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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to  
the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean  
and its Protocols

Marrakesh (Morocco), 3-5 November 2009

**Draft**

**Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean  
Commission on Sustainable Development**







# **United Nations Environment Programme**



27 October 2009  
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 339/5/Corr.1  
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## **MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission  
on Sustainable Development  
Cairo, Egypt 28-30 September 2009

**Draft**

# **Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development**

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## Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the Egyptian Government, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) was held at the Grand Hyatt Cairo Hotel, Cairo, from 28 to 30 September 2009.

### Participation

2. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Commission:

Albania, Algeria, APO (Environmental Protection Services), Association of Italian Local Agenda 21, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Centre for the Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, ENDA Maghreb, European Commission, France, Friends of the Earth, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, MEDCities, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Montenegro, Morocco, RAED-Arab Network for Environment and Development, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey and the World Bank.

3. The following components of UNEP/MAP were also represented at the meeting:

MED POL Programme, Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC), Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC), Cleaner Production Regional Activity Centre (CP/RAC) and the Secretariat of the Programme for the Protection of Coastal Historic Sites (100HS)

4. The following United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and other partners attended the meeting as observers;

United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Environment Programme/Climate Change Unit (UNEP/CCAUI), United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Fund (UNEP/GEF), IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation and the University of Alexandria.

5. A full list of participants is contained in **Annex I** to the present report.

### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting**

6. Ms Maria Luisa Silva (Officer-in-Charge, Deputy Coordinator of MAP) thanked the Government of Egypt for its kind invitation to host the current session of the MCSD and for assisting in its organization. In particular, she thanked Ms Mawaheb Abu Elazm, Chief Executive Officer of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, who was to chair the meeting.

7. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. by Mr Ufuk Kucukay, outgoing President of the MCSD Steering Committee, who said that the peoples of the Mediterranean were becoming increasingly aware that it was not possible to keep using resources or building up coastal areas without an adequate, integrated plan, reduced North-South disparities and policy reform. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was therefore an



important guide for countries in preparing their own strategies and initiating partnerships. The full text of Mr Kucukay's statement is contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

8. Ms Abu Elazm, Chairperson of the meeting, called attention to the serious threats to the environment of climate change caused by greenhouse gases. A united effort was required of all governments, financing institutions, research centres and United Nations agencies. Although much of current discussion concerned mitigation measures, adaptation measures were equally important, and she urged the meeting to prepare a practical workplan for the countries of the Mediterranean. The full text of Ms Abu Elazm's statement is contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

9. Ms Silva described the progress that had been achieved in the MCSD programme of work in the past biennium and introduced the theme for the current session, "Climate change experiences and strategies in the Mediterranean". She said that adaptation to unavoidable climate change was being recognized as a global priority in parallel to mitigation of the effects of greenhouse emissions. In that respect, the programmes that had been launched in the Nile Delta were praiseworthy. The full text of Ms Silva's statement is contained in **Annex III** to the present report.

10. Mr Mohammed El Raye, (Professor of Environmental Physics, University of Alexandria) in his keynote address on climate change, referred in particular to the special vulnerability of the Nile Delta and coastal regions of Egypt to the impact of climate change. Water resources, food security, coastal zones, public health and tourism would all be severely affected by the rise in sea levels and other impacts of climate change, including more frequent khamsin (dust storm) seasons. He therefore recommended: the establishment of a national crisis management centre for the coordination and harmonization of adaptation policies and measures; the strengthening of national capacities for adaptation to climate change, with emphasis on disaster reduction, early warning and law enforcement; the planning of new development centres to accommodate potential migration from low-lying vulnerable areas; and the development and adoption of strategic assessments with a climate change component. Mr El Raye's full presentation is contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6 to the present report.

## **Agenda item 2 : Election of the Steering Committee**

11. In accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure and following the customary consultations, the Commission elected its new Steering Committee, as follows:

President:	Ms Mawaheb Abu Elazm (Egypt)
Vice-Presidents:	President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Mr. J-L Buceta, Spain until the Meeting of the Contracting Parties; Morocco (thereafter) Ms J. Knezevic (Montenegro) Mr E. Adly (Arab Network for Environment and Development, RAED) Mr D. Subašić (Environmental Protection Services, APO)
Rapporteur:	Mr E. D'Alessio (Italian Local Agenda 21)

**Agenda item 3: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

12. During consideration of this item, it was specified that ongoing and planned activities in conjunction with other initiatives in the region would be discussed under agenda item 6, in order to ensure synergy. Issues such as the acidification of marine water and impact on biodiversity would be discussed under agenda item 5.

13. The agenda contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.339/1 was adopted. The agenda appears as **Annex II** to the present report.

**Agenda item 4: Report by the Secretariat on the progress achieved, sustainable development activities and emerging issues**

14. The Secretariat, introducing document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 339/3, said that the relevant recommendations proposed to the present meeting for consideration would focus on the thematic areas of the MCSD Programme of Work covered recently, namely tourism, agriculture and rural development and climate change.

15. Mr Henri-Luc Thibault (Director, Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre, BP/RAC), presenting activities related to the themes set out in the programme of implementation of the MSSD, emphasized the unique opportunity offered by the MCSD to bring together all the actors concerned from around the Mediterranean. The work carried out was playing a crucial role in providing information to important actors, including representatives of civil society, putting them in a better position to push forward important initiatives for the implementation of sustainable development and measures of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Such information was being disseminated widely through publications, and also through targeted messages to decision-makers, for example at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean in July 2008. Mr Thibault's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

16. Mr Nicos Geordiades (UNEP/MAP Consultant) introduced the updated review and assessment of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs) in the Mediterranean (document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 339/Inf.3). He observed that, while the number of NSSDs prepared or revised had increased markedly over recent years, mainly in response to regional processes such as European initiatives, there was little evidence that they had been influenced by the MSSD and it was too early to be able to assess their outcomes on the ground. With the exception of those in France, Montenegro and Slovenia, most NSSDs still focused on the environmental component, without taking economic planning sufficiently into account. Few processes were as yet driven by stakeholders in a bottom-up approach. However, despite evident problems, the region was now moving in the right direction. Mr Geordiades' full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6

17. During the discussion, it was agreed that, although there had been encouraging progress in the development of NSSDs, their actual implementation was slow. Most NSSDs were not legally binding and the fact that they had not been based on a broad consultation involving civil society was hindering their application in practice. National strategies should be subject to regular, broad-based review, and information on their implementation should be disseminated widely to improve public awareness of the situation and of the action needed. The development of full information on sustainable development and the impact of climate change was also important for the more effective involvement of donors in action within the region. It was added in that respect that, while the 34 indicators identified in relation to the

MSSD were intended as performance indicators, it was also necessary to quantify the value that would be added by the measures proposed on the basis of a gap analysis in all the various thematic areas, which would give an indication of not only the state of knowledge but also the state of action. Moreover, as the MCSD principally served a strategic purpose at the regional level, synergies should be developed with all the partners concerned, with particular emphasis on FAO, IFAD and the World Bank. In addition to providing developing countries in the region with assistance for the formulation and implementation of NSSDs, priority should also be given to the development of national information systems as a basis for the establishment of an effective information system at the regional level.

18. It was also emphasized that the only means of finding solutions in the short term was to focus on cases in which progress could be achieved in practice, particularly at the transboundary level. In that respect, increased emphasis on subregional action, with the integration of all the related initiatives, probably offered the most promising avenue for the development of the necessary synergies in the near future.

