



United Nations
Environment
Programme



UNEP/IG.11/4
20 January 1978

Original: ENGLISH

Intergovernmental Review Meeting of
Mediterranean Coastal States on the
Mediterranean Action Plan

Monaco, 9 - 14 January 1978

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING OF
MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STATES ON THE
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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of the Mediterranean Action Plan



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Introduction

1. At the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, hosted by the Government of Spain in Barcelona 2 - 16 February 1976, the Executive Director of UNEP was called upon:

"To convene in 1977 an intergovernmental meeting at which he would inform Governments of the coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea Area of steps and progress achieved pursuant to all recommendations set forth in the said Action Plan for the Protection of the Mediterranean approved at Barcelona on 4 February 1975; ^{1/}
2. In response to this request, and at the kind invitation of the Government of the Principality of Monaco, the Executive Director convened the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan in Monaco from 9 to 14 January 1978.
3. Before the official opening of the meeting a ceremony was held by the Monégasque authorities to welcome the participants. The ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Mr. André Saint Mieux, Minister of State, who welcomed all delegations to Monte Carlo. His Excellency the Minister praised the Mediterranean coastal States for their past achievements in addressing themselves to a common problem of pollution in an enclosed sea, and he wished participants success in the important deliberations which lay before them. Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, delivered the message addressed to the meeting by the United Nations Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim. In his message to the meeting, Dr. Waldheim congratulated the Mediterranean States on their historic work to save their regional sea and he expressed his belief that this work would be an inspiration to all peoples everywhere. Thereafter, Dr. Tolba replied as Executive Director of UNEP to His Excellency Mr. Saint Mieux. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Monaco for their hospitality in hosting the meeting and for the excellent facilities they had provided. He also thanked the Governments of the Mediterranean region for their impressive participation in the meeting as well as in the entire Mediterranean Action Plan. Dr. Tolba also recognized the invaluable contribution that had been made to the programme by the many organizations of the United Nations system whose co-operation and support have been a corner-stone of the Mediterranean programme.

Attendance

4. Delegations from seventeen Mediterranean coastal States and the European Economic Community participated in the meeting.
5. Representatives from three United Nations member States, five United Nations bodies, seven specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and six intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting as observers. A complete list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

^{1/} Resolution 9, Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea Area, Barcelona, 2 - 16 February 1976.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. Dr. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, declared the Meeting opened.

Agenda item 2: Organization of the Meeting

Rules of Procedure

7. The meeting adopted mutatis mutandis the rules of procedure for the UNEP Governing Council as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.1.

Election of officers

8. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	His Excellency Mr. César SOLAMITO (Monaco) Plenipotentiary Minister
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Hassan BOUSSOFFARA (Tunisia) Adviser, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. Marinos YEROULANOS (Greece) Director General Environment Secretariat, Ministry of Co-ordination
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Shafik EL SHINNAWI (Egypt) Juridical Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Establishment of Working Committee

9. The meeting agreed to the establishment of two working committees: one to consider agenda item 5 "environmental assessment" and item 6 "integrated planning", and the other to consider agenda item 7 on legal matters. The meeting agreed that the two committees should be chaired by the vice-chairmen of the plenary; Mr. Hassan Boussoffara, Committee I and Mr. Marinos Yeroulanos, Committee II. It was further decided that each committee would elect its own vice-chairman and rapporteur.
10. At their first meetings, Committees I and II unanimously elected the following officers:

Committee I

<u>Vice Chairman:</u>	Mr. Joaquin ROS (Spain) Director of Marine Pollution Dept. Spanish Oceanographic Institute
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Adel HAMWI (Syria) Professor of Science University of Damascus

Committee II

<u>Vice Chairman:</u>	Mr. Luigi MENDIA (Italy) Professor University of Naples
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. Petar STROHAL (Yugoslavia) Scientific Adviser Centre for Marine Research "Rudjer Boskovic" Institute

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda and suggested time-table

11. The meeting adopted the agenda contained in Annex II to this report. The meeting also agreed to the suggested time-table as presented in the document UNEP/IG.11/2.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and recommendations for follow-up

12. Dr. Tolba introduced his report on the progress made in implementing the Mediterranean Action Plan to the meeting. The text of the Executive Director's statement is attached as Annex III. In his introduction, Dr. Tolba briefly reviewed the highlights of the work that had been accomplished by the Mediterranean States, in co-operation with the United Nations system, in the three-year period since the Action Plan was adopted. Dr. Tolba noted that the first task of the meeting was to review in detail the progress that had been achieved in each of the four sectors of the Action Plan: assessment; integrated planning; legal; and institutional and financial implications.
13. In addition, he reminded the delegations of the second task of the meeting: to advise him as Executive Director on the substantial and financial aspects of the future programme in the Mediterranean region. He requested that the meeting conclude by adopting a set of specific, concrete recommendations that would address themselves to the general policy of the future programme as well as to the activities to be undertaken within each of the four components of the Action Plan. The Executive Director's views on possible future developments have been reflected in the proposed recommendations contained in his report.
14. Thereafter, a general discussion was held on the Executive Director's report during which a number of representatives of the Mediterranean States, of the EC, and of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations participated. All speakers expressed an overall satisfaction with the work that had been accomplished in the past. Several delegations raised detailed points on various aspects of the Executive Director's recommendations for future activities, but it was agreed that these would be discussed in more detail under other agenda items.
15. The representative of UNDP informed the Meeting that his organization felt that the time had now come to undertake concrete activities with the Mediterranean riparian Governments in any of the six fields of the Priority Actions Programme. He added that UNDP was anxious to support specific goal-oriented activities whenever Governments decided to work together on a subregional or regional basis to achieve the objectives of the PAP.
16. During the debate it became evident that, in addition to the five States that had already deposited their instruments of ratification of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and the two related protocols, ^{2/} a number of additional States and the EC had already completed constitutional processes to approve ratification (France, Yugoslavia) while others were still engaged in that process. During the meeting, the Depository Government, Spain, announced that the Government of Yugoslavia had deposited its instruments of ratification and that the Convention and two protocols will enter into force on 12 February 1978.

