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19<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

Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016

## **Agenda item 6.1: Report on Activities Carried Out in the Framework of UNEP/MAP since COP 18**

### **Brief Description of UNEP/MAP Main Types of Instruments**

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

### **Note by the Secretariat**

At the request of the MAP FP Meeting (October 2015, Athens Greece), the Secretariat has drafted a short glossary of the main instruments prepared in the framework of UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention, for information purposes.

In doing so, the Secretariat has reviewed existing literature as well as the provisions of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, and several relevant COP decisions.

## Brief Description of UNEP/MAP Main Types of Instruments

**Convention:** For the [UN](#), “whereas in the last century the term "convention" was regularly employed for bilateral agreements, it now is generally used for formal multilateral treaties with a broad number of parties. Conventions are normally open for participation by the international community as a whole, or by a large number of states. Usually the instruments negotiated under the auspices of an international organization are entitled conventions.”

**Protocol:** An additional legal instrument that complements and add to the Convention. Within the Barcelona Convention, protocols address topics relevant to the original treaty and new or emerging concerns. A protocol is not automatically binding for the Parties that have already ratified the original Convention.

**Declaration:** An instrument that is not legally binding, indicating that the Parties do not intend to create binding obligations but merely want to declare certain aspirations.  
(Example: Istanbul Declaration, issued by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at COP 18, December 2013)

**Strategy:** A method or plan developed to bring about a desired future, such as the achievement of an overall goal or solution to a problem, usually over a long period of time.  
(Example: The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals, by harmonizing the interactions between socio-economic and environmental goals, adapting international commitments to regional conditions, guiding national strategies for sustainable development, and stimulating regional cooperation between stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development)

**Mid-term Strategy:** In the UN system, a strategic document with goals and accomplishments for a period of 3-6 years depending on the specific agency.  
(Example: UNEP/MAP MTS 2016-2021, based on a vision deriving from the mandate of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, and defining themes, objectives, outcomes and indicative outputs for the achievement of objectives over the next three biennia, in addition to implementation and monitoring and evaluation)

**Strategic Framework:** A structure supporting strategic planning, usually including actors and processes necessary for its implementation.  
(Example: UNEP/MAP draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, for the definition of a regional strategic approach to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal natural and socioeconomic systems to the impacts of climate change, assisting policy makers and stakeholders in the development and implementation of coherent and effective policies and measures)

**Roadmap:** A plan/timetable to guide progress with milestones toward a goal.  
(Example: UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, providing for a vision, goals and seven broad steps for the gradual application of the approach, complemented at a later stage with a timetable)

**Action Plan:** A detailed plan outlining actions needed to reach one or more goals. It may include specific targets, timetables and indicators for each action.  
(Example: UNEP/MAP draft Offshore Action Plan, aiming at defining measures to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem. The draft Offshore Action Plan includes outputs, actors, and implementation timeframe)

**Guidelines:** A set of guidelines aims to streamline particular processes according to sound practice and standards. Guidelines are not always binding.  
(Example: UNEP/MAP draft Fishing for Litter Guidelines, whose objectives are twofold: (i) to provide technical guidance on the mechanism to remove litter from the sea in an environmentally

friendly manner; (ii) to provide guidance on the process of involving the stakeholders responsible for the implementation and coordination of Fishing for Litter practices)

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** A framework of commitments in which two parties confirm that they share a common understanding and endeavour. As per the UNEP definition, an MOU is used when there is no financial transaction between the two parties. MOUs are well suited to define a strategic alliance between UNEP and its partner, declaring agreement on areas of common interest, spheres of cooperation and mutual operational engagements. Where an MOU has been signed, relevant implementation agreements are still required to detail financial and programmatic/administrative arrangements.

(Example: MOU between UNEP/MAP and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean, providing a framework of cooperation between the two parties to further the shared goals and objectives of their Contracting Parties/Members, in their respective fields of competence and in line with their respective mandates)

**Joint Strategy:** The goal of a joint strategy with a group of partners, with whom bilateral MOUs and agreements may already exist, is to increase collaboration on a specific issue or geographical scope in a structured way, benefitting from the parties' mandates and expertise, minimizing overlapping and duplications, enhancing complementarity of efforts in order to pursue common tasks.

(Example: Joint Strategy being developed by UNEP/MAP, GFCM, ACCOBAMS, IUCN, and MedPAN to address issues of common interest in the Alboran Sea, Adriatic Sea and the Sicily Channel)