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19th Ordinary 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

Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016

Agenda item 3: Thematic Decisions

Draft Decision: Environment Friendly City Award

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Note by the Secretariat

Through the Istanbul Declaration adopted at COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Contracting Parties, recognizing the importance of coastal cities and communities as key actors for the implementation of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and relevant Strategies and Action Plans and resolved to engage with them, established the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to coastal cities by setting out nomination and selection principles and criteria for such award.

A working group meeting to determine the selection criteria for the Environment Friendly City Award was hosted by the Government of Turkey in Ankara (Turkey) on 25-26 May 2015, with the participation of international experts, representatives of UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit, PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu, as well as academicians from Gazi University (Ankara) and representatives of the Turkish Ministries of Environment and Urbanization, Culture and Tourism, and Forestry and Water Works.

The working group agreed on a package addressing the definition for the Environment Friendly City Award, selection criteria, categories as contained in Annex 1 to this Decision.

The outcome of the working group meeting was presented to the 80th Meeting of the Bureau, which expressed appreciation to the Government of Turkey for organizing the Environment Friendly City Award Workshop, and requested the Secretariat to submit to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in October 2015, the results of the Workshop, including categories and preliminary set of criteria and selection process, along with financial implications and decision text containing a mandate for the forthcoming Bureau's approval of the detailed nomination and selection process with a view to grant the first award at COP 20.

The proposed draft decision was reviewed by the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 13-16 October 2015) and endorsed for submission to COP 19.

This decision contributes to the implementation of Output 1.6.1 of the proposed 2016-2017 Programme of Work.

Draft Decision IG.22/19
Environment Friendly City Award

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as “the Barcelona Convention”,

Recalling Article 4 of the Barcelona Convention and the MSSD;

Recalling also the Istanbul Declaration made at COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013),

Acknowledging the role and efforts made by Mediterranean coastal cities towards the sustainable development of the region;

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Turkey for its leadership and financial support to the establishment of the Award including the outlining of the process and criteria for the Award;

Takes note of the main elements of the Award process as contained in the Annex to this Decision;

Decides to establish the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to Mediterranean coastal cities;

Requests the Secretariat, using extra budgetary resources, to finalize the procedure for the nomination and selection criteria, on the basis of the elements described in the Annex, and mechanisms for visibility, for consideration of the 2016-2017 Bureau for its approval, with a view to grant the first award at COP 20;

Encourages city authorities to support and participate in the Award process, to promote sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean region.

ANNEX

**Environment Friendly City Awards
Main Elements Based on Outcome of the Workshop
held in Ankara, Turkey, on 25-26 May 2015**

Introduction

1. Through the Istanbul Declaration adopted at COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), the Contracting Parties, recognizing the importance of coastal cities and communities as key actors for the implementation of the MAP/Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and relevant Strategies and Action Plans and resolved to engage with them, established the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to coastal cities by setting out nomination and selection principles and criteria for such award.

2. The Contracting Parties also committed to promote an integrated approach for environment friendly coastal cities and coastal urban settlements, including through working with local authorities in finding solutions that improve the sustainable management of waste (including through the application of the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle and recover) and waste water treatment.

3. In order to promote the importance of coastal cities and communities and encourage their efforts in addressing pressures to the marine and coastal environment associated with urban development, the Contracting Parties decided to establish the “Environment Friendly City Award” to be conferred to coastal cities by setting out nomination and selection principles and criteria for such award till COP 19.

Definition and Main Elements of the Award Process

4. A sustainable coastal city is: *“A coastal city in harmony with the sea, utilizing its resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably, reducing its impact on marine and coastal environment and climate change, and managing the environment for the benefit of current and future generations”.*

5. The owner of the application should be a local authority of a town or city, which has a coast on the Mediterranean Sea, whose borders are as described in the Barcelona Convention. There is no size or population reference, i.e. both small towns or metropolitan cities are eligible to apply. It is encouraged to develop partnership with NGOs, scientific community, private sector or other stakeholders.

6. The evaluation will be undertaken through criteria to be defined under four proposed categories:

- i. Nature and Biodiversity Protection
- ii. Built environment
- iii. Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability
- iv. Governance

7. Annotations to the proposed categories are listed below so as to provide indicative directions.

i. Nature and Biodiversity Protection

- Climate change
 - Showing GHG reduction efforts (Has the city signed Covenant of mayors?)
 - Demonstrating enhanced or maintained resilience of natural systems against climate change impacts
- Ecosystem protection
 - Protecting coastal and marine ecosystems
 - Contributing to management of protected areas
 - Preserving natural coastline (To avoid/discourage reclamation)
- Wise/efficient/sustainable-use of resources
 - Efficiency in water use

- Sustainable use of land-based resources (sand, gravel, etc)
- Sustainable use of marine resources
- Bonus points can be given to a city if its footprint stays within a given range that is meaningful in the context of the Mediterranean region.

