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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

11 September 2015
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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015

Agenda items 3, 4, 5.9, 5.2, 5.6 & 5.17:

Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2014 - 2015 , Biennium and Financial Implementation 2014-2015, Draft Decision on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, Draft Decision on the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Draft Decision on Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, Draft Decision on MCSD Governance

Report of the 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

10 August 2015
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16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

Marrakesh, Morocco, 9-11 June 2015

Report of the 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

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Introduction

1. The 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) was held on 9 - 11 June 2015 in Marrakesh, hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco in collaboration with the Secretariat to Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center.

Attendance

2. The attendance list is provided in Annex 1.

I. Opening (agenda item 1)

3. The meeting was opened by Dr. Marguerite Camilleri, the former President of the MCSD Steering Committee, elected at its 15th session held in Floriana, Malta in 2013.
4. Welcome addresses were delivered by Mr. Rachid Firadi, the representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP. The speeches are provided in Annex 2.
5. A keynote speech was delivered by Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Special Advisor to the UNEP Executive Director on SDGs and Post-2015 Agenda. The full speech is provided in Annex 2.
6. In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, at the commencement of the first sitting of each meeting, the Commission elected the Steering Committee as follows:
 - Morocco (President, represented by Mr. Rachid Firadi during the Meeting)
 - Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE) (Vice-President, represented by Prof. Khaled M. Abu Zeid during the Meeting)
 - Croatia (Vice-President, represented by Ms. Branka Pivcevic Novak during the Meeting)
 - Greece (Vice-President, represented by Mr. Nicholas Mantzaris during the Meeting)
 - Malta (Vice-President, represented by Dr. Marguerite Camilleri during the Meeting)
 - MEDCITIES (Vice-President, represented by Ms. Konstantia Nikopoulou during the Meeting)
 - Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) (Rapporteur, represented by Ms. Anastasia Roniotes during the Meeting)

II. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work (Agenda Item 2)

7. The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.416/1, was reviewed by the Commission. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP informed the participants that under agenda item VI, Ms. Sandrine Bannwarth, Head of UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Morocco would deliver the presentation on the global process for setting the Sustainable Development Goals instead of Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller. The Commission adopted the Agenda (Annex 3).

III. Progress in the Implementation of Recommendations of 15th Meeting of the MCSD (agenda item 3)

8. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, presented the progress in the implementation of the recommendations agreed at the 15th Meeting of the MCSD.

9. MCSD members took note of the progress achieved on the implementation of the recommendations.

IV. The Revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (Agenda Item 4)

10. The working document for this agenda item UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.416/3 “The Draft Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025” was presented by Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.
11. Mr. Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the GFCM, provided a statement on sustainable development, fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The full statement is provided in Annex 2.
12. The MCSD members and observers welcomed with appreciation the draft MSSD, endorsed the proposed structure and content, and praised the work done by the Presidency of the MCSD Steering Committee, UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu.
13. They commended the process of preparation of the draft MSSD for its inclusiveness and the quality of the document for its novelty, ambition and completeness. The discussions led to a number of modifications to be reflected in the final draft document.
14. The discussions on the Draft Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 was held along the chapters of the draft MSSD:
 - i. Introduction and Background
 - ii. Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development: Objectives, Strategic Directions and Actions
 - Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas
 - Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development
 - Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities
 - Addressing climate change as a priority issue for the Mediterranean
 - Transition towards a green and blue economy
 - Governance in support of sustainable development
 - iii. Ensure the implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
 - Institutional structures and processes for implementation
 - Financing the implementation of the Strategy
 - Monitoring system and indicators for the Strategy
15. The Commission asked the Secretariat to:
 - Prepare a four-page executive summary for decision-makers to facilitate wider communication of the Strategy and attach it to the draft decision together with the Strategy for COP 19 approval;
 - Include in the introductory chapter a reference to concerns posed by current and emerging socio-economic and political challenges and their impacts;
 - Remove references to “revised” MSSD from the document and name it as Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025;
 - Introduce, where appropriate, references to macro-region level initiatives, such as the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR);

- Ensure homogenization of terms and language in the document;
 - Include the “Environment Friendly City Award”, mandated by COP 18 (Istanbul Declaration) as a flagship initiative of Objective 3;
 - Revise action 4.1.2. as “Assess, communicate, protect and enhance climate change adaptation capacity of ecosystems such as coasts and wetlands, as well as their mitigation services, as in the case of forests and marine areas”, with its corresponding indicator “Number of assessments communicated”;
 - Remove the Flagship Initiative 4.3.4. and introduce under subsection 3.2. a new Flagship Initiative 7.3.3. as “Create an investment facility for sustainable development implementation in the Mediterranean, involving international financial institutions, development banks, the EU and bilateral donor agencies.”;
 - Temporarily remove the sentence in the narrative section associated with strategic direction 4.4. regarding the target on doubling the regional rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, with a view to assessing the appropriateness of the target after the official approval of the SDGs in September 2015;
 - Introduce the possibility of synergies with other reporting requirements on sustainable development such as those contained in the current Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit on SDGs;
 - Remove Action 7.1.4.;
 - Revise Action 7.2.4 as “Undertake a participatory mid-term evaluation of the MSSD based on the first 5 years of data regarding its implementation, using indicators associated with the actions, as well as the proposed dashboard of Sustainability Indicators.”;
 - Introduce reference to corporate social responsibility initiatives in the section on “Financing the implementation of the Strategy”;
 - Include a new action (7.3.4) “Encourage private sector to engage with civil society and foster greater corporate social responsibility” and articulate its corresponding indicators.
16. The MCSD endorsed the MSSD for onward submission to MAP Focal Points and COP 19 and for this purpose entrusted the Secretariat with reflecting, as appropriate, the above recommendations and comments in liaison with the President of the Steering Committee.

V. Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Agenda Item 5)

17. The working document for this agenda item UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.416/4 “Discussion Paper on the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development” was presented by Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.
18. Additionally, the working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.416/5 “Proposal by the Secretariat on Peer Review Process” was presented by Mr. Hugues Ravenel, Director of Plan Bleu.
19. The Commission, following the discussions, agreed on the following points and recommendations:
- The MCSD mandate as agreed at Almeria is reasonable and does not need to be greatly amended. In this regard, it is recommended firstly to strengthen the first element of the Almeria mandate regarding assisting with national and regional sustainability policies, by changing the word ‘including’ in the second clause to ‘particularly’. This would strengthen the MCSD’s remit to assist countries and other stakeholders to actively engage within policy processes outside the typical sustainable development arena, which could be very effective in ensuring environmental policy integration into other sectors. In addition, it is proposed to sharpen the MCSD’s remit by removing the text mentioning ‘the functioning of the Coordinating Unit and the RACs’ as this role is carried out by other

bodies. It is also proposed to add another element to the mandate, to better cover the policy coherence role of the MCSD, as follows: ‘Produce opinions and recommendations for integration and coordination of the work of the MCSD with the other existing international and regional sustainable development and environmental programmes, policy frameworks and initiatives.’

- The MCSD requires increased staff resources from the MAP system, which has already partially been provided through the Technical Secretary post approved during COP 18. However the staff support should entail at least two persons, to be able to cover MSSD implementation and monitoring. In the short-term, given the financial pressures facing the MAP system, the Technical Secretary role can be reinforced by additional personnel through additional project support. This staff allocation must be seen in terms of the importance of engaging and building bridges with actors outside the MAP ‘environmental’ system to take on board the environmental agenda, without which sustainable development cannot be achieved.
- It is recommended to improve MCSD visibility notably at the High Level Political Forum and other relevant fora at global and regional level, relying on UNEP institutional capacities.
- The MCSD modalities of work need to involve the members more between meetings, for example in projects and actions to follow-up on the MSSD implementation, sharing of good practice, knowledge transfer, peer review etc.
- It is essential that the MCSD Steering Committee meets regularly during the biennium - at least one of these meetings needs to be face-to-face - and this process must continue to be fully supported by the Secretariat. In order to secure the necessary financial means, the Secretariat should include a budget in its biennial PoW and Budget to be discussed and agreed by the Contracting Parties. However, members of the Commission are encouraged to host the meetings of the Steering Committee to enable at least one face to face meeting in a biennium.
- It is recommended that the MCSD Steering Committee, with the help of the Secretariat, proposes to MAP Focal Points and the COP, the new composition of the non-Contracting Party members to the MCSD, taking into consideration, next to current members, the following new candidates –, in accordance with the rules of the MCSD:
- Candidate for local authority group: Mediterranean Commission of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Candidate for socio-economic stakeholders group: ANIMA Investment Network (Cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean)
- Candidates for the scientific community group: Forum Euroméditerranée des Instituts de Sciences Economiques (FEMISE), Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN) and Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Med-SDSN)
- Candidate for the Intergovernmental Organizations group: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat and Regional Environment Centre (REC).
- Ensure that MCSD nominations are for a specific but renewable period, such as 2 biennia/4 years, in line with the high level discussions at the Conferences of the Parties on sustainable development. Where a number of organizations fit the criteria (e.g. environmental and sustainable development NGOs), it is important that a roster is established so that MCSD members are appointed from the roster on a rotational basis.
- It is important to ensure that MCSD members attend the biennial sessions. When members do not attend, outreach should be carried out through the Secretariat, the Steering

Committee, or the MAP Bureau as necessary, to identify and address the reason for the non-attendance. Non-Contracting Party organizations who have not attended two successive meetings of the MCSDD should be considered for replacement.

- To implement the COP 18 decision on the MCSDD reform to involve other UN actors besides UNEP, and Parliamentarians, it is proposed to consider appointments of observers from UN organizations active in the Mediterranean, *inter alia* UNDP (RBAS and RBEC), UN HABITAT, UNIDO, GFCM, FAO, UN ESCWA, UN WTO, UNECE, UNECA, UNESCO and the World Bank. The Parliamentary nominees, possibly three in number, could be from, *inter alia*, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development. Additionally, it should be considered to involve representatives of youth organizations to MCSDD as observers.
 - It is recommended that the MCSDD invites Palestine to attend future MCSDD Meetings as an observer.
 - It is recommended to update the constitutive documents of the MCSDD in terms of 'rules of procedure', 'terms of reference' and 'composition' (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.140/Inf.4) in order to reflect the outcome of the Almeria reform and this present reform.
20. The MCSDD members expressed support to the proposal for a simplified peer review process on sustainable development in the Mediterranean countries, as submitted by the Secretariat, and requested the Secretariat to revise the document in order to better reflect its links with the MSSD as well as options for the necessary resources. They asked the Secretariat to liaise with the President of the MCSDD Steering Committee to finalize the version for onward submission to MAP Focal Points and COP 19. Such simplified peer review process should also be reflected in the text of the MSSD.

VI. Global Process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Agenda Item 6)

21. Ms. Sandrine Bannwarth, Head of UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Morocco delivered a presentation on the global process for setting the Sustainable Development Goals, which was followed by a question and answer session. The presentation is provided in Annex 5.

