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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: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2014 - 2015 Biennium**

**Reports of the 78<sup>th</sup>, 79<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Bureau**

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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

11 September 2015  
Original: English

Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015

**Agenda item 3: Progress report on activities carried out during the 2014-2015 Biennium**

**Reports of the 78<sup>th</sup>, 79<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Bureau**

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.

UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2015

**Report of the 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the  
Mediterranean and its Protocols, 3-4 September 2014, Istanbul, Turkey**

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## **Introduction**

1. At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 3-4 September 2014.

## **Participation**

2. The list of participants is contained in Annex I to this report.

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

3. The meeting was opened by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar, President of the Bureau. He welcomed the Bureau members and the other participants. He extended his welcome to Mr. Gaetano Leone, new UNEP/MAP Coordinator, who reported for duty as of 1 June 2014.
4. Bureau members welcomed the Coordinator expressing their wishes of success and their full confidence in a fruitful collaboration. They also voiced their appreciation for the quality and timeliness of the documents submitted to the Bureau in preparation for the meeting.
5. The Coordinator welcomed in turn the Bureau members and thanked Turkey for hosting the meeting. He provided the Bureau with a brief overview of the first three months of his tenure at the Secretariat, highlighting his aspirations, goals and findings, as well as the challenges in front of the MAP system for the period leading to COP 19.

### **Agenda item 2:        Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work**

6. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document UNEP/BUR/78/2 (Annex II)

### **Agenda item 3:        Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January – June 2014**

7. The Coordinator presented the document “Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January to June 2014” (UNEP/BUR/78/3) and “Progress of the Implementation of COP 18 Decisions” (UNEP/BUR/78/6). The Coordinator expressed some concern at the ambitious programme of the current biennium and the limited time and resources available at this stage, and called for the support and advice of the Bureau.
8. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. acknowledge the work done by the Secretariat and MAP components during the first quarter of the 2014-2015 biennium;
  - ii. welcome the submission of the color-coded overview of progress in the implementation of COP decisions contained in document UNEP/BUR/78/6 and request the Secretariat to make such report part of the regular Bureau documentation;

- iii. request the Secretariat, when reporting on progress, to highlight the main implementing challenges and also pending activities, if any, and actions that have been taken to address them;
- iv. ask the Secretariat to start the implementation of Decision 21/16 as soon as possible with the view of completing it by COP 19, with the full involvement of all relevant MAP components, building on their strength, capacity and mandate.

**Agenda item 4: Update on Financial Situation**

9. The Coordinator presented to the Bureau members for their comments and recommendations the financial update contained in the "Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues" (UNEP/BUR/78/5) including:

- Status of contributions as of 31 July 2014
- Status of funds committed
- Interim Report with the balance between income and expenditure
- Letters requesting payments or reminders

10. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

- i. welcome the efforts of the Secretariat and the improvements in MAP's financial situation and express appreciation to the Contracting Parties that paid their annual contribution in the first half of 2014;
- ii. note with concern the negative impact that delays in the payment of contributions may have on the implementation of MAP's Programme of Work and request the Contracting Parties to pay their 2014 annual contributions and arrears as soon as possible and to strictly adhere to the agreed timeframe for the payment of contributions of the subsequent years;
- iii. note that, unless the contributions are paid, there is a risk of postponing the recruitment of posts that were adopted at COP 18;
- iv. request the Secretariat to continue its efforts to ensure the full payment of contributions, including through a letter addressed to the relevant Parties to be co-signed by the President of the Bureau and the Executive Director of UNEP;
- v. encourage the Secretariat to continue taking a precautionary approach and to make the best use of existing human resources in order to minimize the engagement of consultants, and to continue reporting to the Bureau on the status of consultancies;
- vi. acknowledge the implications of the Umoja system for the financial management of UNEP/MAP, take note that, within the financial rules and regulations and Umoja procedures, some operational expenses may be temporarily charged to MTF within the given year on cost-neutral basis until the yearly Host Country contribution is realized, and request the Secretariat to report on this matter when such charges may have occurred.

**Agenda item 5: Specific Issues**

11. The Coordinator presented the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP/BUR/78/4).

**5.1. Governance and Organizational Matters**

12. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Governance Decision IG.21/13 and the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator presented an update on issues regarding the status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols; Host Country Agreements with countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers; LBS Protocol National Action Plans update; and a proposal on evaluation method on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components.

13. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

**Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols**

- i. take note of the progress achieved during this period on governance and legal priorities;
- ii. request the Secretariat to continue following closely with the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to make particular efforts to ensure the entry into force of the revised Dumping Protocol by COP 19;
- iii. remind all Contracting Parties to officially submit their reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible in compliance with the obligations of Article 26 of the Convention, and for the review by the Compliance Committee;
- iv. encourage the Contracting Parties that have ratified or signed the ICZM Protocol to submit on a voluntary basis a report on its implementation;
- v. request the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with concerned governments and UNEP Headquarters to finalize as soon as possible the Host Country Agreements related to RACs, as per the Decision IG.21/13.

**LBS Protocol National Action Plans update**

- i. encourage the Contracting Parties to make their utmost efforts to update their National Action Plans (NAPs) as per the agreed Guidelines in a timely and participatory manner, so as to enable COP 19 to endorse the updated NAPs, and urge their efficient implementation in partnership with major actors including the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the H2020 Initiative;
- ii. encourage the Contracting Parties to use the NAP update process as a crucial opportunity within the UNEP/MAP system to develop ECAP-based pollution prevention and control programmes of measures, and to streamline it within on-going processes of policy development and/or implementation at MAP and other relevant frameworks (EU MSFD, H2020);

- iii. request the Secretariat to continue its active participation in the H2020 initiative process and governance with the view to support the NAP update process and related capacity building activities.

Proposal on evaluation method on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components

- i. take note of the proposal of the Secretariat regarding the evaluation method on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components; in addition ask the Secretariat to consider developing such evaluation method on the basis of success indicators and cost analyses, including delivery rates of targets as set in the Programme of Work. The Secretariat will present a detailed proposal to the 79th meeting of the Bureau;
- ii. request the Secretariat to check other Regional Seas Programmes' RACs' evaluation methods as reference.

