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

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Second Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean  
Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response  
to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

REMPEC/WG.58/9  
20 December 2024  
Original: English

Lija, Malta, 21 November 2024

**REPORT**

**OF THE SECOND COORDINATION MEETING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION  
FROM SHIPS (2022-2031)**

**Lija, Malta, 21 November 2024**

## INTRODUCTION

1 The Second Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), was organised in Lija, Malta by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) on 21 November 2024, in accordance with the Decision I3- G.25/16 on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the “Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”, adopted by the Twenty-second 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 (COP 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were:

- .1 to report and assess the progress made in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
- .2 to define priority actions and propose related activities for the following biennium;
- .3 to approve the Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031); and
- .4 to define roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed activities and establish operational and strategic synergies, through specific partnership agreements, if required, by coordinating parallel initiatives and processes to ensure the capitalisation of past and ongoing efforts, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the resources and expertise mobilised to meet the Common Strategic Objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

3 The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN UNION	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	TUNISIA
ITALY	TÜRKIYE
LIBYA	

by representatives from the following UN organizations:

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)

by representatives from other organizations:

- CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE
- EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CMCC)
- EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)
- HELLENIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (HELMPEA)
- INTERNATIONAL BUNKER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (IBIA)
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL & GAS PRODUCERS (IOGP)
- OCEANCARE
- OIL SPILL RESPONSE LIMITED (OSRL)
- PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
- WESTMED INITIATIVE

4 A complete list of participants appears in **Annex I** to the present report.

### **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5 The Meeting was opened by Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC on Thursday 21 November 2024 at 09:00 hours. Mr Sammut welcomed participants to this Second coordination meeting for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), which was held in Lija, Malta. Mr Sammut remarked on the strength of support for the meeting, noting the number of Contracting Parties and Stakeholders in attendance, indicating the commitment and shared responsibility to the future of the Mediterranean.

6 Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, expressed thanks to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs for its support through a discretionary contribution, and to the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) for its financial support, and to the Government of Malta, particularly Transport Malta for providing the facilities.

7 Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, remarked that the Mediterranean Region is one of the world's most biodiverse and culturally rich regions, but that we are experiencing unprecedented environmental challenges; environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, and socio-economic inequalities. To tackle these shared issues, we must transcend national borders and undertake coordinated and ambitious action at every level. This was the premise under which the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) was designed and its success depends upon our ability to work together as a region to achieve a "*a clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations*".

### **ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

#### Rules of Procedure

8 The Meeting agreed to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, 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 to its deliberations (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

#### Election of Officers

9 Following informal consultations with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Head of Office of REMPEC proposed France as Chair, the Republic of Bosnia & Herzegovina as Vice-Chair and The Kingdom of Morocco as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following meeting officers:

Madame. Julie RIGAUD (France)	Chair
Ms. Erna ZILDZOVIC (Bosnia & Herzegovina)	Vice-Chair
Ms Naoual Zoubair (Morocco)	Rapporteur

#### Working Languages

10 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre. However, information documents were available in their original language only, unless a translation was provided in the second working language.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

11 The Chair thanked the meeting for her election and expressed her continued support for the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). The Chair congratulated the Meeting on efforts to meet gender balance, with an all key official roles of the meeting being fulfilled by female delegates. The Chair also congratulated the Meeting on being mobilized and prepared to face the shared challenges within the Mediterranean in relation to ship source pollution, highlighting that there is capacity and a shared duty to find solutions to address these challenges. The Chair proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.58/1 and Annotated Agenda in document REMPEC/WG.58/1/1, be adopted.

12 The Meeting adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report. The list of documents is set out in **Annex III** thereto.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2 WORK OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS**

13 At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, presented the work undertaken to establish the seven Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) and provided a summary of the initial reports of those IWGs that were operationalised, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.58/2. The five completed IWG reports, and the corresponding joint workplans were presented in REMPEC/WG.58/ INF.2.

14 One delegation highlighted the challenges encountered with the management of the work of the IWGs and proposed that the terms of reference of the IWGs are revised and that their work is based on the Action Plan. Another delegation highlighted the challenges encountered by Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2023. It was also emphasised that there was lack of visibility and awareness of any possible financing to support the Contracting Parties and emphasised on the need of technical assistance to be provided to the Contracting Parties.

