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Introduction

In accordance with the programme of work adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 17th meeting, held in Paris, France, in January 2012, the meeting of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Athens from 22 to 23 April 2013.

Attendance

The following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were represented at the meeting: Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, the European Union, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) was also represented as an observer at the meeting.

The complete list of participants is included as Annex I to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 22 April 2013, by Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, MAP Executive Secretary and Coordinator, who delivered an opening statement welcoming participants to the first of the two meetings of the MAP Focal Points to be held in the current year, at a critical juncture in the on-going process of reform of UNEP/MAP.

Agenda item 2: Organizational matters

(a) Rules of procedure for meetings of the MAP Focal Points

The Focal Points agreed that the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/IG 43/6, Annex XI, as amended by the Contracting Parties (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5 and UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5)) would apply *mutatis mutandis* to their deliberations.

(b) Election of officers

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, the Focal Points unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	H.E. Mr. Patrick Van Klaveren (Monaco)
Vice-chairpersons:	Mr. Rachid Firadi (Morocco)
	Mr. Victor Escobar (Spain)
	Mr. Charalambos Hajipakkos (Cyprus)
	Mr. Tarik Kupusovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Jelena Knezevic (Montenegro)

(c) Adoption of the agenda

The meeting considered the provisional agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG 376/1) and annotated provisional agenda (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG 376/2), together with the draft timetable of work contained therein. Following a discussion, it was agreed to defer consideration of agenda item 4 on validation of recruitments until the second day of the meeting; to include under agenda item 6, "Any other business", a topic on the financial

situation, including status of contributions; and to leave open the possibility of convening a reduced drafting group in the course of the proceedings. On that understanding, the agenda, annotated agenda and timetable of work were adopted.

Announcement by the representative of Turkey

9. The representative of Turkey, stressing his Government's commitment to the Convention, announced the Turkish Government's offer to host the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Istanbul on 3-6 December 2013.

10. The Chairperson, speaking on behalf of participants, thanked the Government of Turkey for its kind offer.

Agenda item 3: Functional Review of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) System¹

11. The Executive Secretary and Coordinator introduced the process and status of preparation of the report of the extended Functional Review. The Executive Secretary further noted that an initial version had been considered by the Bureau at its February 2013 meeting, and highlighted its background and process, drawing attention to the relevant documents for discussion (UNEP(DEPI)MED WG376/Inf.3-8).

12. Mr. Wijnand de Wit (Dalberg Global Development Advisors) presented their final report of the extended Functional Review, which was followed by discussions from the floor. Some delegations considered that the consultants went beyond their terms of references (ToR) and noting their response France expressed their formal reservation. Croatia noted that part of the ToR related to the management by performance hasn't been fully applied in the elaboration of the report. Some other countries however, considered the approach taken by the consultants was adequate and within their ToR, and Italy expressed their full endorsement.

13. Discussions pointed to the need of practical changes on the following high level issues to ensure the efficient functioning of the system:

- Strategic planning requires flexibility to respond to emerging issues. The planning process should be driven from the top down as well as from the bottom up as this will help improving the coherence and effectiveness of MAP system , this allowing shifts in response to new developments and to carry out activities that cut across MAP Components;
- Funding allocation does not follow the strategy and is not flexible. Funding does not follow performance and priorities as set out by the Contracting Parties but is a reflection of what was once negotiated;
- Delivery capacity must be strengthened. The system is perceived to be lacking sufficient focus and cohesion. Resources and capacity are spread too thin;
- Resources from third parties are mobilized but could be more strategic. Some of the MAP Components have done well in attracting external funding but the system could generally be more strategic in resource mobilization;
- MAP Components coordination and cooperation remains a key challenge and should be recognized as having improved but still far from operating as a 'system' due to challenges in the funding model;

¹ Report of the Extended Functional Review refers to Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 375/Inf.3

- Transparency and accountability need to be further enhanced in MAP's work; and,
- Full implementation of sustainable development is still pending².

14. The Chairperson invited participants to consider the section of the presentation of review findings.

15. The types of activities that the system is undertaking have grown over time while the cooperation and implementation model has stayed the same.

