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**REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 11th MEETING
OF THE MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction**
- II. Progress Report on MCSD Activities**
 - 1. National Strategies for Sustainable Development
 - 2. The First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD formulation
 - 3. MSSD Implementation
 - 4. Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components
- III. 12th MCSD Meeting**
 - 1. Preparation of the next MCSD meeting
 - 2. Proposed Agenda
- IV. MCSD and the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points**
- V. MSSD and Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Initiative “Horizon 2020”**
- VI. Miscellaneous**
 - 1. Programme Officer (MCSD)
 - 2. OECD/UNCSD Expert Meeting

Annexes

- Annex I: Agenda of the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation
- Annex II: The MCSD Programme of Work as adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz
- Annex III: Proposed Agenda for the 12th MCSD Meeting

Report by the Secretariat for the 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the last meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (24-26 May, 2006 – Nicosia, Cyprus), important developments have taken place:

- The Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points in Catania (11-14 November, 2006) has discussed the recommendations made in the report on the external evaluation of MAP. The meeting established a post session drafting committee to prepare a draft MAP strategic vision and a draft governance plan as well as to elaborate on the various alternatives for MCSD mandate, composition and rules of procedures. The results of this work that are to be presented to the next meeting of MAP Focal Points and eventually to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 will have direct bearings not only on the MCSD but also on how the entire MAP system is better responsive to the sustainable development challenges in the region.
- The implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) at the national level is spearheaded through the technical and financial support of MEDU to the formulation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in 8 countries. A “First regional Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities for NSSD formulation” was organized involving the countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon, and Tunisia) that will embark on the process in 2007.
- The 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers Conference that was held in Cairo on 20 November 2006 adopted the Cairo declaration on the environment and the timetable for the first phase of Horizon 2020 (2007-2013) that will guide implementation and concrete action on the ground. The MSSD features prominently in both documents that recognize the importance of the strategy and its implementation for the achievement of the Horizon 2020 objectives.
- Progress continued to be registered by the Working Groups established by BP/RAC on the thematic issues of “Water Resources” and “Energy and Climate Change”. The results of these working groups will be presented at two separate regional workshops, which are scheduled to be held in March and May 2007 respectively. These reports will be submitted for the consideration of the next MCSD meeting.

The Secretariat together with MAP components will make presentations to the members of the Steering Committee on the above and other issues at the next meeting which is scheduled to be held on 9th March, 2007 at the offices of the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, 48 Vassilleos Konstantinou Avenue, Athens, Greece. The meeting will be organized in accordance with the mandate of the Steering Committee to meet and review the progress of work in between MCSD meetings.

An important item for discussion will be the draft agenda for the next meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) which is scheduled to be convened on 30 and 31 May, 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey at the kind invitation of the Turkish authorities.

In order to have a focused and intense discussion, it is proposed that the meeting of the MCSD should last for two days only.

At the end of the Steering Committee meeting, a summary of conclusions will be presented for review and adoption. The draft report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and sent via electronic means to the members of the Steering Committee for their review.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON MCSD ACTIVITIES

1. National Strategies for Sustainable Development

The MSSD is intended to serve as a “framework” for the formulation and implementation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development. A programme has been devised to assist countries in the development or updating of NSSD giving due consideration to the MSSD vision, orientations and objectives.

Since 2005, MAP supports the formulation of national strategies, technically and financially. Thanks to the financial assistance of Italy and Monaco, four countries have been supported in the formulation of NSSD: Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, and the Syrian Arab Republic. The pace in strategy formulation varies significantly according to the countries and the countries have reached different phases. However there are features common to the different country processes: (a) NSSD formulation builds upon the MSSD that serves as a framework; (b) most countries have used the catalytic MAP support to mobilize additional financial resources.

The NSSD preparation itself proves as important as the resulting NSSD document. It constitutes an opportunity to raise awareness, to build consensus, develop partnerships and strengthen the ownership of a variety of stakeholders.

Thanks to the financial assistance by Spain’s Azahar Programme, four additional countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia are going to be involved in the programme for the development of NSSD. With eight countries embarked on this exercise and following a similar approach, a critical mass of experience will build up and will stimulate synergies and cooperation. It is important to note that the funds from Spain’s Azahar Programme will contribute also to a regional workshop to review progress, exchange experience and define regional or national activities and measures for improvement.

The four initially involved countries in the development of NSSD have gained hands-on experience and can demonstrate significant achievements in terms of policy and institution analysis; mobilization of human, knowledge and financial resources; consultation processes; and awareness raising. These countries have also managed to address a number of issues, difficulties and challenges related to NSSD formulation.

The countries that are about to embark on a NSSD formulation process will follow similar activities, pattern and steps as in the other four countries and therefore could highly benefit from their experience. Those countries that are advanced in the preparation of their NSSD can contribute to build up capacities of the newcomers. Peer to peer interactions on the formulation of NSSD would also open the way to horizontal cooperation between countries at a regional or sub regional level and foster the establishment of partnership towards sustainable development in general and MSSD implementation in particular.

Upon the signing of the related MoUs visits will be organized in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon, and Tunisia. The purpose is to meet the concerned institutions and stakeholders including the donor community in order to inform them on NSSD formulation process and obtain their support. On this occasion, a national information workshop could be organized and complementary funding identified from the donor community active in the domain. Developing collaboration with donors (as is the case in Montenegro with Italy and anticipated in Albania also with Italy) is essential to increase the coherence and coordination as well as MAP visibility.

These missions will be organized in conjunction with the relevant RACs in order to involve the MAP components in the process. In the concerned countries and among the stakeholders -including the donor community-, joint missions would certainly contribute to increase the visibility of MAP as a coordinated system as well as to underline the fact that sustainable development is not an isolated concern of MEDU but a shared endeavor of all MAP components.

With respect to the countries who already prepared their NSSD (Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Montenegro) several directions could be pursued to ensure continued support including through: (i) the organization of peer reviews or technical support activities involving those countries and the newcomers; (ii) the organization of a second regional Working Session on NSSD formulation challenges and Opportunities"; (iii) the formalization of a Med Network on NSSD and liaise it with the EU Sustainable Development Network and OECD work on NSSD. In this context, the possibility of OECD support to the second workshop indicated under (ii) will be explored.

2. The First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD formulation

Between 3 – 4 October, 2006 the MAP Coordinating Unit organized the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation to respond to MAP supported countries' need and interest to share their initial experience as they themselves expressed during the 11th MCSD meeting in Cyprus (24-26 May 2006).

In order to develop synergies and pave the way for future collaboration with other initiatives in support of NSSD, the workshop structure drew upon the joint OECD/UNCSD Workshop on Institutionalizing Sustainable Development held in Stockholm on 31 August-1 September 2006. The Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation was coordinated by the Senior Sustainable Development Officer on the basis of the experience gained at the Stockholm meeting, which he attended.