15 The Meeting noted the Joint Work Plans prepared by the IWGs and acknowledged the effort and achievement of those Contracting Parties and Stakeholders who actively engaged in the IWGs. It also emphasised the importance of the governance, partnership and resource mobilisation, notably the governance of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The meeting also acknowledged the Contracting Parties' responsibility to achieve, as far as possible, the seven Common Strategic Objectives (CSO) with the support of all relevant stakeholders in the region through a collaborative, coordinated, and collective effort to plan, finance, and implement at national, sub-regional and regional level actions on people and institutions, as well as action for infrastructure, information and knowledge sharing.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 BIENNIAL REVIEW REPORT**

16 At the invitation of the Chair, Ms Jennifer Godwin, REMPEC Consultant, presented the Biennial Review Report which assessed the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), identifying suggested areas for improvement, as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.58/3.

17 The meeting discussed the Biennial Review Report, in particular the recommendations made therein. Following the ensuing discussion, the meeting approved the recommendations made in the Report and agreed to take it into consideration when discussing the actions and priorities to be undertaken in the next biennium. Furthermore, the meeting agreed to refer the endorsed recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 DRAFT GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY (2022-2031)**

18 At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, presented the Conclusions and Recommendations from the Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the Workshop. The Regional Workshop was held on 20 November 2024. Mr Ivan SAMMUT also presented the Draft Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), prepared by REMPEC, as revised and approved by the Workshop, and presented in Document REMPEC/WG.58/4.

19 When considering the Conclusions and Recommendations from the Regional Workshop and the draft Guidance Document, some delegations sought clarification on the purpose and objective of the draft Guidance Document. It was clarified that through the development of the National Action Plans, the Contracting Parties will be in a better position to identify their needs in addressing the CSOs contained in the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031.

20 The draft Guidance Document was endorsed and the meeting agreed to refer same to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2026-2027 AND BEYOND**

21 At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, presented the joint work plans submitted by the IWGs, in REMPEC/WG.58/5. Mr Sammut invited the meeting to recall that according to the practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), the outcome of the meeting will be considered for the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget to be submitted to the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for its review, to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points for its approval and to the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols for its adoption. Relevant national, regional and international organisations, institutions and agencies, and accredited UNEP/MAP Partners will be encouraged to build their respective programme of work taking into account the outcome of the meeting.

22 The meeting considered the recommendations from the IWGs and suggested priorities for the next biennium, in the context of preparation for the upcoming mid-term review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

23 The Meeting discussed and agreed upon priority actions for the elaboration of the PoW 2026-2027 and assist relevant national, regional and international organisations, institutions and agencies, and accredited UNEP/MAP Partners, in the definition of their respective programmes.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2026-2027 AND BEYOND: COORDINATION / SYNERGY ACTIVITIES**

24 The Chair invited a number of MAP Partners and interested Stakeholders to provide information on ongoing projects and opportunities for cooperation within the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031. The Meeting heard from:

- .1 Ms Helen BUNI, INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO), who gave a comprehensive summary of the various activities being undertaken by the IMO;
- .2 Mr. James FALZON, EBRD, who highlighted the EBRD's ways of working and opportunities to support infrastructure projects in the Mediterranean;
- .3 Ms Maria CINI, WESTMED, who provided an overview of how WESTMED operates through national hubs, bringing together public and private finance to tackle shared challenges;

- .4 Mr Edmund HUGHES, The International Bunker Industry Association (IBIA), who highlighted the IBIA's work to improved standards, knowledge and understanding in the industry;
  - .5 Mr Marco SERACINI and Mr Igor ATAKE, CMCC, who provided a summary of their work on oil spill modelling and services, specifically highlighting the need to understand the changing climate and what this will mean for oil spills in the Mediterranean;
  - .6 Hon Katya DE GIOVANNI, PAM, who provided an overview of the activities undertaken by PAM over the last biennium;
  - .7 Mr Fabrizio PIRELLI, EU (EMSA), who provided an overview of the services and support available to EU Member States and third countries, committing to sharing a document with the Meeting setting out these offerings;
  - .8 Mr. Constantinos TRIANTAFYLLOU, HELMEPA, who gave an overview of the organisation. Specifically highlighting the Metavasea project, which considered the transition for decarbonisation in the east mediterranean for seafarers, shipping companies and port communities;
- and
- .9 Ms Rhea SHEARS, ISRL, who provided an overview of the services and offerings available through ISRL.

