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21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

Teleconference, 13-14 May 2020

Report of the 21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

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Introduction

1. The 21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was held on 13-14 May 2020 through teleconference. The list of participants is provided in Annex I.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

2. The meeting was opened by the President of the MCSD Steering Committee, Ms. Ivana Stojanovic, Montenegro, at 09:30 in current local time in Athens, Greece (GMT+3).
3. In her opening remarks, the President noted with satisfaction that, in the current situation of the Coronavirus pandemic, all members of the Committee were represented, some of them being accompanied by advisers, and speakers were invited to join specific sessions for an interactive meeting. She mentioned that this was the first meeting of the Committee after the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), referring to the important mandate given by COP 21 to the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) for the biennium 2020-2021.
4. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat, congratulated the members of the Committee for their nomination and expressed on behalf of the Secretariat warm welcome to the meeting participants and a message of gratitude, hope and confidence. He reminded that the lively 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) provided important input to COP 21. He mentioned that the Commission and its Steering Committee have a crucial role to play as we move, hopefully soon, to a post COVID-19 era with courage and innovation. He invited the participants to brainstorm together, based on their strong experiences, partnerships and cooperation, on how the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system can help to respond to the huge environmental and socioeconomic challenges our Mediterranean region faces in that unpredictable context.
5. The Coordinator presented the twofold purpose of the meeting, namely (i) to review progress on the work done since the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and (ii) to address specific issues related to decisions adopted at COP 21, pointing out the two main working documents prepared for the meeting. i.e. Progress Report (UNEP/MED WG.479/3) and Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/MED WG.479/4).
6. Gender considerations: Four out of seven (57%) accredited MCSD Steering Committee Members and one out of two invited speakers (50%) were female.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

7. The President introduced the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as contained in document UNEP/MED WG.479/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.479/2. The agenda was adopted by the participants, as provided in Annex II.

Agenda item 3: Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2019 – April 2020

8. The Coordinator introduced document UNEP/MED WG.479/3 and provided an overview of the progress made during the period July 2019 – April 2020.
9. After having thanked the Secretariat for the extensive work done, the President invited the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee to provide comments and to report on their own activities that contributed to the implementation and follow-up of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).
10. Members of the Committee emphasized the need to better reflect, in the work of the MCSD, the preparation of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Global Framework and the work of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention in that domain.

11. Italy informed the participants about the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) adopted in 2017 to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national level, mentioning work on SDG indicators and engagement of governmental actors with the youth, civil society organizations (CSO), and local authorities in the context of the National Forum for Sustainable Development. Regarding SDG 14 and reduction and prevention of marine pollution, Italy referred to the almost adopted national law “Save the Sea” (*Salva Mare*), which echoes the EU Directive on single-use plastic waste. Italy further updated the meeting participants on actions undertaken to prioritize, within the next State political agenda, the creation of green jobs and the promotion of circular, low-emission and decarbonized economies, including through the reduction of Sulphur and Nitrogen oxides emissions (SO_x and NO_x) and the promotion of innovative technologies in the maritime sectors, as well as the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and MSP to guarantee the effectiveness of the ecosystem approach.

12. Morocco updated the meeting participants about the NSSD 2017-2030 and the creation of a national platform gathering all government departments, which in addition of sectoral action plans have developed a transversal approach on the “exemplarity of the State”, with environmental assessments and actions undertaken by the administration on, *inter alia*, renewable energy (e.g. photovoltaic panels) and reduction of paper and water consumption. Morocco also mentioned that a national study demonstrated that the NSSD 2017-2030 covered most of the SDG targets.

13. Speaking on behalf of Montenegro, the President explained that the first report on the implementation of the NSSD until 2030 – to be prepared by July 2020 – will inform on the level of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Montenegro, taking into account that the NSSD integrated the SDGs at the national level. She emphasized that significant efforts have been put in the monitoring system. She mentioned that sustainable development is the answer to post-Coronavirus crisis and that proposed national measures for sustainable tourism were based on *inter alia* 2030 Agenda’s principles, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approaches.

14. Turkey reported on the Zero Waste Initiative launched in 2017 around the following components: reduction of waste generation, collection and separation of waste at source, recycling infrastructures, campaigns for raising public awareness, etc. The Zero Waste Initiative contributed to marine protection efforts, reducing the generation of marine litter and microplastics at source.

15. MEPIELAN updated the participants on its actions in four interrelated directions: 1. Participation in UNEP/MAP meetings and membership in several bodies such as the MCSD, its Steering Committee and the Compliance Committee through its Director; 2. Communication with a new website reflecting the work of the MCSD and the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system; 3. Contribution to capacity building to negotiate creatively for common interest and organize stakeholder-participatory dialogue at all levels, developing the Public Trust Approach and innovative concepts to address legal gaps in sustainable governance, implementation and compliance, making reference to two flagship initiatives under the MSSD Objective 6 “Governance”; 4. Education on environmental law and governance for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and coast through specific undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the Panteion University in Athens, Greece.

16. The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) informed the meeting participants about the multi-stakeholder preparation process of two important Ministerial meetings and declarations on 1. Blue Economy and 2. Environment and Climate Change, as well as on themes of common interest such as the circular, green and low carbon economy, pollution prevention and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), and education for sustainable development (ESD), making reference to the preparation of the renewed Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP/MAP.

Conclusions:

- i. **The MCSD Steering Committee expressed its appreciation for the work done in the period July 2019 – April 2020 as presented by the Secretariat, and its satisfaction for the efforts and results achieved.**
- ii. **The Committee welcomed the proposal from the Secretariat to invite a representative of the UNEP Science Division at the next meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee to introduce the UNEP Environment Live portal that provides the UN Member States open access to information and knowledge on the environment at the global, regional and national levels.**
- iii. **The Committee encouraged eight Contracting Parties (i.e. Cyprus, Italy, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, and Syrian Arab Republic) to contribute to the consultation launched on the transposition of SDGs at national level, so that the Secretariat can conclude this process and draft a synthesis paper. The Secretariat will follow up with those countries.**

Agenda item 4: Specific Issues

17. The President introduced this agenda item as the most important of the meeting, mentioning that the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4) deepened the topics presented in the Progress Report (document UNEP/MED WG.479/3) with substantive elements that derived from COP 21 Decisions and from the mandate of the MCSD, for review and discussion by the Committee.

