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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

25 July 2025
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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025

Agenda Items 3 and 4: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2024-2025 Biennium and Financial Implementation Report for 2022-2023 and 2024-2025

Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions

Reports of the 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th and 56th Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel

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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

29 January 2024
Original: English

52nd Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Vratchi, Greece, 17-19 January 2024

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2024

I. Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

1. The 52nd meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 17-19 January 2024, in Vrachati, Greece. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads/Directors of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.

2. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, opened the meeting at 09:30 a.m. (CET) on 17 January 2024. She welcomed the participants, with special welcoming remarks for the newly appointed Directors of Plan Bleu and SPA/RAC and referred to the recent developments and progress of the period since the previous ECP meeting. She pointed out the key milestones and timelines for the operationalization of the Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget 2024-2025 adopted by COP 23 (Decision IG.26/14) and stressed the importance of MAP support to Contracting Parties for strengthened implementation of the Barcelona Convention and Protocols and COP decisions, in line with the Portoroz Ministerial Declaration, calling for enhanced efforts from decision to action.

3. The Associate Administrative Officer should share with ECP the ToRs of the ECP.

4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report.

II. Agenda item 2. Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

5. All the MAP Components presented in a *Tour de Table* their key priorities for the biennium 2024-2025 in line with the first draft of the Planning and Priorities Table that was prepared as draft for the ECP meeting. Main elements are summarized below:

- **PAP/RAC:** The PAP/RAC Director ad interim, Ms Zeljka Skaricic, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium as follows: One national CAMP (Israel) is expected to be finalized, and two new national CAMPS (Malta and Türkiye) to be launched. All relevant Components are expected to contribute to these CAMP. Funds are available for the feasibility studies of the new CAMPS, but additional resources will be needed, should their implementation be sought within the biennium. Following adoption of the MSP Decision by COP 23, the Working Group will be established (its composition to be defined in line with the mandate provided in the COP Decision), while two Contracting Parties (Albania and Tunisia) are planned to be supported in their MSP studies. PAP/RAC will prepare a 2-page document on the state of art of MSP in the region to be circulated with ECP by end of February 2024, for ECP inputs and nomination of one person per Component to be involved. The legal study on transboundary EIA/SEA is drafted by the legal expert and a regional meeting to review the document will be held in Athens, Greece in early March (tbc) possibly back to back with the Steering Committee for the Bilateral Agreement with MASE. Documents will be sent to the Coordinator for review before the meeting. All Components are welcome to contribute to the Med Coast Days in September of each year.
- **REMPEC:** The new Head of REMPEC, Mr. Ivan Sammut, presented the priorities of the Center for the biennium, as follows: Entry into force of the MED SOx ECA set for 2025 is a priority and extended support needs to be provided to CPs to ratify Annex VI of MARPOL. Work on NOx ECA will be launched as well. Implementation of the existing Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) and preparation of revised Action Plan will be undertaken in the biennium. Enhanced efforts are needed for the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Pollution from Ships adopted by COP 22, especially for the preparation of NAPs. Work is planned in Egypt, Lebanon and Libya under the ML MED Plus project. Gaps in capacities and

resources is still an issue for REMPEC. REMPEC should prepare and share with the MAP Coordinator detailed information per country not having ratified the MARPOL Annex VI, explaining the situation, what has been done, what are the needs, and the planned course of action and estimated costs, so that she can undertake informed follow-up actions with the respective countries. REMPEC should inform the MAP Coordinator on missing nominations from CPs on the NOx ECA Group.

- **MED POL:** The Head of MED POL, Ms. Olfat Hamdan, outlined the key priorities for MED POL in the biennium which include the preparation of updated LBS NAPs for all CPs, linked also with the updated NBB reporting in cooperation with INFO/RAC, to be completed before the MED POL FP meeting in May 2025. Under the desalination activity, two CPs will be supported on application of the adopted Guidelines. State of Play on marine renewable energies will be undertaken in cooperation with Plan Bleu under the coordination of the CU, in which process synergies will be also ensured with the MSP TF led by PAP/RAC. Communication should be ensured with OSPAR and HELCOM, for best practices or even TORs on similar work in their regions. Implementation IMAP on Pollution and Marine Litter will continue being supported. The MAP Coordinator will call for a meeting with MED POL and INFO/RAC on NBB in February.
- **CU/Governance Unit:** The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr Ilias Mavroeidis, updated the meeting on the planning of important governing bodies meetings. An important activity in this biennium is the revision of the BCRS reporting formats in light of new/updated instruments (Protocol Annexes and legally binding measures). The analysis should also address whether new elements should be introduced to align with the post 2020 SAP BIO. The MAP Coordinator will hold a meeting with the Reporting Task Force in February. The Governance Unit should present to the MAP Coordinator a paper on how to strengthen visibility of the work of the Compliance Committee. The possibility of making the BCRS reports, or parts thereof, publicly available should be raised for discussion with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties.
- **SPA/RAC:** The newly appointed Director of SPA/RAC, Mr. Elyes Mahmoud Hamza, outlined the key priorities of the Center for the biennium, comprising the following mandates: (i) Mid-Term Assessment of the Post-2020 SAP BIO; (ii) the Evaluation of 25 SPAMIs, which is very ambitious undertaking; (iii) The assessment and update of four Regional Plans on Species; (iv) the finalization of Ecological Objectives 4 and 6 under EcAp Roadmap/IMAP and the Common Indicator on Pelagic Habitats; (v) the celebration of the 40-year Anniversary of SPA/RAC. On EO4/EO6, SPA/RAC should contact GFCM; the letter should also address the assessment of the SPA/BD Protocol Annexes, mandated by COP 23 in cooperation between SPA/RAC and PB/RAC. Tunisia should be encouraged to take the lead in the organization of the 40-year Anniversary. The SPAMI twinning programme should be continued but is dependent on mobilization of external resources. SPA/RAC should prepare an analysis of the state of play of MPA and OECM to have a clear picture of where we stand in relation to the 30X30 target and what is needed to reach it.
- **SCP/RAC:** The Director of SCP/RAC – MedWaves, Mr. Jesus Maestro, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium focusing on policy support to the Contracting Parties for pollution prevention and circular economy, actions to strengthen prevention of marine litter, in particular plastics, promotion of green entrepreneurship and switchers support. The MARLICE conference is planned to be held in May. SCP/RAC will continue following the developments under the new Plastics Treaty. The financial gap after the SwuithMed end (more than one million EUR) is a crucial issue for SCP/RAC and ways to bridge this are being explored. There have been some difficulties on the revision of the MedProgramme Child Project executed by SCP/RAC to be discussed further bilaterally with the CU.

- **INFO/RAC:** The Director of INFO/RAC, Ms Lorenza Babbini, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium as follows: the upgrade of IMAP Infosystem with new functionalities and integration of assessment tools will advance in the current biennium. On the Knowledge Management Platform, the prototype has been released and the platform itself is expected to be finalized by the end 2025. The 2023 MED QSR will be published in the next months and a communication package will be prepared. INFO/RAC will celebrate its 20 years anniversary. An important role is given also in this biennium to INFO/RAC in relation to the communication activities of the system which would largely benefit from the mobilization of additional funds.
- **Plan Bleu:** the newly appointer Director of Plan Bleu, Mr. Robin Degron, presented the priorities of the Centre for the biennium comprising: (i) the finalization of the Med50 projections; (ii) the contribution under CU leadership to the MSSD revision; (iii) the undertaking of socioeconomic assessment studies (NOx ECA, SPA/BD Protocol Annexes etc.); (iv) promotion of sustainable Blue Economy, through economic instruments (taxation, harmful subsidies etc.); (v) promotion of sustainable tourism; (vi) One Health Approach. The meeting agreed on the importance to have a coordinated approach on the use of some common terms, especially on the Blue Economy. Plan Bleu should send to the MAP Coordinator the study on the harmful subsidies. The MAP Coordinator highlighted the need to have an updated population of the MSSD Dashboard.

