of the main achievements, challenges, and perspectives have been provided by meeting participants on the following MSSD Flagship Initiatives:

- a) The Med Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas, presented by SPA/RAC
- b) Promote the "Green list" in Mediterranean countries, presented by IUCN Med
- c) Promote the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, presented by UNEP/MAP- Barcelona Convention Secretariat
- d) Create a Sustainable Urban Toolbox for the Mediterranean – MedUrbanTools, presented by Med Cities
- e) MedECC, presented by Plan Bleu/RAC
- f) Med Award, presented by SCP/RAC-MedWaves
- g) Waste Reduction, Aarhus Convention & MSES, Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus in the Mediterranean "Source to Sea" continuum, presented by GWP MED, also on behalf of COMPSUD and MIO-ECSDE
- h) MAP Dashboard, presented by Plan Bleu/RAC

23. The Secretariat also provided information on two Flagship Initiatives, aiming to:

- Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including Environmental Impact Assessments and strategic Environmental Assessments.
- Integrate Sustainability Principles into Public Procurement at national and local levels, which is yet to be launched and remain orphan at this stage.

24. Webpages dedicated to MSSD Flagship Initiatives are available on UNEP/MAP website ¹.

25. The Coordinator urged the MCSD members to support Istanbul Award Flagship Initiative as an effective tool to promote sustainability in coastal Mediterranean cities, raise awareness, build institutional capacities, and engage stakeholders.

26. MedCities encouraged the MCSD members to scaling up and linking other related activities to this important platform (the Flagship Initiatives) as expansion and promotion is key to advocacy and visibility.

¹ <https://www.unep.org/unepmap/what-we-do/mediterranean-strategy-sustainable-development-mssd>

27. MEDECC commented that MAR2 report is to be released in 2026-2027, following a practice similar to the IPCC, with a report every 7-8 years.

28. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly mentioned that they are participating for the first time in the MCSD meeting noted that it is also important to address the imbalance between the growing number of tourists and the number of populations living in tourist destination areas. This issue caused huge pressure on civil services and living conditions, in addition to the impact of this issue on real estate industry and prices, resulted a problem of floating residents who “expel” habitual residents with the purchase of property at unaffordable prices.

29. Several MCSD members took the floor appreciating the progress for the implementation of all flagship initiatives and recommended a number of ideas that could be considered as flagships for the next cycle of the MSSD such as sustainable tourism, green procurement, Posidonia meadow, nexus water climate energy, collaboration with Espo Convention, youth and education, etc.

30. ECO UNION commented that the Flagship Initiatives are crucial tools for implementing the MSSD and for publicity.

31. The Coordinator commented on this session by thanking all for their great effort and showing records of progress. She mentioned that UNEP/MAP also updated the tables of Flagship Initiatives and of significant activities conducted by all members, and shared them with all as per the meeting documents distributed to all members prior to this meeting. She also welcomed the meeting proposals regarding establishing new Flagship Initiatives on important aspects of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

b) *Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard*

32. Mr. Antoine Lafitte, Plan Bleu presented the work done in 2022-2023 to update the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, including the preparation of indicator analytical factsheets (see document UNEP/MED WG.560/Inf.3), as well as the integration of the dashboard in the UNEP-administrated World Environment Situation Room (WESR) platform, including the update of the SCP indicators.

c) *Updated MSSD: Process and Rationale*

33. The Coordinator informed the meeting that the dashboard data and analysis would contribute to the MSSD review process, in addition to the findings of the Medium-Term Evaluation and the implementation of the existing and new Flagship Initiatives will add value to the MSSD. The main outcomes of the Plan Bleu-led MED 2050 foresight study will feed in the process.

34. To this end, the Coordinator added it is essential to engage all MCSD members and MAP components, with Plan Bleu in leadership, to complete the two tasks of MSSD Review, and Final Evaluation, in a quality manner within the tight timeframe available, and to jointly select the optimal pathway ahead for the future of sustainability in Mediterranean region using the scenarios developed in the MED 2050 foresight.

35. It was agreed that UNEP/MAP would ensure an inclusive and participatory approach and welcome more engagement of MCSD members in the MCSD Steering Committee, on voluntary basis, to help in contributing to the MSSD evaluation and revision. The Coordinator added that it is equally important to enhance the resource mobilization effort allocated and search for additional funds to support a fully participatory and inclusive process.

36. A concern was raised regarding the MapX database which is included in the WESR platform which contained incorrect information on economic exclusive zones. It was requested the necessary adjustment of MapX noting that if this is not done then the data should not be uploaded on MapX.
37. Several partners commented that having clear guidelines and structure for work would help the MCSD members to actively participate and collaborate with other partners for the MSSD update, including sharing knowledge especially between north and south countries and be open for using of new tools. It was highlighted as also important, to link the new MSSD to the Agenda 2030 and to be aligned with upcoming related global events.
38. Several MCSD members pointed out the UN SDGs Summit in September 2023, therefore, it is important to advocate for MAP work and to raise the MCSD issues in these fora.
39. Italy agreed the Secretariat regarding the MSSD review and evaluation process and informed the meeting that INFO/RAC is closely working and coordinating with Plan Bleu work on the Dashboard as part of INFO/RAC mandate and will continue this joint effort to support the development of new MSSD. Therefore, alignment with INFO RAC system is important.
40. PAM commented that they support the Coordinator's proposal regarding mobilising additional human and technical resources for the new MSSD, and they are looking forward to supporting the work of UNEP/MAP and other MCSD members in policy implementation and sharing knowledge and data. To this end, they informed the meeting that PAM will coordinate with the Secretariat on the way forward regarding the MSSD and other priority sectors. Also, they informed the meeting about the upcoming event on Economic Forum that will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco.
41. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly asked UNEP/MAP to benefit from the availability of its 323 MPs and that linking climate change to security in the Mediterranean region is a priority.
42. IUCN congratulated UNEP/MAP for significant work progress and commented that the review of the existing MSSD must not prevent us from developing a new strategy. They also shared that they are ready to support the MSSD consultation process and asked to take into consideration the link of the new MSSD to the work on sustainable development at the national level.
43. The Secretariat commented of the UNEP/MAP proposal regarding creating an extended body by adding four to five MCSD Members to the MCSD Steering Committee, based on need-based criteria and on voluntary basis, to support the MSSD update/revision process, noting that these additional members are not and will not be considered as Steering Committee members. She added that rather the proposal is to complement the Steering Committee based on current composition with parliamentarians and scientific community and sectorial in an integrated way. The Coordinator added that UNEP/MAP could call for a meeting on this issue later this year, and that UNEP/MAP will use available resources and networks to expand the MSSD consultation process. She added that it is important to remember that the MSSD is for all stakeholders of the Mediterranean region, therefore all members are encouraged to conduct consultations within their networks.

Agenda item 5: MED 2050 Foresight Study

- a) Presentation MED 2050 Foresight Study*
- b) Outcome of the MED 2050 Youth Workshop on the Future of the Mediterranean*

44. Mrs. Lina Tode, Deputy Director of Plan Bleu/RAC presented the updates on MED 2050 foresight study to the meeting including sharing an overview on history, time frame, and organizational structure for this study, including related decisions in COP 20 (2017) and COP 21 in

December 2019; shared the four-stages methodology/modules that led to developing six scenarios resulted from joint effort conducted for years by many experts, as indicated in the MCSD WG 560_4_Outcome MED 2050 Study and asked the meeting to share their inputs and feedback; and indicated that a full report on MED 2050 will be available by mid-October 2023, including methodology, all scenarios, and a first draft of transition pathways/recommendations for inclusion in the COP23 package. A "post-COP" final version will be released early 2024 to include feedback from COP23. This was followed by interesting interventions made by three youth participants who had participated to a MED 2050 workshop and who shared their views and concerns about the Mediterranean region's reality and future from a youth perspective.

45. GWP-MED asked the question of how to select from these scenarios and mix of choices, and added that we need to focus on two issues: what to avoid, and what actions must be done, or where we want to go, and where we do not want to go. This is needed to move through "backcasting" from developing scenarios to designing the transition pathways, and to be more clear on who is doing what, and how to do it. Slovenia commented that the process needs clear leadership and enhanced credibility from trusted bodies to work on quality assurance of data. The country also asked to focus on possible trends and to simplify the scenarios/outcome and prepare them as story narratives.

46. MedPAN welcomed the participation and presentation made of youth on MED 2050 and shared that the presentation of MED 2050 showed best and worst scenarios and commented that it is important to share results but more important is to use them. They added, it is important to re-think the environmental pillar and scaling up ecosystem protection and socio-economic intervention. They suggested establishing a technical working group to help developing the pathways for a better future in Mediterranean region. Therefore, engagement of all stakeholders and identifying links to existing initiatives is important. Morocco stressed the importance of highlighting specific actions needed to work together and integrate youth expectations and needs in our work.

47. The EU representative commented that the presentation showed impressive effort and suggested to consider the new EU policies, especially those related to on blue economy, and shared that UNEP/MAP has the EU support regarding the new MSSD. She also mentioned that baseline development on the assumption of the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention is important. She highlighted that it is important to implement the blue economy legislation, including the EU new communication, legislations, and policy guidelines, and to take them into account upon updating the scenarios and the upcoming revision of the MSSD.

48. PAM seconded what was shared by Slovenia and shared with the meeting that some proposals included in the MED 2050 presentation already exist, therefore we need to update the conclusions to avoid the risk of losing credibility. Tunisia seconded the feedback of GWP-MED and added that focusing on what to avoid, and what actions must be done would be also helpful for working at the national level. IUCN-MED also welcomed the presentation from youth and asked for a clear mechanism to include all MCSD members in the MSSD review process.

49. France shared that they support the representation of Youth in all MCSD meetings and to extend the effort of sustainable development education to the schools, not only to the academic community. France also expressed support to the Secretariat proposal to increase the number of MCSD members supporting the Steering Committee members in the MSSD update process.

50. Plan Bleu/RAC commented that the discussion showed growing interest of the MCSD in this study and pointed the usefulness to test each scenario against existing policies and frameworks, also noted that one of the lessons learned from COVID-19 is that even scenarios with limited probability could turn into reality. Also shared that a toolbox is under preparation to share knowledge and raise awareness about this study and added that MED 2050 is a system integrating more dimensions:

demographics, economy, science, and more qualitative analysis is still needed towards the perspective with a focus on ruptures and risks of crises by 2050. The study calls for testing our current policies and strategies against possible futures rather than choosing one preferred scenario, therefore, each of the six scenarios has relevance to explore the different drivers of change.

