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21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019

### **Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Session**

**Inputs received on the Naples Ministerial Declaration: online consultation of the MCSD Members, Regional Stakeholders Consultation Meeting, and Youth Event**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2019

## **Note by the Secretariat**

The present document contains the outcomes of a wide participatory process activated for the preparation of the Naples Ministerial Declaration to ensure an inclusive approach and the effective contribution by key stakeholders and partners, with a focus on MCSD Members, MAP Partners, and the youth. As a follow up to the key governance meetings of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, a series of events and initiatives were organized to collect inputs, an inclusive approach.

First, an online consultation on the potential content and focus of the Naples Ministerial Declaration was launched right after the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), to collect inputs on three key questions, namely: 1. Priorities for the future of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system; 2. Strategic message/s to be included/addressed in the COP 21 Ministerial Declaration; 3. Elements of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development to be further strengthened and mainstreamed into the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027.

Secondly, the meeting “*Towards COP 21: Youth Event*” was organized by the Host Country in Naples, Italy, on 23 October 2019, with the support of the Secretariat, putting together young participants from the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention. The purpose of the Youth Event was to offer the Mediterranean youth an opportunity to engage concretely in the preparation of COP 21 and to foster their commitment to the realization of the *future they want*, being agents of change in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

Finally, a “*Regional Stakeholders Consultation Meeting*” was organized in Athens, Greece, on 24-25 October 2019 to contribute to the development of the Naples Ministerial Declaration, as an enlarged platform of debate for Non-Contracting Party MCSD Members and MAP Partners.

The outcome of this inclusive consultation process will be presented at the High-Level Segment of COP 21.

This document is structured in the three following sections:

- I. Contribution of MCSD Members and Observers to the preparation of the Naples Ministerial Declaration (June-July 2019);
- II. Outcome of the “Towards COP21: Youth Event” (Naples, Italy, 23 October 2019); and,
- III. Outcome of the Regional Stakeholders Consultation Meeting (Athens, Greece, 24-25 October 2019)

## **I. Contribution of MCSD Members and Observers to the preparation of the Naples Ministerial Declaration (June-July 2019)**

At the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), the Secretariat introduced the topic of the preparation of the Ministerial Session and Declaration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21) towards strategic guidance for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, indicating that the COP 21 Ministerial Session and Declaration should take into account global processes, such as the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and relevant resolutions of the fourth UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA-4). More specifically, the preparation of the Ministerial Declaration of COP 21 was expected to focus on the following priority areas and key issues: Marine Litter; Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Biodiversity; Climate Change; Blue Economy, with a possible focus on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), and sustainable tourism. The draft Ministerial Declaration being prepared through an inclusive, transparent and participatory process in which the involvement of MCSD Members and MAP Partners shall be sought, participants to the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD were expected to facilitate the identification of issues of relevance to the Naples Ministerial Declaration.

The Commission welcomed the inclusive process for the preparation of the Naples Ministerial Declaration and provided initial inputs, stressing the need to focus on mechanisms, actions and tools to achieve sustainable development such as the development of adequate institutional set-up, technologies and transferable knowledge, and cultural aspects including education and awareness raising.

MCSD Members and Observers agreed to provide written inputs in due time for preparing the COP 21 Ministerial Session and Declaration.

Following the above, the Secretariat launched an online consultation, requesting MCSD Members and Observers to reply to the following key questions:

- What are the priorities for the future of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system?
- What is/are the strategic message/s that you advise to be included/addressed in the COP 21 Ministerial Declaration?
- What elements of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) should be further strengthened and mainstreamed into the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2027?

As of 12 July 2019, the Secretariat collected inputs from 14 MCSD Members and one Observer. Those inputs are included in Annex I of the present document.

Results of the online consultation are summarized in three sections that should structure the Naples Ministerial Declaration, namely:

- The introductory section, as preamble to the Ministerial Declaration;
- The central section, with four priority areas and related “calls for actions and commitments”;
- The conclusive section, with an overall “strategic guidance”.

***Introductory Section – Importance of the Mediterranean at global level and role of UN Environment/MAP:***

Two observations could be addressed in the introductory session of the Ministerial Declaration, namely:

- A “*New Deal for Nature and People*” should be launched to create opportunities and render compatible Economic growth and Conservation of natural capital; and,
- Concrete ambitious targets, aligned with other international efforts, are necessary.

