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18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

Introduction

1. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and in consultation with the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee, the 18th Meeting of the MCSD is being convened on 11-13 June 2019 in Budva, following the kind invitation of the Government of Montenegro.
2. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for the plenary sessions. All working documents will be in English and French. As per practice, pre-session documentation will not be distributed on paper. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session.
3. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda (document UNEP/MED WG.469/1) were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. After a welcome address from the Host Country, the meeting will be opened at 09:30 on Tuesday, 11 June 2019, by the President of the MCSD, Ms. Maria Papaioannou. The Coordinator will then provide opening remarks.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

Working and Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.469/1	Provisional Agenda
	UNEP/MED WG.469/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants

- a) *Election of the Steering Committee*
- b) *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*
- c) *Organization of Work*

5. The Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development will apply.
6. The meeting will proceed to the election of the MCSD Steering Committee which, according to Rule 17, is composed of a President, five Vice-presidents and a Rapporteur, on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, and shall include four members representing the Contracting Parties, including *ex officio* the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, and three representatives from the six categories foreseen by the Terms of Reference of the MCSD.
7. The meeting will be invited to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda contained in document UNEP/MED WG.469/1 and annotated in the present document.
8. It is expected that the MCSD will discuss all the items of the Agenda during its two and a half day meeting, including the adoption of conclusions. It is envisaged to close the meeting at 12:30 on 13 June 2019.
9. The Report of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD will be distributed to the Members of the MCSD for their perusal, comments and approval through electronic means.

Agenda item 3: Progress Report on the Work Done after the 17th Meeting of the MCSD

Working and Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.469/3	Progress Report on the Work done after the 17 th Meeting of the MCSD
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9	Promoting the Work of the MCSD: Relevant Initiatives

10. The Secretariat will present the progress in MCSD and MSSD related developments since the 17th Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, Greece, July 2017), as contained in document UNEP/MED WG.469/3.

11. The Members of the MCSD will be invited also to report on their own efforts to support the MSSD implementation and the work of the MCSD and will comment on the Progress Report.

Agenda item 4: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, and the MSSD

a) Reflecting Most Recent Global and Regional Processes

12. Under Agenda item 4.a) a roundtable will gather:

(i) One member of the UN Independent Group of Scientists that drafted the Global Sustainable Development Report (2019 GSDR) to be presented at the SDG Summit in September 2019, Dr. Muhammad Saidam (Senior Researcher – Executive Director, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan);

(ii) The Director of the Office for North Africa of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Ms. Lilia Naas Hachem;

(iii) The Principal Advisor of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Director of the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, Ms. Monika Linn;

(iv) The Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), Ms. Roula Majdalani.

13. The three UN Regional Commissions that cover the Mediterranean basin will present the outcome of their respective 2019 Regional Forum for Sustainable Development. Presentations and discussions will inform the meeting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level, introducing main achievements, challenges, and perspectives towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, Europe and Western Asia.

14. The UN Regional Commissions have a significant role to play in promoting sustainable development in their respective regions by promoting peer learning and cooperation, including effective linkage among global, regional, sub-regional and national processes to advance sustainable development. Regional Commissions convene annually Regional Fora for Sustainable Development, including follow-up and review process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Regional Fora create a space to share policy solutions, best practices and challenges in SDG implementation and helps identify major regional and sub-regional trends. They also provide regional inputs to the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

15. Dr. Saidam will deliver an overview of the process and work-in-progress of the 2019 GSDR, which is a crucial component for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, putting the emphasis on the potential of science-policy interfaces to support policymakers and stakeholders in promoting poverty

eradication and sustainable development, and reflecting the universal, indivisible and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda.

16. *The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was initiated in 2012 following the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). With the introduction of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the GSDR was necessitated as an evidence-based tool to enhance the science-policy interface of the HLPF. As per the Ministerial Declaration by the HLPF, in July 2016, the quadrennial GSDR is being prepared by an Independent Group of Scientists and Experts (IGS), that is interdisciplinary and geographically representative at the global level. Together with the annual report of the UN Secretary General's SDGs' progress report, the 2019 GSDR will be launched in September 2019 at the Heads of State and Heads of Government Summit that will review the 2030 Agenda. The 2019 GSDR ultimate aim is to strengthen the science-policy interface and support evidence-based decision making.*

b) Implementing SDGs and the MSSD at the National Level

Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.5	Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) of National Strategies for Sustainable Development – Revised Methodological Report
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17. The Contracting Parties involved in the 2nd Edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (2018-2019) (Albania, Egypt, Tunisia) will be invited to report on their experience of this peer learning activity on national structure and processes for sustainable development, with the support by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu). A discussion will follow, focusing on capitalization and capacity building.

18. The Contracting Parties who have contributed/will contribute to the HLPF through Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2018 (Albania, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Malta, Spain) and 2019 (Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Israel, Tunisia, Turkey) will be invited to present the main outputs of their VNRs and discuss on their experience of the VNR process.