6. On the issue of lack of nominations of Components FPs from some CPs raised by several RACs, the MAP Coordinator recalled that this communication should be from the MAP Coordinator to the MAP Focal Points. All RACs should inform asap the Coordinating Unit on missing FP nominations, or those that are felt to be not the most appropriate persons for the role. MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should prepare a letter for the MAP Coordinator to be addressed to the MAP FP, to ask them to nominate FPs for all Components, with respective rules and COP decisions attached.

7. In this biennium there is an opportunity for a holistic review and possible update of different NAPs in a more transversal perspective, in addition to the LBS NAP update foreseen in the POW, for example through the mid-term evaluation of the SAP BIO, the national action plans under the Strategy on Pollution from Ships, taking also into consideration the ICZM CRP matrix. Support is also available through the ECAP MED Plus and ML MED Plus projects for new/updated NAPs. The MAP Coordinator will call for a meeting with relevant Components in early February 2024, for project implementation.

8. The issue of registration of MAP Regional Activity Centres in key global meetings under the umbrella of UNEP/MAP was brought up again. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should make a proposal to the MAP Coordinator on how MAP can ensure its own registration at key global events of relevance, by mid-February.

9. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the work and commitment of two colleagues who recently left their Regional Activity Centres, namely Ms. Lina Tode from Plan Bleu and Ms. Magali Outters from SCP/RAC.

III. Agenda item 3. Major Processes and Mandates

10. Under this agenda item, relevant Components presented concept notes prepared and shared with ECP relating to process and milestones for the delivery of key mandates for the biennium 2024-2025, including on the methodology and expected outputs, followed by meeting discussion.

i. MSSD Revision

11. As introduced by Plan Bleu Director, the process for the evaluation of the MSSD has been launched and should proceed as quickly as possible, taking into consideration relevant recent commitments at regional and global levels, including at EU level (i.e. Green Deal).

12. Regarding the revised MSSD it is not expected to have a drastic change of the current Strategic Directions, but rather possibly some repositioning and slight updates. Climate Change is expected to have a more prominent role in the revised MSSD.

13. Flagship Initiatives will be an important part of the revised MSSD as well; there are already some proposals to be examined, and there is an intention to find a way to leave space for more/new Flagship Initiatives during the implementation phase of the MSSD. The implementation of the MSSD through economic and market instruments should be further promoted, and links should be explored with the work of OECD in this respect.

14. Currently, the number of MSSD indicators is very high, so an assessment should be undertaken to consider limiting their number in the revised MSSD, while coherence with SDG indicators should be further strengthened. A proposal on the draft battery of MSSD indicators should be prepared by September 2024.

15. The meeting of the extended Steering Committee of the MCSD should be held in end of February 2024, to review the concept note for the MSSD revision, as well as the recent developments of relevance, agree on the timeline of the revision and propose the meetings to be organized throughout the process. The ad hoc meeting of the MCSD on the revised MSSD should be held in January/February 2025.

16. Thematic Groups will be established as needed, and a further reflection on the themes should be undertaken under the leadership of the CU. During the meeting it was proposed to consider the establishment of a Thematic Group on Blue Economy and MSP (with substantive support from Plan Bleu and PAP/RAC), and one on Circular Economy, while a third group on Indicators and Monitoring could be also further reflected. In the Thematic Groups we should aim at attracting expertise that we don't have in MAP and in this respect the MAP Coordinator should liaise also with UNEP HQ.

17. MSSD revision should be a standard agenda item in all ECP meetings of the biennium. A discussion between the MAP Coordinator and the Plan Bleu Director on this matter will be held every two weeks.

ii. ECAP Roadmap Renewal /IMAP Upgrade, and QSR Summary for Policy Makers

18. With regards to the IMAP upgrade, there is already an evaluation and recommendation of the 2023 MED QSR to be considered, so it is expected that the main focus of this exercise will include to further develop Candidate Indicators to become Common Indicators; remove one Common Indicator on coast that was proven to be problematic; develop Common Indicators for EO 4 and EO 6; review the offshore related indicators; assess the needs to introduce climate change, i.e. through indicators to measure impact of climate change, in consultation with MedECC as appropriate etc.

19. With regards to the ECAP Roadmap renewal, this will require the active involvement of the ECP, . Links with MSFD should be maintained so the developments on its revision will be closely followed up. The renewed EcAp Roadmap should put emphasis on strengthening of the IMAP reporting of monitoring data from the CPs. We should reflect on whether response/process indicators should be also introduced and how, with support mainly from Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC.

20. The first online EcAp Coordination Group meeting will be held in September/October 2024. All CORMONs should be held annually (remotely on the first year and physical on the second year).

iii. New/Updated Climate Change Adaptation Framework

21. This process will be led by the Coordinating Unit with involvement of all Components. The CU should circulate the 2016 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (RCCAF) among all Components, including the newly established RAC on Climate Change (CC/RAC), by early February 2024, giving one-month deadline to present their views on the updating of the document and the direction of the revision, including from the perspective of global developments. The draft decision should be submitted to the MAP Focal Points through the MCSD meeting. It should be further reflected whether it should be also presented as Information Document to MAP Components/Thematic Focal Points meetings.

iv. New/Updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

22. The REMPEC Head presented this Concept Note for the updating of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP) and pointed out the important gaps in the implementation of the current MOAP and the low level of ratifications of the Offshore Protocol by the CPs. He stressed the need for additional financial resources to undertake the planned activities of this biennium, including the implementation of assigned activities from the current MOAP, the organisation of OFOG meeting and the updating of the MOAP.

23. During the meeting it was highlighted that although the OFOG will continue reviewing the Offshore Protocol Annexes, as part of its mandate, there is no amendment foreseen in the PoW for this biennium. An internal group of REMPEC, MED POL, CU and possible SPA/RAC should be formed for an initial internal analysis of the existing Offshore Action Plan, and a consultancy may be mobilized to support the analysis, and drafting of the updated MOAP taking into consideration new developments, including the new EU Directive on Offshore, the WWF study on the matter, new technologies etc. After the ECP meeting, REMPEC Head should write to the OFOG to inform them about the process and timeline for the updating of the MOAP, expected to be reviewed by the OFOG Meeting in April ahead of the REMPEC Focal Points meeting.

v. Independent Mapping Exercise as per Decision IG.26/12 on the CC/RAC

24. This process will be led by the CU, with support from an independent expert, preferably from outside the region/ MAP system. The CU will prepare ToR for a consultant to be shared with MAP Components. ECP is welcome to recommend potential candidates.

vi. Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components”

25. The CU explained the process to be followed for this important exercise. The meeting went through the Common Operational Principles of the MAP Components and agreed that the CU should prepare a questionnaire for MAP Components’ response, with the aim to assess the level of coherence of each Component with these. The meeting highlighted that there is no common understanding on some parts of the principles and clarification should be sought under the coordination of the CU.

vii. Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation

26. SPA/RAC presented the main elements and timeline of the Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation. The meeting pointed out that this is not just an assessment, but should be seen as an opportunity to identify gaps and needs at regional but also national level, for the achievement of SAP BIO targets and the important goal of 30X30, as well as areas where interventions from MAP are needed, and this would also support the work on updated NAPs/PoM. For information at national level, a questionnaire should be prepared by SPA/RAC and circulated among the CPs.

viii. Any Other Major COP Decision Mandate

27. It was agreed that the ECP should maintain the spirit of provision of constructive feedback among its members and for critical matters, each Component should contact the ECP with request for inputs, as appropriate, with a short deadline.