25 The Chair thanked each of the presenters and noted that presentations would be made available on the REMPEC meeting webpage. The Chair remarked that there was a diversity of stakeholders and opportunities offered, but that there would also be many more institutions and organisations undertaking work that would support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORTING AND MONITORING PROCEDURE**

26 The meeting discussed the reporting and monitoring procedure for the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), considering the discussions under agenda items 2, 3, 4 and 5 and how this would be undertaken in future biennium.

27 The meeting considered the proposal for the establishment of restructured Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs) to support the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), including the revised Terms of Reference, as set out in REMPEC/WG.58/7, and as presented by Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC.

28 The meeting agreed to the establishment of the restructured IWGs, in particular the establishment of one combined IWG in respect of CSO 1, including the revised Terms of Reference. The meeting identified the possible coordinators for each of the IWGs. A number of delegations volunteered to coordinate three (3) of the IWGs whilst no delegation volunteering to coordinate IWGs in respect of CSOs 4, 5 and 6. It was emphasised that unless a coordinator is nominated for the remaining three (3) IWGs in time for consideration by the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, the matter would need to be considered further by the said meeting. It was also emphasised that all the IWGs will be in a position to start their work following the decisions made at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points.

29 The meeting also agreed to the establishment of a Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Inter-Secretariat Group, coordinated by the Secretariat, to support coordination amongst relevant stakeholders and consider the needs and priority actions put forward by each of the IWGs, and define programmes of work, coordinating activities, to support Contracting Parties in achieving the CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), based on the needs identified by the IWGs.

30 The meeting also encouraged the Contracting Parties and Stakeholders to actively contribute to the work of the IWGs and to ensure that the necessary leaders, ownership and contribution is given throughout the forthcoming biennium.

31 Finally, the meeting asked the Secretariat to begin preparations to undertake the Mid-term Review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan. The Mid-term Review would be based on an analysis of the progress of its implementation and on the outcome of discussions on emerging issues. The need to update and revise the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan will be assessed, in 2026, with a view to potentially adopt a revised strategy in 2027. The Review will take into consideration the development of the forthcoming UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2032), alongside Contracting Party reporting on the status of implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 GENDER AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING**

32 At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Ivan SAMMUT, Head of Office of REMPEC, presented REMPEC/WG.58/8. The Meeting considered the development of a Gender and Youth Mainstreaming Framework, drawing on global and regional best practices and tailoring them to the unique needs and challenges of the Mediterranean region. The primary objective would be to present and discuss the development of a policy framework within the context of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031. This framework would aim to ensure that gender and youth considerations are integrated into all aspects of the Strategy, promoting equality, inclusivity and empowerment throughout the Mediterranean region.

33 The meeting welcomed the initiative and agreed in principle to the development of a Framework on Gender and Youth Mainstreaming, aiming to ensure that gender and youth considerations are integrated into all aspects of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), promoting equality, inclusivity and empowerment throughout the Mediterranean region.

34 The meeting recommended that the matter is referred to the 16th Focal Point Meeting with a view to instructing the Secretariat to develop such a framework for consideration by the 3rd Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

35 There were no other matters raised under this agenda item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

36 The conclusions and recommendations related to the Meeting are reproduced in **Annex IV**.

#### **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

37 The Chair thanked Contracting Parties and Stakeholders for their contributions to the Meeting, highlighting the progress made, and stressing that the success of the strategy is dependent on active engagement by Contracting Parties and Stakeholders in the Mediterranean.

