



United Nations
Environment
Programme



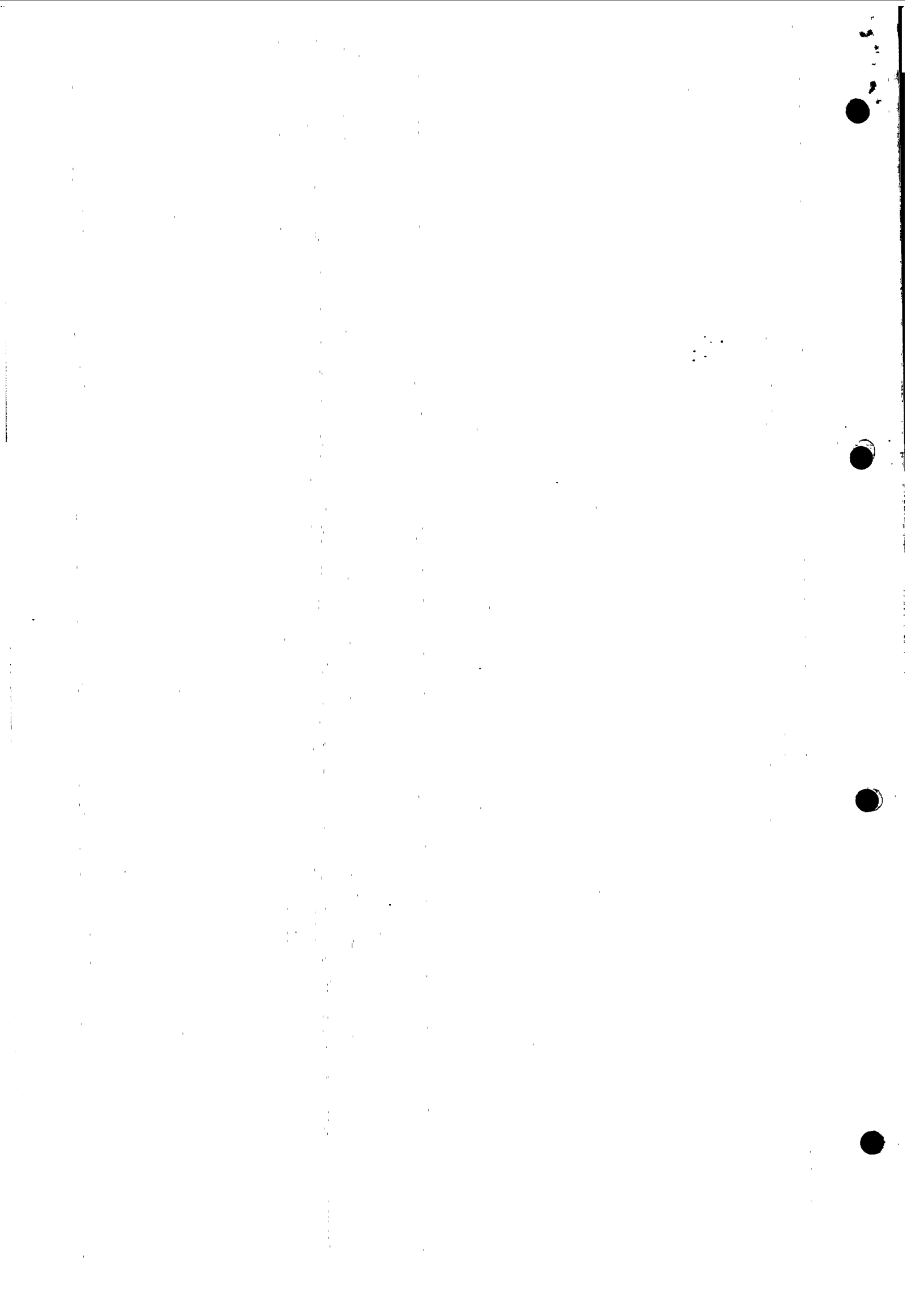
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Intergovernmental Review Meeting of
Mediterranean coastal States on the
Mediterranean Action Plan,

Barcelona, 11 - 13 February 1980

PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
ACTION PLAN IN 1979



Introduction

1. The 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, in its resolution number 2 (see document UNEP/IG.14/9, Annexe XIII) invited the Executive Director of UNEP:

"to convene a short (2-3 days) Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean States and the EEC invited to this present meeting, in the period between the regular biannual intergovernmental meetings, to review the progress of the MAP, including its budgetary implications".