19. Several members of the MCSD reported on the progress made in relation to specific NSSDs. The NSSD in Tunisia had been developed on the basis of a wide range of sectoral studies, which had been discussed in the National Commission presided over by the Prime Minister. Implementation of the NSSD would begin in the first quarter of 2010. The representative of Montenegro observed that there were insufficient mechanisms in her country to link the general NSSD with the action needed at the sectoral level. The review of the NSSD in Montenegro was expected to reveal a number of problems, including the system of indicators for assessing the progress achieved. In the case of Morocco, although the NSSD had been adopted as long ago as 1998, difficulties were being experienced in finding partners to assist in the financing of the action that needed to be taken. The Arab ministers responsible for the environment had recently finalized a report on sustainable development in Arab countries, which contained extensive information on environmental indicators. The representative of France recalled that, following two generations of NSSD, the process of developing a new strategy in his country was nearing completion. While the first two generations of the NSSD had been drawn up by national institutions following consultation with advisory bodies, the most recent review had been launched by NGOs and had then been taken forward in the environmental forum known as the *Grenelle de l'Environnement*. The new strategy incorporated both sectoral and transversal policies and took the form of framework legislation covering over 200 themes. The new approach had necessitated an amendment to the Constitution and had been based on greatly increased awareness among the population and civil society.

20. Finally, it was recalled that the process of negotiating the conclusions for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen was already well advanced. For there to be any chance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the present meeting of the MCSD being taken into account at that Conference, all the members of the Commission would have to ensure that they were communicated to those at the national level who were closely involved in the Copenhagen process.

21. In response to the discussion, the Secretariat expressed optimism about the important steps being taken in the implementation of the MSSD and stressed the vital and original role played by the MCSD in bringing together the actors involved throughout the region. Although it was not yet the case that decision-makers at the highest level were necessarily using the information produced in the context of the MCSD as a reference for their decisions, the work that had been undertaken constituted an essential first step in building collective action at the regional level.

## **Agenda item 5: Climate change adaptation experiences and strategies in the Mediterranean**

### **5.1 Current state of knowledge on adaptation to climate change and main issues to be addressed - perspectives of key stakeholders**

#### *(a) Current state of knowledge: Climate change in the Mediterranean region*

22. Mr. Patrice Miran (BP/RAC) said that information provided through regional impact indicators, assessments of best environmental practices for economic activities and recent environmental research was essential to decision-making and as a basis for the elaboration of NSSDs in the Mediterranean. It was such information on vital climate issues, including changes in temperature, rainfall and soil, that enabled the development of models predicting the consequences for agricultural, fishing and other activities pursued in Mediterranean coastal regions, taking into account the impacts on sea level, vegetation, biodiversity and health. In that context, however, scant information on greenhouse-gas emissions was currently available for the Mediterranean, with the result that very little use was being made of the financing mechanisms provided for under the Kyoto Protocol. Mr Miran's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP (DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

#### *(b) Challenges and responses to adaptation in the context of the NSSD – challenges and experiences*

23. Ms Maria Dalla Costa (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)) outlined the key climate change adaptation challenges facing the region, which mirrored those contained in the Syracuse Charter, signed by G-8 Environment Ministers in April 2009. In the specific case of Italy, the impacts of expected climate change and the ensuing vulnerabilities, which she also outlined, were set forth in its fourth national communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Lastly, she provided an overview of Italy's experience in and contributions to the field, including research and other work by ISPRA. Ms. Dalla Costa's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

24. Dr Sayed Sabry Mansour (Head of Climate Change Unit, Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency) provided an overview of adaptation measures under way in Egypt, which was extremely vulnerable to climate change. The outcomes of its second national communication to UNFCCC and its national economic and environmental development study (NEEDS) would be used to prepare a climate change strategy and an action plan. An appropriate institutional structure was also being developed to pursue adaptation measures focused on coastal zones, water resources and agriculture. Dr Mansour's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6

25. Ms J. Knežević (Montenegro) emphasized the importance of clean development mechanism projects at the national level and of the other instruments and mechanisms available within the framework of the UNFCCC, with particular reference to the establishment of new financing instruments for activities at the national and regional levels. She referred to the Regional Forum for Climate Change, hosted by Montenegro, the Regional Programme for Climate Change, initiated in cooperation with UNDP, and the Conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, to be hosted by Montenegro in October 2009, as positive forms of regional cooperation that would contribute to international agreement on the post-2012 architecture. The full text of Ms Knežević's presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

26. Ms M. Astralaga (IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation) described "ecosystem-based adaptation", which was based on the identification and use of a range of strategies for the management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that allowed people to adapt to the effects of climate change. Key ecosystem services included the provision of goods, regulation and cultural aspects. Ecosystem-based adaptation was cost-effective and accessible, included both short-term solutions and long-term resilience, was based on local needs and capacities and benefited biodiversity and climate change mitigation. She gave examples of its application for various types of ecosystem in the Mediterranean region. Ms Astralaga's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/4.

27. Mr E. D'Alessio (Italian Local Agenda 21) said that, as cities consumed two thirds of the world's energy (75% by 2030) and cities were highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, local authorities were essential partners for national governments in implementing strategies to combat climate change. He described a number of international initiatives that were being undertaken by groups of city representatives. Cities and territories wished to be included in the next global protocol on climate change, as they represented the level of administration that was closest to citizens. The full text of Mr D'Alessio's presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

### **Break-out sessions on priorities, opportunities and constraints at the local, national and regional levels**

28. It was agreed that the Commission would separate into three working groups, each of which would discuss the following questions: "What are the main threats for the region?", "What kind of physical and ecological observations and indicators are necessary?", "What kind of policies, laws and programmes are needed?", "How can countries be assisted in incorporating climate change into national and subnational development and conservation policies and strategies?", "What is the experience of countries with adaptation strategies and how can the progress of the strategies be monitored?", "What can the region and countries do to ensure that adaptation is cost-effective?", "Are low-cost actions feasible?", "Are links and synergies needed between adaptation and mitigation?" and "What kind of contribution should civil society and the private sector make to the process?". A fourth group would hear and discuss a presentation by the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC).

29. The groups were asked to draw up recommendations and were advised to define the most appropriate level of intervention and the timeframe for each proposed action. The overall aim of the exercise was to gain a common understanding of vulnerability to climate change, identify the priorities and the lessons learned from existing adaptation strategies and propose priorities for action at the global, regional, national and local levels.

#### **5.1.2 Presentation of the results of the break-out sessions**

30. The rapporteurs of the four working groups presented the outcome of their discussions, which are set out in a matrix in **Annex VII** to this report.

31. During the discussion that followed the presentations, one speaker expressed the view that the mitigation measures adopted by developed countries should be based on legally binding measures, while those taken by developing countries should be on a voluntary basis. Another speaker added that it was important to take advantage of the current context of cooperation in relation to climate change by developing the carbon market on both shores of the Mediterranean, for example through the establishment of a Mediterranean carbon

fund. Cooperation within the region should also be reinforced in other areas, such as the exchange of technology.

32. The observer representing the World Bank recalled that consultations were currently being held in the context of its Strategic Framework on Climate Change, including one in Egypt. She emphasized the importance of taking into account all aspects of mitigation and adaptation measures, including their financing through both existing mechanisms and specific climate investment funds. An important part of reflection on climate change was how the respective policies could be reflected in other sectoral strategies. Those issues were addressed in the *World Development Report 2010: Development in a changing environment*. In view of the very large amount of financing that would be needed for both mitigation and adaptation, there was a great need to look into other ways of mobilizing the necessary funds. Moreover, attention should also be paid to the economic aspects of climate change, and more specifically to the manner in which economic growth could reduce the cost of adaptation and mitigation.

## **5.2 Strategizing, financing and acting together for adaptation**

33. , Mr Rachid Firadi (Morocco), Vice President, introducing the item, said that the Commission would consider means for implementing adaptation strategies. The presentations to follow would outline existing international mechanisms and provide examples of their application.

(a) *Adaptation under the UNFCCC: Ongoing processes/programmes and emerging future adaptation regime*

34. Ms Lu Xianfu (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC) described the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which was a five-year, action-oriented programme implemented by 130 partners. She also described the current status of negotiations for enhanced action on adaptation. Parties were agreed on certain aspects, but still had widely divergent views on, for instance, financial support, scope and institutional arrangements for adaptation; the mechanisms for drawing up national plans and their monitoring and review; and mechanisms for risk reduction, management and sharing. She concluded by describing the implications of the UNFCCC experience for the work of the MCSD. Ms Lu's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6

(b) *Current and emerging priority programmes for adaptation to climate change*

35. Ms A. Kontorov (Climate Change Adaptation Unit, UNEP), basing her remarks on the discussions at the break-out sessions the previous day, gave an overview of adaptation initiatives at the global and regional levels in order to identify challenges, lessons, opportunities and gaps for the Mediterranean region. From that point of view, she covered national adaptation strategies and action plans, integration of adaptation into policies and plans, regional strategies and networks, scientific capacity and the science-policy interface, the economics of adaptation and knowledge management and knowledge-sharing, and networking. Ms Kontorov's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

(c) *Trends in green energy – opportunities and challenges emerging from carbon markets and green State policies for the Mediterranean Sea and coastal ecosystems*

36. Ms Dahlia Lotayef (World Bank) drew attention in particular to the development challenge of climate change and how to ensure effective support for sustainable development and poverty reduction as climate risks and climate-related economic

opportunities arose. The mobilization of finance for adaptation was also a rising priority as knowledge increased, but finance remained a constraint. One essential need was to catalyse low-carbon investments and capitalize on the Clean Investment Funds (CIF) momentum. Another was to facilitate global and regional actions and interactions among all countries by increasing regional integration, achieving regional renewable energy objectives and making use of such regional opportunities as the Mediterranean Solar Plan. Ms Lotayef's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/6.

*(d) New financial architecture for adaptation to climate change*

37. Ms Mirey Atallah (United Nations Development Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF)) stressed three elements critical to the financial architecture for climate change in the Mediterranean region: the amount of available financing, governance and the predictability and timeliness of financing. The most urgent issue to be addressed was that of replenishing current funds in order to meet immediate needs. The definition of key priorities, interests and the types of regional interventions to be pursued would also increase opportunities for access to financing for adaptation purposes, which was presently underused. The development of low-carbon and carbon-resilient strategies was another important factor insofar as it would lead to the identification of bankable projects. Ms Atallah's full presentation is contained in information document UNEP(DEPI)/MED. WG 339/4 .

38. During the discussion of the presentations, emphasis was placed on the region's observably scant use of available financing opportunities. One of the main reasons for that situation was the low level of interest and participation in addressing climate change problems demonstrated by ministries and government departments other than those specifically responsible for the environment. A major problem facing the members of the MCSD was therefore to bridge the gaps that existed with the other parties that should be involved in climate change issues at the national and regional levels. While, therefore, it was encouraging to hear that there were so many financing possibilities at the global level and that so much action was being planned, much more should be done to ensure that the situation of the region was heeded by international institutions. It was one of the frustrations of those who had worked for many years in the MCSD, and who knew how innovative it had been in giving voice to the issue of sustainable development, to find that it was still an observer and lacked voice at the international level. It was useful and necessary to ensure the presence of the Mediterranean at such important gatherings as the Copenhagen summit and the meetings of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) by holding side events, but a more permanent solution needed to be found so that the concerns of the region, with its great vulnerability to climate change, were taken into account on a permanent basis by the international community. The problem of giving voice to the interests of the Mediterranean, which was not regarded as a region in its own right by the international institutions concerned, should therefore be one of the main concerns addressed by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Marrakesh.

39. A parallel concern was related to the complexity of the financial mechanisms described in the presentations and the difficulties involved in obtaining the necessary information on the opportunities available and the conditions attached to them. While none of the developing countries in the region were eligible for initiatives aimed at least developed countries, other mechanisms were available. One of the challenges facing the MCSD and MAP was accordingly how to help actors at the subregional, national and local levels to find their way through the maze of financing opportunities so that backing could be found for the actions that were needed. The GEF project offered a useful example in that respect. It was clear from the presentations that the great majority of the financial support provided for both adaptation and mitigation measures was targeted at the subnational level. It was accordingly important to pursue and develop the initiatives that were currently being taken to strengthen

capacities at the local and subnational levels, but also to ensure that they benefited from a reinforced and reinvigorated regional framework.

40. In response to the comments made by the members of the MCSD, the observers representing UNFCCC, UNDP/GEF, World Bank and UNEP noted that, while the Mediterranean was not considered a region in itself, there was still considerable interest at the global level in hearing about and taking action on the problems faced by a particularly vulnerable area. While it was undoubtedly true that the financial opportunities available were highly complex in terms of their objectives, targets and conditions for eligibility, efforts were being made to address the problem. For example, a clearing house was being developed on the UNFCCC website, and both the World Bank and UNDP were also developing more comprehensive sources of information on the various mechanisms. Moreover, even though the agreement negotiated in Copenhagen would almost certainly result in greater clarity and further opportunities for action, those opportunities would not become available immediately. In the meantime, emphasis should be given to pursuing those that were currently available. It was also stressed that greater attention should be given to policies and programmes that mainstreamed climate change action into sectoral activities in such areas as transport, urban development and sustainable agriculture. In so doing, much broader sources of financing would become available than those strictly earmarked for climate change initiatives. Finally, it was also emphasized that other sources of support needed to be mobilized. Initiatives that received international support also required considerable efforts from the countries concerned. There were also interesting cases of intraregional support, such as that of Tuscany, Italy, for certain regions in Morocco, and Greek cooperation with Egypt.

### **5.2.1 Break-out sessions on adding global perspectives to regional priorities**

41. It was agreed that the Commission would separate into three working groups, each of which would discuss the following questions: "Is there a need for a regional strategic framework for adaptation to climate change in the framework of the MSSD?", "What kind of participatory process, involving all the countries and parties, should be put in place in this respect?", "What could be done to facilitate access by the Mediterranean countries to funds to adapt to climate change?" and "How can the MCSD better facilitate, in the framework of the MSSD, inter-agency coordination and cooperation for implementing climate change actions and addressing the priorities?"

42. The groups were asked to draw up recommendations on the basis of their answers to those questions. The overall aim of the exercise was to identify measures that would allow use within Mediterranean adaptation strategies of opportunities offered by initiatives emerging from the new global adaptation regime, trends in renewable energy sources and the experience of other regions.

### **Presentation and discussion of the results of the break-out sessions**

43. The rapporteurs of the three working groups presented the results of their discussions, which were incorporated into the matrix contained in **Annex VII** of this report. With regard to the need for a new regional strategic framework, there was a divergence of opinion, two of the groups being of the view that another process was not needed, as the MSSD already defined climate change as a priority, and one stating that a new, independent regional strategic framework was needed as, at present, there was no regional coordination of national actions. The three groups agreed that full, wide discussions should be held to achieve consensus; the membership of the MCSD should be reviewed to ensure that all sectors of society participated fully in its deliberations. The MCSD could not coordinate the work of donors but could ask donors and countries to identify priorities in their action plans. It could facilitate coordination among agencies involved in climate change by disseminating its recommendations to the ministries that actually had decision-making powers. It should collect



and share information on funding opportunities, assist in the preparation of projects, identify potential partners and existing initiatives..