***Central Section – Call for Action and Commitments about the four priority areas to be addressed by the Contracting Parties:***

Marine Litter: It was recommended to update the Marine Litter Regional Action Plan with binding targets for eliminating all plastic leakage into the Mediterranean Sea and related sources by 2030. This should lead to clear national commitments fostered by the regional cooperation framework, including on waste collection and recycling, as well as to the adoption of national plans to achieve 100% plastic waste collection. Educational programmes and capacity building in the field of marine litter management were also suggested to achieve “*zero marine pollution*”.

MPA and Biodiversity: It was recommended to prepare a new ambitious plan for biodiversity and ecosystems conservation (i.e. SAP BIO 2021-2035), in line with global processes such as the CBD, the SDGs No 14 and 15, the Paris Agreement and other global multilateral environmental agreements. It was also suggested to endorse the 30% protection proposed CBD target through MPAs (or Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures) and to scale up investment and funding towards MPAs effective management. In addition, the Contracting Parties were encouraged to strengthen the efforts made for the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity against physical/chemical and biological disturbances. From a technical point of view, it was recommended to improve pressure-state-impact analysis methodologies, to integrate them to the IMAP scheme of data gathering and assessments, and to ensure the introduction of ecosystem-based MSP in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

Climate Change: It was mentioned that regional and national measures related to climate change adaptation should: consider adverse impacts of climate change on water and food security, as well as on agricultural productivity; integrate the services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems; and, promote nature-based solutions. The importance of integrating biodiversity considerations in national policies on climate change was highlighted, including ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation measures. It was also suggested to focus on integrated water demand management under extreme climate events and responsiveness of vulnerable communities.

Blue Economy: It was recommended to develop a platform for sharing optimal practical models for the application of ICZM/MSP and managing principles, in synergy with the application of the ecosystem approach; to support “smart growth”, based on digital and “blue/green” economy principles and resilience to natural, socioeconomic, and other shocks; to extend the work on the ecosystem-based approach with the integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) (Circular Economy); and, to foster a green transition by encouraging investment in clean technologies, contributing to economic development and job creation, and facilitating regional, South-South and North-South cooperation.

***Section on Guidance – The strategic and political directions for the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system***

It was recommended to recognize 2020 as a critical turning point for the conservation and sustainable management of the Mediterranean Sea and coasts; to focus on implementing the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and encouraging non-signatory Contracting Parties to join Protocols and

implement them, with an effective progress monitoring system and by addressing the present gap of legal implementation, bearing in mind that the principle of “*Leaving no one behind*” is valid for all the Mediterranean countries as such; and, to develop an unique monitoring system, from country level to local level, for enabling different actors to be aware of the gaps/shortcomings and to put forward actions towards achievement of the SDGs.

It was also recommended to facilitate inclusiveness of the MAP Partners based on competences, enhancing transparency and communication (public access to data and documents); to develop a strategy for environmental information and communication at the Mediterranean level, taking into account the different contexts for reaching a large, diversified audience; to be more demand driven in addressing the needs of the countries, and promoting compliance by supporting an increased public involvement in the compliance procedures and mechanisms; and, to promote targeted, high quality and innovative education and training advancing the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, and to build a “*governance by negotiation and dialogue*” as an innovative and structured process generating international common interest at all levels and stages of development and implementation.

It was suggested to enhance the Science-Policy Interface for strengthening the use of scientific and traditional knowledge, and for basing the environmental policies on scientific expertise (evidence-based policies) towards a strategic and well-informed decision-making process.

Specific inputs focused on the improvement of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system performance through synergies in specific common areas (biodiversity, marine litter and waste, climate change, circular economy...) with relevant global and regional processes, with a particular attention to the cooperation with the three UN Regional Commissions that cover the Mediterranean basin (UN-ECA, UN-ECE, UN-ESCWA).

Finally, it was recommended to create an Emission Control Area in the Mediterranean, called ECAMED, under Annex VI of the 1997 IMO MARPOL Protocol to be launched at the next Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) in 2020.

## **II. Outcome of the “Towards COP 21: Youth Event” (Naples, Italy, 23 October 2019)**

### *RATIONALE AND PROCESS OF THE COP 21 YOUTH*

The preparation process for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the Barcelona Convention has been characterized by a historic milestone: on October 23rd, the COP 21 Youth (Towards COP 21: Youth Event”) took place in Naples and for the first time young generations have been invited to discuss the future of the Mediterranean Sea use and sustainability, with particular reference to the topics that will be discussed at the COP 21, which will take place on 2-5 December 2019, in Naples, Italy.