28. MED POL and SCP/RAC should prepare a joint paper on the new Plastic Treat, including a state of play, opportunities for MAP role etc. to be sent to the MAP Coordinator by 15 February 2024.

29. The two Components should also review the Regional Plans and recent amendments of the Annexes to assess whether there are elements to be further considered for new legally binding measures. A paper on this should be prepared and shared with the Coordinator by end of April 2024.

30. The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should consider what issues discussed by the meeting should be brought to the attention of the next Bureau meeting, under the agenda item on specific issues.

IV. Agenda item 4. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation (focus on UNEA, Our Ocean Conference (Greece 2024), 50th Anniversary of Regional Seas Programme etc.)

31. The MAP Coordinator updated the meeting on important events in the upcoming period where UNEP/MAP can have a role.

32. Regarding the 9th OOC, MAP should submit proposals for side events (possible topics on the Med+50, the 2023 MED QSR, MedProgramme results, circular economy, MSP etc.). The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues should circulate the email on the side events and keep the ECP updated on MAP participation.

33. At UNEA 6 there are two side events that MAP can contribute, i.e. a side event organized by France and Costa Rica and a side event organized by the Regional Seas Programme. More information and requests for inputs will be shared shortly with the ECP.

V. Agenda item 5. Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2024-2025

34. The meeting defined the dates of MAP Components' Focal Points meetings. It agreed that further organisation of the calendar would be useful, with three separate tables: (i) institutional MAP meetings derived from the PoW, including separate sub-tables on national activities and on communication related activities (Days, Awards etc.); (ii) meetings under projects executed by MAP; (iii) external project meetings.

35. The meeting agreed that the dates of the meetings of 2024 for the first and second list of the above paragraph should be defined by early February. For CU/MED POL both the dates and venues should be fixed by that deadline. The dates for the 2025 events should be fixed by September 2024.

VI. Agenda item 6. Discussion on Future Activities including Possible Financing from MASE

36. INFO/RAC Director should inform the MAP Coordinator about the expected priorities of the Italian G7 presidency.

37. The MAP Coordinator will bring to the attention of MASE potential POW activities that could benefit from a renewed Bilateral Cooperation Agreement for 2024-2025, including among others, the

updating of the RCCAF, MSP and transboundary EIA/SEA work, new CAMPs, SPAMI twinning, SOx ECA/NOx ECA, Knowledge Management Platform, links between circular economy and climate change, etc.

VII. Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 53rd ECP Meeting

38. The next ECP Meeting should be held in Athens, Greece, on 18-19 April 2024 (1,5 days).

VIII. Agenda item 8. Any Other Matters

39. Under this Agenda Item INFO/RAC displayed a video on the use of the Knowledge Management Platform prototype, which was welcomed by the ECP meeting.

Annex I
List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL	Ms. Olfat Hamdan Head of MED POL Tel: +30 210 727 3106 Email: olfat.hamdan@un.org
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)	Ms. Lorenza Babbini Director Tel: +3906 5007 2277 Email: lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)	Mr. Robin Degron Director Tel: + +33 (0)6 71 63 78 33 Email: rdegron@planbleu.org
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	Ms. Zeljka Skaricic Director Tel: + 385 21 340 475 Email: zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org Mr. Marko Prem Deputy Director Tel: +385 2134 0471 Email: marko.prem@paprac.org
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)	Mr. Ivan Sammut Head of Office Tel: + 356 21 337 296/7/8 Email: isammut@rempec.org
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	Mr. Elyes Hamza Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: director@rac-spa.org
MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP	Mr. Jesús Maestro Director Tel: +34 677 38 99 46 Email: jesus.maestro@gencat.cat Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales Coordinator of Operations Tel: +34 93 567 33 00 Email: matiasibanez@gencat.cat

COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION	
	Ms. Tatjana Hema Coordinator Tel: +30 210 727 3101 Email: tatjana.hema@un.org Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis Programme Management Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3132 Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org Mr. Stavros Antoniadis Associate Administrative Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3140 Email: stavros.antoniadis@un.org
OBSERVERS	
	Mr. Khalil Attia Former Director of SPA/RAC Email: khalil.attia1959@gmail.com

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

Under this agenda item, all the Components will present their key priorities for the biennium 2024-2025 in line with the first draft of the Planning and Priorities Table to be presented by the Secretariat. Discussion will be also held on the implementation of the Bilateral Agreement with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France in support of the PoW 2024-2025 activities.

Agenda item 3 Major Processes and Mandates

Under this agenda item, all Components will be invited to present their milestones for the delivery of the below key mandates, as appropriate, including on the methodology and expected outputs

- a) MSSD Revision
- b) ECAP Roadmap Renewal /IMAP Upgrade, and QSR Summary for Policy Makers
- c) New/Updated Climate Change Adaptation Framework
- d) New/Updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan
- e) Independent Mapping Exercise as per Decision IG.26/12 on the CC/RAC
- f) Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components”
- g) Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation
- h) Any Other Major COP Decision Mandate

Agenda item 4 Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation (*focus on UNEA, Our Ocean Conference (Greece 2024), 50th Anniversary of Regional Seas Programme etc.*)

Agenda item 5 Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2024-2025

Agenda item 6 Discussion on Future Activities including Possible Financing from MASE

Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 53rd ECP Meeting

Agenda item 8 Any Other Matters

Provisional Timetable

17 January 2024	
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10:00 – 13:00	Agenda item 2. Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 17:30	Agenda item 3. Major Processes and Mandates a) MSSD Revision b) ECAP Roadmap Renewal /IMAP Upgrade, and QSR Summary for Policy Makers c) New/Updated Climate Change Adaptation Framework d) New/Updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan
18 January 2024	
09:30 – 12:30	Agenda item 3. Major Processes and Mandates e) Independent Mapping Exercise as per Decision IG.26/12 on the CC/RAC f) Internal Evaluation of Coherence of the MAP System to the “Common Operational Principles for MAP Components” g) Post-2020 SAPBIO Mid-Term Evaluation h) Any Other Major COP Decision Mandate
12:30 – 13:00	Agenda item 4. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Agenda item 4. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP – Coordinated Participation <i>(cont.)</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Agenda item 5. Calendar of Meetings and Main Events for 2024-2025
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda item 6. Discussion on Future Activities including Possible Financing from MASE
16:45 – 17:30	Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 53 rd ECP Meeting Agenda item 8. Any Other Matters
19 January 2024	
09:00 – 11:00	Wrap up of the ECP Meeting Bilateral Meetings with RAC Directors/Heads



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UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

23 April 2024
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53rd Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 15 April 2024

Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2024

Provisional Agenda

I. Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

1. The 53rd meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 15 and 19 April 2024, in Athens, Greece. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads/Directors of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Administrative Officer. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, opened the meeting at 09:30 a.m. (CET) on 15 April 2024. She welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments and progress of the period since the previous ECP meeting. She pointed out the key milestones and timelines for the disbursement of the funds under the Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget 2024-2025 adopted by COP 23 (Decision IG.26/14).
3. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report.