^{2/} Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Spain and Tunisia

Agenda item 5: Progress Report and Recommendations concerning the Environmental Assessment Component of the Action Plan.

17. The deliberations relevant to this agenda item were based on document UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex I which summarizes the progress in the environmental assessment component of the Action Plan and contains specific recommendations for possible future activities. Information supporting this document was contained in UNEP/IG.11/INF.3, UNEP/IG.11/INF.4, UNEP/IG.11/INF.5 and in several background documents which were made available to the participants in the meeting.
18. In introducing the agenda item the representative of UNEP briefly reviewed the contents of UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex I and stressed the main recommendations contained in it.
19. In the general discussion following this presentation the delegations expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved, since the Action Plan was adopted in early 1975, in the implementation of the pilot projects of the Co-ordinated Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme (M&D POL) and other projects related to the assessment of the environmental quality of the Mediterranean. However, it was felt that, due to objective reasons, the development of these activities was still inadequate in some parts of the Mediterranean. Therefore, they should continue as pilot activities until more experience and data were collected, which would allow for a transition into a permanent monitoring and research programme on the sources, amounts, pathways and effects of pollutants.
20. Following the general debate the recommendations proposed by the Executive Director for future activities were examined (paragraph 48 of UNEP/IG.11/3 and paragraphs 28 and 29 of Annex I to this document). The substance of the debate and the consensus reached are reflected in the recommendations adopted by the meeting as contained in Annex IV to this report.

Agenda item 6: Progress report and recommendations concerning the integrated planning component of the Action Plan

21. The deliberations relevant to this agenda item were based on document UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex II, which summarizes the progress achieved in the implementation of the integrated planning component of the Action Plan and contains specific recommendations concerning follow-up and possible future activities.
22. In introducing this agenda item, the representative of UNEP pointed out that, for several reasons, progress achieved in the implementation of this component of the Action Plan was not as extensive as in the other two. This lack of progress concerned, in particular, the Priority Actions Programme. He urged the participating Governments to take advantage of the Meeting to give clear indications regarding what they wished to be done under the PAP, recalling that UNDP, in particular, in co-operation with UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations system, is ready to support specific goal-oriented activities wherever Governments decide to work together on a subregional or regional basis to achieve the objectives of the PAP.
23. In the general discussions which followed, the need for integrated planning activities was stressed. It was considered that the PAP should be elaborated in harmony with the Blue Plan. One delegation proposed that, in order to speed up the implementation of the Blue Plan, a meeting of the focal points should be convened at the earliest date possible. The Committee also discussed a whole range of possible activities under the PAP.

24. For his part, the representative of UNDP reiterated the importance his Programme attached to moving forward with concrete inter-country projects within the priority areas of the PAP as soon as possible. He stated that the three activities which seemed to have received the broadest support from the Governments were aquaculture, non-conventional energy and human settlements. UNDP therefore expressed its preparedness to co-operate in defining the scope and content of projects in these areas, with Governments, UNEP and other agencies of the United Nations system at the earliest possible date. That was not to say, however, that UNDP would not consider financing other proposed joint activities in the fields covered by the PAP.
25. The Meeting took note of the proposals by countries which had offered to make facilities available to the Programme, in particular Malta's offer in connection with non-conventional sources of energy. It considered that, in each individual case, it would be for the Mediterranean Governments to take a decision on the establishment and location of projects of Mediterranean interest.
26. While awaiting the results of the technical and identification missions to be organized by UNDP in co-operation with UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations system, the Meeting welcomed the offers of several delegations to take specific initiatives in the broad fields of PAP. The Meeting noted with satisfaction information and proposals relating to initiatives in the following PAP-related fields.
27. In connection with the protection of soils, Algeria drew attention to the interest it was taking currently, with the aid of UNDP, FAO, the Institute of Arid Zones of Damascus and the Arab Organization of Agricultural Development of Khartoum, in the initiation of an integrated programme for the development of arid zones, one of the objectives of which was the creation of an Institute of Cultivation of Arid Zones which might serve regional purposes. In this connection, Algeria would share her experience concerning the "Green Belt" and her new enterprise, the creation of the second "Fruit Belt".
28. The Meeting stressed the interest that would accrue to the protection of the soil and integrated planning from the opening up to the whole Mediterranean region of the system of ecological information called écotèque méditerranéenne, administered in co-operation with UNESCO.
29. The Meeting took particular interest in the question of fresh water resources management, a field of priority action which gave rise to a broad debate. It particularly welcomed the offer of France to host a seminar on the management of fresh water resources through the intermediary of the Centre for International Training in Water Resources Management (CFFIGRE).
30. Concerning marine living resources, the Greek delegate said that his country, in addition to sponsoring the forthcoming consultation of experts on the development of aquaculture, also offered to be host country for possible future pilot or demonstration projects. In this connection the Italian delegation pointed out that aquaculture was now carried out in their country on an industrial scale and that their Government was prepared to organize a study tour of aquaculture sites.
31. With regard to human settlements the Meeting welcomed the proposal to make use of the Environmental Pollution Control Project set up in Athens by the Greek Government in collaboration with UNDP and WHO, as a demonstration and training site for urban environmental problems. The Spanish delegation's offer to host activities concerning human settlements and tourism was noted with satisfaction. The representative of Lebanon called for activities concerning environmental problems in industrial port cities.