16. The UNEP/MAP system covers a wide range of activities in line with the MAP and the Convention, but its structure has become very complex and inflexible. The activities can be categorized as follows (Note that these categories are not directly associated with the full portfolios of the MAP components. Some delegations mentioned that the order of quotation does not reflect a hierarchy, while others considered it did):

- Secretariat functions for the Convention, including representation and relations, management of legal aspects of the Barcelona Convention, work programme development and implementation, information and communication, coordination of horizontal issues among MAP components, policies and strategies, development of regional action plans, compliance monitoring and monitoring status of marine and coastal environment;
- Implementation of the Protocols, including technical assistance to countries for the purpose of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
- Strategic planning and project implementation for sustainable development of the Mediterranean according to MAP, including projects that do not directly contribute to the implementation of the Protocols; and,
- Cooperation and Research activities on broader sustainable development of the Mediterranean, including the development of tools supporting decision making and strategic planning for sustainable development. This includes studies that do not directly contribute to the implementation of the protocols.

In the absence of adequate funding, there is a practical need to set priorities among the activities falling under the four categories. In doing so, national gaps in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols should be considered, as well as MAP II, the priorities in the Five Year Programme of Work and the complementarities between UNEP/MAP and other international and regional initiatives addressing sustainable development challenges in the Mediterranean region.

17. There was a discussion on some of the following elements contained in the report of the extended functional review that should be further looked into:

- Options for a more flexible allocation of resources, including the process for allocating scalable funding;
- Co-financing policy for technical assistance benefiting Contracting Parties, taking into consideration countries' different capacity;
- Standard policy on engaging with external funders;
- Optimization of resources, including reclassification, national officers and REMPEC³;

² Italy noted that this bullet point is not coherent with the content of paragraph 13 that is on "high level issues to ensure the efficient functioning of the system" as stated in the chapeau.

- Review of institutional planning processes;
- Establishment or strengthening of cooperation with all relevant Mediterranean actors as mentioned in the Governance (Decision IG.20/13) decision;
- Establishment of MAP internal and external practice areas for knowledge sharing and engagement of experts;
- Establishment of an operational management body between Coordinator and MAP Components Directors;
- Visibility policy and communications strategy for the system;
- Host agreements in line with the cooperation and implementation model;
- Refocusing of the current system of MAP Components Focal Points to thematic focal points; and,
- Establishment of a steering committee to oversee implementation or use an existing body such as the Bureau for this purpose.

18. The meeting discussed options to renew the system as presented in the report by the Consultants as well as an option 4 introduced by the Government of France (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG 376/CRP.1).

19. Some Contracting Parties proposed the possibility of developing other options, including a variation to the above-mentioned options including some resources for all MAP Components. Italy noted with regret that France opposed to include in the report a mention of a document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.376/Inf. 7) that had been officially tabled by the Secretariat and mentioned during the discussion.

20. In this context the meeting agreed on the following way forward:

- All parties will present written comments to the Coordinating Unit by 20 May 2013 on the four options in Annex III to this Report and including on the elements listed in paragraph 18, as well as on the Programming document WG.376/4 "Preliminary discussions on MAP Programme of Work for the 2014-2015 biennium";
- Based on the inputs received, the Coordinating Unit will prepare general orientations on the Programme of Work for discussion at the next Bureau of Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention in July 2013; and,
- Draft Biennium Programme of Work and Budget proposals according to the options resulting from the consultations on functional review will be prepared and considered at the Meeting of Focal Points in September 2013 to prepare a proposal for COP18 on implementing the outcome of the functional review and its implication for the budget as required in Decision IG.20/13.

³ In this context, the meeting noted that there is an on-going process between the Government of Malta, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme on the future sustainable operation of REMPEC.