Agenda item 6: Roundtable/Panel discussion: Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean in the context of the most recent relevant global and regional commitments

51. H.E. Karim Amellal, Ambassador delegate for the Mediterranean Sea (France), delivered opening remarks stating the blue economy-related facts in the Mediterranean, and highlighting the regional policy framework, including the relevant UfM ministerial declarations. Pointing to the evidence encapsulated in the SoED and MAR 1 reports produced by Plan Bleu and MedECC (respectively), he reiterated the importance of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, which harbours the Mediterranean region's sole legally binding treaty, and commended the MCSD role as an inclusive platform for coordinated action involving all actors, including UfM, and initiatives such as PAMEx. The blue economy, as he observed, can be the prism through which the Mediterranean region can craft solutions that put it on a path to sustainability. The full statement of H.E. Ambassador Amellal is attached in Annex III.

52. The Coordinator, thanked Ambassador Amellal for setting the scene for the panel discussion, noting that the thematic focus on the blue economy comes as a timely reminder of the need to ensure the sustainable use of the natural marine and coastal resources that the Mediterranean offers.

53. Ms. Sophie-Dorothee Duron, Head of the department of maritime and coastal areas at the French Secretariat of State for the Sea, moderated the panel discussion, which unfurled in two successive instalments: "The way forward for a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean" (Part 1), and "Best practices to promote a sustainable blue economy" (Part 2).

Part 1: "The way forward for a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean"

54. Mr. Lucien Chabason, renowned sustainable development expert and former UNEP/MAP Coordinator (1994-2003), recalled the significance of the creation of the MCSD in 1994 under the impetus of Tunisia, making the Mediterranean "the first regional sea to fully embrace sustainable development", as it emerged from the Earth Summit, and later the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. He considered that the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, encompassing the MCSD, should continue "to embed global commitments in the regional agenda it coordinates". Hitherto an unexplored global commitment that the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system could assimilate at the regional level is the goal to restore 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2030. Other emerging issues with relevance to the blue economy include sustainable marine energy, adaptation to climate change in the coastal context, and the deployment of nature-based solutions.

55. Mr. Almotaz Abadi, the UfM Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment and the Blue Economy, noted that healthy and resilient ecosystems constitute the essential foundation that underpins the blue economy and should therefore be at the heart of resource-mobilization strategies. He highlighted the outcomes of the 2021 UfM Ministerial Conference on "Sustainable Blue Economy", including the Ministerial Declaration and the associated roadmap. He underscored the importance of bringing together financial institutions, banks (multilateral and national), private

investors, and country and industry representatives to exchange information on preparing portfolios of bankable projects.

56. Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Secretary, Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, commended the support that UNEP/MAP has provided to countries of the Adriatic and Ionian sub-regions, including Coastal Area Management Plans (CAMPs) and Regional Contingency Plans for the prevention of pollution from accidents at sea. He considered that this has fed into the EU strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region (EUSAIR) and its pillar on Environmental Quality encompassing blue growth, sustainable tourism and connectivity. Outputs of EUSAIR include the Adriatic Sub-Regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan and the innovative application of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). Mr. Bricelj highlighted a European Council Conclusion (2021) pertaining to the theme of “sustainable blue economy” that acknowledges the role that Blue Corridors play in the framework of MSP to improve the connectivity of ecological networks while ensuring sustainable fisheries and navigation across marine eco-regions.

57. Prof. Michael Scoullou, Chairman of the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med), underscored the importance of integration as a prerequisite for sustainable development efforts to achieve their goals. He reported progress led by GWP-Med and the EU-funded WES Project in using the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus approach for the purpose of bringing down silos, recognizing natural continuums and turning knots of competing uses of natural resources into points of convergence. Mr. Scoullou described the WEFE nexus applications as conducive to the creation of spaces for dialogue, negotiations, trade-offs, and solutions. A complementary strategic framework on the WEFE nexus is being set up with UNEP/MAP, UfM, EU and PRIMA providing leadership, GWP-Med and WES contributing to technical assistance, and with the participation of various stakeholders in the Mediterranean region and proposed this to be considered as a Flagship Initiative in the updated MSSD.

58. Mr. Ahmed Yassin, Co-founder and Marketing strategist of Banlastic (Egypt), a social enterprise dedicated to “banning single use plastic” in Egypt and the MENA region, offered a youth perspective on the blue economy through the prism of plastic waste. The young speaker considered strengthening linkages and coordination among governments, civil society and communities as a priority. In addition to advocacy aimed at decision-makers, he emphasized the importance of peer-learning among local authorities and CSOs around the Mediterranean and called for “nimble solutions that match the dynamic nature of the blue economy”. On youth action, he considered that young people in the Mediterranean are solution-oriented, seeking green jobs and opportunities from a sustainable blue economy that delivers on its promises, including in the digital space.

Part 2: “Best Practices to promote Sustainable Blue Economy”

59. Mr. Eric Banel, Director-General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (France), pointed to the recent restructuring of his department as evidence of the evolving institutional mindset, which increasingly acknowledges the imperative of greater integration. He considered that the establishment of a Ministry dedicated to the Sea provides a space conducive to inter-sectoral policy dialogue and coordination, particularly in relation to marine spatial planning (MSP). He cited a three-pronged approach to optimizing MSP: ensuring that the blue economy remain sustainable; protecting the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution, including through conservation; and protecting the rights and wellbeing of seafarers. Mr. Banel considered that MSP should be at the heart of the MCSD’s preoccupations, with a view to promoting dialogue among users of marine and coastal

resources at various levels. The speaker also singled out offshore renewable energy infrastructure and the greening of maritime transport as priority fields deserving the attention of the MCSD.

60. Mr. Josep Rodríguez, Responsible for International Relations at the Tourism Department of the Barcelona Provincial Council and Coordinator of the Euro-MED Sustainable Tourism Community, highlighted the soaring number of tourist arrivals in the Mediterranean, citing a post-pandemic boom boosted by what he described as an era of hypermobility. He went on to present novel conceptual approaches, including the “visitor economy” (a concept that is broader than tourism) and tourism as a system, the interrelated components of which must be sustainable for the whole to be green. Mr Rodríguez highlighted the challenge of ensuring effective integration among all institutional actors at the local level, calling for a paradigm shift from “attracting visitors” to “managing a destination”. The speaker also spoke of the EU-funded Interreg project seeking to enhance sustainable tourism.

61. Mr. Ali Badreddine, Manager of Tyre Coast Nature Reserve, spoke about his work on protecting coastal ecosystems and the associated biodiversity (fauna and flora), including marine turtles and the Monk Seal, while pursuing the development of socio-economic activities that generate incomes for local communities without harming natural systems. Mr. Badreddine considered that decoupling the development of the blue economy from pollution and ecosystem degradation is possible by keeping nature at the centre of planning and policies. He cited the development of eco-tourism in MPAs as an example. The speaker also pointed to the importance of climate change adaptation in the coastal context, calling for “a blue economy that is both sustainable and resilient”.

62. Ms. Kyveli Gourgouri, representing the Zero Waste Initiative (by Polygreen) in Tilos, Greece, presented achievements in spurring behavioral change by leveraging technology. The Tilos-based pilot eliminated landfills through the establishment of a system including sorting at the source, door-to-door collection, composting, recycling and reusing. A mobile app allowing every citizen to monitor and take part in the collective waste management endeavour boosted the uptake of the scheme. Ms. Gourgouri underscored the importance of education and awareness-raising, as drivers of the required behavioural changes, and spoke of multiple environmental, social and financial benefits for the local community in Tilos. She called for support to upscale this pilot initiative around the Mediterranean.

Takeaways from the panel discussion:

- **The stars are aligned.** There probably has never been a better time for a regionally coordinated leap towards a sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean. Political will is gathering momentum (as illustrated by the recent breakthrough on Med SO_x ECA). The Contracting Parties are accumulating experience in using instruments such as Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (for the marine portion of the coasts) – which are essential to ensuring that uses of natural resources remain sustainable. Regional actors and platforms, including UfM and PAMEx, are aligning efforts on resource-mobilization and stimulating the initiation of sustainable blue economy projects.
- **WEFE: a potential game-changer?** The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach is being deployed in the Mediterranean as an innovative tool that breaks silos and turns usage conflicts (sources of tension) into convergence spaces where solutions, including trade-offs required for a sustainable blue economy, can be negotiated and sought in an inclusive manner. The large-scale adoption of WEFE can transform national administrations and render institutional set-ups nimbler and more effective in addressing the blue economy and its complex ramifications.

Such institutional transformations can happen in a non-disruptive manner, as it was the case with the merger of various departments into a recently created Secretariat of State for the Sea in France.

- **Bright blue spots are expanding.** In their presentations, the panellists highlighted several concrete projects that are delivering on the promise of a thriving and sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean. From the zero-waste scheme in the Greek island of Tilos (“Just Go Zero” by Polygreen) to eco-tourism in MPAs (the case of Tyr Coast Natural Reserve), sustainable blue economy pilots are cropping up around the Mediterranean. A coordinated push for upscaling is needed so that the bright blue spots continue to expand across sectors and time-zones.
- **Demand for a sustainable blue economy is rising.** The investment made into environmental education, outreach and awareness-raising is bearing fruit, with varying but encouragingly consistent results. Social demand for sustainable tourism, greener transportation and environment-friendly fisheries is getting stronger by the day, aided by a vibrant civil society and green-minded social entrepreneurs crafting innovative circular business models and blending traditional approaches (one of the beach clean-up operations organized by Banlastic retrieved 3 tonnes of waste in an hour) with tech-powered behavioral change strategies, including e-nudges such as the application introduced by Polygreen in Tilos, Greece, allowing residents to track their progress as part of their island’s collective waste management effort.
- **The Blue Economy as a green prism.** As it embarks on a decisive journey towards achieving a sustainable blue economy, the Mediterranean region will tread uncharted territories and discover pathways to tackling broader sustainability issues across the source-to-sea continuum. Getting the blue economy right can be the region’s ticket to sweeping gains in greening economies through sustainable consumption and production and circular economy approaches. As one speaker noted, the Mediterranean is a laboratory for innovative solutions. The UN Ocean Conference that Nice (France) will host in June 2025 will be an important global milestone at which the region can establish its credentials as a pioneering regional sea that delivers. Delivering on SDG-14 and the promise of the 2030 Agenda as a whole will require youth and women empowerment, and inclusive policies that leave no one behind.

Agenda item 7: Sustainability Considerations in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

63. The meeting welcomed the presentation of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 and considered that the overall draft PoW adequately integrates sustainability considerations, also welcomed the important sustainability aspects imbedded in the proposed PoW and highlighted the importance of considering further support for a strengthened role and presence of youth and women in key MAP decision making bodies meetings. The Meeting also stressed on enhancing climate resilience aspects, and the presence of the Secretariat in major global events held in the region in collaboration with the respective host countries (i.e. 9th OOC in Greece in 2024, and UNOC 2025 in Nice in 2025).

64. The meeting agreed on promotion of sustainable tourism and blue circular economy including through pilots in interested Contracting Parties, and promotion of the role of MPAs for climate resilience and sustainability, development of appropriate ecosystem service and accounting mechanisms in support of sustainable blue economy, in addition to promotion of education for sustainable development.

