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**PROTOCOL CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING
POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
IN CASES OF EMERGENCY**

(Emergency Protocol)

Barcelona, 16 February 1976

Source: "Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea" (United Nations – Geneva, 1976, pages 49-56), Barcelona, Spain, 2-16 February 1976.

**PROTOCOL CONCERNING CO-OPERATION IN COMBATING
POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA BY OIL
AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
IN CASES OF EMERGENCY**

The Contracting Parties to the present Protocol,

Being Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution,

Recognizing that grave pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances in the Mediterranean Sea Area involves a danger for the coastal States and the marine eco-system,

Considering that the co-operation of all the coastal States of the Mediterranean is called for to combat this pollution,

Bearing in mind the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969, as well as the Protocol relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Marine Pollution by Substances Other than Oil, 1973,

Further taking into account the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Contracting Parties to this Protocol (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties") shall co-operate in taking the necessary measures in cases of grave and imminent danger to the marine environment, the coast or related interests of one or more of the Parties due to the presence of massive quantities of oil or other harmful substances resulting from accidental causes or an accumulation of small discharges which are polluting or threatening to pollute the sea within the area defined in article 1 of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention").

Article 2

For the purpose of this Protocol, the term "related interests" means the interests of a coastal State directly affected or threatened and concerning, among others:

- a) Activities in coastal waters, in ports or estuaries, including fishing activities;
- b) The historical and tourist appeal of the area in question, including water sports and recreation;
- c) The health of the coastal population;
- d) The preservation of living resources.

Article 3

The Parties shall 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. These means shall include, in particular, equipment, ships, aircraft and manpower prepared for operations in cases of emergency.

Article 4

The Parties shall develop and apply, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral co-operation, monitoring activities covering the Mediterranean Sea Area in order to have as precise information as possible on the situation referred to in article 1 of this Protocol.

Article 5

In the case of release or loss overboard of harmful substances in packages, freight containers, portable tanks or road and rail tank wagons, the Parties shall co-operate as far as practicable in the salvage and recovery of such substances so as to reduce the danger of pollution of the marine environment.

Article 6

1. Each Party undertakes to disseminate to the other Parties information concerning:
 - a) The competent national organization or authorities responsible for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances;
 - b) The competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
 - c) New ways in which pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances may be avoided, new measures of combating pollution and the development of research programmes.

2. Parties, which have agreed to exchange information directly between themselves, shall nevertheless communicate such information to the regional centre. The latter shall communicate this information to the other Parties and, on a basis of reciprocity, to coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea Area which are not Parties to this Protocol.

Article 7

The Parties undertake to co-ordinate the utilization of the means of communication at their disposal in order to ensure, with the necessary speed and reliability, the reception, transmission and dissemination of all reports and urgent information which relate to the occurrences and situations referred to in article 1. The regional centre shall have the necessary means of communication to enable it to participate in this co-ordinated effort and, in particular, to fulfil the functions assigned to it by paragraph 2 of article 10.

Article 8

1. Each Party shall issue instructions to the masters of ships flying its flag and to the pilots of aircraft registered in its territory requiring them to report by the most rapid and adequate channels in the circumstances, and in accordance with annex I to this Protocol, either to a Party or to the regional centre:
 - a) All accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil or other harmful substances;
 - b) The presence, characteristics and extent of spillages of oil or other harmful substances observed at sea which are likely to present a serious and imminent threat to the marine environment or to the coast or related interests of one or more of the Parties.
2. The information collected in accordance with paragraph 1 shall be communicated to the other parties likely to be affected by the pollution:

- a) By the Party which has received the information, either directly or preferably, through the regional centre; or
- b) By the regional centre.

In case of direct communication between Parties, the regional centre shall be informed of the measures taken by these Parties.

3. In consequence of the application of the provisions of paragraph 2, the Parties are not bound by the obligation laid down in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

Article 9

1. Any Party faced with a situation of the kind defined in article 1 of this Protocol shall:
 - a) Make the necessary assessments of the nature and extent of the casualty or emergency or, as the case may be, of the type and approximate quantity of oil or other harmful substances and the direction and speed or drift of the spillage;
 - b) Take every practicable measure to avoid or reduce the effects of pollution;
 - c) Immediately inform all other Parties, either directly or through the regional centre, of these assessments and of any action which it has taken or which it intends to take to combat the pollution;
 - d) Continue to observe the situation for as long as possible and report thereon in accordance with article 8.

2. Where action is taken to combat pollution originating from a ship, all possible measures shall be taken to safeguard the persons present on board and, to the extent possible, the ship itself. Any Party, which takes such action, shall inform the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.

Article 10

1. Any Party requiring assistance for combating pollution by oil or other harmful substances polluting or threatening to pollute its coasts may call for assistance from other Parties, either directly or through the regional centre referred to in article 6, starting with the Parties which appear likely to be affected by the pollution. This assistance may comprise, in particular, expert advice and the supply to or placing at the disposal of the Party concerned of products, equipment and nautical facilities. Parties so requested shall use their best endeavours to render this assistance.

2. Where the Parties engaged in an operation to combat pollution cannot agree on the organization of the operation, the regional centre may, with their approval, co-ordinate the activity of the facilities put into operation by these Parties.

Article 11

The application of the relevant provisions of articles 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of this Protocol relating to the regional centre shall be extended, as appropriate, to sub-regional centres in the event of their establishment, taking into account their objectives and functions and their relationship with the said regional centre.

Article 12

1. Ordinary meetings of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, held pursuant to article 14 of the Convention. The Parties to this Protocol may also hold extraordinary meetings as provided in article 14 of the Convention.

2. It shall be the function of the meetings of the Parties to this Protocol, in particular:

- a) To keep under review the implementation of this Protocol, and to consider the efficacy of the measures adopted and the need for any other measures, in particular in the form of annexes;
- b) To review and amend as required any annex to this Protocol;
- c) To discharge such other functions as may be appropriate for implementation of this Protocol.

Article 13

1. The provisions of the Convention relating to any protocol shall apply with respect to the present Protocol.

2. The rules of procedure and the financial rules adopted pursuant to article 18 of the Convention shall apply with respect to this Protocol, unless the Parties to this Protocol agree otherwise.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Barcelona on 16 February 1976 in a single copy in the Arabic, English, French and Spanish languages, the four texts being equally authoritative.

ANNEX I

Contents of the report to be made pursuant to article 8 of this Protocol

1. Each report shall, as far as possible, contain, in general:
 - a) The identification of the source of pollution (identity of the ship, where appropriate);
 - b) The geographic position, time and date of the occurrence of the incident or of the observation;
 - c) The wind and sea conditions prevailing in the area;
 - d) Where the pollution originates from a ship, relevant details respecting the condition of the ship.

2. Each report shall contain, whenever possible, in particular:
 - a) A clear indication or description of the harmful substances involved, including the correct technical names of such substances (trade names should not be used in place of the correct technical names;)
 - b) A statement or estimate of the quantities, concentrations and likely condition of harmful substances discharged or likely to be discharged into the sea;
 - c) Where relevant, a description of the packaging and identifying marks; and
 - d) The name of the consignor, consignee or manufacturer.

3. Each report shall clearly indicate, whenever possible, whether the harmful substance discharged or likely to be discharged is oil or a noxious liquid, solid or gaseous substance and whether such substance was or is carried in bulk or contained in packaged form, freight containers, portable tanks, or road and rail tank wagons.

4. Each report shall be supplemented, as necessary, by any relevant information requested by a recipient of the report or deemed appropriate by the person sending the report.

5. Any of the persons referred to in article 8, paragraph 1, of this Protocol shall:
 - a) Supplement as far as possible the initial report, as necessary, with information concerning further developments; and
 - b) Comply as fully as possible with requests from affected States for additional information.

**PROTOCOL CONCERNING COOPERATION IN PREVENTING
POLLUTION FROM SHIPS AND, IN CASES OF EMERGENCY,
COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

(Prevention and Emergency Protocol)

Malta, 25 January 2002

Source: "Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.14, pages 66-79), Malta, 24-25 January 2002.

**PROTOCOL CONCERNING COOPERATION IN PREVENTING
POLLUTION FROM SHIPS AND, IN CASES OF
EMERGENCY, COMBATING POLLUTION
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The Contracting Parties to the present Protocol,

Being Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted at Barcelona on 16 February 1976 and amended on 10 June 1995,

Desirous of implementing Articles 6 and 9 of the said Convention,

Recognizing that grave pollution of the sea by oil and hazardous and noxious substances or a threat thereof in the Mediterranean Sea Area involves a danger for the coastal States and the marine environment,

Considering that the cooperation of all the coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea is called for to prevent pollution from ships and to respond to pollution incidents, irrespective of their origin,

Acknowledging the role of the International Maritime Organization and the importance of cooperating within the framework of this Organization, in particular in promoting the adoption and the development of international rules and standards to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships,

Emphasizing the efforts made by the Mediterranean coastal States for the implementation of these international rules and standards,

Acknowledging also the contribution of the European Community to the implementation of international standards as regards maritime safety and the prevention of pollution from ships,

Recognizing also the importance of cooperation in the Mediterranean Sea Area in promoting the effective implementation of international regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships,

Recognizing further the importance of prompt and effective action at the national, subregional and regional levels in taking emergency measures to deal with pollution of the marine environment or a threat thereof,

Applying the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and the method of environmental impact assessment, and utilizing the best available techniques and the best environmental practices, as provided for in Article 4 of the Convention,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, done at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982, which is in force and to which many Mediterranean coastal States and the European Community are Parties,

Taking into account the international conventions dealing in particular with maritime safety, the prevention of pollution from ships, preparedness for and response to pollution incidents, and liability and compensation for pollution damage,

Wishing to further develop mutual assistance and cooperation in preventing and combating pollution,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Protocol:

- (a) "Convention" means the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, adopted at Barcelona on 16 February 1976 and amended on 10 June 1995;
- (b) "Pollution incident" means an occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, which results or may result in a discharge of oil and/or hazardous and noxious substances and which poses or may pose a threat to the marine environment, or to the coastline or related interests of one or more States, and which requires emergency action or other immediate response;
- (c) "Hazardous and noxious substances" means any substance other than oil which, if introduced into the marine environment, is likely to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea;
- (d) "Related interests" means the interests of a coastal State directly affected or threatened and concerning, among others:
 - (i) maritime activities in coastal areas, in ports or estuaries, including fishing activities;
 - (ii) the historical and tourist appeal of the area in question, including water sports and recreation;
 - (iii) the health of the coastal population;
 - (iv) the cultural, aesthetic, scientific and educational value of the area;
 - (v) the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of marine and coastal biological resources;
- (e) "International regulations" means regulations aimed at preventing, reducing and controlling pollution of the marine environment from ships as adopted, at the global level and in conformity with international law, under the aegis of United Nations specialized agencies, and in particular of the International Maritime Organization;
- (f) "Regional Centre" means the "Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea" (REMPEC), established by Resolution 7 adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea at Barcelona on 9 February 1976, which is administered by the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, and the objectives and functions of which are defined by the Contracting Parties to the Convention.