A. Mid-Term Evaluation of the MSSD

18. The UNEP/MAP Deputy Coordinator introduced this agenda subitem, bringing to the attention of the participants that COP 21, through Decision IG.24/3, gave to the MCSD Steering Committee a leading role for the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation. She provided background information on the evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 and on the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, pointing out linkages with the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and of the Regional Action Plan on SCP in the Mediterranean (SCP Action Plan), as well as the efforts made by the Secretariat to maximize synergies and interaction between those processes.

19. The Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and SCP/RAC) introduced Power Point presentations on the work plans and timelines, sources of information and methodologies, and expected deliverables of the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-terms evaluations, proposing an innovative approach for the stakeholder consultation.

20. In the ensuing discussion, members of the Committee raised the following remarks:

- Based on its guiding role and strong involvement, the Committee requested to be continuously updated and consulted. Beyond MCSD Members, UNEP/MAP Components and Partners, the stakeholder consultation should be extended to relevant CSOs and IGOs, and well structured around three criteria: more democracy; better knowledge; more effectiveness;
- Following a forward-looking approach, and considering the need to reorient actions in the future for the best implementation of the MSSD and of the SCP Action Plan, the Committee welcomed the proposal to address the Coronavirus crisis' impacts and possible responses in terms of risks and opportunities for the green and blue economies, establishing links with MED 2050 Foresight Study;
- The Committee considered the MSSD mid-term evaluation as a relevant opportunity to identify gaps in the MSSD implementation, propose recommendations for bridging those gaps, and further align in the future the Strategy with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Regarding the gap analysis, the Committee also considered that between Performance (*where we stand*) and Potential (*where we want to be/go*), the paths for “going there” (*how, ways forward*) were crucial, noting that the mid-term evaluations should include recommendations for action to overcome gaps and difficulties;

- The Committee invited the Secretariat to consider the national level not only through best available processes and practices, but also for the gap analysis in order to identify obstacles in implementing and monitoring the MSSD and SDGs in the Mediterranean countries;
- UCLG suggested to mobilize local authorities' networks such as Med Cities to act as an interface between municipalities and the Secretariat, in particular during the stakeholder consultation; and,
- MEPIELAN recommended to consider citizen science, participatory knowledge production, and transdisciplinary, putting all knowledge sources on an equal footing.

Conclusions:

iv. The MCSD Steering Committee expressed its appreciation on the work plan presented by the Secretariat to undertake in parallel the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluations that should feed the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, encouraging the Secretariat to pursue its efforts for making synergies between those processes.

v. Acknowledging its guiding role in the MSSD mid-term evaluation process, the Committee requested the Secretariat to update and consult regularly the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee on the activities undertaken and the results achieved on those processes, including draft deliverables, with an efficient communication along the way.

vi. The Committee expressed support to the participatory process of the MSSD mid-term evaluation and recommended to consult widely MCSD Members, UNEP/MAP Partners, UNEP/MAP Components, and other stakeholders remotely (interviews, questionnaires) and, if possible, through face-to-face meetings, focusing in priority on the regional dimension. The Committee also expressed the need to engage stakeholders in the gap analysis through a well-structured process, supporting the participatory forms of knowledge production.

B. MSSD Flagship Initiatives

21. The President introduced this agenda subitem, explaining that the four MSSD Flagship Initiatives under consideration for the meeting were those that knew interesting developments and perspectives after the 18th Meeting of the MCSD.

22. The Deputy Coordinator specified that, out of the eleven MSSD Flagship Initiatives, five were running and regularly followed-up; three were recently launched; and three were not yet launched, including one for which MEPIELAN drafted a concept note discussed at the MCSD Meeting in June 2019.

Mediterranean Green Business Award

23. SCP/RAC being mandated by COP 21 to launch the Mediterranean Green Business Award as one of the MSSD Flagship Initiatives, this centre introduced a Power Point presentation on various aspects of the award process, which was detailed in Information Document UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.5, namely: Background and policy context; Objectives of the award; Categories, criteria, sectoral and geographical focus of the award; Jury and prizes; Visibility and sustainability of the award.

24. In the ensuing discussion, members of the Committee made the following comments:

25. Regarding the Public Authorities category of the award, the Committee considered that it was important to consider local authorities and the measures they took not only for encouraging the private sector and businesses but also for undertaking green solutions that they implemented themselves such as water and energy saving, or waste management. Green public procurement and measures taken towards an enabling environment for green entrepreneurship at local level (*local solutions for local circumstances*, local environmental standards) were also considered of paramount importance.

26. SCP/RAC acknowledged the significance of these green solutions and recalled that the corresponding category of the award was dedicated to achievements by public authorities that enhance the enabling environment for green and circular economy businesses, i.e. policies, regulations, and incentives, noting that the environmental performance of public authorities was already addressed by the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, which is another MSSD Flagship Initiative.
27. Speaking on behalf of UCLG, Med Cities offered support to better design the criteria of the Public Authorities category of the award and to contribute to the dissemination for reaching municipalities, recommending the involvement of UNEP/MAP Partners in the dissemination activities.
28. MEPIELAN suggested that the criteria for the business category include reference to their commitments to employment quality and equality, while the criteria for public authorities include the promotion of the enabling environment and flexibility for local solutions, strengthening community involvement and keeping environmental standards. MEPIELAN suggested that an environmental lawyer be included in the jury or to help for fine-tuning the set of criteria.
29. Taking note that the first edition of the award targeted Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries because it is funded by the SwitchMed programme, the Deputy Coordinator indicated that next editions should cover all Mediterranean countries, avoiding sub-regional focus.