Objectives of the Working Session

The overall objective of the working session was to strengthen the capacity in sustainable development policy formulation. At the end of the session, participants would have developed a common understanding of the key components to prepare and implement a NSSD; have acquired a know-how based on good practices to establish these components and address the related challenges and constraints; and, have clarified the organization and management aspects of the process they are responsible for. Additionally, the participants would help identify the components of the proposed regional NSSD workshop as well as the possible elements of an informal Mediterranean NSSD Network. Clearly these ambitious objectives cannot possibly be achieved in one go and will require subsequent working sessions and networking. However, during the evaluation session, all participants expressed their satisfaction of the achievements.

In addition to the eight countries involved in the programme, Malta and Italy were invited for their significant achievement in NSSD formulation and the latter also in its capacity as sponsor of the programme.

Activities and Results

Break out sessions followed the presentation of countries' achievements and challenges on selected topics (political commitment, participation, analysis and strategic assessment, information and communication; organization and management of the process). The working sessions, facilitated by the countries themselves, helped newcomer countries formulate elements of their roadmap to NSSD formulation and identify guiding principles and indicators to monitor the NSSD process. During the plenary sessions, the participants identified elements that could structure the NSSD regional workshop and help establish the base of a regional NSSD network.

The outstanding presentations made by Egypt, Malta, Montenegro and the Syrian Arab Republic during the working session have shown the variety of situations and the communalities of challenges. Countries have managed to intermingle the analytical and participation processes eventually leading to the formulation of their NSSD. The need for convergence between different national policy frameworks was clearly understood by all participants. Newcomer countries will take into account and build upon the existing frameworks while the countries more advanced in the formulation will pursue their harmonization efforts.

While experience shows that NSSD formulation is not necessarily costly when the stakeholders' good will and voluntary work are mobilized, financial aspects remain of concern to all those responsible for the formulation and implementation of NSSD. Building upon the catalytic nature of the MAP financial support to NSSD formulation, the countries that are advanced in the formulation have managed to attract additional support from the international or bilateral donor community. For instance Montenegro received additional resources from Italy and UNDP.

Concerning implementation, participants agreed on the need for a financial plan in the NSSD document. Different options were briefly mentioned, including the earmarking of

financial resources for SD in the budgets of the relevant sectors. Although financial aspects have been included in the past MCSD activities, financial strategies for the implementation of NSSD (and also MSSD) would deserve further reflection and work to propose options for concrete mechanism and instruments to finance sustainable development.

The Agenda of the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation is attached as **Annex I** to this report.

3. MSSD Implementation

Although the MSSD has the unique advantage to be nested in a well established international legislative set-up and benefits from intense communication efforts on the part of INFO/RAC, implementation has yet to acquire a convincing momentum. Beyond the traditional working groups approach that is conducted by the responsible RACs, pilot actions have still to be identified and launched. Countries that are also pressed to respond to other demanding regional and international processes, call for coherence, harmonization and guidance on how to implement the MSSD nationally (and consequently report at regional and international levels).

The effective implementation of the MSSD calls for concrete actions at the national and regional levels. In this implementation process, the countries are the main actors supported by MAP components. The role of MAP components is to make the MSSD work by encouraging, supporting and facilitating the development and/or implementation of national and regional strategies and pilot actions. In this respect, MAP components interventions/activities should always be seen as supporting national policy processes.

Based on the MCSD programme of work adopted by the Contracting Parties, a clear implementation strategy and detailed business plan are required. The work plan also has to provide for synergies between the different actors within MAP and between MAP and other SD related initiatives (e.g. SMAP, EMP, ENPI, etc.). The business plan should capitalize on the comparative advantages of the different RACs and take advantage of the different working groups being established.

In this respect, it should be considered whether there is the need to:

- revisit the MCSD programme of work in the light of the experience in recent years;
- delineate/differentiate the role of MAP and its components in the implementation of the MSSD;
- compare the advantage of different means of implementation : working and expert groups, pilot actions at national levels, regional capacity building or other activities, policy dialogues, targeted knowledge management activities (e.g. e-list and conference), etc. and decide the best mix of them;
- for each of these means, identify which MAP component (or other SD actor in the region) is better equipped to steer implementation with the support of others, when appropriate;
- leverage all possible synergies and partnerships between different MAP components and between MAP and other SD related initiatives in the region.
- ensure coordination and monitor overall implementation.

The MCSD programme of work has to crystallize into a concise business plan with steps, intermediate outputs, differentiated responsibilities, coordination and monitoring arrangements and indications on the necessary resources (human and financial).

4. Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components

The establishment and functioning of the working groups supported by the relevant RACs have played an important role in the development of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

Following the adoption by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz of the MSSD and the MCSD programme of work, working groups have been established to address the thematic and cross cutting issues therein. As was the case in the past, MEDU ascertained interests and requested the Contracting Parties to nominate representatives to different working groups. At the same time, other support centers were assigned the task to establish and facilitate the following working groups:

- BP/RAC: working groups on (i) Water Resources; (ii) Energy & Climate Change; (iii) Quality Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development; (iv) Sustainable Tourism;
- PAP/RAC: working group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
- REMPEC: on Marine Pollution from Ships; and
- INFO/RAC: working group on the IC Strategy

A. Water Recourses

During the preparatory phase on this thematic issue, the Blue Plan was supported by 4 volunteer countries (Turkey, France, Tunisia, Morocco) and collaborated with the main qualified networks in the Mediterranean, i.e. the Secretariat of GWP-Med (functions carried out by MIO-ECSDE), the Mediterranean Water Institute which brings together businesses and local authorities, Medwet (the Mediterranean network of the RAMSAR Convention) and the Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM). The partners set up an expert committee to guide and monitor the Blue Plan activities in this area.

In March 2006, an exercise was launched in order to document concrete examples of good practices and measure progress effectively realized in the past few years in the broad areas of water use (agricultural water, drinking water, industrial water), in terms of ecosystems water needs and national policies and policies of cooperation.

In September 2006, a meeting of experts specified the organization methodology for the regional workshop scheduled for March 2007 in Saragossa (Spain). The experts reviewed also the progress in the formulation of national plans and regional studies and examined the summaries of proposed presentations. Forty papers were selected for inclusion in the proceedings of the regional workshop. Half of them will be presented at the workshop. The Blue Plan has invited the Mediterranean countries to prepare national reports on the basis of specifications developed in April 2006. The reports aim

at indicating progress achieved and achievable and also at identifying obstacles which should be overcome as well as the political tools that must be developed.

Three regional studies are being finalized in order to be presented and discussed during the workshop:

1. International cooperation and development aid in the field of water in the Mediterranean,
2. Virtual water in the Mediterranean,
3. The impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on the demand in agricultural water.

B. *Energy and Climate Change*

Towards the end of 2005, the main relevant energy networks in the Mediterranean were approached by Blue Plan and agreed to set up a steering committee to follow up the Blue Plan activities on the theme of "Energy and climate change". The following networks were involved: OME (Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie, which brings together the main electricity undertakings), ADEME, ANME, MEDENER (Mediterranean network of energy efficiency agencies), MEDREP, a regional project funded by Italy, UMET (Mediterranean Summer University), which for the past 4 years has organized meetings on these questions, Mediterranean Institute/FEMISE (Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences), which acts as counsel to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Helio International (NGO) and the CP/RAC of Barcelona.