65. The meeting also agreed on further engagement of relevant partners including Parliamentarians in the new communication strategy, as well as the use of legal instruments offered under the MAP Barcelona Convention framework as appropriate, to increase coastal resilience anticipating the effects of climate change and asked the Secretariat to describe these reflections in the Report of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD and in the proposed PoW, as appropriate. The members also shared that MCSD should be informed of the outcomes of the Bureau meeting, to benefit and use the theme of the Ministerial Segment to support the extended Steering Committee of the MCSD in having more practical inputs to feed in the new MSSD.

66. The meeting also agreed on the following points of recommendations:

- Further support for a strengthened role and presence of youth and women in key MAP decision making bodies meetings,
- Enhanced presence of the Secretariat in major global events held in the region in collaboration with the respective host countries (i.e. 9th OOC in Greece in 2024, and UNOC 2025 in Nice, France, in 2025),
- Development of appropriate ecosystem service accounting mechanisms in support of sustainable blue economy,
- Further promotion of education for sustainable development and engagement of relevant partners including Parliamentarians in the new communication strategy
- Use of legal instruments offered under the MAP Barcelona Convention framework as appropriate, to increase coastal resilience anticipating the effects of climate change.

67. The meeting shared further considerations related to the integration of sustainable tourism, resilience to climate change and connectivity of marine spaces, women and youth's engagement through the Women Mediterranean Parliamentary Forum that could be integrated across upcoming meetings and discussed the next MCSD meeting timeline.

Agenda Item 8: Inputs of the 20th MCSD Meeting to COP 23

68. The 20th MCSD meeting stressed the importance of including gender parity and youth engagement in MCSD work and meetings towards COP 23, to start each UNEP/MAP meeting with a message from youth, and to support to the UNEP/MAP Gender Action Plan targets related to the MCSD to be presented at COP23.

69. The meeting also highlighted the importance of integrating the MCSD inputs' related to the blue economy at COP23, including a proposal from France to turn the initiative supporting the action plan of the Med Posidonia Network (MPN) towards the protection of a 100% of seagrass beds by 2030 as shared objective of both the MCSD and COP23.

70. The meeting also agreed to consider the re-launch of the Sustainable Procurement as an MCSD Flagship Initiative, starting by establishing a working group with support from ECO UNION and France, that could be supported by a workshop over COP23.

71. Plan Bleu/RAC informed that the full report on MED 2050 will be available by mid-October 2023, including methodology, all scenarios, and a first draft of transition pathways/recommendations, to be included in the COP23 package.

72. MedCities informed that it would share a political position on both its and FAIC's behalf that should be considered as inputs from the MCSD to the COP23.

73. In addition, the meeting requested the Secretariat to share, once agreed by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Host Country, the main theme of the Ministerial segment of the COP 23 that would allow MCSD to provide a more tailored input to the Ministerial discussions and the Ministerial Declaration.

74. The meeting also agreed to establish an extended committee with participation of the MCSD Steering Committee and some additional MCSD members on voluntary basis, to be decided by end of June 2023 at the latest, which will work online to prepare the MCSD contribution to the COP 23 under the French leadership. Every effort should be made to share with the MAP Focal Points the MCSD input to COP23 before their meeting in September.

Agenda Item 9: MCSD Membership

75. There was no MCSD member of which mandate was expiring.

Agenda Item 10: Any Other Matters, including Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the MCSD

76. The meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to join the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) on Plastics, as well as the HAC for Nature and People, especially in relation to the achievement of the 30X30 target on protected areas, noting that these are important priorities for COP 23.

77. The meeting welcomed the expression of interest of PAM in hosting the next meeting of the MCSD and suggested that the host and the exact date of the meeting (in May or June 2025) will be set at a later stage, considering the global calendar and logistical considerations.

Agenda Item 11: Conclusions and Recommendations

78. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD agreed on the draft Conclusions and Recommendations, which are presented in their final form in the Annex IV to the present report.

79. In her closing remarks, the Coordinator informed about the next steps, including the release of the meeting report and the conclusions drawn by the panel, the finalization of the MED 2050 report by Plan Bleu/RAC to submit it to COP23, the creation of a group for the MSSD process, including a decision on a roadmap for the MSSD revision to be submitted to the MAP Focal Point meeting. She recommended that after this meeting and before COP23, a meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee takes place online to discuss the process and thematic groups engagement, looking beyond the SDGs and delivering pioneer work.

80. The President of the MCSD closed the meeting at 6:30 on Friday 16 June 2023.

Annex I
List of Participant

Annex I: List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCS D) 2022-2023	
MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION MÉDITERRANÉENNE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (CMDD) 2022-2023	
MCS D MEMBERS REPRESENTING CONTRACTING PARTIES MEMBRES DE LA CMDD REPRÉSENTANT LES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE	Ms. Alesia Shala Expert in Environmental Assessment Ministry of Tourism and Environment E-mail: alesia.shala@turizmi.gov.al
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/ BOSNIE- HERZÉGOVINE	Ms. Sabina Hadziahmetovic Leading Researcher/Designer Hydro Engineering Institute Sarajevo E-mail: sabina.hadziahmetovic@heis.ba
CROATIA / CROATIE	Ms. Dunja Mazzocco Drvar Director Directorate of Climate Activities Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development E-mail: dunja.mazzoccodrvar@mingor.hr
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	Ms. Georghia Solomonidou-Christofidou Director Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development Ministry of Finance E-mail: gchristofidou@mof.gov.cy
EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE	Ms. Anna Bobo Remijn Senior Policy Officer European Commission E-mail: anna.bobo-remijn@ec.europa.eu

<p>FRANCE</p>	<p>Mr. Eric Banel Director-General Directorate General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DGAMPA) DGAMPA/SEML/Secretariat of the state for the Sea E-mail: eric.banel@agriculture.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr. Karim Amellal Ambassador for the Mediterranean Interministerial Delegation for the Mediterranean (DIMED) Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs E-mail: secretariat.sg-dimed@diplomatie.gouv.fr</p> <p>Ms. Sophie-Dorothee Duron Head of Maritime and Coastal Spaces Department DGAMPA/SEML/Secretariat of the state for the Sea E-mail: sophie-dorothee.duron@mer.gouv.fr</p> <p>Ms. Ariane Bernard Policy Officer Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs E-mail: ariane.bernard@diplomatie.gouv.fr</p> <p>Ms. Anne-France Didier Territorial Policy Advisor Pilote ODD14- DGAMPA/SEML/Secretariat of the state for the Sea Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion E-mail: anne-france.didier@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr. David Elkaim International Negotiations Officer - Marine Biodiversity Barcelona and Cartagena Conventions Directorate for European and International Action Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion E-mail: david.elkaim@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr. Nabil Medaghri Alaoui Global Ocean Protection Department of Environment and Climat Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs E-mail: nabil.medaghri-alaoui@diplomatie.gouv.fr</p>
	<p>Mr. Vincent Szleper Assistant to the Deputy Director DGALN/DEB/ELM Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion E-mail: vincent.szleper@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p> <p>Mr. Jean Vermot Head of Mission DGALN/DEB/MI Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion E-mail: jean.vermot@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</p>

Mr. André Grosset

Deputy Head of Unit
Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine
Environment (PREMAR)
E-mail: andre.grosset@intradef.gouv.fr

Ms. Phénia Marras-Ait Razouk

Coordinator of the MED-Posidonie Network
French Biodiversity Agency
E-mail: phenia.marras@afbiodiversite.fr

Ms. Isabelle Perret

Councilor for Europe and Environment
General Secretariat for the Sea (SGMer)
E-mail: isabelle.perret@pm.gouv.fr

Marie Valat

Councilor for the Mediterranean
General Secretariat for the Sea (SGMer)
E-mail: marie.valat@pm.gouv.fr

Mr. Fabrice Bernard

International Relations Director
Le Conservatoire de l'Espace Littoral et des Rivages
Lacustres (CELRL)
E-mail: f.bernard@conservatoire-du-littoral.fr

Mr. Eric Levert

Interregional Director for the Mediterranean Sea
E-mail: eric.levert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Mr. Gilles Boidevezi

Maritime Prefect for the Mediterranean
E-mail: gilles.boidevezi@premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr

Mr. Christophe Mirmand

Prefect of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Region
E-mail: pref-secretariat-prefet@bouches-du-rhone.gouv.fr

Mr. Laurent Roy

Director
Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency
E-mail: laurent.roy@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Ms. Isabelle Monfort

President
Port Cros National Park
E-mail: direction.pnpc@portcros-parcnational.fr

Ms. Anne Laure Santucci

President
Permanent Committee of the Mediterranean Maritime
Council
E-mail: anne-laure.santucci@isula.corsica

	<p>Mr. Silvain Petit Director of the Small Islands Programme Small Islands Organisation (SMILO) E-mail: s.petit@smilo-program.org</p>
GREECE / GRÈCE	<p>Ms. Maria Papaioannou National Expert - European and International Environmental Affairs and Sustainable Development Issues Directorate of International and European Activities Department of European and International Environmental Affairs Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy E-mail: m.papaioannou@prv.ypeka.gr</p>
ISRAEL / ISRAËL	<p>Ms. Rotem Shamay Head of Strategy and Innovation Policy and Strategy Division Ministry of Environmental Protection E-mail: rotemsh@sviva.gov.il</p>
ITALY / ITALIE	<p>Mr. Roberto Giangreco Div. IV Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment Support for International Activities E-mail: giangreco.roberto@mase.gov.it; giangreco.roberto@minambiente.it</p>
MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNĚGRO	<p>Ms. Aneta Kankaras Head of Office for Sustainable Development Secretariat General of the Government E-mail: aneta.kankaras@gsv.gov.me</p> <p>Mr. Igor Pejovic Senior Advisor Office for Sustainable Development Secretariat General of the Government E-mail: igor.pejovic@gsv.gov.me</p>
MOROCCO / MAROC	<p>Mr. Mohammed Maktit Head of the Studies and Planning Division Secretary of State to the Minister for Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, in charge of Sustainable Development Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development E-mail: maktit@environnement.gov.ma; m.maktit@gmail.com</p>

SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE	<p>Dr Mitja Bricelj Secretary Environment Directorate Water Department Ministry for Environment and Spatial Planning E-mail: mitja.bricelj@gov.si</p> <p>Mr. Rožle Kaučič Independent Expert Associate Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia (IZVRS) E-mail: rozle.kaucic@izvrs.si</p>
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	<p>Mr. Lotfi Ben Said Director General Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Environment E-mail: b.said.lotfi@gmail.com</p>
TÜRKIYE / TÜRKIYE	<p>Mr. Ferudun Tekbiyik Deputy General Director E-mail: ferudun.tekbiyik@csb.gov.tr</p> <p>Ms. Asli Topalak Environmental Specialist Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change E-mail: asli.topalak@csb.gov.tr</p>
<p>MCSD MEMBERS – THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES GROUP MEMBRES DE LA CMDD – LE GROUPE DES AUTORITÉS LOCALES</p>	
<p>AVITEM: AGENCE DES VILLES ET TERRITOIRES MÉDITERRANÉENS DURABLES / AGENCY FOR SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN CITIES AND TERRITORIES</p>	<p>Mr. Pierre Massis Director of Partnerships and Financing E-mail: p.massis@avitem.org</p> <p>Ms. Inès Belazi E-mail: belazines@hotmail.com</p> <p>www.avitem.org</p>
<p>FAIC: FORUM OF ADRIATIC AND IONIAN CITIES AND TOWNS / FORUM DES VILLES ADRIATIQUES ET IONIENNES</p>	<p>Dr. Davide Frulla Chief of Unit E-mail: davide.frulla@comune.fano.pu.it</p> <p>www.faic.eu</p>
MED CITIES / MED CITES	<p>Mr. Josep Canals Molina Secretary General E-mail: jcanals@amb.cat; jcanals@live.com</p> <p>contact@medcities.org</p>

MCSO MEMBERS – THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEMBRES DE LA CMDD – LE GROUPE DES PARTIES PRENANTES SOCIO ÉCONOMIQUES	
MCSO MEMBERS – THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZAITON GROUP MEMBRES DE LA CMDD – LE GROUPE DES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES	
ECO UNION	Mr. Jeremie Fosse President Eco-Union & Director Global Eco Forum E-mail: jeremie.fosse@ecounion.eu
MedPAN: MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK / RESEAU DES GESTIONNAIRES D'AIRES MARINES PROTEGÉES EN MÉDITERRANÉE	Ms. Carole Martinez International Policy Expert Senior Green & Blue Fund management E-mail: carole.martinez@medpan.org www.medpan.org www.medmpaforum.org
MCSO MEMBERS – THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBRES DE LA CMDD – LE GROUPE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ SCIENTIFIQUE	
MedECC: MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE	Mr. Joel Guiot CNRS France E-mail: guiot@cerege.fr Ms. Kasia (Katarzyna) Marini, PhD MedECC Lead Science Officer E-mail: marini@medecc.org Ms. Julie Gattacceca MedECC Science Officer E-mail: gattacceca@medecc.org
CIDCE : CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE DROIT COMPARÉ DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT / INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW	Prof. Michel Prieur Chairman Professor Emeritus at the University of Limoges Scientific Director of CRIDEAU Honorary Dean of the Limoges Faculty of Law and Economics of the International Centre for Comparative Environmental Law E-Mail: michel.prieur@unilim.fr

MCSD MEMBERS – THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP MEMBRES DE LA CMDD – LE GROUPE DES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES	
AFED: ARAB FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT / LE FORUM ARABE POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT	Mr. Najib Saab Secretary General E-mail: nsaab@afedonline.org ; nwsaab@gmail.com
GWP-MED : THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP – MEDITERRANEAN / LE PARTENARIAT MONDIAL POUR L'EAU – MÉDITERRANÉE	Prof. Michael J. Scoullos Chairman E-mail: info@mio-ecsde.org ; scoullos@mio-ecsde.org ; scoullos@chem.uoa.gr ; scoullos@swim-h2020.eu
IUCN-MED / UICN-MED: CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE / CENTRE POUR LA COOPERATION MÉDITERRANÉENNE DE L'UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE	Mr. Maher Mahjoub Regional Programme Coordinator Mediterranean Cooperation Center E-mail: maher.mahjoub@iucn.org
MCSD MEMBERS – PARLAMENTARIANS MEMBRES DE LA CMDD – PARLEMENTAIRES	
COMPSUD : CIRCLE OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / CERCLE DES PARLEMENTAIRES MÉDITERRANÉENS SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE	Prof. Michael J. Scoullos Secretary General E-mail: info@mio-ecsde.org ; scoullos@mio-ecsde.org ; scoullos@chem.uoa.gr ; scoullos@swim-h2020.eu
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM) / ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE (APM)	H.E. Ambassador Sergio Piazzì Secretary General E-mail: secretariat@pam.int ; sg@pam.int (Mrs. Bouchra Bouchkouj) Ms. Claire Pitollat Member of the French National Assembly and PAM Special Rapporteur on Energy Transition E-mail: progofficer2@pam.int

	Ms. Jeanne Beury Josselin Parliamentary Attaché to Ms. Claire Pitollat
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (PA OSCE) / ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SÉCURITÉ ET LA COOPERATION EN EUROPE (AP OSCE)	Mr. Marco Bonabello Senior Advisor - Director for Economic and Environmental Security OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat E-mail: marco.bonabello@oscepa.dk ; marco.bonabello@oscepa.org Mr. Pere Joan Pons Member of Parliament - Spain E-mail: almudena.lopez@congreso.es
OBSERVERS, INCLUDING FORMER MEMBERS OF THE MCSD OBSERVATEURS, Y COMPRIS LES ANCIENS MEMBRES DE LA CMDD	
UFM / UPM: SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN / SECRÉTARIAT DE L'UNION POUR LA MÉDITERANÉE	Mr. Almotaz Abadi Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment and Blue Economy E-mail: almotaz.abadi@ufmsecretariat.org
IME : INSTITUT MÉDITERANEEN DE L'EAU	Mr. Allain Meyssonier President E-mail: infoime-eau.org
AIFM : ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES FORETS MEDITERRANEENNES	Ms. Joëlle Salameh Programme Manager E-mail: gestion@aifm.org Ms. Joëlle Bailet Administrator E-mail: secretariat@aifm.org
IDDRI : INSTITUT DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE ET DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES / INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	Mr. Angelo Sciacca Senior Research Fellow Blue Tourism angelo.sciacca@iddri.org
INVITED SPEAKERS	
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN / UNION POR LA MÉDITERANÉE	Mr. Almotaz Abadi Deputy Secretary General in charge of Water, Environment and Blue Economy E-mail: almotaz.abadi@ufmsecretariat.org
	Mr. Lucien Chabason Former UNEP/MAP Coordinator E-mail: lucienchabason@wanadoo.fr

	<p>Mr. Ali Badreddine Manager Tyre Coast Nature Reserve E-mail: ali.badreddine@hotmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Kyveli Gourgouri Assistant Project Manager Polygreen Group of Companies E-mail: k.gourgouri@polygreen.eco</p> <p>Mr. Ahmed Yassin Co-founder and Strategist Banlastic Egypt E-mail: ahyassin007@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Josep Rodríguez Responsible for International Relations Tourism Department Barcelona Provincial Council E-mail: rodriguezlj@diba.cat</p> <p>Youth representatives</p> <p>Mr. Mohamed Shaat E-mail: mohamedr.fathyy@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Agness Nohra E-mail: agness.nohraa@gmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Fares Shmayssani E-mail: fares.shmayssani@gmail.com</p> <p>PAMEx and its Local Investment Finance Facility</p> <p>Mr. Anisse Terai Tell Group PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility E-mail : anisse.terai@tell.group</p> <p>Ms. Stéphanie Lux President of Chances Conseil E-mail: stephanie.lux@chances-conseil.fr</p>
<p>UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES CENTRES D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES DU PNUE/PAM</p>	
<p>PLAN BLEU/RAC – CAR/PLAN BLEU : PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES PLAN BLEU</p>	<p>Mr. Lucien Chabason Honorary President E-mail: lucienchabason@wanadoo.fr</p> <p>Mr. Guillaume Sainteny President E-mail: gsainteny@planbleu.org</p>

Mr. Denis Lacroix

Vice President (Prospective)

E-mail:

Mr. Guillaume Benoit

Vice President (Water and Agriculture)

E-mail: guillaumebenoit01@gmail.com**Mr. Jacques Theys**

Scientific Advisory Panel

E-mail: jacques.theys@numericable.fr**Mr. Yves Henocque**

Treasurer (Marine ecosystem)

E-mail: henocquey@yahoo.com;**Mr. François Guerquin**

Director

E-mail: fguerquin@planbleu.org**Ms. Lina Tode**

Deputy Director

E-mail: ltode@planbleu.org**Ms. Kasia (Katarzyna) Marini**

Lead Science Officer - MedECC

E-mail: marini@medecc.org**Mr. Antoine Lafitte**

Head

Environment and Sustainable Development Observatory

E-mail: alafitte@planbleu.org**Ms. Gloria Lazaro**

Programme officer

E-mail: glazaro@planbleu.org**Ms. Khadidja AMINE**

Chargée de mission développement durable et prospective

E-mail : kamine@planbleu.org**Mr. Michael Karner**

Project Coordinator

E-mail: mkarner@planbleu.org**Mr. Arnaud Terrisse**

Project Officer

E-mail: aterrisse@planbleu.org**Ms. Pauline Simon**

Head of Communication

E-mail: psimon@planbleu.org**Ms. Anne-Dominique Chalmet**

Head of Human Resources

	<p>E-mail : adchalmet@planbleu.org</p> <p>Ms. Isabelle Rossi Accountant E-mail: irossi@planbleu.org</p> <p>Mr. Samson Bellières Project Assistant Blue economy and Growth E-mail: sbellieres@planbleu.org</p> <p>Ms. Marie Lesniak Intern E-mail: mlesniak@planbleu.org</p>
<p>PAP/RAC – CAR/PAP: PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D’ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LE PROGRAMME D’ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES</p>	<p>Ms. Marina Markovic Programme Officer E-mail: marina.markovic@paprac.org</p>
<p>SPA-RAC – CAR/ASP: SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D’ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LES AIRES SPÉCIALEMENT PROTÉGÉES</p>	<p>Mr. Khalil Attia Director E-mail: director@spa-rac.org</p>
<p>MEDWAVES: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D’ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LA CONSOMMATION ET LA PRODUCTION DURABLES</p>	<p>Mr. Roger García Deputy Director E-mail: rgarcia@scprac.org</p>

<p>INFO/RAC – CAR/INFO : INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D’ACTIVITES REGIONALES POUR L’INFORMATION ET LA COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Ms. Lorena Babbini Director E-mail : lorenza.babiini@imfro-rac.org</p> <p>Ms. Silvia Sbordonni Visual Communication Officer E :mail : silvia.sbordonni@info-rac.org</p> <p>Mr. Attilio Catellucci E:mail: attilio.castellucci@isprambiente.it</p>
<p align="center">UNEP/MAP COORDINATING UNIT – BARCELONA CONENTION SECRETARIAT UNITÉ DE COORDINATION DU PNUE/PAM – SECRÉTARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BARCELONE</p>	
<p>Ms. Tatjana Hema Coordinator</p> <p>Ilias Mavroeidis MAP Programme Officer</p> <p>Jihed Ghannem MAP Public Information Officer</p> <p>Stavros Antoniadis Associate Administrative Officer</p> <p>Etab Al Takee Consultant</p> <p>Elisabeth Chouraki PAMEx Technical Secretariat</p> <p>Apostolos Apostolopoulos Administrative Assistant</p>	

Annex II
Agenda of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD

Agenda

- Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting**
- Agenda Item 2 Organizational Matters**
- a) Election of the Steering Committee
 - b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda
 - c) Organization of Work
- Agenda Item 3 Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2021 – May 2023**
- Agenda Item 4 Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)**
- a) MSSD Flagship Initiatives
 - b) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard
 - c) Updated MSSD: Process and Rationale
- Agenda Item 5 MED 2050 Foresight Study**
- a) Presentation MED 2050 Foresight Study
 - b) Outcome of the MED 2050 Youth Workshop on the Future of the Mediterranean
- Agenda Item 6 Roundtable/Panel discussion: Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean in the context of the most recent relevant global and regional commitments**
- Agenda Item 7 Sustainability Considerations in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024- 2025**
- Agenda Item 8 Inputs of the 20th MCSD Meeting to COP 23 MCSD Membership**
- Agenda Item 9 MCSD Membership**
- Agenda Item 10 Any Other Matters, including Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the MCSD**
- Agenda Item 11 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Annex III
Welcome Addresses and Statements

Opening remarks by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, President of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

Sustainable blue economy in the Mediterranean in the context of the most recent relevant global and regional commitments

«The way forward for the Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean»

The UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention's efforts in assisting the countries of the Adriatic and Ionian region has been highly valuable as it provided concrete projects for setting up Coastal Area Management Plans (CAMPs) and Regional Contingency Plans for the prevention of pollution from accidents on the sea. This created a solid fundament for setting up specific EU macroregional strategies, like the one for the Adriatic-Ionian region – EUSAIR.