Agenda item 4. Validation of recruitments by MAP Focal Points

21. Following the decision of the 76th Bureau of Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention The Secretariat presented for validation a decision to de-freeze of two posts approved by COP17, one P3 (down-graded due to budgetary concerns from P4) Monitoring Officer at MEDPOL to assist EcAp implementation and one G5 Programme Assistant Post. After discussions the posts are validated by MAP Focal Points. However, some delegation expressed concerns on the issue and the necessity to consider in a comprehensive way all the posts frozen.

Agenda item 5. Preliminary discussions on Biennium MAP Programme of Work 2014-2015

22. Due to time concerns, the discussions on WG376.4 "Preliminary discussions on MAP Programme of Work for the 2014-2015 biennium" prepared by the Secretariat with the contribution of the MAP Components on programming was not realized. It was agreed that written comments by the Parties will be provided to the Secretariat by 20 May 2013, as far as possible, as requested in paragraph 19.

Agenda item 6. Any other business

23. The Secretariat stated that almost all contributions from parties were received by the end of 2012 and that the current level of contributions was similar to that of last year, with noting that unfortunately most contributions are usually received in the second half of the financial year. The Secretariat distributed a table describing the current situation, with the explanation that 40 percent of the contributions were already received (Annex IV). However, more than 80 % of this amount is from one single Party, which is a situation neither safe nor sustainable. Certain parties stated that their corresponding contributions will be realized soon, while others informed that delays were due to national financial rules and procedures.

24. The need to mobilize efforts of MAP Focal Points to ensure contributions materialize as early as possible was underlined. A new update on contributions will be presented to the 77th Bureau Meeting in July 2013.

25. As the host country of COP18, Turkey highlighted that in order to have a sound and concrete decision during the COP, timely and effective preparations should take place in order to facilitate the whole process. Turkey kindly invited all parties to take necessary steps in order to achieve this objective and expressed its readiness to contribute to the attainment of the objective⁴.

26. France requested to address at the next meeting of MAP Focal Points whether there is a need to elaborate of a MAP3 in COP18 in Istanbul taking in account in particular the conclusions of COP17 (Paris Declaration) and the RIO+20 summit.

27. The President of the Bureau informed the Parties that Bureau members agreed to extend participation, at the discussion on the proposed financial rules and procedures to be held during the 77th Bureau Meeting in Ankara in July 2013, provided that there is no extra cost for the organization on UNEP MAP budget.

Agenda Item 7: Adoption of the report of the meeting

⁴ Turkish delegation kindly expressed its reservation on any references on the agreements which are not signed by Turkey.

28. At its last session the meeting of the MAP Focal Points will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report on its work prepared by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

29. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the Meeting closed at 19:30 p.m. on Tuesday 23 April 2013

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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

DATE	<u>PLENARY</u>
Monday 22 April 2013	
08:30 – 09:30 a.m.	Registration
09:30– 09:45 a.m.	Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting Agenda item 2: Organizational matters a) <i>Rules and Procedures</i> b) <i>Election of officers</i> c) <i>Adoption of the agenda</i> d) <i>Organization of work</i>
09:45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3: Extended Functional Review of UNEP MAP system
12.30 – 14.00 p.m.	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.00 – 16.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3: Extended Functional Review of UNEP MAP system (continued)
16:30-17:00 p.m.	Agenda item 4: Validation of Recruitments
Tuesday, 23 April 2013	
09.30 a.m.– 12.00 p.m.	Agenda item 5: Preliminary discussions on Biennium MAP Programme of Work 2014-2015
12.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Agenda item 6: Any other business
12.30 – 15.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch Break</i>
15.30 – 18.30 p.m.	Agenda item 7: Adoption of the report Agenda item 8: Closure of the meeting