VII. Good Practices: Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (Agenda Item 7)

22. Six presentations of good practices at the regional, national and local level were delivered, and followed by a questions and answer session.
23. The list of presentations is as follows:

#	WHO	TITLE
1	Morocco	National Sustainable Development Strategy of Morocco
2	Israel	A walk through Israel's Sustainable Consumption and Production Roadmap: from Strategy to Implementation
3	Croatia	CroAdapt2 project - Support in the preparation of Croatian adaptation strategy to climate change
4	Anima	EDILE (Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment): an innovative tool to support inclusive investment in the Mediterranean
5	PPP for Cities	Two examples on how PPP and innovation can foster sustainable cities in the Mediterranean: GrowSmarter and PPP for Cities
6	Montenegro	CAMP Montenegro and National Strategy on ICZM of Montenegro - Key tools set and strategic framework to enable sustainable development of the coastal area of Montenegro

24. The presentations are provided in Annex 6.

VIII. Regional Framework on Climate Change Adaptation (Agenda Item 8)

25. The working document for this agenda item UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.416/6 “Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas” was presented by Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, MedPartnership Project Manager.
26. The MCSD members and observers acknowledged with appreciation the high quality and the relevance of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and recognized its importance and the need for such an instrument. They emphasized the timeliness and significance of the Framework for the region, given the UNFCCC COP21 in December 2015 and the fact that Morocco, current President of the MCSD will take also the presidency of COP22 in 2016.
27. The MCSD members:
- Welcomed the strategic objectives and correspondent operational objectives and priority fields of action identified in the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework;
 - Supported the initiative of MAP to develop an analysis on how the Framework’s priority fields of action and climate-related issues in general are already reflected in Protocols and other strategic instruments of the MAP, in order to rationalize implementation;
 - Agreed to the need to ensure synergy between the strategic processes being developed by the MAP and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, as it is already the case for the Climate Chapter of the MSSD;
 - Recommended onward submission of the Framework to MAP Focal Points and COP 19 for its approval;
 - Recommended that the approved Framework together with its background documents and the analysis mentioned in paragraph 19 should be the base for further discussion on how to translate the priorities defined by the Framework into action.

IX. Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan for the Mediterranean (Agenda Item 9)

28. The working document for this agenda item UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.416/7 “Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production” was presented by Mr Philippe Jochaud, Associated Expert in the Regional Activity Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC).
29. The MCSD welcomed the proposed SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean, highlighting its importance for the region and for the transition towards a green and blue economy in the Mediterranean. It supported its submission to MAP Focal Points and COP 19 for approval. The MCSD:
- Emphasized the important role of education on SCP at all levels and recommended that the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development is referred to in Section 4.3;
 - Recommended highlighting the synergies and complementarity with other UNEP/MAP strategic instruments and initiatives such as ICZM and EcAp;
 - Encouraged the inclusion of the ‘natural resource base’ and the notion of ‘resources economy’ in the strategic and operational objectives, as appropriate;
 - Recommended including the concepts of the ‘functional economy’ and ‘collaborative economy’ in section 1.4, namely in Figure 1.

30. As part of the discussion on the strategic documents mentioned in the above sections VIII and IX, the Secretariat made a presentation of the draft 2016-2021 Mid-Term Strategy and specifically of the draft strategic framework as discussed at the recent Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 19-21 May 2015). During the ensuing discussion, the members of the Commission welcomed the presentation and recognized the value of discussing the draft MTS strategic framework. They reviewed it positively and expressed support to the orientation of the MTS, emphasizing the need to make visible and clear its links with the MSSD 2016-2025.

X. Next MCSD Meeting and Other Matters (Agenda Item 10)

31. The Secretariat will inform the members of the Commission about the place of the 17th Meeting of the MCSD in the coming months.

XI. Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations (Agenda Item 11)

32. Conclusions and recommendations were adopted by the members of the MCSD.

XII. Closure of the Meeting (Agenda Item 12)

33. The meeting was closed at 18:00 on 11 June 2015 by the President of the MCSD.

Annex I
List of Participants

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SPAIN / ESPAGNE	Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs
WWF MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME	Worldwide Fund for Nature / Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MEDPO)

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**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION
AND COMPONENTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
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Annex II
Welcome Addresses & Speeches

Opening remarks by Dr. Marguerite Camilleri, former President of the MCSD Steering Committee, elected at its 15th session held in Floriana, Malta in 2013 / Discours d'ouverture du Dr. Marguerite Camilleri, ancienne Présidente du Comité de Pilotage de la CMDD, élue lors de sa 15ème session à Floriana, Malte en 2013

Opening remarks MCSD President 2013-2015

Representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to welcome you to the 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. On behalf of the Commission I should like to thank Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this meeting, as well as the MAP Secretariat and Plan Bleu for its organisation.

I would also like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for accepting to take over the role of chairing the steering committee of the MCSD for the next biennium. Before handing over the baton I should like to say a few words of thanks to the people I have worked with over the last two years. Holding this role on behalf of my country, Malta, over the last two years, has been a wonderful but humbling experience. I should like to thank my colleagues on the MCSD Steering Committee for this last biennium, who represented Montenegro, Egypt, France, IUCN, RAED and Turkey. I'd also like to thank the MAP Coordinator, Mr Gaetano Leone, and his predecessor, Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, for their great support to the Committee. During the last two years we also formed a 'core group' to take forward the work of reviewing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development on a weekly basis (if not daily at some critical points). I'd also like to thank these colleagues: Mr Atila Uras and Mr Driss Haboudane from the MAP Coordinating Unit, Mr Hugues Ravenel and Mr Julien Le Tellier from Plan Bleu, as well as my colleague Ms Roberta Debono who is also from Malta. I'd also like to thank those from the other Regional Activity Centres who actively supported the work of the Commission during the last two years, as well as all the MCSD members who supported us during this period. There are also other organisations, some of which are represented here today, which played an active role in supporting and participating in the work of the Commission.

All these people worked very hard to do much work with very few resources. And they did so with great personal effort, resourcefulness and resilience, but mostly because they all believe that the Commission and its mandate are worth it. Sustainable development as a concept and as a banner under which to work, is a badly-needed bridge between the environmental policy community and the rest of the policy 'world'. It also constitutes a positive vision for a world desperately seeking new visions. In our region, the MCSD remains the best hope for further this policy agenda.

In order to keep up its work in future years, the Commission needs to be backed by adequate resources at the MAP Coordinating Unit, with full-time staff dedicated to sustainable development. In this light I would like to congratulate the MAP Coordinating Unit for starting the process of recruiting an officer on Sustainable Development, who can assist with putting the work of the MCSD on a firmer footing, and I auger that this work will continue with the engagement of project-based staff to cover the implementation and monitoring of the MSSD, as well as other initiatives. Members of the MCSD, we have gained momentum during this biennium, please continue to involve yourselves in the work of the Commission, by promoting our Strategy and by working on its implementation in your sphere of influence, and by participating in projects and possibly the new peer review processes that will be presented later tomorrow.