Article 2

PROTOCOL AREA

The area to which the Protocol applies shall be the Mediterranean Sea Area as defined in Article 1 of the Convention.

Article 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Parties shall cooperate:
 - (a) to implement international regulations to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from ships; and
 - (b) to take all necessary measures in cases of pollution incidents.
2. In cooperating, the Parties should take into account as appropriate the participation of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and socio-economic actors.
3. Each Party shall apply this Protocol without prejudice to the sovereignty or the jurisdiction of other Parties or other States. Any measures taken by a Party to apply this Protocol shall be in accordance with international law.

Article 4

CONTINGENCY PLANS AND OTHER MEANS OF PREVENTING AND COMBATING POLLUTION INCIDENTS

1. The Parties shall endeavour to maintain and promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents. These means shall include, in particular, equipment, ships, aircraft and personnel prepared for operations in cases of emergency, the enactment, as appropriate, of relevant legislation, the development or strengthening of the capability to respond to a pollution incident and the designation of a national authority or authorities responsible for the implementation of this Protocol.
2. The Parties shall also take measures in conformity with international law to prevent the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea Area from ships in order to ensure the effective implementation in that Area of the relevant international conventions in their capacity as flag State, port State and coastal State, and their applicable legislation. They shall develop their national capacity as regards the implementation of those international conventions and may cooperate for their effective implementation through bilateral or multilateral agreements.
3. The Parties shall inform the Regional Centre every two years of the measures taken for the implementation of this Article. The Regional Centre shall present a report to the Parties on the basis of the information received.

Article 5

MONITORING

The Parties shall develop and apply, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, monitoring activities covering the Mediterranean Sea Area in order to prevent, detect and combat pollution, and to ensure compliance with the applicable international regulations.

Article 6

COOPERATION IN RECOVERY OPERATIONS

In case of release or loss overboard of hazardous and noxious substances in packaged form, including those in freight containers, portable tanks, road and rail vehicles and shipborne barges, the Parties shall cooperate as far as practicable in the salvage of these packages and the recovery of such substances so as to prevent or reduce the danger to the marine and coastal environment.

Article 7

DISSEMINATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

1. Each Party undertakes to disseminate to the other Parties information concerning:
 - (a) the competent national organization or authorities responsible for combating pollution of the sea by oil and hazardous and noxious substances;
 - (b) the competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and hazardous and noxious substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
 - (c) the national authorities entitled to act on behalf of the State in regard to measures of mutual assistance and cooperation between Parties;
 - (d) the national organization or authorities responsible for the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 4, in particular those responsible for the implementation of the international conventions concerned and other relevant applicable regulations, those responsible for port reception facilities and those responsible for the monitoring of discharges which are illegal under MARPOL 73/78;
 - (e) its regulations and other matters which have a direct bearing on preparedness for and response to pollution of the sea by oil and hazardous and noxious substances;
 - (f) new ways in which pollution of the sea by oil and hazardous and noxious substances may be avoided, new measures for combating pollution, new developments in the technology of conducting monitoring and the development of research programmes.
2. The Parties which have agreed to exchange information directly shall communicate such information to the Regional Centre. The latter shall communicate this information to the other Parties and, on a basis of reciprocity, to coastal States of the Mediterranean Sea Area which are not Parties to this Protocol.
3. Parties concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements within the framework of this Protocol shall inform the Regional Centre of such agreements, which shall communicate them to the other Parties.

Article 8

COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTS CONCERNING POLLUTION INCIDENTS

The Parties undertake to coordinate the utilization of the means of communication at their disposal in order to ensure, with the necessary speed and reliability, the reception, transmission and dissemination of all reports and urgent information concerning pollution incidents. The Regional Centre shall have the necessary means of communication to enable it to participate in this coordinated effort and, in particular, to fulfil the functions assigned to it by paragraph 2 of Article 12.

Article 9

REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. Each Party shall issue instructions to masters or other persons having charge of ships flying its flag and to the pilots of aircraft registered in its territory to report by the most rapid and adequate channels in the circumstances, following reporting procedures to the extent required by, and in accordance with, the applicable provisions of the relevant international agreements, to the nearest coastal State and to this Party:

- (a) all incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or hazardous and noxious substances;
- (b) the presence, characteristics and extent of spillages of oil or hazardous and noxious substances, including hazardous and noxious substances in packaged form, observed at sea which pose or are likely to pose a threat to the marine environment or to the coast or related interests of one or more of the Parties.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 20 of the Protocol, each Party shall take appropriate measures with a view to ensuring that the master of every ship sailing in its territorial waters complies with the obligations under (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 and may request assistance from the Regional Centre in this respect. It shall inform the International Maritime Organization of the measures taken.

3. Each Party shall also issue instructions to persons having charge of sea ports or handling facilities under its jurisdiction to report to it, in accordance with applicable laws, all incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or hazardous and noxious substances.

4. In accordance with the relevant provisions 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, each Party shall issue instructions to persons having charge of offshore units under its jurisdiction to report to it by the most rapid and adequate channels in the circumstances, following reporting procedures it has prescribed, all incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or hazardous and noxious substances.

5. In paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of this Article, the term "incident" means an incident meeting the conditions described therein, whether or not it is a pollution incident.

6. The information collected in accordance with paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 shall be communicated to the Regional Centre in the case of a pollution incident.

7. The information collected in accordance with paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 shall be immediately communicated to the other Parties likely to be affected by a pollution incident:

- (a) by the Party which has received the information, preferably directly or through the Regional Centre; or
- (b) by the Regional Centre.

In case of direct communication between Parties, these shall inform the Regional Centre of the measures taken, and the Centre shall communicate them to the other Parties.

8. The Parties shall use a mutually agreed standard form proposed by the Regional Centre for the reporting of pollution incidents as required under paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Article.

9. In consequence of the application of the provisions of paragraph 7, the Parties are not bound by the obligation laid down in Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

Article 10

OPERATIONAL MEASURES

1. Any Party faced with a pollution incident shall:

- (a) make the necessary assessments of the nature, extent and possible consequences of the pollution incident or, as the case may be, the type and approximate quantity of oil or hazardous and noxious substances and the direction and speed of drift of the spillage;

- (b) take every practicable measure to prevent, reduce and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminate the effects of the pollution incident;
- (c) immediately inform all Parties likely to be affected by the pollution incident of these assessments and of any action which it has taken or intends to take, and simultaneously provide the same information to the Regional Centre, which shall communicate it to all other Parties;
- (d) continue to observe the situation for as long as possible and report thereon in accordance with Article 9.

2. Where action is taken to combat pollution originating from a ship, all possible measures shall be taken to safeguard:

- (a) human lives;
- (b) the ship itself; in doing so, damage to the environment in general shall be prevented or minimized.

Any Party which takes such action shall inform the International Maritime Organization either directly or through the Regional Centre.

Article 11

EMERGENCY MEASURES ON BOARD SHIPS, ON OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS AND IN PORTS

1. Each Party shall take the necessary steps to ensure that ships flying its flag have on board a pollution emergency plan as required by, and in accordance with, the relevant international regulations.

2. Each Party shall require masters of ships flying its flag, in case of a pollution incident, to follow the procedures described in the shipboard emergency plan and in particular to provide the proper authorities, at their request, with such detailed information about the ship and its cargo as is relevant to actions taken in pursuance of Article 9, and to cooperate with these authorities.

3. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 20 of the Protocol, each Party shall take appropriate measures with a view to ensuring that the master of every ship sailing in its territorial waters complies with the obligation under paragraph 2 and may request assistance from the Regional Centre in this respect. It shall inform the International Maritime Organization of the measures taken.

4. Each Party shall require that authorities or operators in charge of sea ports and handling facilities under its jurisdiction as it deems appropriate have pollution emergency plans or similar arrangements that are coordinated with the national system established in accordance with Article 4 and approved in accordance with procedures established by the competent national authority.

5. Each Party shall require operators in charge of offshore installations under its jurisdiction to have a contingency plan to combat any pollution incident, which is coordinated with the national system established in accordance with Article 4 and in accordance with the procedures established by the competent national authority.

Article 12

ASSISTANCE

1. Any Party requiring assistance to deal with a pollution incident may call for assistance from other Parties, either directly or through the Regional Centre, starting with the Parties which appear likely to be affected by the pollution. This assistance may comprise, in particular, expert advice and

the supply to or placing at the disposal of the Party concerned of the required specialized personnel, products, equipment and nautical facilities. Parties so requested shall use their best endeavours to render this assistance.

