



United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/10
14 April 1995

Original: ENGLISH

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting
Parties to the Convention for the Protection
of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution
and its Protocols

Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995

BARCELONA RESOLUTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

Preface

In light of the discussion that took place during the Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Paris, 30-31 January 1995), the Secretariat prepared a draft Barcelona Declaration/Resolution on Environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean (document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.89/7) for the consideration of the Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee (Athens, 3-8 April 1995).

The Joint Meeting thoroughly reviewed the document and agreed that the text should constitute a Resolution rather than a Declaration.

It was also agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a new text taking into account the suggestions made during the meeting, for submission to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (Barcelona, 9-10 June 1995), through the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995).

The Ministers in charge of the Environment in the Mediterranean countries representing the Governments and the member of the European Commission in charge of the Environment, having met in Barcelona, Spain, on 10 June 1995, within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan:

1. **Recalling** that the Mediterranean Action Plan was approved at Barcelona in 1975 by the governments of the Mediterranean States and the European Community to monitor and protect the Mediterranean marine environment and ensure the integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the basin on the basis of a multilateral cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme;
2. **Recalling** the adoption of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols in 1976 and following years;
3. **Recognising** the important contribution of the Mediterranean Action Plan, MED POL, and Regional Activity Centres, as well as the cooperating international organisations, to protection of the marine environment and promotion and establishment of an environmental legal system and environmental institutional structure at the regional and national levels in the Mediterranean basin;
4. **Taking into account** the results of the successive meetings in Genoa (1985), Nicosia (1990), Cairo (1992), Casablanca (1993) and recognising the results of the Tunis Ministerial Conference (1994), the importance of its declaration and resolutions for the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean taking into account the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21;
5. **Conscious of** the differences in socio-economic development still existing between the Mediterranean coastal States;
6. **Concerned by** the continued pressures on the marine and coastal areas and their ecosystems, due to the process of urbanisation, population growth and economic development which has resulted in degradation of human and nature resources in the Mediterranean, as clearly indicated by the Blue Plan scenarios;
7. **Recognising** the progress achieved since the adoption of the Genoa Declaration on the Second Mediterranean Decade (1985), while noting that the state of the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea requires greatly intensified action;

8. **Expressing their satisfaction** for being able to adopt the amendments to the Barcelona Convention, which substantially extend its field of application and provides principles with which to meet the challenge of sustainable development;
9. **Stressing** the importance of the adoption of the amendments to the Dumping protocol in accordance with relevant international conventions which will ensure an improved protection of the Mediterranean Sea;
10. **Stressing also the importance** of the adoption of the new Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean with a view to ensuring the conservation and better management of biodiversity, especially the endangered species and valuable natural sites;
11. **Recalling the importance of** the resolution adopted at the Tunis Conference on the use of land use tools with a view to ensuring the conservation of nature and natural sites of the Mediterranean coastal areas;
12. **Reconfirming** their commitment to the protection, individually and collectively, of the Mediterranean environment through understanding, dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among the peoples of the region;
13. **Confirming** their commitment to promote sustainable development when formulating and implementing national and regional environment and development policies, bearing in mind the Rio and Tunis Declarations;
14. **Adopt** the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II as contained in Annex I to this Resolution which should aim to achieve the following objectives;
 - integrate the environment in economic, social, cultural and other development, as well as land use policies;
 - ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources, bearing in mind Agenda MED 21;
 - conserve nature and protect species as well as sites and landscapes of ecological or cultural value;
 - prevent pollution of the Mediterranean Sea and of its coastal areas;
 - establish national enforcement and control mechanisms which would follow up the implementation of Convention, its related protocols and the adopted protection measures;

- strengthen cooperation with relevant international governmental organisations and specialised agencies at all stages of development and implementation of the specific activities;
 - enhance the support and involvement of international, regional and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the public;
15. **Commit** themselves to the full implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and to this end adopt the Priority Field of Activities for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005) contained in Annex II to this Resolution;
 16. **Decide** that within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) should be set up, and start work during the first quarter of 1996.
 17. **Entrust** the Coordinating Unit with the task of concluding the process of preparation of the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean resulting from the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and on the amendments of the Land-Based Sources Protocol, and request that the Executive Director of UNEP convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to adopt these protocols by March 1996;
 18. **Commit themselves** to undertake all necessary measures to incorporate and integrate the conservation of biodiversity as an objective in economic development, land, and natural resource planning policies, and to reinforce as a matter of urgency all field action pursuant to the conservation of threatened species, habitats, and sites of ecological value;
 19. **[Agree** to the reduction [by the year 2005] of discharges and emissions which could reach the marine environment, of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate, in particular the organohalogens, to levels that are not harmful to man or nature, with a view to their gradual elimination [by the year 2005]; to this end, to implement substantial reductions of such discharges and emissions, and if necessary, to supplement the reduction measures with programmes aiming at banning the use of such substances; and instruct the Contracting Parties to review regularly the relevant timetables];
 20. **Commit themselves** to promote actively the transfer of clean technologies, in particular to developing countries, to encourage the establishment of clean production centres where required to research, promote, collect and disseminate information on clean production processes;

21. **Commit themselves** to demonstrating solidarity with populations in the Mediterranean basin suffering from the consequences of aggression and terrorism, by developing and implementing programmes to rehabilitate areas, environments and resources affected by destructive actions;
22. **Entrust** the Coordinating Unit with the task of mobilising additional funds and resources to carry out the activities envisaged by the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II and the Priority Field of Activities for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005);
23. **Request** evaluation of the results of implementation of the envisaged activities in view of the objectives defined within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II and tasks accorded by the Priority Field of Activities for the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Basin (1996-2005) which is subject to a mechanism for monitoring its implementation;
24. **Invite** all social and economic actors concerned, especially local communities, the scientific and educative community, companies and non-governmental organisations to associate themselves with the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II;
25. **Invite** international organisations and other financial and development programmes to associate themselves with the implementation of the new phase of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and to coordinate and harmonise their programmes relevant to the Mediterranean region with Mediterranean Action Plan.
26. **[Decide** to meet again at the Tenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties].