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Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions

Overall Findings from the General Status of the Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Analysis of the Information Mentioned in the National Reports for the 2016-2017 Biennium

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

Note by the Secretariat

According to Article 18 (2) of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), it shall be the function of the meetings of the Contracting Parties to keep under review the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and, in particular to consider the reports submitted by the Contracting Parties under Article 26. Under Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention, the Contracting Parties shall transmit to the Organization reports on: (a) the legal, administrative and other measures taken by them for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the recommendations adopted by their meetings, and (b) the effectiveness of the measures so taken, and problems encountered in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

By submitting their national implementation reports, Contracting Parties not only meet their reporting obligations pursuant to Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention and relevant articles of its Protocols. They also provide to the meetings of the Contracting Parties an essential tool for keeping the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols under review.

In its Decision IG.23/1, the 20th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017): (a) adopted the revised reporting format for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; (b) urged Contracting Parties to use the revised reporting format when submitting their national implementation reports, starting with those for the biennium 2016–2017, to be submitted by December 2018; and (c) requested the Secretariat to submit to each meeting of the Contracting Parties, on the basis of an analysis of the information contained in the national reports, a report on the general advances made in the region, including at the legal and institutional levels, in implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols along with proposals for further measures, as necessary.

In response to this request, the Secretariat and MAP Components have prepared the “*General Status of Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Synthesis of the Information Contained in the National Implementation Reports for the 2016-2017 Biennium*”, which is presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10. The general status has been drafted on the basis of the information contained in the national implementation reports for the biennium 2016-2017, submitted by Contracting through the new online Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), as at 5 July 2019. It provides for the Barcelona Convention and each of its Protocols an overall assessment of the status of progress in implementation and associated main overall findings, which are presented in this document for consideration of the MAP Focal Points Meeting 2019.

Document UNEP/MED WG.468/Info.10 and the present one should be taken as living documents to kept under review in preparation for the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), as additional national implementation reports are submitted by Contracting Parties.

The main overall findings contained in this document should be understood within the limitations which arise from the fact not all Contracting Parties have submitted their national implementation reports for the 2016-2017 biennium, the limited number of Contracting Parties to some Protocols, and additionally, the difference in the amount of information submitted by Contracting Parties in their national implementation reports.

The present document is complemented by the “*Recommendations to Promote Compliance with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and Improve Their Implementation*”, contained in document UNEP/MED WG.468/4 “*Compliance Committee*”.

General Status of Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Synthesis of the Information Contained in the National Implementation Reports for the 2016-2017 Biennium
(as of 5 July 2019)

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
(Barcelona Convention)

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1976 Barcelona Convention on the 2016/2017 biennium: 22
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1995 Barcelona Convention on the 2016-2017 biennium: 21
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium: 11

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the Barcelona Convention are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10, of the eleven (11) national implementation reports of the Barcelona Convention submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- The precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle have been incorporated into domestic legislation in all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been achieved through core legal instruments for environmental protection as well as sectoral legislation regulating specific issues of environmental protection;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws and associated regulations are in place in all reporting Contracting Parties for activities or projects which are likely to cause a significant adverse impact on the marine environment;
- Many reporting Contracting Parties indicated having put in place the legal and regulatory framework for the use of Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP);
- Environmental monitoring programmes have been established in all reporting Contracting Parties. In establishing such programmes, some reporting Contracting Parties refer to the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL) methodology and criteria, as well as to the effort in aligning national monitoring programs with the MAP Ecosystem Approach (EcAP) and the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP), combined with the requirements under the relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD);
- Public access to environmental information is ensured in all reporting Contracting Parties through a variety of legal instruments ranging from laws on free access to information, to environmental framework laws or codes, to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws. This adds to the legislation transposing the Aarhus Convention, on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and relevant EU Directives;

- Public participation and consultation in environmental legislation decision-making processes is ensured in all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been achieved through general laws protecting the environment, public participation and access to information laws, and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws;
- Cooperation mechanisms of notification, exchange of information and consultation among the concerned states in cases of transboundary EIA are in place in most reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly taken forward within the framework of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) laws and regulations, in addition to the action taken under the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo EIA Convention);
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) principles have been integrated into domestic legal and policy frameworks in all reporting Contracting Parties through a variety of instruments encompassing, laws ratifying the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol and national strategies and plans on marine and coastal management, as well as on marine spatial planning; and laws on the development, protection and conservation of the coast;
- Cooperation in the fields of science and technology needs to be further reinforced, as only some reporting Contracting Parties have indicated action in this field. The same holds true for the promotion of the research on, access to and transfer of environmental sound technology, including clean production technologies;
- Less than half reporting Contracting Parties have answered affirmatively to the question on the implementation of the Guidelines for the Determination of Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area.

**Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping
from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea
(Dumping Protocol)**

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1976 Dumping Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 21
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1995 Dumping Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 15
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2016-2017 biennium: 7

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the Dumping Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG. 468/Inf.10, of the seven (7) national implementation reports of the Dumping Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- In most reporting Contracting Parties, the prohibition of dumping of wastes or other matter with the exception of those listed in Article 4.2 of the Dumping Protocol, as well as the establishment of the required permitting system has been mainly articulated through their laws ratifying the Dumping Protocol, in addition to their domestic laws and regulations protecting the environment, managing wastes and/or maritime codes. This adds to the laws

ratifying the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972 (London Convention) and its Protocol;

- It appears that there is a need to further strengthen the institutional structure to implement the Dumping Protocol, as a limited number of reporting Contracting Parties have responded positively to the question whether they have designated a competent national authority responsible for keeping records of the nature, quantities of the waste or other matter, dumping location and method;
- In nearly all reporting Contracting Parties incineration is prohibited as per the Dumping Protocol;
- It seems that setting procedures for addressing critical and force majeure dumping at sea as per the conditions set out in the Dumping Protocol is an area where further action is needed, as only a reporting Contracting Party has responded positively to the questions whether critical and force majeure dumping is conducted as required by the Dumping Protocol;
- The limited amount of data received by reporting Contracting Parties shows that enhancing data collection is key, by both further refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to facilitate the submission of data, as well as exploring practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties through capacity building activities, subject to available resources;
- The growing common areas of interest between the Dumping Protocol and the London Convention and its Protocol lead to a need to reinforce coordinated and enhanced cooperation between the two instruments, in particular as regards exchange of data, and common capacity building activities.

Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1976 Emergency Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 21
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 17
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2016-2017 biennium: 9

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the Prevention and Emergency Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10, of the nine (9) national implementation reports of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- Contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) have been adopted in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. Contingency plans range from national, to regional to local. The national level of response equipment varies from country to country, and at regional level a key actor is the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) with its Network of Stand-by-Oil Spill Response

Vessels. Regular training of both national operating level personnel and supervisory level personnel has been conducted through seminars, train-the-trainer courses and oil spill exercises. Training has taken place mainly at national level, although international training has been also conducted under the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the European Union (EU) Civil Protection Mechanism and EMSA;

- Monitoring and surveillance programmes to detect accidental or operational pollution are in place in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. This includes the aerial and satellite surveillance under the EMSA detection service CleanSeaNet, as well as at national level the surveillance carried out by the Coast Guard. In addition, maritime traffic control systems are also used;
- Reporting procedures to ensure that those required (e.g. ships, aircrafts, offshore installations, and Port Facility Authorities) report on actual or potential oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents to the designated national authority or authorities and, if so required, the nearest Coastal State are in place in many reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly achieved through relevant domestic legislation (e.g. maritime codes) and national contingency plans' requirements.
- Communication to REMPEC and those Contracting Parties likely to be affected of information on actual or potential oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents is carried out by many reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly articulated through the national contingency plans or the POLREP system. On the POLREP system, there is room for further encourage its use, as part of the Mediterranean Emergency Communication Procedure;
- Conducting oil and HNS pollution incident assessments and taking every practical measure to prevent, reduce and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminate the effects of the pollution incident is part of the national contingency plans' requirements in many reporting Contracting Parties;
- In most reporting Contracting Parties, the legal and regulatory framework is in place to ensure that those required (e.g. ships, sea ports, and offshore installations) have contingency plans on board. This has been articulated trough domestic legislation (e.g. maritime codes) as well as laws ratifying the MARPOL Convention and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC);
- Port reception facilities are available in ports and terminals meeting the needs of ships, including pleasure crafts, in nearly all reporting Contracting Parties. REMPEC Project on Port Reception Facilities has been one of the avenues to ensure proper Port Reception Facilities;
- Many reporting Contracting Parties have assessed the environmental risks of the recognized routes used in maritime traffic using a variety of tools including Vessels Traffic Systems (VTS);
- Measures aimed at reducing the risks accidents or their environmental consequences have been taken by most reporting Contracting Parties. This has been articulated in different ways, including Vessels Traffic Systems (VTS), and the designation and management of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);
- In most reporting Contracting Parties measures dealing with places of refuge for ships in distress have been adopted;
- The dissemination and exchange of information as per the requirements of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol has been mainly achieved through the official websites of the relevant Ministries (e.g. the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure or

the Ministry of Environment), as well as the REMPEC Country Profiles. The use and update of REMPEC Country Profiles should be further promoted among Contracting Parties;

- Responses strategies for marine pollution incidents, including policies for the use of dispersants, are in place in many reporting Contracting Parties;
- National contingency plans cover both oil and hazardous noxious substances (HNS) in half of the reporting Contracting Parties.