II. Agenda item 2. Follow-up to the 95th Bureau Meeting

4. Under this agenda item, the MAP Coordinator provided a briefing to the Components on the discussions and main issues addressed by the 95th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, being the first Bureau Meeting of the 2024-2025 biennium.
5. The Coordinator met with the Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, Mr. Jose Novak, and discussed among others on a potential joint mission to Brussels, as well as on the interest of Slovenia to lead the Working Group on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).
6. [The MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, will share the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Bureau Meeting to all MAP staff and ECP.](#)

III. Agenda item 3. Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 – Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions

7. The MAP Coordinator shared information on the implementation of key activities led by the Coordinating Unit, including on the dissemination of a letter inviting Contracting Parties to nominate experts for the group to work on the QSR Summary for Policy Makers.
8. She further stressed the need for all relevant Components to be actively engaged, follow up and provide technical support to Contracting Parties, when needed, in the submission of the national implementation reports through the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), while making sure that legal aspects are dealt with by the Secretariat.
9. [MED POL should prepare and present to the Coordinator a timeline for the necessary updates to the BCRS reporting format of pollution related instruments, following new regulatory developments at the COP 22 and COP 23.](#)
10. All Components were invited to give an overview of the PoW 2024-2025 implementation to date and highlight any particular difficulty or concern they may be facing. The implementation of the

PoW 2024-2025 is progressing smoothly with no major issues, while few concerns were raised and discussed as follows:

- MED POL raised an issue of delayed response from some countries relating to national activities. This has not yet caused any serious concern and MED POL team is following up with the concerned countries.
- REMPEC expressed a concern on the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI from the six countries that have not yet ratified it and pointed out that efforts from UNEP/MAP including at high policy level should be intensified, while the system should reflect on potential impacts of a possible non full ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, especially on the applicability of SOx ECA in light of its entry into force in 2025. [The Coordinator asked for a dedicated meeting with REMPEC on these issues related to SOx ECA.](#)
- INFO/RAC raised some concerns of an administrative nature, relating to the delays faced in recruitment of human resources, as well as on the need for expanded use of contractual services.

11. RACs pointed out difficulties faced due to the request for application of national rules, in cases that these are not fully aligned with UN rules, i.e. for travel organization, requirements, VAT application etc.

12. The Coordinator shared with ECP the advice received from the UNEP Headquarters on the travel issue highlighting that: (i) the overall cost per participant should not exceed the cost that the UN would incur; (ii) no business class tickets should be issued; (iii) if there is full board coverage, an additional 20% of the DSA should be provided to the participant.

13. The Coordinator highlighted the need for all RACs having residual funds from MASE to swiftly process their return upon receipt of letters from A/FMO, to allow their timely reactivation through new legal instruments following Agreement on their use with Italy.

14. RACs involved in the implementation of ECAP MED Plus asked for updates on the time of signature of Legal Instruments, and it was clarified that these are expected to be signed by end of May.

15. [The ECP asked the Secretariat to send in written, clarifications on the applicable rules and limitations for budget transfers and the process that should be followed for such requests.](#)

16. It was reminded that while the technical competencies of each RAC should be fully respected, when an important document is developed, especially if this considers policy recommendations, the drafts should be sent for feedback to the Coordinating Unit and the other Components with a reasonable deadline for inputs.

17. [Relevant Components, i.e. Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC should send to the MAP Coordinator the following documents:](#)

- [Study on harmful subsidies](#)
- [Guidelines on Nature-based Solutions](#)
- [Study on MPA and OECM in light of the 30X30 target](#)

IV. Agenda item 4. Update on Major Processes and Mandates

18. Under this agenda item, relevant Components presented some updates in relation to key mandates of the biennium, i.e. the ECAP Roadmap renewal, the updated framework on Climate

Change Adaptation, the mapping exercise on climate change in the MAP system, and the SAP BIO mid-term assessment.

V. Agenda item 5. MSSD Revision

19. The MSSD revision process was discussed in a stand-alone agenda item as agreed in previous ECP meeting.

20. The Coordinator informed the ECP of the expected discussions of the MCSD Steering Committee meeting to be held on 18-19 April 2024 in Athens, Greece, especially regarding the document 563/3 including proposals for the revised MSSD.

21. Plan Bleu informed the meeting that the Med+50 report will be ready from a technical point of view in May and will be published in September. The MAP Coordinator clarified that the Med+50 pathways would be important source of information for the MSSD revision process. She stressed the importance of reflecting on a **status quo scenario**, meaning what may be the impact and perspectives for the region in case that the existing legal, regulatory and policy framework is maintained as it stands, but it is fully implemented.

22. The meeting discussed on the establishment of MSSD thematic groups, recalling that we have already one group on MSP and sustainable Blue Economy mandated by COP. Other ideas to be considered include the themes of circular economy, ocean economy and sustainable finance, and climate change, while the group on indicators that was discussed in a previous meetings seems to not gain support.

23. The title of the flagship initiative for MSP could be **“Building Capacity on MSP and links with ICZM Protocol”**.

24. The Mediterranean Green Week should be used as an opportunity to collect ideas and views from various stakeholders and arrange discussions with relevant actors on the MSSD revision. [The MAP delegation should foresee 1-hour meetings every day after the end of the formal meeting agenda.](#)

25. [Plan Bleu should work with the Socio-Economic and Sustainable Development Officer, Ms. Patrizia Busolini to reflect again on the available budget for MSSD revision, including the voluntary contribution from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, and present a revised proposal on the allocations to cover the needs of the process.](#)

VI. Agenda item 6. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP

26. The ECP members discussed about the coordination of the MAP delegation team to the 9th Our Ocean Conference, while they were informed of the Coordinator's schedule and discussed the sessions and side events in which each Component would be involved.

27. The meeting further discussed the UNEP/MAP participation in the Med Green Week organized by UfM in Istanbul, Türkiye, in May 2024. The Coordinating Unit will be represented by the MAP Coordinator, and the Socio-Economic and Sustainable Development Officer.

28. [The MAP Associate Administrative Officer, Mr. Stavros Antoniadis will collect the names of the RAC staff that will participate and send the full list of MAP delegation to UfM.](#)

29. [The Front Office Assistant should share with ECP the documents of the meeting.](#)

VII. Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 54th ECP Meeting

30. It was agreed that the 54th ECP Meeting will be held in Split, Croatia in mid-September 2024.

31. The MAP Associate Administrative Officer should send out a doodle for ECP members to indicate their availability on that period.

VIII. Agenda item 8. Any Other Matters

32. No other matters were raised.

33. The meeting was closed on 19th April 2024, at 14.30 Athens time.

Annex I
List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL	Ms. Olfat Hamdan Head of MED POL Tel: +30 210 727 3106 Email: olfat.hamdan@un.org
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)	Ms. Lorenza Babbini Director Tel: +3906 5007 2277 Email: lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org Mr. Arthur Pasquale Deputy Director Tel: +39 06 5007 2227 Email: arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)	Mr. Robin Degron Director Tel: + +33 (0)6 71 63 78 33 Email: rdegron@planbleu.org
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	Ms. Zeljka Skaricic Director Tel: + 385 21 340 475 Email: zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org Mr. Marko Prem Deputy Director Tel: +385 2134 0471 Email: marko.prem@paprac.org
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)	Mr. Ivan Sammut Head of Office Tel: + 356 21 337 296/7/8 Email: isammut@rempec.org
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	Mr. Elyes Hamza Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: director@rac-spa.org
MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP	Mr. Jesús Maestro Director Tel: +34 677 38 99 46 Email: jesus.maestro@gencat.cat

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CC/RAC)	Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales Coordinator of Operations Tel: +34 93 567 33 00 Email: matiasibanez@gencat.cat Mr. Mustafa Baskara Director Tel: + 90 554 476 6653 Email: baskara@dehukam.org
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COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION	
	Ms. Tatjana Hema Coordinator Tel: +30 210 727 3101 Email: tatjana.hema@un.org Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis Programme Management Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3132 Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org Mr. Stavros Antoniadis Associate Administrative Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3140 Email: stavros.antoniadis@un.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

Agenda item 2 Follow-up to the 95th Bureau Meeting

Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will brief all Components on the discussions and main issues addressed by the 95th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, being the first Bureau Meeting of the 2024-2025 biennium.