Annex III
The Options

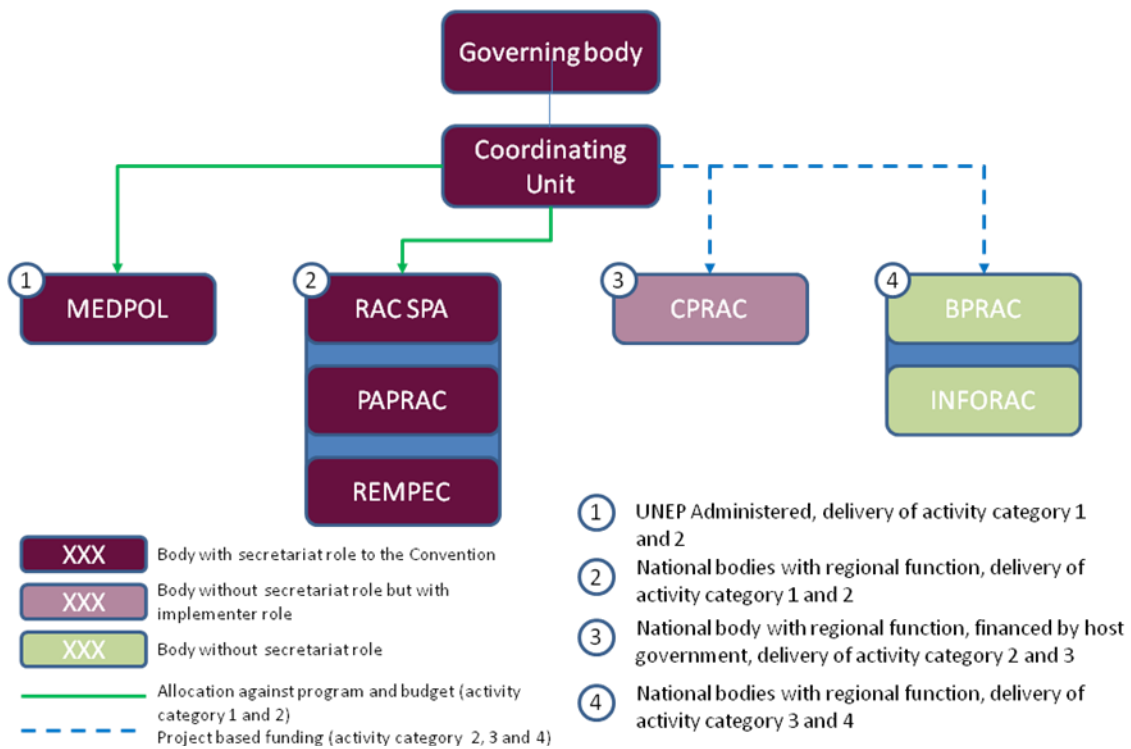
Option 1: Cost reduction - Focuses on reducing costs to achieve financial sustainability of the system building on the 2010 functional review.

Focuses on making adjustments to the current system to achieve a more sustainable MAP. The adjustments aim to reduce cost and reallocate resources to follow impact and priorities.

1. Funding allocation to activity category 1 (Secretariat to the Convention)
2. Funding allocation to activity category 2 (Implementer of the Protocols) based on priorities & performance
3. Funding allocation to activity category 3 (Project manager for sustainable development of the Mediterranean) and 4 (Think tank on sustainable development of the Mediterranean)

The figure below provides a simplified graphic view of the system.

Option 1 – Cost reduction



Within the priorities set by the Contracting Parties, the CU follows a three-step process to develop a proposed allocation of funding.

Step 1 – Funding allocation to activity category 1 (Secretariat to the Convention). The first priority for the UNEP MAP system is what is described as activity category 1: Secretariat to the Convention, including representation and relations, management of legal aspects of the Barcelona Convention, work programme development and implementation, information and communication, policies and strategies, development of regional action plans, compliance monitoring and monitoring status of marine and coastal environment.

Step 2 - Funding allocation to activity category 2 (Implementer of the Protocols)

The funding allocation to activity category 2 is informed by two main factors:

- i. **Priorities** for implementation of the protocols as set by the Contracting Parties

- ii. **Performance** is informed primarily by the success of the MAP Components in attracting external funding for the implementation of the protocols in absence of information on impact.

Step 3 - Funding allocation to activity category 3 (Project manager for sustainable development of the Mediterranean) and 4 (Think tank on sustainable development of the Mediterranean)

The funding available after allocation in steps 1 and 2, is allocated to activities that are not necessarily directly contributing to the implementation of the protocols and may include for example co-funding for projects initiated by partners and research studies.