ii. Built environment

- Resilient infrastructure
 - Existence of flood management and coastal protection infrastructure
 - Defined set-back line for future sea level rise
- Sustainable land use
 - Promoting green urban areas
 - Limiting urban sprawl
 - Percentage of free access of public to the shore/beaches
 - Percentage of mixed use neighborhoods
 - Demonstration of easy access to basic services
 - Barrier-free urban design for disabled groups
- Local transport
 - Promoting walking, cycling and public transport
 - Promoting car-free settlements
 - Limitations and management of access of private cars to the cities
- Pollution and waste
 - Air quality within allowed standards
 - Building air/wind corridors to blow away pollution
 - Water quality within allowed standards
 - Waste water management and treatment infrastructure available and functioning
 - Light intensity within allowed standards
 - Noise level in city, including the marine areas
 - Solid waste management infrastructure available and functioning
 - 3Rs
- Water
 - Availability and affordability of water for human use
 - Efficient water demand management
- Energy efficiency
 - Promoting/demonstration of energy conservation in buildings,
 - Production and use of renewable energy
- Green settlements, building materials and technological systems
 - Promotion of local [and recycled] materials
 - Focusing on reuse of brownfields for urban transformation
 - Amount of green areas per population
 - Budget allocation for retrofitting of historical building

iii. Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability

- Integration and solidarity
 - Upgrading slums/informal/illegal settlements
 - Promoting mixed income neighborhoods
 - Building child-friendly settlements
- Local cultural values and traditions
 - Efforts/budgeted allocation for renovation/retrofitting/rehabilitation of historical buildings and settlements

- Promotion of Ecotourism and Hospitality
- Promoting Green Economy
 - Sustainable consumption and production
 - Eco-innovation and sustainable employment
 - Promoting local market
 - Promoting women selling arts and handicrafts
 - Promoting territorial synergies (connections with neighboring settlements and hinterland)

iv. Policy and Governance

- Policy
 - Existence of/allocated budgeted Environmental policy, strategies and action plans for sustainability
 - Existence of/allocated budgeted Resilience policy (natural disasters)
 - Existence of/allocated budgeted Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategy
- Planning and management
 - Urban planning
 - ICZM (national or local) existence and implementation/budgeted allocations
 - Promoting strategies for Sustainable mobility/budgeted allocations Pollution prevention action plans for water, waste, air, noise /budgeted allocations
- Institution
 - Accountable and transparent local government
 - Partnerships with NGOs and other stakeholders
 - Participation in decision-making (empowered society)
 - Strengthening the capacity
- Implementation and monitoring
 - Existence of Standards, Rules and regulations for developers/investors
 - ICZM implementation practices
 - Demonstration/achievements of green public buildings, green transport systems, etc
 - Definition and adoption of a monitoring system
 - Sustainable Finance
 - Green procurement
 - Sustainable municipal finance (percentage devoted to environmental management)
- Communications and Outreach
 - Public awareness on sustainability (environment) (part of the local government)/budgeted allocation
 - Education and training programs/activities targeting adults and children (Environment, sustainability, budgeted allocation/person assigned)
 - International cooperation and networks

8. Historical perspective of the candidate city will also be considered. The city will be compared with itself in the past, today and in the future situation. Improvement achieved will be benchmark criterion.

9. The selection is proposed to be carried out in three steps, with the involvement of three bodies:

- i. Secretariat: UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit
- ii. Technical Committee: Task Force composed of relevant RACs + MED POL (Technical Secretariat by Governance Officer), supported by 3 independent experts
- iii. Jury: The Bureau members and the President of MCSD Steering Committee

10. The decision should be taken by consensus. Depending on the different character of the applications, one to three cities may receive the award every biennium. The Award will be conferred at each COP meeting by the President of the Bureau.

11. A communication strategy will be developed for the promotion of the award, candidate and award-winning cities. It will be proposed to the Contracting Parties to allocate sufficient budget for the award selection and conferring process in each COP, in addition to the matching-fund raising efforts.

12. The Secretariat will prepare the application forms, background documentation and the call for the Award will be launched during the first Bureau Meeting (around month of July of the first year of the biennium) by a news brief, and via online communications tools like social media, MAP and Components' websites and email networks including through the MAP and RACs Focal Points, MCSD members and MAP Partners.

13. Applications will be submitted to the Secretariat by the end of first year of the biennium.

14. Questions are allowed before submission. A helpdesk will be established by the Secretariat and the questions will be answered by the helpdesk.

15. The first two steps of the selection process will take place in the early months of the second year of the biennium and the final shortlist will be submitted to the third Bureau Meeting and with the involvement of the President of the MCSD Steering Committee the award winners will be selected.

16. Contracting Parties guidance is expected regarding the budget that should be allocated for the award, as well as the selection and conferring process.