The aim of the event was to increase and enhance the role of young generations on the issues of protecting the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean, as well as on how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), offering young people representative of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention the opportunity to send a message to the High-Level Segment of COP 21 through the drawing up of a final document, the Charter of Youth on the Mediterranean Sea, which will be presented by the Rapporteur and a delegation of young people at the COP 21 Plenary Session.

### *Youth Vision*

#### *THE BOTTOM LINE*

The Mediterranean Sea is a semi-enclosed basin with high environmental diversity and unique biotic and abiotic characteristics deeply interconnected with human and economic activities. Today the Mediterranean Sea is undergoing rapid changes in response to closely interlinked natural and anthropogenic pressures. Human-induced climate change, sea pollution, marine litter, and loss of biodiversity undermine the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and threaten human well-being for current and future generations.

Young people constitute a large part of the Mediterranean population and are particularly vulnerable to environmental risks. Furthermore, young people will have to live longer with the consequences of current environmental decisions than will older generations. All these issues need to be addressed together and now. Transformative change is needed, also strengthening participation of youth in environmental protection.

#### *YOUTH VISION*

*“To foster a healthy, productive, resilient, inclusive, better known and valued Mediterranean Sea, so as to promote security, safety, prosperity and equity of present and future generations of the surrounding countries, transformative change is needed, also engaging and encouraging young people to become agents of change”.*

## **Youth Declaration**

### **‘Towards COP21: Youth Event’**

**23 October 2019, Naples**

#### *Declaration*

We, young representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, meeting in Naples on 23rd October 2019,

#### *Recalling*

- the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”), its protocols and decisions;
- the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD);
- the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and as well other related international conventions relating to activities in oceans and seas, including for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources;
- the Marine Strategy Framework Directive as a new European approach to the regulation of the marine environment, marine natural resources and marine ecological services;
- the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the new global development agenda for the period 2015-2030 adopted in New York on 26 September 2015 "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";
- the Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans adopted by the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention during their 19th Ordinary Meeting
- the UfM Ministerial Conference “Environment and Climate Change”, held in Athens on 13 May 2014, jointly adopted with the “Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development”;

#### *Taking into account*

- the outcomes of the UfM stakeholder Conference "Towards a Roadmap for Blue Investment and Jobs in the Mediterranean", held in Athens on 27 May 2015;
- the on-going implementation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, jointly adopted by the European Commission and the Adriatic-Ionian Region countries on 18 November 2014;
- the work of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM);
- the Declaration of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy, held in Brussels, 17 November 2015;
- the Declaration of the Meeting of the Ministers of the Countries Participating in the Initiative for the Sustainable Development of the Blue Economy in the Western Mediterranean, Algiers, 4 December 2018;
- the Objective 6 of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), which aims to promote education, awareness-raising and research for sustainable development;

#### *Concerned*

- with the increasing pressures on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, as highlighted in the 2012 UNEP/MAP “State of the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Environment Report” (SoMMCER), and with the continuing unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the region;

#### *Concerned*

- about the impacts of climate change on the region, and on vulnerable marine and coastal zones, as evidenced by the latest findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);

### *Deeply Concerned*

-by the awareness that young people are especially vulnerable to environmental risks associated with anthropogenic pressures and human-induced climate change;

### *Stressing*

- the need to protect marine and coastal ecosystems of the Mediterranean region;

### *Acknowledging*

- the need for the Mediterranean region to encourage the transition towards a sustainable and equitable blue economy to promote growth, jobs and investments and reduce poverty, whilst safeguarding healthy sea;

### *Aware of*

- the need for achieving in the Mediterranean region, both at regional and national level, the global objectives expressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs);

### *Highlighting*

- the key role of youth in promoting environmental protection;

### **As regards the issues of sea pollution and marine litter**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Accelerate efforts to ensure the implementation of the SDG 14 and its related targets;
- Promote the transition towards a circular economy;
- Encourage holistic, ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches as key to addressing sea-related challenges;
- Introduce policy instruments to limit marine litter and pollution, including direct regulation of activities that contribute to marine litter and pollution and/or economic instruments that provide (dis)incentives that allow firms and individuals to sustainable management;
- Promote actions that aim to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter and pollution from the Mediterranean Sea engaging a wide pool of stakeholders (private sector, civil society, national/local authorities, etc);
- Develop zero-waste programs in schools and public institutions;
- Draw up monitoring programmes in a coherent manner to facilitate the comparison of results and take into account relevant transboundary impacts and features;
- Encourage educational programs, such as marine litter lesson days/weeks for school children, training of teachers, administrators, etc;
- Promote awareness activities addressed to the general public, such as the organization of beach clean-up days and the preparation and distribution of promotional materials in the coastal municipalities.