***Regional Assessments and Knowledge Exchanges of High- and Low-Tech Solutions
Successfully Implemented to Achieve Waste Reduction***

30. The President explained that, following the concept note discussed at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and as per the elements introduced in the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4), MIO-ECSDE took the lead for implementing this MSSD Flagship Initiative.
31. MIO-ECSDE, as invited speaker, introduced a Power Point presentation on recent and future developments for implementing this MSSD Flagship Initiative through regional assessments, technical assistance and capacity building on best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean.
32. The presentation focused on three complementary elements:
- (a) Conduct a regional assessment of high- and low-tech solutions including but not limited to awareness-raising and economic measures that have been successfully implemented in Mediterranean countries and elsewhere (e.g. in the EU) to achieve waste reduction and promote the principles of circular economy, relevant to the Mediterranean countries' context and needs;
 - (b) Develop a repository or an on-line tool for facilitated access to the solutions and their more widespread utilization in waste reduction efforts; and,
 - (c) integrate (a) and (b) above in relevant capacity building activities of the EU funded Water and Environment Support (WES) Regional Project.
33. In the ensuing discussion, members of the Committee made the following remarks:
- UfM, supported by other members, considered that the title of this initiative needed to be refreshed to better reflect the green and circular economy approaches. Considering the need to narrow down the wide scope of the initiative, it was also considered that a moment of reflection and maturation was necessary to define the best approach of the envisioned regional assessments;
 - Turkey mentioned that the initiative could have a focus on single-use plastic waste, referring to national legislations and considering the Zero Waste Initiative as relevant for promoting good practices implemented at national and local levels. Turkey proposed to contribute in that regard;
 - UCLG suggested to consider the Interreg Med horizontal project InCircle (sustainable tourism and circular economy), in which Med Cities is a partner member, as a source of good practices.

UCLG also mentioned that the Med Urban Tools¹ developed by Med Cities and partners was of interest to identify relevant solutions implemented by local authorities and their networks;

- The Deputy Coordinator invited MIO-ECSDE to develop this initiative in synergy with other UNEP/MAP and UfM supported activities, in particular the evaluation and revision of the Marine Litter Regional Plan, as well as the chapter on waste management of the regional assessment report developed by the European Environmental Agency and UNEP/MAP; and,
- SCP/RAC updated the participants about the regional guidelines and trainings under development on single-use plastic waste.

34. Taking note of the above comments, MIO-ECSDE confirmed that it will be challenging to narrow down the scope, address real needs and not overlap with other on-going relevant efforts in the region. MIO-ECSDE reminded that the main guiding principles for the envisioned activities to be included are: low cost technologies, feasible and likely to be implemented, indicating that the regional assessment shall focus on options with high potential for impact. Experts to be mobilized to undertake such an assessment shall focus on the above and on innovative approaches in dealing with additional aspects, e.g. addressing odor nuisance from solid waste prevention through citizen science.

Environmental Governance: Encourage the Accession to and Implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

35. The President explained that, following the concept note discussed at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and as per the elements introduced in the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4), MIO-ECSDE took the lead for implementing this MSSD Flagship Initiative.

36. MIO-ECSDE, as invited speaker, introduced a Power Point presentation on recent developments and perspectives for implementing this MSSD Flagship Initiative that shall provide a solid and comprehensive overall framework to effectively engage the public with environmental governance.

37. As background elements, MIO-ECSDE explained that globalization, proliferation of electronic media and increasing complexity of challenges could not be addressed by governments alone and have changed radically the role and mode of governance at all levels from global to local. The invited speaker explained that effective governance requires trust of societies in leadership, and trust has to be obtained via understanding through education and truthful provision of information, evidence-based decisions, transparency, and accountability. Therefore, accession to the Aarhus Convention of as many as possible Mediterranean countries would not only significantly improve the quality and efficiency of environmental governance but would also contribute to the achievement of practically all the SDGs.

38. The presentation focused on the organization in 2021 of a regional capacity building training based on experience sharing to promote the Aarhus Convention, in the context of the EU funded WES regional project, with the support of MIO-ECSDE, COMPSUD, MEPIELAN, the UNECE-Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UfM and UNEP/MAP, targeting Parliamentarians, officials of Ministries of Environment and Water, governmental departments dealing with international conventions, local authorities, and NGOs.

39. In the ensuing discussion, MEPIELAN explained its contribution to this MSSD Flagship Initiative, focusing on the support to capacity building activities by introducing legal, institutional, and governance aspects in terms of effectiveness for problem solving, considering that it would be important to look at measures taken by public authorities to ensure access of the public to environmental information and to arrange public consultation procedures. MEPIELAN referred to ad hoc administrative bodies, active engagement of sub-national bodies and dissemination of best

¹ <http://medurbantools.com/>

practices, as well as to the Escazu Agreement for the Latin America and the Caribbean countries, which is similar to the Aarhus Convention and includes legal indicators for measuring efficiency and progress on public participation and access to environmental information.

40. UCLG recommended to add local authorities as target group of the regional training/capacity building workshop, and proposed assistance in that direction.

41. MIO-ECSDE welcomed the offered support and explained that the terms of reference and exact focus of this regional initiative were still under discussion and that the main aim remained to create the enabling conditions for expanding the accession of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean countries, in line with the specifications of the MSSD under its Objective 6 Governance.

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award

42. The Secretariat introduced the Draft Roadmap, Tentative Timeline and Communication for the Nomination and Selection Process of the third edition of the award (2020-2021), as included in Annex II of the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4), mentioning that based on lessons learned from the 2017 and 2019 editions, technical tools were available to support the nomination and selection process, i.e. list of criteria, application form and guidelines to support its completion, and a tool for calculating scores and preparing an equitable ranking. It was also suggested to postpone the launch of the call for applicant cities from June to September 2020 because it may be difficult to reach local authorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, while strengthening communication with a view to encouraging more eligible cities to apply, relying on the support of local authorities' networks. The Secretariat highlighted opportunities for synergy with communication efforts undertaken for the Mediterranean Green Business Award initiative, notably in the formulation of messages aimed at targeting common audience groups.

43. Turkey congratulated the Secretariat for having implemented successfully the two first editions of the award and committed to also support the third edition through a voluntary national contribution.