44. In the ensuing discussion, the need for focused direction and guidelines from the MAP Secretariat was keenly stressed as a means of enhancing synergies with adaptation measures undertaken in the region. Indeed, the active role to be played by the Secretariat in facilitating such mainstreaming efforts, not least with a view to benefiting from the funding and other opportunities offered by new actors, should be clearly identified in its work programme. The compilation of a shortlist of priorities was suggested as a way forward, and to that end the establishment of a task force was an option to be considered. Lessons could also be drawn from actions taken in other regions with similar problems, such as the Black Sea, and an adaptation strategy could be integrated into a revised version of the MSSD.

45. Meanwhile, it was essential to raise the profile of the MCSD and its work in the area of climate change in the Mediterranean. To that end, the current meeting could be publicized and recommendations concerning the MCSD's input to the forthcoming Copenhagen conference should additionally be formulated for consideration by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November. In the longer term, it was imperative to reflect on the future activity of the MCSD, which was required to deliver by addressing, inter alia, such serious issues as climate change through concerted action with partners and stakeholders, failing which it would lose all support. The opportunities available to it should therefore be seized without fail. A further suggestion made was to establish linkages between the MCSD and the Mediterranean Water Strategy, as well as the Union for the Mediterranean.

46. Ms Dahlia Lotayef (World Bank) said that the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP) represented a soft component of World Bank lending, in which it provided institutional support for agencies to conduct studies on the cost of environmental degradation. The funding under the current programme, which had begun in 1990, was due to finish in March 2010, and consultations were under way to determine whether it should be continued, responding to the needs of countries. GEF was interested in collaborating with METAP in ensuring follow-up of its activities. The new programmes would be more ambitious, covering climate change, knowledge-sharing and governance, including the mobilization of funds from private and government sources. GEF was particularly interested in water resource management. Operations were also being undertaken or planned in respect of integration of climate change considerations into solid waste and hazardous waste management. Mediterranean involvement in those areas was to be strengthened, representing a shift in the focus of METAP to sustainable development. A total of US\$ 50 million was available.

47. During the discussion that followed, several members of the MCSD re-emphasized that the variety and complexity of the financing mechanisms made it very difficult for even those who were quite closely involved to know what was really available. Moreover, most of the actions that were undertaken consisted of partnerships between national administrations and the donors concerned, leaving little or no space for the involvement of civil society, despite the fact that the few projects undertaken in collaboration with NGOs had proven to be very effective. They therefore called on the major financial institutions involved to provide easily accessible guidance on the financial opportunities available for climate change adaptation measures, including those that were tied in to action in other areas, such as water resource management, and to do more to ensure more systematic involvement of civil society.

### **Agenda item 6: MCSD thematic programme 2010-2011**

48. Ms Silva introduced the MCSD programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 339/4), noting that evaluation of the MSSD five years after its adoption was an important priority. Responding to a comment, she said that the question of financial and technical assistance for the incorporation of adaptation to climate change into national strategic plans would be addressed after a rapid assessment of the costs of such exercises. She noted that the World Bank and Blue Plan were conducting studies on the costs of adaptation.

49. Several speakers emphasized the importance of coordination and synergy with other initiatives addressing the same thematic issues as those in the MAP programme of work related to climate change and ecosystem management. The work of the MCSD should be made better known in other forums. As the Commission served as a 'think tank' for the Contracting Parties, its members must be fully abreast of policy developments and of other issues that were relevant to implementation of the obligations under the Convention and its protocols. One member welcomed the presence of representatives from other bodies at the present meeting.

50. Ms Silva, replying to a suggestion that the thematic issue 'Urban mobility and sustainable transport' be expanded to include other aspects of urban sustainable development, said that the list of thematic issues had been agreed upon at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. Reference to other urban issues could perhaps be added in the revised Strategy. In answer to a question regarding the practical arrangements for revision of the MSSD, she said that terms of reference had been drawn up by the Steering Committee, which would be revised on the basis of the discussions at the present meeting.

### **Agenda item 7: Next MCSD meeting**

51. Ms Knežević (Montenegro) announced that her country wished to invite the Commission to hold its next meeting in her country. The MCSD gratefully accepted Montenegro's offer to host its next meeting.

### **Agenda item 8: Other matters**

52. Mr Subašić (Environmental Protection Services, APO) said that the Croatian Council for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with the German Advisory Council on the Environment, would be hosting the annual meeting of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Council in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 22-24 October 2009, and he invited all members of the Commission to attend. A special session would be held on 'Environmental risks of oil and gas transport by tankers in the Adriatic and management solutions', which might be of particular interest to Commission members..

### **Agenda item 9: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

53. The Chairperson invited participants to consider a set of draft conclusions, formulated on the basis of the discussions held during the course of the meeting, on the subjects of the Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, MCSD thematic recommendations, NSSDs, the MCSD programme of work, and adaptation to climate change. Following an exchange of views during which amendments were proposed with a view to, inter alia, rectifying a perceived

imbalance in the text, a revised version of the draft conclusions was circulated for the consideration of participants.

54. In the ensuing discussion of the revised draft, it was again stressed that an action plan for tackling adaptation to climate change would be premature; priority adaptation measures for the Mediterranean region should first be identified through the regional assessment and linked with the MSSD. On the other hand, it was argued that the time had come to translate the efforts directed towards climate change into concrete action. However, as the outcome of the MSSD revision was not expected for several years, one suggestion was to establish a working group that would work in parallel with the regional assessment with a view to determining whether an action plan was needed, thereby saving valuable time.

55. The representative of Italy expressed regret that the draft conclusions contained no reference to the dramatic problem of biodiversity loss, particularly since 2010 had been declared as the International Year of Biodiversity to coincide with the 2010 biodiversity target and the United Nations General Assembly was to devote a special session to biodiversity. He also rejected any reference in the draft to an action plan for the reasons already mentioned; the correct process was to elaborate an adaptation strategy and only thereafter pursue activities for its implementation.

56. Mr Georgiades suggested that the draft conclusions might include a paragraph stating that the forthcoming review of the MSSD should be expanded to incorporate adaptation to climate change and also assessment of the necessity to enrich the MSSD with focused action plans. Such a paragraph would overcome the justifiable concerns that had been expressed on the subject and also allow for the development of any action plan deemed necessary. In short, it would address the issue of adaptation while simultaneously avoiding any firm commitment to an action plan.

57. On that basis and following further informal consultations, the meeting agreed to approve the draft conclusions, as amended, and presented as Annex III to this report.

58. The Chairperson invited discussion on an annex entitled 'Proposed MCSD input to the Marrakesh Declaration.

59. In the discussion of the revised draft, it was suggested that reference to adaptation funds should remain generic, that the establishment of other regional initiatives should also be recommended, that mention should be made of the under-use of existing funds, that a paragraph recommending the exchange of good practices should be reinstated, and that no recommendation should be made that implied a financial commitment.

60. Following an exchange of views about the proposal in the draft that the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties should make an intervention, on behalf of its Contracting Parties, to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, the observer representing the UNFCCC said that, although the Barcelona Convention was not a formal negotiating body, Morocco, which currently held the presidency, might be permitted to make an intervention. One member commented that the content of the intervention would have to be approved by all Parties before its delivery.

61. The 'Proposed MCSD input to the Marrakesh Declaration was adopted, as amended, and is contained in **Annex V** to this report.