**5.2. Development of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy: Update**

14. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator updated Bureau members on the external evaluation process of the Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work (2010-2014, with one year extension to 2015) and the roadmap of the development of the Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021. He emphasized the need for integration of the development process of major strategic documents mandated by COP 18, which is a priority for the Secretariat.

15. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

- i. endorse the revised process of external evaluation and development of the Mid-term Strategy, underlining the importance of synchronization of the parallel but complementary processes of: follow-up of Decision 21/16, review of the MSSD, development of the SCP Regional Action Plan, EcAp measures, regional framework on climate change adaptation, and other relevant strategies and action plans and projects;
- ii. request the Secretariat to make use of existing evaluations and audits within the MAP system as relevant references;
- iii. request the Coordinating Unit to lead these processes in close cooperation with and involvement of MAP Components to ensure timely and successful delivery before COP 19.

**5.3. Environment Friendly Cities Award**

16. The Coordinator recalled the relevant text of the Istanbul Declaration adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), and summarized the action taken by the Secretariat on this issue in order to define nomination and selection principles and criteria for the award.



17. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

- i. request the Secretariat to develop jointly with RACs, in particular with Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC and PAP/RAC, possible criteria and methodology for such award, reflecting also the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention;
- ii. highlight the fact that the award should act as an incentive that will promote Mediterranean coastal cities for better environmental standards and be an added value to the region, as well as raise awareness and bring visibility to its recipients;
- iii. request the Secretariat to liaise with UN-Habitat, UfM Secretariat and other organizations, to review their similar initiatives in order to set up a distinct award;
- iv. recommend to the Secretariat to make use of the Thematic Working Group on “sustainable cities” and its experts in the context of the MSSD review as an opportunity to discuss and agree on the Award criteria;
- v. the Government of Turkey will host a meeting to finalize the draft award criteria proposal prepared by the Secretariat after necessary consultations before its submission to COP 19.

#### **5.4. Applications for status as MAP Partners**

18. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator updated Bureau members on the status of MAP Partners and brought to their attention extension and new partnership proposals.

19. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

- i. endorse the requests of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) MEDASSET (in Greece) and TURMEPA (in Turkey) and ask the Secretariat to include them in the list of MAP Partners that will be submitted to COP 19 for adoption;
- ii. request the Secretariat to continue its efforts to ensure the inclusion of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean NGOs in the MAP Partners List and request relevant individual Parties to take all efforts to ensure wider participation of stakeholders in the work of the MAP system.

#### **5.5. Cooperation Agreements**

20. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the UNEP/MAP Coordinator presented an overview of recent activities for the development of cooperation with International and Regional Organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies, and an update on the operationalization of current agreements. He referred in particular to the draft Memorandum of Understanding between UNEP/MAP and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), as well as the cooperation with the Secretariats of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and of the Black Sea Commission respectively.

21. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

- i. express support to the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ACCOBAMS, with a view to proceed with completing consultations with, and clearance by UNEP Headquarters. The MoU could then be submitted to COP 19;

- ii. welcome the progress made on the cooperation agreements between the UNEP/MAP and CBD Secretariats;
- iii. ask the Secretariat to continue working on possible cooperation with OSPAR and HELCOM;
- iv. welcome the progress made on the cooperation between the UNEP/MAP and Bucharest Convention Secretariats and support the preparation of a MoU between these two conventions for submission to COP 19.

#### **5.6. Information and Communications Activities– 40th Anniversary of Mediterranean Action Plan**

22. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator presented an update on communication and outreach activities and initiated the discussion on possible activities for the observance of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan in 2015.

23. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:

- i. express support and share the views that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAP is an opportunity to showcase results of major strategic processes (MSSD review, Decision 21/16, SCP Action Plan and others) and enhance the visibility of MAP, build new partnerships and mobilize resources;
- ii. encourage parties and partners to host national events, as appropriate, and provide full support to the observance of this important anniversary;
- iii. highlight the importance of Coast Day as an excellent public awareness tool, which needs to be maintained and reinforced;
- iv. request the Secretariat to mobilize INFO/RAC to actively take part in the communications and outreach activities regarding the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAP, as relevant to its mandate;
- v. request the Secretariat to strengthen its communication means.

#### **Agenda item 6: Conclusions and recommendations**

24. The Bureau discussed and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting as listed above.

#### **Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau**

25. The 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau will be organized in Turkey in late January 2015. It was accepted that the financial report will be submitted by the Secretariat to the Bureau only two weeks prior to the meeting in order to ensure the inclusion of data from end-of-year financial reports. The rest of the documents will be distributed as per the Terms of Reference of the Bureau.

#### **Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters**

26. There were no other issues for consideration by the meeting.

**Agenda item 9:      Closure of the Meeting**

27. The meeting was closed by the President at 17:00 on 4 September 2014.

**Annex I**  
**List of Participants**

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**Annex II  
Agenda**

## AGENDA

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the Meeting
  
- Agenda item 2.** Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
  
- Agenda item 3.** Progress Report of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components on Activities carried out in the period January-July 2014
  
- Agenda item 4.** Update on Financial Situation
  
- Agenda item 5.** Specific Issues
  - 5.1.** Governance and Organizational Matters
  - 5.2.** Development of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy: Update
  - 5.3.** Environment Friendly Cities Award
  - 5.4.** Applications for status as MAP Partners
  - 5.5.** Cooperation Agreements
  - 5.6.** Information and Communications Activities
  
- Agenda item 6.** Conclusions and Recommendations
  
- Agenda item 7.** Date and Venue of 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau
  
- Agenda item 8.** Any Other Matters
  
- Agenda item 9.** Closure of the Meeting

**Report of the 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the  
Mediterranean and its Protocols, 3-4 February 2015, Antalya, Turkey**

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## **Introduction**

1. At the invitation of the Government of Turkey, the 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols was held on 3-4 February 2015 in Antalya, Turkey.