2. Where the Parties engaged in an operation to combat pollution cannot agree on the organization of the operation, the Regional Centre may, with the approval of all the Parties involved, coordinate the activity of the facilities put into operation by these Parties.

3. In accordance with applicable international agreements, each Party shall take the necessary legal and administrative measures to facilitate:

- (a) the arrival and utilization in and departure from its territory of ships, aircraft and other modes of transport engaged in responding to a pollution incident or transporting personnel, cargoes, materials and equipment required to deal with such an incident; and
- (b) the expeditious movement into, through and out of its territory of the personnel, cargoes, materials and equipment referred to in subparagraph (a).

Article 13

REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS OF ASSISTANCE

1. Unless an agreement concerning the financial arrangements governing actions of Parties to deal with pollution incidents has been concluded on a bilateral or multilateral basis prior to the pollution incident, Parties shall bear the costs of their respective action in dealing with pollution in accordance with paragraph 2.

2.
 - (a) If the action was taken by one Party at the express request of another Party, the requesting Party shall reimburse to the assisting Party the costs of its action. If the request is cancelled, the requesting Party shall bear the costs already incurred or committed by the assisting Party;
 - (b) if the action was taken by a Party on its own initiative, that Party shall bear the cost of its action;
 - (c) the principles laid down in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall apply unless the Parties concerned otherwise agree in any individual case.

3. Unless otherwise agreed, the costs of the action taken by a Party at the request of another Party shall be fairly calculated according to the law and current practice of the assisting Party concerning the reimbursement of such costs.

4. The Party requesting assistance and the assisting Party shall, where appropriate, cooperate in concluding any action in response to a compensation claim. To that end, they shall give due consideration to existing legal regimes. Where the action thus concluded does not permit full compensation for expenses incurred in the assistance operation, the Party requesting assistance may ask the assisting Party to waive reimbursement of the expenses exceeding the sums compensated or to reduce the costs which have been calculated in accordance with paragraph 3. It may also request a postponement of the reimbursement of such costs. In considering such a request, assisting Parties shall give due consideration to the needs of developing countries.

5. The provisions of this Article shall not be interpreted as in any way prejudicing the rights of Parties to recover from third parties the costs of actions taken to deal with pollution incidents under other applicable provisions and rules of national and international law applicable to one or to the other Party involved in the assistance.

Article 14

PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES

1. The Parties shall individually, bilaterally or multilaterally take all necessary steps to ensure that reception facilities meeting the needs of ships are available in their ports and terminals. They shall ensure that these facilities are used efficiently without causing undue delay to ships.

The Parties are invited to explore ways and means to charge reasonable costs for the use of these facilities.

2. The Parties shall also ensure the provision of adequate reception facilities for pleasure craft.
3. The Parties shall take all the necessary steps to ensure that reception facilities operate efficiently to limit any impact of their discharges to the marine environment.
4. The Parties shall take the necessary steps to provide ships using their ports with updated information relevant to the obligations arising from MARPOL 73/78 and from their legislation applicable in this field.

Article 15

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF MARITIME TRAFFIC

In conformity with generally accepted international rules and standards and the global mandate of the International Maritime Organization, the Parties shall individually, bilaterally or multilaterally take the necessary steps to assess the environmental risks of the recognized routes used in maritime traffic and shall take the appropriate measures aimed at reducing the risks of accidents or the environmental consequences thereof.

Article 16

RECEPTION OF SHIPS IN DISTRESS IN PORTS AND PLACES OF REFUGE

The Parties shall define national, subregional or regional strategies concerning reception in places of refuge, including ports, of ships in distress presenting a threat to the marine environment. They shall cooperate to this end and inform the Regional Centre of the measures they have adopted.

Article 17

SUBREGIONAL AGREEMENTS

The Parties may negotiate, develop and maintain appropriate bilateral or multilateral subregional agreements in order to facilitate the implementation of this Protocol, or part of it. Upon request of the interested Parties, the Regional Centre shall assist them, within the framework of its functions, in the process of developing and implementing these subregional agreements.

Article 18

MEETINGS

1. Ordinary meetings of the Parties to this Protocol shall be held in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, held pursuant to Article 18 of the Convention. The Parties to this Protocol may also hold extraordinary meetings as provided in Article 18 of the Convention.
2. It shall be the function of the meetings of the Parties to this Protocol, in particular:
 - (a) to examine and discuss reports from the Regional Centre on the implementation of

this Protocol, and particularly of its Articles 4, 7 and 16;

- (b) to formulate and adopt strategies, action plans and programmes for the implementation of this Protocol;
- (c) to keep under review and consider the efficacy of these strategies, action plans and programmes, and the need to adopt any new strategies, action plans and programmes and to develop measures to that effect;
- (d) to discharge such other functions as may be appropriate for the implementation of this Protocol.

Article 19

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONVENTION

1. The provisions of the Convention relating to any protocol shall apply with respect to the present Protocol.
2. The rules of procedure and the financial rules adopted pursuant to Article 24 of the Convention shall apply with respect to this Protocol, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 20

EFFECT OF THE PROTOCOL ON DOMESTIC LEGISLATION

In implementing the provisions of this Protocol, the right of Parties to adopt relevant stricter domestic measures or other measures in conformity with international law, in the matters covered by this Protocol, shall not be affected.

Article 21

RELATIONS WITH THIRD PARTIES

The Parties shall, where appropriate, invite States that are not Parties to the Protocol and international organizations to cooperate in the implementation of the Protocol.

Article 22

SIGNATURE

This Protocol shall be open for signature at Valletta, Malta, on 25 January 2002 and in Madrid from 26 January 2002 to 25 January 2003 by any Contracting Party to the Convention.

Article 23

RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL

This Protocol shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Government of Spain, which will assume the functions of Depositary.

Article 24

ACCESSION

As from 26 January 2003, this Protocol shall be open for accession by any Party to the Convention.

Article 25

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Protocol shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. From the date of its entry into force, this Protocol shall replace the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency of 1976 in the relations between the Parties to both instruments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Valletta, Malta, on 25 January 2002, in a single copy in the Arabic, English, French and Spanish languages, the four texts being equally authentic.

Resolution 7

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL OIL-COMBATING CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Annex

**OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS
OF A REGIONAL OIL-COMBATING CENTRE**

Barcelona, 16 February 1976

Source: "Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea" (United Nations – Geneva, 1976, pages 15-18), Barcelona, 2-16 February 1976.

**RESOLUTION 7 AND ANNEX
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL OIL-COMBATING CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

The Conference,

Conscious of the ever-present and growing threat to the Mediterranean environment from massive oil pollution whether caused by accident or through accumulation,

Realising the lack of regional contingency plans for co-ordinated action for the prevention, control and combating of oil spills, especially in cases of emergencies,

Recognizing the need to develop and strengthen the capacities of the coastal States of the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to deal effectively with cases of massive pollution,

Noting that the Protocol on Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency makes provision for a Regional Centre within the Mediterranean for the execution of some of the functions required by that Protocol,

Noting also the consensus reached, at the Consultation of Experts from Mediterranean States convened by the United Nations Environment Programme at Malta in September 1975, on the advisability of the establishment of a Regional Centre and on the objectives and functions of such a Centre,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, prepared in co-operation with the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, on the Establishment of a Regional Oil-Combating Centre for the Mediterranean,¹ in particular the willingness of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist in the early establishment of an oil-combating centre,

Taking into consideration the comments and observations made by various delegations during the discussion of the above-mentioned report,

1. **Decides** to accept the offer of the Government of the Republic of Malta to host such a Regional Centre.

2. **Requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, after consultations with the Government of Malta and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, to assist in the early establishment of a Regional Oil-Combating Centre in Malta having the objectives and functions set out in the annex to this resolution.

3. **Welcomes** the intention of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to entrust to the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization the functions and responsibility as Co-operating Agency for the establishment and operation of the aforesaid Regional Centre, it being understood that the exercise of functions and responsibilities by IMCO should not lead to an increase in its budget;

4. **As a consequence requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit, in the light of comments made at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, a report on the establishment of the Regional Oil-Combating Centre to the Governing Council of UNEP at its fourth session and to seek to obtain such further authorization from the Council as he may need to draw on the Fund of UNEP for the purpose of defraying the expenses involved in the establishment and initial operating costs of the centre. This authorization might be requested on the assumption that the operating expenses of the Centre will be gradually defrayed by means of voluntary multilateral or individual contributions from governments of the Mediterranean Region, from international organizations and from non-governmental organizations. The financing of the centre should be reviewed

¹ UNEP/CONF.1/9 and Corr.1 and Corr.2, and Add.1-4.

at the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention and the appropriate Protocol, when these instruments have entered into force;

5. **Further requests** the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the coastal States of the Mediterranean region at the next intergovernmental meeting of these States and thereafter annually on the work and activities of the Centre.

ANNEX

Objectives and functions of a regional oil-combating centre

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean region and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to combat massive pollution by oil, especially in case of emergencies in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment.

2. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the development of their own national capabilities to combat oil pollution and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.

3. A later objective, namely the possibility of initiating operations to combat pollution by oil and eventually by other harmful substances at the regional level, can be considered. This possibility should be submitted for approval by governments after evaluating the results achieved in the fulfilment of the previous two objectives and in the light of financial resources which could be made available for this purpose.

II. FUNCTIONS

A. To collect and disseminate information on:

- i. Inventories of experts and equipment in each coastal State for combating massive accidental spillages of oil;
- ii. Plans, methods and techniques used for combating oil pollution in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;
- iii. Those areas in the Mediterranean which are especially vulnerable to oil pollution and, with reference to these areas, specification of clean-up methods which can be used with minimum environmental damage in such areas.