62. In the discussion on the recommendations contained in a second annex, 'Draft decision concerning the recommendations of the 13th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) on sustainable tourism and on agricultural and rural development', one member reiterated that account should be taken of the work of

other organizations and initiatives. Responding to a request for clarification, Mr Thibault said that the recommendations were the result of working group meetings of experts, who had examined various international databases, such as those of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Environment Agency, and had identified information lacking from those databases.

63. Following discussions, a revised version was circulated, and, following informal consultations, the meeting agreed to transmit the draft decision concerning its recommendations on sustainable tourism and on agricultural and rural development, as amended, contained in **Annex VI**, of the present report, to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties for its consideration.

**Address by His Excellency Mr Maged George, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of Egypt**

64. Mr Maged George, Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of Egypt, welcomed the MCSD's focus on adaptation to climate change in view of the intensive measures that would be required to combat climate change in developing countries, especially in the Mediterranean. He therefore called for a joint statement to be made by the region at the UNFCCC Conference in Copenhagen. He added that existing programmes in such fields as water resource and coastal zone management in the region could be linked to the activities of the UNFCCC through the application of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches. He undertook to provide the necessary support for the development of new programmes to save the region from the drastic impacts of climate change. The full text of Mr. Maged George's address is contained in **Annex III** to this report.

65. Following further comments from the floor, he emphasized the need to determine the tangible role of the MCSD in action on climate change by identifying the areas in which the MCSD could support such action in the region.

**Agenda item 10: Closure of the meeting**

66. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was closed at 5 p.m. on Wednesday 30 September 2009.

**Annex I**

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, 28-30 September 2009**

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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda of the Meeting**

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Election of the officers and organization of the meeting**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 4. Report by the Secretariat on the progress achieved, sustainable development activities and emerging issues**
- 5. Climate Change Adaptation Experiences and Strategies in the Mediterranean**
- 6. MCSD Programme of Work**
- 7. Date and place of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of MCSD**
- 8. Any other business**
- 9. Adoption of conclusions and MCSD thematic recommendations**
- 10. Closure of the meeting.**

## **Annex III**

### **Speeches**





**Speech of HE Eng. Maged George – Minister of State for Environmental Affairs**

**On the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development ( MCSD)**

**Members of the Mediterranean commission for sustainable development**

**MAP secretariat**

**Distinguished guests**

**Good Afternoon,**

**It is our honor to host The 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and it is my pleasure to be among you today to wrap up the efforts of not only three days but two years . Those two years had witnessed collaborative efforts with different circumstances taking place worldwide specifically within the environment sector. To mention some of them, we launched and started up horizon 2020, neighborhood policy, institutional twinning within the EU activities, and the establishment of the adaptation fund under the UNFCCC .**

**Within the framework of today's theme, , it is not a surprise to focus on adaptation to climate change especially that most of the Mediterranean countries will require intensive adaptation measures to be able to combat climate change .**

**Nevertheless, mitigation will still be tackled at the national, regional, and global level to ensure adequate reduction of green house gases emissions.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**As discussed during the Climate Change Summit last week in Newyork, scientists and climate change experts have focused on mitigation measures that will heavily reverse the impact of climate change within the coming years. Thus, it will decrease the highly associated cost of adaptation measures.**

**However, I would like to emphasis on the importance of adaptation measures for the developing countries especially the Mediterranean ones.**

**From that perspective, I would suggest developing a joint statement by MAP to be submitted to the UNFCCC COP meeting in Copenhagen next December. This statement could include possible support activities that could be provided by various MAP components within the coming years to address challenges of climate change .**

**As an example and due the importance of networking and knowledge management, we can seek the support of Blue Plan/ RAC and Info RAC to collect and analyze data related to climate change .**

**Also other programs related to the conservation of water resources in the Mediterranean Sea and coastal zone management could be easily linked to the activities of the UNFCCC . This could be easily achieved through using the ecosystem based adaptation approaches to reduce impact of climate change on marine and coastal environment in the Mediterranean.**

**Ladies and gentlemen ,**

**To conclude, we fully support that your new work programme will focus on adaptation through different MAP components . We are committed to provide necessary support for development of new programs that will save our region from drastic impacts of climate change**

**Looking forward to holding further successful and fruitful meetings in Egypt.  
Wishing you all the best**

**Speech of Dr. Mawaheb Abouel Azm, Map Focal point – Egypt**

**Chief Executive Officer EEA on the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development**

Mr. Kucukay – President of the MCSD steering committee

Ms. Maria Luis Silivia- MAP Deputy coordinator and officer in charge

Dr . Mohamed el Raey – professor of environmental physics – university of Alexandria

Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of H.E Eng. Maged George; Minister of State for Environmental Affairs, I would like to welcome you in Cairo Egypt, on the occasion of the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

It is our honor to host the MCSD meeting in cooperation with the UNEP/ MAP Secretariat, especially that it tackles one of the most important topics world wide ( Climate Change and Adaptation)

The rising of the green house gases is not only causing high temperature that may increase from 1.1 degrees to 6.4 degrees by the end of this century according to the IPCC report but serious disaster can occur in some countries. I mean droughts , floods especially those where the land surface is hardly a meter or two from the sea level.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you may agree with me, no action will be materialized successfully without united efforts of all governments, financing institutions, research centers and UN Organizations. Last week, the world leaders had met in the Climate Change Summit in New York to agree on the political will to combat climate change as pre the UNFCCC COP expected to take place in Copenhagan next December. Most of the discussion is focusing on Mitigation issues that may effectively result in controlling Climate Change . Nevertheless, we should pay direct attention to adaptation measures which is of no less importance specifically that climate change will be directly affecting other areas such as biodiversity, food security, agriculture , industry , coastal zone and water resources. All will directly result in a more economic crises.

Distinguished guests,

With all this in place , I would like to invite you all to seize the opportunity of the MCSD meeting for the next 2 days and to come up with a tangible workplan for Mediterranean countries to implement adaptation measures to climate change . This may will make the way to Copenhagan much easier and shorter at least for the Mediterranean countries. I would like to draw your attention to recent successful initiatives that could lay the basis for such work plan to materialize :

1- The Strategic Partnership for Mediterranean large Marine Ecosystem in cooperation with the GEF.

2- Enhanced Climate change adaptation tools in regional and national Integrated coastal zone management plans in the Mediterranean in cooperation with both GEF and the worldbank .

Those initiatives would provide a best practice on the regional practical linkage between climate change and international water due to the direct impact of climate change on water resources specifically the Mediterranean Sea.

Distinguished guests,

I am confident that we will conduct effective evaluation to the progress achieved since the last meeting of the Commission in Istanbul, for the implementation of the MCSD Programme as well as the relevant decision of the meeting of the Contracting Parties, Alemeria, 2008.

The 2009/2010 cycle which will be critically analyzed today shall focus on sustainable urban development, sustainable transport, energy and and integrated coastal zone management. We have initiated several programmes and projects that tackle those thematic areas. Lessons learnt and best practices should be our corner stone to start integrating climate change within those sectors and thus ensuring later its integration in the Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development ( MSSD).

Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to brief you on current status of developing our NSSD, we are cooperating with a GEF/UNDP project "Mainstreaming Global Environmental Issues in National Development Plans and Policies " to start developing the NSSD through different advocacy, awareness and capacity building activities. This will assist us in developing a National Sustainable Development strategy through participatory and consultative approach with all relevant stakeholders. Other additional activities of involving local community and NGOs in cooperation with the EU are also underway .

To wrap up, I would like to ensure our commitment to combat climate change through both mitigation and adaptation measures and achieve sustainable development in collaboration with all Mediterranean countries and our partners in development.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to UNEP / MAP secretariat for organizing this important meeting in cooperation with our colleagues at the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs.

Wishing you all the best.