32. In the area of tourism, the Meeting was pleased to receive offers from two Governments. Italy announced that it planned to distribute a national study on tourism in the Mediterranean region to all Governments through the national focal points' network. Israel noted that it had recently completed a national master plan on tourism which, for the first time, included environmental impact assessment, and that it was ready to communicate this plan for the benefit of the region. As stated above, questions relating to tourism were also discussed in connection with projects in the human settlements field. Finally, France offered to share her experience and studies carried out concerning time planning which had important repercussions on tourism.
33. The Meeting took note of the initiative taken by the Government of Malta in conjunction with UNDP/UNEP/ECE to study the possibility of establishing a Malta-based project for the development of practical applications of non-conventional sources of energy. Most delegations stressed the importance of this field and the interest of their countries in participating in co-operative programmes in this area. The Meeting agreed to request UNEP/UNDP to convene a meeting of Government experts which would develop a co-operative programme in the field of non-conventional sources of energy among interested Mediterranean countries. The representative of Malta informed the Meeting that his country would be willing to host this expert meeting.
34. The representative of Yugoslavia reiterated the offer of his Government to share with interested Mediterranean countries the experience gained by Yugoslavia in the field of integrated planning through the implementation of the UNDP project entitled "Protection of the Human Environment in the Yugoslav Adriatic Region." Yugoslavia would soon be convening a seminar to facilitate exchange of data and experience between Mediterranean countries in the field of integrated planning. Further to this, the Tunisian delegation emphasized that Tunisia was prepared to share the experience she had accumulated in the field of integrated planning during the development of the industrial and tourist complexes in the region of Gabès.
35. In the field of the protection of rare or threatened species of fauna and flora, the French delegate proposed:
- the establishment of a network of co-operation between existing and new nature reserves. With regard to this, France offered to open up to the Mediterranean countries the nature reserve in the national park of Port Cros-Portquerolles now being created;
 - its support of initiatives aimed at the creation of active co-operation in the matter of threatened animal species. It could be taken over by the proposed Association of Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas mentioned in paragraph 27 (i) of Annex IV aided by the competent organisms and organizations, in particular the IUCN.
36. In the field of the collection of data obtained through teledetection means, France proposed joint work with other Mediterranean countries for the analysis and interpretation of the data currently available on the coastal zones.
37. The Meeting encouraged the Mediterranean States and the EEC to submit to UNEP other concrete proposals in the fields of the PAP before the end of March 1978. It asked the Executive Director of UNEP, once the proposals had been received, to submit to the Mediterranean coastal States a study on the regional interest and financial implications of

the projects proposed with respect to UNEP's budget and the funds that UNDP could put at the disposal of the region. This report would be submitted in the shortest possible time to a meeting of the coastal States for the adoption of an order of priority in the initiation of the proposals.

38. During the general debate the recommendations proposed by the Executive Director (paragraph 49 of UNEP/IG.11/3 and paragraphs 27 - 30 of Annex II of this document) were examined. The substance of the debate is reflected in paragraphs 21 - 37 above and in the recommendations adopted by the meeting as contained in Annex IV to this report.

Agenda item 7: Progress Report and recommendations concerning the environmental legislation component of the Action Plan

39. The Meeting began its discussions of agenda item 7 with the consideration of the recommendations proposed by the Executive Director in paragraphs 42 to 50 of Annex III to document UNEP/IG.11/3. The recommendations for future activities under the legal component of the Action Plan, as adopted by the Meeting, are contained in Annex IV to this report.
40. During the discussion of these recommendations the following points were highlighted.
41. All delegations welcomed the forthcoming entry into force of the Convention and protocols and agreed to urge those Governments which had not yet ratified the Convention and protocols adopted by the Barcelona Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 1976 to do so with the shortest possible delay.
42. UNEP, as the organization responsible for the Secretariat functions under Article 13 of the Convention, was called upon to convene the first meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention within one year of its entry into force. In preparation for that meeting, UNEP was requested to prepare, in consultation with the Governments of the region, a draft set of rules of procedure and financial rules for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their first meeting.
43. While discussing the priorities that should be given to the development of future protocols, the Meeting agreed that immediate efforts should be directed towards the adoption of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources.
44. In addition, the Meeting recognized the link between the problem of land-based sources of pollution and the question of specially protected marine and coastal areas. Consequently, the Meeting proposed that UNEP, in co-operation with FAO, UNESCO and IUCN, should prepare background material on the basis of which a meeting of Government experts could advise on the feasibility of developing a protocol on specially protected marine and coastal areas. It was suggested that UNEP might wish to develop for consideration by the meeting of experts a set of principles proposed for inclusion in such a protocol.
45. The Meeting took note of the information contained in UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex III, paragraphs 32 and 33 with regard to the UNEP Working Group on Environmental Law and the IJO's meeting of experts on Legal Aspects of Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf, the Seabed and its Subsoil in the Mediterranean to be convened in October 1978. The Executive Director was requested to report to the first meeting of the Contracting Parties on the progress achieved in those fora.

46. The Meeting agreed that at present a regional protocol on pollution from ships was not needed. However, all Mediterranean States were invited to ratify the 1973 Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, which deals with control of that source of pollution on a universal level.
47. At the request of the Meeting, a sub-committee was established to prepare a text concerning Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention, "Liability and Compensation", and Resolution 4 adopted by the Barcelona Conference of Plenipotentiaries, "Establishment of a committee of experts on an Inter-state Guarantee Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Area". The sub-committee was presided over by the representative of Algeria, and delegates from France, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yugoslavia participated. A consensus emerged to request the Executive Director to be prepared to propose to the first meeting of the Contracting Parties that a study be made of:
- (a) appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment deriving from violations of the provisions of the above-mentioned Convention and applicable protocols; and
 - (b) an Inter-state Guarantee Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Area.

One delegation recalled its Government's reservations in regard to Resolution 4.

48. The Meeting also considered the issues of the Regional Oil Combating Centre, which was inaugurated in co-operation with the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization in Malta in December 1976, and the feasibility of establishing subregional oil combating centres. The progress report on the Regional Oil Combating Centre (UNEP/IG.11/INF.7) was introduced to the Meeting by the Director of the Centre. Thereafter, many delegations thanked the Director for the work that he had accomplished and for his comprehensive report. It was agreed that the Mediterranean States should give full support to the Centre and should increase their efforts to develop national capabilities for dealing with pollution emergencies. Some delegations underlined the advantage which might be gained by some States in making use of already available emergency and operating facilities to combat marine pollution. It was also pointed out that it would be useful if the Centre would assist in the promotion of technical assistance and bilateral and subregional contingency plans.
49. In reply to the Director's report, one delegation made it clear that the Aegean Sea has been covered for many years by Greece's emergency plans as well as operational oil-combating activities.
50. The French delegation drew the attention of the Meeting to two initiatives that respond to the technical training requirements identified by the Regional Centre in Malta and by a number of delegations:
- (i) The French authorities are able to offer training to nationals of the coastal States at the Centres opérationnels de surveillance et de sauvetage (CROSS), in particular at CROSSMED, close to Toulon; these centres have responsibilities to deal with oil pollution.
 - (ii) The annual training course on marine pollution, with particular reference to oil pollution, will be held in France from 5 to 17 June 1978.