## **Participation**

2. The President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar (Turkey), the Vice-Presidents H.E. Ambassador Xavier Sticker (France); Mr. Ilias Mavroidis (Greece); Mr. Saleh Amnissi (The State of Libya); and the Rapporteur, Mr. Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) attended the Bureau meeting. Vice-President Mr. Mohamed Benyahia (Morocco) excused himself for not being able to attend the meeting. France was also represented by Mr. Charles-Henri De Barsac. In addition, as per Terms of Reference of the Bureau, Ms. Marijana Mance from the European Commission attended the whole meeting as observer. Ms. Sarah Humphrey, one of the two experts who carried out the outcome evaluation of UNEP/ MAP Five-Year Programme of Work 2010-2014 attended the relevant sessions to present the outcome of the evaluation.
3. As per the request by the Compliance Committee regarding the participation of their representative as an observer in the relevant session at the 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau and as agreed by the President of the Bureau, the President of the Committee, Ms. Daniela Addis also attended the Bureau Meeting on the second day during the morning session dedicated to discussions on compliance.
4. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

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

5. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar. He welcomed the Bureau members and other participants.
6. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed the Bureau Members and thanked Turkey for hosting the meeting. He provided the Bureau with an overview of the recent developments and work of UNEP/MAP since the 78<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau.

## **Agenda item 2:           Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

7. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/1. (Annex II)

## **Agenda item 3:           Progress Report by the Secretariat on Activities Carried out During the Period July – December 2014**

8. The Secretariat presented the document entitled “Progress Report by the Secretariat on Activities carried out during the period July – December 2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/3), as well as the “Progress of the Implementation of COP 18 Decisions” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/6).
9. Bureau members who took the floor commended the work done and at way progress was presented. They welcomed in particular the efforts made towards better integration and coordination of the work of the MAP Components, and towards new or enhanced partnerships, including the private sector.

10. A Bureau member requested the correction of the total number of Mediterranean Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) in the progress report from 16 to 15, as adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity.
11. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Acknowledge with satisfaction the progress made, as described in report UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/3, by the Secretariat and MAP components during the second half of 2014; and express support to the work being done towards coherence and integration among the Components;
  - ii. Stress the importance of visibility and recognize the need for wider outreach and enhanced communications on the work and achievements of the MAP system.

**Agenda item 4: Update on Financial Situation**

12. The Secretariat presented to the Bureau members for their comments and recommendations a financial update, as contained in the “Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/5) including:
  - Status of contributions as of 31 December 2014, which in the case of the MTF had reached the unprecedented level of about 98%
  - Status of funds committed
  - Interim Report with the balance between income and expenditure
  - Letters requesting payments or reminders
13. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Express great satisfaction on the rate of collection of 2014 contributions and the efforts made on resource mobilization and encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to ensure the full payment of contributions;
  - ii. Thank the parties who already paid their 2015 contributions, and note with concern the negative impact that delays in the payment of contributions may have on the implementation of MAP’s Programme of Work;
  - iii. Recall Decision IG21/15 and request the Contracting Parties to pay their 2015 annual contributions and arrears as soon as possible and to strictly adhere to the agreed timeframe for the payment of contributions of the subsequent years;
  - iv. Request that the income and expenditures table in future financial reports include separate lines for the working capital reserve and for the uncollected contributions respectively;
  - v. Welcome the retaining of Mr. Habib El Habr as Deputy Coordinator in order to ensure continuity;
  - vi. Take note of the status of recruitment of the posts approved by COP 18 depending on the receipt of the 2015 contributions;
  - vii. Encourage Contracting Parties, who may be able to do, so to contribute human resources to the MAP system through Junior Professional Officers (JPO) and non-reimbursable loan of experts’ schemes.

**Agenda item 5: Specific Issues**

14. The Secretariat presented the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4).

**5.1. Governance and Organizational Matters, including the date of COP 19**

15. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Governance Decision IG.21/13 and the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the UNEP/MAP Coordinator presented an update on issues regarding the status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols; Host Country Agreements with countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers; and evaluation method on measures to enhance the functioning of the Secretariat and MAP Components.
16. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
- i. Call upon the two countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lebanon), where the ratification of the amended convention is pending, to complete the ratification process as soon as possible and in time for COP 19;
  - ii. Call upon the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the Barcelona Convention Protocols and in particular the revised Dumping Protocol, so that it may enter into force by COP 19. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to continue following closely with the Contracting Parties the ratification process;
  - iii. Request the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with concerned governments and UNEP Headquarters, as relevant, to finalize the Host Country Agreements (HCAs) as per the Decision IG.21/13 as soon as possible and preferably by COP 19;
  - iv. Hold COP 19 on 9-12 February 2016 and approve the calendar of its governing bodies and MCSD as shown below:

| <b>Event</b>                                    | <b>Proposed date</b>   |
|---|--|
| <b>MSSD REVIEW CONFERENCE, MALTA</b>            | <b>17-18 February 2015</b>   |
| Deadline for MAP Focal Points Meeting documents | <b>27 March 2015</b>   |
| <b>MAP FOCAL POINTS MEETING</b>                 | <b><del>28-30 April 2015</del><br/>(Meeting later postponed to<br/>19-21 May 2015)</b> |
| Deadline for MCSD documents                     | <b>8 May 2015</b>  |
| <b>16<sup>TH</sup> MCSD MEETING</b>             | <b>9-11 June 2015</b>  |
| Deadline for Bureau Meeting documents           | <b>15 June 2015</b>  |
| <b>80<sup>TH</sup> BUREAU MEETING, GREECE</b>   | <b>14-15 July 2015</b>   |

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| Deadline for MAP Focal Points Meeting documents  | <b>18 September 2015</b>                         |
| <b>MAP FOCAL POINTS MEETING</b>  | <b>October 2015 (exact date to be confirmed)</b> |
| Deadline for draft documents to be ready for translation into the 4 official languages | <b>18 November 2015</b>                          |
| Deadline for COP 19 Documents  | <b>9 December 2015</b>                           |
| <b>COP 19</b>  | <b>9-12 February 2016</b>                        |

- v. Encourage all parties to be represented at Ministerial level at COP 19, considering the important strategic products to be approved in that occasion, and that COP 19 will be the culminating event of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAP/Barcelona Convention;
- vi. Put in place the following evaluation process, as per the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, Article IX paragraph 5:
  - a. continue submission of an enhanced delivery report to each Bureau meeting, indicating the status of expenditures for each expected result of the Programme of Work;
  - b. submit a consolidated report to each COP on the delivery of the Programme of Work.