B. To prepare and keep up to date, in the light of information collected, emergency plans that could be implemented:

- i. In cases of massive oil pollution where there is an absence of bilateral or multilateral agreements between coastal States;
- ii. In sectors of the Mediterranean, yet to be identified, where the risk of massive accidental oil pollution is high or where the capability for prompt counter-action in times of emergency does not presently exist.

C. To develop and maintain a Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.

D. To develop and encourage technological co-operation and training programmes for combating oil pollution.

E. To assist in strengthening the IRS by developing the capacity to serve as a sectoral focal point which could collect data on the sources of information available in connexion with oil pollution with special emphasis on dealing with massive spills of oil and will make that data available.

F. To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Mediterranean regional activity centers and with the “specialized regional organisms” which play a co-ordinating role as set forth in the Barcelona Action Plan,² particularly with the scientific institutions with the region.

G. To co-operate in all appropriate activities which are directed towards the prevention and reduction of pollution in the Mediterranean resulting from oil spills.

² UNEP/WG.2/5, Annex.

Revised Annex to Resolution 7

**OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF A REGIONAL CENTRE
FOR COMBATING POLLUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES**

Athens, 6 October 1989

Source: "Report of the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5, Annex V, Appendix 1, pages 1-3), Athens, 3-6 October 1989.

REVISED ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 7*

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR COMBATING POLLUTION BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

I. - OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in case of emergency in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment or when it can affect human lives.

2. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.

3. A later objective, namely the possibility of initiating operations to combat pollution by oil and eventually by other harmful substances at the regional level, can be considered. This possibility should be submitted for approval by governments after evaluating the results achieved in the fulfillment of the previous two objectives and in the light of financial resources, which could be made available for this purpose.

4. To provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters.

II. - FUNCTIONS

A. - To collect and disseminate information on:

- i) Competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
- ii) Inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency;
- iii) General information, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;
- iv) Mediterranean coastal zones, with a particular attention to the zones which are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other harmful substances. This information could be used by risk predicting models and for the preparation of environmental sensitivity maps.

* Resolution 7 with its Annex was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Barcelona in 1976.

- B. - To establish, keep up to date and operate a partially computerized data base on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods.
- C. - To progressively develop and operate a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to the Mediterranean coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in cases of accidents involving oil and other harmful substances.
- D. - To prepare, disseminate and keep up to date operational guides and technical documents.
- E. - To develop and maintain a regional Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.
- F. - To develop technological co-operation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and to organize training courses.
- G. - To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral or multilateral operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States.
- H. - To prepare and keep up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean coastal States in cases of emergency.
- I. - To provide, upon request, assistance to coastal States in cases of emergency, either by using its own capacities or through secondment of experts.
- J. - To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, or when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.
- K. - To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Mediterranean regional activity centres and with the "specialized regional organisms" which play a co-ordinating role as set forth in the Mediterranean Action Plan, particularly with the scientific institutions within the region.
- L. - To co-operate as appropriate in activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan related to marine pollution.
-

**OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS
OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE EMERGENCY PROTOCOL**

Monaco, 17 November 2001

Source: "Report of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.13/8, Annex IV, Appendix 1, pages 1-4), Monaco, 14-17 November 2001.

OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in this region of the rules which are generally recognized at the international level, relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment irrespective of the source.
2. To develop regional co-operation in the field of prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and to facilitate co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which require emergency actions or other immediate response.
3. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.
4. To provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and to promote dialogue aimed at conducting co-ordinated actions at national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Hazardous and Noxious Substances in Cases of Emergency.

II. FUNCTIONS

A: GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1. To ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Hazardous and Noxious Substances in Cases of Emergency, and to perform relevant secretariat functions. In order to achieve this goal, to organize regular meetings of national authorities responsible for policies in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, preparedness for, and response to and co-operation in case of emergency, and to report to the meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.
2. To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan and with the "specialized regional organisms" which play a co-ordinating role as set forth in the Mediterranean Action Plan, particularly with the scientific institutions within the region.
3. To co-operate as appropriate in activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan related to marine pollution.

B: FUNCTIONS CONCERNING PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM SHIPS

1. To assist the coastal States of the Mediterranean region in reinforcing their national capacities with a view to implementing in an efficient manner the international law and regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships:

- a) by collecting and disseminating information concerning legal and technical aspects of prevention of pollution from ships;
- b) by providing legal and technical assistance in their efforts to develop and implement regulations applicable to the States of the Mediterranean region;
- c) by promoting transfer of technology;
- d) by conducting training activities;
- e) by executing, at the request of the States and within the limits of available means, programmes and pilot projects;
- f) by providing technical assistance to the coastal States which so request.

2. To assist the coastal States of the Mediterranean region in developing regional co-operation with a view to implementing in an efficient manner the international regulations for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships:

- a) by promoting, at request of the States the dialogue aimed at conducting co-ordinated actions at national, regional and global levels;
- b) by assisting in the implementation of regional programmes approved by the Contracting Parties;
- c) by conducting studies on subjects of regional interest, at the request of the States.

C: FUNCTIONS CONCERNING PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION AND CO-OPERATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

1. To collect and disseminate information on:

- i) Competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
- ii) Inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the State which so requests in case of emergency;
- iii) General information, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;
- iv) Mediterranean coastal zones, with a particular attention to the zones which are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances. This information could be used by risk predicting models and for the preparation of environmental sensitivity maps.

2. To establish, keep up to date and operate a partially computerized data base on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods.

3. To progressively develop and operate a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to the Mediterranean coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in cases of accidents involving oil and other hazardous and noxious substances.

4. To prepare, disseminate and keep up to date operational guides and technical documents.

5. To develop and maintain a regional Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.
6. To develop technological co-operation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances and to organize training courses.
7. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral, multilateral or subregional operational agreements between neighbouring coastal States.
8. To prepare and keep up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean coastal States in cases of emergency.
9. To organize and activate the Mediterranean Assistance Unit for combating accidental marine pollution created by a decision of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Antalya, 12 - 15 October 1993) in the conditions described in this decision.
10. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Hazardous and Noxious Substances in Cases of Emergency and Preventing Pollution from Ships, or when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.

MANDATE OF THE COMPONENTS OF MAP

Including

**MANDATE OF THE REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE
CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
(REMPEC)**

Marrakesh, 3-5 November 2009

Source: "Report of the Sixteenth 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" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.19/8, Annex II, pages 45-58), Marrakesh, 3-5 November 2009.

Decision IG.19/5

"Mandates of the Components of MAP"

The 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling Article 17 of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the coastal region of the Mediterranean as amended in Barcelona in 1995, hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention by which the Contracting Parties designate the United Nations Environment Programme as responsible for carrying out a series of Secretariat functions spelt out in the Article,

Considering Article 1 of the Barcelona Convention related to the geographical coverage of its application and the relevant articles of different Protocols,

Recalling also the institutional provisions of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Barcelona, Spain, from 9-10 June 1995, with regard to the role of the Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres as well as the decision IG 15/5 on the Governance Paper taken by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria,

Acknowledging that MEDPOL Programme and six centres based in different Mediterranean countries that have been acting as Regional Activity Centres (RACs), hereinafter referred to as MAP components, to support MAP for the implementation of the Convention, its related Protocols as well as its strategies including the MSSD and that they have provided and continue to provide very valuable services in the form of technical outputs and assistance in their respective areas of expertise to the Contracting Parties,

Acknowledging the important and useful work carried out over the years by the Coordinating Unit, MEDPOL and the RACs, but *noting at the same time* that there is a need to define better the role and functions of the components of MAP in order to ensure synergy, better integration, avoid overlapping and to improve the efficiency and impact of MAP work;

Decides to:

approve the common introduction and the Mandates of the MAP components as contained in the Annex to this Decision and its appendices;

take note of MAP components' present sources of funding, synergy and partner organization tables as presented in appendices I, II and III to the Annex to this decision;

Requests the Coordinating Unit to monitor the implementation of this Decision with a view to ensuring that the activities of the MAP components are carried out in a coordinated, integrated and efficient manner as well as in conformity with their mandates and to report periodically to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties on any required updating of component mandates as to ensure their coherence with the mission, strategies and priorities of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

ANNEX

Mandates of the components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

1. Common Introduction

The general objective of MAP is to contribute to the improvement of the marine and coastal environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

In this context, MAP components assist Mediterranean countries to fulfil their commitments under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, and implement the decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties, and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and MCSD recommendations.

Under the leadership of the Coordinating Unit, MAP components assist, within their respective fields of activity, in the implementation of the MSSD and, when so requested by a Contracting Party, in developing its National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD).

All MAP components will strive to enhance the impact and visibility of MAP **actions** through:

- a. *effective and concrete activities, developed on the basis of sound science-based assessments;*
- b. *enhanced cooperation based on a corporate and integrated approach with regional and global initiatives;*
- c. *more effective and targeted communication to the general public and to decision makers, including through the improved dissemination of results;*
- d. *further strengthening of the MAP shared information system and its various databases, and a web mapping application based on a harmonized corporate approach that should strive for inter-operability with other systems at the United Nations and regional levels;*
- e. *maintenance and regular update of their websites that clearly establish their linkage with MAP and the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.*

Furthermore, all of the MAP components contribute to the application of the prevention and precautionary principles, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, the principle of assistance, cooperation and partnership, and the ecosystem and participatory approaches.

The activities of MAP components are governed by the following operational principles:

1. The Five-Year and biennial Programmes of Work are developed in accordance with the Governance Paper, approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties and implemented under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit.
2. With a view to increasing efficiency, maximizing results, avoiding duplication and improving the overall coherence of MAP system, consultation and collaboration with all MAP components will be sought.
3. Technical and scientific programmes, plans and other mandated outputs will be steered and carried out in close consultation with the MAP components' Focal Points and formally reviewed at their meetings every two years.
4. MAP partners will be consulted in the planning of activities and involved in their implementation, as appropriate.
5. Additional source of funding should be sought through the development and implementation of a MAP joint resource mobilisation plan.
6. Regardless of the source of funding, activities should focus on MAP priorities and emerging challenges of MAP relevance, as decided in consultation with the Coordinating Unit and the Bureau.
7. Transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness shall guide planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all activities.