### **As regards the challenges and opportunities linked to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Reinforce the development of the MPA network in order to achieve the 10% target of the Mediterranean's surface area;
- Strengthen the network, the effective management of MPAs, and the creation of new MPAs in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries;
- Improve the effectiveness of protection and management in MPAs;



- Ensure the financial sustainability of MPAs, also strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

### **As regards the development of the Blue Economy**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Increase the linkages between tourism, tourists and environment
- Promote synergies between tourism and other economic activities and between different destinations, in order to enlarge the tourism offer and exploiting the Mediterranean's cultural and natural heritage;
- Introduce monitoring and evaluation systems of tourism flows to assess carrying capacities of tourist destinations;
- Implement measures and economic tools to address the development of a greener and sustainable tourism model;
- Encourage effective multi-stakeholder participation in the design and management of tourism activities.

### **As regards actions towards climate change**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Develop technical and operational measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Encourage low carbon transition shifting subsidies from fossil fuel towards renewable energy sources;
- Enhance resilience and adaptation of marine and coastal zones, strengthening natural defenses to protect people and nature from future hazards;
- Develop solutions to increase sustainability, adaptability and resilience of coastal infrastructures;
- Improve governance, policy and planning capacities to increase adaptive capacity and reduce society's vulnerability to climate change impacts;
- Increase the integration among Mediterranean countries on risk management by addressing all its determinants;
- Foster cooperation among national civil protection models (e.g. by promoting common methodologies and practices).

Finally, the following cross-cutting priorities are identified:

### **As regards the lack of political intervention and shared policies**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Encourage collaborative governance models at regional, national and local levels, in order to increase synergies and minimize trade-offs between conflicting objectives;
- Strengthen integrated approach in coastal management in and between many different levels (nations, levels of government, sectors, disciplines), as highlighted by the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol.

### **As regards knowledge and awareness**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Rediscover, safeguard and mobilize empirical local knowledge combined with scientific knowhow in new knowledge and innovation systems, based on integrated, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches;
- Identify new ways to approach the science-policy interface, improving also the connection with stakeholders;
- Promote participatory and inclusive processes for awareness activities, involving local stakeholders to strengthen communication, education and public awareness on the importance of marine and coastal areas in terms of their role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development;
- Encourage marine and coastal citizen science as a way of improving marine and coastal conservation.

### **As regards the role of youth in the protection of coastal and marine environment and its sustainable development**

Young representatives stress the need to:

- Systematically introduce Education for Sustainable Development (ESS) in all universities and schools to provide children, young people, and adults with knowledge, competences and skills necessary to think creatively and critically and to act with responsibility and pro-environmental attitudes;
- Contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (Target 4.7) through the integration of transdisciplinary education and training on sustainability issues, in all levels of the education system, while also implementing the overall aim of the Global Citizenship Education (GCED);
- Raise awareness on the environmental, economic and social aspects addressed in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols using a variety of alternative and innovative educational tools;
- Train enthusiastic and qualified young people to become themselves professional educators able to teach sustainability to other learners through non-formal education activities (active participation/emotional, experiential and transformative learning);
- Facilitate dialogue and cooperation among young sustainability experts (researchers, students, stakeholders and other professionals) in the Mediterranean area, in order to catalyse R&I's results towards a sustainable management of their common cultural heritage;
- Promote sustainable living exchange programmes between youth representatives of both Northern and Southern Mediterranean States with the scope to share experiences, best practises and initiatives aimed at supporting the sustainable socio-economic growth of the region while preserving sites and landscapes of ecological and cultural value;
- Encourage the active involvement of young people in all kinds of initiatives promoted at local, national and regional level for the realization of sustainable development in the region; pay particular attention to the implementation of SDGs 14 and 17 which specifically cover the main topics of the Barcelona Convention;
- Establish an Advisory Board of young national professionals in representation of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; create a representation of youth at the decision making level to foster dialogue and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries and raise awareness on the most urgent challenges affecting their communities.