Additional information may be obtained through official channels or through the Regional Centre in Malta.

51. The Meeting also welcomed the intention of the Executive Director, as expressed in paragraph 30 of UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex III, to carry out, in co-operation with IMCO, a feasibility study on reception facilities for selected ports in the Mediterranean.
52. The Meeting agreed that it was premature to take a decision on the feasibility of establishing subregional oil combating centres and that this issue might be reviewed at a later stage when more experience had been gained through the operation of the regional centre.
53. The Greek delegation informed the participants that additional information concerning the possible establishment of a subregional centre on the island of Crete had been made available to the Secretariat.
54. The Meeting then began a review of the Preliminary Draft Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources as contained in Appendix II to document UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex III. It became clear during the deliberations that many questions still needed to be resolved before a consensus could be reached on the text of a final protocol. The Meeting reviewed each article of the draft protocol, and on the basis of their discussions, an inventory of areas of disagreement and of points that needed clarification will be prepared. The Secretariat was requested to circulate this inventory to all participants as soon as possible after the close of the Meeting. All delegations will have the right to submit to the Secretariat any amendments or additions to the inventory if they consider that their observations have not been properly recorded. The Meeting noted that one delegation had submitted amendments and proposals in the form of an alternative draft protocol accompanied by an explanation of text which was circulated to all delegations. The Meeting recommended that UNEP organize working groups of Governmental technical and juridical experts, as appropriate, to seek agreement on the questions raised during this meeting and to prepare a revised preliminary protocol before another intergovernmental consultation is convened.

Agenda item 8: Financial and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan

55. The plenary took note of the general policy recommendations with regard to institutional and financial aspects that were proposed by the Executive Director in paragraphs 50 to 52 of UNEP/IG.11/3. Based on these recommendations, and on the conclusions of informal consultations among heads of delegations, the Chairman submitted to plenary for consideration a set of specific draft recommendations. The final recommendations concerning institutional and financial aspects, as adopted by the plenary, are contained in Annex IV to this report.
56. During the discussion on the proposed Mediterranean trust fund it was made clear by various speakers, including the representative of UNEP, that the nature of contributions to this fund should be further clarified, and considered by the planned meeting of Government-nominated experts to discuss budgetary matters (see paragraph 47 of Annex IV).

Agenda item 9: Other business

57. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Government of France to host an intergovernmental meeting of Mediterranean States in 1979 and the offer by the Government of Greece to host the diplomatic conference to

be convened for the purpose of adopting the protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from land-Based Sources.

Agenda item 10: Adoption of the Report

58. The plenary adopted its report on agenda items 1 - 4 and 8 and the reports of the Committees on agenda items 5, 6 and 7 for inclusion in the final report of the Meeting.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting

59. The Meeting expressed its deep appreciation and sincere gratitude for the courtesy and outstanding hospitality extended by the Government of Monaco to the members of the delegations, observers and the Secretariat attending the Meeting, and it unanimously agreed that the efforts which had been made by the Government of Monaco in providing facilities, premises, and other resources, had contributed greatly to the smooth conduct of its proceedings.

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AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
 - (i) Rules of procedure
 - (ii) Election of officers
 - (iii) Establishment of Working Committees
3. Adoption of agenda and suggested time-table
4. Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and recommendations for follow-up action
5. Progress report and recommendations concerning the environmental assessment component of the Action Plan
6. Progress report and recommendations concerning the integrated planning component of the Action Plan
7. Progress report and recommendations concerning the environmental legislation component of the Action Plan
8. Financial and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan
9. Other Business
10. Adoption of the report
11. Closure of the meeting

ADDRESS OF DR. M. K. TOLBA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
UNEP TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN
COASTAL STATES ON THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN, MONACO,
9 - 14 JANUARY 1978, AS INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA ITEM 4,
"REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
FOLLOW-UP ACTION".

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and
Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to introduce to
you my report on the progress achieved since the Mediterranean Action
Plan was adopted by the first Intergovernmental Meeting of
Mediterranean Coastal States in Barcelona in February 1975. The
report is presented to you in Document UNEP/IG.11/3.

May I first say, Mr. Chairman, how much we in UNFP, and I am sure in
all our sister agencies of the United Nations system are all indebted
to you for your willingness to assume the important responsibilities
of presiding over this Meeting. We have every confidence that your
leadership will lead to successful and constructive deliberations in
this meeting. I would also like to congratulate the members of your
Bureau on their election to their important offices. I am confident
that they will be of great help to you in your task of leading the
meeting.

At the Barcelona Conference of Plenipotentiaries, I was called upon by
you, the Governments, to convene a meeting at which I "would inform
Governments of steps taken and progress achieved pursuant to all
recommendations set forth in the Action Plan for the Protection of the
Mediterranean approved at Barcelona on 4 February 1975."^{1/} The
Report before you and this meeting represent my response to this
request.

In addition to the main body of my report which sets forth a general
review of the entire programme and a limited number of general
recommendations, I would like to draw your attention to the four
annexes which contain a more detailed presentation of the work
implemented and specific proposals for future action under each
chapter of the Action Plan. These annexes will have to be discussed
in the two Committees that you have earlier agreed to convene and I
sincerely hope that they will provide a satisfactory basis for the
recommendations to be proposed by the Committees.

In the past three years, a great deal of work has been undertaken in
all the substantive components of the Action Plan: scientific; legal;
and integrated planning. I would like briefly to review the main
achievements made in each sector.