During this 16th meeting of the MCSD, we hope to endorse the revised Strategy for sustainable development, along with the proposal for the reform of the MCSD. I ask you to focus your energies on these two key priorities for the biennium, with a view to both these proposals being adopted through decisions of COP19 next January in Athens.

Welcome address by Mr. Rachid Firadi, representative of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco/ Allocution de bienvenue de Monsieur Rachid Firadi, représentant du Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc

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Ministère délégué auprès du Ministre de l’Energie,
des Mines, de l’Eau et de l’Environnement,
chargé de l’Environnement



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Discours du Ministère délégué chargé de l’Environnement

**16^{ème} Réunion de la Commission Méditerranéenne
de Développement Durable**

Marrakech, du 09 au 11 Juin 2015

**Madame la Présidente,
Monsieur le Coordonnateur du PAM/PNUE,
Mesdames et Messieurs les membres de la CMDD,
Mesdames et Messieurs.**

Il m'est particulièrement agréable d'être parmi vous aujourd'hui pour ouvrir, au nom du Ministère délégué chargé de l'Environnement du Royaume du Maroc, les travaux de cette importante réunion. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous souhaiter la bienvenue au Maroc et un agréable séjour dans notre belle cité historique, Marrakech.

Je voudrais également adresser mes vifs remerciements au Secrétariat du PAM-PNUE et au Plan Bleu pour toutes les dispositions prises pour l'organisation de cette réunion. Une réunion qui nous offre, encore une fois, une opportunité pour débattre et échanger sur les enjeux et défis environnementaux de la Méditerranée et d'exprimer notre ferme volonté pour relever le défi lié à l'environnement et au développement durable dans notre région.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La Méditerranée est une des régions du monde où la question du développement durable, se pose avec plus d'acuité. C'est une « écorégion » précieuse et fragile et en plus fortement menacée par la dégradation de l'environnement et la surexploitation des ressources.

Elle est aussi, un espace dont la stabilité et la prospérité dépendront largement de la capacité à mettre en œuvre de manière intégrée des politiques et des modes de développement intégrant les dimensions environnementale, sociale et économique.

Et c'est, dans un tel contexte, que le cadre de coopération qui nous réunit aujourd'hui, le PAM-PNUE, constitue un atout essentiel pour faire face à l'ensemble de ces défis. Une expérience qui célèbre son 40^{ème} anniversaire cette année et qui démontre que la Méditerranée a été une des premières régions au Monde qui a manifesté, dans le cadre d'un esprit de solidarité, une volonté politique à trouver des solutions aux défis environnementaux.

Les progrès réalisés durant toutes ces années consacrent, certes, notre engagement en faveur d'un développement intégré et durable de la mer Méditerranée et témoignent de notre souscription, en tant que zone stratégique, à l'agenda environnemental mondial.

Néanmoins, la situation environnementale toujours alarmante de la région et sa vulnérabilité face à un défi comme le changement climatique, exige de notre part davantage d'efforts et surtout une meilleure coordination tenant compte des principes de la bonne gouvernance.

Les réformes enclenchées il y a quelques années lors du Sommet de Rio+20 notamment le renforcement du pilier environnemental au sein du système de gouvernance mondiale de développement durable devrait nous servir d'exemple pour notre cadre régional.

Nous avons besoin, à cet égard, au sein du Système PAM/PNUE d'une Commission Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable forte, opérationnelle permettant de favoriser les efforts de coordination, en tirant profit des synergies et des complémentarités avec et entre les gouvernements, les institutions, les intervenants et les programmes de coopération dans la région.

La Stratégie Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable que vous aurez à examiner aujourd'hui, devra fournir un cadre politique stratégique visant l'harmonisation des interactions des piliers économique, social et environnemental, de guider les stratégies nationales et de stimuler la coopération entre les parties prenantes afin d'atteindre un développement durable.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le Royaume du Maroc a pour sa part souscrit depuis plusieurs années à un processus de conciliation de son développement avec les impératifs de protection de l'environnement. Cet engagement, s'est concrétisé par l'adhésion aux différents Accords multilatéraux et régionaux relatifs à l'environnement et le lancement de plusieurs chantiers sur le plan stratégique, institutionnel et juridique.

La consécration du droit à l'environnement dans la nouvelle constitution de 2011 a constitué une étape clé dans ce processus et témoigne d'une réelle volonté politique à poursuivre la marche vers le développement durable. Dans ce contexte, une loi cadre portant Charte Nationale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (CNEDD), a été adoptée et constitue la référence nationale de toutes les politiques publiques en matière d'environnement et de développement durable.

Pour mettre en œuvre cette loi, une Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable a été élaborée dans le cadre d'un large processus participatif impliquant tous les acteurs de la société. Cette stratégie, définira les voies et moyens pour atteindre de manière équilibrée et intégrée à tous les niveaux, les objectifs économiques, sociaux et environnementaux, dans une perspective de transition vers une économie verte et inclusive.

Notre pays a également élaboré une politique nationale en matière des changements climatiques avec l'objectif de promouvoir un développement sobre en carbone et résilient aux impacts du climat. Dans le cadre de cette stratégie, notre pays vient de soumettre sa Contribution Prévues Déterminées au niveau National (INDCs) à la Convention Climat avec des objectifs ambitieux en matière de lutte contre le réchauffement climatique malgré notre statut de faible pays émetteur de gaz à effet de serre. Par ailleurs, un Centre de Compétence sur les Centres Climatiques a été mis en place et servira de plateforme régionale d'échanges des connaissances, de partage des expériences et de renforcement des capacités dans le domaine climatique.