Option 2: Scalable system - Introduces the concept of core and scalable (flexible) funding allocated through different processes.

1. Funding allocation to activity category 1 (Secretariat to the Convention)
2. Funding allocation to specific proposals from the MAP Components for activities in category 2,3 and 4 based on priorities & performance

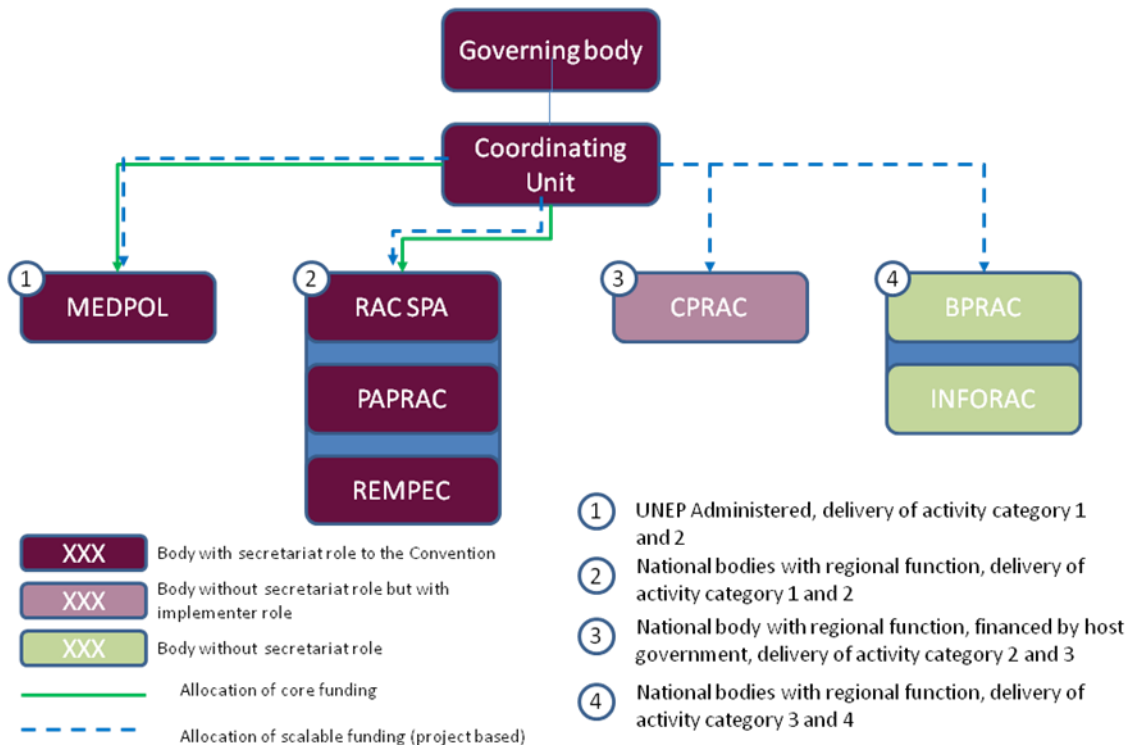
All funding available for activities is opened up to competition. This element of competition will reinforce incentives for the MAP Components to work together to improve their offering, perform well on delivery and focus on the priorities set by the Contracting Parties.

The assumption is that all support that the UNEP MAP system could provide for sustainable development of the Mediterranean is categorized as follows:

1. Activity category 1 Secretariat to the Convention, including representation and relations, management of legal aspects of the Barcelona Convention, work programme development and implementation, information and communication, policies and strategies, development of regional action plans, compliance monitoring and monitoring status of marine and coastal environment.
2. Scalable activities
 - Activity category 2 “Implementer of the protocols, including technical assistance to countries for the purpose of implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols.”
 - Activity category 3 “Project manager for sustainable development of the Mediterranean, including projects that do not directly contribute to the implementation of the protocols.”
 - Activity category 4 “Think tank on sustainable development of the Mediterranean, including research on topics of interest for sustainable development. This includes studies that do not directly contribute to the implementation of the protocols.”