Agenda item 3 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 – Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions

Under this agenda item, all the Components will present the status of implementation of their activities under the POW 2024-2025, including any experienced or anticipated difficulties and mitigation actions.

Agenda item 4 Update on Major Processes and Mandates

Under this agenda item, all Components will be invited to present any key issues in relation to key mandates of the biennium as discussed in previous ECP meeting.

Agenda item 5 MSSD Revision

As agreed during the 52nd Meeting of the ECP, the MSSD revision process will be a stand-alone agenda item in all ECP meetings of the biennium for discussion by MAP Components.

Agenda item 6 Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP

Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 54th ECP Meeting

Agenda item 8 Any Other Matters

Provisional Timetable

15 April 2024	
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10:00 – 10:45	Agenda item 2. Follow-up to the 95 th Bureau Meeting
10:45 - 13:00	Agenda item 3. Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 – Possible Issues at Stake and Solutions
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Agenda item 4. Update on Major Processes and Mandates
16:00 – 16:45	Agenda item 5. MSSD Revision
16:45 – 17:15	Agenda item 6. Global and Regional Processes of Relevance to MAP
17:15 – 18:00	Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 54 th ECP Meeting Agenda item 8. Any Other Matters
19 April 2024 (tentative)	
14:30 – 16:30	<i>Since all ECP Members will be in Athens during this week for their participation in the 9th Our Ocean Conference and the MCSD Steering Committee meeting, the ECP meeting may be continued and concluded on 19th April afternoon, if needed.</i>



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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

24 September 2024
Original: English

54th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Split, Croatia, 17-19 September 2024

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2024

1. The 54th meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held between 17 and 19 September 2024, in Split, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads/Directors of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Finance and Budget Officer. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report.
3. The meeting agreed on the following action points:
 1. On the PoW programming paper: CU will circulate the paper next week (week starting 23/9) to ECP for feedback by 5 October.
 2. On the 2023 MED QSR publication: CU to verify the process for obtaining ISBN from UNEP Headquarters. INFO/RAC and CU to design an online event on the MED QSR. CU to consider organising an event with Embassies in Greece.
 3. HCAs of RACs: A Section in the report on Specific Issues for Bureau to be prepared by CU by 19/10, based on the outcome of the discussions at ECP54.
 4. A Table on taxes imposed by national legislation affecting PoW implementation to be finalised by 5 October. To this end, PAP/RAC to prepare a template and share with ECP asap.
 5. CU to share Memo from UNEP Headquarters on use of maps with ECP by end of September.
 6. Plan Bleu/RAC to prepare by mid-October at the latest, a 2-3 pages concept note for submission at the 12 November extended MCSD SC (approach to indicators: 28+3, adjusting existing list as above; approach to have restricted list of indicators for communication purposes).
 7. Plan Bleu/RAC also to provide by mid-October the rationale of the 3 new proposed indicators (definition, baseline, possible targets, current basis of data for population, methodology for measurement).
 8. CU shared on 18/9 the MSSD implementation evaluation report. ECP to provide feedback by Wednesday 24/9, avoiding general comments and focusing on providing sources of information for evidence.
 9. ECP, despite the good work done so far, has not yet finalized task given in June 2024 to propose concrete changes in the MSSD text. Work was done on the spot and will continue. Deadline for inputs by 10 October. This proposal to be discussed by the 3 thematic WGs established.
 10. ECP found session on budget/finance during ECP 54 very useful and asked CU to consider periodical update on these matters to the ECP.
 11. ECP expressed its gratitude for the work of Stavros Antoniadis and his contribution to the effective delivery of their meetings and mandate, wishing him full success in his new responsibilities at the CITES Convention Secretariat.
 12. ECP expressed their gratitude for the contribution of the former Director of PAP/RAC, Ms. Zeljka Skaricic, and wished the new Director of PAP-RAC, Ms Daria Povh Skugor, every success.
 13. ECP thanked PAP/RAC and its team for the hospitality and meeting arrangements.
 14. It was agreed to decide the next ECP meeting at a later stage considering the following options: 1. Rome at INFO/RAC premises, in January 2025; 2. Istanbul, back to back with the ad hoc MCSD meeting, in February 2025. The ECP considered that its second meeting for 2025 (to conclude the substantive preparation of 2026-7 PoW) may take place in March-April in Greece outside Athens (lower DSA), considering the non-availability of MAP premises.

Annex I
List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL	Ms. Olfat Hamdan Head of MED POL Tel: +30 210 727 3106 Email: olfat.hamdan@un.org
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)	Ms. Lorenza Babbini Director Tel: +3906 5007 2277 Email: lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org Mr. Arthur Pasquale Deputy Director Tel: +39 06 5007 2227 Email: arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (Plan Bleu/RAC)	Mr. Robin Degron Director Tel: +33 06 71 63 78 33 Email: rdegron@planbleu.org Mr Antoine Lafitte Director of the Observatory and relations with UNEP/MAP Tel :+33 06 45 48 41 94 Email: alafitte@planbleu.org
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	Ms. Daria Povh Skugor Director Email: daria.povh@paprac.org Mr. Marko Prem Deputy Director Tel: +385 2134 0471 Email: marko.prem@paprac.org
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	Mr. Elyes Hamza Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: director@rac-spa.org
MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP	Mr. Jesús Maestro Director Tel: +34 677 38 99 46 Email: jesus.maestro@gencat.cat Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales Coordinator of Operations Tel: +34 93 567 33 00 Email: matiasibanez@gencat.cat

COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION	
	Ms. Tatjana Hema Coordinator Tel: +30 210 727 3101 Email: tatjana.hema@un.org Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis Programme Management Officer-Governance Tel: +30 210 727 3132 Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org Ms. Rachel Kagiri Associate Finance and Budget Officer Email: rachel.kagiri@un.org Mr. Ray Purcell MAP Consultant/Regional Expert Email: rpurcell@mokoro.co.uk

Annex II

Agenda

Agenda

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

- (a) Tour de Table on status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions*
- (b) Implementation of activities supported by MASE reactivated funds*
- (c) Planning of renewed French voluntary contribution*
- (d) Externally funded projects' implementation*
- (e) Planned launch of PoW and Budget 2026-2027 preparation*

Agenda item 3 Update on Major Processes and Mandates

Under this agenda item, all Components will be invited to present any key issues in relation to key mandates of the biennium.

Agenda item 4 Update on the internal assessment of coherence of the MAP system to the provisions of the Common Operational Principles for MAP Components

Agenda item 5 MAP visibility in Global Processes in 2024

Agenda item 6 MSSD Evaluation and Revision

As agreed during the 52nd Meeting of the ECP, the MSSD revision process is a stand-alone agenda item in all ECP meetings of the biennium for discussion by MAP Components. In the current meeting, MSSD revision process will be a half-day session.

Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 55th ECP Meeting

Agenda item 8 Any Other Matters

- a. Preparations for the 96th Bureau meeting

Timetable

17 September 2024	
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10.00 – 13.00	Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 <i>(a) Tour de Table on status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions</i>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.30 – 17.30	Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 <i>(b) Implementation of activities supported by MASE reactivated funds</i> <i>(c) Planning of renewed French voluntary contribution</i> <i>(d) Externally funded projects' implementation</i> <i>(e) Planned launch of PoW and Budget 2026-2027 preparation</i>
18 September 2024	
09:30 – 11.00	Agenda item 3 Update on Major Processes and Mandates
11.00 – 13.00	Agenda item 4 Update on the internal assessment of coherence of the MAP system to the provisions of the Common Operational Principles for MAP Components
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14.30 – 15.30	Agenda item 4 Update on the internal assessment of coherence of the MAP system to the provisions of the Common Operational Principles for MAP Components <i>(cont.)</i>
15.30 – 16.30	Agenda item 5 MAP visibility in Global Processes in 2024
16.30 – 17.30	Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 55 th ECP Meeting Agenda item 8 Any Other Matters a. Preparations for the 96 th Bureau meeting
19 September 2024 (morning session)	
09.30 – 13.00	Agenda item 6 MSSD Evaluation and Revision



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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

28 January 2025
Original: English

55th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Rome, Italy, 21-23 January 2025

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2025

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Convening of the Meeting

1. Through [Decision IG 17/5: Governance Paper](#), the 15th 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 (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008) decided to approve the Governance Paper that established the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), chaired by the Secretariat and made up of the Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Components to enhance collaboration and coordination across the MAP system.
2. The Executive Coordination Panel formalizes the meetings of the Regional Activity Centers' (RAC) Directors and is mandated to meet regularly, four times a year, and submit a summary of its discussions to the Bureau and to MAP Focal Points for information and for approval where relevant.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

3. The 55th meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held from 21 to 23 January 2025, in Rome, Italy on the premises of the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC), hosted by the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA).
4. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema and attended by the Heads/Directors of MAP Components, the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues and the MAP Associate Programme Management Officer. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
5. The Coordinator opened the meeting at 14:30 (CET) on 21 January 2025. She welcomed the participants and referred to the recent developments and progress of the period since the previous ECP meeting. She presented the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report and proposed to merge Agenda items 2 and 3 with each MAP component providing a comprehensive presentation covering both agenda items including specific information on financial reporting and receipt of payments.
6. The Coordinator indicated in her introduction that the Priority Planning Document should be ready with all MAP Component's inputs in time for the documents deadline of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points Meeting that is to be held from 16 to 19 September 2025 in Athens, Greece.
7. The UNEP/MAP Associate Programme Management Officer is to share the Priority Planning Document with all MAP Components.
8. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, agreeing the proposed way forward to merge Agenda items 2 and 3.

Agenda item 2. Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 & Agenda item 3. Progress on Key Mandates

9. Under these merged agenda items, the Meeting agreed with the following *modus operandi*:
- a. Firstly, through a tour de table, the MAP Components reported on the following:
 - i. Status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions
 - ii. Implementation of activities supported by MASE reactivated funds
 - iii. Planning of renewed French voluntary contribution
 - iv. Externally funded projects' implementation
 - b. Secondly, the UNEP/MAP Governance Officer reported on:
 - i. Follow-up Actions from the 54th ECP Meeting
 - ii. Outcomes of the 96th Bureau Meeting
10. Plan Bleu reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner and highlighted completion of the MED 50 publication.
11. REMPEC reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner. REMPEC referred to the challenge to deliver the Technical and Feasibility Study to examine the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea mission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides (Med NOx ECA) under MARPOL Annex VI and its related roadmap due to late confirmation of available funds (this was only given in January 2025). The UNEP/MAP Coordinator informed REMPEC that all efforts should be made for the Technical and Feasibility Study and related roadmap to progress well by the UNEP/MAP Focal Points meeting. This is subject to the availability of the necessary funding and the progress registered at technical level. REMPEC also highlighted the need for a detailed discussion on the way forward concerning the implementation of the Offshore Protocol and the related updated Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan (MOAP). A discussion is needed concerning the allocation of the necessary resources both human and financial to ensure that the MOAP is implementable. REMPEC has prepared the necessary draft updated MOAP as requested under the PoW 2024-2025.
12. SPA/RAC reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner, however they pointed out that they have still not received their second instalment from the MTF.
13. SCP/RAC reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner, despite administrative challenges with their host agency that do not allow them to issue new contracts. Furthermore, they mentioned that they have yet to receive their second instalment from the MTF..
14. MED POL reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner.
15. INFO/RAC reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner and that they plan to present the new MAP Knowledge Management Platform at 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 24) to be held from 2 to 5 December 2025 in Cairo, Egypt. Furthermore, they remarked on that they have still not received their second instalment from the MTF.
16. PAP/RAC reported that their implementation of activities under POW 2024-2025 was ongoing in a timely manner.

17. RACs pointed out difficulties faced due to the request for application of national rules, in cases that these are not fully aligned with UN rules, i.e. for travel organization, requirements, VAT application etc.
18. The Coordinator shared with ECP the advice received from the UNEP Headquarters on the travel issue highlighting that for meetings organized using funds coming from the UN participants must given the UN DSA rates that they are entitled to and encouraged them to find solutions such as through travel agencies.
19. Finally, the RACs pointed out to the UNEP/MAP Coordinator that significant delays in receiving payments related to signed legal financial agreements with the Coordinating Unit were causing major difficulties in the implementation of projects, operations and in the payment of staff. Below is a summary of missing payments from each affected RAC.
 - a. REMPEC did not yet receive the funds from the French Voluntary Contribution
 - b. SPA/RAC did not received their second instalment from the MTF
 - c. SPC/RAC did not receive their second instalment from the MTF
 - d. INFO/RAC did not receive their second instalment from the MTF
 - e. PAP/RAC did not receive the first instalment of the EcAp MED PLUS project and the full first installment of the amended MASE project

Agenda item 4. Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027

20. The MAP Components presented the proposed activities under their respective responsibilities for the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027. PAP/RAC invited RACs to plan their involvement in the two CAMPs (Malta and Türkiye) to demonstrate the integrated approach and synergies of the MAP system on the ground.
21. The Coordinator acknowledged the activities presented by the MAP Components and emphasized that all MAP Components must finalize the specified columns in the POW Excel sheet by 31 January 2025. These columns include partners, SDGs, COP Mandate, and Comments. The Comments column should provide details on whether the activity is continuing into the new biennium (as it is not expected to be completed by 2025), is an updated activity, a newly proposed activity, or if any new deliverables are being introduced.
22. The MAP Components should send their respective proposed POW 2026-2027 to their respective focal points by 10 February 2025 with a two-week deadline for comments. The Coordinating Unit can support with drafting a narrative on the rationale and methodology for the preparation of the POW to be used in the email to the focal points.
23. The MAP Components are to send their respective optimized staffing structures for the implementation of the POW 2026-2027 to the Coordinating Unit if they have not already done so.
24. The UNEP/MAP Governance Officer is to share the questionnaires completed by the RACs on their operational and administrative situations to the Bureau.
25. The finalization of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027 is to start by the end of February 2025.

Agenda item 5. 2025 UN Ocean Conference

26. The Coordinator provided an update on the preparations for UNOC3, in particular on the Barcelona Convention anniversary celebration high-level side event that is planned for the 10th of June 2025 at 14:30 in the Blue Zone of the Conference.

27. The Meeting noted that RACs were accredited to participate as an observer at UNOC3 under the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.
28. The UNEP/MAP Associate Programme Management Officer is to inform and coordinate the RACs for any action that needs to be taken for registration or application for side events.
29. The Meeting agreed that an online meeting of the ECP dedicated to UNOC3 will be held in February to discuss participation, side event, and any voluntary actions that can be committed.