Conclusions:

vii. The MCSD Steering Committee expressed its appreciation on the presentation (concept note) of the Mediterranean Green Business Award, encouraged the Secretariat (SCP/RAC) to pursue efforts for undertaking the proposed activities, stressed the importance of emphasizing the application of environmental and governance-effective criteria, and welcomed the proposal to include one Member of the MCSD in the jury of the award.

viii. The Committee welcomed the presentation provided by MIO-ECSDE and the activities already envisaged under the EU funded WES Regional Project for launching the MSSD Flagship Initiative on Regional Assessments and Knowledge Exchanges of High- and Low-Tech Solutions Successfully Implemented to Achieve Waste Reduction, within the already agreed support to the UfM and the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention. The Committee recommended to concentrate efforts on the preparation of a regional assessment report on the best available practices and their further uses on waste prevention and management in the Mediterranean, including a possible on-line repository, to promote existing solutions based on case studies, programmes and projects, making synergies with other relevant initiatives.

ix. The Committee welcomed the presentation provided by MIO-ECSDE and the activities being considered under the EU funded WES Regional Project for launching the MSSD Flagship Initiative on Environmental Governance to encourage the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean countries. The Committee encouraged MIO-ECSDE and the Secretariat to proceed with the organization of a regional WES capacity building workshop in support of the MSSD Flagship Initiative, in close cooperation with the UNECE-Aarhus Convention Secretariat and MEPIELAN. They also acknowledged that MIO-

ECSDE and MEPIELAN will embark on the development, facilitated by the Secretariat, of the legal and governance dimensions of this MSSD Flagship Initiative.

x. The Committee welcomed and took note of the Draft Roadmap, Tentative Timeline and Communication of the Nomination and Selection Process of the Third Edition (2020-2021) of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, and encouraged the Secretariat to implement the proposed activities accordingly, launching the call for applicants in due time and strengthening communication to reach interest from Mediterranean coastal cities.

C. Assessment Studies

Consultation on the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Changes (MedECC)

44. Welcoming one of the two MedECC Coordinators, Mr. Joel Guiot, who was invited to present for the first time draft MAR1 to decision-makers and stakeholders, the President said that this interactive session offered a unique opportunity to initiate the consultation with the MCSD Steering Committee.

45. Through a Power Point presentation, MedECC Co-Coordinator introduced the MedECC network, its objectives and achievements since its creation five years ago, indicating that this kind of Science Policy Interface on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean did not exist before and responded to several elements of the UNEP/MAP's and UfM's respective mandates, including a specific flagship initiative under the MSSD Objective 4 on Climate Change. He indicated that MedECC would benefit from being officially institutionalized to be widely recognized and supported by Mediterranean countries and organizations, referring also to the aims of strengthening the scientific coordination and of enhancing the dialogue with decision-makers and stakeholders.

46. Mr. Joel Guiot presented the main findings and key messages of the draft MAR1 and its Summary for Policy-Makers (SPM), as included in document UNEP/MED WG.479/5 and currently under review by various bodies of the UfM and UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention systems. In terms of perspective for future activities, the MedECC Co-Coordinator mentioned zooms on specific challenges such as coastal risks and sea level rise, water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, focus on territories (local level), and capacity building to address knowledge gaps.

47. In the ensuing discussion, encouraging MedECC to pursue its work, the MCSD Steering Committee expressed its congratulations for the creation of this network, its satisfaction for the complex achievements reached so far, its willingness to contribute to the on-going consultation of decision-makers and stakeholders, and to mobilize their constituencies and colleagues in that direction. Members of the Committee encouraged the Secretariat to secure resources in the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 to continue supporting this initiative in the context of the MTS 2022-2027.

48. The Committee called for more straightforward and action-oriented policy messages to be easily understandable and useable by decision-makers, insisting on the importance of communication and dissemination in various formats, targeting different categories of actors, including the public, to alert on the unsustainable trends and on the need to undertake mitigation and adaptation measures without more delays. In that regard, UCLG referred to the responsibility of decision-makers and partner organizations to promote the relevant and useful work undertaken by MedECC.

49. The Committee recommended to reflect in the MedECC report the drivers and impacts of the current Coronavirus crisis through an environmental perspective.

50. Considering MedECC as a "Mediterranean IPCC" and calling for a wide involvement of National Focal Points, UfM stated that the SPM of MAR1 had the potential to become one of the most important deliverables of the 2020 UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change.

51. MEPIELAN encouraged MedECC to mobilize stakeholders' knowledge and citizen science, requiring continuous consideration of how the problem is framed and what values are at stake by the experts involved in Science – Policy – Society interface.

52. After having thanked the Committee for the positive comments, MedECC Co-Coordinator distinguished three products that correspond to three different categories of public: the full report containing around 500 pages was made for the scientific community, the 30 page-SPM might be still difficult to understand for a non-expert public, and the two page-executive summary corresponding to something more “digestible” for the public. Mr. Guiot mentioned that the work should not end with the endorsement and publication of the report and that support from communication specialists was in need to reach the various public targets; Plan Bleu confirmed its support in this regard. He finally stated that MedECC relied on the Plenary session to be held in the fall of 2020, as an actual interface between Science and Policy, counting on the involvement of the UfM Climate Change Expert Group, MCSD Steering Committee and Plan Bleu Focal Points.

Conclusions:

xi. The MCSD Steering Committee acknowledged with appreciation the work done by MedECC, in cooperation with the Secretariats of the UfM and UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention through Plan Bleu, for the preparation of the draft First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) and its draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM).

xii. Acknowledging the importance of Science – Policy – Society Interface, the Committee welcomed the inclusive process being undertaken to consult the scientific community, governments representatives, policymakers and stakeholders on the findings of this important assessment study, and expressed their interest and willingness to take part in this consultation.

xiii. The Committee recommended to MedECC to further work on the key, take-away messages of draft MAR1 and its SPM, based on the Executive Summary, so that they can be used for outreach and dissemination purposes, in a more communicative manner for both decision-makers and citizens, supporting awareness of the public and policy-making processes at regional, national and local levels. The Committee also emphasized the importance of wide dissemination and communication in various formats; Members of the Committee committed to take action in that direction in a coordinated manner.

xiv. The Committee encouraged the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to include climate change-related dimension informed by MedECC findings in COP 22 draft decisions, in particular in the context of the forthcoming Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 for which Climate Change can be expected to be a central theme.

