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ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

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Second Meeting of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter

Barcelona, Spain, 9-10 November 2017

Agenda item 9: Discussion on the Priorities and Need for Development of a Joint 2018 Work Plan

Proposed Initial Draft Joint Work Plan of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter for 2018

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Introduction

1. The Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean during its first meeting held in Athens, Greece on 6th September 2016 agreed on the common priorities (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.425/2/Corr.1), and on the main elements for a joint work plan to work upon (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.425.4). Document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.446/2 provides information and an update to the members of the platform on the progress achieved during the first year following the establishment of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean.

Proposed Themes for the 2018 Joint Work plan

2. The Secretariat has prepared an initial draft list of proposed themes/elements to be included in the 2018 joint work plan. The proposed themes/elements are reflected in the following list:

- Mapping of processes, initiatives, and mandates to allow higher effectiveness and better coordination of the collective responses to marine litter challenges;
- Identification, testing and dissemination of best practices among all actors to ensure most effective actions;
- Harmonization and standardization of methodologies, in particular for monitoring and assessment;
- Involvement of all stakeholders, including by promoting partnerships, noting the importance of the private sector;
- Education and awareness-raising;
- Effective management of waste, including prevention, in the frame of resource efficiency and circular economy;
- Progressive reduction of single-use plastics and microplastics, considering resource efficiency over the entire life cycle of the products, to avoid the leakage of plastics to the marine environment,;
- Assessment and reduction of marine litter impact on biodiversity, especially in marine protected areas;
- Assessment and reduction of the socio-economic impacts of marine litter, including on human health;
- Promoting MOOC on marine litter and the UN Environment #CleanSeas Campaign.

3. The members of the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter in the Mediterranean are expected to review the proposed elements, propose additional elements and adjustments, and agree on those to be included in the joint 2018 work plan, including a specific timetable and responsibilities of the members of the platform.