Young representatives *invite* the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to consider the above proposals.

### *Summary of Discussions and Outcomes*

The event *Towards COP 21: Youth Event*, which counted 56 young people from ten Mediterranean countries aimed to involve young generations representative of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to define priorities, challenges and potential solutions in order to draw up a final document, the *Charter of Youth on the Mediterranean Sea*, to be presented at the COP 21 Plenary Session.

The opening remarks of the Youth Event were made by HE Sergio Costa, Minister of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy and Maria Carmela Giarratano, Director General for Nature and Sea Protection Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, who stressed the importance of an event in which for the first time students, researchers and young professionals from Mediterranean countries had the chance to discuss and present their proposals for an integrated and sustainable development of the Mediterranean region. Ilias Mavroeidis, from UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Desirée Quagliarotti, from CNR-ISMed, Stefania Toraldo, from SDSN Mediterranean, and Salvatore Giuliano from Friday for Future opened the plenary session, introducing the main issues related to the future of the Mediterranean Sea and the perspective and role of the youth in the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean region and its sustainable development.

To facilitate the exchange of ideas and promote concrete solutions among young people, the debate took place in the framework of three Working Groups (WGs): *Challenges for a sustainable Mediterranean*, *Climate Change* and *Youth Engagement*. These WGs constituted moderated workshops with the purpose of discussing short and long-term Mediterranean Sea challenges. Each group was coordinated by the ISMed-CNR and SDSN Mediterranean that stimulated dialogue among participants, first on the cogent issues of protecting the marine environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean and, subsequently, on the co-creation of solutions as concrete and realistic as possible.

During the final plenary session, young rapporteurs presented priorities, challenges and potential solutions identified within each Working Group.

## Annex I

### **Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by Working Groups 1 (WG1) *Challenges for a Sustainable Mediterranean***

#### *Priority 1: Marine Litter and pollution*

Young representatives recognize that marine litter and pollution are complex and multi-dimensional problems with significant environmental and socio-economic implications, which require multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, multi-stakeholder and regional collaborative efforts to be addressed.

Actions:

- Draw up monitoring programmes in a coherent manner to facilitate the comparison of results and take into account relevant transboundary impacts and features;
- Introduce policy instruments to limit marine litter and pollution, including direct regulation of activities that contribute to marine litter and pollution and/or economic instruments that provide (dis)incentives that allow firms and individuals to sustainable management;
- Promote actions that aim to prevent, reduce and remove marine litter and pollution from the Mediterranean Sea engaging a wide pool of stakeholders (private sector, civil society, national/local authorities, etc);
- Encourage the transition towards a circular economy;
- Develop zero-waste programs in schools and public institutions;
- Encourage educational programs, such as marine litter lesson days/weeks for school children, training of teachers, administrators, etc;
- Promote awareness activities addressed to the general public, such as the organization of beach clean-up days and the preparation and distribution of promotional materials in the coastal municipalities.

#### *Priority 2: Mass tourism and eco-tourism*

Young representatives recognize that the greatest efforts in the blue economy must be made in the tourism sector. While generating benefits to the countries' economy, tourism, when unplanned and poorly managed, may have damaging impacts on the marine environment, notably environmental degradation, destruction of habitats, loss of marine resources, coastal pollution, uncontrolled coastal zone development.

Actions:

- Increase the linkages between tourism, tourists and environment;
- Promote synergies between tourism and other economic activities (e.g. fishing tourism, fish watching, aquaculture, etc.) and between different destinations, in order to enlarge the tourism offer and exploit Mediterranean's cultural and natural heritage;
- Introduce monitoring and evaluation systems of tourism flows to assess carrying capacities of tourist destinations;
- Implement measures and economic tools to address the development of a greener and sustainable tourism model.

*Priority 3: Lack of communication, information and data elaboration*

Youth representatives recognize that research activities, data collection and knowledge generation about climate change and other environmental challenges in coastal and marine ecosystems are not sufficiently coordinated. Moreover, some of the most vulnerable areas and sectors are poorly studied, notably in the South and the East. Finally, the results of researches remain often not easily accessible to policy-makers, stakeholders and local communities.