Agenda item 5: MSSD Follow-up – Good Practices, Exchange of Experiences and Challenges

a) MSSD Flagship Initiatives, Major Regional and National Programmes

Working and Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.469/7	MSSD Flagship Initiatives – Draft Concept Notes
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9	Promoting the Work of the MCSD: Relevant Initiatives

19. The draft concept notes aiming to put in motion MSSD Flagship Initiatives (document UNEP/MED WG.469/7) will be introduced by their authors to inform a discussion on the way forward towards the launch of these initiatives.

20. The meeting participants will be invited to seize the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of experiences by reporting on Major Regional and National Programmes that contribute to the implementation of the MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean.

b) Green, Blue and Circular Economy, including Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.7	Draft Case Studies and Recommendations for a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9	Promoting the Work of the MCSDD: Relevant Initiatives

21. Under Agenda item 5.b), the Secretariat and WWF Med have prepared a specific, interactive session, in-cooperation with several MCSDD Members and MAP Components. The draft concept note introducing this session is included in Annex I of the present annotated agenda.

c) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

Working and Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.469/4	Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard: Timeline, Updated List of Indicators, Proposals and Recommendations
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.4	Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard: Analytical Factsheets

22. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.469/4 for presenting the work done and perspectives to update and populate the indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard. The MCSDD will provide guidance on the way forward, i.e. towards the submission of the updated dashboard to MAP Focal Points and to COP 21.

d) MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.469/8	Draft Roadmap of the MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)
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23. As recommended by MSSD Regional Action 7.2.4, the MSSD mid-term evaluation is expected to be undertaken during the next biennium 2020-2021. Results of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be submitted to COP 22, providing an opportunity to make the MSSD implementation during its second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.

24. The draft Roadmap of the MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021) (document UNEP/MED WG.469/8) will be discussed towards refinement and submission to MAP Focal Points and to COP 21.

Agenda item 6: Preparation of MAP Assessment Studies on the Interactions between the Environment and Development

a) 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2019)

Working and Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.469/5	Draft Executive Summary of the 2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019)
	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.8	Risks Associated to Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Region – A Preliminary

Assessment of the MedECC Network and
Science-Policy Interface

25. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will present the draft SoED 2019 Executive Summary document UNEP/MED WG.469/5), raising the attention of the MCSD on its conclusive section that introduces key messages from draft Chapter 9 “Synthesis and Conclusions” (work in progress).

26. Since draft SoED 2019 Executive Summary and Chapter 9 will be reviewed by the Meeting of Plan Bleu Focal Points (Marseille, France, 27-29 May 2019), preliminary conclusions and key messages are submitted to the MCSD for general feedback and guidance to the Secretariat on the way forward. The MCSD is expected to provide comments on the proposed key messages, as well as on key findings to be further emphasized and gaps to be addressed towards submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) and then to COP 21.

***b) Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean
(MED2050)***

Working Document UNEP/MED WG.469/6 Revised Draft Roadmap for the MED2050
Foresight Study

27. At COP 20, the Contracting Parties welcomed the MED2050 Roadmap (Annex 2 of Decision IG.23/4), requested its implementation through a participatory approach, endorsed its Phase I, and requested the preparation of an updated roadmap to be submitted for approval at COP 21.

28. As requested by COP 20, an updated version of the MED2050 Roadmap (document UNEP/MED WG.469/6) will be presented by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to collect opinions and advice from the MCSD on the process and expected outcome towards submission to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 21.

**Agenda item 7: Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the MAP –
Barcelona Convention System**

***a) Review of the draft MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021 and Recommendations by
the MCSD***

b) Contribution to the Preparation of the COP 21 Ministerial Declaration

Working Document UNEP/MED WG.469/10 Integrating Sustainability Considerations
into the MAP – Barcelona Convention
System

29. The Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.469/10 to stimulate discussions within the MCSD on integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System.

30. Based on the presentation of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) for 2020-2021 and in accordance with the mandate of the MCSD, the Commission is expected to produce opinions on the overall PoW, and on priority areas and key issues that may require attention, including in the process of definition of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy of UNEP/MAP.

31. The 18th Meeting of the MCSD is also expected to facilitate the identification of issues of relevance to the Ministerial Session/Declaration of COP 21. The MCSD will be invited to provide advice on the priority areas and key issues (i.e. Marine Litter; MPAs and Biodiversity; Climate

Change; Blue Economy, with a possible focus on ICZM/MSP and sustainable tourism), including the way forward in terms of possible commitments and outreach.

Agenda item 8: MCDSD Membership

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.469/9	MCDSD Membership from 2020 (Proposal)
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32. Regarding the MCDSD Membership, the 18th Meeting of the MCDSD will be invited to review the proposal from the Secretariat, for agreement by consensus towards submission to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 21 for decision by the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 9: Any Other Matters, Including Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the MCDSD

33. The MCDSD will be invited to discuss and decide upon the date, venue and agenda of 19th Meeting of the MCDSD, to be set for June/July 2019.

