

II. The Draft Guidance Document

Regional Workshop on the Preparation of National Action Plans
for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)

Malta, 20 November 2024



**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention



A large ship, likely a research vessel, is shown from a low angle, partially obscured by a semi-transparent white banner. The ship's superstructure is white with a blue stripe, and a Greek flag is visible. The background features a dramatic sunset over the ocean, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange near the horizon.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT:

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



Mediterranean
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GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

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NATIONAL ASSESSMENT



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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)

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

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT:

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

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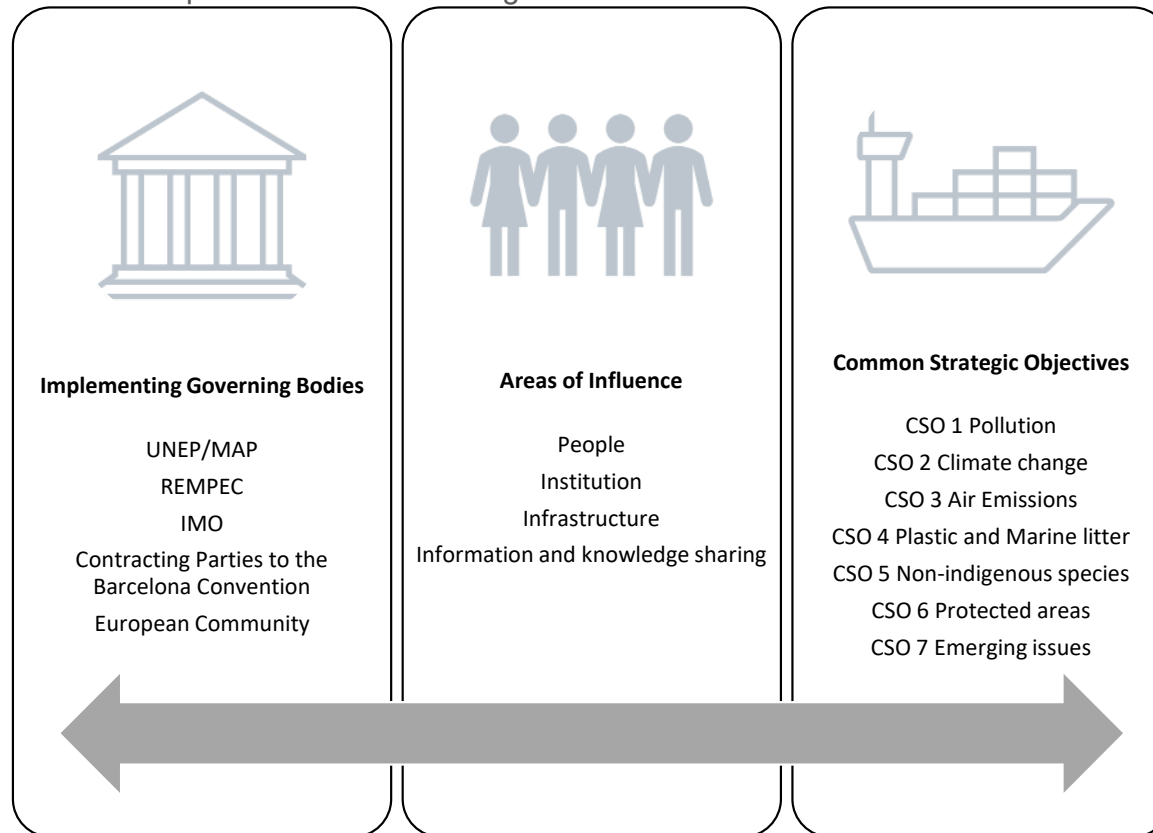
This activity is financed by the voluntary contribution from the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and is implemented by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

The views expressed in this document are those of the Consultant and are not attributed in any way to the United Nations (UN), the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) or REMPEC.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the UN Secretariat, UNEP/MAP, IMO or REMPEC, concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

4. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)