The EUSAIR's Pillar on Environmental Quality addressed and connected concrete issues of Blue Growth, Sustainable Tourism and Connectivity. The results are the Adriatic Sub-Regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan (SCP Adriatic) and the innovative application of the ICZM/MSP approach by introducing eco-connectivity in Marine Spatial Planning (Blue and Green Corridors).

The enhancement of MPA networks will be a priority measure to achieve GES in the future. This has been recognised by the European Council when it in 2021 adopted a Conclusion on a Sustainable Blue Economy. The European Council acknowledged that the concept of Blue Corridors in the framework of MSP is a measure to improve the fundamental connectivity of ecological networks and to ensure sustainable fisheries and navigation in the marine eco-regions.

Allocution de Madame Tatjana Hema, Coordinatrice du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement

- Excellence Monsieur Hervé Berville, Secrétaire d'Etat à la Mer de la République française ;
- Monsieur Mitja Bricelj, Président de la Commission Méditerranéenne de développement durable, représentant la Slovénie ;
- Excellence Monsieur Karim Amellal, Ambassadeur, délégué interministériel à la Méditerranée de la République française ;
- Monsieur Christophe Madrolle, Conseiller régional, Région Sud ;
- Madame Samia Ghali, Maire-adjointe de Marseille
- Honorables membres de la Commission méditerranéenne de Développement durable,
- Honorables invités ;
- Cher(e)s collègues ;
- Mesdames et messieurs.

Au nom du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée – le PAM (*MAP, en anglais*) – du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, je tiens à exprimer notre gratitude à la France, qui accueille cette 20^{ème} réunion de la Commission Méditerranéenne de développement durable – la CMDD— de l'hospitalité et des facilités qui nous ont été accordées.

Je souhaiterais également adresser mes plus vifs remerciements à la Ville de Marseille, dont les locaux abritent nos travaux pour trois jours d'échanges et de réflexions consacrés à l'ancrage de la durabilité et de la résilience en Méditerranée.

Marseille occupe une place prépondérante dans l'architecture institutionnelle du PAM. [**Comme l'a indiqué Son Excellence Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat**], la ville abrite le Plan Bleu, le Centre d'Activités régional spécialiste des questions relatives au développement durable et de la prospective. Depuis 1977, année de la mise à disposition du Plan Bleu par la France en appui au PAM, le Centre affine la compréhension des dynamiques relatives aux interactions entre les systèmes socio-économiques et les systèmes naturels pour étayer des politiques environnementales et de développement fondées sur la connaissance.

Parmi les produits phares du Plan Bleu figure le Rapport sur l'Environnement et le Développement en Méditerranée (RED, ou SoED en anglais).

Ce rapport décortique les pressions que les secteurs économiques exercent sur les écosystèmes et identifie des recommandations d'action par les décideurs.

Depuis 2018, le Plan Bleu accueille le Secrétariat scientifique du MedECC dans le cadre d'un partenariat avec l'Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM).

Fort de ses 700 membres, le MedECC est un réseau d'experts dédié à l'évaluation du changement climatique et environnemental en méditerranée.

Le premier rapport du MedECC – MAR 1 – a apporté des éclairages inédits sur le rythme et l'étendue du changement climatique en méditerranée et ses interactions avec les mutations environnementales observées dans la région.

Trois nouveaux rapports du MedECC sont attendus d'ici à début 2024.

Marseille demeure donc un lieu de foisonnement de la connaissance appuyant le mandat du PAM et l'action des Parties contractantes à la Convention de Barcelone, qui est la Convention pour la protection du milieu marin et du littoral de la Méditerranée.

La cité phocéenne est, depuis des millénaires, un lieu de rencontre, de partage et de brassage et une plaque tournante de l'économie bleue en méditerranée, avant même que le terme ne soit inventé. Je ne peux donc qu'être ravie que Marseille accueille cette réunion de la CMDD dédiée, entre autres points inscrits à son ordre du jour, à la dynamisation d'une économie bleue **durable**.

Permettez-moi d'insister sur l'adjectif **durable**. Bien au-delà des considérations sémantiques, il est impératif de garder la durabilité au centre de l'attention et de l'action.

Dans un bassin où les ressources marines et côtières sont mises à rude épreuve, il ne faut pas que la dynamisation de l'économie bleue déclenche une « ruée vers l'or bleu ». Ce sera le thème de la table ronde qui s'annonce passionnante et qui sera modérée par Madame Sophie-Dorothee Duron, Cheffe du Service des Espaces maritimes et côtiers au Secrétariat d'État français à la mer.

Nous savons ce qu'il faut faire. Il faut changer notre rapport à l'environnement. Il faut découpler le développement socio-économique de la destruction des écosystèmes.

Vaste programme ! Certes, mais nous savons que la région méditerranéenne a les moyens de relever le défi dans l'esprit de concertation et de solidarité régionales ancré dans la Convention de Barcelone. Cette Convention est un véritable joyau que les Parties contractantes --21 pays côtiers et l'Union européenne—se sont données sous les auspices et avec l'impulsion du PAM. Le PAM fut le premier cadre de coopération édifié au sein du Programme des mers régionales du Programme des Nations unies pour l'Environnement.

Née en 1976 et révisée en 1995, la Convention de Barcelone est dotée de sept protocoles qui ont force de convention internationale.

Aujourd'hui, le système que forme le PAM et ses six Centres d'activités régionaux avec la Convention de Barcelone et ses protocoles est bien plus qu'une institution. C'est un catalyseur de coopération, un moteur d'action et un générateur de biens publics pour l'ensemble de la région.

C'est ainsi que le système PNUE/PAM-Convention de Barcelone a donné à la région la Commission méditerranéenne de développement durable.

Rassemblant des représentants des gouvernements mais aussi d'autorités locales, d'acteurs socioéconomiques, d'organisations de la société civile, d'organisations intergouvernementales et de la communauté scientifique et des parlementaires, la Commission se distingue par une composition unique en son genre.

Tous les membres de la CMDD participent sur un pied d'égalité à ses délibérations. La Commission est ainsi le principal forum régional dédié au développement durable en méditerranée ; un forum où les partenariats se renforcent et s'enrichissent.

L'ordre du jour de la réunion comprend un examen de la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable – la SMDD—, que la Commission a élaborée, et que les Parties contractantes à la Convention de Barcelone ont adoptée en 2016.

La SMDD est le principal document-cadre stratégique donnant à tous les acteurs et partenaires les moyens de réaliser les objectifs de développement durable – les ODD—aux niveaux régional, sous-régional, national et local.

A l'ordre du jour également, un passage en revue des avancées accomplies à l'échelle globale en matière de lutte contre la pollution plastique et la sauvegarde de la biodiversité,

(notamment le Cadre mondial pour la biodiversité de Kunming-Montréal et le Traité relatif à la biodiversité marine des zones situées au-delà de la juridiction nationale)

et les moyens de les intégrer dans les travaux du système PNUE/PAM-Convention de Barcelone. L'objectif reste d'assurer le passage d'échelle du global au régional (et vice versa, pour bénéficier du retour d'expériences) — pour plus de synergie ; pour plus d'impact. Cette réunion de la CMDD est résolument tournée vers l'avenir.

Le Plan Bleu y présentera son étude prospective « MED 2050 » et six scénarios pour la Méditerranée, qui prennent en compte les tendances passées et actuelles, et les voies de transition vers une région plus verte et plus résiliente.

Une discussion riche nous attend pendant ces trois jours. Tourisme, agriculture, aquaculture, transport, gestion de déchets et assainissement, consommation et production durables, ressources en eau, énergies renouvelables, et j'en passe !

Nous attendons de cette réunion des orientations et des recommandations que le Secrétariat transmettra à la 23^{ème} réunion des Parties contractantes à la Convention de Barcelone, qui se tiendra dans six mois à Portoroz en Slovénie.

Les recommandations de la CMDD seront aussi entendues lors de la Conférence des Nations unies sur l'océan (UNOC), qui aura lieu en 2025 à Nice. Ce sera alors l'occasion de faire entendre la voix de la méditerranée avec ses multiples tonalités.

Merci de votre présence et de votre engagement. Je nous souhaite une bonne réunion.



**SECRETARIAT D'ÉTAT
CHARGÉ DE LA MER**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Discours d'Hervé BERVILLE

Mercredi 14 juin, Marseille

Ouverture de la Commission méditerranéenne du Développement durable

Monsieur le Président de la Commission méditerranéenne pour le développement durable, cher Mitja,

Madame la Secrétaire Générale, chère Tatjana

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, cher Karim,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Introduction

C'est un plaisir d'être ici avec vous, à Marseille (Ville riche d'une longue histoire maritime), pour ouvrir la 20^{ème} Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable.

Merci au Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée et au Programme des Nations-Unies pour l'Environnement pour l'engagement continu en faveur de la protection de la mer Méditerranée et pour l'organisation de ces Journées d'échanges qui offrent un cadre de coopération unique sur l'environnement et le développement durable en Méditerranée.

Je souhaite remercier tout particulièrement Monsieur Mitja BRICELJ et Madame Tatjana Hema pour votre implication remarquable et votre engagement constant pour le bon déroulement de notre action collective.

Je salue bien évidemment le Maire de Marseille et le Président de la région sud pour l'accueil.

Et enfin un grand merci à toutes les équipes qui ont été à pied d'œuvre ces derniers jours et à vous tous qui représentez la diversité de notre Méditerranée.