## 5.2. Compliance Issues

17. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision IG.21/1 on Compliance Committee and the Decision IG.21/2 on Reporting Format, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the President of the Committee Ms. Daniela Addis provided an update on the outcomes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Compliance Committee Meeting. She reported on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013) and on the revision of the Reporting Format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The statement of Ms. Addis is in Annex III.
18. The President of the Compliance Committee recommended the regular participation of a representative of the Compliance Committee as observer in all future Bureau meetings.
19. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Remind all Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to officially submit their pending reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible in compliance with the obligations of Article 26 of the Convention and with a view to facilitate the work of the Compliance Committee;
  - ii. Send a letter jointly signed by the President of the Bureau and the President of the Compliance Committee to those Parties that have not submitted reports for at least two consecutive biennia before 2012, requesting them to meet their reporting obligations and explain the difficulties they encountered for not submitting their reports;
  - iii. Hold a brief formal session during the next MAP Focal Points meeting to inform the Parties on compliance issues and an informal session to discuss the matter with the non-compliant and other interested Parties;
  - iv. Request the Secretariat to ensure that adequate budget provisions be included in future Programmes of Work and budgets for support to the Contracting Parties who request technical assistance for their reporting.



### **5.3. Outcome Evaluation of UNEP/ MAP Five Year Programme of Work 2010-2014**

20. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP explained the process of the outcome evaluation of the Five Year Programme of Work of UNEP/ MAP (2010-2014, with one year extension to 2015). Ms. Sarah Humphrey, one of the two experts who carried out the evaluation presented the outcome of the evaluation, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/Inf.4.
21. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to: acknowledge the work done by the evaluators and draft findings; and request the Secretariat to reflect them into the process of preparation of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy, as appropriate.

### **5.4. Development of the 2016-2021 Midterm Strategy: Issues and Framework**

22. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP updated Bureau members on the progress of the development of the Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021 and explained the proposal of the draft set of issues and the framework as provided in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7.
23. After discussions, the Bureau welcomed the proposed Midterm Strategy thematic areas and structure proposed by the Secretariat, and asked the Secretariat to:
  - i. Reconsider titles of thematic areas;
  - ii. Take into account issues of public communications;
  - iii. Ensure inclusion of cross-cutting and emerging issues, such as sustainable consumption and production; and,
  - iv. Consider synergies with other existing regional initiatives in the development of the Midterm Strategy.

### **5.5. Update on Mandated Strategic Processes**

24. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decisions IG.21/10 on Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), IG.21/11 on Review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), and the Decision IG.21/17 on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP updated Bureau members on the current status of the development of SCP Action Plan, review of MSSD, Offshore Protocol Action Plan, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and implementation of Decision IG.21/16.
25. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Welcome the progress made in the revision of MSSD, development of SCP Action Plan and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, as well as the Offshore Protocol Action Plan;
  - ii. Ask the Secretariat to finalize the Terms of Reference of the MAP II evaluation; launch the process of assessment of MAP II and inform 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau on the progress. For this purpose, ask the Secretariat to carry out a budget revision to mobilise the necessary resources for this evaluation.

#### **5.6. Environment Friendly Cities Award**

26. With reference to the Istanbul Declaration, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP presented an update on actions taken regarding nomination and selection principles and criteria for the award.
27. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to request the Secretariat to identify with the Turkish authorities the dates and venue of the workshop to discuss and agree the criteria and state of play of the Environment Friendly Cities Award, to be brought to the attention and endorsement by the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau.

#### **5.7. Cooperation Agreements**

28. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP presented an overview of cooperation with International and Regional Organizations, and bilateral cooperation agencies, and updated Bureau members on the operationalization of current agreements (GFCM, UfM Secretariat and IUCN). Bureau members were also informed of the on-going dialogue with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Black Sea Commission, European Environment Agency (EEA), OSPAR and HELCOM, as well as possible future cooperation with other partners, including the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet).
29. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Welcome the progress on the cooperation with UfM;
  - ii. Note with satisfaction the progress on the cooperation agreements between the Secretariat and CBD Secretariat, as well as with the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, and ask the Secretariat to report progress to the first MAP Focal Points meeting and submit the cleared draft MoU documents to the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau;
  - iii. Ask the Secretariat to continue working on possible cooperation with EEA, OSPAR and HELCOM.

#### **5.8. MAP 40 Communications Plan**

30. The Coordinator of MAP presented an update on the outreach activities carried out and on the communications plan regarding the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MAP/Barcelona Convention.
31. After discussions, the Bureau agreed to:
  - i. Confirm its support to the organization of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAP;
  - ii. Encourage Parties and partners to host national events, as appropriate, and provide full support to the observance of this important anniversary.

#### **Agenda item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations**

32. The Bureau discussed and adopted conclusions and recommendations as listed above.

#### **Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau**

33. The 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau will be organized in Athens, Greece on 14-15 July 2015.

**Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters**

34. The President of the Bureau announced a statement on behalf of the Turkish Government on the establishment of a new Regional Activity Center on Climate Change. The statement is provided in Annex IV.

**Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting**

35. The meeting was closed by the President of the Bureau at 17:00 on Wednesday, 4 February 2015.

**Annex I**

**List of Participants**

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UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR/79/8

Annex I

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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**

**TIMETABLE**

| <b>Tuesday, 3 February 2015</b>   |   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Time</b>                       | <b>Agenda item</b>  |   | <b>Documents</b>                                   |
| 09:00 – 09:15                     | 1. Opening of the meeting<br>2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work                     | President of the Bureau                 | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/1<br>UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/2 |
| 09:15– 10:30                      | 3. Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period July – December 2014          | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/3<br>UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/6 |
| 10:30 – 11:00                     | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |   |  |
| 11:00-12:30                       | 4. Update on Financial Situation  | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/5                            |
| 12:30 – 14:00                     | <i>Lunch Break</i>  |   |  |
| 14:00 – 15:30                     | 5. Specific Issues  | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4                            |
| 15:30-16:00                       | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |   |  |
| 16:00 – 17:00                     | 5. Specific Issues (cont'd)   | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4<br>UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/7 |
| <b>Wednesday, 4 February 2015</b> |   |   |  |
| 09:00 – 10:30                     | 5. Specific Issues (cont'd)   | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4                            |
| 10:30-11:00                       | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |   |  |
| 11:00 – 11:30                     | 5. Specific Issues (cont'd)   | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.79/4                            |
| 11:30 – 14:00                     | <i>Extended Lunch break<br/>(preparation of the draft list of conclusions and recommendations for adoption)</i> |   |  |
| 14:00-16:00                       | 6. Conclusions and recommendations  | Coordinator of MAP                      |  |
| 16:00-16:30                       | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |   |  |
| 16:30-16:45                       | 7. Date and Venue of 80 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau   | Coordinator of MAP                      |  |
| 16:45-17:00                       | 8. Any other Matters  | President of the Bureau and Secretariat |  |
| 17:00                             | 9. Closure of the Meeting   | President of the Bureau                 |  |