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1980 LBS Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 22
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1996 LBS Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 17
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2016-2017 biennium: 9

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the LBS Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10, of the nine (9) national implementation reports of the LBS Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- Legal and regulatory measures to eliminate Land-based Sources (LBS) pollution and phase-out Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are reported to be in place in most of the reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly articulated through broad domestic legislation (e.g. on environmental protection, water or coast), as well as specific legislation (e.g. on industrial emissions, sea bathing water quality, (urban) waste management and environmental impact assessments). This adds to the domestic legislation transposing the relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EC);
- In all reporting Contracting Parties, discharges and pollutant releases are subject to the required authorization or regulation issued by the competent national authority, as required by the LBS Protocol. In general, legal instruments listed, mainly on water, on coast, and on environmental protection, establish a system which enables the competent national authority or authorities to issue a permit (e.g. water right permit, environmental permit) for any discharge or release into the sea or surface waters, provided that *inter alia* some specific limit values are met;
- Measures to reduce to a minimum the risk of accidental pollution are reported to be in place in all reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly achieved through national contingency plans, in addition to the transposition into domestic legislation of the relevant EU Directives, including the SEVESO III EU Directive (2012/18/EU);
- All reporting Contracting Parties indicated having in place a system of inspection to assess compliance with authorizations and regulations and to impose sanctions in the event of non-compliance. In general, within the framework of laws on (environmental) inspection, such system rests on different authorities from country to country, ranging from

Environmental Inspectors, to Judicial or Environmental Police, to Harbor Master's Inspectors; and cover sanctions such as fines, indictments, imprisonment, temporary suspension of work or activities and ordering measures to be taken for the treatment of polluted water and elimination of the cause of pollution;

- Environmental monitoring programmes are reported to be in place in most of the reporting Contracting Parties. This has been mainly articulated within the framework of the MED POL Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (MED POL), in consistency with the Ecosystem Approach (EcAP) and in synergy with the relevant European Union (EU) Directives, including the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Monitoring programmes in place vary in scope from country to country, encompassing marine ecosystems, marine and coastal waters, bathing waters, land-based sources, marine wastes, or industrial emissions. In addition, national institutions for observation and monitoring underpin these programmes through the regular collection and assessment of data;
- Monitoring programmes to evaluate the effectiveness of action plans, programmes and measures under the LBS Protocol are reported to be in place in most reporting Contracting Parties. Answers are mainly based on work carried out within MEP POL to update national implementation plans (NAPs);
- The limited amount of data received by reporting Contracting Parties shows ongoing difficulties in data collection and the need to further refine the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system to facilitate the submission of data, as well as to articulate practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties through capacity building activities, subject to available resources;
- Very few reporting Contracting Parties provided data on enforcement measures taken to implement the Protocol, which suggests the need to take action in this area, as long as resources allow, to enhance implementation.

Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol)

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1982 SPA Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 21
- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1995 SPA/BD Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 17
- Number of reporting Contracting Parties on the 2016-2017 biennium: 11

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the SPA/BD Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG. 468/Inf.10, of the eleven (11) national implementation reports of the SPA/BD Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- Most reporting Contracting Parties have designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), as well as the measures for their protection, preservation and sustainable management. This is a living process, with work ongoing in some reporting Contracting Parties to establish new coastal and marine protected areas;

