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Intergovernmental Review Meeting of  
Mediterranean Coastal States and  
First Meeting of the Contracting Parties  
to the Convention for the Protection of  
the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution  
and its related protocols

Geneva, 5-10 February 1979

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

Information Paper

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1. The purpose of this conference paper is to supplement the information given in the Executive Director's Report (UNEP/IG.14/4) on two elements of the Priority Actions Programme (PAP) namely renewable sources of energy and marine living resources (aquaculture), and to expand the background already given on the Regional Activity Centre for PAP in Split.

Renewable Sources of Energy

2. Paragraphs 19-22 of Annex II of the Executive Director's Report describe the action taken by UNEP and UNDP in consultation with Governments, culminating in a meeting of Government experts in Malta in October 1978, (UNEP/IG.14.INF.11). The participants at the present meeting may wish to be informed of the progress achieved since that time. UNEP and UNDP were asked at the Malta meeting to take the necessary measures to prepare a draft plan of action for a co-operative programme and to submit a proposal to the present meeting.

3. In the interim UNDP and UNEP have been preparing an appropriate methodological approach setting out the manner in which a regional programme might be established. In addition, programme missions of consultants and staff members have been organized in a number of countries. The objectives of these missions are to gather all essential data about the national institutions which might participate in such a programme, to establish the degree of Government interest and technical participation and thus to assemble the technical and operational elements which might comprise such a programme.

4. UNDP and UNEP have taken due note of the generous offers made by the Governments of Malta and Turkey to provide facilities in the form of regional centres which would play an important role in a co-operative programme. Extensive documentation and information is already available about the facilities which could be provided in Malta, and detailed discussions took place in the Malta meeting during which the offer of the Government of Malta was reviewed and later refined.

5. As to Turkey, a technical mission visited Turkey in December 1978, and reviewed the proposals of the Turkish Government in Ankara and visited the Marmaris Solar Research and Development Centre in southern Turkey. Information is therefore complete as far as these two proposed centres are concerned. The series of missions now being undertaken to several Mediterranean coastal States will amplify the information already available. When these missions have been completed it should be possible thereafter to establish a framework of co-operation which will probably consist of a number of subject oriented networks.

6. The Malta meeting in its final report (UNEP/WG.20/5, paragraph 23) envisaged that a concrete proposal would be ready for review by the current intergovernmental meeting. In view of the need to undertake solid ground work and to engage in a systematic round of consultations, it has not been possible to adhere to the target date suggested in Malta. However, UNDP, in agreement with UNEP, is now reviewing a proposal for a preparatory assistance project which would enable the work of programme formulation to be further advanced. This project, if approved for regional financing by UNDP, would involve the recruitment of a senior consultant who would be responsible for the necessary consultations with Governments leading to the establishment of a regional co-operative programme. In this way, UNDP and UNEP believe that the views of the Malta meeting would be properly respected. Following the preparatory assistance phase it would seem likely that a proposal would be worked up for possible financing by UNDP and with the financial participation of interested Governments for a full scale regional project.

#### Marine living resources (aquaculture)

7. Reference is made to paragraphs 17-18 of Annex II of the Executive Director's Report which deals with the action taken by UNDP, FAO and UNEP to follow up the recommendations contained in UNEP/IG.14/INF 9 (Report of the Expert Consultation on Aquaculture Development in the Mediterranean Region, Athens, 14-18 March 1978). The mission, whose terms of reference are given in paragraph 18 of Annex II, is now approximately two thirds of the way through its task. It has visited ten countries in the Mediterranean Basin and will complete visits to four additional countries in the coming month. It is expected that the mission's report will be ready for review by mid March 1979. UNDP, FAO and UNEP continue to hope that the mission's findings will provide the necessary elements for a regional co-operative programme which might qualify for financial support in the first instance from UNDP. When the review of the mission's report has been completed, Governments will be consulted on its technical and managerial findings.

Regional Activity Centre/Priority Actions Programme, Split

8. Paragraph 16 of Annex II of the Executive Director's Report refers to the Regional Activity Centre. The offer of the Yugoslav Government to establish such a centre was confirmed at the Blue Plan meeting in Split 1977 and reaffirmed in the Intergovernmental meeting in Monaco in 1978. Since that time the Regional Activity Centre has moved to an operational stage and has prepared a number of documents for review by interested Governments and international organizations. Attention is drawn to Information Papers (UNEP/IG.14/INF.20) which outline some technical proposals made by the Split Centre. These proposals will be put forward for review by the appropriate Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system. As indicated in paragraph 16 of Annex II of UNEP/IG.14/4 it is hoped that the activities of the Regional Activity Centre will be a useful addition to the general programme activities now being moved forward in Geneva by the UNDP/UNEP unit for the Priority Actions Programme.