A working programme was agreed upon during a February 2006 steering committee meeting. This Committee is consulted by e-mail on a regular basis. In partnership with UMET, a workshop was organized in May 2006 on the theme of development mechanisms suited to the Southern Mediterranean countries. A summary document containing the main messages and conclusions was drawn up. The following working documents were finalized: (i) the reference parameters for the national studies; (ii) the methodological aspects for the supplementary follow-up indicators for the MSSD; and (iii) the national questionnaire.

Twelve countries gave a positive answer to carrying out a national study on the basis of the terms of reference proposed by the Blue Plan. The selection of national experts entrusted with carrying out the studies was made and validated with the volunteer countries. The countries not carrying out a national study received a national questionnaire.

A regional study on energy trends in the Region and the perspectives to the year 2020 were carried out in partnership with the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME). A second regional study taking into consideration renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency actions in national support to development is being carried out. A third regional study on the economic advantages of development linked to an alternative energy scenario is also being prepared by the Mediterranean Institute/FEMISE.

Finally, it was decided that the concluding seminar which could mark the renewal of the work by experts would be hosted by the Principality of Monaco on 29 and 30 March 2007.

C. *Quality Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development*

This activity is developed jointly with the Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM). It was launched through the organization of an expert workshop in December 2006. It focused on supplementary indicators, on defining better the national reports and on validating the terms of reference of a study to be carried out at regional level on the territorialization of approaches to rural development.

D. *Sustainable Tourism*

In March 2006, a meeting of experts (five of which belonged to the MCSD working group, i.e. Algeria, Ambiente Italia, Croatia, Morocco, Turkey) agreed on the setting up of a Mediterranean network on the theme of the contribution of tourism to sustainable development. They also agreed on defining the main areas on which a questionnaire will be developed to analyze and assess sustainable tourism policies in the volunteer countries; as well as, for analyzing the feasibility of annual meetings in the future for public and private actors to deal with these questions.

In early 2007, the group of experts, in consultation with the Working Group, will prepare the questionnaire, a steering committee will be set up, partners will be sought to organize a regional conference in 2008.

E. *Sustainable Development Indicators*

In order to develop the 34 priority indicators for the follow-up of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development, methodology forms were prepared and disseminated in May 2006.

All countries were requested to appoint, on a voluntary basis, a correspondent to facilitate the collection of the necessary data to develop the indicators at the national level. Seven countries (Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta and Morocco) gave an affirmative answer. Questionnaires were prepared and sent to the correspondents to help them collect the basic information and calculate the non-available indicators on the basis of international sources. At the same time, the Blue Plan started collecting and processing the international data.

All of these data will be analyzed in order to prepare, in the beginning of 2007, a first report which will present, on the basis of the priority indicators, the great trends of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

The Blue Plan is also working on improving monitoring methods for sustainable development in the Mediterranean; it proposes to use the multicriteria analysis based on rating and benchmarking.

F. *Coastal Indicators of Sustainable Development*

In order to select the additional indicators for monitoring sustainable development in the coastal Mediterranean areas (coast and sea), the Blue Plan brought together, in December 2006, twenty international and Mediterranean experts. At this meeting, which

was the first step of the selection process, the various international experiences in terms of coastal indicators were discussed (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, AEE, DEDUCE project and MAP components). A preliminary list of indicators was prepared which will be tested and validated in 2007.

The MCSD Programme of Work as adopted by the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz is attached as **Annex II** to this report.

G. Marine Pollution from Ships

REMPEC was entrusted with the task to coordinate the work of the MCSD Working Group on "marine pollution from ships". This working group has to address the proposed actions identified in the MCSD Programme of Work, namely:

- implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, according to the related timetable;
- request an increase of EU aid and support for its implementation.

The MSSD as it relates to marine pollution from ships endorses the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which constitutes the roadmap of activity of the Contracting Parties and the Centre for the coming years. This strategy has designated objectives and timetable agreed by the Contracting Parties to achieve precisely the objectives of the working group.

At the same time the Contracting Parties adopted the MSSD and the Regional Strategy as well as the work programme of the Centre for the biennium 2006-2007, which included several activities related to the objectives of the regional strategy.

With regards to the way of implementing the objective of eliminating illicit discharge from ships, there is already an activity planned in 2007 entitled "organization and delivery of a regional workshop on regional partnership for enforcement of maritime regulations on operational pollution".

Apart from the funds allocated in the budget approved by the Contracting Parties, REMPEC is currently seeking additional funding in order to be in a position to organize this seminar, which we intend to organize towards the last quarter of the year 2007.

Efforts will be made to attract a wider audience by enlarging the participation to other stakeholders namely the representatives of the Ministries of Justice (national prosecutors), and NGO's.

H. Sustainable Production - Involvement of the Private Sector

The involvement of the private sector is a key factor to achieve an effective implementation of the MSSD. In this regard, businesses play a critical role in changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, one of the major MSSD objectives. RAC/CP, as MAP component entrusted with the task of bringing the private sector on board of the MSSD process, has set clear lines of action to achieve this aim,

namely: (i) creating partnerships with business associations, (ii) involving universities, (iii) establishing common initiatives with other institutions working for sustainable production, (iv) reviewing the trends and challenges of Mediterranean countries in promoting sustainable development in industrial companies and (v) creating a working group on sustainable production.

The following activities have been developed so far according to those lines of action:

(i) Creating partnerships with business associations

In 2006 RAC/CP undertook a process for creating new partnerships with Mediterranean business associations. The centre signed an agreement with ASCAME for joint collaboration in the promotion of eco-efficiency and sustainability of companies in Mediterranean countries. A first initiative launched within the framework of this agreement is the co-organization of the III Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Development Forum (ECO MEDA FORUM 2007), an entrepreneurial platform of the Mediterranean zone and a meeting point for experts, international organizations, business partnerships that represent entrepreneurs and the private sector in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

Likewise, a RAC/CP's agreement with The Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (UMCE) is in the pipeline. A joint project for building capacities on sustainable approaches to economic development is envisaged to be developed during the year 2007 as first step of the cooperation framework between both institutions.

(ii) Involving universities

RAC/CP has launched a project for introducing Cleaner Production (CP) and Eco-efficiency in the curricula of Mediterranean Universities and thus acting from the early stages of university training so that future entrepreneurs, industrialists and experts understand and learn the economic and environmental opportunities offered by the application of those two concepts. The first and second phases of the project were completed in 2006 and consisted of the preparation of an e-course on CP in enterprises addressed to university students and the organization of a workshop (held in Antalya from 18 to 19 September) for the exchange of experiences among university professors on the teaching of Cleaner Production and other environmentally sound mechanisms for industrial management. The third phase, to be developed in 2007, will focus on a pilot project for introducing the e-course in universities and establishing a network of university professors teaching Cleaner Production.

(iii) Establishing common initiatives with other institutions working for sustainable production

RAC/CP and *the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities UNEP/GPA* have agreed on joint actions for involving the Mediterranean private sector in sustainable patterns of production. First activities based on that agreement would consist of the co-organization of seminars on Best Available Techniques (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) application in the oil and textile industries of Libya and Syria during 2007.

