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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015

Agenda item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting

Draft Decision: Implementation of Updated National Action Plans (NAPs), Containing Measures and Timetables for their Implementation

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Note by the Secretariat

The main objective of the proposed draft Decision is to endorse the updated National Action Plans based on Articles 5 and 15 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention with the view to create a strong impetus for their implementation at national levels and enhance efficient coordination at national and regional levels among relevant actors and partners.

The NAP update is carried out in line with Article 5 of the LBS Protocol according to which the Contracting Parties shall “... *elaborate and implement, individually or jointly, as appropriate, national and regional action plans and programmes, containing measures and timetables for their implementation*”, as well as in line with COP Decision IG. 17/8¹, Decision IG.17/6² and Decision IG.21/17³.

The main objective of the NAP update is to identify and prioritize national programmes of measures to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) with regard to ecosystem approach (EcAp)-based UNEP/MAP pollution-related ecological objectives in the framework of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention and its related Regional Plans.

As mandated by COP 18, the process was initiated in 2014 with setting up of national institutional structures, completion of methodological guidance and mobilization of regional and national technical and financial assistance. Updated NAPs were prepared in the course of 2015 through participatory national processes and based on the use of harmonized, comprehensive and integrated approaches.

The Secretariat has collaborated closely with the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean, leading element of the UfM flagship De-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Initiative- and in particular with the EU-funded Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) project, which provided substantive support to the NAP update to 6 Contracting Parties and overall technical guidance to 13 Contracting Parties. A financial contribution by Israel was used to partially support the regional meeting on NAP update in May 2015, which provided technical assistance to the national teams on the setting of operational targets, identification and prioritization of measures to achieve GES.

Provision of support to the Contracting Parties to implement the programmes of measures envisaged in the updated NAPs represents one of the core areas of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work (PoW) and of the Mid-term Strategy 2016-2021. A number of activities is planned to address in particular regulatory framework, enforcement, as well as sustainability of the investment portfolio and contribute to the Medium Term Strategy 2016-2021 outputs:

The proposed draft decision provides for a mid-term evaluation in 2020 of NAP implementation with the view to assess the effectiveness of measures taken and implemented as provided for in Article 13 paragraph 2 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.

This decision contributes to the implementation of the Medium Term Strategy 2016-2021 following outputs: 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4.

¹ Decision on implementation of NAPs and the preparation of legally binding measures and timetables required by Article 15 of the LBS Protocol.

² Decision on implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment.

³ Decision on MAP Programme of Work and Budget for the 2014-2015 biennium.

Draft Decision IG.22/8

**Implementation of Updated National Action Plans (NAPs),
Containing Measures and Timetables for their Implementation**

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention,

Recalling Articles 5 of the LBS Protocol of the Barcelona Convention on elaboration and implementation of national and regional action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables for their implementation;

Acknowledging the progress achieved through the implementation of NAPs endorsed by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the period 2003-2013, as concluded in the midterm evaluation of SAP/ NAP implementation carried out by UNEP/MAP and UfM Secretariat;

Noting the renewed commitment to achieve the Ecosystem Approach-based Ecological Objectives set by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as Clean Mediterranean by 2020 as stated in the Athens Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change (2014);

Appreciating the work carried by the Contracting Parties to update the NAPs, and to produce coherent and financially sustainable policy documents integrating GES, Regional Plans commitments and SAP-MED targets;

Expressing appreciation to the UfM and the European Union for their political and financial support provided to the NAP update process in collaboration with UNEP/MAP Secretariat;

Endorses the NAPs 2016 – 2025 as unique policy documents comprising legally binding programmes of measures and timetables required to achieve GES and the Regional Plans/LBS Protocols objectives in the framework of SAP-MED.

Urges the Contracting Parties to implement NAPs, strengthen the coherence between NAP programmes of measures and other national policies, foster conditions for their long-term sustainability, and report on their implementation in the framework of Article 13 of the LBS Protocol;

Urges partners, international organisations in particular GEF and UfM and financial institutions to support implementation of NAPs through available mechanisms, facilities and programmes to contribute to the objective of achieving GES in the Mediterranean;

Requests the Secretariat (MED POL) to undertake in 2020 an indicator-based midterm evaluation of the NAPs implementation based on the existing reporting system and in close collaboration with the Contracting Parties for submission to COP 21.