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

53. Under this session, the Secretariat introduced a Power Point presentation on the draft UNEP/MAP system-wide communication campaign of the SoED 2019, as included in Annex III of the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4) to highlight the following points of the draft communication plan: objectives, key success factors and indicators; target audience groups and communication toolkit; the digital communication campaign and possible key events.

54. The Secretariat introduced proposals for positioning the SoED 2019 in the post-Coronavirus debate, considering that the best available knowledge on environment and development in the Mediterranean encapsulated in the SoED 2019 included evidence of the “mistakes of the past” and provided pointers toward alternatives to “build back better” for a green renaissance in the Mediterranean region and countries.

55. In the ensuing discussion, MEPIELAN pointed out three public targets to be considered for amplifying mobilization effects: the youth and especially the student community; the Parliamentarians; CSOs, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), and labor unions and professional associations.

Conclusions:

xv. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed and took note of the UNEP/MAP system-wide communication plan of the SoED 2019 and encouraged the Secretariat to implement it with all UNEP/MAP Components, in particular Plan Bleu, involving MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners. The Committee invited the Secretariat to consider specific targets such as for instance the youth and student community; Parliamentarians; civil society organizations (including labor unions, faith-based organizations, and professional associations).

xvi. The Committee invited the Secretariat to mobilize MCSD Members and UNEP/MAP Partners to contribute to the dissemination of the SoED 2019 and related communication products.

MED 2050 Foresight Study

56. Under this session, the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) introduced a comprehensive Power Point presentation on the activities planned to undertake MED 2050, as described in the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4). Plan Bleu recalled the objectives and roadmap of the foresight study, including the different modules; the participatory approach and concept of MED 2050 network; the trends, disruptions, and weak signals identified in 2018-2019 and the earlier benchmark of Mediterranean foresight studies. Recent work to be published in 2020 includes a comparison between the 2005 projections and the current situation; a compendium of long term trends and an outlook of demographic trends and prospects. Plan Bleu outlined the next steps, including the engagement of a reflection on Coronavirus crisis' consequences. Plan Bleu also invited the MCSD Steering Committee to participate in the MED 2050 open-ended network, contribute to thematic workshops and key foresight groups, including at national level, and to provide feedback on the MED 2050 systemic framework.

57. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the perspective to include in the MED 2050 foresight study the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis for the future of the Mediterranean region and countries.

58. Morocco stated that MED 2050 will be critical to define desirables and consensual action-oriented scenarios for the future and the Mediterranean we want, to be used as a wide reference for future strategies.

59. UfM and UCLG offered support for communication and dissemination to policymakers, and requested clarifications on the next steps, including intermediary milestones, which were provided by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu).

Conclusions:

xvii. The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed and took note of the activities proposed to carry out the MED 2050 foresight study in 2020-2021, encouraging the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to take advantage of this process to address the possible impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic for the long term sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

xviii. Offering their respective expertise and support, the Members of the Committee recommended to the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to continue involving MCSD Members in the proposed activities and in the various groups, in particular in the open-ended MED 2050 network.

D. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators

60. Under this agenda subitem, the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) introduced a joint Power Point presentation on the roadmaps and activities planned on the dashboard and integration of SCP indicators, as included in the Report on Specific Issues (document UNEP/MED WG.479/4) and following the adoption of Decisions IG.24/3 and IG.24/14 at COP 21.
61. Recalling the recommendations of the Plan Bleu Focal Points and MCSD Meetings as well as the mandate given by COP 21, Plan Bleu would focus its efforts in 2020-2021 on: (i) updating the populated dashboard and reviewing opportunities to further aligning the dashboard with SDG indicators (when proxies had to be used in 2019 due to poor data coverage); (ii) evaluating the possibility to further include indicators on the blue, green and circular economy (including key SCP indicators); (iii) reviewing the possibility to narrow down information to focus on marine and coastal areas when particularly relevant and feasible.
62. In the ensuing discussion and in view of its next meeting, the Committee invited the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) to provide a concrete proposal for monitoring the MSSD implementation on a periodic basis through the agreed 28 MSSD priority indicators complemented by SCP indicators.
63. The President insisted on the interconnection between MSSD and SCP indicators, inviting the Secretariat to avoid duplication between the two lists and to update the indicators factsheets with the most recent available data. Regarding data availability at national level, Italy recommended to consider in priority the UN system work on SDG indicators, which are regularly reviewed.
64. Members of the Committee invited the Secretariat to consider the possibility to introduce in the dashboard indicators related to COVID-19 and to the relation between Health and Environment. In that regard, the Secretariat emphasized that it would be of interest to assess whether the existing dashboard indicators may provide information on Coronavirus impacts or links related to health, considering the possibility of adding specific indicators for this purpose.
65. MEPIELAN highlighted the need to include legal indicators on environmental regulations in the dashboard to better cover the MSSD Objective 6 "Governance". The development of legal indicators addressing both national and international levels, used together with non-legal indicators, would allow to measure the gap between international obligations and actual implementation in the Mediterranean countries, assessing effectiveness and increasing the visibility and legitimacy of environmental law. Plan Bleu replied that this question was under consideration and needed further reflection because there was not any relevant aggregated indicator available so far to address this issue.
66. Taking note of the above comments, Plan Bleu explained that the selection of the 28 indicators of the dashboard was based on the SDG indicators or their proxies and that 27 indicators were populated in 2019 with existing sources of data, considering UN databases in priority. Plan Bleu specified that activities were engaged to work more specifically on indicators related to marine and coastal issues, including on SDG 14 indicators for which both methodologies and data were available. Plan Bleu indicated that the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be informed with the two previous editions of the populated dashboard, plus the ongoing work, pointing out that it was planned to produce indicator factsheets every two years, the last edition having been published in 2019.