Le Maroc est également un pays très engagé dans le cadre de la Convention de Barcelone. Nous avons complété le processus de ratification de l'ensemble des instruments juridiques de ladite Convention en 2012. D'ailleurs, la nouvelle loi sur le littoral en cours d'adoption a été inspirée du Protocole GIZC de la Convention.

Sur le plan opérationnel, les régions côtières de la Méditerranée ont connu une dynamique réelle en matière d'environnement et de développement durable au cours des dernières années grâce aux programmes ambitieux en matière de mise à niveau environnementale de surveillance et de veille environnementale.

Ainsi, tous les centres disposent de décharges contrôlées et de STEP opérationnelles ou en cours induisant ainsi un impact réel sur l'amélioration de l'environnement côtier et marin.

La côte méditerranéenne dispose de trois Observatoires Régionaux de l'Environnement et de Développement Durable. En matière de surveillance, un programme régulier de suivi de la qualité des eaux est réalisé dans le cadre du Programme MedPol et du programme national relatif à l'hygiène des Plages. Par ailleurs, le Maroc a inscrit le Parc National d'AL Hoceima en tant qu'Aire Spécialement Protégée d'Intérêt Méditerranéen.

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

Nous sommes conscients que les enjeux de développement durable au niveau méditerranéen sont de taille, et les défis à relever ne sont pas moins importants. Aussi, nos ambitions pour l'ensemble de la région dans un esprit de solidarité et de coopération, doivent en être à la hauteur et nous devons mettre en place les moyens nécessaires pour y arriver car il y va de l'avenir de l'humanité.

Dans ce contexte, je voudrais vous assurer de l'engagement du Maroc à soutenir activement la coopération méditerranéenne et à adhérer pleinement à l'ancrage des valeurs du développement durable au niveau de notre région.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais également remercier Malte pour l'excellent travail mené durant les deux années de Présidence de la CMDD notamment tout le processus conduit avec succès pour la révision de la Stratégie Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable.

Je souhaite plein succès à vos travaux et vous remercie de votre attention.

Welcome address by Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP / Discours de bienvenue de Gaétano Leone, Coordinateur du PNUE/PAM

Madame la Ministre Hakima El Haiti,
Ms. Marguerite Camilleri, President of the MCSD Steering Committee,
Distinguished Members of the MCSD,
Directors of MAP Regional Activities Centres,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mediterranean Action Plan and of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, I welcome you warmly to the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development.

I want to express our deep gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for their hospitality in this beautiful and mystical City of Marrakesh. Marrakesh, the Capital of Almohades, has left a great imprint in the history of our Mediterranean Region, particularly in the western part - Andalusia and North Africa. Marrakesh has also a long and auspicious tradition of hosting important UN and Barcelona Convention processes of high relevance to our Meeting of today. I am thinking of the Marrakesh Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, whose 1st meeting took place in this City in 2003. And some of you may have attended the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, here in Marrakesh, in November 2009.

Madam Minister, as we celebrate this year the 40th anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention, looking back at the achievements of this uniquely ambitious initiative and at its plans for the future, I wish to recall with deep appreciation the invaluable support that your country has consistently provided to the MAP and the important contributions that it has made to its success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In their recent joint editorial, Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) have written a sentence that I want to borrow here:

(quote) *“The Earth’s natural resource base props up much of human existence --- furnishing us with agricultural land and fisheries; supporting livelihoods and growth; giving us air, water, energy and so much more.”* (unquote)

The web of interactions between the development and the environment highlighted in these few words, is absolutely complex, but the message is simple: the way we manage and use our resources and ecosystems has a definite and obvious impact on the lives and livelihoods of present and future generations. It is a message that applies perfectly to the Mediterranean region and is of high relevance to our work of the next three days. We are gathering to finalize an actionable agenda for a responsible use of our Mediterranean natural capital. A responsible use that preserves and enhances the health and productivity of the ecosystems – goods and services – while (i) ensuring human dignity through decent livelihoods for our people and (ii) building strong and inclusive economies in our region.

In front of us there is a golden opportunity to propose a vision and ideas for the sustainable development in the Mediterranean. We build on the tremendous efforts of our predecessors, who proposed the first Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) more than a decade ago. Let us elevate these efforts to the next level and finish the job: put forward a transformative agenda that places the people and the natural capital at the centre: a sustainable development for all.

The decision by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to revise the MSSD has not come a moment too soon or a moment too late. It has come at a key moment for the future of the Mediterranean region: there is a dire need to enhance efforts to protect environment and preserve resources; to amplify action to revive and boost stagnant economies; and to steadily transition towards a green and blue economy. We need, thus, to propose an actionable agenda to support these efforts and translate them into concrete outcomes that will make the difference in people's life, not just another document full of brilliant ideas and good intentions. This agenda is now in front of you, for your endorsement before we submit it to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to recall that today's meeting is only a few months away from two major global processes: (1) the United Nations Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and (2) the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP21).

In late September 2015, the international community will convene to adopt the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda and agree on a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim is to take the world forward to a sustainable future and build brighter prospects for humankind by: (i) setting the stage for strong and inclusive economies, (ii) leaving no one behind, (iii) protecting the planet, (iv) fostering cooperation and solidarity, and (v) building safe and peaceful societies.

These are also our priorities, our aspirations and goals as distilled in the draft revised MSSD that is in front of you. We, the Mediterranean people, are part of this global endeavour, we share this global hope for a better and brighter future for all. Nurturing sustainable economic growth and transformation, promoting sustainable consumption and production, protecting our planet and combatting climate change, building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve sustainable development, and delivering on a revitalised Global Partnership are themes that will be at the core of the discussion at the interactive dialogues during the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Later, at the December UN Summit in Paris, the international community is expected to produce a binding agreement on mitigating and adapting to climate change. I am pleased that the Contracting Parties and the Sustainable Development stakeholders, consulted during the process of revising the MSSD, have identified adaptation to climate change as a top priority for the Mediterranean.

