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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting  
Parties to the Convention for the Protection  
of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution  
and its Protocols

Montpellier, 1 - 4 July 1996

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(MCSD)**

**"Composition of the Commission"  
Proposal by the Secretariat**

## **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)**

### **Composition of the Commission**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. During the last MAP National Focal Points' Meeting (Athens, 6-10 May 1996), a draft proposal concerning the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), was presented by the Secretariat for the consideration of the meeting (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.111/Inf.11).
2. After some deliberation, the meeting established an open-ended working group chaired by Mr. J. Ros (Spain), which reviewed the draft text of the Terms of Reference and agreed on certain modifications.
3. The new text was presented and adopted by the plenary session of the meeting of the National Focal Points, which recommended its final approval by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996).
4. The proposed Terms of Reference is contained in document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/6. It stipulates in section "C. - Composition" that:

"The Commission shall be composed of a maximum of 35 members, consisting of representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations working in the fields of environment and of sustainable development. All representatives shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing".

5. In this connection, the meeting requested the Secretariat to submit to the meeting of the Contracting Parties a proposal covering the respective numbers of representatives, the method of their nomination, the selection criteria and the duration of their mandate.
6. The Secretariat is proposing the following *modus operandi* for selecting the various respective number of representatives:

#### **(a) NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES**

1. The Commission shall be composed of 36 members, consisting of representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.
2. In particular:
  - a. each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention shall be represented by one high level representative (total 21), who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required, in order to ensure interdisciplinary participation of relevant ministerial bodies of the Contracting Parties (e.g. ministries of environment, tourism, economy, development, industry, finance, energy, etc.).

- b. each of the three categories mentioned in section C.5 of the draft text of the Terms of Reference, i.e. local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations, shall be represented by 5 representatives (total 15), to be selected by the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

3. All representatives shall participate in the Commission on an equal footing.

**(b) METHOD OF NOMINATION**

a. Method of nomination of candidates

(i) local authorities

As the legal and administrative status of local authorities differs from one country to another, it is proposed that representatives of the local authorities may be selected through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties and through applications submitted directly from the various local authorities, to the Secretariat of MAP.

(ii) Socio-economic actors

As the legal and administrative status of the socio-economic actors differs from one country to another, it is proposed that the representatives of the socio-economic actors may be selected through proposals from the governments of the Contracting Parties and through applications submitted directly from the various networks in this category, to the Secretariat of MAP.

(iii) NGO's

1. The criteria and the list of NGO-MAP partners approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995), shall be used as the reference text for any NGO who wishes to participate in the Commission' s work.
2. Three categories of NGO's shall be represented in the Commission:
  - NGO's with an international scope and multidisciplinary interest recognised in their status, especially those contributing to the Mediterranean cooperation and concerned with matters covering a substantial portion of MAP' s field of activity;
  - NGO's with a regional scope covering more than one country in the whole Mediterranean area and covering a portion of MAP' s field of activity;
  - NGO's with national or local scope covering a

portion of MAP' s field of activity.

3. The selection of five NGO's from this category may be done through NGO networks in the region and through direct applications to be submitted to the MAP Secretariat.

b. Method of nomination of members of the MCSD

1. The meeting of the Contracting Parties shall nominate the members of the Commission.
2. All members shall be appointed for a four-year term with the provision that one third (5) of the members of the three categories of local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGO's, shall be replaced after the first two years, in order to give the opportunity for other organisations and actors to participate in the work of the Commission.
3. For the first meeting of the Commission (Fez, Morocco, December 1996), the Bureau of the Contracting Parties shall make the selection of the members of the Commission.

(c) **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The following general selection criteria is proposed:

1. The criteria and the list of MAP/NGO partners, approved by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995 (document: UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16), shall be used as a reference text for selection of members of NGO's.
2. Priority for selection shall be given to Mediterranean actors/organisations/networks which are concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
3. The principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected (north/south and east/west).
4. With reference to the specific three categories, the following selection criteria is proposed:
  - (i) local authorities
    1. The local authority to be selected should have a Mediterranean scope and concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues.
  - (ii) Socio-economic actors
    1. The selection within this group should take into consideration the following factors:
      - north/south representation

- developed/developing countries
  - rural/urban
2. Networks dealing with important subjects such as tourism in the Mediterranean, food, youth/women shall be represented in the Commission.
  3. Priority of selection shall be given to socio-economic networks active in the Mediterranean.
  4. Socio-economic networks to be selected should have proof of their past activities at Mediterranean level.
  5. Other actors who are involved in Mediterranean activities, even if they are not under any of the three categories, shall be given the opportunity to participate in the Commission.

(iii) NGO's

1. The members representing NGO's should be selected from the list of MAP/NGO partners.
2. The members should be selected between three NGO categories:
  - NGO's with global scope
  - NGO's with regional scope
  - NGO's with national and local scope
3. The NGO's to be selected should have an intensity and an action oriented approach towards the Mediterranean.

**(d) DURATION OF THE MANDATE**

1. The duration of the membership of the Commission shall be as follows:
  - a. all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention shall be permanent members of the Commission (21);
  - b. five representatives from each of the three categories (local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations), shall be selected for a duration of four years by the meeting of the Contracting Parties (15);
  - c. one third of this group (5) shall be replaced after the first two years.