2. Mandate of the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL)

Background

The Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL) was established in 1975 by the very first intergovernmental meeting of the Mediterranean coastal States, convened by UNEP to consider the formulation of a broad and complex programme for the protection of the Mediterranean sea area. MED POL became the first operational programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as its land-based pollution assessment and control component. The Programme went through three phases and is now in Phase IV (2006-2013). After giving emphasis to the assessment of pollution, since Phase III MED POL has focused on pollution reduction and control.

Objective and mission statement

The objective of MED POL is to contribute to the prevention and elimination of land-based pollution of the Mediterranean. In this respect, MED POL's mission is to assist the Contracting Parties, through planning and coordination of initiatives and actions, including promoting and catalyzing synergies and investments programmes, to meet their obligations under the Barcelona Convention and the Dumping, LBS and the Hazardous Wastes Protocols; facilitate the implementation of National Action Plans to address land-based pollution and LBS-related legally binding programmes and action plans; and continuously assess the status and trends of pollution of the Mediterranean.

Scope of action and key issues

MED POL's main fields of action include:

- 1. the assessment of the status and trends in the quality of the marine and coastal environment including health-related aspects of marine pollution;*
- 2. promoting policy reforms for the implementation of national action plans, including programmes and measures, for the reduction and gradual elimination of pollution, the mitigation of the impacts of pollution and the restoration of systems damaged by pollution;*
- 3. catalyzing and facilitating the realization by the countries of the pollution reduction actions listed in their NAPs by bridging between countries and international and regional donors and financial institutions;*
- 4. the regular assessment of loads of pollution reaching the Mediterranean, and the determination of trends in coastal areas including pollution hot spots;*
- 5. the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information on pressures and state of the marine and coastal environment;*
- 6. capacity building and technical assistance to support the Contracting Parties in the above areas.*

MED POL's action in these fields is based on a number of principles and assumptions:

- 1. the full integration of monitoring into the pollution control process adopted by the Contracting Parties, so as to ensure the continuous assessment of the status and trends of pressures and quality of the marine and coastal environment and the effects of pollution and to assess the effectiveness of the pollution reduction measures implemented by countries;*
- 2. the gradual application, as appropriate, of common and differentiated responsibilities in the process of reducing pollution, as agreed by the Parties, to facilitate the long-term implementation of pollution reduction policy, strategies and programmes;*
- 3. the functional harmonization of monitoring, assessment and pollution control activities, as well as data quality assurance, data collection and processing, reporting and data management policies and procedures, with those adopted by regional, international and global bodies and organizations;*
- 4. the synchronization of MED POL assessment and reporting schedules, and the harmonization of assessment and reporting procedures, with the schedules and procedures adopted for the evolving global assessment of the state of the marine environment.*

3. Mandate of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

Background

The “Regional Oil Combating Centre” (ROCC) was originally established in 1976 by the decision of the Contracting Parties with the mandate to strengthen the capacities of coastal States in the Mediterranean region and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to combat massive marine pollution by oil, particularly by developing national capacities to combat oil pollution and by establishing a regional information system with a view to dealing with marine pollution emergencies. The Centre’s mandate was extended over the years in conformity with the decisions of the Contracting Parties with a view to addressing relevant emerging issues and the respective global developments with a particular focus on preventive measures against pollution from ships. In 1989, the name of the Centre was changed to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). REMPEC is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

In 2001, with a view to the adoption of the new Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol), (2002), the Contracting Parties reaffirmed the involvement of the Centre in activities related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution.

Objective and mission Statement

The objective of REMPEC is to contribute to preventing and reducing pollution from ships and combating pollution in case of emergency. In this respect, the mission of REMPEC is to assist the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4(1), 6 and 9 of the Barcelona Convention; the 1976 Emergency Protocol; the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and implementing the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2005 which key objectives and targets are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The Centre will also assist the Contracting Parties which so request in mobilizing the regional and international assistance in case of an emergency under the Offshore Protocol, should this instrument enter into force.

Scope of action and key issues

REMPEC’s main fields of action for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships and the development of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and cooperation in case of emergency consist of:

1. *strengthening the capacities of the coastal States in the region with a view to preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships and ensuring the effective implementation in the region of the rules that are generally recognized at the international level relating to the prevention of pollution from ships, and with a view to abating, combating and, to the fullest possible extent, eliminating pollution of the marine environment from shipping activities, including pleasure crafts;*
2. *developing regional cooperation in the field of the prevention of pollution of the marine environment from ships, and facilitating cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States in order to respond to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and which require emergency actions or other immediate response;*
3. *assisting coastal States of the Mediterranean region which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to pollution incidents which result or may result in a discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances and facilitating the exchange of information, technological cooperation and training;*
4. *providing a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters, and promoting dialogue aimed at conducting coordinated action at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol; and*
5. *assisting coastal States of the region, which in cases of emergency so request, either directly or by obtaining assistance from the other Parties, or when possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.*

4. Mandate of Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC)

Background

The Blue Plan was established in 1977 by the decision of an Inter-governmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7) as a regional cooperation programme with the aim of "putting at the disposal of political leaders and decision-makers all information that will enable them to develop plans likely to ensure sustained optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment" and "helping governments of coastal states in the Mediterranean region to increase their knowledge of the joint problems they have to face, both in the Mediterranean Sea and in their coastal areas". In 1979, the Contracting Parties nominated MEDEAS, the organization that was in charge of implementing the Blue Plan programme, as a MAP regional activity centre that became the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre of MAP in 1984. In light of global and further MAP environmental challenges, especially those relating to sustainable development, the focus of the Blue Plan/RAC evolved as a Mediterranean observatory for environment and sustainable development and a centre for prospective studies.

Objective and mission statement

The objective of the Blue Plan/RAC is to contribute to raising awareness of Mediterranean stakeholders and decision makers concerning environment and sustainable development issues in the region, by providing future scenarios to assist in decision-making. In this respect and through its dual functions as an observatory of the environment and sustainable development and a centre for systemic and prospective analysis, the BP/RAC's mission is to provide the Contracting Parties with assessments of the state of the environment and development of the Mediterranean and a solid basis of environmental and sustainable development data, statistics, and indicators to support their action and decision making process.

Scope of action and key issues

The effective protection of the marine and coastal environment and the sustainable development of the region require a long-term approach to decision-making for which a firm basis of reliable and comparable data offering a realistic assessment of the state of the environment and development is needed.

Within this context and in the framework of the implementation of article 4 of the Barcelona Convention, 1995, and of the MSSD, 2005, the BP/RAC's main fields of action are:

- 1. ongoing identification, collection and processing of environmental, economic and social data and statistics for the use of stakeholders and decision-makers;*
- 2. assessment of the interaction between the environment and economic and social development, and the building of relevant indicators and tools to measure progress towards sustainable development;*
- 3. preparation of analyses and prospective studies to assist in constructing visions of the future as an aid to decision-making;*
- 4. dissemination of the findings of this work in the various appropriate forms and channels, including the regular publications of state of environment and development reports and environment and development outlook for the Mediterranean region; and*
- 5. assistance to the Contracting Parties in assessing the implementation of the MSSD in their National Sustainable Development Strategies.*

The main themes and areas covered by BP/RAC are consistent with the priority fields of action of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). The activities are designed to facilitate its implementation and follow up.

5. Mandate of the Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Background

The Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) was established in Split in 1980 by the decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting (UNEP/IG.5/7, paragraph 54) of 1977 to assist in the implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted in Barcelona in 1975. Its original mandate was broad in scope and encompassed ten priority actions in six fields of activity that required immediate action. With the further development of MAP, and in light of the challenges of the global environmental context, especially those relating to coastal areas, the focus of PAP/RAC's operations was subsequently repositioned to respond to the need for the sustainable development of the region's coastal areas, particularly through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The adoption of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (the "ICZM Protocol") in 2008 formalized the role of PAP/RAC with regard to the implementation of the ICZM protocol.

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of PAP/RAC is to contribute to sustainable development of coastal zones and sustainable use of their natural resources. In this respect, PAP/RAC's mission is to provide assistance to Mediterranean countries in the implementation of Article 4(i) of the Barcelona Convention, meeting their obligations under the ICZM Protocol and implement the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), 2005, and by carrying out, in particular, the tasks assigned to it in Article 32 of the ICZM Protocol, 2008.

Scope of action and key issues

PAP/RAC's main fields of action for the achievement of the sustainable development of coastal zones consist of:

- 1. assisting the Contracting Parties in formulating and implementing national strategies for action plans under the ICZM protocol;*
- 2. assisting countries in the region in strengthening their capacities with a view of facilitating the sustainable development of coastal zones by ensuring that environment and landscapes are taken into account in harmony with economic, social and cultural development; preserving coastal zones and their integrity; ensuring the sustainable use of coastal natural resources; and achieving coherence between public and private initiatives and between all decisions by the public authorities at all levels that impact the coastal zones;*
- 3. assisting countries in the implementation of demonstration/pilot coastal management projects (such as Coastal Area Management Programme - CAMP) in selected local Mediterranean coastal areas to demonstrate the application of ICZM as a major tool, with a view to implementing specifically the ICZM Protocol. CAMP projects have the goal to develop relevant implementation instruments and procedures for sustainable development in project areas; to identify and apply relevant methodologies and tools; to contribute to capacity building at the local, national and regional levels; and to secure the broad use of the results achieved;*
- 4. developing regional cooperation in the field of capacity building and awareness raising of the importance of the integrated management of coastal zones through the organization of training, education and awareness-raising activities, networking, publications and the dissemination of information;*
- 5. developing ICZM methodologies and tools as well as addressing specific sectoral issues with a coastal focus in the framework of ICZM, such as urban development, natural resources management, sustainable tourism, landscape and heritage protection, coastal and soil erosion, infrastructure and transport, pollution and waste, climate change, and specific coastal ecosystems.*

6. Mandate of the Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC)

Background

The Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) was established in Tunis in 1985 by the decision of the Contracting Parties (UNEP/IG.23/11), which entrusted it with responsibility for assessing the situation of natural and scenic heritage and assisting countries to implement the 1982 Geneva Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. In 1993, the Contracting Parties indicated their determination to make the Mediterranean a pilot region for application of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the amendment of the Barcelona Convention and the adoption of the 1995 Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the "SPA/Biodiversity Protocol"), which came into force in 1999.