Thus, let me once again stress the importance and timeliness of our own debate here in Marrakesh, in the wider global context of the sustainable development agenda. In our Region, we are on the right track as evidenced by the initiatives that you will discuss during this 3-day meeting: the MSSD 2016-2025 and some of the pillars for its implementation: the MCSD reform, the SCP Action Plan for the Mediterranean and the Regional framework for climate change adaptation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global and regional processes I have just mentioned are inspirational and will undoubtedly bear fruit in the next few months. This is all encouraging, but existing and emerging challenges are out there, daunting and interrelated. They call for integrated responses – like those expressed by the MSSD 2016-2025, which focuses on the interface environment-development and proposes addressing common priority issues and concerns across sectorial, institutional and legal boundaries. Past successes in our region prove that these challenges are not insurmountable. Over the past forty years, the main objectives of the Barcelona Convention - assessment and control of marine pollution, protection of the marine environment and coastal zones, sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources, strengthening solidarity among Mediterranean Coastal States - have spurred much progress. Now, we can confirm that we have a Mediterranean sea with reduced pollution, cleaner waters, and ecosystems healthy and productive enough to respond positively to improved management.

The six objectives of the proposed MSSD are all present in the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) of the MAP. They are either core-themes directly associated with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols or cross-cutting ones pertaining to the overall MAP goals for Sustainability and Environmental governance. This is of paramount importance for the implementation of the strategy. An integrated approach, exploiting synergies and complementarities, as well as securing high political back-up through the Barcelona Convention Governance Mechanism.

The implementation of ambitious initiatives such as those we are putting forward, goes beyond the limited resources of the Convention. Here again, the challenges might seem daunting. Tackling them head-on is imperative to the success of our endeavour; cooperation and solidarity among all the actors are the solution. The successful implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025, just like its elaboration, relies on the engagement of regional and national, both public and private, capacities and resources.

It entails cooperation, partnership and involvement of all levels of stakeholders: national and local governments; regional and international conventions; intergovernmental organizations; development agencies, the private sector; regional organizations and commissions; international and national non-governmental organizations; international funding institutions and the civil society. For these reasons, the MCSD continues to provide an invaluable role as an advisory body to the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties. The potential role of the MCSD is potentially crucial in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda in the Mediterranean through the MSSD, and you are also called to consider the proposals prepared by the Steering Committee to strengthen its position in the MAP system, sharpen its mandate and review its composition.

This three-day Meeting is for you to inspire each other and discuss innovative measures and concrete actions to help facing today's sustainability challenges and shaping the economic development of tomorrow. I have no doubt that you will touch on new approaches and innovative ways in this regard. In my capacity as the Coordinator of the MAP system, I am committed to supporting the work of the MCSD, for our Sea, our Region, our People and our Common future.

Allow me to conclude with another quote from a very important document, one that we hope will shape our collective future for the better, i.e. the Zero Draft for the Outcome Document for the UN Summit of September 2015, that was released last week in New York:

(quote) This is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity which also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. It will be implemented by all of us acting in collaborative partnership. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet for future generations. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps needed to shift the world onto a sustainable footing. (unquote)

This is a global call for action to change our world, and my hope is that the MSSD will be the effective and crucial instrument to translate it successfully in our Mediterranean region.

In this spirit, I extend my best wishes for a very productive meeting.

Keynote by Ms. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Special Advisor to the UNEP Executive Director on SDGs and Post-2015 Agenda / Discours de Madame Niamir-Fuller, Conseiller Spécial du Directeur Exécutif du PNUE sur les objectifs de développement durable et l'Agenda du développement post-2015

Your Excellencies

- Honourable Hakima El Haiti, Ministre Déléguée Chargée de l'Environnement, Royaume de Maroc
- Dr. Marguerite Camilleri of Malta, President of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Today 2.5 billion people live without vital sanitation and a child dies every 20 seconds as a result of inadequate quality of water. Over 1.3 billion live without access to electricity – in other words almost 20% of the world is energy-poor. As a result, they also have limited or no access to basic services such as health and education.

The WHO estimates that the average global life expectancy by 2025 will be 73 years. That is a remarkable achievement compared to just 20 years ago. However, will this really happen? We are seeing a growing number of non-communicable diseases which are increasingly tied to our lifestyles and business choices. Today 8 million people die every year from air pollution, now the largest single environmental health risk. More than half of these deaths are from outdoor pollution, largely an urban phenomenon, and the remainder from indoor pollution, mostly affecting the rural poor.

More than 170 million hectares of forest, our ecological foundation for human wellbeing, is going to disappear by 2030 due unsustainable agricultural and urban expansion, and climate change. Over 30% of the world's fish stock is over-exploited. The International Resource Panel estimates that consumption of natural resources will triple by 2050 if we continue the way we are.

Between 2000 and 2007, the world GDP expanded by 3.3% per year – at the same time, carbon emissions from fossil fuels also rose by 3% per year. By 2050, some estimate that the global GDP will have actually dropped by 7%. Inequality within nations and between nations will have also increased, leading to greater social unrest.

Even if we are achieving short term economic prosperity today, the long term impact of such environmental and social degradation cannot be ignored. That is why there is increasing recognition that the pathway to sustainability is no longer just an environmental one.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now have a historic opportunity for the world's nations to agree on a global agenda of action, with sustainable development at its core.

I am sure you will agree with me that Rio+20 was a significant milestone. Since then, inclusive consultations by multiple stakeholders have paved a way toward sustainability that is ambitious, universally applicable, and integrates the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development. In order to achieve the new universal goals, we need strong commitment and support from Member States and Civil Society.

Three key elements distinguish the pre-2015 era from the post-2015.

First is the notion of “Universality” – that the new agenda is applicable to all.

The new agenda recognizes that universal principles, values, and standards such as human rights and environmental sustainability are applicable to all countries and peoples. The new agenda also recognizes the interconnectedness of countries in a globalized world, and therefore, a shared concern for global issues such as loss of biodiversity, tackling climate change, and managing the international financial and trading systems. Every country has development issues to varying degrees – no country can claim to have achieved sustainability yet.