Interlocking CSOs, areas of influence and implementing / governing bodies responsible for delivering on the actions of the Action Plan



Source: Based on the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

5. Objective of the Guidance Document

- Practical tool to help CPs prepare National Action Plans (NAPs) for implementing the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)
- Supports self-assessment of national capabilities and progress on marine pollution prevention
- Aims to align maritime administrations with the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)



PREAMBLE (Decision IG.25/16)

“Nothing in this Strategy shall prejudice the principles of Sovereignty of the States, principles of Freedom, rights of Navigation, and principles of Innocent Passage in the Territorial Sea. In case of any contradiction between the Strategy and national or international legislations, the latter shall prevail. For specific topics addressing national issues, the Secretariat should seek the authorisation of the concerned country prior to the publication of certain reports.”

6. The implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)



Implementation Framework

- Governed by the Barcelona Convention, 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in coordination with national, regional, and international stakeholders
- NGOs can apply for UNEP/MAP accreditation to contribute as partners, offering policy advice and technical support
- CPs encourage institutions to formalize cooperation for financial and technical support through partnerships
- NAPs are dynamic tools, regularly updated based on national progress, IMO developments, and EMSA audits

7. Practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)

- Reports on progress, sets priority actions, and defines roles for the next biennium
- Follows CPs rules of procedure (UNEP/IG.43/6)
- REMPEC (IMO/UNEP/MAP) acts as Secretariat
- Attended by pollution experts, organisations, and UNEP/MAP partners as observers
- Encourages gender-balanced participation in line with UN gender parity goals
- Outcomes inform UNEP/MAP Programme of Work (PoW) and budgets
- CPs commit to maintaining an operational network for national coordination and action delivery



7. (continuation)

Reporting and monitoring procedure

- CPs and partners submit online progress reports, including ongoing/future actions from NAPs
- Reports focus on actions, indicators, targets, and financial resources for each CSO
- Meeting report will be publicly available and shared with REMPEC and other relevant fora

Public awareness

- CPs should regularly update the public on the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)
- Engage with coastal communities and civil society to show effective delivery of objectives
- Promote activities through media, disseminate studies, and organize public engagement events

8. Mid-term review and evaluation

- Regular monitoring of implementation through consultations with CPs and relevant organizations
- Five-year review in 2026 to assess progress and emerging issues
- Potential update and revision of the strategy and Action Plan, considering the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2032) and CPs' progress reports



9. Institutional Framework



- Built on the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), recognizing past progress and ongoing issues
- Developed with REMPEC, IMO, UNEP/MAP, and key Mediterranean stakeholders
- Created alongside the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027, integral to the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention system



A large ship, likely a research vessel or offshore supply ship, is shown at sea during a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright orange and yellow glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The ship's superstructure, including a white bridge and various antennas, is visible against the blue sky. The ship's hull is dark, and the propeller is partially visible in the water.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

VISION (Decision IG.25/16)

“A clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT

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2031) (Online, Malta, 10 March 2021) and of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Online, 31 May-2 June 2021),

1. *Adopt* the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as "the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)", set out in the Annex to this Decision;

2. *Call upon* the Contracting Parties to take effective measures to implement the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), thus enhancing the implementation of the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea;

3. *Urge* the Contracting Parties, which have not yet done so to ratify the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, in order to achieve universally the objectives of the Protocol in the Mediterranean region and *invite* Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to also ratify relevant IMO Conventions referred above;

4. *Request* the Secretariat (REMPEC) to provide technical support for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), in synergy with the IMO, through technical cooperation and capacity building activities, including resource mobilisation (internal and external);

5. *Invite* stakeholders, including multilateral financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, members of the industry and business sectors, and non-governmental organizations to actively contribute to the mobilisation of resources needed for the effective implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

6. *Encourage*, under the coordination of REMPEC, the building of sustainable partnerships, including partnerships between Parties and other stakeholders, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels as a means to leverage the financial resources and technical support that Contracting Parties need for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), thus operationalising the regional platform that the Strategy represents to channel international cooperation and maximize synergies in implementation in the Mediterranean region.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) outlines the main objectives and strategic directions for the period 2022 to 2031. Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), and work