34. The meeting will consider other issues that may be raised by the participants.

Agenda item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations

35. The Secretariat will submit for adoption a set of conclusions based on the discussions under the various items of the agenda. The report of the meeting will be circulated to the Members of the MCDSD at a later stage for adoption.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting

36. The meeting is to be closed by the President of the MCDSD at approximately 12:30 on Thursday, 13 June 2019.

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 11 June 2019		
Time	Agenda item	Documents
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters a) Election of the Steering Committee b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda c) Organization of Work	UNEP/MED WG.469/1 UNEP/MED WG.469/2 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.2
10:30 – 11:15	Agenda item 3: Progress Report on the Work done after the 17 th Meeting of the MCSD	UNEP/MED WG.469/3 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9
11:15 – 12:30	Agenda item 4: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, and the MSSD b) Implementing SDGs and the MSSD at the National Level Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.5
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	Agenda item 4: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, and the MSSD a) Reflecting most Recent Global and Regional Processes	
15:30 – 17:00	Agenda item 5: MSSD Follow-up – Good Practices, Exchange of Experiences and Challenges a) MSSD Flagship Initiatives, Major Regional and National Programmes	UNEP/MED WG.469/7
Wednesday, 12 June 2019		
Time	Agenda item	Documents
09:30 – 11:00	Agenda item 5 (cont'd) b) Green, Blue and Circular Economy, including Sustainable	UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.7 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9
11:00 – 11:45	Agenda item 5 (cont'd) c) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard	UNEP/MED WG.469/4 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.4
11:45 – 12:00	Agenda item 5 (cont'd) d) MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)	UNEP/MED WG.469/8
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Agenda item 6: Preparation of MAP Assessment Studies on the Interactions between the Environment and Development a) 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2019) b) Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (MED2050)	UNEP/MED WG.469/5 UNEP/MED WG.469/6 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9 UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.8
16:00 – 17:00	Agenda item 7: Integrating Sustainability Considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention System a) Review of the draft MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021 and Recommendations by the MCSD b) Contribution to the Preparation of the COP 21 Ministerial Declaration	UNEP/MED WG.469/10
Thursday, 13 June 2017		
Time	Agenda item	Documents
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 8: MCSD Membership	UNEP/MED WG.469/9
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda item 9: Next Meeting of the MCSD and Any Other Matters	
10:30 – 12:15	Agenda item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations	UNEP/MED WG.469/11 – to be issued after the meeting
12:15 – 12:30	Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting	

Annex I

The Mediterranean Transition towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy:

Current initiatives, needs, and gaps

Draft Concept Note – Agenda item 5.b)

Annex I: The Mediterranean Transition towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: Current initiatives, needs, and gaps. Draft Concept Note – Agenda item 5.b)

Background

In the framework of the international Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (Nairobi, Kenya, 26-28 November 2018), the Secretariat and its Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre joined hands with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative to organize a side-event entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: The Model of the Mediterranean” (See report in document UNEP/MED WG.469/Inf.9). The side event aimed to foster improved models of regional cooperation to promote the achievement of a truly sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region.

All partners of the Side Event agreed on the need to further collaborate to foster the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean. Various activities have been proposed, including:

- Organization of further regional joint events to address Blue Economy developments in the region, to be held during relevant regional meetings and conferences leading to COP 21 (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).
- Organization of joint thematic workshops and initiatives aiming to address specific priority issues related to the Blue Economy and promote exchange of best practices.

The session proposed under Agenda item 5.b) of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD represents a follow-up opportunity for the Nairobi Conference, allowing interested MCSD Members, Partners, and MAP Components to further explore opportunities to foster the development of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the region.

Objectives

The session will have three main objectives:

- To provide an overview of current Partners’ initiatives aiming to promote the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region;
- To promote synergies among MCSD Members and regional actors around Blue Economy related activities; and,
- To discuss regional strategic needs and gaps towards the development of a sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean region.

This interactive session will gather MCSD Members and regional stakeholders interested/involved in Blue Economy initiatives in the Mediterranean.

Session organizer: WWF Mediterranean

Moderator: A Member of the MCSD (tbc), supported by the Secretariat

Partners:

- Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- IUCN Mediterranean
- Plan Bleu
- Other MAP Components (tbc)

Tentative agenda

- Brief introduction from the moderator
- Ongoing regional initiatives: short roundtable presentations from the partners
- Roundtable discussion: Strategic needs and gaps to address in the future. Focus on maritime and coastal tourism. The tourism sector will be taken as an example to focus the discussion on: Identification and replication of sustainable and inclusive tourism business models in the Mediterranean (existing case studies); Identification of policy needs and gaps; Implementation of sustainable finance tools in Mediterranean maritime and coastal tourism.

Expected outcome

Discuss a potential side event focusing on Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy – Focus on Marine and Coastal Tourism at the COP 21.