(iv) Reviewing the trends and challenges of Mediterranean countries in promoting sustainable development in industrial companies

During 2006 RAC/CP published the report *State of the Art on Sustainable Production in the Mediterranean*, a document providing a biennial review on the progress made by Mediterranean countries in the development of measures promoting the reduction of environmental depletion associated with industrial and economic activities, focusing especially on those promoting the shift to production patterns which apply Cleaner Production and other pollution prevention mechanisms. With this document the RAC/CP gives an overview of the main assets and challenges facing Mediterranean governments to promote the shift to sustainable production patterns by the industrial sector.

(v) Creating a working group on sustainable consumption and production.

RAC/CP is preparing the ground for the setting up of a MSSD's working group where Mediterranean experts meet to discuss and identify needs and priorities for sustainable consumption and production and agree on measures and actions for tackling them. The centre will aim to link the creation of the working group with the Marrakech Project and thus facilitating the coordination between the MSSD and this global programme for accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production.

Together with the above mentioned initiatives for involving the private sector in the MSSD's objective on sustainable production, the RAC/CP has also developed a range of activities based on the involvement of the centre in 4 priority issues of the MSSD: Water Resources, Energy & Climate Change; Quality Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development and Sustainable Tourism.

I. Information and Communication

INFO/RAC has placed the implementation of the *Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development* as overall policy framework under which its various focus-areas and related activities are formulated and carried out. In particular, the Centre has launched and is leading the development of the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD, which needs to be integrated within the MSSD to empower its visibility and long term implementation.

The 11th Meeting of the MCSD (Nicosia, 2006) has agreed to the two-track approach, proposed by INFO/RAC, namely:

- elaborate further the *Information and Communication Vision* of the MSSD into a *Strategy*.
- design and implement a series of IC "pilot" activities aimed at validating the proposed IC strategy for the MSSD and at the same time increasing MSSD visibility, including options for improvement based on lessons learned.

The idea has been, and continues to be, to progressively test and share the strategy with the various parties and partners and therefore ensure, through a participatory approach, its final formulation.

Based on the above premise, the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention has provided a unique opportunity and 'showcase' for the overall communication and information strategy for the MSSD and for UNEP/MAP activities, as well as for the objectives of Barcelona Convention. The event has been used as catalyser for reaching out and communicating with the Mediterranean community and marking a new era of enhanced public awareness and participation.

In 2006, INFO/RAC main activities in the three focal areas as they relate to the MSSD were:

Information and Communication Technology

1. User and Technology Assessment, and finalization of the most viable and appropriate Design Options for *InfoMAP* - the common information sharing infrastructure/network;
2. Inputs, Design, Implementation and updating of the MSSD website/intranet/CMS (www.medstrategy.org);

Information, Education and Public Participation

1. Development of the Information and Communication Strategy Vision for the MSSD;
2. Agreement with the renowned advertising agency "Bates" to come up with the creative layout of a format for an awareness raising campaign for the MSSD at no production cost;
3. Production of *EcoMedia Magazine* a "one stop on-line shop" to exchange views and comments on the MSSD and its integration in the website/intranet/CMS www.medstrategy.org (in English, French, Italian and Arabic);
4. Production (at no cost), translation in different languages and dissemination in various countries of a special issue of *EcoMedia Magazine* -"FOTOCult"-focusing on MSSD issues;
5. Organization of the *Mediterranean Environment Award* in September 2006, in Turkey;
6. Organization of the first edition of *BLUEweek-MEDday* (17th -21st September) in Antalya-Turkey;
7. *MEDITERRANEA*, a video commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Barcelona Convention;
8. Media Conferences: Whales conservation in the Mediterranean Sea (Tunisia); Park Life (Italy); Red Coral protection (Tunisia); Clean Up and Scoop the Med (Cyprus); International Round Table at "Stelle di Mare lungo il fiume" (Italy); Dossier on the State of Health of Mediterranean Coasts (Greece); Lebanon environmental crisis (Italy), Monk Seal Conservation (Turkey) and Press Briefing on Industrial Pollution (Egypt).

The development of InfoMAP and the creation of the MSSD IC Strategy are unique opportunities to raise the profile of MSSD and NSSD and the leading role and achievements of MEDU in this respect. During the Steering Committee meeting INFO/RAC will update the members about the status reached in the development of the strategy based on the "MSSD IC Vision" which will be presented to the 12th Meeting of

the MCSD for review and approval before it is submitted to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.

J. *Integrated Coastal Zone Management*

The major activity of PAP/RAC with regard to the implementation of MSSD was the establishment of the negotiation process for the ICZM Protocol. This activity was recommended by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in November 2005. The adoption of the ICZM Protocol is also the most important task of the MSSD related to the coastal area management. The Governments Designated Experts' Group was established. Several regional NGOs as well as international organizations are actively participating in the negotiation process. Two meetings of the group took place in 2006 and a commendable progress has been achieved. The third meeting will take place in mid February 2007. At the moment, there is a distinct possibility that the Protocol could be signed by the end of 2007.

PAP/RAC is also actively involved in the awareness raising activity in the SMAP III programme, which is financed by EU, as well as in the preparation of the forthcoming GEF project where ICZM component is very pronounced. Both activities place great emphasis on the ICZM Protocol negotiation, signing and implementation. Having the above in mind it is questionable whether the establishment of an ICZM thematic working group would, in this moment, substantively help increase the focus on ICZM in the region. It would be advisable if this working group could be established at a later stage when the ICZM priority issues could be more clearly identified, particularly after the ICZM Protocol negotiation process will be completed.

III. 12TH MCSD MEETING

1. Preparation of the next MCSD meeting

The organization of the next MCSD meeting needs very serious consideration. By next May when the MCSD meeting will be held, the draft documents elaborated by the post session drafting committee set up in Catania as part of the process of the external evaluation of MAP, would be in an advanced stage of preparation. The various alternatives for MCSD mandate, composition and rules of procedures would already be known to those MCSD members who are also MAP Focal Points but not to the others. Therefore, the MCSD meeting will be informed about the proposed recommendations to the meeting of MAP Focal Points, including the draft mandate and composition of the MCSD.

In the preparation for the next meeting, the following suggestions made during the last MCSD meeting in Nicosia should be taken into consideration:-

- a. Revise the meeting format taking full advantage of the Steering Committee in the preparation of the next meeting;

- b. Address a limited number of issues or themes related to MSSD implementation, allowing for more time for discussions possibly during breakout sessions;
- c. Limit the number of focused presentations and resort to non- MAP actors/institutions when appropriate;
- d. Discuss sustainable development solutions or alternatives elaborated by the coordinated RACs;
- e. Coordinate RACs presentations into a single presentation giving a sense of the entire MAP system strategizing and synergizing towards addressing implementation issues and solutions;
- f. Invite UN agencies or regional institutions that are well positioned on the key issues thus promoting the establishment of an interagency platform;
- g. Strive to involve more local actors and the business sector.

The Members of the Steering Committee will be invited to discuss these suggestions with a view to making recommendations to the Secretariat with respect to the preparation of the next and future meetings of the MCSD.