Agenda item 6. MSSD Update and Next Steps

30. The Coordinator reported on progress in the preparation of the MSSD and the preparations for the Ad Hoc Thematic Meeting of the MCSD on the MSSD Update that will be held on 12 and 13 February 2025 in Istanbul, Türkiye. She indicated that expertise from all RACs will be needed at the meeting and that SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu are to provide text/updates by 30 January 2025.

Agenda item 7. Date and Venue of the 56th ECP Meeting

31. It was agreed that the 56th Meeting of the ECP will be held in Barcelona, Spain from 27 to 28 March 2025.

Agenda item 8. Any Other Matters

32. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 9. Closure of the Meeting

33. The meeting was closed on 23 January 2025 at 17:30 (CET).

Annex I
List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL	Ms. Olfat Hamdan Head of MED POL Tel: +30 210 727 3106 Email: olfat.hamdan@un.org
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)	Ms. Lorenza Babbini Director Tel: +3906 5007 2277 Email: lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)	Mr. Robin Degron Director Tel: + +33 (0)6 71 63 78 33 Email: rdegron@planbleu.org Mr Antoine Lafitte Deputy director Tel : +33 (0) 6 45 48 41 94 Email: alafitte@planbleu.org
PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)	Ms. Daria Povh Skugor Director Tel: +385 21 340 478 Email: daria.povh@paprak.org
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)	Mr. Ivan Sammut Head of Office Tel: + 356 21 337 296/7/8 Email: isammut@rempec.org
SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA/RAC)	Mr. Elyes Hamza Director Tel: +216 7120 6649 Email: director@rac-spa.org Mr. Atef Ouerghi Programme Officer Tel: +216 71 206 649 Email: atef.ouerghi@spa-rac.org
MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP	Mr. Jesús Maestro Director Tel: +34 677 38 99 46 Email: jesus.maestro@gencat.cat Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales Coordinator of Operations Tel: +34 93 567 33 00 Email: matiasibanez@gencat.cat

COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION	
Ms. Tatjana Hema	Coordinator Tel: +30 210 727 3101 Email: tatjana.hema@un.org
Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis	Programme Management Officer Tel: +30 210 727 3132 Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org
Mr. Marc Attallah	Associate Programme Management Officer Tel: + 30 210 727 3105 Email: marc.attallah@un.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

- a. *Tour de Table on status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions*
- b. *Implementation of activities supported by MASE reactivated funds*
- c. *Planning of renewed French voluntary contribution*
- d. *Externally funded projects' implementation*
- e. *Follow-up Actions from the 54th ECP Meeting*
- f. *Outcomes of the 96th Bureau Meeting*

Agenda item 3 Progress on Key Mandates

Under this agenda item, all Components will be invited to present any key issues in relation to key mandates of the biennium.

Agenda item 4 Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027

- a. *Components' Presentations of their Proposed Activities*
- b. *Next Steps and Timeline*

Agenda item 5 2025 UN Ocean Conference

- a. *Update on Planned Events and Activities*
- b. *Next Steps and Timeline*

Agenda item 6 MSSD Update and Next Steps

Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 56th ECP Meeting

Agenda item 8 Any Other Matters

Agenda item 9 Closure of the Meeting

Timetable

21 January 2025 (afternoon session)	
14:30 – 15:00	Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10.00 – 17:30	Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 a. <i>Tour de Table on status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions</i>
22 January 2025	
09:30 – 13:00	Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 b. <i>Implementation of activities supported by MASE reactivated funds</i> c. <i>Planning of renewed French voluntary contribution</i> d. <i>Externally funded projects' implementation</i> e. <i>Follow-up Actions from the 54th ECP Meeting</i> f. <i>Outcomes of the 96th Bureau Meeting</i>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Agenda item 3 Progress on Key Mandates
16:00 – 17:30	Agenda item 4 Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027 a. <i>Components' Presentations of their Proposed Activities</i>
23 January 2025	
09:30 – 13:00	Agenda item 4 Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027 a. <i>Components' Presentations of their Proposed Activities</i> b. <i>Next Steps and Timeline</i>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda item 5 2025 UN Ocean Conference a. <i>Update on Planned Events and Activities</i> b. <i>Next Steps and Timeline</i>
15:30 – 16:30	Agenda item 6 MSSD Update and Next Steps
16:30 – 16:50	Agenda item 7 Date and Venue of the 56 th ECP Meeting
16:50 – 17:20	Agenda item 8 Any Other Matters
17:20 – 17:30	Agenda item 9 Closure of the Meeting



**UNITED
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UNEP/MED ECP.56/2



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

29 April 2025
Original: English

56th Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Barcelona, Spain, 27-28 March 2025

Report of the Meeting

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2025

REPORT OF THE MEETING

Agenda item 1. Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

1. The 56th meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 27 and 28 March 2025, in Barcelona, Spain, in the premises of the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC/MedWaves), hosted by the Waste Agency of Catalonia.
2. The meeting was chaired by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema and attended by the Directors of MAP Components, the Programme Management Officer responsible of the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), the Programme Management Officer-Governance (online) and the Programme Management Officer on Socio-Economic Activities/Sustainable Development. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
3. The Coordinator opened the meeting at 9:30 (CET) on 27 March. She presented the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as presented in Annex II to this report and proposed to focus the discussion on the Agenda item 3, Preparation of the UNEP/MAP 2026-2027 Programme of Work (PoW) and on the Agenda item 4, Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) Targets and Indicators, given the need to finalized relevant documents for consultation purposes with MAP Focal Points and with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) respectively. Therefore, the initially proposed Agenda item 2, Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025, was not treated.

Agenda item 3. Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027

4. The proposed 2026-2027 PoW was discussed and revised as needed be in all its details, and by modifications being made on the screen activity by activity, deliverable by deliverable.
5. It was agreed to finalize the remaining agreed refinements on the online version of the 2026-2027 PoW, by the end of the 56th ECP 2nd day, for the final check of the Coordinator.
6. The Secretariat will format the 2026-2027 PoW, prepare the related narrative based on the contribution received by the MAP Components, and share the two documents with the MAP Focal Points the first week of April for consultation.
7. The Coordinator informed that the budget of the 2026-2027 PoW will be discussed online. To this aim a specific meeting will be called the first half of May. The specific date will be defined shortly and in the meanwhile, the Coordinator asked to the MAP Components to initiate the reflection of budget definition, based on the agreed activities.
8. The following action points are agreed:

- Refinements on the online version of the 2026-2027 PoW are expected by the end of the 56th ECP 2nd day, as per discussion during the meeting. In particular, updates are expected by Plan Bleu in the way deliverables are formulated and by the Regional Activity Centre for Climate Change (CC/RAC) on the discussed activities and deliverables.
- MAP Components to initiate the reflection of budget definition, based on the agreed activities, in preparation of the meeting to be held online in May and specifically focusing on budget definition.

Agenda item 4 MSSD Targets and Indicators

9. As agreed during the ad hoc meeting of the MCSD held in Istanbul on 12-13 February 2025, the targets and indicators of the updated MSSD are expected to be proposed within the version of the MSSD to be submitted to the MCSD for comment by mid-April 2025.

10. The proposed targets and indicators were discussed and revised on the screen. The Coordinator thanked the RACs for the work done and for the well-coordinated work and proposal.

11. The new and updated Actions under MSSD Objective 5, Transition towards a green and blue economy, proposed by the MSSD revision Working Groups on Ocean Finance, led by Plan Bleu, and on Circular Economy, led by SCP/RAC/MedWaves, were shortly discussed in order to confirm complementarity, based on the indications of the ad hoc meeting of the MCSD.

