



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION

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

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

**ON THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE
PREVENTION OF, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE TO MARINE
POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2022-2031)**

Malta, 20 November 2024

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

1. Background

1.1 In 2016, the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) was adopted, providing a framework for regional cooperation and action. While this Strategy achieved progress, it also highlighted areas requiring further improvement. Building on these insights, the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), referred as Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) was adopted to continue and enhance these efforts over the next decade.

1.2 The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) was adopted by the Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Barcelona Convention at their 22nd Meeting of Contracting Parties, in 2021 (Decision IG.25/16), reflecting a collective commitment to protect the marine environment through enhanced regional cooperation and adherence to international standards.

1.3 Beyond its role as a policy document, the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), represents a call to action. It encourages all stakeholders to unite in pursuit of a shared vision for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Mediterranean Sea. Through collective efforts, the protection and preservation of this exceptional marine ecosystem and its legacy for future generations can be ensured.

2. Purpose

2.1 With a view to assist CPs with the harmonised and consistent implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and the development of National Action Plans (NAPs), REMPEC developed a draft Guidance Document on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as the draft Guidance Document.

The draft Guidance Document aims to provide a practical tool to guide individual CPs to the Barcelona Convention in their efforts to implement the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and, thus, all the regional and international instruments addressing the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships to which they are Party. The CPs should also encourage all stakeholders to participate in their capacity to implement the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as well as to develop a self-assessment of national capabilities and performance that should enable them to gauge progress made and define any necessary remedial action.

2.2 In this light, the purpose of the Workshop is to equip CPs with the knowledge and tools needed to develop and implement effective NAPs, aligned with the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). Technical guidance and support from REMPEC will be offered to those CPs that so request, to assist in implementing their NAPs.

3. Practical information

3.1 The CPs to the Barcelona Convention were invited to participate at the *Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Action Plans for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)*.

3.2 The working languages of the Workshop will be English and French. The event will be conducted in English, with simultaneous translation into French. Certain material/documents will be available in both languages, while other, including the presentations, will be available in English only.

3.3 The Workshop aims to provide participants with practical knowledge and tools to implement the Strategy effectively. Through interactive sessions, participants will learn about key international agreements, NAPs and stakeholder engagement necessary to combat marine pollution in the Mediterranean. The Workshop will cover the draft Guidance Document, with a focus on practical applications, monitoring, and evaluation of environmental strategies at national level.

3.4 Participants will engage in group discussions, explore case studies, and work collaboratively on completing National Assessments (NAs) and preparing NAPs. They will also review the draft guidance document and contribute to the final recommendations.

3.5 Participants are expected to

.1 Actively engage in discussions and interactive exercises.

.2 Collaborate with other participants in group work to complete the National Assessment and draft National Action Plans.

.3 Offer feedback on the draft guidance document.

.4 Share their perspectives on stakeholder engagement and national implementation strategies.

3.6 Participants will use these guiding questions to deepen their understanding, contribute to meaningful input during sessions, and work collaboratively towards the approval of the draft Guidance Document.

3.7 Participants are strongly encouraged to become familiar to [Decision IG.25/16](#) prior to the Workshop.

4. Annotated programme

4.1 Opening Session 4.1.1 Arrival and Welcome: The workshop will begin on Tuesday, 19 November 2024, at 08:30 hours, with the registration of participants.

4.1.2 Opening Remarks: Head of Office, REMPEC, will open the Workshop. The overall goals of the workshop, will be provided with a clear understanding of its purpose. Facilitators and participants will be introduced.

4.1.3 Participant Introductions: Participants will be invited to introduce themselves, particularly mentioning their roles in their respective authorities or organizations, especially those related to the regulation of marine environmental protection or shipping.

4.2 International Agreements: From Agreement to Action

4.2.1 Overview of International Agreements: Ms. Eliana Barleta, REMPEC Consultant, will present successful cases of international law being implemented to achieve collective environmental goals, focusing on marine pollution and protection agreements. This session will emphasize how these agreements can be translated into effective actions.

4.3 Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) Overview

4.3.1 Interactive Overview: Ms. Eliana Barleta will provide an interactive overview of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), focusing on its objectives. Additional participation from CPs will be expected with an interactive Quiz.

4.4 Coffee Break I (10:30-11:00)

4.5 Introduction to the Guidance Document

4.5.1 Guidance Document Presentation: Ms. Eliana Barleta will introduce the Draft Guidance Document on the preparation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

4.6 Stakeholder Engagement in National Action Plans

4.6.1 Identifying Key Stakeholders: Ms. Eliana Barleta will discuss the importance of stakeholder engagement in the development of National Action Plans, identifying key players and their roles in implementing the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

4.7 Interactive Discussion & Q&A

4.7.1 Questions and Clarifications: Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any points regarding the introduction to the workshop and its key topics.

4.8 Lunch Break (12:30-14:00)

4.9 Implementation Process – Part I: National Assessment (NA)

4.9.1 National Assessment Process: The Workshop will be presented with the process of conducting a National Assessment (NA), the initial step in the development of NAPs. This will involve identifying the current state of environmental protection efforts and the challenges faced by each CP.

4.10 Implementation Process – Part II: National Action Plan (NAP)

4.10.1 National Action Plan Development: The Workshop will focus on process for the creation of National Action Plans (NAPs), which follow from the NA, to align national strategies with the Mediterranean Strategy's objectives.

4.11 National Assessment in Practice

4.11.1 Practical Completion of National Assessment: A hands-on session where participants will work on completing a sample National Assessment, applying the knowledge gained during the previous sessions.

4.12 National Action Plan in Practice

4.12.1 Practical NAP Development: This session will walk participants through the practical steps for preparing a NAP, including the identification of necessary actions and the process for monitoring and evaluating the NAP's effectiveness.

4.13 Review of the Draft Guidance Document

4.13.1 Document Review and Feedback: A review of the Draft Guidance Document, with participants providing feedback on its contents and recommendations for improvement. Participants will be requested to consider and decide on possible approval of the draft Guidance Document.

4.14 Coffee Break II (15:30-16:00)

4.14 Group Presentations: National Assessments and National Action Plans

4.15.1 Group Outcome Presentation: Participants will divide into groups to present the outcomes of their National Assessment (NA) and National Action Plan (NAP) exercises, with feedback provided by the facilitators.

4.15 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.16.1 Summary: The Workshop's discussions will be summarised and provide key recommendations for consideration by the 2nd Coordination Meeting to be held on 21 November 2024.

4.16 Workshop Close-Out Session

4.18 Closing Remarks and Group Photo: Head of Office will provide closing remarks to officially end the Workshop, followed by a group photo session with all participants. The Workshop will conclude at 17:30 hours.