Actions:

- Improve access to marine data and to economic, social and environmental information;
- Encourage communication strategies that involve local communities;
- Enhance the sharing and joint exploitation of existing data, knowledge, capacities, and best practices among countries;
- Develop of new indicators environmental-oriented;
- Creation of strategic network to establish protocols for school programs on sustainability from the primary school to the secondary.

*Priority 4: Lack of political intervention and shared policies*

Young representatives recognize that governance of coastal and marine spaces represents a crucial challenge in the Mediterranean. Policies and activities usually tend to develop in isolation from each other and without proper coherence and coordination between local, national, regional and international actors, leading to inefficient use of resources, conflicting goals, and unsustainable coastal development. AMPs are effective tool for conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems, but MPAs are currently most concentrated along the northern shore and lack adequate human, technical and financial resources.

Actions:

- Encourage collaborative governance models at regional, national and local levels, in order to increase synergies and minimize trade-offs between conflicting objectives;
- Identify new ways to approach the science-policy interface, improving also the connection with stakeholders;
- Encourage sectoral transnational networks for the development of a common vision and shared approaches;
- Strengthen the network, the effective management of MPAs, and the creation of new ones in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries;
- Improve the effectiveness of protection and management in MPAs;
- Ensure the financial sustainability of MPAs, also strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

## Annex II

### Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by Working Groups 2 (WG1) *Climate Change*

Young representatives recognize that the Mediterranean region is a "hot spot" of climate change. Particularly, the Mediterranean Sea is considered to be one of the seas where the consequences of climate change will be the most visible in the years to come. The impacts of climate change have also indirect effects, leading to economic, social and political consequences, including migration and displacement, and conflicts.

Actions towards climate change include both mitigation and adaptation strategies.

#### *Priority 1: Communication for development (CAD)*

The fight against climate change requires changes in production and consumption patterns, making them more sustainable. To achieve this goal it is necessary:

- To promote the use of community-led social and behavioral communicational change through the implementation of effective actions/instruments, such as fostering green labeling, engaging communities through the most efficient communication channels to ensure sustainable change;
- To improve education, training, public awareness;
- To encourage community mobilization and engagement.

#### *Priority 2: Mitigation (especially on Energy)*

Efforts must be made at various levels to mitigate the impact of climate change, especially in the context of sea-related activities. These efforts include:

- The development of technical and operational measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- A shift of subsidies from fossil fuel towards renewable energy sources.

#### *Priority 3: Adaptation*

The effects of climate change require the adoption of adaptation measures to minimize potential impacts. These efforts include:

- Implementing integrated and ecosystem-based approaches and instruments, such as integrated coastal management;
- Enhancing resilience and adaptation of marine and coastal zones strengthening natural defenses to protect people and nature from future hazards;
- Improving governance, policy and planning capacities to increase adaptive capacity and reduce society's vulnerability to climate change impacts;
- Increasing the integration among Mediterranean countries on risk management by addressing all its determinants;
- Fostering cooperation among national civil protection models (e.g. by promoting common methodologies and practices).

### Annex III

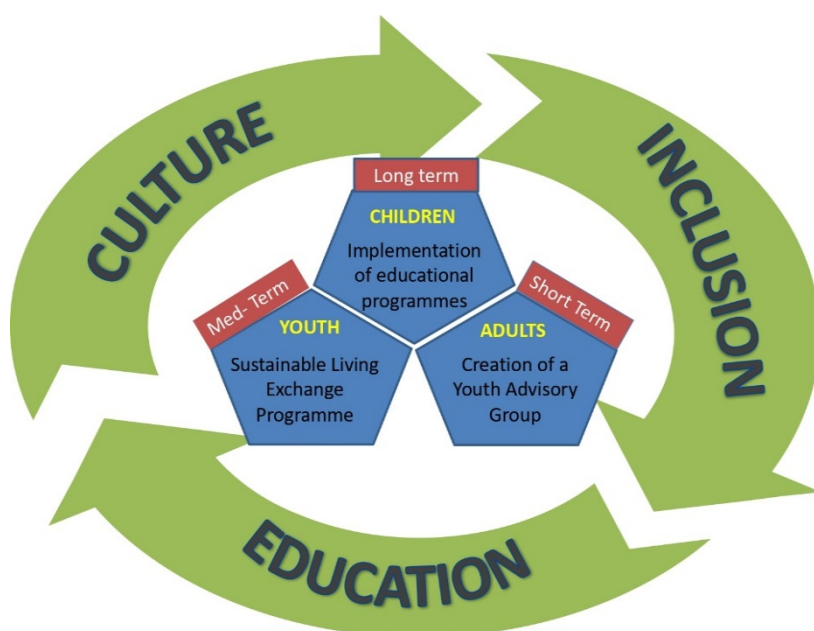
#### Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by Working Groups 3 (WG1) *Youth Engagement*