12. The following action points are agreed:

- The Secretariat will finalize the document with few refinements and include the targets and indicators in the updated version of the MSSD which will be submitted to the MCSD for comment by mid-April.
- The Secretariat will embed the new and updated Actions under MSSD Objective 5, as proposed by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC/MedWaves.

Agenda item 5. COP 24 preparation

13. The first proposal of the list of the COP24 Decisions as well as the draft concept note of the Ministerial Session were presented by the MAP Programme Management Officer in charge of Governance. After a short discussion where the participants provided feedback on the two documents, it was agreed that updated versions will be created to reflect the feedback received. It was also agreed to share the revised draft concept note of the Ministerial Session with the ECP for further comments and to ask in parallel Egypt to provide their ideas on the Ministerial Session and to confirm Egypt's priorities, in particular with reference to sustainable blue economy.

14. The following action points are agreed:

- The Secretariat will update the proposal of the list of the COP24 Decisions as well as the draft concept note of the Ministerial Session as discussed and share them with the RACs.
- The Secretariat will share the draft concept note of the Ministerial Session with Egypt in order to confirm the priority topics.

Agenda item 6. Date and Venue of the 57th ECP Meeting

15. The 57th meeting will take place in late September or October, while an informal ECP will take place as per practice before the MAP Focal Points meeting. The Secretariat will share in a later stage a proposal of the next ECP meeting date and venue, considering the MAP list of meetings and trying to optimize missions to the extent possible.

Agenda item 7. Any Other Matters

16. The Coordinator informed about the main outcomes of the introductory meetings held on 26 March with the representatives of the Municipality of Barcelona and with the vice director of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area. The Municipality of Barcelona has been invited to apply to the 5th edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, and to reflect on a potential participation to the new MSSD flagship initiative on Network of Zero Net Cities. The idea of the Municipality to organize a potential event related to the 50th Anniversary of the Barcelona Convention was welcomed. No details nor dates have been defined yet by the Municipality.

17. The Barcelona Metropolitan Area was quite positive on the presented opportunity to participate to the new MSSD flagship initiative on Network of Zero Net Cities as well as on the possibility to organize, in cooperation with UNEP/MAP, a regional event for Mediterranean Municipalities and promoting awareness raising and exchange of best practices on sustainable coastal cities. The Coordinator thanked SCP/RAC/MedWaves colleagues for the availability in joining the two meetings.

18. In relation to the accreditation of RACs (as MAP) to the UNOC3, the Coordinator informed that confirmation is expected by the organizers. The Secretariat follows this up as priority and will update RACs accordingly.

19. The following action point is agreed:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- by 11 April, RACs to share with the Coordinator the projection of the administrative costs of a business as usual scenario and of an optimal scenario and taking into account the RACs proposed organigrams. |
|--|

Agenda item 7. Closure of the Meeting

20. The meeting was closed on 28 March 2025 at 15:30 (CET).

Annex I
List of Participants

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL

MED POL

Ms. Olfat Hamdan
Head of MED POL
Tel: +30 210 727 3106
Email: olfat.hamdan@un.org

**INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (INFO/RAC)**

Ms. Lorenza Babbini
Director
Tel: +3906 5007 2277
Email: lorenza.babbini@info-rac.org

Mr. Arthur Pasquale
Deputy Director
Email: arthur.pasquale@isprambiente.it

**PLAN BLEU REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (PB/RAC)**

Mr. Robin Degron
Director
Tel: + +33 (0)6 71 63 78 33
Email: rdegron@planbleu.org

Mr Antoine Lafitte
Deputy director
Tel : +33 (0) 6 45 48 41 94
Email: alafitte@planbleu.org (ON LINE)

**PRIORITY ACTIONS
PROGRAMME REGIONAL
ACTIVITY CENTRE (PAP/RAC)**

Ms. Daria Povh Skugor
Director
Tel: +385 21 340 478
Email: daria.povh@paprac.org

Ms. Marina Markovic
Senior Programme Officer
marina.markovic@paprac.org (ON LINE)

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

Mr. Ivan Sammut
Head of Office
Tel: + 356 21 337 296/7/8
Email: isammut@rempec.org

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
(SPA/RAC)**

Mr. Elyes Hamza
Director
Tel: +216 7120 6649
Email: director@rac-spa.org

Mr. Atef Ouerghi
Programme Officer
Tel: +216 71 206 649
Email: atef.ouerghi@spa-rac.org (ON LINE)

**MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE
FOR SCP**

Mr. Jesús Maestro
Director
Tel: +34 677 38 99 46
Email: jesus.maestro@gencat.cat

Mr. Matías Ibáñez Sales
Coordinator of Operations
Tel: +34 93 567 33 00
Email: matiasibanez@gencat.cat

**COORDINATING UNIT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - SECRETARIAT TO
THE BARCELONA CONVENTION**

Ms. Tatjana Hema

Coordinator
Tel: +30 210 727 3101
Email: tatjana.hema@un.org

Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis

Programme Management Officer
Tel: +30 210 727 3132
Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org (ON LINE)

Ms. Patrizia Busolini

Programme Management Officer
Email: patrizia.busolini@un.org

Annex II
Agenda

Agenda

Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator

Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025

- (a) Tour de Table on status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions*
- (b) Follow-up Actions from the 55th ECP Meeting*

Agenda item 3 Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027

- (a) Components' Presentations of the final updated version their Activities, taking into consideration comments from relevant FPs*
- (b) Initial Considerations on Budget*
- (c) Next Steps and Timeline*

Agenda item 4 MSSD Targets and Indicators

- (a) Discussion on updated MSSD Targets and Indicators*
- (b) Next Steps and Timeline*

Agenda item 5 COP 24 preparation

- (c) Initial discussion on COP24 Decisions and Ministerial Session Theme*

Agenda item 6 Date and Venue of the 57th ECP Meeting

Agenda item 7 Any Other Matters

Agenda item 8 Closure of the Meeting

Provisional Timetable

27 March 2025	
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda item 1 Opening of the Meeting, Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work, Short Briefing by the Coordinator
10.00 – 13.00	Agenda item 2 Implementation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 <i>(a) Tour de Table on status of implementation of POW 2024-2025 activities, focusing on issues at stake and solutions</i> <i>(b) Follow-up Actions from the 55th ECP Meeting</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14.30 – 17.30	Agenda item 3 Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027 <i>(a) Components' Presentations of the final updated version their Activities, taking into consideration comments from relevant FPs</i> <i>(b) Initial Considerations on Budget</i> <i>(c) Next Steps and Timeline</i>
28 March 2025	
09.30 – 10.30	Agenda item 3 Preparation of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2026-2027 (<i>Continuation</i>) <i>(a) Components' Presentations of the final updated version their Activities, taking into consideration comments from relevant FPs</i> <i>(b) Initial Considerations on Budget</i> <i>(c) Next Steps and Timeline</i>
10.30– 13.00	Agenda item 4 MSSD Targets and Indicators <i>(a) Discussion on updated MSSD Targets and Indicators</i> <i>(b) Next Steps and Timeline</i>
13:00 – 14:30	14:30 – 15:00
14.30 – 16:00	Agenda item 4 MSSD Targets and Indicators (<i>Continuation</i>) <i>(a) Discussion on updated MSSD Targets and Indicators</i> <i>(b) Next Steps and Timeline</i>
16:00 – 16:50	Agenda item 5 COP 24 preparation <i>(a) Initial discussion on COP24 Decisions and Ministerial Session Theme</i>
16:50 – 17:00	Agenda item 6 Date and Venue of the 57 th ECP Meeting
17:00 – 17:20	Agenda item 7 Any Other Matters
17:20 – 17:30	Agenda item 8 Closure of the Meeting