Objective and mission statement

The specific objective of SPA/RAC is to contribute to the protection and preservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal areas of particular natural and cultural value and threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna.

In this context the mission of SPA/RAC is to provide assistance to the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 10 of the Barcelona Convention, 1995, and under the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Protocol (SPA/BD Protocol); and implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Region (SAP BIO), adopted by the Contracting Parties in 2003, as well as the MSSD and by carrying out the tasks assigned to it in Articles 9, 11(7), and 25 of the SPA/BD Protocol.

Scope of action and key issues

The SAP/BIO specifies the policy and provides the operational basis for actions by the Contracting Parties to protect marine and coastal biodiversity through an extensive platform for collaboration with international and national organizations, NGOs, donors, and all other stakeholders. In this respect, the SPA/RAC's main fields of action are as follows:

- 1. facilitating and encouraging the development of research to complete the knowledge base and fill in knowledge gaps on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region;*
- 2. facilitating and contributing to inventorying, mapping and monitoring Mediterranean marine and coastal biodiversity and Specially Protected Areas;*
- 3. facilitating and contributing to the assessment and mitigation of the impact of threats on marine and coastal biodiversity, including from unsustainable fisheries practices;*
- 4. contributing to and assisting countries in the conservation of sensitive habitats, species and sites;*
- 5. promoting the establishment of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance in the Mediterranean (SPAMIs) including areas beyond national jurisdiction in conformity with the international legal framework, ensuring their networking and synergies with all relevant regional networks, particularly with Natura 2000 network, with the aim of preventing and reducing the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity; and*
- 6. contributing to capacity-building and technical support and assisting the countries to mobilize additional financial resources to implement the SPA/ Biodiversity Protocol.*

In this regard, taking fully into account of the objectives identified by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), within the context of the principles and approaches identified in the introductory section covering all MAP components, particular emphasis is placed by SPA/RAC in its work on the responsible fisheries principle.

7. Mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC)

Background

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) was admitted in 1996 by the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP/IG.8/7). CP/RAC was originally created to promote and disseminate cleaner production (CP), as defined by UNEP, in the Mediterranean countries. The approach applied nowadays by UNEP is to address production and consumption patterns in an integrated manner to ensure sustainability and sound chemical management. Promoting sustainable production and consumption (SPC) is one of the overarching objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to achieve sustainable development. In addition CP/RAC was endorsed in May 2009 as a Regional Centre under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Objective and mission statement

The objective of CP/RAC is to contribute to pollution prevention and sustainable and efficient management of services, products and resources based on the SPC integrated approach adopted by UNEP.

In this context, CP/RAC provides assistance to the Contracting Parties in implementing Article 4 of the Barcelona Convention, 1995, Article 5 of the LBS Protocol, 1996 and Article 5.2 of the Hazardous Waste Protocol, 1996 and Article 8 of the Offshore Protocol, 1994, in which sustainable production and consumption plays a crucial role, as well as the other Protocols in which the shift to sustainable production and consumption is key to attain their objectives. CP/RAC also provides assistance to the Contracting Parties in promoting and using mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Scope of action and key issues

The scope of action and key issues of CP/RAC are the following:

- 1. contributing to creating knowledge for decision makers on the links between the patterns of consumption and production and the environmental degradation of the Mediterranean region;*
- 2. providing technical assistance to the public and private sector of Mediterranean countries for reducing land-based pollution, particularly harmful substances and hazardous waste, through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT), Best Environmental Practices (BEP), Cleaner Production (CP), the IPPC principles and sound chemical management;*
- 3. boosting green competitiveness as a tool through which managers and industrialists drive Mediterranean small and medium enterprises to succeed in the global market;*
- 4. fostering mechanisms through which sustainable criteria are progressively introduced within the whole consumption-production system of organizations and enterprises: eco-labeling, sustainable procurement, sustainable management of industrial areas, corporate social responsibility, etc.; and*
- 5. promoting sustainable lifestyles that really fit the specific cultural, natural, economic and social heritage of Mediterranean societies and contributing to create information and education for sustainable consumption.*

8. Mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC)

Background

The Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC) was established in 2005 by the decision of the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties thus substituting the Regional Activity Centre on Environment Remote Sensing (ERS/RAC) that was admitted as MAP Regional Activity Centre by the 8th Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1993 (UNEP/IG.3/5).

In 2005, at the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, INFO/RAC was mandated inter alia to establish a common information management infrastructure (Info MAP) to facilitate and support information and communication activities across MAP.

Objective and mission statement

The objective of INFO/RAC is to contribute to collecting and sharing information, raising public awareness and participation and enhancing decision-making processes at the regional, national and local levels. In this context, the mission of INFO/RAC is to provide adequate information and communication services and infrastructure technologies to Contracting Parties to implement Article 12 on public participation and Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention on reporting, as well as several articles related to reporting requirements under the different Protocols, thus strengthening MAP information management and communication capabilities. With a view to ensuring availability of coherent and scientifically sound environmental knowledge, INFO/RAC will strive for close cooperation with other key environment institutions and international bodies working on environmental data and information management, to progressively move towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS).

Scope of action and key issues:

INFO/RAC scope of action and key issues are grouped in the following three main thematic areas:

I. Information and communication technology

- 1. Design and implement a common environmental and spatial data infrastructure and network services (InfoMAP) for internal (UNEP/MAP) and external information among Mediterranean coastal States as a support to the Contracting Parties in carrying out coordinated activities at the national and regional levels, for the full implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the MSSD.*
- 2. Promote networking on Information and Communication technology.*
- 3. Provide technical assistance to Contracting Parties in on-line reporting activities.*

II. Information sharing, communication, education, training and awareness-raising

In close coordination with the Coordinating Unit and other MAP components, INFO/RAC will:

- 1. Improve the environmental and spatial data flows management, information sharing and reporting mechanisms, through regional cooperation and appropriate training.*
- 2. Improve the MAP corporate communication, promote education initiatives and participation and ownership of Contracting Parties.*
- 3. Establish long-term, working partnerships among MAP Components, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.*
- 4. Promote public participation and raise awareness on the activities of UNEP/MAP, of the Barcelona Convention and of related programmes on the environmental and sustainable development policies of individual member states of the Convention.*

III. Dissemination of results from environmental research and from innovative observation and monitoring technology

- 1. Strengthen the knowledge base for bridging the gap between science, environmental monitoring and policy making in the Mediterranean region, taking into account existing efforts at the Euro-Mediterranean level to focus on good practices relevant to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and of the MSSD.*

2. *Promote the sharing of experiences and results stemming from environmental research and innovative technologies, including those resulting from earth observation initiatives relevant to the Mediterranean environment and sustainable development such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security (GMES).*

INFO/RAC will promote the use of the best available ICT for the reduction of the overall ecological footprint of MAP's components, contributing to the greening of the Barcelona Convention.

APPENDIX I MAP COMPONENTS SOURCE OF FUNDING

Source of Funding/ RAC Programme	MED POL	REMPEC	BLUE PLAN	PAP/RAC	SPA/RAC	CP/RAC	INFO/RAC
Principle source of funding for activities and staffing	MTF	MTF	MTF Government of France	MTF	MTF	Government of Spain through the Ministry of Environment, Marine and Rural Affairs and the Catalan Department of Environment and Housing	Government of Italy subject to the national budgetary rules
Additional source of funding	Mediterranean countries, Global Environment Facility (GEF), European Commission, World Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB), Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and partnership with the private sector.	Government of Malta limited to the provision of premises, International Maritime Organization (IMO) re part of the salary cost of one staff member, IMO Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), French oil industry, voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and Partners, European Commission funded projects and <i>ad hoc</i> projects concluded with public or partnership with the private sector.	Mediterranean countries, European Commission, European Investment Bank, French Agency for Development, Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation, World Bank, private companies, spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and partnership with the private sector.	Government of Croatia limited to the provision of premises and the coverage of some of the operating costs, spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and partnership with the private sector.	Government of Tunisia, Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank, Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM), European Commission, Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation, spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and partnership with the private sector.	Global Environment Facility (GEF), MTF, spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and partnership with the private sector.	MTF, Global Environment Facility (GEF), ISPRA (in kind), sponsorships, spontaneous proposals from sponsors, including volunteer countries and partnership with the private sector.