2. In accordance with the resolution referred to above, the Executive Director of UNEP is convening the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan. At the kind invitation of the Government of Spain, the meeting will take place in Barcelona from 11 to 13 February 1980. The main purpose of the meeting is to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan since February 1979 and the work programme for 1980, including institutional and budgetary implications.
3. The present report reviews the activities that have been undertaken or initiated since February 1979 in accordance with the recommendations of the 1979 Geneva intergovernmental meeting.

Preparation of the final report of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean coastal States and the 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)

4. The report of the meeting (UNEP/IG.14/9) was finalized by the secretariat in accordance with paragraph 90 of the report, cleared by the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and sent to all participants in the meeting and to UNEP focal points in the Governments of the Mediterranean coastal States and in the EEC, in the respective official languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish).

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Geneva, 26 to 27 June 1979)

5. In consultation with the President of the Contracting Parties, a meeting of the Bureau was convened in Geneva from 26 to 27 June 1979. The main points discussed by the Bureau were:

- (i) review of activities undertaken since the February 1979 meeting;
 - (ii) review of activities to be undertaken before the inter-governmental meeting of Mediterranean States, to be held in Barcelona in 1980; and
 - (iii) the organization of the February 1980 intergovernmental meeting in Barcelona.
6. The Meeting of the Bureau provided the Secretariat with additional guidance for the continuation of the work initiated since the February 1979 Intergovernmental meeting. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9 annex XIII)

Extension of MED POL pilot projects I to VII

7. All MED POL national co-ordinators, principal investigators and heads of research centres designated as participants in the MED POL projects have been informed of the decisions taken at the Geneva Intergovernmental meeting and of the workplan to be implemented during the biennium 1979-1981. National co-ordinators have also been asked to investigate the possibility of nominating additional research centres to join the programme MED POL. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 2, 3 and 8)
8. Through the relevant specialized bodies (GFCM of FAO, IOC of UNESCO and WHO) research agreements with the national research centres participating in the MED POL pilot projects I to VII have been extended until March 1981. No changes have been made in the methodology followed. When needed, additional contributions for training and equipment were provided.

Long-term pollution monitoring and research programme

9. Comments and suggestions relevant to the preparation of a long-term pollution monitoring and research programme are being collected by the secretariat from MED POL national co-ordinators, principal investigators of research centres designated as participants in MED POL and the relevant specialized UN bodies. They will be consolidated in a document to be presented to a meeting of experts planned for April 1980. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 1)

Manual on reference methods for pollution studies in the Mediterranean

10. The work on the preparation of the consolidated Manual of Reference Methods for Pollution Studies has been progressing with the collaboration of the GFCM of FAO, WHO and selected MED POL principal

investigators. The manual will be based on methods used since late 1975 in the research centres participating in the MED POL pilot projects. The manual will be reviewed by the meeting of experts on the long-term pollution monitoring and research programme. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 4)

Selected Bibliography on the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

11. Contributions for the preparation of a Selected Bibliography on the Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea have been collected through the specialized agencies with collaboration of MED POL activity centres. Using the facilities of the International Computing Centre (ICC) in Geneva the secretariat has started processing the received contributions and the bibliography is expected to be issued in early 1980. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para.5)

Report on the State of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea

12. Work on the second draft of the Report has continued. New data received from the national research centres participating in MED POL and from other sources have been incorporated in the text. The second draft of the report will be circulated for comments to all MED POL principal investigators and other selected scientists in mid-1980. The text incorporating these comments will be sent to the Mediterranean Governments and the EEC for final comments before printing. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 6)

Report on the results of the MED POL pilot projects

13. Through the relevant specialized bodies the summary reports have been collected from the principal investigators participating in MED POL. These are presented to the meeting in document UNEP/IG.18/INF.3. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 7)

Development of Environmental Quality Criteria

14. An inter-agency meeting on the development of the scientific rationale for the criteria applicable to the quality of recreational waters, shellfish-growing areas, and waters used for aquaculture and seafood has been scheduled for 26-27 November 1979 in Rome. The results will be reported to the Intergovernmental Meeting in February 1980. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, Annex V, para. 13).

The Blue Plan

15. In April 1979, the Governments of the 18 Mediterranean coastal States and the EEC have been invited to provide the secretariat with various information relevant to the planned Second Meeting of National Blue Plan Focal Points. As of 15 November 1979 only three Governments have supplied part of the information requested.
16. A similar request was addressed to selected UN bodies and specialized agencies. Five organizations have replied communicating part of the information requested.
17. The Second Meeting of the National Blue Plan Focal Points was convened in Cannes (1-5 October 1979) at the kind invitation of the Government of France. The basic documents for the meeting were prepared with the assistance of an ad hoc Advisory Group composed of seven eminent Mediterranean experts.
18. The meeting agreed on:
 - (i) the overall concept of the first phase of the Blue Plan;
 - (ii) the workplan and timetable for its implementation;
 - (iii) the financial and institutional arrangements relevant to the implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan;
 - (iv) the roles and inputs of national and international organizations in the implementation of the Blue Plan.
19. The report of the meeting (UNEP/WG.29/4) was circulated to the 18 Mediterranean coastal States and the EEC under cover of a letter inviting them to nominate by 15 December 1979, candidates for membership in the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis and for expert posts.
20. Agreement was reached by UNEP and MEDEAS on a project document which names MEDEAS as the supporting organization for the implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 14 to 16)

Priority Actions Programme (PAP)

21. Proposals for large scale regional projects in renewable sources of energy and in aquaculture should be ready for review by financing institutions, such as UNDP, in the first half of 1980, depending on the outcome of preparatory assistance work now underway. In human settlements and tourism it is hoped to launch two short preparatory assistance projects in the very near future. As to soil conservation

and water resources management these sectors will require further work before programme activities can be properly defined for review by Governments and interested United Nations agencies. More detailed information on these activities is contained in the following paragraphs. (Reference UNEP/IG.9/14, Annex V, para.21-24).

Renewable Sources of Energy

22. Through a UNDP project a critical analysis will be made of all the information assembled by missions which have visited selected Mediterranean coastal States. This analysis is expected to lead to the early formulation of a programme which will be brought forward for possible financing by UNDP.

Aquaculture

23. The mission to selected Mediterranean coastal States, based on a UNDP project, has been completed and has resulted in a draft project document envisaging a large regional programme involving most Mediterranean coastal States. This document, which is a preliminary draft, is expected to lead to a definitive project document for submission to interested Governments and it is hoped that UNDP will be able to give serious consideration to its financing.

Human Settlements

24. Through the PAP/Regional Activity Centre in Split the preparation of technical papers for discussion by a meeting of Government experts in human settlements has been initiated. The meeting is planned for mid 1980.

Tourism

25. During preliminary consultations with United Nations Specialized Agencies it has been tentatively agreed that an initial reconnaissance in socially integrated tourism should be undertaken with a view to defining the manner in which such programmes might be fostered and expanded.

Soil Conservation and Water Resources Management

26. It may be necessary to develop an integrated approach which would combine the two elements of soil and water development and intensive consultations are underway with United Nations agencies such as UNESCO, FAO and WHO on this subject.