Conclusions:

xix. As required by Decision IG.24/3 adopted at COP 21, the MCSD Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat to proceed with the integration of SCP indicators into the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, as planned by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, avoiding any overlapping between the two lists of indicators, and strengthening the dashboard with indicators related to MSSD Objective 5 and circular economy.

xx. The Committee invited the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) to further explore data availability at the national level and to ensure continued alignment of the lists of indicators with international processes, considering *inter alia* the global indicator framework as included in the 2020 Comprehensive Review conducted by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), national reports on the 2030 Agenda/SDGs implementation, UNEP Environment Live Portal, etc.

xxi. Members of the Committee invited the Secretariat to engage in a reflection with them on how the dashboard respond to the COVID-19 crisis, in view of possibly completing the dashboard with indicators related to impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. inequalities, environmental impacts), if this is in line with the relevant COP decisions. They also encouraged the Secretariat to evaluate the inclusion of legal indicators and make a proposal for the consideration of the MCSD Steering Committee.

E. Other issues

Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)

67. Under this session, the President stated that, although the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and COP 21 encouraged Contracting Parties to participate in SIMPEER, future editions faced uncertainties and no budget has been secured for this activity in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021. She reminded that the MCSD recognized the value of the SIMPEER, considering that peer learning experiences are part of the governance process to facilitate the transposition, implementation and monitoring of SDGs at the regional and national level, as well as to improve effective coordination between governmental departments.

68. Speaking on behalf of Montenegro, the President expressed her country's satisfaction with the SIMPEER experience that was very appreciated and supportive in terms of peer learning with France and Morocco. Morocco emphasized that SIMPEER should be generalized for all Mediterranean countries, insisting on the need to disseminate national good practices. Morocco encouraged future editions to continue involving previous participants. Italy reminded that her country went through the VNR process in 2017 and was preparing another VNR for the 2021 HLPF, concurring on the need to maintain SIMPEER in the work of the MCSD to report on both national successes and difficulties in implementing sustainable development policies. Italy considered that SIMPEER could help Parties to identify the common main difficulties and obstacles in the implementation of their national strategies on sustainable development, as the existent silos between the various ministerial departments involved, and find possible solutions as the establishment of a unique governance framework at national level and an effective coordination mechanism to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Conclusions:

xxii. The MCSD Steering Committee encouraged the Contracting Parties to fully participate in SIMPEER future editions, with the support of the Secretariat, noting that this mechanism represents an innovative incentive for promoting dialogue between Mediterranean countries and has the potential to support Contracting Parties in streamlining their work for implementing in synergy the MSSD and the SDGs.

xxiii. Expressing concerns on the fact that SIMPEER third and future editions may be jeopardized due to the lack of available resources, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended to the Secretariat to submit to the next MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP 22 an adequate budget proposal for relaunching this activity during the next biennium.

MCS D Membership

69. Under this session, the Secretariat explained that, as per paragraph 9. II. of the Composition of the MCS D (Decision IG.22/17, Annex I), and as described in the Report on Specific Issues (UNEP/MED WG.479/4), nine MCS D Members have to be considered for replacement after having completed three consecutive mandates by COP 22 to be held in Turkey in December 2021.

70. Replying to questions and observations by members of the Committee, the Secretariat reminded that, according to Decision IG.22/17 Reform of the MCS D and Updated MCS D Constitutive Documents, *“Each biennium, the Steering Committee of the Commission, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall review the list of the MCS D members, particularly in the light of those members whose mandate may be drawing to a close, and decide on any changes required. The list of candidates shall be submitted for adoption by the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties”*.

71. As far as Observer status is concerned, according to Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the MCS D, in addition of the United Nations, its competent subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies, *“the Coordinator shall, in agreement with the Steering Committee, invite to send representatives to participate in the Commission’s meetings as an observer, any other inter-governmental organization, including financial institutions (...)”*. In addition, as recommended by the 18th Meeting of the MCS D, Contracting Parties at their COP 21 *“Call[ed] upon the members of the MCS D, the Secretariat and the MAP Partners to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the MCS D for the biennium 2022-2023, and request the MCS D Steering Committee, with support from the Secretariat, to identify and implement possible ways to keep the outgoing members of the Commission involved in its work”* (Decision IG.24/2 Governance). Based on the above, outgoing members of the Commission could still be engaged in its work, including by participating in its meetings as observers.

Conclusions:

xxiv. UCLG supported the expression of interest from Med Cities to join the MCS D under the Local Authorities Group for the next mandate.

xxv. The Members of the MCS D Steering Committee engaged themselves to submit to the Secretariat, in the next two months, suggestions of possible candidates to be considered for the MCS D Membership in 2021-2022, so that the Secretariat can follow-up with those stakeholders in view to submit a proposal to the 22nd Meeting of the MCS D Steering Committee, while mobilizing further interest from relevant stakeholders.

xxvi. Taking into account the limited number of Parliamentarians networks in the Mediterranean, if any relevant candidate is not identified or does not express interest to join the MCS D, the MCS D Steering Committee may examine the possibility to recommend to the Contracting Parties to maintain the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) in the MCS D for the next biennium, noting the proactiveness of these organizations in the work of the MCS D and of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, encouraging the Secretariat to pursue efforts for identifying potential candidates to be considered for this group.

Agenda item 5: The Coronavirus Pandemic: Initial Consideration on its Impact on the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region and Possible Responses

72. Under this agenda item, the Coordinator reminded that while the consequences are still uncertain, the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic were huge in the Mediterranean region, which was one of the most affected worldwide in terms of deaths and job loss, putting multilateralism in difficulties. He also stated that no business as usual scenario would happen when this crisis will go away and that the work of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system in general and of the MCS D in particular should be oriented to “building back better” the post pandemic era.

