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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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Fifth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and  
Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact

Lija, Malta, 19-20 February 2025

REMPEC/WG.60/1/1  
10 January 2025  
Original: English

**Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

**Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable**

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### **Note by the Secretariat**

This document provides brief information on the actions to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

## **Introduction**

1 The Fifth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact, hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened in Lija, Malta from 19 to 20 February 2025, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols (Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023) (UNEP/MED IG.26/14).

2 The Meeting, which is organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), is financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

3 The principal objectives of the Meeting are to:

- .1 review and provide further guidance on the key outcomes that have been prepared or updated in the current biennium in relation to the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol);
- .2 review and approve for consideration by the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Egypt, December 2025), the:
  - .1 draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan within the framework of the Offshore Protocol for the period 2026-2035; and
  - .2 Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines on the Removal (decommissioning) of Installations and the related financial aspects.
- .3 inform on the progress on the ratification of the Offshore Protocol and of the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) 2016-2024; and
- .4 share best practices and lessons learned among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and other relevant international organizations, MAP Partners regarding offshore activities.

4 The target audience for the Meeting are the Government officials responsible for ratification, implementation and enforcement of the Offshore Protocol. Representatives from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention that is a participating member of the OFOG were invited as well as observer organizations/MAP Partners.

5 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

## **Opening of the Meeting**

6 The Meeting will open on Wednesday, 19 February 2025 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 20 February 2025 at 1700 hours.

## **Organisation of the Meeting**

## **Rules of Procedure**

7 The Rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

## **Election of Officers**

8 **The Meeting will be invited** to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur.

## **Working Languages**

9 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation services will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in the original language they were submitted.

10 The Meeting may consider establishing working groups at the end of day 1 to address specific issues that remain unresolved during the plenary sessions.

## **Agenda Item 1      Adoption of the Agenda**

11 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.60/1/Rev.1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is set out in the **Annex** to the present document.

## **Agenda Item 2      Progress on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2016-2024**

12 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.60/2, related to progress made on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP 2016-2024) since the Fourth Meeting of the OFOG Sub-Group on Environmental Impact (Malta, May 2023).

13 The Secretariat will also refer to the following documents:

- .1 the report of the Training course on Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, and on Guidelines related to the Use and Discharge of Harmful or Noxious Substances and Materials, including Chemical use plan for Offshore operations, as set out in the document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.3; and
- .2 the report of the Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024) as set out in the document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.4.

14 The Contracting Parties will be invited to update the Meeting on the progress achieved since the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OFOG (Malta, May 2023), highlighting achievements as well as contribution to the work for reviewing and updating the MOAP for the period 2026-2035.

## **Agenda Item 3      Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, 2026-2035**

15 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the Draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035, within the framework of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol).

16 The Secretariat will refer to the following documents:

- .1 the proposed draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035, with an overview of the process for its development since the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OFOG (Malta May 2023), involving the Contracting Parties, the UNEP/MAP components and MAP Partners, contained in document REMPEC/WG.60/3;
- .2 the gap analysis of MOAP 2016-2024, conducted with the aim to identifying critical areas requiring updating and critical areas requiring improvement, in order to facilitate framing the MOAP 2026-2035, as contained in document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.5; and
- .3 document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.6, providing projections on future possible developments to be taken into account in the revised and updated MOAP for the period 2026-2035.

17 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the draft Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035, focusing on the updates made visible with a blue color in the text of the proposed draft.

18 **The Meeting will be invited** to take appropriate action for the future approval of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035 by the MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP 24.

#### **Agenda Item 4**            **Regional offshore standards and guidelines**

19 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce the draft Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines on the Removal (decommissioning) of Installations and the related financial aspects, which has been developed building on progress made on the third draft provided as an attachment to REMPEC Circular Letter No. 15/2024 (October 2024).

20 The Secretariat will refer to the document REMPEC/WG.60/4, which contains a summary of the work of the Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG), with the comments and recommendations received on the third draft and includes the draft Guidelines.

21 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the proposed draft Guidelines and discuss the latest amendments made, highlighted with a blue color in the text.

22 **The Meeting will be invited** to take appropriate action for the future approval, by the MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP 24, of the Guidelines on Regional Offshore Standards and Guidelines on the Removal (Decommissioning) of Installations and the Related Financial Aspects.

#### **Agenda Item 5**            **Data Sharing, Monitoring Programme, and Reporting**

23 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.60/5 on the findings of the Regional Workshop on Reporting, Monitoring, and Data Sharing (MEDEXPOL 2024) related to Offshore Activities. The Secretariat will also recall the availability of the Workshop report in document REMPEC/WG.60/INF.4.

24 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the possibilities to refine and update the process for practical and robust reporting and data sharing.

25 The Contracting Parties will be invited to examine and provide guidance for the finalisation of the documents set out in the Annex to the document.

#### **Agenda Item 6**            **Offshore Programme of Work for the biennium 2026-2027**

26 Under this agenda item, present document REMPEC/WG.60/6 which introduces the POW 2026-27, based on the MOAP 2026-2035 submitted in document REMPEC/WG.60/3.

27 **The Meeting will be invited** to provide feedback and guidance to the Secretariat on the next steps to be undertaken in establishing a sustainable process for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol, and its alignment with the Programme of Work 2026-2027.

**Agenda Item 7**            **Any Other Business**

28 Under this agenda item, the participants and the Secretariat will be able to raise any other business related to the subject of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 8**            **Conclusions and recommendations**

29 Under this agenda item, **the Meeting will review, amend**, as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the meeting discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

30 The report of the Meeting will be prepared and circulated after the Meeting.

**Closure of the Meeting**

31 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 20 February 2025 at 1700 hours.

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**Annex  
Draft timetable**

<b>Day 1 – Wednesday, 19 February 2025</b>		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 2	Progress on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 3	Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, 2026-2035
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, 2026-2035
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 17:00	Agenda Item 5	Data Sharing, Monitoring Programme, and Reporting

<b>Day 2 – Thursday, 20 February 2025</b>		
09:00 -10:30	Agenda Item 4	Regional offshore standards and guidelines
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Agenda Item 4 (cont.)	Regional offshore standards and guidelines
11:30 – 12:15	Agenda Item 6	Programme of Work for biennium 2026-2027
12:15 – 12:30	Agenda Item 7	Other business
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 8	Conclusions and recommendations
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 16:45	Agenda Item 8 (cont.)	Conclusions and recommendations
16:45 – 17:00		Closure of the Meeting