2. Proposed Agenda

In line with the UN Secretary General's call as reiterated by the Executive Director of UNEP to mobilize the whole UN family to move forward the climate change debate and in view of the importance of the subject matter to the Mediterranean, the Secretariat would like to propose for the consideration of the members of the Steering Committee that the main topic of discussion at the next meeting of the MCSD should be "Climate Change in the Mediterranean Basin" as it relates to energy, water, rural development and coastal zone management. This will also be in conformity with the UNCSD's and MCSD's thematic programme of work both of which list climate change as a thematic issue to be developed during the cycle 2006/2007. This approach of addressing issues in parallel with those dealt with by the UNCSD had been advocated several times by the MCSD members.

Climate Change in the Mediterranean Basin

It is acknowledged world wide that the most critical global challenge of our time is climate change. In a recently published report the European Union predicts that the continent will be devastated by climate change.

With respect to the Mediterranean the same report says tourism is expected to suffer because the temperatures will be too hot for holidays, countries may be losing their agriculture because of drought conditions and may face major threats as a result of sea-level rise.

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the multilateral framework for addressing all aspects of climate change, the Earth's climate system has changed on both global and regional scales.

Priority field of action 2.1 of the MSSD deals with ensuring sustainable management of energy and mitigating of and adapting to the effects of climate change. The objectives

under this field of action related to climate change include the control, stabilization and reduction, as appropriate, of greenhouse gasses and mainstreaming of measures for adaptation to climate change in national development plans.

More specifically, the MSSD invites Mediterranean countries to cooperate in the implementation of the UNFCCC and flexibility mechanism of its Kyoto Protocol, to prepare for the post 2012 phase and direct towards the region investment designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also calls for the development of synergies with the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MED REP), the Rome Mediterranean Energy Platform (REMPEP) and the Euro Mediterranean Energy Policy.

With regard to adaptation to climate change, the objectives of the MSSD are the mainstreaming of the concept in national policies and the development of plans to anticipate risks and adapt the most exposed Mediterranean areas, especially islands, deltas and arid agricultural zones to climate change.

Blue Plan has already covered substantial ground on the thematic issue of climate change along with energy. A sub-regional workshop on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in the southern Mediterranean countries – strengths and weaknesses – challenges and prospects” was organized last May under the aegis of the MCSD with the support of ADEME, CEA, OME and IMUT. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the CDM situation in the region, to share experiences and, with the stakeholders and specialists concerned, to assess the questions of the operational implementation of the CDM projects in order to enable the region to benefit as much as possible from this mechanism.

The purpose of focusing on the subject of “Climate Change in the Mediterranean Basin” at the 12th Meeting of the MCSD is for the Commission members to be appraised of the possible effects of climate change in this region and to consider proposing to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties policy options and/or possible actions on how to respond to the challenge of climate change at the regional level.

BP/RAC will introduce the topics for discussion to the meeting of the MCSD, to be followed by a discussion that will draw on the work already done by BP/RAC on climate change as it relates to energy, water, rural development and costal zone management.

If appropriate, breakout sessions will be organized to give the opportunity to the MCSD members to discuss these issues possibly with the objective to develop policy recommendations for submission to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

IV. MCSD AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF MAP FOCAL POINTS

In the report on the external evaluation of MAP, which was discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points in Catania (11-14 November, 2006), a number of recommendations were made regarding the future role of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. Draft amendments to the Terms of Reference of the MCSD were also proposed for the Catania meeting.

As was to be expected, these recommendations elicited an interesting and lively debate with most of the participants taking part in the discussion. For the benefit of the members

of the MCSD Steering Committee who are not MAP Focal Points and therefore not privy to the discussions that took place at the Catania meeting, the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the Steering Committee the following main points that emerged from the debate as reflected in the report of the Catania meeting:

Support was expressed for the recommendation that the MCSD should be an advisory body to the Contracting Parties on policy and technical issues and a mechanism for assessment, monitoring and evaluation. The MCSD's unique character as a regional forum bringing together representatives of governments, NGOs, civil society and the business sector should be fully exploited through, for instance the forging of partnerships.

Some speakers felt that the main problem besetting the MCSD was the tendency of MAP components not to consider it as part and parcel of the MAP system. The plenary meetings of the MCSD had also fallen short of expectations and that improved agenda setting was needed. An effort should also be made to attract a variety of stakeholders and high profile personalities. It was the common view that synergy should be promoted with the UNCSO.

Some speakers suggested changing the composition of the MCSD to a small group of eminent people nominated by the Contracting Parties but not necessarily their own nationals. Others suggested that eminent people be invited from time to time on particular issues with no permanent status. Another view was that the Commission should continue as it was and nominate or establish a consultation committee of eminent people. Several participants stated that the membership should reflect the geographical distribution of the Contracting Parties.

It was stressed that there should be increased representation of stakeholders such as local authorities, economic actors, the scientific community, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. It was suggested that a profile and selection criteria for membership should be developed and circulated to Focal Points, who would handle administrative matters, the selection of experts and the channeling of information on behalf of the Commission.

It was argued that the MCSD should be a forum for decision-making at the highest possible political level based on clear advice from MCSD working and expert groups which should not be composed purely of technical members but of competent national representatives not only from governments but also from independent consultants, representatives of NGOs, civil society and the business sector. Care should also be taken to avoid proliferation of expert groups and other existing bodies.

Most speakers agreed that the Commission should hold regular meetings every two years with the option of additional meetings being called on an ad hoc basis.

The meeting agreed that the Drafting Committee set up in Catania should develop a number of limited options regarding the retention or amendment of existing set-up, composition and membership, nomination procedure, selection criteria for eminent personalities, rules of procedure, mandate of the MCSD and its relationship with MEDU and other MAP components. The options should be presented in a concise form, setting out the pros and cons of each option.

Pending the outcome of the work of the Drafting Committee on the MCSD following the Catania meeting, the members of the Steering Committee are invited to express their views on the above points. Once the draft documents on the future role and composition of the MCSD are available they will be circulated to the members of the MCSD for their comments in anticipation of the next MCSD meeting.

V. MSSD AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE “HORIZON 2020”

A very important development with respect to the status of the MSSD was the strong endorsement of the strategy by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment and other heads of delegation participating in the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Cairo on 20 November 2006.

In the Cairo Declaration adopted at the end of the Ministerial meeting, participants recognized the preparation by UNEP/MAP of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development that was endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and supported by the 10th Anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Summit) and commit to implement the MSSD in conjunction with national strategies for sustainable development.

Ministers and other heads of delegations agreed also to work to achieve the implementation of the timetable for de-pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020 through, inter-alia, the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and the MSSD in close coordination with the UNEP/MAP as well as through strengthening synergies with other strategic regional initiatives and programmes such as the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategic Partnership.

MAP components, in particular MED POL which has a leading role in the Horizon 2020 timetable through its Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP MED) will coordinate their initiatives with other institutions in the implementation of the different components within the framework of the Joint Work Programme between UNEP/MAP and the European Commission.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Programme Officer (MCSD)

Due to the delay in the process for the recruitment of the Sustainable Development Officer for the MCSD and the proximity of the Nicosia meeting of the MCSD in May, 2006 it was felt necessary to extend the engagement of M. Philippe Alirol as Senior Sustainable Development Officer. M. Alirol's temporary assignment had expired at the end of December 2005 and was extended till the end of November 2006.