73. The Coordinator explained that the Secretariat was working to prepare a UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system’s position, based on the UNEP’s position, for streamlining Coronavirus impacts and responses in the MTS 2022-2027 following a multidimensional approach, including the partnership component, referring to the four following Building Blocks of the UNEP’s strategic response to COVID-19:

- 1) Contribution to the medical and humanitarian emergency phase, echoing the work of UNEP/MAP Components on prevention and reduction of the amount of waste and marine litter;
- 2) A transformational change for nature and people, putting the emphasis on better understanding of and responding to the zoonotic diseases (e.g. illegal fishing, non-indigenous species), the need to address knowledge gaps on the links between Environment, Health and Poverty, including through the role of citizen science to be further explored in assessment studies (e.g. MED 2050), the importance of the Climate, Biodiversity and Chemical pollution nexus;
- 3) Building back better, i.e. greening the fiscal stimulus packages and accelerating SCP towards a “green renaissance” in the Mediterranean, considering the MSSD – in particular its Objective 5 “Transition towards a green and blue economy” of which the SCP Action Plan is an integral part – and the Naples Ministerial Declaration as guidelines for greening responses and accelerating SCP, and advocating for the protection of the environment as a crucial component of the debate around the Coronavirus crisis;
- 4) Modernizing global environmental governance, including new ways of working and cooperating that also raise uncertainties: e.g. impacts in legal terms for decision taken by governments when interpretation could not be provided during videoconferences, possible budgetary implication of the crisis, as well as adjustments of activities and practices.

74. The Coordinator explained that the Secretariat was exploring, in practical terms, how it can be able to deliver its mandate, noting that if there was not any delay till now, there may be uncertainties for the future, e.g. postponing of major global events. Mr. Gaetano Leone finally stated that he was confident with the level of collective reflection in the UN community and at the Office.

75. In the ensuing discussion, all Members of MCSD Steering Committee took the floor, as indicated below in the order of the interventions in session:

- UCLG insisted on social aspects (public health, poverty and inequalities in access to public services, life conditions for workers and migrants, job and income loss for the informal sector), in particular in urban areas, raising serious difficulties to reach a number of key SDGs. UCLG through Med Cities also updated the participants with the declaration of the Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance, signed by several networks of local authorities, on “Cohesion Policy and Green Deal, More Valid Than Ever”², highlighting the challenge for decision-makers to respond to the forthcoming public claims for a green economic recovery and social welfare, insisting on the relevance of global agreements as roadmaps to revitalize multilateralism at all levels from global to local.
- Expressing the risk that “business as usual” would be back, Italy argued for a balanced position between socioeconomic development and protection of the environment, pointing out possible risks of decisions that could be taken at the cost of the nature, forgiving the environmental agenda. Mentioning the inevitable effects of COVID-19 on the maritime and tourism sectors, Italy referred to the huge responsibility of environment defenders that should strengthen their actions to influence politicians. Italy also emphasized lessons learned such as: relevance of evidence-based policymaking and of Science Policy Interfaces; importance of the regional cooperation to render more effective global agreements; value of linkages between human and environmental health (*protect the environment to protect the people*).

² <http://www.medcities.org/documents/10180/0/documents+-+declaration+MCA/3c90d4fa-cab4-4a1c-a12c-436ae652dca2>

- UfM stated that the system as it was before the crisis was out of control and that the planet made us stop, pointing out the contradiction between the fact that while we knew that our ways of life were unsustainable, we did not change our behavior. UfM explained that it became more evident that systemic changes towards SCP were in need and that COVID-19 demonstrated that we can act. UfM expressed concern on the fact that environmental governance was still too low in the policy agenda to make possible those substantial changes and to avoid such catastrophic scenarios. UfM finally argued that collective reflection, commitments and efforts could make the difference for controlling the capitalism system and for taking environmental needs into account, including through fiscal policies.
- Morocco considered that since the Coronavirus pandemic represented a crisis that has never happened before, it was of paramount importance to define unprecedented policy responses. Since development models have shown their limits, it is timely to revisit those models towards sustainability, keeping in mind the founding principles of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, e.g. replying to the needs of the people without exceeding the planet's limits – as highlighted in the MSSD title “Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development” that should guide strategic axes of the MTS 2022-2027. Morocco insisted that UNEP/MAP work need to take into account critical economic and social issues and their interactions with environmental concerns, including by working on priority economic sectors, referring to unsustainable tourism model development that needed to be revisited or rebuilt to strengthen its resilience.
- Considering the advantages for the environment than the pandemic indirectly created, Turkey considered that if “nature took a break” the effects of the socioeconomic crisis at medium term would be huge. Turkey pledged for regional cooperation supported by UNEP to address environmental issues and socioeconomic impacts, highlighting the interest of working remotely (e.g. teleconferences) for reducing the carbon footprint. Turkey also insisted on the need to address single use plastic waste that were increasing in the current context, in particular medical waste (masks and gloves) and packaging, due to increase of delivery at home, and on the need to collect waste separately for adequate treatment.
- The President stated that it was the right moment to enhance sustainable development policies and agendas, and to strengthen the role of the MCSD as a very unique structure at the regional level, insisting on the guiding role of the Steering Committee to bring significant contributions. She invited the members of the Committee to support the Secretariat in this complex and unpredictable situation.
- MEPIELAN stated that three key words should steer the work of the Committee for contributing to preparation of the post-Coronavirus period: Interconnection, Stewardship, and Participation. Interconnection between health, environment and poverty, considering the relevance of the ICZM and Biological Diversity Protocols in that regard. Stewardship to implement environmental obligations in a sustainable and equitable way for the current and future generations, operating as a fiduciary governance in an integrated manner and pointing out the relevance of the Public Trust Approach for dealing with sustainable development with more effective public participation. Participation to give more power to the public to engage in environmental governance, informed by scientific evidence, considering as central the accountability of the State towards resilience, i.e. building back better by considering long terms environmental concerns for human well-being.