**Annex III**

**Statement of the President of the Compliance Committee**

**Participation of the Compliance Committee's representative as an observer in the relevant session at the 79th Meeting of the Bureau**

*Mr President,*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the **Compliance Committee**, representing the views of its Members.

At the outset, let me express my gratitude for having invited me to participate, as an observer, in the today Bureau meeting on issues related to the work of the Committee, and to expose the terms of the issue that motivate such participation. The Compliance Committee is determinate to work in close cooperation with all Contracting Parties, the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, convinced that the collaboration will ensure the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

The Committee at its first session after the COP 18 (the Ninth Committee Meeting, held in Split, Croatia, on 27 and 28 November 2014), aware that the Conclusions of its Recommendation on non-compliance obligations regarding submission of Reports (annexed to its activities report for the biennium 2012-2013, at paragraphs 35 and 36, UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.21/8), **approved by the 18th Ordinary Meeting** of the Contracting Parties in **Decision IG.21/1, have not been implemented by the concerned Contracting Parties.**

In fact, since the COP 18, no response was given by the concerned Contracting Parties to the requests made by the above mentioned Decision IG.21/1.

**Mr President,**

With regard to the Compliance Committee Recommendation, and the related Decision IG 21/1 adopted by the Conference of the Parties, I may recall the content, which requires:

- that the Governments of **eight Contracting Parties** (Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Syria and Tunisia), by not submitting their **2010-2011 Reports**, have not complied with their obligations under Article 26 of the Convention and therefore **to submit** their **2010-2011 report** within **two months** of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (by February 2014). They were invited, as well and where necessary, to request assistance in drafting the reports.
- that the Governments of **four Contracting Parties** (Albania, Libya, Malta and Slovenia), by not submitting their **2008-2009** and **2010-2011 Reports**, have demonstrated **serious and repeated non-compliance** with their obligations under Article 26 of the Convention. As such, they have received a **warning** under paragraph 34 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2 and therefore they were requested **to submit** to

the Committee within 2 months of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (by February 2014), **a note explaining how they will proceed** in the future to prepare their Reports and **detailing the means and resources** they have mobilized to submit their reports.

- that the Governments of the above mentioned **eight Contracting Parties** had to **make a referral** to the **Compliance Committee** under paragraph 18 (a) of Decision IG. 17/2 so that the Committee may examine the difficulties and obstacles encountered by these Parties and assist them in meeting their obligations to submit reports under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.

**Mr President,**

The Committee urges Contracting Parties compliance and consequently the necessity to reiterate to those Contracting Parties their duty to meet, as soon as possible, the measures that have been requested in accordance with article 26 of the Barcelona Convention.

Therefore, the Compliance Committee deeply concerned about the consequences, have asked its Chairperson to address a message to the President of the Bureau with the aim of **exchanging views** on the status of the implementation of the above mentioned Decision IG.21/1 and related matters, and **to agree about the initiative to be undertaken** to ensure the full and timely implementation of the said Decision.

**Mr President,**

We consider important to inform the Bureau about the actions the Committee intends to take in the absence of an adequate response by the concerned Contracting Parties. In particular, the Committee decided to write to **the concerned Contracting Parties** informing them of the measures that will be undertaken with a view to promoting compliance in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Decision IG.21/1, addressing these cases of non-compliance, in the light of the amended Decision IG. 17/2 supplemented with the provision 2a. of Section V on the referral to the Committee on its own initiative, asking the Party concerned to provide all additional information and asking about the steps that they intend to take to comply with their commitments and the assistance that they may need to meet their reporting obligations.

The measures to be undertaken by the Committee may include the **organization of hearings** for the representatives of the concerned Contracting Parties, pursuant to paragraph 27, second sentence of the Decision IG 17/2.

We principally consider essential and necessary, in this particular case of non-compliance, to **ask the Parties in default to participate in the next meeting of the Committee**, "back to back" with the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, tentatively scheduled in late April 2015, to have the opportunity to

understand the reasons behind the delay in submitting reports within the framework of the questionnaire and to ask them about the initiatives they envisage to comply with their commitment on reporting up to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the advice and assistance they may need to fulfil their reporting obligations.

Furthermore, the Committee, evoking the role of the Bureau, which has the necessary authority to allow the implementation of the Recommendation, in accordance with Article IX of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau, wish to find shared and common solutions **to recall the concerned Contracting Parties to respect their obligations**; in particular the Governments of the four Contracting Parties which repeatedly failed to abide by their reporting obligation, who should receive a warning addressed by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to the Decision of the Conference of the Parties contained in paragraph 36, and in accordance with paragraph 34.a of the Decision IG 17/2.

Additionally, in order to better contribute to the effectiveness of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Committee wishes to take this opportunity to advance and share the following **proposals**:

1. the amendment of Article II, para. 3 of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, adding after the words “*and regular attendance at the meeting of the contracting Parties*” the following words “*and compliance with their obligations under the Convention, in particular Article 26, and its related Protocols*” (to add a compliance criteria in electing the members of the Bureau);
2. the regular participation of a Committee’s representative, with the status of observer, to the Bureau meetings dealing with compliance issues (for a better and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Committee, the Bureau and the Secretariat);
3. the necessity to provide a specific and dedicated regular support (i.e. a legal officer) to the Compliance Committee to help it carry out its mandate at its best, and the related need for appropriate resources.