In the scientific area which was essentially geared to environmental
assessment, the seven pilot projects which were requested at Barcelona
in 1975 have been initiated. Seventy-nine institutions from fifteen
Mediterranean States are at present collaborating with UNEP, the Food
and Agriculture Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic

- the Government of Italy/UNEP training programme for environmental managers which will take place in Urbino, Italy from April to July 1978;
- the seminar on the geographic and socio-economic framework of the Blue Plan scheduled to take place in Yugoslavia next spring;
- the follow-up activities in 1978 to the UNDP/UNEP/ECF missions to Malta concerning the promotion, development and use of non-conventional sources of energy;
- the further development of the network of specially protected coastal and marine areas, on which I initiated correspondence with Governments last year as a follow-up to the UNEP/IUCN experts meeting on marine parks which was hosted by the Government of Tunisia in January 1977; and finally
- the development of guidelines for establishing criteria governing the discharge of land-based wastes which has been initiated through WHO, and will serve the Governments to discharge their obligations under the protocol on land-based sources of pollution.

I would also like to note that through the Regional Oil Combating Centre inaugurated in December 1976 in Malta and technically operated by the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization, links have been established with the relevant national authorities and the first contingency plans are being developed.

I began by stating that I was pleased to be able to report to this important meeting on the progress achieved under the Mediterranean Action Plan. I believe that this quick review will show that I have a very sound basis on which to derive this satisfaction. A great deal of important and exemplary work has been done in the last three years. I must congratulate you, the Mediterranean Governments, for these achievements since ultimately all activities rest on your guidance, co-operation, and active participation in the programme. I must also thank the United Nations specialized agencies and other bodies who have so competently worked with us to serve you. The Mediterranean programme, with its comprehensive approach, has demonstrated in a concrete way how the extensive expertise of the United Nations system can be efficiently woven together into a common approach for the protection and development of one region.

At Barcelona in 1975, when you first agreed upon this programme, you also expressed your wishes as to how the institutional and financial infrastructure for these activities should be shaped. As Executive Director of UNEP, I was called upon to use available funds with minimum allocation for staffing and other administrative cost and to establish simple co-ordinating mechanisms which use existing international organizations and co-ordinating bodies and which would deal with national institutions through the appropriate national authorities. This has been done to the best of our abilities. National institutions have been called upon to participate in the programme whenever possible, and training and support have been provided where necessary to increase their ability to act effectively.

Further to organizing and reinforcing national institutions, I have initiated several other institutional arrangements. Thus, in addition to the Oil Combating Centre in Malta which I have mentioned earlier, a small unit within UNEP was named responsible for co-ordinating the entire programme, and, until now, this unit has been located in Geneva. An office of the interim Secretariat for the Barcelona Convention was opened in Madrid to serve as a liaison between the

Government of Spain as Depository and UNEP in matters related to ratification and entry into force of the Convention. Within the framework of the environmental assessment activities, seven national institutions have been selected to assist UNEP and the relevant co-operating specialized agencies to co-ordinate the work of the seven pilot projects. The IAEA Laboratory in Monaco has played a regional role in carrying out intercalibration exercises and in providing common maintenance services for the analytical instruments used by national institutions.

The Action Plan was adopted by the Governments of the Mediterranean region, and at the request of these Governments, its implementation has been overseen by UNEP. Until now, UNEP has attempted to assume this responsibility fully and effectively. However, recognizing UNEP's catalytic role and its limited resources, I must stress the need to shift more substantive and financial responsibility to Governments. I have said earlier that I am confident that the Convention and protocols will enter into force shortly. When this materializes, I would propose to convene the first meeting of the Contracting Parties in early 1979. At that meeting, the Contracting Parties will be called upon to adopt their financial rules. My proposal for a cost-sharing scheme on which to base these financial rules is contained in Annex IV of my report. The financial assistance of UNEP to the future development of the Mediterranean Action Plan rests on the assumption that the Governments of the region will themselves ultimately cover the largest part of the operating expenses of the activities agreed upon as well as costs of the co-ordination mechanism. Realizing the importance of the Secretariat tasks which were assigned to it under Article 13 of the Convention, UNEP is prepared to provide 25% of the costs of the Mediterranean programme, provided that that sum does not exceed 10% of our global "Oceans" budget. The remaining 75% of the budget may be shared by the Mediterranean States according to the scheme proposed in Annex IV.

I am also seeking your advice during this meeting on the institutional arrangements that should be made in the future. At Split, I was requested to negotiate with Governments on the location of certain sub-units to co-ordinate specific elements of the Action Plan. However, you may wish to consider the benefits of keeping the Unit responsible for co-ordinating the programme in one location while charging selected national institutions with the responsibility of co-ordinating various elements of the Action Plan. Under the overall co-ordination of the centralized Unit, in my view, this should prove much more profitable, at least because of the small sized nature of such a Unit and the need for continued co-ordination of and interaction between the various components of the Plan. A suitable location for the co-ordination Unit was offered by the Government of Spain. Offers to host the whole Unit or parts of it were also received from the Governments of Greece, Lebanon and Monaco but it is up to you to decide on the centralization or decentralization of the small co-ordinating Unit and on where it should be located.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, you have a great deal of work ahead of you in the forthcoming week. To sum up, let me clearly state that I would like the meeting to conclude with a report which sets forth specific, concrete recommendations on the activities that you wish to see developed in the future and on the future financial and institutional arrangements. These recommendations may be divided into five parts.

Part I would contain General Policy principles and my own suggestions of what these should include are contained in paragraphs 47 to 52 of the progress report. I would like your views on these paragraphs during the course of the general debate on item 4, since the work of the Committees will be closely linked to the acceptance of these general policy principles.

The second part of the recommendations will deal with agenda item 5, environmental assessment, and my proposals are contained in paragraphs 28 and 29 of Annex I.

Integrated Planning should be addressed by the third section of the recommendations, and delegates are invited to refer to paragraphs 27 through 30 of Annex II to find my ideas on this agenda item.

The fourth part of the meeting's conclusions should deal with the legal aspects of the future programme. My proposals in this regard can be found in paragraphs 42 to 50 of Annex III.