With the creation of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as its first session last year showed, we have an excellent opportunity to strengthen the universality of the new agenda. The Mediterranean

Strategy for Sustainable Development also offers a unique opportunity for a diversity of countries to work together on achieving a universal agenda.

Second is the notion of Integration – we must address all three dimensions of sustainability at the same time if we are to make change irreversible.

The SDGs are a remarkable and comprehensive package of objectives reflecting a balance between the three dimensions. But we need to implement it through an integrated approach, without falling into our traditional ways of working in silos. An integrated approach would:

- 1) Leave no one behind *by using environmentally sound practices; for example, investing in renewable energy will help reach the most remote and mobile populations who are vulnerable and marginalized;*
- 2) It would *ensure equitable prosperity and sustainable growth, while protecting and restoring our planetary resources; and*
- 3) It would leave healthy assets behind for future generations *by building capital – and by that I mean social, economic and environmental capital.*

I firmly believe that the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development offers the means to implement such an ambitious and integrated vision.

Third, is the notion of addressing inequality.

The richest 1% now control up to 40% of global assets, while the poorest half owns just one per cent. Environmental degradation affects the poor disproportionately. For example, there is a 66% chance of getting asthma if you are living near noxious land uses, and it is the poor usually who live in such areas. Disparities between urban and rural areas are continuing to rise, fueling more migration to cities or within regions. The de-population of rural areas is having devastating effects on sustainable land management. And there are increasing disparities between large commercial enterprises and small holder systems; for example, just look at the statistics on discarded or wasted fish catch from large operations.

A sustainable development strategy must find ways to achieve prosperity while also managing our resources wisely for a more equitable and inclusive society today and in the future. But we cannot manage what we do not measure – therefore, the attention to addressing inequality in the new agenda has translated into a willingness to disaggregate data beyond the traditional age, sex and race. We now need challenging information such as geographic location of people and other aspects of multi-dimensional poverty or unsustainable consumption and production.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The new global agenda is truly ambitious. But it is not a separate reality; it builds on all existing commitments, such as the Barcelona Convention - which is a unique legally binding regional instrument addressing the coastal and marine ecosystems, that UNEP has been supporting during the last 40 years. The new agenda is not a separate or parallel track – it is consistent with existing agreements and provides added visibility to specific causes and agendas, with the expectation that all existing mechanisms would in turn strengthen policy coherence with the new agenda.

As you may have seen, the Zero draft of the Outcome Document for the September Heads of State Summit has just been released by the Co-facilitators of the negotiations ongoing in the General Assembly. I believe that it effectively captures the depth, innovativeness and transformational aspirations that all stakeholders have been expressing in the past two years.

But to achieve such an agenda, we need to also seriously commit to its means of Implementation.

Member States have recognized the complementarity between 4 sources of finance for sustainable development: domestic public and private, and international public and private. We hope to see a very positive and ambitious outcome from the Finance for Development discussions in Addis Ababa this coming July.

UNEP's Finance Inquiry has also been analyzing the reasons for under-investment in sustainable assets. These are largely due to the dysfunctions of the global financial system, including over-discounting of future risks. But there is also good news:

Leadership by developing countries such as Bangladesh, Brazil and China in developing 'green credit' regulations points to a new phase in international banking standards. In 2014, there was a tripling of 'green bonds' issued; also routine credit ratings are now starting to incorporate sustainability factors such as climate risk.

Global market demand for environmental goods and services is projected to rise from US \$584 billion in 2004 to close to US \$2 trillion by 2020, in particular the global market in low-carbon and energy-efficient technologies.

In addition, we need to see some serious policy reform. For example, natural capital is a critical asset, but such resources are often left out of public and private balance sheets - despite the economic value they bring and the many livelihoods and businesses they support. The SDGs have recognized the need for moving to measures beyond GDP, and I believe that this recognition will help speed up the work being done by the UN Expert Committee on Environmental and Economic Accounting which UNEP supports.

Ladies and Gentlemen, environmentally sound technologies are evolving very quickly.

The new agenda recognizes the need for fostering greater investment in research and development, including local innovation and the value of traditional knowledge. UNEP contributed extensively to the recent "food for thought" paper prepared by the UN system, using experiences from the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the National Cleaner Production Centres, and other similar technology transfer mechanisms. Technology transfer is not just the domain of the private sector – in fact the public sector provides considerable support as well. A global technology facilitation mechanism would be clearly useful – for example through a knowledge hub and a regular forum on science and technology as proposed by the UN system. But these global actions need to be complemented by supportive incentives at the country and regional level, especially through reforms in policies, taxation, subsidies, and public grants for innovation. I am convinced that the MSSD is a vital link in this process.

And last but not least, monitoring, follow-up and review are key elements of ensuring that the new global agenda will be implemented.

Member States are contemplated a multi-layered, voluntary set of actions for monitoring the new agenda. One of these is at the regional level. The existing review mechanisms at sub-regional and regional levels, such as the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the League of Arab States Working Group on Biodiversity and Combating Desertification, and the UN Regional Commissions, working together can contribute to mobilizing regional support, building national capacity, and providing a forum for reviewing progress on joint action plans and strategies.

There is a need to further build capacity to better manage and access to information. UNEP has developed initiatives such as UNEP Live and Eye on Earth with the aim of catalyzing the data revolution and providing information and knowledge services at all levels to all stakeholders. Such tools will help Member States to take decisions in real time, and facilitate their reporting requirements to the various conventions. The National Reporting System in particular can also be very useful for both national and regional reports for the SDGs.

UNEP is also supporting the development of the indicator framework for the SDGs, through the Expert Group established within the UN Statistical Commission. Such an ambitious agenda, and the need for disaggregation of data, will be an incentive for the development of smart indicators, and the nurturing of new and innovative data providers in all regions.