***Mr President,***

With regard to the revision of the **Reporting Format** of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Committee is pleased to inform that at its Ninth meeting has considered a **simplified and practical draft report format** that the Secretariat has prepared, in consultation with the Committee, to be submitted for review and adoption by the Nineteenth meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Then the Committee asked the Secretariat to continue the preparation of the revised Report format, taking into consideration the comments given by its members, to be examined during the next meeting.

Moreover, the Committee reiterated its request to **organize a workshop** that is open to the Contracting Parties, aiming at getting familiar with the use of the revised report format online.

The Committee would also like to take this opportunity to underline the **importance to organize such a workshop** on the compilation and submission of reports, and the related need for appropriate resources.

**Mr President and Members of the Bureau,**

I would be pleased to answer to the request of clarification and more information you may need.

I would like to thank again for having invited me as the representative of the Committee to the today Bureau meeting to exchange views on the status of the implementation of the above mentioned Decision IG.21/1 and related matters, and **to consider** and **undertake any additional action that may be required** for achieving of **and** to ensure the full and timely implementation of the said Decision.

*Thank you, Mr President*

Daniela Addis  
Chairperson of the Compliance Committee

**Annex IV**

**Statement of the President of the Bureau on Behalf of the Turkish Government on the  
Establishment of a New Regional Activity Center on Climate Change**



**Statement of the President of the Bureau on behalf of the Turkish Government on the establishment of a new Regional Activity Center on Climate Change**

Considering the high priority of combatting climate change in the Mediterranean region, it is evident that we need to take some extra solid steps for tackling this challenge. In this respect, establishment of a new regional activity center which directly deals with climate change would be an added value to the MAP system.

Taking into account the support and importance given by Turkey to Barcelona Convention and its protocols together with Turkey's capacity in the field of climate change, Turkey is willing to take a leading role on the establishment of this mechanism both financially and technically.

**Report of the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the  
Mediterranean and its Protocols, 14-15 July 2015, Athens, Greece**

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### **ANNEXES**

**Annex I** List of Participants

**Annex II** Agenda

## **Introduction**

1. At the invitation of the Government of Greece, the 80<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols was held on 14-15 July 2015 in Athens, Greece.

## **Participation**

2. The President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar (Turkey), the Vice-Presidents H.E. Ambassador Xavier Sticker (France); Mr. Ilias Mavroidis (Greece); and the Rapporteur, Mr. Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) attended the Bureau meeting. Vice-Presidents Mr. Mohamed Benyahia (Morocco) and Mr. Saleh Amnissi (The State of Libya) excused themselves for not being able to attend the meeting. The President of the Bureau was accompanied by Mr. Murat Turan and Ms. Bahar Ozogut. In addition, as per Terms of Reference of the Bureau, Ms. Marijana Mance (European Commission) attended the meeting as observer.
3. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

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

4. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar. He welcomed the Bureau members and other participants.
5. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed the Bureau Members. He provided the Bureau with an overview of the recent developments and work of UNEP/MAP since the 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau.

### **Agenda item 2:            Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

6. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/1 (Annex II).

### **Agenda item 3:            Progress Report by the Secretariat on Aactivities Carried out During the Period January – June 2015**

7. The Secretariat presented the document entitled “Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January – June 2015” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3), as well as the “Progress of the Implementation of COP 18 Decisions” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4).
8. Bureau members requested a number of revisions in the document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3, as follows:
  - revisit the references to the work of MCSDD regarding the MSSD review and replace the action of the Commission’s “endorsement” with “provision of recommendations” to be submitted for the consideration of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, following discussion at the meeting of the MAP Focal Points;
  - include the SCP/RAC and SPA/RAC Focal Points Meetings of 2015 in the report;
  - clarify the reference given to comments provided on the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in paragraph 51;
  - move the wrongly placed paragraphs 73-78 under Theme IV section;

- include the information on the workshop on Environment Friendly Cities Award, which was presented in the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4), also in the progress report;
  - include the work done on preparation of a formal cooperation instrument with the Black Sea Commission in the report.
9. After discussions, the Bureau took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved during the period January-June 2015.

**Agenda item 4: Update on Financial Situation**

10. The Secretariat presented an update on financial issues to the Bureau members for their comments and recommendations , as contained in the “Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/5), including:
- Status of contributions as of 30 April 2015.
  - Implications of Umoja implementation.
  - Invoicing for 2016.
  - Expenditures.
  - Working Capital Reserve.
  - Interim Report with the balance between income and expenditure.
  - Report on personnel matters.
11. After discussions, the Bureau:
- i. noted with appreciation the improved percentage of contributions received for the year 2015;
  - ii. took note with concern of the three cases of arrears over 24 months and welcomed the Secretariat’s suggestion to continue its efforts to collect all outstanding arrears, giving full consideration to the individual situations of the relevant parties, and bring the matter to the attention of the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015;
  - iii. expressed appreciation for the measures taken by UNEP HQs and by the Secretariat to address the negative balance of the CAL fund and meet the requirements of Umoja in line with the Bureau recommendation at its 79<sup>th</sup> Meeting;
  - iv. urged the Host Country to complete the payment of its 2014 and 2015 contributions to CAL fund in order to ensure progress of the deficit recovery, and meet the requirements of Umoja;
  - v. took note of the Decision 21.17 stating that “in the 2016-2017 biennium a scale based on the latest UNGA scale of assessments should be applied”. The Bureau also noted that the COP 19 in February 2016 will make it difficult to respect procedure 2.4 of the Financial Rules and Procedures, which requires the COP to adopt the operational budget before the period that it covers;
  - vi. welcomed the following proposal by the Secretariat, subject to approval by the UNEP Executive Director, to address the financial implications of holding COP 19 in February 2016:
    - to issue notifications with estimated contributions for 2016 in October 2015 to meet planning and budgetary needs of Contracting Parties. They will be based on the 2015 invoices and will be adjusted and resent immediately after COP 19 to reflect the approved budget and the revised UN assessed scale of contributions approved by the UNGA in December 2015;

- to re-phase the 2015 unspent balance into 2016 accounts and withdraw from the Working Capital Reserve to cover staff and operational costs of the first months of 2016 as needed;
  - the approval by UNEP Executive Director should be circulated to Contracting Parties;
- vii. took note of the status of recruitments at the Coordinating Unit and encouraged again Contracting Parties who may be able to do so to contribute human resources to the Secretariat through JPO and other similar schemes;
- viii. invited the Contracting Parties, who are in the position to do so, to fund their participation to COP 19 in order to contribute to covering the costs of the COP, in accordance with the best practices of other MEAs.