At their last meeting in Porotoz, Slovenia, the Contracting Parties had agreed that the position of temporary Sustainable Development Officer, which was due to expire at the end of February, 2006, would be extended until the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 to be filled following an open call for applications. The call for

applications was issued in line with the UN rules and regulations, publicized on the "Galaxy" the UN Vacancy Announcement website, and brought to the attention of MAP Focal Points. Many applications were received. Four candidates were short listed and called for an interview last January. A recommendation of the successful candidate will be made to UNEP after which the successful applicant will come on board in time to work on the preparations for the next meeting of the MCSD.

2. OECD/UNCSD Expert Meeting

During his assignment as Senior Sustainable Development Officer with MEDU, M. Philippe Alirol represented the Secretariat at the OECD/UNCSD Expert meeting on institutionalizing sustainable development.

The purpose of the workshop, sponsored by the governments of Sweden and Canada was to provide input to the work of the programmes of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) on national sustainable development strategies, specifically the identification of effective governance structures and implementation measures.

Through various presentations and group work, the workshop aimed at taking stock of NSSD processes, sharing good practice and identifying the way forward. The focus was on the following issues:

1. Good practices in governance structures for National Sustainable Development;
2. Good practices in monitoring and reviewing National Sustainable Development Strategies;
3. Developing and implementing National Sustainable Development Strategies in Developing Countries.

Different UNEP/MAP sustainable development related publications were made available to the participants, namely the Review and Assessment of NSSD in the Mediterranean region (2005) and the MSSD.

ANNEX I	
Agenda of the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation, Athens, 3-4 October 2006	
Tuesday 3 October	
09.00-09.45	Welcome. Opening remarks. Introduction of participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic implication of Portoroz meeting Paul Mifsud • Presentation of the participants • Agenda and organization of the session Philippe Alirol • NSSD components and situation in the Region
09.45-11.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1: Ensuring political commitment and engaging the key government actors</p> <p><i>This session will explore how to achieve political support through e.g. placement of overall responsibility, involvement of politicians (e.g. Parliament and local authorities) and legislative underpinning. This session will also discuss how and when to involve relevant sector ministries as well as Planning and Finance Ministries (including interagency co-ordination, assignment of responsibility through Steering Committee)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction Philippe Alirol • countries' experience Egypt, Malta, Montenegro, Syria • group work • plenary discussion
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-13.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 2: Involving the Stakeholders</p> <p><i>This session will explore how and when to involve different stakeholders, including the business sector, at the different levels. It will discuss in particular: 1) the identification of relevant stakeholders; 2) the possible consultation mechanisms (e.g. national forum of council) and 3) when in the process involvement is mostly required.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction Philippe Alirol • countries' experience Egypt, Malta, Montenegro, Syria • group work • plenary discussion
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break
14.30-15.00	Session 2: Involving the Stakeholders (continued)
15.00-16.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 3: Assessing SD issues, priorities and options</p> <p><i>This session will explore how to review the sustainable development situation on the basis of existing knowledge and resources as well as the current policy frameworks. The following topics will be addressed: 1) policy review and analysis (including the role of expert work); 2) addressing cross-sector issues; 3) taking into account local level concerns; 4) integration into the national policy making including sector policies and programmes, NSSD synergies with other overall frameworks (international, regional and national: e.g. Horizon 2020, MDGs and PRS, MSSD and EU SSD. The session will also briefly discuss issues ranking (e.g. through score cards) as well as options and consistency analysis concerning proposed measures, pilot action and programmes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction Philippe Alirol • countries' experience Egypt, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Syria • group work • plenary discussion
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break
17.00-17.30	Session 3: Assessing SD issues and priorities (continued)
17.30-18.00	Individual work

Wednesday 4 October	
09.00-10.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 4: Developing a common SD understanding and vision</p> <p><i>Taking the specific example of press relation the session will explore what awareness raising, information and communication activities have worked and why.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction Luisa Colasimone UNEP/MAP • countries' experience Egypt, Malta, Montenegro, Spain, Syria • plenary discussion facilitation: Mr Ray Bugeja, Times of Malta
10.00-11.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 5: Organising and managing the formulation and implementation process</p> <p><i>The session will explore the following topics:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key Tasks of NSSD formulation 2. Roadmap 3. NSSD Secretariat/unit: function and coordination role, financial and human resources 4. Preparation of NSSD documents: Vision and Framework Orientations, specific studies, drafting Strategy document (merging expert work and consultation process, priority setting and making trade-offs) 5. Monitoring arrangements 6. Mobilisation of financial sources for the preparation and the implementation of NSSD (costing, linking NSSD to budget processes, new role of donors and IFIs support as emerging from the Paris Declaration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction (steps in NSSD formulation, MoU elements) Philippe Alirol • countries' experience (topics 3 to 6) Egypt, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Syria • group work • plenary discussion
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-13.00	Session 5: Organising and managing the formulation and implementation process (continued)
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break
14.30-16.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 6: The way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual work (countries supported by the facilitators will outline the formulation process and prepare a draft roadmap. All participants identify the support they would require from resources in the region, including from the MAP system) • Plenary discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia • Establishment of a NSSD community of practices (what, how, linkages to existing networks and institutions, particularly MCSD) • Elements for the preparation of the Regional Workshop 2007
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break
17.00-17.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 7: Final</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the 1st SD Working Session • Concluding remarks Paul Mifsud

ANNEX II

MCS D programme of work

as adopted by the Contracting Parties (8-11 November 2005, Portoroz, Slovenia)

During the last 10 years, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D) covered the following priority issues built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region:

- Sustainable management of coastal zones
- Management of water demand
- Sustainable development indicators
- Sustainable tourism
- Information, public awareness, environmental education and public participation
- Free trade and the environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Context
- Industry and sustainable development
- Management of urban development

For each one of these priorities issues, Working Groups were established with mostly the support of MAP Components, respective sets of recommendations and proposals for action were prepared and submitted to the Contracting Parties meetings that generally adopted them with minor amendments in some cases.

Then, considering the importance of the issue, it was agreed to work on "Financing and cooperation for sustainable development" for which a Working Group was established, resulting in an in-depth analysis with a series of proposals.

Moreover, while following the implementation of some of the recommendations by concerned MAP components, such as "water", "coastal management", "industry" and "indicators", the MCS D members agreed that, until a new programme of work is defined, the following issues could be considered without necessarily establishing at this stage specific Working Groups; These concern:

- Local management and governance
- Agriculture and rural development
- Waste management
- Management and prevention of natural risks

Actually, some progress was made with regard to the first two issues, respectively by PAP/RAC and BP/RAC. These would need to be considered in the framework of the new MCS D programme of work.

Following the proposals of the MCS D and in conformity with the decision of the Contracting Parties, a Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) has been prepared. The strategy outlines the main needs and challenges in the region and identifies four major objectives and sets of actions to be carried out in seven priority fields of action as follows:

- Better management of water resources and demand
- Better management of energy demand and the mitigation of the effects of climate change
- Sustainable mobility through appropriate transport management
- Sustainable tourism as a leading economic sector
- High quality agriculture and sustainable rural development
- Sustainable urban development
- Sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources.