After the first four sets of recommendations have been agreed to, I would suggest that you then proceed to the clear formulation of your joint proposals for the institutional and financial means by which these activities should be carried out. This can obviously only be done after you have completed your debate on the substantive aspects of the future programme in the Committees. I have placed before you in Annex IV various considerations and alternatives that I believe should be borne in mind when formulating your recommendations on this key item, since I felt that you should have complete freedom to discuss the issues first. However, I would like to stress several factors that I would suggest are essential:

- i) the small staff responsible for the co-ordination of all main components of the Action Plan would be most profitably used if centralized in a single unit, located in one suitable place;
- ii) the programme should be regionally self-sufficient with each coastal State assuming a just share of the substantive and financial responsibility; and
- iii) UNEP, while continuing to assume its role as Secretariat of the Convention and the Action Plan, should cover its financial participation according to the scheme I mentioned earlier.

I realize that your discussions on agenda item 8 are the key to the success of the meeting, and I offer you the full co-operation and services of my staff to assist you in this matter.

With your clear guidance, we and the entire United Nations system will be pleased and able to assist you to fulfil the goals that you set yourselves when you adopted the Action Plan in 1975, in the words of the Barcelona Convention, to carry out your "responsibility to preserve this common heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations".

I wish you the fullest success in your deliberations, and I pledge you UNEP's total commitment to the goals and purposes which have brought us together here.

RECOMMENDATIONS

for the future development of the Mediterranean Action Plan
adopted by the
Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States
on the Mediterranean Action Plan, Monaco 9 - 14 January 1978

I GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As an expression of their full support for the protection and harmonious development of the Mediterranean Basin and the activities launched as part of the agreed Action Plan, the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC should ratify, with the shortest possible delay, the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, and should continue the negotiations on the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, leading to its final adoption and early signature, ratification and implementation.
2. The pilot phase of the various activities undertaken as part of the assessment of the sources, amounts, pathways, levels and effects of pollutants should be continued. Using the experience and results obtained during the pilot phase, as well as the established network of collaborating national institutions, a long-term monitoring programme should be prepared in consultation with Governmental experts and adopted by Governments and the EEC. By analysing the trends in levels and effects of pollutants in the Mediterranean region, this programme should serve as the basis on which to take environmentally-sound management decisions essential for the future socio-economic development of the region; these trends constitute the most objective indicator of the effectiveness of the measures taken by Governments under the Convention and protocols.
3. Recognizing the importance of environmental management for sustained socio-economic development, the Governments of the Mediterranean Region and the EEC should, through their institutions, play an active role in all the activities relevant to the integrated planning and management of natural resources. In particular, they should give firm, substantive and financial support to and participate in the implementation of the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme as developed in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
4. Institutions having a regional role should be strengthened and used more efficiently for the benefit of the Mediterranean States. In particular, Governments are invited to provide to the extent possible, support and co-operation to the Regional Oil Combating Centre in Malta. The feasibility of establishing subregional oil combating centres may be reviewed at a later stage after more experience has been gained through the operation of the Malta Centre.

5. As in the past, the activities agreed upon as part of the Action Plan should be executed by national institutions of the Governments which have been involved in formulating the Action Plan. UNEP, in close collaboration with the relevant parts of the United Nations system and under the guidance of Governments and the EEC, should act as the overall co-ordinator of these activities.

II SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Environmental Assessment

6. The pilot project phase of the environmental assessment component of the Mediterranean Action Plan should be extended until a reasonable amount of data is collected with a view to transforming it, as soon as feasible, into a permanent monitoring system.
7. The various projects of the environment assessment component of the Mediterranean Action Plan should be more strongly integrated and efficiently co-ordinated to make possible a comprehensive contribution to the other components of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and thus provide the indispensable scientific basis for management activities and for the legislative initiatives the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention may wish to take.
8. Hazard profiles should be reassembled and updated for substances identified by the Convention and the annexes to the protocols.
9. Based on research centres and institutions nominated by the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC as participants in the various pilot projects, the network of institutions needed for systematic and comparable Mediterranean-wide data-reporting on the levels and effects of pollutants should be completed by Governments.
10. With a view to facilitating the implementation of Article 10 of the Convention, and taking into account the experience gained and the results obtained up to the present, UNEP should prepare, in consultation with the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC and in collaboration with the relevant specialized parts of the United Nations system, a draft outline of a medium-term monitoring programme which, after the approval of Governments and the EEC, would replace the present pilot programme. To this end the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC should provide UNEP with information concerning their monitoring programmes and the measures they have already taken to analyse the sources, amounts, levels, trends, pathways and effects of pollutants in the Mediterranean.
11. Taking into account existing national provisions and international arrangements and agreements, proposals for criteria applicable to the quality of recreational waters and seafood should be collected and eventually developed.
12. Principles and guidelines should be prepared by UNEP allowing the Mediterranean countries to select, establish and manage specially protected Mediterranean areas.
13. A model code of practice for the disposal of liquid wastes into the Mediterranean should be developed, covering initially criteria and guidelines essential for the implementation of the protocol on pollutants from land-based sources.
14. A report on the state of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea should be prepared using reliable and comparable data, primarily those supplied by the competent national institutions and by studies which may be

carried out during the pilot projects of the environmental assessment of the Mediterranean Action Plan. The final form of this report should be prepared and released in consultation with the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC.

15. UNEP should aid Governments that request assistance in defining the nature and extent of help they might need and to favourably respond to it in order to participate in the pollution monitoring and research projects through their national institutions.
16. Governments, with the assistance of UNEP if necessary, should further strengthen those national research centres that do not have either sufficiently trained personnel or the equipment for their effective participation in the programme. UNEP, if necessary, should assist Governments in the installation of new research centres.
17. Additional research centres should be designated by Governments and the EEC to participate in the pollution monitoring and research projects in geographic zones at present inadequately covered.
18. Under UNFP's overall co-ordination, and with the assistance of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the collaboration between research centres should be reinforced and, in view of the complementary nature of the data generated by the various pilot projects, further efforts should be made to make an interdisciplinary assessment of the origin, amounts, levels, pathways and effects of pollutants of the Mediterranean.
19. The methods used by participants in the various pilot projects assessing the levels and effects of pollutants are already well harmonized and, whenever necessary, unified. Nevertheless, as the results of the monitoring and research activities may have legislative implications for the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, UNEP, as the Secretariat of the Convention, should assist in elaborating reference methods for Mediterranean marine pollution studies and submit them for approval to the Governments and the EEC.
20. Subject to further evaluation and to the approval of the Mediterranean coastal States, a joint oceanographic cruise (MED CRUISE) could be considered by UNEP, in collaboration with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and the national institutions of the region, to increase the number and quality of data on the open waters of the Mediterranean.
21. The input of riverborne and airborne pollutants into the Mediterranean may turn out to belong to the major groups of unknown parameters needed to assess the state of pollution in the Mediterranean Basin and UNEP should organize their assessment.
22. The facilities of the Geneva-based United Nations International Computing Centre (ICC) should be selected and used on a trial basis as the central data repository and processing facility satisfying the requirements of the entire Mediterranean Action Plan. Data reported to this facility, directly or through the organizations co-operating in the implementation of the various activities, should be considered as unclassified, unless stated otherwise. Data should be collected, handled and disseminated according to existing, standard practices, making full use of the existing mechanisms for data exchange.
23. The build-up of modelling capabilities of the Mediterranean scientists, particularly those in developing countries, should be promoted by UNEP. Initial targets for modelling may include biogeochemical cycles of heavy metals, oil, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and ecosystems; they should be integrated with hydrodynamic models because they constitute the common basis for such models.