1- Soutien de la France à la convention de Barcelone et confirmation de son engagement pour la Méditerranée

Etre parmi vous aujourd'hui c'est une évidence. Une Evidance car depuis 6 ans, le Président de la République Emmanuel Macron a fait de la protection des mers et des océans, une priorité de la diplomatie environnementale et un pilier de l'action multilatérale.

Présider cette commission est donc la continuité de l'engagement de la France qui s'est matérialisé avec par exemple le One Ocean Summit à Brest et qui aura également comme point de convergence le Sommet des Nations unies pour les océans qui aura donc lieu ici en Méditerranée.

Notre engagement pour les océans est constant, cohérent et résolu.

Et le développement durable en mer Méditerranée est une priorité que nous partageons et j'ai envie de dire que nous chérissons car nous savons que plus que toutes les autres mers du globe, c'est un espace extrêmement fragile. Dans toutes ces dimensions.

Nous le savons : si rien n'est fait, le réchauffement climatique dans le bassin méditerranéen sera 20% supérieur à la moyenne mondiale d'ici 2100, et la température de l'eau pourrait augmenter de +3,5°.

Les récents mois ont, s'il était encore nécessaire, ont démontré l'urgence d'agir sur le plan climatique et la surface des océans a connu son mois de mai le plus chaud jamais enregistré. Depuis 3 mois, la température bat tous les records et les épisodes de canicules marines se multiplient.

Un espace fragile, car nous savons ici que le progrès économique et social ne peut être que collectif et que les tensions géopolitiques, la pauvreté, l'instabilité politique, les inégalités, le défi des migrations ou encore de l'insécurité alimentaire, ne se résoudront qu'à la force du poignet de la coopération.

Le développement durable qui intègre pleinement la question sociale et le rythme de la transition pour ne laisser personne sur le bord du chemin est la condition de notre capacité à répondre sur le long terme aux multiples urgences.

C'est vrai pour tous les enjeux : je peux citer la pollution marine qui un fléau car comme vous le savez, la Méditerranée est l'une des mers les plus touchées par les déchets marins au monde avec plus de 730 tonnes de plastiques qui arrivent chaque jour.

1) Soutien au système PAM /PNUE

Vous le voyez, présider cette commission est une tâche exaltante et vous l'avez compris l'engagement du gouvernement français au système PNUE/PAM est totale comme l'illustre d'ailleurs notre contribution financière de près de 2 millions d'euros chaque année.

Nous soutenons car la Convention de Barcelone est une convention de mer régionale pionnière et parmi les plus abouties des 18 conventions mondiales dans le domaine de la mer.

Le travail qui est devant nous, mes chers amis, est passionnant car le cadre juridique régional innovant et de référence que constitue la Commission méditerranéenne de développement durable nous permet avec méthode et efficacité d'améliorer le milieu marin et le littoral pour atteindre le développement économique et social pour tous.

La révision de la Stratégie méditerranéenne de développement durable (SMDD) est à cet égard cruciale et j'en attends personnellement beaucoup.

Nous devons absolument articuler, coordonner cette nouvelle stratégie avec les autres actions transversales et initiatives importantes que nous soutenons par ailleurs : Je pense aux COP climat, le cadre adopté lors de la COP 15 sur la diversité biologique, le PAMEx 2030, la feuille de route de l'Union pour la Méditerranée ou encore l'initiative Ouest Med financée par l'UE. (d'autres)

Nous devons orienter cette seconde version de la SMDD vers un objectif de « transition vers une économie maritime durable ». Pour tous les secteurs déterminants pour notre souveraineté : pêche et aquaculture, énergie, ports, transports et sécurité maritime, tourisme.

Bref, notre ambition, est d'apporter des solutions pour permettre un progrès partagé sur toutes les rives de la Méditerranée et je ne doute pas que ce sera l'un des enjeux de la prochaine COP cette année en Slovénie, et je remercie les slovènes pour l'accueil.

Pour la CMDD, nous souhaitons donc porter 3 priorités : la préservation de la biodiversité marine, la planification maritime, la connaissance scientifique

1) Faire de la préservation de la biodiversité marine une priorité en méditerranée :

La préservation de la biodiversité marine est un enjeu crucial dans notre région qui est à la fois un « hot spot » de biodiversité et qui est doublement affectée par les impacts de certaines activités et le changement climatique.

La biodiversité est au fond la condition de notre résilience : que ce soit pour son rôle d'atténuation vis-à-vis changement climatique mais aussi pour les ressources qu'elle nous offre (pêche, tourisme, etc) et dont nous dépendons.

Je souhaite donc proposer que la CMDD soumette à la COP de décembre une initiative ambitieuse sur la POSIDONIE qui viserait à soutenir le plan d'action du réseau Med posidonie, en particulier son objectif de protection des 100% des herbiers en 2030 et donc d'en faire un objectif partagé. L'objectif est de soutenir la mise en place de mouillages écologiques, des projets de restauration de la posidonie et la mise en place d'un marché carbone bleu pour compenser les pertes de biodiversité et financer des programmes de restauration.

Ces programmes portent leur fruit, comme le montre les bons résultats obtenus en France avec l'appui de la région Sud dont je salue la politique très ambitieuse en la matière.

Je souhaite aussi, avec vous, lancer l'idée d'un festival annuel multiculturel méditerranéen de la posidonie pour mobiliser autour d'un emblème culturel et patrimonial commun les acteurs locaux, les collectivités, les jeunes et valoriser positivement son image auprès des touristes et usagers de la mer pour les engager à sa préservation.

Deuxième priorité : **la Planification maritime intégrée en mer méditerranée**

La planification n'est pas un objectif en soi, ou un enième exercice de concertation sans lendemain, mais un véritable outil d'accompagnement et de gestion qui de concilier le développement d'une économie maritime tout en préservant les ressources marines et le bon état écologique du milieu pour les générations futures.

C'est une démarche nécessaire pour aborder en même temps les enjeux de transitions énergétique, le maintien de nos activités maritimes telles que la pêche ou le tourisme et la qualité de l'environnement.

Vous le voyez, le déploiement en Méditerranée de la planification maritime intégrée est essentielle et des actions très concrètes peuvent rapidement être portées. Je pense notamment à la planification des énergies marines renouvelables pour porter nos ambitions de transition énergétique.

Je vous proposer donc la création d'un Groupe de Travail « Planification maritime en méditerranée » en lien avec le PAM/PNUE pour partager des méthodes et outils de planification.

Troisième priorité : **Renforcer la connaissance et l'expertise scientifique en Méditerranée**

La connaissance de la mer Méditerranée demeure très lacunaire et nous devons au cours de la prochaine décennie, améliorer considérablement la compréhension des enjeux et de leur imbrication.

Nous ne protégeons bien que ce que nous connaissons et donc la France souhaite que nous apportions collectivement un soutien marqué au volet « connaissance et expertise » scientifique, notamment en appuyant le PLAN BLEU et le réseau des experts du MedEcc.

L'objectif doit être de renforcer le lien entre la science et la politique, de renforcer les expertises en lien avec les acteurs locaux, de nourrir les politiques publiques et de mieux évaluer nos décisions.

Au-delà de ces trois priorités, ma conviction est qu'il nous faut faire de la Méditerranée un exemple et une illustration de la capacité des espaces régionaux à s'emparer des grands enjeux internationaux

Notre travail sera de collectivement approfondir la prise en compte des engagements internationaux et européens dans la prochaine Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable (SMDD) qui orientera les travaux de la prochaine COP.

1) Atteindre la cible de protection de 30% de la à l'horizon 2030 de l'accord de Montréal

Nous avons été très mobilisés à la COP 15 de Montréal où nous avons réussi à faire intégrer, dans l'accord final, un objectif de protection de 30% des mers à l'échelle mondiale d'ici 2030.

Il nous faut, là aussi, montrer que la Méditerranée est une mer exemplaire en atteignant collectivement cette cible.

Je souhaite ainsi renforcer en Méditerranée l'engagement de la France avec tous les pays qui le souhaiteront dans la mise en œuvre de la HAC (high ambition coalition) pour la nature et les peuples, lancée lors du One Planet Summit et qui vise la mise en place d'aires marines protégées durablement gérées.

En parallèle nous avons œuvré pour qu'un Traité pour protéger la Haute mer soit enfin conclu par la communauté internationale. Mais même s'il n'y a pas de haute-mer en méditerranée, nous avons néanmoins une responsabilité collective pour protéger cet espace et cela passe par la ratification rapide du traité ONU BBNJ lorsqu'il aura été signé.

2) Lutter contre la pollution plastique : Il nous faut aussi parvenir à conclure la négociation d'un Traité contraignant contre la pollution plastique, afin de baisser notre production de plastique et accroître le recyclage. Je souhaite aussi que l'on puisse rapidement avec votre soutien, madame la secrétaire générale du PAM/PNUE, promouvoir la HAC pour éliminer la pollution plastique d'ici 2040 et des positions communes dans le cadre des négociations à l'image du travail conséquent déjà mené avec le Plan d'action pour une Méditerranée exemplaire.

Il nous faut aussi accompagner la mise en œuvre des outils de décidés à l'OMI

Très concrètement c'est intégrer la lutte contre la pollution plastique et la lutte contre la pollution en mer par les navires ou accompagner la mise en œuvre de la zone ECAMED (Med SOx ECA). Plus de 1000 morts prématurées et plus de 2000 cas d'asthme infantile pourraient être évitées chaque année pour l'ensemble du bassin méditerranéen. Et nous avons signé l'année dernière, ici même, avec les acteurs de la croisière en Méditerranée, une Charte dans laquelle ils s'engagent à réduire leurs émissions de façon anticipée.

Mais c'est aussi mettre en œuvre la ZMPV – zone maritime particulièrement vulnérable pour la protection des cétacés, via notamment les équipements de détection des navires et la réduction de leur

vitesse, comme nous le faisons déjà dans le cadre de l'accord PELAGOS partagé avec l'Italie et Monaco.

Pendant notre présidence de cet accord nous associerons les pays du pourtour méditerranéen à nos initiatives pour une meilleure cohérence entre tous nos travaux.

La gestion d'une pêche durable et la lutte contre la pêche INN

Ce sont des objectifs déjà prioritaires pour la région mais qu'il nous faut renforcer par un travail en commun avec la Commission générale des pêches de la méditerranée.

3) L'interdiction de l'exploitation minière

J'aimerais enfin aborder un sujet qui me tient à cœur : le Président de la République a lancé un appel à **interdire l'exploitation minière des grands fonds** à la COP 27 en fin d'année dernière. Nous sommes le seul pays à l'avoir fait.

J'appelle tous les pays méditerranéens à nous rejoindre pour éviter une exploitation minière qui pourrait causer des dommages irréversibles dans nos océans.