APPENDIX II MAP COMPONENTS SYNERGY TABLE

For the actions identified in the following table, two or more MAP Components will collaborate to achieve shared goals:

	CP RAC	INFO RAC	SPA RAC	PAP RAC	BLUE PLAN	REMPEC
MEDPOL	Implementation of art 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 of the LBS protocol.	Data management and presentation, reporting, public awareness, infoMAP node development, PRTR development and training.	Regional assessment of the state of the ecosystems, implementation of the assessment component of the Eco-system Approach project.	Marine pollution, LBS pollution component in CAMPs, marine pollution and Ecosystem Approach project.	Indicators and follow up of urban waste management and marine pollution component of MSSD and climate change, report on Environment and Development.	Pollutant load from shipping activities.
REMPEC	SPC regarding shipbuilding and ship recycling (including pleasure craft).	InfoMAP node development, state of play on EO technology, near real time data acquisition and sharing, awareness raising, educational and information activities.	Management of invasive species in the framework of the management of the BallastWater, management of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA), impact of shipping on marine and coastal biodiversity sensitivity mapping regarding protected marine and coastal flora and fauna, wild life protection in case of emergency.	Port infrastructure planning, including marinas, sensitivity mapping as regard contingency planning.	Implementation and follow up of the transport chapter of the MSSD, climate change, report on Environment and Development.	
BLUE PLAN	Follow up to water, energy sustainable cities, climate change, implementing MSSD (specifically water and energy priorities), report on Environment and Development.	Collection, compilation, management of data and statistics underlining MSSD indicators, Blue Plan Info System / MISED.	Assessment of services rendered by marine and coastal ecosystems, sustainable management of marine and natural coastal resources, climate change and Biodiversity, report on Environment and Development.	Follow up of various chapters of MSSD, development of land use planning tools adapted to coastal zone, climate change, indicators, prospective studies, report on Environment and Development, water resources, tourism development, urban and rural development participatory approaches.		
PAP RAC	Awareness raising and training on cleaner production, assessment and awareness raising on SPC for the coastal zone management.	Web site development, data management, dissemination activities, remote sensing, infoMAP node development, ICZM protocol reporting obligation.	Management of marine and coastal SPA Biodiversity component in CAMPs			
SPA RAC	Sustainable management of marine and coastal natural resources.	InfoMAP node protocol, data set on protected areas and biodiversity habitat, endangered species, research data and dissemination, data management, information and awareness raising, educational documentary on Mediterranean biodiversity.				
INFO RAC	Dissemination of material on SPC, educational kit.					

APPENDIX III : MAP COMPONENT PARTNERSHIP TABLE

TITLES	MEDPOL	REMPEC	BLUE PLAN	PAP RAC	SPA RAC	INFO RAC	CP RAC
Partners and Partnership	WHO, IAEA, London Convention and Protocol, Basel Convention, MEhSIP/EIB, OSPAR, HELCOM, MIO/ECSD, EUROCHLOR, European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), CEFIC, ASCAME, HELMEPA, CLEANUP GREECE, UNADEP.	International Maritime Organization (IMO), European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), ICE Network, International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), Sea Alarm Foundation, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG), International Ocean Institute (IOI).	TEEB, IUCN, WWF, Tour du Valat, CEDARE, CIHEAM, Water Mediterranean Institute, Obeservatoire méditerranéen de l'énergie, FEMISE, different Mediterranean and European institutions dealing with sustainable development in the region.	IOC- UNESCO, FAO, IUCN Mediterranean, WWF, EEA, UNDP, GTZ, Partners (project based) from Black Sea, Baltic, NGOs from Mediterranean countries (Coast Day activities), UNCCD.	Mediterranean Countries and National Institutions, CBD, Bonn Convention (CMS), Bern Convention, CGPM (FAO), IUCN Mediterranean, WWF-MedPo, BirdLife International, ACCOBAMS, MedPAN, Other NGOs (MEDASSET, GREEN PEACE, TETHYS).	UNEP/GRID, UNEP Live, UNEP/OARE, UNEP Infoterra, GEO/GEOSS, EEA/Eionet, INSPIRE/SEIS, GMES, EU Green spider, ENP, MEDSTAT/Env, EC FP7, CORDIS, EMODNET, EuroMed, MIRA/MoCo, Cosmo-SkyMed.	ASCAME, Business Med, Cleaner Production National Centres, UNITAR, RECETOX, Regional Centres under Stockholm Convention, CSIC Sarria, Chemical Institute, Basel Convention Centre in Egypt, UNEP-DTIE.

All MAP partners collaborate with the following partners: **WB, GEF, FFEM, Horizon 2020, Other Regional Seas, EEA, Mediterranean Operational Oceanographic Network (MOON), UN and UNEP Conventions, UN Regional Seas.**

**RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF
COSTS OF ASSISTANCE**

Cairo, 11 October 1991

Source: "Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.2/4, Annex IV, C.6(a)1.5-8, pages 3-4), Cairo, 8-11 October 1991.

RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS OF ASSISTANCE

5. The Contracting Parties involved in actions of mutual assistance should not by their practice concerning the reimbursement of costs of assistance be in contradiction with the "polluter pays" principle, according to which the polluter bears the costs of prevention and pollution response measures taken by the public authorities.
6. The principle which should be applied in case of State to State assistance, unless a bilateral agreement exists including financial arrangements covering this question, is that of reimbursement of costs of assistance provided by a State at the request of another State. If measures are taken by a Party on its own initiative, this Party bears the cost of these measures.
7. However, when the whole or a part of the expenses cannot be recovered under existing international legal regimes or under the TOVALOP or CRISTAL agreements, the Party requesting assistance may ask the Party providing assistance to waive the reimbursement of non-recoverable expenses. It may also request the postponement of reimbursement. In considering such requests, Parties to the Protocol solicited should take into consideration the specific needs of certain States of the Mediterranean Region.
8. When experts are made available to a Contracting Party, this Contracting Party should ensure that the role and responsibility of these experts are limited to assisting national authorities to make decisions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING DECISIONS AND ACTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN
AT THE PORT, AND AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS
FOR PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO MARITIME RELATED
ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES
IN MEDITERRANEAN PORT AREAS AND THEIR APPROACHES**

Barcelona, 8 June 1995

Source: "Report of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, Annex XIII, Appendix III, pages 1-2), Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995.

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING DECISIONS AND ACTIONS
WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THE PORT, AND AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS
FOR PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO MARITIME RELATED ACCIDENTS
INVOLVING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN MEDITERRANEAN PORT AREAS
AND THEIR APPROACHES**

1. The Mediterranean coastal States which are not party to the relevant Conventions adopted within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) should take the necessary steps to become party to these Conventions. The competent national authorities of the Mediterranean coastal States should, on the basis of IMO's conventions, codes, guides and recommendations, take the necessary steps to issue the appropriate legal requirements and to ensure an adequate level of compliance with such legal provisions. Particular attention should be paid to the Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port areas, currently under revision. Once revised, the competent national authorities of the Mediterranean coastal States should, whether for the first time or as a revision, prepare legal provisions, with subsequent implementation and enforcement, to ensure the safe transport, handling and storage of dangerous cargoes in port areas.
2. Governments of the Mediterranean coastal States should ensure that national legal requirements concerning the transport and handling of dangerous cargoes are, to the greatest possible extent, compatible with the relevant codes and guides developed by IMO and other inter-governmental bodies responsible for different modes of transport. The governments of the Mediterranean coastal States should co-ordinate their work in the different organizations to avoid divergence from the established rules and regulations relating to the maritime transport of dangerous cargoes.
3. The competent national authorities of the Mediterranean coastal States, in the absence of any national regulations covering land transport and in view of the wide application of IMO's International Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code), together with its provisions which affect industries, storage, warehousing, handling and transport services from manufacturers to consumers, should, as an interim measure, consider accepting the recommendations laid down in the code as satisfying the minimum safety standards for the intermodal transport of dangerous goods.
4. The competent authorities of the Mediterranean coastal States should endeavour to establish Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) in ports in accordance with the needs of each particular port, and once it is decided that such a system, whether simple or highly sophisticated, is necessary, reference should be made by the responsible authority to IMO's Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services (Res.A.578[14]), which provide guidance for designing and operating a VTS. They should further consider integrating such functions into a broader system covering other port functions.
5. The competent authorities of the Mediterranean coastal States should establish a system whereby the Port Authority is notified of the dangerous cargo on board a ship, prior to its arrival in the port or to its departure from the port. The advance notification should also include any deficiency of the ship, its equipment and/or the contents of the dangerous cargo which may affect the safety of the port area or of the ship itself.
6. The competent national authorities of the Mediterranean coastal States in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance should endeavour to ensure the participation of representatives of their countries to the OPRC Working Group established within the framework of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of IMO and to give written inputs to the Working Group's activities.
7. The governments of the Mediterranean coastal States should ensure that the requirements under the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC 1990 Convention), for ports under their jurisdiction to have a port emergency plan co-ordinated

with the national system for preparedness and response and approved in accordance with procedures established by the competent national authority, are complied with. The governments of the Mediterranean coastal States should also require that the operators in charge of handling facilities within the port areas have a contingency plan compatible and fully co-ordinated with the port emergency plan. Locally, the port emergency plan should be co-ordinated with the municipal contingency plan and with the contingency plan established for fixed installations located in the vicinity of the port areas. The competent national authority of the Mediterranean coastal States in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance should ensure that the arrangements regarding co-operation and mutual assistance adopted within the framework of the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention are taken into account and are properly reflected in the port emergency plan.

8. The governments of the Mediterranean coastal States should ensure that training programmes be organized for all categories of personnel whose activities are within the framework of a port contingency plan. Such programmes should include exercises. REMPEC should provide assistance in the organization of such programmes both at the regional and national level, with priority being given to the countries with the greatest need.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING SEA-BASED POLLUTION PREVENTION
AND CONTROL ACTIVITIES**

Malta, 30 October 1999

Source: "Report of the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.12/9, Annex IV, pages 5-8), Malta, 27-30 October 1999.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SEA-BASED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACTIVITIES

A. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

(a) Recommendations addressed to the Contracting Parties

(b) Sea-based pollution prevention and control activities

1. To continue to support REMPEC in the revision process of the Emergency Protocol in order to ensure its modernization and bring it into line with the recently revised Barcelona Convention and its other related Protocols.
2. To agree to the resolution approved by the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points held in Malta, 25-28 November 1998, aimed at creating a new post of administrator, as provided for in the budget for the next biennium.
3. To support REMPEC in its endeavours when implementing the programme of activities under the E.C. MEDA project on port reception facilities.
4. To utilize and adhere to the POLREP system for the exchange of information when accidental pollution of the sea has occurred or when a threat of such pollution is present.
5. To promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, aerial surveillance as a means of monitoring violations of existing regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships.
6. To support the establishment of a Mediterranean Technical Working Group, coordinated by REMPEC, which will work, as a minimum, by correspondence and whose function will be to facilitate the exchange of technical data and other scientific and technological information aimed at assessing the nature, exposure and risks from accidental marine pollution and promoting remedies for such pollution in the Mediterranean area.
7. To provide the necessary support to enable the Secretariat to start the process of considering the issue of the prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure-craft activities.
8. To give high priority to finding a solution to the problem of providing REMPEC with the necessary personnel so that it can carry out its new responsibilities in the field of the prevention of pollution from ships. A practical solution, at no cost to the MTF, may be found through the mechanism of seconding a professional officer from a country to the Centre on a temporary basis or under a rotation system.