24. Without prejudice to the development of water pollution standards, technical principles and methodological guidelines for the scientific assessment of possible waste-absorptive capacity of the marine environment should be developed.

Integrated planning (environmental management)

25. The Meeting took note of the progress made in the implementation of the Blue Plan and recommended that, in order to allow the Executive Director to proceed with the implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan, as agreed at the 1977 Split consultation, the Governments which have not done so should, as soon as possible, and not later than the end of March 1978:

- (i) designate national focal points for the Blue Plan;
- (ii) nominate national participating institutions and experts for the Blue Plan activities;
- (iii) indicate the surveys and prospective studies of the Blue Plan in which their institutions and experts would be ready to play an active role;
- (iv) forward to UNEP Fund their financial contributions to the agreed Blue Plan budget.

26. The Meeting, having learned of the activities directly related to PAP scheduled for 1978, recommends that Governments, through their institutions and experts, take an active part in such activities. This applies, in particular, to the following:

- (i) a seminar on fresh water resources management in the Mediterranean region, to be held in France in April 1978;
- (ii) the expert consultation on aquaculture development in the Mediterranean region, being convened and hosted by the Greek Government in Athens from 13 to 18 March 1978 and sponsored by UNEP and GFCM of FAO;
- (iii) training and information exchange in urban, environmental pollution control, including tourist resorts, Athens;
- (iv) the Government of Italy/UNEP International Training Programme in Environmental Management, Urbino, Italy, 3 April - 27 July 1978;
- (v) seminar on the geographic and socio-economic framework of the Blue Plan, scheduled to take place in Yugoslavia next spring.

27. The Meeting took note of the significance of protected areas from the socio-economic, scientific and conservation points of view and recommended that Governments should support the protection and rational management of existing marine parks, wetlands and other protected areas. They should also promote the creation of new protected areas in the region. In particular, Governments should:

- (i) support the efforts of the Executive Director to create an Association of Protected Mediterranean Areas and advise him on the designation of one member of the Association to act as the co-ordinator of the Association's activities;
 - (ii) request the Executive Director to convene periodic meetings of representatives of Mediterranean protected areas to compare and develop their experiences and problems;
 - (iii) expand the research projects on ecological problems of protected areas and relate them to UNEP MED POL activities;
 - (iv) ask the Executive Director to convene an intergovernmental meeting to consider and adopt guidelines and technical principles for the establishment and management of Mediterranean protected areas. The Meeting should also consider the development of a protocol on the protection and management of Mediterranean Protected Areas (see paragraph 34 below);
 - (v) contribute to the preparation and periodic updating of a Directory of Mediterranean protected areas.
28. In relation to sub-paragraph (i) above, the Meeting welcomed the offer of Tunisia to serve as the co-ordinator of the Association of Protected Mediterranean Areas.
29. The Meeting noted the appropriateness of the various projects relating to evaluation of the sources, amounts, levels and effects of pollutants (see UNEP/IG.11/3/Annex I), in particular MED VII and MED X, for the management of environmental problems, which had been clearly brought out. It therefore invited Governments to take such measures as to ensure that the results of these projects could help them to develop the administrative, economic and other measures needed for environmental management.

Environmental Legislation

30. As an expression of their full support for the protection and harmonious development of the Mediterranean Basin and the activities launched as part of the agreed Action Plan, the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC are urged to ratify, with the shortest possible delay, the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency.
31. UNEP, as the Organization responsible for the Secretariat functions under Article 13 of the Convention, should convene the first meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and protocols within one year of the entry into force of the Convention. By that time it is hoped that the number of Contracting Parties will include a large majority of the Mediterranean coastal States.
32. In preparation for the first meeting of the Contracting Parties, UNEP should prepare, in consultation with the Governments of the region, the EEC and relevant international organizations, a draft of the rules

of procedure and financial rules to be presented for consideration to the Contracting Parties as provided for in Article 18 of the Convention.

33. Recognizing that pollution from man's activities on land represents the most significant source of pollution in the Mediterranean Basin, the Governments of the Mediterranean States and the EEC should continue their consultations on the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources, leading to the adoption of the Protocol at a diplomatic conference. UNEP should assist the States in this task by providing as complete technical data on land-based pollutants as possible.
34. Recognizing the activities already under way within the Action Plan on specially protected areas, UNEP should, in co-operation with FAO, UNESCO and IUCN, prepare background material on existing legislation and regional legal alternatives for the protection of such marine and coastal areas. UNEP should convene a meeting of Government experts to review this material and to advise on the feasibility of developing a protocol on specially protected marine and coastal areas.
35. Taking note of the work already under way within the UNEP Working Group on Environmental Law regarding corrective and preventive measures for pollution damage arising from offshore mining and drilling carried out in the areas within national jurisdiction and of the forthcoming IJO meeting of experts on Legal Aspects of Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf, the Seabed and its Subsoil in the Mediterranean, UNEP is requested to report to the first meeting of the Contracting Parties on the progress achieved in those fora so that a decision may be taken as to the feasibility of developing a protocol in this respect.
36. The Mediterranean States, taking note of the forthcoming Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention to be convened in February 1978, should become Parties to the 1973 International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and at the appropriate time, should study the advisability of using their concerted efforts, within the framework of IMCO, to have the Mediterranean designated as a special area for the purposes of Annex II of that Convention.
37. Within the perspective of the application of Article 12 of the Barcelona Convention and in order to implement Resolution 4 adopted by the Barcelona Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the Executive Director should be prepared to propose to the first meeting of the Contracting Parties that a study be made of:
 - (a) appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment deriving from violations of the provisions of the above-mentioned Convention and applicable protocols;
 - (b) an Interstate Guarantee Fund for the Mediterranean Sea Area.