Conclusion

Face à l'ampleur de l'urgence climatique, les États seuls ne peuvent que peu de choses, nous devons nous appuyer sur le multilatéralisme et la coopération régionale pour agir. C'est tout l'intérêt de la Commission méditerranéenne pour le développement.

Toutes les négociations et les décisions que nous allez prendre ces deux prochaines années ont un seul objectif : protéger et valoriser durablement notre bassin méditerranéen pour le bien-être des générations futures.

Je ne doute pas que nos travaux porteront leurs fruits afin que la Méditerranée soit à l'avant-garde du combat pour le développement durable et un exemple d'action collective pour sommet des nations unies pour les Océans.

Albanie, Algérie, Bosnie-Herzégovine, Chypre, Croatie, Egypte, Espagne, Grèce, Israël, Italie, Liban, Libye, Malte, Maroc, Monaco, Monténégro, Slovénie, Syrie, Tunisie, Turquie, Union européenne.
Alors soyons ambitieux, mettons-nous au travail, vive la Méditerranée et vive la Commission méditerranéenne pour le développement !

Discours de l'Ambassadeur, Délégué interministériel à la Méditerranée
A l'occasion de la 20^{ème} réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du Développement Durable
(CMDD)

Panel "Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean in the context of the most recent relevant
global and regional commitments" (14h30 – 17h30)

Mercredi 14 juin 2023, à Marseille

Introduction :

Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat à la Mer,
Monsieur le Président de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable,
Madame la coordinatrice du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée, chère Tatjana,

Je tiens à remercier chaleureusement le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, l'équipe du Secrétariat d'Etat à la Mer, la Mairie de Marseille et la Région pour l'organisation de cette 20^{ème} réunion de la CMDD et cette invitation à prendre la parole sur un sujet-clé pour la Méditerranée et pour la coopération entre les 23 Etats riverains : l'économie bleue durable.

On estime la valeur annuelle de l'économie océanique globale à **2 500 milliards de dollars, ce qui en fait la septième économie mondiale**, dont dépendent pour leur subsistance directement ou indirectement plus de trois milliards de personnes². Toutefois, on passe à 1 000 milliards de dollars par an si l'on retire les coûts induits par la mauvaise gestion des océans, de la surpêche à la pollution par les nutriments en passant par l'impact des espèces envahissantes. Ces chiffres révèlent l'ampleur et le potentiel de ce que l'on appelle l'« économie bleue » et le fort enjeu que représente sa transition vers la durabilité.

L'économie bleue durable comprend toutefois un ensemble de secteurs qui s'étendent au-delà d'un volet simplement économique. Dans sa résolution du 3 mai 2022, **le Parlement européen invite à la définir de façon « suffisamment large pour intégrer toutes les activités sectorielles et intersectorielles liées aux océans, aux mers et aux zones côtières, y compris les activités de soutien direct et indirect »**. Cette définition, identique à celle retenue par le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, regroupe ainsi un ensemble de secteurs, et notamment les **activités du littoral** (pêche et aquaculture ; transport maritime et port ; tourisme côtier et maritime ; déchets marins ; sûreté et sécurité maritime) ainsi que d'autres **enjeux plus transversaux** (énergies renouvelables ; investissements durables ; recherche et innovation ; emplois et recrutement ; compétences et formation; gouvernance et stratégie de bassin ; planification de l'espace maritime, etc.) et leur relation avec les écosystèmes côtiers et marins.

Ces différents secteurs sont chacun marqués par les multiples défis climatiques, environnementaux, économiques et démographiques que rencontre aujourd'hui la Méditerranée. Espace densément peuplé (500 millions de personnes) et très fréquenté (1^{ère} zone touristique mondiale), elle concentre 30% des flux commerciaux maritimes alors qu'elle ne représente que 0.8% de la surface maritime totale de la planète.

² Source : Mme Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Directrice générale de l'OMC durant la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les océans à Lisbonne, 2022.

Zone particulièrement vulnérable aux impacts du changement climatique, la Méditerranée fait également l'objet de crises hydriques et alimentaires, engendrées par la pandémie de la Covid-19 ainsi que par l'invasion de l'Ukraine, qui ont chacune accentué la vulnérabilité des pays méditerranéens et particulièrement de la rive Sud, avec des répercussions sur la stabilité politique et socio-économique de la région.

Selon les résultats du récent rapport PNUE/PAM/Plan Bleu sur l'état de l'environnement et du développement en Méditerranée ainsi que le Premier rapport d'évaluation sur la Méditerranée (MAR1) du réseau MedECC, la Méditerranée doit impérativement changer de trajectoire pour atteindre nos objectifs écologiques maritimes, et plus largement les objectifs en termes de durabilité dans la région ;

Le prisme de l'économie bleue durable nous offre l'opportunité de réfléchir et de mettre en œuvre une réponse transversale et fédératrice aux multiples défis que rencontre la Méditerranée.

1/ Afin d'introduire cette table ronde consacrée à l'économie bleue durable en Méditerranée, je tiens à rappeler le cadre juridique international au sein duquel s'inscrivent les efforts internationaux pour la préservation de l'environnement et la lutte contre le changement climatique en Méditerranée.

A l'échelle mondiale, la lutte contre la pollution et le réchauffement climatique s'est initiée par la **Conférence Cadre des Nations Unies pour le Changement Climatique (UNFCCC)**. Le travail des négociateurs internationaux a permis d'aboutir à des engagements solides, et notamment l'**Accord de Paris (2015)**, prévoyant de maintenir « l'augmentation de la température moyenne mondiale bien en dessous de 2°C au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels » et de poursuivre les efforts « pour limiter l'augmentation de la température à 1,5°C au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels ». Et, par la suite, le **Pacte de Glasgow (2021)**, finalisant l'Accord de Paris, l'a rendu pleinement opérationnel six ans plus tard, en permettant l'adoption du cadre de transparence renforcée (article 13) selon lequel les Parties devront désormais rapporter leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre de la manière la plus détaillée possible et de façon comparable. La France adhère pleinement à ces engagements et se tient mobilisée sur le renforcement de leur mise en œuvre.

A l'échelle méditerranéenne et dans le cadre du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée (PAM), la **Convention de Barcelone (1976)**, est le **seul traité intergouvernemental régional juridiquement contraignant à l'échelle de la Méditerranée**, signé par tous les pays riverains et l'Union Européenne. A ce titre, je tiens à rappeler tout le travail effectué par le centre d'activité régionale en France, le Plan Bleu, et l'assurer de notre soutien dans son travail d'évaluation et d'analyses transversales.

Organe consultatif de la Convention de Barcelone, la Commission Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable (CMDD), constitue une plateforme multi-acteurs unique pour accompagner les parties prenantes dans leur stratégie de développement durable, en lien avec les objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unies. Lors des discussions d'aujourd'hui sur les enjeux liés à l'économie bleue durable, rappelons que la COP de Barcelone constitue en effet historiquement un lieu d'échanges cordiaux qui transcendent les conflits entre Etats et permet de maintenir un dialogue dans l'espace méditerranéen qui est primordial pour maintenir sa stabilité.

2/ La transition vers une économie bleue durable en Méditerranée fait l'objet d'initiatives fortes de coopération portées notamment par la France et ses partenaires.

Je soulignerais d'abord l'action de l'Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM) sur le sujet, et le plein soutien de la France à ses travaux, notamment:

- la **déclaration ministérielle adoptée par les 43 pays membres de l'UpM le 2 février 2021** pour l'économie bleue durable fixant 10 objectifs transversaux (gouvernance, recherche, pêche et aquaculture, lutte contre la pollution, tourisme, etc.) ;

- la **feuille de route** pour sa mise en œuvre renouvelle l'engagement politique en faveur de la gestion durable de la Méditerranée, et du renforcement de la coopération régionale dans la région de l'UPM en matière d'économie bleue durable ;
- Enfin, la création d'un outil de financement spécifique, le Blue Mediterranean Partnership, par l'UpM, la BEI et la BERD, avec le soutien d'agences de développement qui fera l'objet d'un lancement en juillet 2023.

Dans la continuité des travaux du PAM, le **Plan d'Action pour une Méditerranée Exemplaire d'ici 2030 (PAMEx)** à Marseille en septembre 2021, a permis l'adoption de 4 objectifs ambitieux par une coalition d'Etats méditerranéens et d'organisations internationales sur la promotion et le développement d'une pêche durable à horizon 2030, la lutte contre les pollutions marines dont plastique, les pratiques de transport maritime durable, enfin la préservation de la biodiversité marine et côtière. Son bras financier, le **PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)**, doit faire l'objet d'une mise en œuvre prochainement. Ce fonds public-privé innovant, impliquant à la fois les Etats, les collectivités territoriales et le secteur privé, dont l'objectif est de lever un milliard d'euros d'ici 2030, pourra fournir un outil innovant et adapté pour financer des projets concrets d'économie bleue durable.

Il convient également de mentionner l'initiative pour le **développement de l'économie bleue durable en Méditerranée occidentale, OuestMED, reposant** sur les travaux du Forum de la Méditerranée Occidentale, ou Dialogue 5+5, véritable plateforme de coopération sur des sujets d'intérêts partagés entre les rives Sud et Nord. Parmi ceux-ci, l'économie bleue dispose au travers de cette initiative d'une plateforme de partage et d'échanges dédiée. La conférence ministérielle qui se tiendra dans quelques jours, le 23 juin à Malte, offre une nouvelle occasion de renouveler notre coopération en faveur de l'économie bleue et d'affirmer notre volonté politique nouvelle, notamment sur la décarbonation des secteurs de l'économie bleue, la stimulation des énergies marines renouvelables et l'intensification des efforts de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique et marine. Enfin, il faut rappeler l'ambition qui est la nôtre de préserver la biodiversité marine et côtière en Méditerranée, à travers le soutien d'un réseau complet et cohérent de zones marines protégées qui pourra se développer à travers l'ensemble de la Méditerranée grâce à la coopération et au partage de bonnes pratiques entre les pays.

3/ Face aux défis croissants en Méditerranée, nous portons une ambition de coopération forte, engagée et solidaire pour une économie bleue durable.

Afin de faire face aux multiples défis et de formuler des réponses adaptées, la recherche et la connaissance jouent un rôle primordial, précisément identifié par la Convention de Barcelone : Je tiens à valoriser les efforts d'acteurs scientifiques, particulièrement du réseau scientifique MedECC et des projets participatifs d'adaptation du Plan Bleu. **La coordination de la recherche en et pour la Méditerranée doit être une priorité.** A cet égard, nous avons organisé une réunion dédiée à la recherche pour la Méditerranée le 9 juin dernier à Marseille avec les principaux acteurs scientifiques de la région, en partenariat avec le Plan Bleu, réunion qui pourrait être déclinée sous plusieurs formats méditerranéens.