The multi-year programme of work for the MCSD gives due consideration to the objectives/orientations and actions for the seven interdependent priority areas of action of the MSSD, the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the UNCSD Programme of work, and their adaptation to the Mediterranean context.

The UNCSD's multi-year programme of work is as follows:

<i>Cycle</i>	<i>Thematic cluster</i>
2004/2005	Water; Sanitation; Human Settlements
2006/2007	Energy; Industrial Development; Climate change
2008/2009	Agriculture; Rural Development; Desertification
2010/2011	Transport; Waste Management; Consumption and Production
2012/2013	Biodiversity; Biotechnology; Tourism; Mountains
2014/2015	Marine Resources
2016/2017	Overall appraisal of implementation

The new thematic programme of work for the MCSD will cover the next 6 years, organized on the basis of two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues from the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as set out in the table below.

In each cycle, the thematic clusters of issues will be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account multiple challenges, including those related to environment and culture, but also demographic, economic and social concerns and finally globalization, regional cooperation and governance.

As for the UNCSD programme of work, the MCSD will function on the basis of two-year "Implementation Cycles", including Review and Policy Years. The "Review" year of the cycle will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying constraints, obstacles and barriers. The second year, the "Policy" one, will define policy measures to speed up implementation and mobilize necessary means for action to overcome these constraints, obstacles and barriers.

However, for issues for which MAP and its partners have already cumulated enough analytical knowledge, such as for water, marine pollution and coastal management, the first year of the cycle could be devoted immediately to Policy issues and the second year would concentrate on pilot actions.

The purpose is to consider each issue in the overall framework of the MSSD and in an integrated manner, fully addressing cross-cutting issues as well. These cross-cutting issues, as presented in the last column of the tables, concern mainly governance, implementation mechanisms and means, as well as information, communications, education and participatory processes.

It is proposed to have about 4 thematic issues per biennium (up to 6 in 2006/2007 so as to allow for the preparation of the overall review in 2010/11) that could be dealt with in the following manner. Concerned MAP Components would be leading centres, with interested members of the MCSD partner groups (national governments, local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors) and other regional programmes/centres. Ad hoc working groups could be set up, where necessary, with clear mandates and limited time frames, upon consultation with the MCSD Steering Committee. ERS/RAC will be fully involved in the cross-cutting issues related to information and communication, in line with the new tasks to be approved by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Finally, it is important to note that the work of the MCSD does not only consist in its thematic programme. Actually, besides coordinating and providing support to the activities of the thematic

working groups and respective Support Centers, the Secretariat has induced the countries and NGOs to prepare brochures in various languages on sustainable development policies and institutions, through a participatory approach, providing to that end guidance, technical and financial support.

A strategic Review for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region was undertaken in 1999-2000, ending up with the Mediterranean Declaration for the WSSD. Soon after the World Summit, the Secretariat has launched the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; this process has included several working sessions and workshops that resulted in the preparation of the "Vision", the "Framework Orientations", the Strategic Thematic Notes for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region and finally the report of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. Throughout this process, the Secretariat has been encouraging and, as appropriate, providing support for multi-stakeholders national consultations as well as for the NGOs. Moreover, a regional Review of National Strategies was undertaken and technical and financial assistance were extended to several countries for the preparation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, the Secretariat will keep on undertaking a series of specific tasks besides those of the Secretariat and the coordination of the thematic programme of work. These would encompass:

- ✓ Organizing and servicing the meetings of the MCSD and its Steering Committee, as well as major regional workshops;
- ✓ Communicating about MCSD activities and outputs, at global, regional and national levels;
- ✓ Informing about Partnership initiatives relevant to MSSD and the Mediterranean;
- ✓ Undertaking regional reviews and assessments on sustainable development progress and achievements;
- ✓ Following the implementation of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action;
- ✓ Inducing and providing technical and financial support to countries and major groups for, as appropriate, awareness raising, consultations between stakeholders, publications and preparation of NSSDs;
- ✓ Mobilization of additional funds for MCSD activities.

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK – GENERAL/COORDINATION					
Cycle	Secretariat Activities	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2005/ 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Information and Communication • Regional reviews and assessments • Support to Countries and partners • Follow-up of MCS D recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service MCS D meetings and workshops • Regional reviews and assessments of NSSDs • Induce and provide support to countries and partners • Follow support to and implementation of MSSD • Improve visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service 11th MCS D meeting and meeting of Steering Committee • Finalize and publish Regional Review • Provide technical and financial assistance for preparation of NSSDs to at least 2 countries • Organize regional workshop on NSSDs • Follow and induce consultation process for MSSD support and commitments by Parties and Partners • Undertake cost/benefit analysis of selected policies • Publish MSSD report and off-prints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat (MEDU) • Concerned MAP Components • Metap • Other Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
2006/ 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Information and Communication • Support to Countries and partners • Follow-up of MCS D recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service MCS D meetings and workshops • Induce and provide support to countries and partners • Follow support to and implementation of MSSD • Improve visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and service 12th MCS D meeting and meeting of Steering Committee • Provide technical and financial assistance for preparation of NSSDs to at least 2 countries • Follow implementation of MSSD at regional and national levels • Undertake cost/benefit analysis of selected policies • Organize information and awareness-raising campaigns on MCS D activities in general and implementation/follow-up of MSSD in particular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat (MEDU) • Concerned MAP Components • Metap • Other Partners 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2005/ 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize water demand management • Integrated water resources management • Access to water and sanitation • Promote water management governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Implement water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry & tourism • Establish appropriate fiscal/pricing systems • Reduce unnecessary losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • MEDPOL • IME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in NSSD • Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies • Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the Mediterranean areas to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • MEDREP • OME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships • Eliminate operational pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships, according to the related agreed timetable. • Increase of EU aid and support for its implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REMPEC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Area Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Strengthen systems and capacities for their implementation • Promote laws, mechanisms and tools for ICZM in countries which do not yet have them • Assess the vulnerability of coastal zones to natural and technological risks, prohibit construction in high-risk areas and integrate risk prevention into urban development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • MEDU • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2006/ 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilize water demand management • Integrated water resources management • Access to water and sanitation • Promote water management governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Implement water saving techniques in irrigation and involving industry & tourism • Establish appropriate fiscal/pricing systems • Reduce unnecessary losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • IME • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC Other Partners to be identified?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish overall and sectoral objectives for the promotion of rational energy use and the development of renewable energies in NSSD • Mainstream the concept of adaptation to climate change in national policies • Develop plans to anticipate risks and adapt the Mediterranean areas to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDREP • MEDU • OME • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and combat marine pollution from ships • Eliminate operational pollution from ships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from ships, according to the related agreed timetable. • Request an increase of EU aid and support for its implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REMPEC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Area Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Strengthen systems and capacities for their implementation • Promote laws, mechanisms and tools for ICZM in countries which do not yet have them • Assess the vulnerability of coastal zones to natural and technological risks, prohibit construction in high-risk areas and integrate risk prevention into urban development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • MEDU • Other Partners to be identified 	

