

**AGREEMENT  
ON THE SUBREGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO  
MAJOR MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

*The Government of the Republic of Cyprus,*

*The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and*

*The Government of the State of Israel,*

- **Being** Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention) and to its Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (hereinafter referred to as the Emergency Protocol);
- **Recognizing** that the Mediterranean Sea is a major route for transporting oil and that there is a permanent risk of oil pollution, which imposes on the Mediterranean coastal States the constant need for efforts in organizing and preparing response to marine pollution incidents, and that such permanent efforts have to be made at national, subregional and regional levels;
- **Considering** that subregional agreements, specifying in advance operational arrangements, administrative modalities and financial conditions related to co-operation in cases of emergency, are necessary for a prompt and efficient response to marine pollution incidents at subregional level;
- **Noting** that promoting national capabilities for responding to marine pollution incidents, including the existence of pollution response equipment and trained personnel, is a prerequisite without which regional co-operation and mutual assistance have little substance;
- **Taking into account** Article 9 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 3 of the Emergency Protocol which *inter alia* stipulate that "Parties should endeavour to maintain and promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral co-operation, their contingency plans and means for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances";
- **Acknowledging** the positive role of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and the support of the European Union in promoting subregional co-operation in preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean;

**HAVE AGREED** as follows:

1. To adopt, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Emergency Protocol, a **SUBREGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO MAJOR MARINE POLLUTION INCIDENTS** (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", a copy of which is attached to this Agreement) affecting or likely to affect their respective territorial sea, coasts and related interests;
2. To use their best endeavours to render assistance to any Party to this Agreement which might request assistance in case of emergency, bearing in mind that nothing in the Plan precludes the right of a Party, whose territorial waters or related interests are likely to be affected, to request assistance from other States or Organizations;
3. To designate the following authorities as their respective national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Plan, its amendment and revision, as well as for ensuring compatibility of the Plan with their respective National Contingency Plans:

for the Republic of Cyprus: Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

for the Arab Republic of Egypt: Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency  
Cabinet of Ministers

for the State of Israel: Marine and Coastal Environment Division  
Ministry of the Environment

4. That other Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Emergency Protocol, in the subregion, may join this Agreement subject to the consent of the Parties to the Agreement;
5. That the Agreement and the Plan will enter into force thirty days after REMPEC has been notified by all three Parties of their approval or ratification of this Agreement, made in accordance with their national legislations.

**DONE AT BARCELONA** this 9th day of June 1995 in the English language.

For the Government of the Republic of Cyprus    For the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt    For the Government of the State of Israel

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