38 The Chair closed the Meeting at 18:00 hours on Thursday, 21 November 2024.

**ANNEX I**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE & HERZÉGOVINE**

**Ms Erna ZILDZOVIC**  
Executive Director  
Hydro-Engineering Institute Sarajevo

**CROATIA / CROATIE**

**Mrs Biserka Vištica**  
Head of Service for  
at Sea & Inland Waters  
Environmental Protection

**CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

**Mr Ioannis KATSIARDIS**  
Marine Surveyor  
Shipping Deputy Ministry

**EGYPT / EGYPTE**

**Ms Hala IBRAHEM MOHAMED**  
General Manager of Environmental Crisis  
Ministry of Environment

**EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE**

**Mr Fabrizio PIRELLI**  
Project Officer for Technical Assistance to ENP Partner Countries  
EMSA

**FRANCE**

**Mr Christophe JEAN**  
Councilor  
Embassy of France in Malta

**Ms Julie RIGAUD-MARECHAL**  
Policy Advisor – International Affairs  
Secrétariat général de la mer



**GREECE / GRÈCE**

**Mr Konstantinos MANGIDAS**  
Hellenic Coast Guard Officer Hellenic Coast Guard  
Marine Environment Protection Directorate

**ITALY / ITALIE**

**Mrs Cristina FARCHI**  
Senior Officer  
Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE)

**Libya / Libye**

**Mr Ayoub MOHAMED**  
Environmental Specialist  
National Oil Corporation

**MALTA / MALTE**

**Ms Annabelle HABER**  
Senior Officer Thematic  
Environment and Resources Authority

**Mr Mevric ZAMMIT**  
Head, Marine Operations and Incident Response  
Authority for Transport in Malta

**MONACO**

**Mr Pierre BOUCHET**  
Pilote  
Direction des affaires maritimes de Monaco

**MONTENEGRO**

**Mr Darinka JOKSIMOVIĆ**  
Senior Advisor / Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships Division  
Maritime Safety and Ports Management Administration

**MOROCCO / MAROC**

**Mme Naoual ZOUBAIR**  
Chef du Service  
Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable

**SLOVENIA / SLOVÉNIE**

**Mr Arturo STEFFÉ**  
Head of division  
Slovenian Maritime Administration

**SPAIN / ESPAGNE**

**Mr Pablo PEDROSA REY**  
Head Pollution Response Unit  
Spanish Maritime Administration

**TUNISIA / TUNISIE**

**Mr Samir KHEDIRA**  
Expert Contrôleur Général  
National Environmental Protection Agency

**Türkiye**

**Ms Derya Didem UĞUR**  
Environmental Engineer  
Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change

**UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES**

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) / ORGANISATION MARITIME INTERNATIONALE (OMI)**

**Ms Helen BUNI**  
Technical Officer  
Subdivision for Ocean Policy and Pollution Response

**OTHER ORGANISATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS**  
**OTHER PARTNERS / AUTRES PARTENAIRES**

**CEI**

**Ms Anna MARCONATO**  
Senior Programme Manager  
Head of Finance and Operations

**CMCC**

**Mr Igor ATAKE**  
Junior Scientist

**Mr Marco SERACINI**  
Post Doc Researcher

**EBRD**

**Mr James FALZON**  
Associate Director

**HELMEPA**

**Mr Constantinos TRIANTAFYLLOU**  
Head of Strategy and Development

**IBIA**

**Mr Edmund HUGHES**  
IBIA Representative to the IMO

**IOGP**

**Mr Ezzaini RAMLI**  
Environment Manager

**OCEANCARE**

**Mr Carlos BRAVO VILLA**  
Ocean Policy Advisor

**OSRL**

**Ms Rhea SHEARS**  
STSE Officer (EMEA)

**PAM**

**Hon Katya DE GIOVANNI**  
Member of the Parliament of Malta

**WESTMED**

**Ms Maria CINI**  
Economic Consultant

**SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT**

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC) / CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR  
L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE  
(REMPEC)**