**Agenda item 5:            Specific Issues**

12. The Secretariat presented the “Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4).

**5.1.            Governance and Organizational Matters / Compliance issues**

13. The Coordinator of MAP presented an update on issues regarding the status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Related Protocols and Host Country Agreements with countries hosting MAP Regional Activity Centers.
14. Additionally, with reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision IG.21/1 on Compliance Committee and the Decision IG.21/2 on Reporting Format, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Secretariat provided an update on the outcomes of the 10th Compliance Committee Meeting, reporting on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Biennia 2010-2011 and 2012-2013); and revision of the Reporting Format of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.
15. Under this agenda item, discussions on the organization of COP 19 took place. Greece, as Host Country of COP 19, expressed concern for the high cost of the organization of the event, also taking into account the current economic situation in Greece. The representative of the Greek Government also informed the Bureau Members that their search for possible donors was on-going, and confirmed that COP 19 will take place in Athens as planned. He also confirmed that the initial discussions had taken place with the UNEP/MAP Secretariat on the ministerial-level session and on the Athens Declaration. A formal reaction to the theme proposed by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat in May would be finalized soon, along with the details of the hosting of COP 19, to enable the process of invitations to start as soon as possible.
16. After discussions, the Bureau:
- i. welcomed the special efforts made to promote ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as progress achieved in supporting compliance by the Contracting Parties;
  - ii. called upon Contracting Parties, that have not yet done so, to sign or ratify the amended Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and requested the Secretariat to continue following up on this matter;
  - iii. expressed concern on the limited number of reports on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols submitted by the Contracting Parties, and urged them to submit their reports as soon as possible;
  - iv. requested the Secretariat to continue close follow-up with UNEP HQs and concerned governments to finalize the HCAs as per the Decision IG.21/13;

- v. invited the Host Country to finalize the preparation of COP 19 as soon as possible, including the Ministerial Segment, and requested the Secretariat to inform the Bureau accordingly through electronic means.

## **5.2. Update on mandated strategic processes**

17. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decisions IG.21/8 on Follow-up Actions Regarding the Offshore Action Plan, IG.21/10 on Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), IG.21/11 on Review of Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD), and the Decision IG.21/17 on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator updated Bureau Members on the current status of the development of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan, SCP Action Plan, review of MSSD, implementation of Decision IG.21/16 and development of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework.
18. After discussions, the Bureau:
  - i. welcomed the outcome of the strategic processes that the Secretariat reported on, and invited the MAP Focal Points to consider also the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework in their Meeting in October 2015;
  - ii. requested the Secretariat to submit to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015 the results of the assessment of MAP II, addressing the challenge of sustainable development and the irreversible nature of impacts on the environment and resources, and including options and roadmaps for the way forward.

## **5.3. Update on Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021**

19. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 Biennium (Decision IG.21/17), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Coordinator of MAP updated Bureau members on the progress of the development of the Mid-Term Strategy for the period 2016-2021, including the outcomes of the MAP Focal Points Meeting, which was held on 19-21 May 2015 in Athens, Greece and the draft Strategic Framework subsequently revised on the basis of those suggestions.
20. After discussions, the Bureau expressed support to the work done in developing the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 based on the suggestions of MAP FPs at their Meeting in May 2015.

## **5.4. General orientations on the Programme of Work (2016-2017)**

21. The Coordinator of MAP will explain the general orientations on the Programme of Work for 2016-2017 biennium, with reference to Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021.
22. After discussions, the Bureau:
  - i. agreed with the principles, general orientations and structure of the Programme of Work 2016-2017, specifically:
    - alignment with key mandates and the Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021;
    - coherence and integration of its components;
    - realistic projection of its outcomes, outputs and resources, as well as means of implementation and expected partnerships.
  - ii. requested the Secretariat to bring to the attention of the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015, the possibility to include costs of the organization of future COP Meetings in the biennial MTF budget, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure, and in line with UN best practices.

### **5.5. Environment Friendly Cities Award**

23. With reference to the Istanbul Declaration, adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Secretariat presented an update on actions taken regarding nomination and selection principles and criteria for the award, including the outcomes of the workshop hosted by the Government of Turkey on 25-26 May 2015 in Ankara, Turkey.
24. After discussions, the Bureau:
  - i. expressed appreciation to the Government of Turkey for organizing the Environment Friendly Cities Award Workshop, in which categories and preliminary set of criteria and selection process for the Award were identified;
  - ii. requested the Secretariat to submit to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015, the results of the Workshop, including categories and preliminary set of criteria and selection process, along with financial implications and decision text containing a mandate for the forthcoming Bureau's approval of the detailed nomination and selection process with a view to grant the first award at COP 20.

### **5.6. Cooperation Agreements**

25. With reference to the operational paragraphs of the Decision on Cooperation Agreements (Decision IG.21/14), adopted by COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Secretariat presented an overview of cooperation with International and Regional Organizations, and bilateral cooperation agencies, and updated Bureau Members on the operationalization of current agreements and on progress in the development of new ones.
26. After discussions, the Bureau noted with satisfaction the progress on cooperation with partners and encouraged the Secretariat to continue working on the development of such cooperation, in particular with contiguous regional seas, and requested the Secretariat to continue working with the Black Sea Commission to finalize the MoU, possibly by COP 19.

### **5.7. MAP Partners**

27. The Secretariat updated the Bureau on the process regarding the update of the MAP Partners list.
28. After discussions, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to continue working to identify relevant candidate MAP Partners and bring the list of candidates to its attention by email for approval and onward submission to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points in October 2015.

### **5.8. Visibility and Outreach**

29. The Coordinator of MAP presented an update on the outreach activities carried out during the reporting period.
30. After discussions, the Bureau:
  - i. appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the visibility of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, and encouraged Contracting Parties to organize events to observe the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MAP/Barcelona Convention;
  - ii. requested the Secretariat to include appropriate resources for outreach, information and communication in the proposed budget of the next biennium and in the preparation of project submissions to donors.