The figure below provides a simplified graphical view of the system. The paragraphs that follow provide a detailed explanation of the option.

Option 2 – Scalable system



The allocation process and formula will be different. Activities will be funded first, based on an assessment of the funding required to deliver on activity category 1. This means that those MAP Components that have a function as the Secretariat of a protocol will be allocated a minimum level of funding. MAP Components that do not have such a function will not receive any core funding.

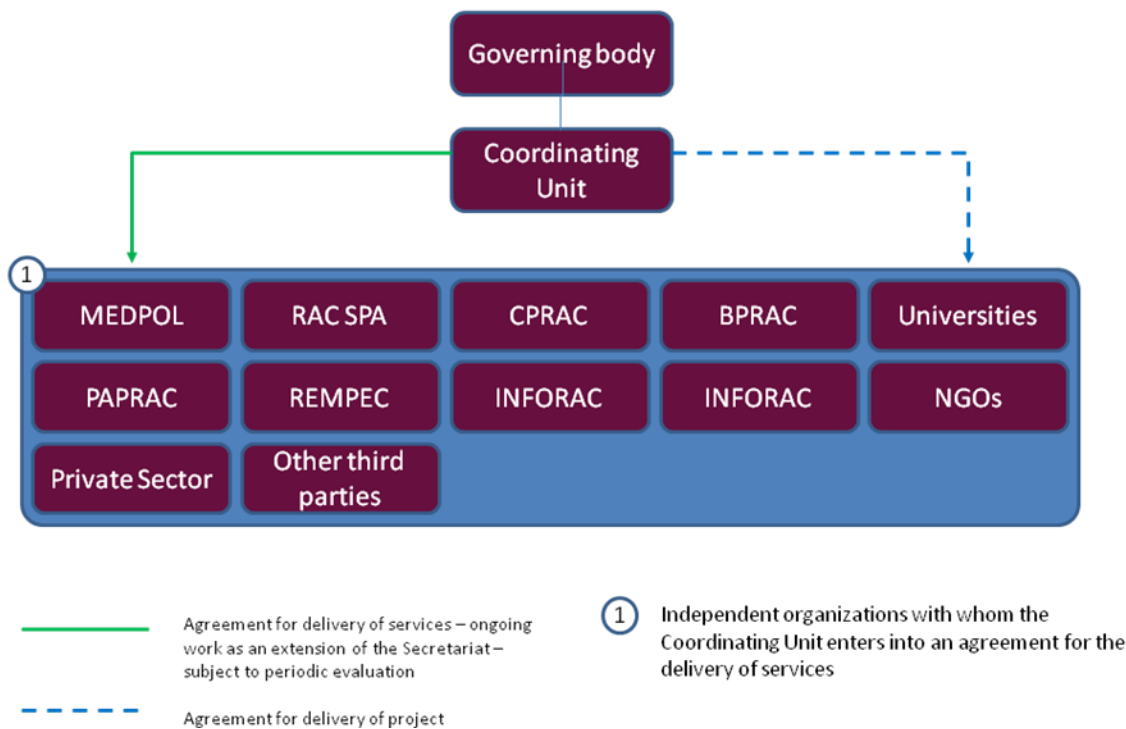
The remainder of the funding will be used to fund scalable activities based on priorities and performance. It is recommended that the MTF only funds activity category 2 and in select cases, activity category 4. Activity category 3 should not be funded by the MTF, nor should it be positioned as a UNEP MAP activity. The funding will be allocated to MAP Components based on project proposals that will include a fixed amount for overheads and staff time of the MAP Component.

Option 3: Fund manager - Severs direct ties between UNEP MAP and the MAP Components and introduces fund manager / grantee relationship.

Funding allocation to specific proposals from MAP Components or third parties for activities in category 1, 2 and 4.

In this model, the CU is the fund manager of the MTF and supports the Contracting Parties in articulating priorities and sourcing partners for implementation. The figure below provides a simplified graphical view of the system.