**Mr Ivan SAMMUT**  
Interim Head of Office

**Mr Franck LAUWERS**  
Programme Officer (Prevention)

**Mr Malek SMAOUI**  
Programme Officer (OPRC)

**Mr Chris SACCO**  
Finance / Administrative Assistant

**Ms Mary Grace PISANI**  
Senior Administrative Assistant

**REMPEC'S CONSULTANT/CONSULTANT DU REMPEC**

**Ms Jennifer GODWIN**

**ANNEX II**

**AGENDA**

Opening of the Meeting

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Work of the Intersessional Working Groups
3. Biennial Review Report
4. Draft guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)
5. Priority actions for the biennium 2026-2027 and beyond
6. Roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed actions for the biennium 2026-2027 and beyond: Coordination / Synergy Activities
7. Reporting and monitoring procedure
8. Gender and Youth Mainstreaming
9. Other business
10. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX III**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

**WORKING DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.58/1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/WG.58/1/1	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable
REMPEC/WG.58/2	Work of the Intersessional Working Groups
REMPEC/WG.58/3	Biennial Review Report: assessing the progress and effectiveness of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), identifying suggested areas for improvement
REMPEC/WG.58/4	Draft Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)
REMPEC/WG.58/5	Summary of recommendations and suggested priorities for the next biennium, as identified by the Intersessional Working Groups of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031
REMPEC/WG.58/7	Proposal for restructuring of the Intersessional Working Groups of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031, and the establishment of a Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Inter-Secretariat Group to support coordination amongst relevant stakeholders
REMPEC/WG.58/8	Development of a Regional Policy Framework on Gender and Youth Mainstreaming within the Context of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031
REMPEC/WG.58/WP.1	Draft conclusions and recommendations
REMPEC/WG.58/9	Report of the Meeting

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.58/INF.1	List of documents
REMPEC/WG.58/INF.2	Reports of the Intersessional Working Groups
REMPEC/WG.58/INF.3	METAVASEA Project

## ANNEX IV

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

The Second Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as “the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”, which was held in Lija, Malta, on Thursday 21 November 2024, hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting”:

1. **expressed** appreciation for the financial support provided through the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the discretionary contribution from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs;
2. **recalled** the agreed practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, in particular the terms of reference and objectives of the biennial meeting, the definition of its Secretariat and members, the terms of condition for participation and the required national network;
3. **welcomed** the establishment of this second Meeting and expressed its gratitude to those who supported the work of the Intersessional Working Groups (IWGs), in preparation for the present meeting, through the completion of the Joint Work Plans reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.58/INF.2, involving Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) and relevant regional and international institutions and stakeholders addressing challenges and offering expertise, resources, and funding to progress in the improvement of the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region;
4. **acknowledged** the effort and achievement of those CPs and Stakeholders who actively engaged in the IWGs;
5. **emphasised** the importance of the governance, partnership and resource mobilisation, notably the governance of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,
6. **acknowledged** CPs’ responsibility to achieve, as far as possible, the seven Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs) with the support of all relevant stakeholders in the region through a collaborative, coordinated and collective effort to plan, finance and implement at national, sub-regional and regional level actions on people and institutions, as well as action for infrastructure, information and knowledge sharing;
7. **recognised** that the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) remains a key tool in tackling marine pollution from shipping in the region, however its success is reliant on appropriate engagement and support from all CPs and relevant stakeholders;
8. **recognised further** that the full and timely implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) requires commitment from CPs and relevant stakeholders, through the provision of the necessary human and financial resources, as appropriate;
9. **acknowledged** and thanked the REMPEC Secretariat for the work completed to raise public awareness and promote activities/projects;
10. **welcomed** the development of the Draft Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as “Draft Guidance Document”, recognizing its importance in providing CPs with a clear and structured approach to assess national capacities, identify gaps, and develop appropriate action plans;