Young representatives recognize that young people constitute a large part of the Mediterranean population and are particularly vulnerable to environmental risks. In addition, young people will have to live longer with the consequences of current environmental decisions than will the older generations. Youth participation in environmental protection must take place at different levels namely, grass-roots activism, participation in conservation projects, policy-making bodies, and decision-making process. Environmental education has an important role to play in the promotion of environmental awareness and represents one way of equipping young people with the necessary cognitive skills to become ecological citizens.

To tackle sustainable development issues, youth engagement can be represented through a circular model that includes three priorities (Cultural, Education, Inclusion) and three categories of young people (Children, Youth, and Young adults), all interconnected and interdependent in a circular way in order to satisfy the following priorities (Fig.1).

Actions:

FIG. 1 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT CIRCULAR MODEL



#### *Priority 1: Education*

- Systematically introduce Education for Sustainable Development (ESS) in all universities and schools to provide children, young people, and adults with knowledge, competences and skills necessary to think creatively and critically and to act with responsibility and pro-environmental attitudes;
- Contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (Target 4.7) through the integration of transdisciplinary education and training on sustainability issues, in all levels of the education system, while also implementing the overall aim of the Global Citizenship Education (GCED);
- Raise awareness on the environmental, economic and social aspects addressed in the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols using a variety of alternative and innovative

educational tools;

- Train enthusiastic and qualified young people to become themselves professional educators able to teach sustainability to other learners through non-formal education activities (active participation/emotional, experiential and transformative learning).

*Priority 2: Culture*

- Facilitate dialogue and cooperation among young sustainability experts (researchers, students, stakeholders and other professionals) in the Mediterranean area, in order to catalyse R&I's results towards a sustainable management of their common cultural heritage;
- Promote sustainable living exchange programmes between youth representatives of both Northern and Southern Mediterranean States with the scope to share experiences, best practises and initiatives aimed at supporting the sustainable socio-economic growth of the region while preserving sites and landscapes of ecological and cultural value.

*Priority 3: Inclusion*

- Encourage the active involvement of young people in all kinds of initiatives promoted at local, national and regional level for the realization of sustainable development in the region; pay particular attention to the implementation of SDGs 14 and 17 which specifically cover the main topics of the Barcelona Convention;
- Establish an Advisory Board of young national professionals in representation of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; create a representation of youth at the decision making level to foster dialogue and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries and raise awareness on the most urgent challenges affecting their communities.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Young representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention would like to express deep gratitude to the *Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea* for hosting the COP 21 Youth Event in Naples on 23 October 2019 and its warm hospitality.



### **III. Outcome of the Regional Stakeholders Consultation Meeting (Athens, Greece, 24-25 October 2019)**

#### **Thematic Priority Area: Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity**

- Support the need for developing a post 2020 Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAP BIO), a Post-2020 Roadmap on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean; these programs and measures must be results-based, measurable, prepared through a participatory and transparent process, in line with the existing and upcoming global environmental commitments and with targeted actions at local, national, Mediterranean and eco-regional levels;
- Request Governments for their full commitment and adequate resources in order to: expand and sustain MPAs; strengthen their planning and effective management; provide the support needed in order to make MPAs in the Mediterranean concrete and effective tools for conservation and sustainability; facilitate the active involvement of MPAs managers, national and local authorities, NGOs, socio-economic actors and relevant stakeholders; and develop measurable targets in order to achieve the CBD Aichi Target 11, the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goal 14;
- Promote and support cooperation and networking between MPAs, their involvement in Marine Spatial Planning, as well as the exchange of information, practices and solutions at all levels and strengthen the link between field action and policy making in order to enhance their efficiency and connectivity through the ecosystem-based approach and to address common conservation and management issues.