¹ For those Contracting Parties who have not yet ratified the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

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undertaken to deliver the objectives of the strategy will be undertaken with the following guiding principles:

- 1 Guiding the work of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, wherever possible, towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and delivering on the SDGs (especially SDG 5 - Gender Equality, SDG 13 - Climate Action, and SDG 14 - Life Below Water) and the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast, particularly the ecological objectives related to non-indigenous species (EO2), contaminants (EO9), and marine litter (EO10);
- 2 Strengthening cooperation among relevant organisations and stakeholders operating within the Mediterranean to maximise synergies (wherever possible) and impacts on the ground, and encourage more cohesive and effective working;

Governance, partnership and resource mobilisation

5.1. The implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) shall be governed through the comprehensive and integrated institutional, legal, and implementing framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, particularly the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in collaboration and consultation with relevant national, regional and international organisations, institutions, agencies and stakeholders. This shall be done by coordinating parallel initiatives and processes to ensure the capitalisation of past and ongoing efforts, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the resources mobilised to meet the common objective of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031).

5.2. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) contributing to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) are invited to apply for accreditation as UNEP/MAP partners¹⁰ to become involved in the implementation of the present strategy. UNEP/MAP Partners provide expert

¹⁰ 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016).

¹¹ in accordance with the rights and responsibilities of MAP Partners, provided for in Decision IG.19/6 "MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership"

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policy and technical advice and promote the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. UNEP/MAP Partners participate as Observers in the meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as in activities carried out within the framework of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work.

5.3. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention further encourage regional and international institutions to formalise their cooperation to provide financial and technical support to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) through specific partnership agreements, as appropriate.

STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholders' engagement is a cornerstone of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)

- multilateral financial institutions
- Intergovernmental organizations
- industry and business sectors
- non-governmental organisations