Conclusions:

xxvii. The MCSD Steering Committee considered the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as guiding roadmaps for the regional cooperation and stressed the importance of considering in a balanced way the three components of sustainable development when addressing the impacts of and possible responses to the Coronavirus crisis in our Mediterranean region, insisting on poverty and inequalities between and within countries. The discussion also emphasized the important links between human health and nature health, considering that these interlinkages should be addressed in the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 and assessment studies.

xxviii. Beyond dramatic consequences on the people and the environment, the Committee highlighted the fact that the current crisis should be considered as an opportunity and a challenge for recovering towards a green and circular economy, and moving towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Mediterranean region. In that regard, “green renaissance” or “building back better”, as well as resilient behavioral changes, collective efforts and commitment, including the public trust approach, are of paramount importance to not going back on “business as usual”.

xxix. The Committee highlighted the role and significant contribution that the MCSD and its Steering Committee can bring to support the Secretariat for preparing future action in this complex and unpredictable situation.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters

76. Under this agenda item, the President renewed the kind invitation of Montenegro to host the 22nd Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee in December 2020.

77. The President invited the members of the Committee to express their possible interest in hosting the 19th Meeting of the MCSD to be held in June 2021.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

78. The President congratulated the Secretariat for the preparation and documentation of the meeting, indicating that the report of meeting will be circulated in due time for review and possible comments through electronic means.

79. The Coordinator joined the President in thanking the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee for their commitment and interaction, as well as the invited speakers for their important contributions, considering that the discussion brought valuable inputs and constructive comments.

80. The meeting was closed by the President of the MCSD Steering Committee at approximately 18:00 on Thursday 14 May 2020.

Annex I: List of Participants

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Members of the MCS D Steering Committee	
<p>ITALY/ ITALIE Vice-President</p>	<p>Ms. Valentina MAURIELLO Expert SOGESID Technical Assistance Unit General Directorate for Sea and Coasts Ministry of the Environment and Land and Sea Protection</p>
<p>MEPIELAN: MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND NEGOTIATION Rapporteur</p>	<p>Mr. Evangelos RAFTOPOULOS Director, Professor of International Law, Panteion University, Athens, Greece</p>
<p>MONTENEGRO President</p>	<p>Ms. Ivana STOJANOVIC Adviser Department for Sustainable Development and Integrated Coastal Zone Management Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism</p>
<p>MOROCCO Vice-President</p>	<p>Mr. Mohammed MAKTIT Chef de la Division des Etudes et de la Planification Secrétariat d'Etat auprès du Ministre de l'Energie, des Mines et du Développement Durable, chargé du Développement Durable</p>
<p>TURKEY / TURQUIE Vice-President</p>	<p>Ms. Bahar ÖZÖĞÜT Environmental Expert Department of Marine and Coastal Management General Directorate of Environmental Management Ministry of Environment and Urbanization</p>
<p>UCLG: UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS Vice-President</p>	<p>Mr. Mohamed BOUSSRAOUI Director of Special Programs</p> <p>Mr. Jean-Baptiste BUFFET Senior Advocacy Officer</p> <p>Mr. Josep CANALS MOLINA Med Cities Secretary General, representing UCLG (adviser)</p>

	<p>Mr. Oriol BARBA Med Cities Director, representing UCLG (adviser)</p>
<p>UFMS: SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN Vice-President</p>	<p>Ms. Alessandra SENSI Head of Sector – Environment and Blue Economy Water Environment Blue Economy Division</p> <p>Mr. Arnault GRAVES Senior Climate Adviser / Energy Climate Action</p>

Invited Speakers	
<p>MedECC: MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE</p>	<p>Mr Joël GUIOT MedECC Coordinator CNRS, France Centre Européen de Recherche et d’Enseignement en Géosciences de l’Environnement (CEREGE)</p>
<p>MIO-ECSDE: MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Ms. Anastasia RONIOTES Head Officer</p>

Secretariat to the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and Components of the Mediterranean Action Plan	
<p>Coordinating Unit</p>	<p>Mr. Gaetano LEONE Coordinator</p> <p>Ms. Tatjana HEMA Deputy Coordinator</p> <p>Mr. Julien LE TELLIER Programme Management Officer (Socio-Economic Affairs)</p> <p>Mr. Ilias MAVROEIDIS Programme Management Officer (Governance)</p> <p>Mr. Jihed GHANNEM Public Information Officer</p>

	Mr. Jérémie FOSSE Consultant, MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (BP/RAC)	Ms. Elen LEMAITRE-CURRI Director
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION (SCP/RAC)	Ms. Magali OUTTERS Team Leader Mr. Matthew LAGOD Project Manager – Policy Area

Annex II: Agenda of the 21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Timetable)

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Wednesday, 13 May 2020			
Time	Agenda item		Document
09:30 – 10:00	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	President of the MCSD Steering Committee Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/1 UNEP/MED WG.479/2 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.2
10:00 – 11:00	3. Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2019 – April 2020	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/3 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.3 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED IG.24/Inf.14 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
11:00 – 12:30	4. Specific Issues A. Mid-Term Evaluation of the MSSD	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00 – 16:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) B. MSSD Flagship Initiatives - Mediterranean Green Business Award - Regional Assessments and Knowledge Exchanges of High- and Low-Tech Solutions Successfully Implemented to Achieve Waste Reduction - Environmental Governance - Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	Secretariat (SCP/RAC) MIO-ECSDE (invited speaker) MIO-ECSDE Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.5 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11
16:00 – 17:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) D. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators	Secretariat (Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC)	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
Thursday, 14 May 2020			
Time	Agenda item		Document
09:30 – 11:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) C. Assessment Studies: Consultation on MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM)	Secretariat MedECC Coordinator, Mr. Joel Guiot (invited speaker)	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED WG.479/5 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22

11:00 – 12:30	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) C. Assessment Studies: - Publication and Dissemination of the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2019) - MED 2050 Foresight Study	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) E. Other issues - Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) - MCSD Membership	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 Plan Bleu Publication (SIMPEER)
15:00 – 16:15	5. The Coronavirus Pandemic: Initial Consideration on its Impact on the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region and Possible Responses	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4
16:15 – 17:00	6. Any Other Matters Closure of the Meeting	Secretariat President of the MCSD	UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.6