**Speech of Mr. Ufuk Kucukay, Turkey  
at the Opening Session of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD,  
Cairo, Egypt, 28-30 September 2009**

Mr. President  
Excellencies  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to 13th meeting of the Mediterranean commission on sustainable development and the additional session for the map focal points meetings of the contracting parties to the Barcelona convention. It is my pleasure to meet you again in Cairo.

I would like to start my speech by extending my thanks to honourable high excellencies, Egyptian minister of state for environmental affairs, Mr. Maged George and the Mediterranean secretariat for supporting the organization of this remarkable meeting.

I also would like to thank to the United Nations Environment Programme, the Mediterranean partners and the European Union (EU) for their promotion and contribution to ensure the sustainability in the Mediterranean region.

Distinguished participants,

Our efforts for protecting the Mediterranean dates back to mid 1970s under the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). Despite the progress made, it has still been declared that we are still far behind de-polluting the Mediterranean.

As it is stated in the Mediterranean strategy on sustainable development as well, Mediterranean people are becoming increasingly aware that it is not possible to keep using resources, building up coastal areas without an adequate integrated planning framework, a reduction of north-south disparities and the necessary policy reforms.

In this regard, the Mediterranean strategy is a very important tool to guide national sustainable development strategies of the Mediterranean countries and to initiate a dynamic partnership between each other.

Distinguished participants,

As it is mentioned blue plan climate change meeting in Marseilles in October 2008, climate change is the crucial issue for the Mediterranean as a whole. I would like to express once again the important role of the MCSD.

The MCSD can be used as a tool in bringing the countries of the region together on the issues such as on adapting and applying the various existing climate change models to the situation in the Mediterranean.

I would like to explain the efforts of turkey within in the scope of the UNFCC, turkey supports to the extent of its available means the global efforts being made for the implementation of the policies and measures that are formulated with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is determined to continue its economic development within the principle of sustainable development. Although turkey does not have any quantitative reduction commitment, significant efforts in all sectors have been launched.

Distinguished participants,

The process that has evolved under the map has considerably important contributions to our efforts in protecting the Mediterranean.

As a contracting party to the Barcelona convention since its adoption in 1976, we have gained huge experience in the Mediterranean region and have been actively involved in the map process.

Within in the scope of the UNFCC, Turkey supports to the extent of its available means the global efforts being made for the implementation of the policies and measures that are formulated with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is determined to continue its economic development within the principle of sustainable development. Although turkey does not have any quantitative reduction commitment, significant efforts in all sectors have been launched.

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

As the above picture reveals, this process have been constructive for the region in all terms. We should continue to support these activities at the highest decision-making level.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to express my great pleasure to host “12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mediterranean commission on sustainable development” in Istanbul, Turkey

I avail myself of the opportunity to express my appreciation for the success of meeting and warm feelings of all the participants. I also would like to express my pleasure to the government of Egypt and the secretariat for their efforts of this meeting.

I thank you all and wish success in your work.

**Introductory Remarks of Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Officer in Charge and Deputy Coordinator of UNEP/MAP**

**On the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development ( MCSD)**

Al Salam Alleikom,

It is a great honour to welcome the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

Allow me to start by thanking the generosity of the Government of Egypt for their kind invitation to host this session of the MCSD and their remarkable assistance and support during the meeting preparations. In particular, we would like to thank Minister Maged George who has honoured us with his presence for the Opening session of this meeting.

I would like now to invite the President of the MCSD Steering Committee to officially open the meeting, Mr. Ufuk Kucukay you have the floor.

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Dear members of the MCSD and observers,

In my opening remarks, I would like to refer to progress achieved during the last biennium on the MCSD programme of work and to introduce the theme for this session.

The MCD is a pillar in the Mediterranean Action Plan institutional set-up.

Its work is guided by a Steering Committee selected by consensus from among its members.

In the last couple of years the Steering Committee provided very useful guidance to the Secretariat on a number of important issues in the MCSD agenda, such as selecting the theme for this session of the MCSD, preparing the in-depth assessment of the MSSD which is due next year; and, establishing a Task Force on adaptation.

We thank the outgoing Steering Committee for their guidance and support and look forward to a close cooperation with the new Steering Committee.

I would like now to highlight some of the most relevant activities carried out by the Mediterranean Action Plan itself to advance the programme of work of the MCSD.

With regard to fostering the development of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD), a review of the NSSD processes in the Mediterranean region was undertaken and is currently on-going.

With regard to the implementation of the MCSD Programme of Work, activities were carried out to advance implementation of the MSSD in the areas of tourism; agriculture and sustainable rural development; sustainable transport and urban mobility; energy and climate change; and follow up to the MCSD recommendations on water.

In this context, a number of thematic recommendations have been prepared through participatory processes involving experts, members of this Commission and other partners that will be considered under agenda item 4 and if agreed submitted to the meeting of the CoPs.

We would also like to mention the important on-going work with regard to monitoring the implementation of the MSSD through appropriate indicators on water, rural, tourism and coastal sectors.

In addition, and in line with their mandates, all concerned MAP components have undertaken activities for the implementation of the MCSD programme of work and the MSSD.

Distinguished members of the MCSD,

This is the first meeting of the MCSD since the adoption of the Governance Paper by the CoPs in January 2008. As you know, the Governance paper represents a crucial milestone for “enhancing the coherence, relevance and visibility of the MAP system as a catalytic entity that guides the numerous actors operating in the Mediterranean region whose collective conduct and activities determine the quality of its environment”.

In the paper, a prominent role is given to the MCSD as a forum for debate that with its advice assists the CoP in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in sustainable development. For this purpose, the CoPs have also asked that the MCSD be reformed in terms of the issues to be addressed and its composition.

In this context, the forthcoming biennium is very important to the MCSD work and its profile.

In furthering the mandate given by the CoP to the MCSD two additional issues will have implications for the MCSD:

On the one-hand, the findings and recommendations of the in-depth assessment of the MSSD which will be carried out next year, shedding light on successes and lessons learned in its implementation and offering options for new ways to continue progressing;

On the other hand, the MAP governance system is also evolving. In accordance with the guidance provided by the CoPs to the Secretariat and MAP components, the MAP may have for the first time a Five-Year strategic framework for its work.

These three developments, namely the recommendations of the Governance paper with regard to the MCSD, the assessment of the MSSD and the eventual MAP Strategic Five-Year Programme of Work may feed the process of preparation of a new MCSD cycle of work.

In our view, it is indeed a challenging but interesting period, which offers the opportunity to further improve the impact, relevance and visibility of the MCSD work. The UNEP/MAP team looks forward to closely work with the MCSD and its Steering Committee in seizing this opportunity.

Let me now turn to this session's theme.

The main theme for this MCSD session is adaptation to climate change. At a moment when the whole world is gearing up to hopefully major decisions to protect humanity from the most scatological climatic scenarios, reasons are obvious for the choice of the MCSD theme.

Adapting to already unavoidable climatic changes is now being recognised as a parallel global priority to mitigate further climatic impacts through reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions. Our host country knows better than many the risks that already expected climatic variations pose to marine and coastal areas as well to the sustainable



livelihoods of many of their citizens and cities. The initial studies and adaptation programmes launched in the Nile Delta area should be praised. They are just the beginning of the massive efforts required at national and regional levels.

It is also a logical continuation of the discussions held during the last MCSD session. The previous meeting focused on enhancing knowledge and awareness on the impact of climate change,

The objective of this session is to move into the realm of the action. It aims to discuss concrete adaptation strategies and the convenience of acting at regional level. We would of course need to continue investing in deepening our knowledge of possible impacts and strengthening the links between science and policy so as to ensure the relevance of our interventions. But we cannot wait until having total certainty. It is time to act. And we should discuss on what to do and at what level.