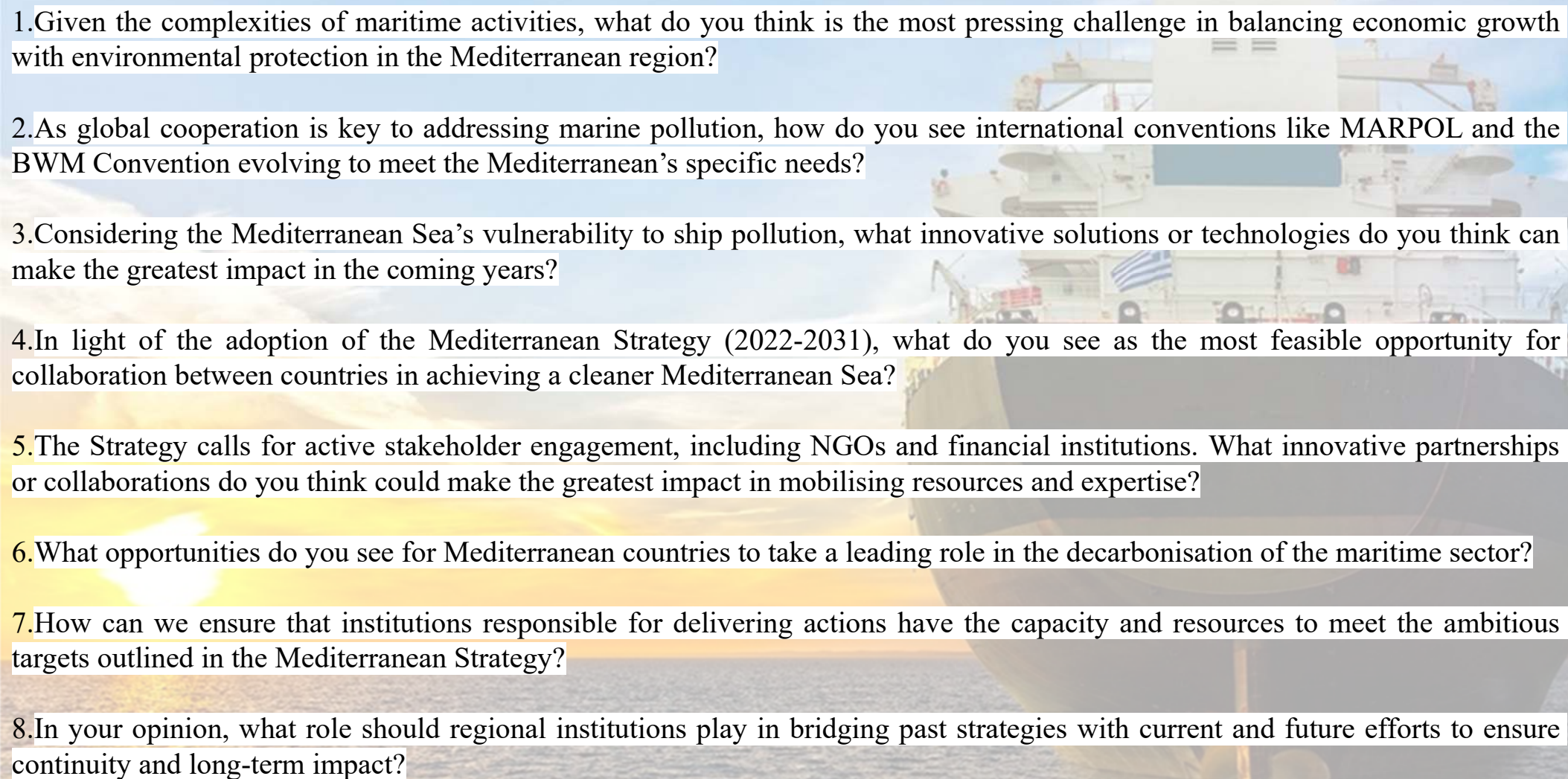
Stakeholders' engagement

To gather all necessary information, effective collaboration from stakeholders are fundamental:

- 1 *How can stakeholders' input be effectively integrated into the NA? What mechanisms can be established to ensure their active participation and feedback?*
- 2 *What roles do different stakeholders play in the implementation of the NAP? How can these roles be clarified and coordinated?*
- 3 *How can the results of the NAP be communicated to stakeholders to maintain transparency and foster collaborative efforts?*

A large cargo ship is shown from a low angle, partially obscured by a white banner. The ship's hull is dark, and its superstructure is white with blue accents. The background features a dramatic sunset over the ocean, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, and the water shows a shimmering reflection of the sun.

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

- 
- A large white cargo ship is sailing on the sea at sunset. The ship is the central focus, with its upper decks and a Greek flag visible. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the water and the sky. The background is a soft gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning into a clear blue sky.
1. Given the complexities of maritime activities, what do you think is the most pressing challenge in balancing economic growth with environmental protection in the Mediterranean region?
 2. As global cooperation is key to addressing marine pollution, how do you see international conventions like MARPOL and the BWM Convention evolving to meet the Mediterranean's specific needs?
 3. Considering the Mediterranean Sea's vulnerability to ship pollution, what innovative solutions or technologies do you think can make the greatest impact in the coming years?
 4. In light of the adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), what do you see as the most feasible opportunity for collaboration between countries in achieving a cleaner Mediterranean Sea?
 5. The Strategy calls for active stakeholder engagement, including NGOs and financial institutions. What innovative partnerships or collaborations do you think could make the greatest impact in mobilising resources and expertise?
 6. What opportunities do you see for Mediterranean countries to take a leading role in the decarbonisation of the maritime sector?
 7. How can we ensure that institutions responsible for delivering actions have the capacity and resources to meet the ambitious targets outlined in the Mediterranean Strategy?
 8. In your opinion, what role should regional institutions play in bridging past strategies with current and future efforts to ensure continuity and long-term impact?