Mediterranean specially protected areas

27. In co-operation with FAO, UNESCO, and IUCN the following documents are being prepared for an intergovernmental meeting on Mediterranean specially protected areas:
- (a) Principles, criteria and guidelines proposed for selection, establishment and management of Mediterranean protected areas;
 - (b) Proposal for a Directory of Mediterranean protected areas;
 - (c) An annotated list of recognized Mediterranean threatened species, and of biotopes which may require special protection;
 - (d) Survey of national legislation relevant to Mediterranean protected areas;
 - (e) Review of legal alternatives for managing Mediterranean protected areas;
 - (f) Guidelines proposed for inclusion in a protocol concerning protected areas in the Mediterranean region.
28. At the kind invitation of the Government of Greece, the inter-governmental meeting on Mediterranean specially protected areas is scheduled to be held in Athens from 22 to 26 September 1980. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 25 and 33)

Regional Oil Combating Centre

29. A training course in the control and combating of oil pollution in the Mediterranean was jointly organized by the Regional Oil Combating Centre and SOGESTA, with the support of the Government of Italy, at Urbino, Italy, from 7 to 21 October. The main objective of the course was to promote the development in the Mediterranean States of a nucleus of personnel trained in the techniques of abatement of marine pollution by oil.
30. In accordance with the recommendation that "priority should be given to the Centre's function of gathering and disseminating information", the Centre has begun to publish a quarterly newsletter. The newsletter is aimed at promoting an informal exchange of information on activities in the region in the field of combating oil pollution. (Reference : UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 30).

Follow-up to 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 (Rome,
11-15 December 1978)

31. In June 1979, the secretariat circulated the report of the meeting to the Mediterranean coastal States and the EEC and sought their suggestions for follow-up activities. Replies to the secretariat letter were requested by 1 October 1979 with a view to presenting a compilation of replies as an information document to the intergovernmental meeting in February 1980. As of 15 November 1979, the secretariat received two such replies and these are presented in document UNEP/IG.18/INF.4.

Meetings of experts on the draft protocol for the protection of the
Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources (Geneva,
25-29 June 1979)

32. Two parallel meetings - one for legal experts and one for technical experts - were convened to continue negotiations on the preliminary draft protocol on pollution from land-based sources. The reports of the meetings are before the intergovernmental meeting under the symbols UNEP/WG.17/6 and UNEP/WG.18/4, respectively.
33. In reviewing future steps to be taken towards the final adoption of the protocol, the meeting of legal experts: "... concluded that it had fulfilled its mandate and considered that the questions still pending with regard to the text of the preliminary draft protocol were outside its competence as an expert body" and "... that the present draft of the should ... be verified from the linguistics point of view ...".
34. In accordance with the meeting's recommendation the secretariat is arranging for a linguistic review of the revised preliminary draft protocol so as to ensure the harmonization of the text in the authentic languages of the Convention.
35. The meeting of legal experts also recommended that the secretariat up-date the publication, "Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources: a survey of national legislation" in view of its usefulness as a reference source for Governments and the EEC in their negotiations on, and implementation of, the protocol. The inter-governmental meeting may wish to consider this recommendation with a view to making appropriate provisions for such an activity in the 1981-1982 workplan and budget.
36. The meeting of technical experts: "were of the unanimous opinion that it was unnecessary for them to meet again before the adoption of the Protocol ...".

37. The technical experts also recommended: "that the work relating to the determination of water quality criteria should be continued in conformity with the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Meeting, Geneva, February 1979." Initial steps to be undertaken by the secretariat for the determination of water quality criteria are referred to in paragraph 14 of this report.
38. In the light of the recommendations of the two meetings of experts, and after consultation with the Government of Greece which has offered to host the Diplomatic Conference of Mediterranean States on the Protocol concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution, the Executive Director is planning to convene a diplomatic conference in Athens from 30 June to 5 July 1980. The conference will have before it for consideration, with a view to its adoption, the revised preliminary draft protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources that was agreed upon by the experts meetings in June 1979. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 31)