**Agenda item 6: Update on COP 19**

**6.1. Organizational Matters / Inter-ministerial Session and Athens Declaration**

31. The summary of the discussion on this matter and the recommendation by the Bureau are provided in section 5.1 above.

**6.2. Draft Decisions**

32. The Secretariat introduced a preliminary list of draft decisions to be submitted to MAP Focal Points Meeting that will be held in October 2015.

33. The Bureau reviewed the proposed list of COP 19 Decisions, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/7/Rev.1 and provided guidance to the Secretariat for further development. The revised provisional list reflecting the Bureau guidance is as follows:

**Provisional List of COP 19 Draft Decisions as Revised by the Bureau**

| No. | Provisional Title                       | Summary   |
|-----|---|---|
| 1   | Governance                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures to strengthen the Barcelona Convention/MAP Governance including strengthening cooperation with Components,</li> <li>• Host Country Agreements,</li> <li>• Environment Friendly Cities Award criteria and selection process to grant first award at COP 20</li> <li>• Other mandated actions,</li> <li>• Common date to hold national events to celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Barcelona Convention, and</li> <li>• Date and venue of next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.</li> </ul> |
| 2   | Reporting                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the draft revised format of the Barcelona Convention Reporting System, and</li> <li>• New reporting format for the ICZM Protocol (Operational Section).</li> </ul>   |
| 3   | Compliance Committee                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election and/ or renewal of members,</li> <li>• Adoption of the Compliance Committee Recommendations, and</li> <li>• Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee.</li> </ul>   |
| 4   | Cooperation Agreements and MAP Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of new cooperation agreements (e.g. ACCOBAMS and Black Sea Commission) including mandate to develop a proposal of cooperation in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to marine pollution from ships in cooperation with European Commission, European Maritime Safety Agency - EMSA and the oil industry.</li> <li>• Addition of new MAP NGO Partners.</li> </ul>  |

| No. | Provisional Title  | Summary   |
|-----|--|---|
| 5   | MCSD Governance  | Adoption of revised constitutive documents and new composition of MCSD.   |
| 6   | Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025   | Adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025.   |
| 7   | Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related assessment criteria                        | Establishment of an integrated monitoring and assessment programme 2016- 2021, as part of the application of Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean.   |
| 8   | Implementation of updated National Action Plans (NAPs)   | Endorsement of the updated NAPs, and measures for its implementation.   |
| 9   | Mercury Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) Guidelines  | Adoption of common technical standards addressing different aspects related to Mercury ESM.   |
| 10  | Implementing the Marine Litter Regional Plan   | Adoption of baseline values for categories of Marine Litter and related environmental targets against which the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan will be evaluated, as well as adoption of Fishing for Litter Guidelines.  |
| 11  | Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021)  | Adoption of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021).  |
| 12  | Decision on the Mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan for ICZM and CAMP Assessment  | Adoption of the two documents and recommendations on how to continue with the implementation of the Action Plan until its end in 2019 including on the priorities for the second half of the Action Plan implementation period, and establishment of a network of CAMPs.  |
| 13  | Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan in the framework of the Offshore Protocol   | Adoption of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.   |
| 14  | Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production   | Adoption of the SCP Action Plan and roadmap for its implementation.   |
| 15  | Updated Biodiversity related Action Plans  | Adoption of updated versions of three Action Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea,</li> <li>• Conservation of the Coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions in the Mediterranean Sea, and</li> <li>• Species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea.</li> </ul> |
| 16  | Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs  | Adoption of a Roadmap for a comprehensive coherent network of well managed MPAs to achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean.  |
| 17  | Inclusion of the Karaburun Sazan Marine Park (Albania) in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI List) | Inclusion of a new coastal area in Albanian waters in the SPAMI List, bringing the number of SPAMIs to 34 and enhancing the geographical balance of the SPAMI network.  |

| No. | Provisional Title                            | Summary  |
|-----|--|--|
| 18  | Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework | Adoption of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework and follow-up.  |
| 19  | Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021                  | Adoption of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021.  |
| 20  | Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017       | Adoption of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017.   |
| 21  | Assessment of MAP II and the way forward     | Review of the results of the assessment of MAP II, addressing the challenge of sustainable development and the irreversible nature of impacts on the environment and resources, and decision on the options and roadmap for the way forward. |

**Agenda item 7:      Conclusions and Recommendations**

34. The Bureau discussed and adopted conclusions and recommendations as listed above.

**Agenda item 8:      Any Other Matters**

35. There were no other issues for consideration by the meeting.

**Agenda item 9:      Closure of the Meeting**

36. The meeting was closed by the President of the Bureau at 17:30 on Wednesday, 15 July 2015.

## **Annex I**

### **List of Participants**

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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**



**TIMETABLE**

| <b>Tuesday, 14 July 2015</b>   |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Time</b>                    | <b>Agenda item</b>  |   | <b>Documents</b>                                   |
| 09:30 – 09:45                  | 1. Opening of the meeting<br>2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work                     | President of the Bureau                 | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/1<br>UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/2 |
| 09:15 – 10:30                  | 3. Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period January – June 2015           | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/3<br>UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/4 |
| 10:30 – 11:30                  | 4. Update on Financial Situation  | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/5                            |
| 11:30 – 12:30                  | 5. Specific Issues  | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/6                            |
| 12:30 – 14:00                  | <i>Lunch Break</i>  |   |  |
| 14:00 – 17:00                  | 5. Specific Issues (cont'd)   | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/6                            |
| <b>Wednesday, 15 July 2015</b> |   |   |  |
| 09:30 – 10:30                  | 5. Specific Issues (cont'd)   | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/6                            |
| 10:30 – 12:30                  | 6. Update on COP 19   | Coordinator of MAP                      | UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.80/7                            |
| 12:30 – 15:00                  | <i>Extended Lunch break<br/>(preparation of the draft list of conclusions and recommendations for adoption)</i> |   |  |
| 15:00 – 17:00                  | 7. Conclusions and recommendations  | Coordinator of MAP                      |  |
| 17:00 – 17:45                  | 8. Any other Matters  | President of the Bureau and Secretariat |  |
| 17:45 – 18:00                  | 9. Closure of the Meeting   | President of the Bureau                 |  |