Option 3 – Fund manager



This model replaces the model of an integrated UNEP MAP system with that of a funder (CU)/grantee (MAP Component). The relationship between the CU and the MAP Components could continue to exist but limited to a contractual agreement. The funder will review the outputs and results achieved by the grantee and make decisions as to the (dis)continuation of the relationship. For activities, the evaluation would be done periodically, e.g. every two years. For scalable activities, the evaluation would be done mid-term and at the end of each project. Under this option, all hosting agreements between UNEP MAP and government of countries where the MAP Components are located would be terminated.

Option 4. Proposal presented by France

Out of 16 Contracting Parties present in Athens for the meeting this Monday, 9 took the opportunity to discuss with us the outlines of option 4 as presented by France.

The draft option 4 below is an attempt to incorporate much of the comments, suggestions, remarks made during these informal consultations.

Option 4 :

The purpose of the extended functional review is to promote a new managerial attitude within UNEP/MAP as requested by COP17 and within the framework of the then adopted Terms of References.

For that purpose it is proposed, as a first step, that COP18 decides upon the following :

1. [A new «Common Innovative Fund» will be established as a special budgetary line as of 2014.]
2. [It will be initially constituted by a contribution of 15% cut across the board from the annual budget allocated to the MAP Components and the savings resulting from the cost reductions as proposed by the Secretariat in its paper INF5, and replenished yearly on the same basis.]
3. [A preliminary estimation of such Fund, amounts to about 1 million euros, out of a global budget of about 6 millions, being a significant signal of commitment by the Contracting Parties.]
4. Each MAP Component would be eligible to access this Fund through project proposals mainly devoted to activities and meeting a certain number of criterias :
5. A first indicative list of such criterias could in particular encompass the following : address priorities set by the Contracting Parties during COPs, so making the system more responsive to emerging priorities and new orientations ; joint projects among MAP Components ; projects that have already significant external funding guaranteed ; effective North/South, South/North cooperation ;....
6. [The Coordinating Unit will manage the allocations, ensuring the full association of the MAP Components in a transparent, efficient and accountable manner. Illustrating this spirit the elaboration of the rules of engagement should be jointly done by the CU and the MAP Components. The objective is to promote an interactive management dialogue. The operations might be overseen by a Steering Committee/the Bureau.]
7. By the end of the biennium, lessons learned and best practices will be assessed, in particular to develop a set of efficiency criteria for the projects implementation.
8. The modalities of the Fund replenishment is subject to review and adjustment at each COP.

Annex IV
Status of Contributions as at 15 April 2013

TRUST FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AGAINST POLLUTION
(ME)

Status of Contributions as at 15 April 2013
(Expressed in EUROS)

Country	Unpaid Pledges for 2012 and Prior years	Pledges for 2013	Collections in 2013 for 2013	Unpaid Pledges for 2013
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Albania	-3.577	3.877	300	0
Algeria	0	58.163		58.163
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0	16.619	16.619	0
Croatia	0	53.730		53.730
Cyprus	0	7.755		7.755
Egypt	0	27.143		27.143
European Union	0	138.483	138.483	0
France	0	2.103.262	2.103.262	0
Greece	155.653	155.653		155.653
Israel	0	81.427		81.427
Italy	0	1.737.670		1.737.670
Lebanon	4.068	3.877		3.877
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	493.859	109.124		109.124
Malta	0	3.877		3.877
Monaco	0	3.877	3.877	0
Montenegro	0	1.294	1.294	0
Morocco	4	15.511		15.511
Slovenia	0	37.113		37.113
Spain	0	830.337		830.337
Syrian Arab Republic	30.424	15.511		15.511
Tunisia	0	11.632		11.632
Turkey	0	124.634		124.634
T O T A L	680.432	5.540.569	2.263.835	3.273.157

Additional Contributions for information only

	Expected contribution	Received contribution
European commission	598.569	598.569

	Deficit in CAL account 31/12/2012	Expected contribution	Received contribution
Greece	359.800	280.800	