Meeting of experts on the Protocol for the Prevention of
Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and
Aircraft (Geneva, 2-6 July 1979)

39. The meeting was convened in Geneva from 2 to 6 July 1979 and the report of the meeting is before the intergovernmental meeting under the symbol UNEP/WG.28/3.
40. The meeting reviewed, and made recommendations concerning, the following matters:
- (a) the form of report for notification of specific and general permits for the purposes of the application of articles 5 and 6 of the protocol;
 - (b) the form of report for reporting actual quantities dumped annually;
 - (c) provisional procedures and criteria for defining cases of critical situations of an exceptional nature for the purpose of applying article 9 of the protocol;
 - (d) the definition of certain terms such as "non-toxic", "rapidly converted biologically harmless" and "trace contaminants", and provisional procedures for prior consultation for the purpose of applying paragraphs A.1, A.2, A.9 and section B of annex I;
 - (e) distinction between acid and alkaline compounds referred to in annexes I and II of the protocol;
 - (f) radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter referred to in annexes I and II of the protocol;

(g) consideration of incineration at sea in relation to the protocol.

41. The recommendations of the meeting of experts on the dumping protocol will be submitted for consideration with a view to their adoption to the second meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1981. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/9, para. 55-56 and annex V para. 32)

Committee of Experts to study the establishment of an inter-state guarantee fund for the Mediterranean Sea area and appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation

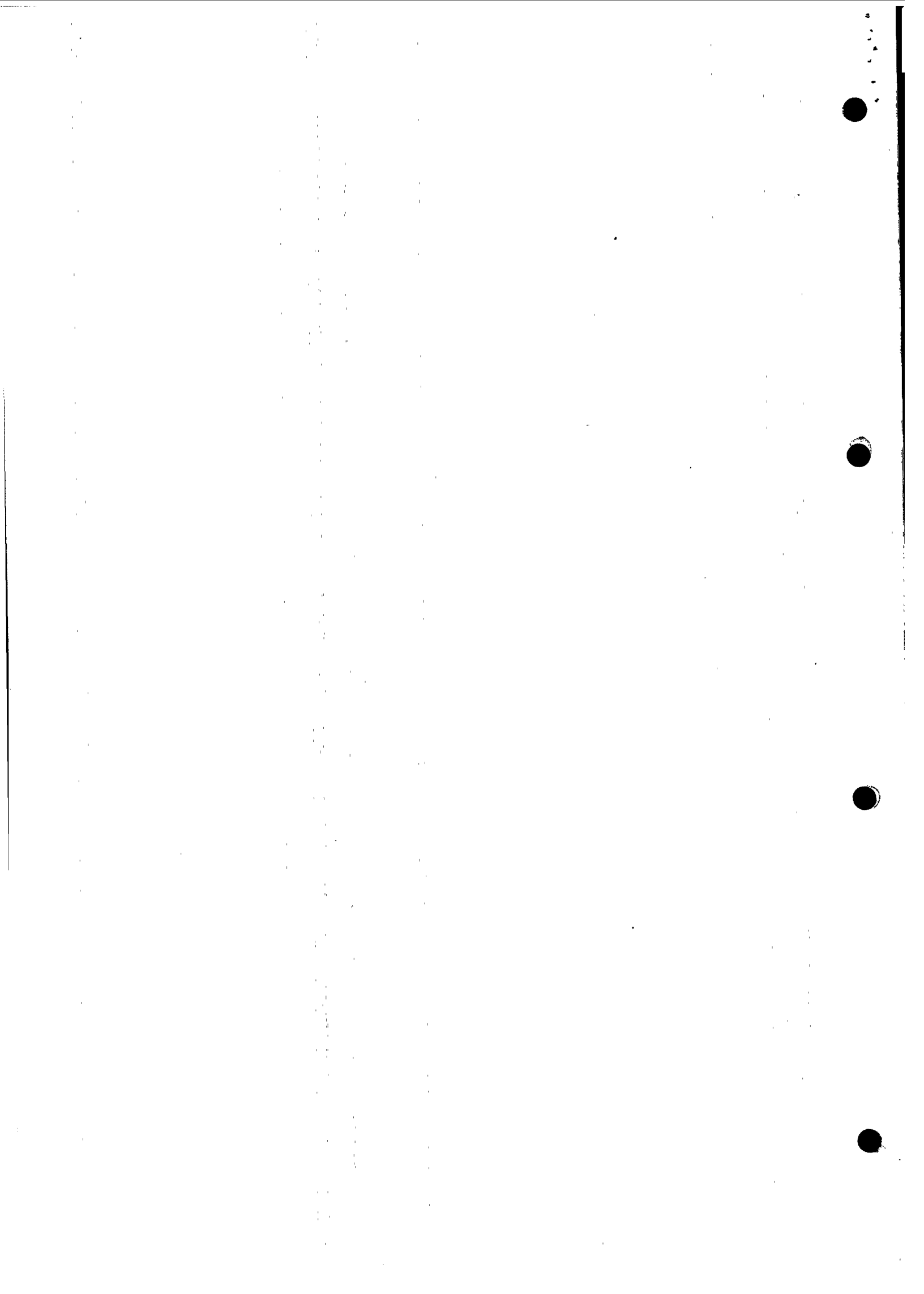
42. The secretariat has commissioned two consultants to up-date and expand their earlier study on this matter. The up-dated report, as well as related material prepared for the IJO/UNEP meeting of experts referred to in paragraph 29 above, will serve as the main working documents for the committee of experts which is scheduled to be held in Geneva, 14-18 April 1980.
43. A report on the progress achieved by the committee of experts will be submitted to the second meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1981. (Reference: UNEP/IG.14/INF.18, annex V, para. 35)

Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution

44. The Intergovernmental meeting has before it a separate report on the management of the Mediterranean Trust Fund in 1979 (document UNEP/IG.18/4).

Expected outputs of the Mediterranean Programme in 1979-1980 period

45. In order to assist the Intergovernmental meeting in seeing the overall expected outputs of the programme in the 1979-1980 period, attached as annex I to this report is a provisional list of documents for the second meeting of the Contracting Parties to be convened in France in 1981.



ANNEX I

Proposed provisional list of documents for second meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, France 1981.

UNEP/IG.XX/1	Agenda
UNEP/IG.XX/2	Annotated agenda
UNEP/IG.XX/3	Report of the Executive Director on progress achieved in the 1979-1980 biennium and proposals for activities to be undertaken in the 1981-1982 biennium
UNEP/IG.XX/4	Report on the 1979-1980 accounts
UNEP/IG.XX/5	Budget proposal for the 1981-1982 biennium
UNEP/IG.XX/6	Proposal for long-term monitoring programme (in accordance with recommendation 1 of Geneva meeting)
UNEP/IG.XX/7	Proposed amendments to the rules of procedure (prepared by U.N. Office of Legal Affairs)
UNEP/IG.XX/8	Alternative proposals for administering the Mediterranean Trust Fund
UNEP/IG.XX/9	Institutional arrangements
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.1	List of documents
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.3	Report on results of MED POL (in accordance with recommendation 7 of Geneva meeting)
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.4	Report on State of pollution in Mediterranean Sea (in accordance with recommendation 6 of Geneva meeting)
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.5	Report on Blue Plan
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.6	Report on PAP
UNEP/IG.XX/INF.7	Report of intergovernmental meeting on specially protected areas

UNEP/IG.18/3

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Report of committee of experts on liability and compensation and Interstate Guarantee Fund

UNEP/IG.XX/INF.9

Report of meeting of experts on dumping protocol

UNEP/IG.XX/INF.10

Detailed report on work of Regional Oil Combating Centre and past expenditures (in accordance with para. 50 of report of Geneva meeting)