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen:

UNEP has been supporting the global process since Rio+20; we have helped clarify the science behind the notion of integration; we have brought the lessons of 20 or more years of developing and implementing global environmental goals; and we are making our programmes and tools such as UNEPLive fit for the purpose of the new agenda.

And it goes without saying that UNEP is a strong believer and supporter of the MSSD; indeed, it is one of the best examples of how global aspirations can be translated and tailored to a diverse region that brings the views of three continents together. The MSSD is a tool by which regional interconnectedness can be fostered for stronger gains in all dimensions of sustainability.

The Sustainable Development Goals are about to be born in four months this September 2015 at the 70th General Assembly – where it will set the course for the future of our generation and the next generations. Government leadership and commitment will be vital towards the final milestone of September 2015. It is a historic opportunity and it needs your efforts in raising awareness of governments and people alike. In the past two years, the UN system has reached out to 7.3 million people, which is truly remarkable, but we have a long way to go to reach out to 7 billion people on this planet.

I regret very much not being able to be with you during the coming days. I thank you for this opportunity to share some views, and wish you the best of success as you deliberate a vision for a shared destiny in the Mediterranean region that is not only coherent with the new global agenda but sets the example for other regions.

Statement on sustainable development, fisheries and aquaculture sectors by Mr. Abdellah Srour, Executive Secretary of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) / Discours sur le développement durable, les secteurs de la pêche et de l'aquaculture de Monsieur Abdellah Srour Secrétaire Exécutif de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM)



Sixteenth meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
Marrakech, Morocco, 9-11 June 2015

Statement by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Dear Colleagues,

The GFCM is the regional fisheries management organization created by the FAO in 1949, according with Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, to manage fisheries and promote the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The constitutive agreement of the GFCM entered into force on 1952 and was amended four times, including last year on 2014 with a view to modernize the functions of the Commission.

The GFCM Agreement empowers the Commission to adopt conservation and management measures which are binding on its 24 Contracting Parties, which include 19 Mediterranean States, 3 Black Sea States, the European Union and Japan. 2 Black Sea States have the status of cooperating non-Contracting Parties. To date the GFCM has adopted many of such measures with a view to promote the rational utilization of living marine resources whose contribution to sustainable development of riparian countries is crucial. Because of the significant environmental, social and economic impacts that fisheries and aquaculture have, the institutional role of the GFCM is relevant under the three pillar of sustainable development.

In light of its sectoral mandate, the GFCM has been keen in promoting cooperation with other regional organizations sharing the same area of competence. The FAO reform, that was launched some years ago in light of the outcomes of the UN's 2005 World Summit, centres on the importance of synergies, commonalities and greater coordination within the UN system. The GFCM is fully committed to these goals and regards cooperation as a vital element to avoid duplications and capitalize on mutual efforts. As a testament to this commitment, the GFCM has adopted so far eleven memoranda of understanding with various organizations. As you are aware of, in 2012 a memorandum of understanding was adopted with UNEP-MAP, and our organizations have been working together to tackle issues of common concern. I am very pleased to acknowledge the sound cooperation in place which has allowed us to progress with discussions on SPAMIs and FRAs, the determination of good environmental status for the Ecological Objective 3 in the context of the EcAp process, the impacts of by-catch on birds, turtles and cetaceans and the application of area based management tools. I am positive that this cooperation will be furthered in the years to come.

In this regard, I would like to inform you that two weeks ago in Milan the 39th session of GFCM was held. This session marked several historical milestones for the GFCM. We completed the modernization process of the Commission with the adoption of amended Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations, we strengthened compliance with the conservation and management measures adopted, we passed four new measures, including a preliminary set of actions towards a management plan in the Strait of Sicily, and we agreed on a strategy to boost the role of aquaculture in the region. Furthermore, the Commission recognized the importance of working on issues relating to sustainable development in light of the significance that fisheries and aquaculture sectors have in this context.

This brings me to address you here in Marrakech on this very occasion as the GFCM has been solicited inputs to contribute and report to those initiatives and mechanisms established by States to achieve sustainable development.

We welcome the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy launched by UNEP-MAP which underpins the work of the UN General Assembly and encompasses several policy areas that impact on the work of the GFCM. Three years ago, in Rio de Janeiro, the international community adopted “The Future We Want” document, which has been endorsed unanimously. This document is not directed to States only. It calls for the direct engagement of all organizations that can contribute to achieve the ambitious objectives that it sets. This includes, among others, reaching maximum sustainable yield and promoting the rational management of living marine resources. It is evident that we need a concerted approach if, at the regional Mediterranean level, we want to be up to the challenge.

Although it is difficult to envisage at present the contribution to sustainable development that will be given by the Mediterranean region, I believe that the cooperation mechanism we have in place will help UNEP-MAP and GFCM to make important steps forward. Because we have the same Contracting Parties in the Mediterranean region, it is important that enhanced coordination is ensured also at national level between the relevant administrations dealing with those issues that are relevant to the mandate of UNEP-MAP and GFCM. This will significantly help us to deliver sound outcomes. The GFCM will keep on fostering policy dialogue with UNEP-MAP and we do look forward to engaging together further.

Thank you for your attention,
Abdellah Srour – GFCM Executive Secretary

**Annex III
Agenda**

Agenda

- Agenda item 1.** Opening of the Meeting, Remarks, Keynote Speeches, Election of the Steering Committee
- Agenda item 2.** Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work
- Agenda item 3.** Progress in the Implementation of Recommendations of 15th Meeting of the MCSD
- Agenda item 4.** The Revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- Agenda item 5.** Reform of Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
- Agenda item 6.** Global Process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Agenda item 7.** Good Practices: Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean
- Agenda item 8.** Regional Framework on Climate Change Adaptation
- Agenda item 9.** Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Agenda item 10.** Next MCSD Meeting and Other Matters
- Agenda item 11.** Adoption of Conclusions/Recommendations
- Agenda item 12.** Closure of the Meeting