Il est indispensable également de s'appuyer davantage sur les sociétés civiles et la jeunesse méditerranéenne dans la formulation de réponses, la mise en place de coopérations et la prise de décisions, comme ce fut le cas lors du Forum des Mondes Méditerranéens tenu en février 2022 à Marseille et ayant abouti à l'adoption d'un Plaidoyer Méditerranée 2030. Sur les sujets liés à l'économie bleue durable, la CMDD offre un cadre pertinent pour intégrer l'ensemble des acteurs concernés dans la réflexion et la mise en œuvre de solutions pour la Méditerranée. Nous gagnerions à faire de cette région unique, un véritable laboratoire de solutions à l'échelle planétaire.

Conclusions:

En guise de conclusion, je tiens à rappeler la pleine mobilisation de la France, au service d'une transition vers une économie bleue durable et d'une coopération méditerranéenne renforcée sur ces

sujets, en amont de l'accueil par la France de la 3^{ème} conférence des Nations Unies pour les Océans (UNOC) à Nice en juin 2025.

La **présidence française de la CMDD**, qui coïncidera avec l'élaboration d'une nouvelle Stratégie Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable (SMDD), nous offrira l'occasion de contribuer à la réflexion sur nos objectifs et leur mise en œuvre, afin d'en faire une feuille de route partagée, ambitieuse et concrète, dont le travail préparatoire pourrait être coordonné en lien avec le Plan Bleu, d'ici 2025, en vue également de l'UNOC.

Enfin, je remercie l'ensemble des institutions présentes et les Etats membres pour leur participation à cette 20^{ème} réunion de la CMDD.

Annex IV

Conclusions and Recommendations

**20th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
(Marseille 14-16 June 2023)
Conclusions and Recommendations**

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the Government of France and Minister Hervé Berville for hosting the 20th MCSD Meeting and to the Secretariat for the meeting preparations.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

2. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD expressed gratitude to the outgoing President, Mr. Mitja Bricelj, Slovenia and to the other Members of the Steering Committee, i.e. Ms. Samah Saleh, Egypt, Ms. Bahar Özöğüt, Türkiye, Mr. Emad Adly, Egyptian Forum on Sustainable Development (ESDF), Ambassador Sergio Piazzzi, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Mr. Michael Scoullou, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), and Ms. Anne-France Didier, France, acknowledging with appreciation the work done under their guidance in 2022-2023.

3. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD elected its Steering Committee in accordance with the MCSD Constitutive Documents, Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure, as follows:

- ✓ President: Ms. Anne-France Didier, France
- ✓ Vice-President: Ms. Asli Topalak, Türkiye, (ex officio, as representative of the Presidency of the Contracting Parties)
- ✓ Vice-President: Mr. Mohammed Maktit, Morocco
- ✓ Vice-President: Mr. Lotfi Ben Said, Tunisia
- ✓ Vice-President: Mr. Najib Saab, Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
- ✓ Vice-President: Mr. Almotaz Abadi, UfM Secretariat
- ✓ Rapporteur: Mr. Josep Canals Molina, MEDCITIES

Agenda item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period June 2021 – May 2023

4. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD welcomed with appreciation the progress achieved as reflected in the progress report, presented by the Secretariat on the various and considerable activities undertaken since the 19th Meeting of the MCSD. In this respect the meeting appreciated the growing interest and political will to enhance the work of MCSD in the Mediterranean region, in pursuance of its authoritative role in Sustainable Development as a regional multi-stakeholder platform for experience sharing and peer learning in the Mediterranean region.

5. The meeting acknowledged the efforts exerted and progress achieved by the MCSD Members and Observers, with the support of the Secretariat, as an important contribution towards the delivery of Sustainable Development Goals, the MSSD, and other global and regional environmental frameworks.

6. The meeting agreed of the importance of strengthening the role of Local Authorities and youth representatives in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the Mediterranean.

7. The meeting expressed appreciation for the adoption of the Decisions by COP 22 regarding MED SO_x ECA, which led to its endorsement by IMO at MEPC 79 and highlighted the importance of enhancing efforts towards the possible designation of the MED NO_x ECA.

8. The meeting stressed the need to ensure adequate representation of the Secretariat in global and regional events and fora related to the work of UNEP/MAP and MSSD, in view of raising visibility of the work of UNEP/MAP at the global level and exchanging knowledge and experiences with other Conventions and strategies.

9. The meeting highlighted the important role that the Regional Seas Conventions should play in the implementation of global commitments and targets, i.e. under the New Global Plastic Treaty, the

BBNJ Treaty and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and the need for these processes to take into account the existing regulatory frameworks adopted at the regional level.

Agenda item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

a) MSSD Flagship Initiatives

13. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD welcomed the presentations of the activities undertaken by its Members and the Secretariat under the MSSD Flagship Initiatives, noting with appreciation the advanced status of implementation of those initiatives.

14. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD noted the need to further promote visibility of the work done under the MSSD and especially its Flagship Initiatives, through communication and capitalization actions, including through the UNEP/MAP website and the website of MCSD members that have a leading role in the Flagship Initiatives.

15. The meeting welcomed the proposals to launch new Flagship Initiatives on “Sustainable Blue Tourism”, on “the protection and restoration of Seagrass/Posidonia Meadows as crucial ecosystems” and on “the Water Energy Food Ecosystems nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum”. The meeting endorsed these proposals and suggested that initial work on them can start now due to their importance, and then they can be considered for official inclusion in the updated MSSD.

16. The meeting welcomed the proposal to continue work (a) on the Flagship Initiative related to waste reduction, inter alia by considering specific waste streams such as food waste and plastic waste, by looking at Extended Producer Responsibility schemes and by considering zero waste options; (b) on the Flagship Initiative on public procurement, as proposed by COMPSUD, Israel, Morocco and ECOUNION, acknowledging the challenges faced on this issue.

17. The meeting acknowledged the importance of youth and of education as important aspects of sustainable development for consideration in the work of the MCSD and for inclusion in the new updated MSSD, inter alia through the continuation of the Flagship Initiative on the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development.

18. The meeting highlighted the need to further strengthen the links between the scientific community and policy makers, inter alia by providing additional support to reinforce the scientific capacities and knowledge in the Mediterranean region.

19. The MCSD encouraged Contracting Parties to consider acceding to relevant Conventions to which they are not Parties, such as the Aarhus Convention, the ESPOO Convention and the Landscape Convention.

b) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

20. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD took note of and welcomed the progress in the work done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and MedWaves-SCP/RAC) for updating and populating the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard in an integrated manner. The meeting requested Plan Bleu/RAC to submit information on the situation of sustainable development in the region using the MSSD dashboard populated indicators.

c) Updated MSSD: Process and Rationale

21. The meeting welcomed the proposed process of reviewing and updating the MSSD and noted that it should be aligned with relevant global processes and should make use of the outcome of the mid-term evaluation of the MSSD, of the MED 2050 Foresight Study as well as of the results deriving from the population of the MSSD indicators.

22. The meeting agreed that this process should be led by the MCSD Steering Committee, extended with additional MCSD members, to represent parliamentarians, scientific institutions, and cross-cutting issues/synergies, as well as Egypt as host country of COP 24, where the updated MSSD is expected to be endorsed. To this aim the meeting invited MCSD members to express their interest, before end of August 2023.

23. The meeting asked the Secretariat to accelerate the process of the recruitment of the Socioeconomic Affairs Officer to support inter alia the timely and effective MSSD review and update process.

24. The meeting agreed on the need to involve Mediterranean youth representatives in the process of reviewing and updating the MSSD.

Agenda item 5: MED 2050 Foresight Study

a) Presentation MED 2050 Foresight Study

b) Outcome of the MED 2050 Youth Workshop on the Future of the Mediterranean

25. The meeting welcomed the progress in the development of the MED 2050 Foresight Study. The MCSD expressed its appreciation for the work of a considerable number of experts under the leadership of UNEP/MAP Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre to deliver this complex Foresight Study and encouraged the Secretariat to disseminate its outcome in a way to ensure that it is understandable by the general public and to support the ownership or the uptake by different stakeholders.

26. The meeting welcomed the contribution of youth representatives in the meeting, and their engagement in the consultation process for the development of the MED 2050 Foresight Study and stressed the importance to continue supporting youth presence and inputs in next MCSD meetings.

27. The MCSD highlighted the need to identify and co-design the necessary transition pathways ensuring that the region chooses the most sustainable scenario(s) to bring a desirable future to the region, taking full consideration of all relevant existing initiatives and actions, to the extent possible, and their implementation. This exercise should contribute to the MSSD revision process.

28. The meeting also encouraged all MCSD members to use, as appropriate, the outcomes of this Foresight Study analysis, in identifying the necessary actions to be taken to enhance sustainability of their policies and their implementation and noting the urgency of taking concerted action.

Agenda item 6: Roundtable/Panel discussion: Sustainable Blue Economy in the Mediterranean in the context of the most recent relevant global and regional commitments

10. The meeting welcomed with appreciation the interventions from the two panels. To this end, the meeting highlighted the relevance of the work of the MCSD for the implementation of global commitments and appreciated the achievements of existing best practices which may lead to flagship initiatives of the next updated MSSD.

11. The meeting stressed the need for coordination of activities by different organizations active in the Mediterranean region.

12. The meeting stressed the need to include comprehensive integrated Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the next MSSD; to this end, the meeting recommended the establishment of a dedicated UNEP/MAP Working Group, building on and collaborating with the other MSP mechanisms in the region.

Agenda item 7: Sustainability Considerations in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

29. The meeting welcomed the presentation of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) 2024-2025 and considered that the overall draft PoW adequately integrates sustainability considerations.

30. The meeting welcomed the important sustainability aspects embedded in the proposed PoW, and made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Secretariat as appropriate with regard to the strengthening of a number of aspects and requested the Chair of the MCSD to present them to the MAP Focal Points meeting in September 2023.

Agenda item 8: Inputs of the 20th MCSD Meeting to COP 23

31. As per established practice, the input of the MCSD to the COP 23 will be based on the discussions held during the 20th MCSD meeting and especially the panel discussions on sustainable blue economy, as well as youth and women inclusion.

32. In addition, the meeting requested the Secretariat to share, once agreed by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and the Host Country, the main theme of the Ministerial segment of the COP 23 that would allow MCSD to provide a more tailored input to the Ministerial discussions and the Ministerial Declaration.

33. The meeting also agreed to establish an extended committee with participation of the MCSD Steering Committee and some additional MCSD members on voluntary basis, to be decided by end of June 2023 at the latest, which will work online to prepare the MCSD contribution to the COP 23 under the French leadership. Every effort should be made to share with the MAP Focal Points the MCSD input to COP23 before their meeting in September.

Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters, including Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the MCSD

34. The meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to join the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) on Plastics, as well as the HAC for Nature and People, especially in relation to the achievement of the 30X30 target on protected areas, noting that these are important priorities for COP 23.

35. The meeting welcomed the expression of interest of PAM in hosting the next meeting of the MCSD and suggested that the host and the exact date of the meeting (in May or June 2025) will be set at a later stage, considering the global calendar and logistical considerations.