#### **Thematic Priority Area: Marine litter**

- Increase efforts to achieve SDG Target 14.1 and commit to eliminate the leakage of plastics in the Mediterranean by 2025;
- Encourage industries, including plastic industry, to develop sustainable alternative materials considering the life cycle approach and promoting eco design, also taking into consideration socio-economic aspects and the circular economy approach;
- Foster the responsibility of producers and consumers by strengthening awareness, education and communication tools;
- Enforce the science-policy interface and mobilize research institutions in order to fill knowledge gaps and policy needs (e.g. the monitoring of the presence and impacts of nanoplastics in the marine environment and biota, sea food safety and human health and the impact of marine litter on marine biodiversity with focus on MPAs);
- Harmonize and strengthen marine litter monitoring programs and the identification of common indicators among the regional and global contexts by promoting the need for an agreed common baseline;
- Commit to concrete measures to prevent marine litter generation and reduce impacts.

#### **Thematic Priority Session: Climate Action**

- Commit to take into account the consequences of the climate driven changes in marine and coastal habitats, like erosion and flooding, on priority marine habitats and species, e.g. Posidonia meadows, marine turtles and monk seals;
- Acknowledge the impact of increasing temperatures on communities and marine species and habitats and commit to enhance adaptation and mitigation measures;
- Commit to take into account consequences of the invasive alien species on the public health, ecosystems, fisheries and tourism;
- Promote the recognition of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture, and coastal and marine areas protection as mitigation and adaptation measures against climate change;
- Develop and apply the concept of environmental and socio-economic resilience at all levels;
- Promote nature-based solutions and, whenever possible, consider them as alternatives or complements to infrastructure projects;
- Follow a precautionary principle in relation to climate change adaptation measures, in particular considering marine spatial planning.

#### **Thematic Priority Session: Blue Economy**

- Promote the implementation of common sustainability standards in marine and coastal investments, based on the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles, with a view to support the delivery on environmental, climate and social goals, including the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement;
- Develop a clear structured approach to sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean, based on the work done by the MAP-Barcelona Convention system; providing criteria, goals, measures and actions to specifically address tourism activities in the Mediterranean that involve all dimensions of the MAP-Barcelona Convention System (institutional, regulatory and implementation); this will be done in cooperation with all stakeholders and in coordination with the other regional processes;
- Develop and endorse a regional taxonomy for sustainable tourism activities, in line with other regional processes (e.g. EU Action plan on sustainable finance) to facilitate sustainable investments in tourism at the regional level and to promote sustainable tourism and eco-tourism development in the region.

#### **Thematic Priority Session: Guidance**

- Emphasize the role of the cities as engines of development and laboratories of solutions to environmental emergencies and the promotion of sustainable development;
- Promote the role and raise the capacities of women taking into account their perception of biodiversity, climate change and the specific adaptation to any change; promote the role of young people as effective actors and communicators as well;
- Acknowledge and facilitate the role of Civil Society and support the transition from public participation to active engagement for the implementation of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system via new tools of assessment (e.g. legal indicators);
- Build capacity for all relevant actors, by (a) developing, through education and training, an innovative approach to creative negotiations as a structured process of governance, generating common interest at all levels for the MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and by introducing a dialogue platform to encourage informed participation, as well as by (b) developing a public trust

approach, as a sustainability-related legal and policy platform to enhance implementation of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system to protect the environment and natural resources contributing to sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations;

- Recognize the critical role of national and international parliaments, and their active contribution, through the instrument of legislative action and parliamentary diplomacy, for the achievement of the goals and mission of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system in protecting the environment of the Mediterranean Sea, its coastal zones and enhance the sustainable and harmonious development of the entire region;
- Facilitate the engagement of local communities in the Mediterranean by developing, in a collaborative manner and in cooperation with Civil Society Organizations, tools to help the communication, dissemination, understanding, also through education, and easier and effective implementation of the measures agreed at institutional level;
- Support the development of a new deal for nature that strengthens global targets and mechanisms to protect and restore nature by 2030, in support of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, and in the context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Commit to implement the roadmap for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea Area as Emission Control Area for Sulphur dioxide (ECA) with adequate supporting measures for the Contracting Parties and a comprehensive proposal to submit to the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- Promote the use of modern data collection technologies such as the Geographic Information systems (GIS) as effective tools to collect and share relevant data, information and knowledge.

The above conclusions and recommendations are also relevant for the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027.