11. **recommended** that CPs:
  - .1 adopt the Draft Guidance Document to ensure its applicability and relevance to national contexts;
  - .2 implement the recommended actions in the Draft Guidance Document to develop and finalize their NAPs in line with the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031); and
  - .3 encourage the participation of relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, shipping industries, and environmental organizations, in the NAP preparation and implementation processes that will contribute to the Mid-term review process.
12. **agreed** in principle to the development of a Framework on Gender and Youth Mainstreaming, aiming to ensure that gender and youth considerations are integrated into all aspects of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), promoting equality, inclusivity and empowerment throughout the Mediterranean region;
13. **recommend** to the 16th Focal Point Meeting to instruct REMEPC to develop such a framework for consideration by the 3rd Coordination Meeting;
14. **took note** of the information provided in the documents REMPEC/WG.58/2, REMPEC/WG.58/INF.2, REMPEC/WG.58/3 and REMPEC/WG.58/5.
15. **endorsed** the recommendations of the Biennial Review Report and agreed to refer its recommendations to the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of REMEPC Focal Points;
16. **noted** the priority actions identified by the CPs and relevant stakeholders during the IWGs and contained in the revised Joint Work Plans, which are to be taken into consideration for the elaboration of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Programme of Work (PoW) for 2026-2027 and for the preparation of the upcoming Mid-Term Review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
17. **invited** the relevant national, regional and international organisations, institutions and agencies and accredited UNEP/MAP Partners, to consider these identified priorities when defining their respective PoWs;
18. **noted** the need to discuss the coordination of implementation of actions, during and between the biennial coordination meetings on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
19. **agreed** to establish the following six restructured IWG's, with revised TORs, each with the aim to identify the needs of CPs to fulfil the relevant CSO of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031):
  - .1 IWG-CSO1 PREPARE / RESPOND coordinated by France
  - .2 IWG-CSO2/CSO03 CLIMATE CHANGE/AIR EMISSIONS coordinated by Italy
  - .3 IWG-CSO4 LITTER<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In the absence of a nomination for a coordinator, the decision will be referred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Meeting for further consideration.



- .4 IWG-CSO5 NIS<sup>2</sup>
  - .5 IWG-CSO6 MSP<sup>3</sup>
  - .6 IWG-CSO7 EMERGING ISSUES coordinated by OceanCare
20. **urged** the CPs and Stakeholders to actively contribute to the work of the IWGs and to ensure that the necessary leadership, ownership and contribution is given throughout the forthcoming biennium;
  21. **approved** the establishment of a Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Inter-Secretariat Group to support coordination amongst relevant stakeholders and consider the needs and priority actions put forward by each of the IWGs, and define programmes of work, coordinating activities, to support Contracting Parties in achieving the CSOs of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), based on the needs identified by the IWGs;
  22. **emphasised** on the need for REMPEC as the Secretariat and all involved stakeholders to work together to ensure better coordination and synergies in their activities, to ensure effective implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
  23. **encouraged** regional and international institutions to formalise their cooperation defined during the Meeting through participation in the newly established Inter-Secretariat Group, and through the establishment of sustainable partnership agreements to provide financial and technical support to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
  24. **requested** REMPEC as the Secretariat to:
    - .1 finalize the Draft Guidance Document based on the feedback received during the Meeting, for onward transmission to the 16<sup>th</sup> Focal points Meeting;
    - .2 refer the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting, to the 16<sup>th</sup> REMPEC Focal Point Meeting;
    - .3 provide ongoing technical assistance and capacity building to CPs to support the development and implementation of their NAPs;
    - .4 make its utmost to identify potential resources for external funding to support its activities of technical assistance and capacity building to CPs;
    - .5 secure funding for the organisation of the next biennial coordination meeting on the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);
    - .6 undertake the necessary work to carry the Mid Term Review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, taking into consideration the ongoing work of the IWGs, and report back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Meeting. The Mid-Term Review should be based on an analysis of the progress of its implementation and on the outcome of discussions on emerging issues. The need to update and revise the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan will be assessed, in 2026, with a view to potentially adopt a Revised Strategy in 2027. The Mid-Term Review should also take into consideration the development of the forthcoming UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2032);

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<sup>2</sup> In the absence of a nomination for a coordinator, the decision will be referred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Meeting for further consideration.

<sup>3</sup> In the absence of a nomination for a coordinator, the decision will be referred to the 16<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Meeting for further consideration.

- .7 facilitate regional exchanges of best practices and knowledge through future workshops and collaborative initiatives; and
  - .8 ensure the follow up on implementation of agreed activities and appropriate timely reporting for consideration at the next biennial coordination meeting to be held in 2026.
25. **thanked** the Chairperson and other officers of the Meeting, all CPs and the regional and international organizations, as well as the Secretariat (REMPEC) for their contribution for the elaboration of an effective joint action plan to achieve by 2031 *“a clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations”*.