The choice of measures to be taken and the level of intervention should be based on many considerations. Among others, we should consider the magnitude, irreversibility and immediacy of expected impacts, the adequacy of the costs of acting, the experience from other regions and the opportunities emerging from the new legal and financial architecture on adaptation to climate change.

A number of international organizations are invited to share with the MCSD their approaches, experiences and challenges on these issues.

Mr. Chair,

The meeting of the MCSD is expected to deliver clear messages with regard to regional adaptation measures in the Mediterranean Sea area and its coastal regions and explore the need for coordination among different actors and players in the region in this regard. Its message will be delivered to the Contracting Parties accordingly.

We look forward to an engaged and fruitful discussion and to the success of the MCSD in this important task.

Chucran,

**Annex IV**

**Draft Conclusions**

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), held in Cairo from 28 to 30 September 2009,**

**Noting the progress achieved with a view to the implementation of the MSSD adopts the following conclusions:**

*Marrakech Ministerial Declaration*

(1) recommends that the elements set out in Annex I to these conclusions, as orally amended, are considered by the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties for inclusion in the draft Marrakech Ministerial Declaration;

*MCSD thematic working groups on tourism and agriculture recommendations*

(2) takes note of the recommendations on tourism and on rural development and agriculture, contained in Annex II to the present conclusions, and recommend their submission to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties;

*National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs)*

(3) welcomes the NSSD review process and encourages the Contracting Parties to use it as an opportunity to continue fostering the formulation and implementation of NSSDs;

(4) recognizes the progress achieved with regard to NSSDs and encourages the countries to accelerate the process of the formulation and further implementation of their NSSDs taking more fully into account the issue of adaptation to climate change; in this context improved information and access to financial resources is desirable.

(5) emphasizes the need, in the process of formulating and implementing NSSDs, to improve communication and strengthen linkages with local authorities and all other stakeholders concerned, with particular reference to NGOs ;

(6) emphasizes the need to integrate adaptation to climate change into sectoral development strategies and to enhance coherence between general and sectoral sustainable development policies at the national level;

(7) reaffirms that the MCSD should act as a forum for the fostering of exchanges and the sharing of experience concerning the formulation and implementation of NSSDs, with particular reference to the integration of climate change adaptation strategies and the tools for their implementation at the national, transnational and regional level:

*Programme of work of the MCSD*

(8) in the context of the MSSD and the multiannual MCSD programme of work, approves the programme of work of the MCSD for the biennium 2010-2011, as set out in document (UNEP(DEPI).MED 339/4 Corr.1), as amended in line with the discussion and further emphasizes in this context the importance of developing synergies and cooperation with other initiatives at the regional level with a view to improving effectiveness and avoiding duplication;

*Adaptation to climate change*

(9) The MSSD assessment process should take into account the critical areas of vulnerability for climate change mitigation and adaptation relevant to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, and its Protocols and the MSSD, as well as the actions identified by MCSD members in their discussion groups at the 13th MCSD meeting Annex (III), with a view to verifying the need for additional action plans, including a regional action plan on climate change and adaptation, taking into account the necessity to build upon existing actions and to prove a clear added value to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention

(10) Recommends that the above process be carried out following consultation and participation, which should include all MCSD members and key external MAP partners, also considering existing resources and the need to ensure that MCSD and MAP related activities respond to the primary objectives of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and MSSD implementation.

## **Annex V**

### **Proposed MCSD input to the Marrakech Declaration**

#### **“Making the Mediterranean a model region for combating climate change”**

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, met in Cairo, Egypt from 28 to 30 September 2009, referring to one of the MSSD seven priority fields of action “Improved rational use of energy use and mitigation of and adaptation to climate change” and taking into account the conclusions of the Almeria Declaration, 2008, International Solidarity Conference on Climate Change Strategies for the Africans and Mediterranean regions, held in Tunis in 2007 and Rabat Declaration on Climate Change, 2007

Recognizes the importance of acting towards the implementation of adaptation measures in order to contribute to facing climate change challenges;

Notes that, at present the financial instruments made available to Mediterranean countries by the international community to facilitate their adaptation to climate change and for the reduction of their emissions have been broadly underutilized.

Also notes There is today consensus among the international scientific community concerning climate change. The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed the existence of abnormal global warming that is unprecedented in its extent and rapidity, the principal cause of which is human activity;.

Considers that the climate threat is compounded by challenges in the fields of energy, the economy and demography in a context of general population growth. The combination of these various challenges is liable to undermine the effectiveness and even the relevance of economic investments made over recent years and to result in unprecedented social and environmental problems;

Reaffirms the priority of compliance with international commitments for the reduction of greenhouse gasses in the context of the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol and the recommendations of the Bali Roadmap;

Considers it necessary to fully utilize the results of existing research and assessment on the extent of climate change impacts on Mediterranean economies, environment and societies, as well as a set of indicators to follow current developments;

In terms of the global combat against the aggravation of the greenhouse effect, despite the low level of emissions by countries in the South and East of the region, and in terms of adaptation:

- draws the attention of the international community to the medium and long-term vulnerability to climate change impacts on the Mediterranean region, particularly on water resources, biodiversity and ecosystems services.

- believes it is desirable and possible to make the Mediterranean a regional example for mitigation and adaptation actions

To address this issue MCSD encourages:

- The development of an action oriented regional approach for adaptation, taking into account related on-going regional processes, such as the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean and the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
- The strengthening of research and research-policy interaction into climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean region, and the intensification of programmes bringing together the research community in the region with policy makers;
- The taking into account of the current process on EU Climate change impact vulnerability and adaptation clearing house which could be a useful tool for exchange of information and good practices for the whole Mediterranean region.
- The encouragement of the ecosystem-based adaptation approach to build the climate change resilience of coastal and marine ecosystem services;
- The involvement of local authorities in adaptation initiatives in view of the fact that most of adaptation actions take place at the local level;
- The raising of awareness and the development of training in the field of climate change adaptation with emphasis on the essential role of associations and NGOs for public mobilization in this respect;
- The integration of adaptation to climate change, in the process of reviewing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), as well as in planning and decision-making;
- The improvement of information and access to financial resources to support the efforts of Mediterranean countries for adaptation to future climate changes
- The establishment of capacity-building programmes, particularly for public administrations in South and East Mediterranean countries, to help them gain access to carbon financing and to develop appropriate investment projects;

The MCSD proposes an intervention in Copenhagen by the President of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

## **Annex VI**

### **"Draft Decision concerning the recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) on sustainable tourism, and on agricultural and rural development"**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

*Reaffirming* the role of the MCSD in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD);

*Acknowledging the* MCSD's advisory role in providing recommendations to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, on the basis of the comprehensive analysis of sustainable development issues in the region;

*Recalling* the multi-annual MCSD programme of work identifying tourism and agriculture and rural development as priority themes for the 2008-2009 biennium;

*Recalling also* the relevant Recommendations of the Action Plan adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the objectives and priority fields of action of the MSSD;

*Considering* the central role that tourism plays in the development of the Mediterranean coastal states;

*Believing* that it is possible in the Mediterranean to achieve environmentally-friendly tourism, which is at the same time financially viable and rewarding for all the stakeholders in the industry;

*Committed* to implementing the provisions of the MSSD, and particularly those relating to the promotion of sustainable tourism;

*Takes note* of the MCSD's thematic working group recommendations on sustainable tourism, which are attached as Appendix I to this decision;

*Considering* also the role of rural development and agriculture in the development of the Mediterranean countries;

*Recognizing* furthermore the essential role that medium-scale farming plays in rural development;

*Takes also note* of the MCSD's thematic working group recommendations on agricultural and rural issues, which are attached as Appendix II to this decision.