This study should be entrusted to a committee of Government experts. a/

a/ One delegation recalled its Government's reservations in regard to Resolution 4.

38. The Mediterranean coastal States should provide, to the extent possible, support and co-operation to the Regional Oil Combating Centre so that it may effectively fulfil the objectives assigned to it. Each State should develop its national contingency plans and capabilities for dealing with oil pollution emergencies. Sectoral and subregional contingency plans for neighbouring countries should be promoted through bilateral or multilateral agreements for the above plans, technical arrangements should be agreed and assistance could be provided. When experience has been gained through the operation of the regional centre, the feasibility of establishing subregional oil combating centres may be considered.

Institutional and financial

39. The delegations convened at Monaco took note of the policy directives of the Governing Council of UNEP under which the Executive Director is carrying out the Mediterranean Action Plan, especially decision 47 (paragraph 9) and 50 (paragraph 7) adopted at the fourth session of the Council in 1976. b/
40. Considering the exemplary nature of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Executive Director is requested to carry out this Plan as a pilot project for other seas of the world. This long-term pilot project should be conducted under the direction of UNEP, with the assistance of the specialized international organizations concerned with the development of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

b/ Decision 47 (IV), paragraph 9,

"Considers that the successful achievements of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region afford a concrete example of both the integrated approach and the proper co-ordinating role that should be the major concern of the Programme in its activities, and requests the Executive Director to ensure that the catalytic function, co-ordination and integration, as opposed to involvement in longer-term activities of a primarily executive character, always constitute the main contribution of the Programme in its endeavours to ensure the protection and improvement of the environment;" and

Decision 50 (IV), paragraph 7,

"Notes the Executive Director's account of how the concepts of environmental assessment and environmental management, as well as supporting activities, have been applied in the Mediterranean, and requests the Executive Director further to develop work in the Mediterranean in accordance with this framework, while taking steps towards the progressive transfer of executive responsibility to the Governments of the region."

41. As in the past, activities agreed upon as part of the Action Plan should be carried out with the assistance of national institutions designated by their Governments. In this task the institutions shall be assisted by UNEP and relevant specialized United Nations organizations. UNEP, in close collaboration with the relevant parts of the United Nations system and under the guidance of Governments, will continue the role it has thus far assumed as the Secretariat of the Action Plan and of the Convention, which is an integral part of the Action Plan. Consequently, upon entry into force of the Convention, the Executive Director will make arrangements to carry out the secretariat responsibility on a continuing basis.
42. For reasons of administrative and operational efficiency, and taking into account the use of the Mediterranean programme as a model for UNEP's work in the global regional seas programme, the Executive Director will maintain the staff responsible for all main components of the Mediterranean Action Plan in a single secretariat at Geneva on an interim basis. Since the Governments convened in Monaco were not able to take a decision on the future location of the final headquarters of this co-ordination centre of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Governments of Greece, Lebanon, Monaco and Spain repeated their offers to host this co-ordination centre on their territories; it being considered, inter alia, that the centre may most appropriately be situated in one of the countries of the Mediterranean Basin. Any other Governments wishing to make proposals to host the centre were invited to submit their offers to UNEP.
43. With regard to the assessment component, the Executive Director will continue, with the assistance of the United Nations system, to strengthen, during the whole pilot phase, Regional Activity Centres of the research and monitoring programme and other national scientific institutions duly nominated by their Governments.
44. The Governments of France and Yugoslavia have put at the disposal of UNEP the necessary facilities for units intended to assist in the co-ordination under the integrated planning component of the Action Plan, of the Blue Plan and PAP respectively. The Government of Spain undertook similar actions with regard to a legal unit. With a view to ensuring a balanced distribution of institutions between the countries of the region, it was agreed to establish a unit in one of the countries of the southern Mediterranean within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan. The Government of Tunisia offered to host this unit. In view of the arrangements already made for the organization and the financing of activities under the Blue Plan, the meeting considered that UNEP should attempt to mobilize additional resources in order to strengthen and accelerate the activities under the PAP, including organizational steps to launch and co-ordinate the specific activities which are the subject of earlier recommendations. For the same reasons mentioned above, one delegation requested that the establishment of a unit in the eastern Mediterranean should be considered and offered to host such a unit.
45. Having been informed of decision 98 (V) c/ adopted at the last session of the Governing Council concerning the total commitment authority for UNEP, and taking into account the exemplary nature of

c/ The total commitment authority for the Environment Fund stands as follows:

1978: \$ 31.6 million
1979: \$ 30 million

Of this amount the allocation for oceans has been fixed at:

1978: \$ 4.0 million, or 13 per cent of the total;
1979: \$ 3.19 million, or 11 per cent of the total.

the Mediterranean Action Plan, which is a pilot action plan, the delegations present in Monaco request the Executive Director to continue the effort undertaken for a substantial period.

46. The Governments convened at Monaco requested the Executive Director to prepare a report on the budget provided for the Mediterranean Action Plan. They endorsed the principle of a separate trust fund to ensure the harmonious development and effective co-ordination of jointly agreed activities. This fund could be financed as follows:
- 50 per cent to be covered by Governments of the region and the EEC. Contributions from Governments will be determined by the United Nations assessment scale and for the EEC by agreement between it and UNEP.
 - 50 per cent by UNEP and the international organizations concerned.
47. The Meeting welcomed the intention of the Executive Director to convene in 1978 a meeting of Government-nominated representatives, to examine the Executive Director's report on the budget for the 1979/1980 biennium.