- Regulatory protection measures for endangered or threatened species are reported to be in place in most reporting Contracting Parties;
- Inventories of the components of the biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use are indicated to be in place in many reporting Contracting Parties, with particular emphasis on marine areas. This has been mainly achieved by transposing the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol), as well as relevant European Union Directives, such as the Habitats Directive;
- National strategies and action plans for the conservation of the biological diversity components are indicated to be in place in most reporting Contracting Parties. In this regard, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as well as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), appear as key drivers in the context of conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity at national level;
- Many reporting Contracting Parties mentioned on-going programmes of observation and monitoring under the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP), as well as the MSFD;
- New SPAs have been established in most reporting Contracting Parties' territories, during the current biennium;
- In most reporting Contracting Parties, measures are indicated having been taken to regulate dumping, passage and anchoring of ships, offshore activities, taking of species and scientific research in SPAs, as required by Article 6 of the SPA/BD Protocol;
- Most reporting Contracting Parties indicated that they had adopted planning, management, supervision and monitoring measures for their SPAs;
- Management Plans for SPAs are reported to having been developed by most reporting Contracting Parties. However, as specifically indicated by some reporting Contracting Parties, though management plans are not in place for some SPAs, measures for the protection of those SPAs have been articulated through other means. As regards the effective management of SPAs, it seems that further progress is needed in this area;
- Many reporting Contracting Parties noted their programmes for the observation and scientific monitoring of changes in the Protocol Areas' ecosystems and of the impact of human activities. Also, many reporting Contracting Parties reported measures in place for the involvement of local communities in the process of managing protected areas;
- Most reporting Contracting Parties indicated the diverse funding mechanisms for the management and promotion of protected areas or income-generating activities that are compatible with the protection measures (e.g. swimming and recreational activities, entry fees, tourist boat route charges and national and fund raisers co-financing);
- Appropriate training for the technical managers and other qualified staff of SPAs were established by most of the reporting Contracting Parties. This has been taken forward in different ways, such as through the Med Key Habitats II Project;
- The List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) currently consists of 35 sites. Within the 2016-2017 period a SPAMIs was established;
- Many reporting Contracting Parties mention listing species that are endangered or threatened at national level, or the ongoing updating of existing lists and identification of their distribution in the zones subject to Party's jurisdiction. This has been mainly done under the Med-MPA Network project;
- Measures and plans concerning the ex-situ reproduction or reintroduction of wild protected fauna are indicated having been established in some reporting Contracting Parties;

- Most reporting Contracting Parties have indicated the adoption of measures dealing with the deliberate or accidental introduction into the wild of non-indigenous or genetically modified species;
- As regards monitoring, it seems that the monitoring of the Biodiversity related Ecological Objectives within the framework of the Integrated Monitoring Assessment Programme (IMAP) requires strengthening collective and national efforts;
- Regional Action Plan on Cartilaginous Fishes: data submission, and preparation, dissemination of inventories of critical habitats for these species and the development and adoption of national shark plans are areas which appear to require further action to progress on the implementation of the Plan;
- Regional Action Plan on Invasive Species: it seems that further efforts should be made to effectively address the threats that invasive species represent to the marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. In particular, action should be reinforced as regards awareness and training and the development of national action plans;
- Regional Action Plan on Bird Species: great efforts have been made in advancing in the implementation of this plan by reporting Contracting Parties;
- Regional Action Plan on Marine Vegetation: it appears that there is a need to increase efforts to advance in the implementation of this plan, by mapping main plant meadows and developing national action plans about these species;
- Regional Action Plan on the Conservation of the Monk Seal: efforts made for the conservation of the monk seal varies from one reporting Contracting Party to another, depending on the presence of this species in national waters. It is worth pointing out that some reporting Contracting Parties are developing several projects and programmes aimed at protecting the Mediterranean Monk Seal;
- Regional Action Plan on Turtles: it appears that efforts should be intensified in the following areas to further advance in the implementation of the plan: development and implementation of national action plans, the restoration of damaged nesting habitats and the implementation of monitoring programmes;
- Regional Action Plan on Dark Habitats: a few initiatives have been put in place in some reporting Contracting Parties, which indicate the need to continue and strengthen efforts towards the implementation of this plan;
- Regional Action Plan on Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions: actions taken by reporting Contracting Parties, which projects for implementing this plan on motion, are a positive sign. To further enhance implementation, it seems that focus should be put on data modelling about Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions species distribution;
- To increase the quality of the national implementation reports, there is a need to further refine the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system, as well as to articulate practical ways and means to support Contracting Parties through capacity building activities to facilitate the submission of information and data, subject to available resources.

**Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
(Hazardous Wastes Protocol)**

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 7
- Number of reporting countries on the 2016-2017 biennium: 7 (4 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the Hazardous Wastes Protocol)

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the Hazardous Wastes Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10., of the seven (7) national implementation reports of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- Measures aimed at reducing to a minimum or where possible eliminating the generation of hazardous wastes are at the heart of the domestic legislation on waste management adopted in all reporting Contracting Parties, as per the requirements of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol;
- All reporting Contracting Parties indicated having adopted measures to reduce to a minimum and possibly eliminate the amount of hazardous wastes subject to transboundary movement, as required by the Hazardous Wastes Protocol, and in synergy with the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (The Basel Convention);
- The notification procedure sets out in Article 6 of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol in cases of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes is reported to be in place in all reporting Contracting Parties;
- Restrictions on the export and import of hazardous wastes either for final disposal or recovery are indicated to be in place in more than half of the reporting Contracting Parties;
- Enhancing the collection of data emerges as an area for further improvement, given the limited amount of data received from Contracting Parties. On this regard, in addition to further refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system, further support should be provided to Parties to streamlining the submission of data through capacity building activities, in cooperation with the Basel Convention, and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), where appropriate.

**Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution Resulting from Exploration
and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil
(Offshore Protocol)**

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the 1994 Offshore Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 7
- Number of reporting countries on the 2016-2017 biennium: 5 (3 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the Offshore Protocol)

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the Offshore Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10, of the five (5) national implementation reports of the Offshore Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- Offshore activities are subject to prior authorization as required by the Offshore Protocol in all reporting Contracting Parties. This authorization or permitting system has been mainly articulated through laws governing the offshore exploration and exploitation of mineral resources and/or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) laws and environmental permitting laws;
- In some reporting Contracting Parties, the use and storage of offshore chemicals is approved by the competent national authority on the basis of the Chemical Use Plan as requested by Article 9 of the Offshore Protocol;
- Legal and regulatory measures are reported to be in place in some reporting Contracting Parties calling upon operators to remove disused offshore installations and pipelines in accordance with the guidelines and standards adopted by the competent international organization. This has been mainly achieved through environmental regulations and specific acts on the safety of offshore activities;
- Some reporting Contracting Parties reported having adopted special measures to prevent offshore pollution in specially protected areas;
- Given the limited amount of data received by reporting Contracting Parties, further work should be carried out by refining the UN Mediterranean knowledge platform (INFO/MAP) system, as well as further supporting Parties to streamlining the submission of data through capacity building activities, where appropriate and relevant, and as long as resources allow.

Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol)

Status of Reporting

- Number of Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol on the 2016/2017 biennium: 11
- Number of reporting countries on the 2016-2017 biennium: 7 (5 national implementation reports submitted by Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol)

Main overall findings

Main overall findings for the ICZM Protocol are based on the analysis, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.10, of the seven (7) national implementation reports of the ICZM Protocol submitted by Contracting Parties for the 2016-2017 biennium, as of 5 July 2019.

Main overall findings

- ICZM is mainly implemented through a large number of individual projects (where CAMPs and GEF funding are fundamental). Half of the reporting Contracting Parties have adopted a national ICZM or coastal strategy, and none of them has established a specific ICZM centre, which would guarantee the sustainability of the ICZM effort;
- Legal measures for controlling urban development along the coastline are defined in all the reporting Contracting Parties, either through specific coastal laws or physical planning documents (national acts or spatial plans). However, the enforcement and control of the application of these measures, in particular the 100-meter setback zone, remain a challenge;
- The use of indicators for coastal management is limited, in particular when it comes to indicators to evaluate economic impacts on the coastal zone. One could conclude that this is in close relation with the lack of national coastal observatories. However, when there is a national ICZM or coastal strategy (some) indicators are used for assessing the progress in implementing the ICZM Protocol;
- Protection measures in all fields (biodiversity, sensitive areas, landscape, land-based cultural heritage) appear to be the most developed. On the contrary, only few countries have taken measures to restore and reactivate the positive role of coastal wetlands and islands. There is also room for improvement with regard to the protection and accessibility of underwater sites;
- There is legislation in all the reporting Contracting Parties regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, which is widely used. The use of SEA is regulated in almost all the reporting Contracting Parties, as well as the obligation for transboundary environmental assessment, either according to the national law, the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ESPOO Convention) or the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Mechanisms for management of coastal land in the public domain exist and are operational in the majority of the reporting Contracting Parties while the use of economic and/or financial instruments to support ICZM is very limited.
- Risks and emergency situations seem to be of a major concern for a large majority of the reporting Contracting Parties that have established national contingency/emergency plans and undertaken comprehensive coastal risk assessments. Progress is to be noticed in terms of integration of climate change into coastal and marine strategies and planning schemes. However, there is still a considerable scope for increasing the resilience and the capacity of the coast to adapt to changes, first of all to sea level rise. To this end, the establishment of the 100-meter setback zone is considered as extremely useful.

- Awareness raising, education, training and international cooperation are deemed crucial for making progress with such a complex approach as ICZM. The annual Mediterranean Coast Day is seen as a key awareness raising event while EU Directives (e.g. MSFD), Strategies (e.g. EUSAIR) and funding instruments (e.g. INTERREG Programme), as well as the GEF-funded initiatives are instrumental for boosting cooperation. Also, the cooperation established within the process of preparation of the Common Regional Framework for ICZM is recognised as important and further support is deemed crucial, especially with regard to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and adaptation to climate change.