(b) Recommendations addressed to the Secretariat

(b) Sea-based pollution prevention and control activities

1. To request the Secretariat (REMPEC), in coordination with UNEP/MAP, to continue and finalize the work for the revision of the Emergency Protocol.
2. To instruct the Secretariat (REMPEC) that, as regards the provision concerning the prevention of pollution of ships, no activity should be initiated other than the programme on port reception facilities for which financing is presently being considered by the E.U. within the framework of the MEDA programme until such times that the necessary personnel are made available.

3. To request the Secretariat (REMPEC and MEDU) to endeavour to obtain the necessary external funds to start the process of considering the issue of the prevention of pollution from non-commercial pleasure-craft activities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING SEA-BASED POLLUTION
PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Monaco, 17 November 2001

Source: "Report of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.13/8, Annex IV, pages 12-14), Monaco, 14-17 November 2001.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SEA-BASED POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Activities Related to the Identification and Follow-Up of Emerging Environmental and Pollution Issues

- (b) Sea-Based Pollution Prevention and Control
1. To adopt the decision on the new mandate, objectives and functions of REMPEC.
 2. To ratify a new Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention as soon as possible, once approved, so as to enable its implementation.
 3. To further examine the possibility of seconding professional officers to the Centre on a temporary basis.
 4. To invite the host country of REMPEC to identify and provide the Centre with a building suitable to its requirements as soon as possible.
 5. To maintain, revise and promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, and in collaboration with other stakeholders, Contracting Parties' contingency plans and means for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances.
 6. To comply with reporting obligations and to utilize and adhere to the "POLREP System" and to the "Post Incident Report", for the exchange of information on accidental pollution at sea.
 7. To support and facilitate the work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group established by the REMPEC Focal Points Meeting held in October 2000, pursuant to the recommendation addressed to the Contracting Parties at the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting.
 - 9.* To take any appropriate action to promote aerial surveillance as a means of monitoring and prosecuting violations of existing regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships, on the basis of the relevant Recommendation addressed to the Contracting Parties at the Eleventh Meeting and the outcome of the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, 25-28 October 2000, REMPEC/WG.18/14).
 10. To propose and discuss, taking into account the competences of IMO, an agreed common regional policy for the prevention of pollution from ships, based on the adopted 1997 regional strategy and taking into consideration the provisions of the new Emergency Protocol.
 11. To support REMPEC's efforts to implement the programme of activities under the EC/MEDA project on port reception facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT

(REMPEC)

1. To support the Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote common actions and proposals in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, including common initiatives at IMO level.
2. To support the Contracting Parties in maintaining, revising and promoting national and subregional preparedness and response systems. (REMPEC)

* Numeration as it appears in the final Report of the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.13/8).

(REMPEC and MEDU)

3. To endeavour to obtain the necessary external funds to move ahead with the process of studying suitable actions to prevent pollution from pleasure craft.

(ERS/RAC)

4. To support REMPEC for oil spill detection and monitoring through the integrated use of remote sensing and GIS techniques and other advanced tools (e.g. space based localisation, high speed satellite telecommunication).

**RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING MARINE POLLUTION
PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Catania, 14 November 2003

Source: "Report of the Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols" (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.15/11, Annex III, pages 3, 10-11, 21), Catania, 11-14 November 2003.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

II.A POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

1. To support the preparation of the strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships with a view of its adoption by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2005.
2. To support REMPEC's efforts for the development of monitoring activities in the Mediterranean to detect, prevent and combat pollution in conformity with the relevant international Conventions and regulations.
3. To support the implementation of the proposed projects for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks, and on the prevention of operational pollution (illicit discharges).
4. To support the preparation of a regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea.
5. To provide REMPEC with the additional human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, either by seconding professional officers to the Centre or by sponsoring their recruitment.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT

1. To extend the network of REMPEC correspondents to national authorities responsible for maritime affairs.
2. To continue the process of preparation of the strategy for prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in close cooperation with the relevant national authorities, inter-governmental organizations, the European Union and the socio-economic and environmental actors.
3. To proceed with the preparation and examination of the feasibility of a draft regional legal instrument on the prevention of pollution from pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea and to organize a national legal and technical expert meeting in 2004 accordingly.

II.D INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

With respect to BP/RAC

4. To deepen the prospective analysis on transports, urbanization and sustainability and to contribute together with REMPEC to the implementation of the proposed project for the assessment of maritime traffic in the Mediterranean and the related risks.

I.A.2.1 MAP and RACs evaluation

1. To take note of the recommendations included in documents UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/6 Draft Report on "Evaluation of SPA/RAC: Programme Assessment and Prospects"; and UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.228/7 "Evaluation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)" including the "Management Performance Audit of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)" and to propose positive follow-up.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING MARINE POLLUTION
PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

Portoroz, 8-11 November 2005

Source: "Report of the Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.16/13, Annex III, page 15), Portoroz, 8-11 November 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

II.A.2 Marine pollution prevention and control (REMPEC)

Recommendations to the Contracting Parties

1. To adopt the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships as endorsed by the 7th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, 25-28 April 2005), to implement the Strategy, to provide information to the Secretariat on the actions being taken at the national level for its implementation and to consider, at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the possibility of strengthening the human resources of the Centre starting from the biennium 2008-2009.
2. To adopt the set of Principles agreed upon during the Meeting of National Experts on the Feasibility of a Legal Regional Instrument on Prevention of Pollution from Pleasure Craft Activities in the Mediterranean (Monaco, 8-10 December 2004) and endorsed by the 7th Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, 25-28 April 2005).
3. To support the implementation by REMPEC of the project on Euro-Med cooperation on maritime safety and prevention of pollution from ships (SAFEMED) financed by the European Community (EC) under the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership MEDA financial mechanism, and involving ten Mediterranean partners.
4. To support REMPEC's efforts for the development of monitoring activities in the Mediterranean to detect, prevent and combat operational pollution in conformity with the relevant international conventions, as defined in the three components of the CLEANMED project developed by REMPEC.
5. To provide REMPEC with the additional human resources necessary to fulfill its mandate, either by seconding professional officers to the Centre or by sponsoring their recruitment.

Request the Secretariat:

1. To support Mediterranean coastal States in their efforts to implement the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships.
2. To prepare guidelines on pollution from pleasure craft activities, taking into consideration the Principles for the development and respect of the marine environment by pleasure craft activities in the Mediterranean Sea, and to present them to the next Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points for endorsement, prior to their submission for adoption to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In developing these guidelines, to take due account of the requirements imposed on European Union Member States by Directive 94/25/EC, as amended, regulating the environmental performance of recreational crafts.
3. To extend, as far as possible, the activities included in the SAFEMED project to the other Mediterranean coastal States not covered by this project.
4. To request, as necessary, the collaboration of other MAP components when addressing scientific aspects of regional issues related to Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs), sensitivity mapping and ballast water management; in this regard Contracting Parties that are member States of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia) should seek assistance with the preparation of pilot projects concerning those issues mentioned above for the Adriatic Sea as a particularly sensitive sea area.

DECISION IG.19/11

**DECISION ON THE REGIONAL STRATEGY ON SHIPS' BALLAST WATER
MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Marrakesh, 3-5 November 2009

Source: "Report of the Sixteenth 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" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.19/8, Annex II, page 91), Marrakesh, 3-5 November 2009.

DECISION IG.19/11

DECISION ON THE REGIONAL STRATEGY ON SHIPS' BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Desirous of preventing, minimizing and ultimately eliminating in the Mediterranean region the risks to the environment, human health, property and resources arising from the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments,

Recalling the objectives of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water Management and Sediments, 2004 and particularly its Article 13 whereby, to achieve these objectives, *"the Parties bordering enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, shall endeavor, taking into account characteristic regional features, to enhance regional co-operation, including through the conclusion of regional agreements"*,

Noting that the Mediterranean region is one of the six high priority regions included in the GEF/UNDP/IMO Project entitled *"Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water"* (*"GloBallast Partnerships" Project*),

Further noting that the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) was designated as the Regional Coordination Organization for the implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA),

Acknowledging the advanced status of implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project in the Mediterranean, and particularly the work undertaken by the Mediterranean GloBallast Regional Task Force, with the support of REMPEC, towards the development of a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management and invasive species in the Mediterranean,

Considering that the 9th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC recommended to present the initiative to the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention,

Agrees on the necessity of developing a regional strategy on ships' ballast water to address the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in the Mediterranean;

Decides to develop a regional strategy on ships' ballast water management in the Mediterranean within the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP);

Encourages the Mediterranean GloBallast Regional Task Force to endeavor to finalise such regional strategy as soon as possible, for possible adoption by the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;

Recommends establishing and maintaining a dialogue with other regional seas agreements, particularly with the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and with the Regional Convention for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environment, in order to ensure efficient handling of the issue of ships' ballast water management.