2006/ 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products • Promote productive and rational agriculture • Improve rural development and local governance • Promote sustainable management of rural areas & the Mediterranean natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products • Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures • Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors • Reduce the impacts of desertification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • CIHEAM • FAO • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism • Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities • Improve governance for sustainable tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCSD recommendations • Promote a more balanced distribution of tourists between destinations and throughout the year • Develop "tourism pay-back" formula • Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport (sea and air) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2007/ 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Agriculture & Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled liberalization and the promotion of high quality Mediterranean products • Promote productive and rational agriculture • Improve rural development and local governance • Promote sustainable management of rural areas & the Mediterranean natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a regional policy to enhance recognition of the quality of traditional Mediterranean agricultural products • Implement agricultural policies in developing countries aimed at rationalizing agricultural structures • Strengthen the negotiation and governance capacities of local communities and local actors • Reduce the impacts of desertification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • CIHEAM • FAO • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism • Promote the supply of sustainable tourist facilities and increase the added value of tourism for local communities • Improve governance for sustainable tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Promote a more balanced distribution of tourists between destinations and throughout the year • Develop "tourism pay-back" formula • Explore the possibility of implementing taxation systems based on transport (sea and air) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • PAP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Pollution : LBS Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and reduce land-based pollution by achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Action Programme to address Land-based Sources of Pollution, adopted in 1997 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources • Reduce pollutants from industrial sources • Equip all coastal cities with systems for the environmental management of solid waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region • Bring Mediterranean fisheries under a comprehensive ecosystem-based management system • Restore depleted Mediterranean fish stocks • Regulate the development of aquaculture so as to minimize its impacts on the environment and marine and coastal biological diversity and conflicts with other uses of coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and complete the network of protected maritime and coastal areas • Promote the creation of new generations of protected areas • Establish at least 30 SPAMI at the end of 2012 • Ensure the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by international organizations and networks • Encourage fishery and aquaculture good practices respectful of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • IUCN • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCSO PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Compon-ents & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2008/ 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate and plan expected urban growth • Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities • Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities • Improve urban governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCSO recommendations • Promote urban spatial planning which articulates transport planning policies • Promote the identity of Mediterranean cities internationally • Promote sustainable urban transport • Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • MEDU • MEDCITIES • BP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems • Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport • Decoupling transport growth & GDP growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework • Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote alternative transport systems • Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • REMPEC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marine Pollution : LBS Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and reduce land-based pollution by achieving the goals set out in the Strategic Action Programme to address Land-based Sources of Pollution, adopted in 1997 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the National Action Plans for combating pollution from land-based sources • Reduce pollutants from industrial sources • Equip all coastal cities with systems for the environmental management of solid waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDPOL • MEDU • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region • Bring Mediterranean fisheries under a comprehensive ecosystem-based management system • Restore depleted Mediterranean fish stocks • Regulate the development of aquaculture so as to minimize its impacts on the environment and marine and coastal biological diversity and conflicts with other uses of coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and complete the network of protected maritime and coastal areas • Promote the creation of new generations of protected areas • Establish at least 30 SPAMI at the end of 2012 • Ensure the coordination and synergy of activities carried out by international organizations and networks • Encourage fishery and aquaculture good practices respectful of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPA/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • IUCN • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES

Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Compon-ents & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2009/ 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate and plan expected urban growth • Enhance the value of the heritage of Mediterranean cities • Improve the quality of life and reduce inequalities • Improve urban governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review implementation of previous MCS D recommendations • Promote urban spatial planning which articulates transport planning policies • Promote the identity of Mediterranean cities internationally • Promote sustainable urban transport • Strengthen opportunities for political action at the urban level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • MEDU • MEDCITIES • BP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach and Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Approach - Participatory Approach - Governance - Civil society, NGOs & Private Sector • Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Public Vs Private Resources - International Cooperation - Tax Related Resources - Debt Reconversion - Innovative Financial Means - Technological Transfer & Acquisition - Research & Development - Training & Capacity Building • Implementation and Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indicators - Information, Communication and Awareness raising - Pilot Actions - Partnership projects and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Transports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Euro-Mediterranean transport systems • Improve the integration of road, rail and sea transport • Decoupling transport growth & GDP growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean transport framework • Support investment and incentive policies to stabilize or reduce the share of road transport and promote alternative transport systems • Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BP/RAC • MEDU • REMPEC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy-saving policies and renewable energies • Access to electricity • Support Kyoto Protocol implementation • Adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage economic actors and domestic consumers to adopt sustainable energy-saving habits and approaches • Encourage economic mechanisms/regulations designed to promote renewable energies • Support investment to improve access to electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDREP • MEDU • OME • BP/RAC • CP/RAC • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Area Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the balanced and integrated management & development of coastal zones • Guarantee unhindered access to the coast for everyone • Preserve, enhance or restore the coastal heritage • Avoid linear and continuous urbanization • Reduce the vulnerability of sensitive areas to natural risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote integrated management approaches & projects for coastal zones & catchments areas • Implement specific plans for the sustainable management and development of islands • Prevent continuous and linear urbanization of coastal areas • Enhance the heritage of coastal areas, including traditional productive activities which form part of its identity, maintain agricultural and wooded green belts and establish ecological corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAP/RAC • MEDU • ERS/RAC • Other Partners to be identified 	

MCS D PROGRAMME OF WORK- THEMATIC ISSUES					
Cycle	Thematic Cluster	Objectives/Orientations	Proposed Actions	MAP Components & potential support centres	Cross-Cutting Issues
2010/2011					

OVERALL REVIEW OF MSSD

Proposed Draft Agenda

12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007

Date	Wednesday, 30th May 2007
09.00 – 0930	1. Opening of the meeting 1.1. Election of the Steering Committee 1.2. Agenda and Organisation of the meeting 1.3. Brief presentation of the Secretariat report
09.30 – 11.00	2. MCSD and MAP 2.1 Recommendations of the Extraordinary meeting of the MAP FPs 2.2 Recommendations on the proposed amendments to the ToR of the MCSD and modus operandi 2.3 Discussion
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	3. Climate Change in the Mediterranean basin 3.1 Presentation by Guest Speaker on Climate Change 3.2 Discussion and presentation of the breakout session which will propose recommendations to the Contracting Parties
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch Break
14.30 – 1600	Breakout sessions on i. Energy and Climate Change ii. Water and Climate Change
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break
16.30 – 18.00	Breakout sessions on iii. Climate Change and Rural Development iv. Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management
18.00	End of Day One

Date	Thursday, 31 May 2007
09.00 – 11.00	Presentations from the Breakout sessions i, ii, iii, iv Discussion on proposed recommendations
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00	4. Implementation of the MCSD Programme of Work 4.1 Progress in NSSD formulation and implementation 4.2 Presentation of the report on the 3 rd Regional Workshop “Water and Sustainable Development” and on the final regional expert’s meeting on energy 4.3 Progress report on thematic indicators 4.4 Image and Visibility of the MCSD and MSSD Discussion
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.00	Adoption of main conclusions of the 12 th Meeting of the MCSD Closure of the meeting.