## **Appendix I**

### **Recommendations of the MCSD working group on sustainable tourism**

*Having regard* to the central role that tourism plays in the development of Mediterranean coastal states and the new constraints based as a result of an increasingly competitive market, impending climate change, the rising cost of raw materials, with particular reference to fossil fuels, and the crisis in the real estate sector;

*Convinced* that it is possible in the Mediterranean to achieve environmentally friendly tourism, which is at the same time financially viable and rewarding for all stakeholders in the industry;

*Committed* to implementing the provisions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, and particularly those relating to the promotion of sustainable tourism;

The participants of the MCSD working group, at their workshop on "Promoting sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean", organized in Sophia Antipolis on 2 and 3 July 2008 by the Blue Plan, recommends that the political leaders of Mediterranean countries:

- Develop long and medium-term visions at the national level, specifying the scope of the tourism sector in the national economy and taking into account as fully as possible the global challenges to be addressed, particularly climate change and the preservation of biodiversity;
- Draw on strategic planning instruments to better organize the development of the sector, opening discussions to all of the stakeholders concerned, and in particular, the representatives of the private sector and of civil society;
- Share analyses of and approaches to the development of sustainable tourism within the framework of regular regional meetings gathering together the various actors;
- Introduce systems at the national level to provide full and reliable information that is comparable between countries and which characterizes the tourism sector and monitors its development;
- Place particular emphasis on informing the public and training stakeholders for the promotion of sustainable tourism;
- The MCSD also calls for further work to be carried out on indicators to characterize Mediterranean tourism more fully, and particularly its impact on the environment and the social equilibrium, and for prospective analysis to be undertaken on tourism to pre-empt future developments, as well as economic analyses focussing in particular on the impact of tourism on the environment.

## Appendix II

### Recommendations of the MCSD working group on the agricultural and rural issues

#### General considerations:

The Mediterranean is a contrasted but relevant region for dealing with agricultural and rural issues;

Small and medium-scale farming has an essential role to play in rural environment. It also needs to be mobilized to increase the security of the local and national food supply in the Mediterranean basin, while environmental and soil-friendly farming practices, such as the principles of conservation agriculture, need to be encouraged;

Sustainable development needs to build on territorial dynamics tailored to the individual country, but just as rural areas cannot thrive without agricultural production being boosted and supported, nor can there be agricultural development in the absence of dynamic rural areas. A share of the wealth generated by farming therefore needs to benefit rural areas;

Mediterranean lands are complex areas supporting multiple integrated functions (agro-food production, biodiversity, landscape preservation, cultural diversity,...), and involving numerous stakeholders. Their characterization and the establishment of the conditions for their sustainability will depend on in-depth analysis, which is as yet virtually non-existent;

Territorial development must be based on a gradual process during which the various social stakeholders learn to shape a shared vision of the future and to work together in joint projects.

The participants of the MCSD working group, at their Bari Workshop, held in May 2008, organized jointly by the Blue Plan and CIEHAM, recommends that the Contracting Parties:

- Include the promotion of a sustainable agricultural and rural sector among their development priorities, and reflect this political priority in budgetary terms;
- Integrate soil degradation and the effects of desertification as well as climate resilient ecosystems management into agricultural and rural development strategies; and anticipate, plan and assess the adaptation measures to be implemented for this purpose;
- Before 2012, set up a regional sustainable agriculture and rural development information system with a view to making available reliable and harmonized data collected at regular intervals as a means of shaping the relevant policies;
- In particular, undertake work to characterize and quantify the diversity of agricultural production systems and the related farms, as well as the diversity of local systems;
- Provide the stakeholders involved in agricultural research and rural development with the means to extend and share their work and knowledge with a view to proposing by 2012 measures to encourage mobility and exchanges between Mediterranean research institutes;
- Invite stakeholders from the field of research and rural areas, based on their respective competence and responsibilities, to identify jointly environmentally-friendly agricultural production systems based on a system of property and access rights and secure usage arrangements, that can ensure a regular food supply for Mediterranean populations;



- Draw up an inventory of territorial development projects, identifying the arrangements adopted to involve local stakeholders and reinforce twinning and networking between projects conducted in different countries;
- Continue and reinforce innovatory forms of training for farmers and local stakeholders enabling them to participate fully in the design, implementation and evaluation of the operations which concern them;
- Assess on a two-yearly basis the progress made by Mediterranean coastal States in implementing the MSSD chapter on "Sustainable agriculture and rural development"; and
- Establish a Mediterranean platform for exchanges of information on the local development processes initiated by coastal States, with emphasis on the various tools used to encourage the effective participation of the populations concerned in the design, implementation and follow up of their local projects.

ACTIONS	LEVEL OF INTERVENTION			
	LOCAL	NATIONAL	REGIONAL	
<b>Increasing knowledge</b>				
Joint scientific and research programmes, improved linking of scientific modeling on climate change to policy development		X	X	
Measure the cost of inaction, identify preventative measures, cost benefit analysis.	X	X		
Launch a cooperation program focused on the exchange between scientists specialists of the climate change impacts in the Mediterranean area and decision-makers in order to politicians know the available data used by scientists and scientists explain the utility of their results			X	
Exchange of knowledge and share of information	X	X	X	
<b>Data Collection, Monitoring and Indicators</b>				
Data collection and establishment of monitoring programmes	X	X	X	
Develop monitoring systems by using the appropriate performance indicators	X	X	X	
Assessment of existing strategies		X		
Incorporate national adaptation strategy into sectoral policies /strategies (tourism, agriculture, water, urban development)	X	X		
<b>Policies, Laws and Programmes</b>				
Develop guidelines for adaptation measures at regional level for common actions			X	
Better inter institutional cooperation within countries			X	
Adaptation to Climate Change by applying the ICZM	X	X	X	
Develop climate change proofing for all new projects/programmes to guarantee cost effectiveness	X	X	X	
Integrate risk assessment (floods, land slides, erosion) into spatial/urban planning	X	X		
Mobilize financial and other resources	X	X	X	
Implement replicable pilot projects	X			

ACTIONS	LEVEL OF INTERVENTION			
	LOCAL	NATIONAL	REGIONAL	
<b>Raising Awareness ,Capacity Building and Public Participation</b>				
Raise awareness and sensibelize decision makers, the public including local communities and the economic sector	X	X		
Increase capacity building and decision-making support system	X	X	X	
Involve civil society and the private sector as critical partners in developing and implementing adaptation policies/strategies	X	X	X	
Exchange of experiences through success stories	X	X	X	
Organization of forums with parliamentarians and local authorities	X	X		
Elaborate and calculate indicators linked to major threats at the level where action need to be implemented including local level and climate change resilience indicators	X	X	X	
Build case studies using these indicators	X			
Integrate adaptation policy into existing national management and administration systems	X	X		
<b>Cooperation</b>				
Elaboration of technical assistance focused on the analysis of potential conflicts between sectors requirements and climate change adaptation measures		X		
Support cross-border projects	X	X	X	
Support approaches not necessarily focused on CC but optimizing natural resources use	X	X	X	
Experience sharing on adaptation strategies and on monitoring of their implementation, using MCSD as an opportunity for facilitating and lowering technological transfer costs, technical assistance programmes (such as NAPA, TAIEX) and sub-regional climate change assistance strategies (Balkan model)		X	X	
Establish a list of projects related to climate change in the region	X	X	X	
Explain why the available carbon funds are underused by Med Countries and provide assistance to facilitate their access			X	