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Regional Meeting for the Implementation of Sustainable Desalination and Application of State of Art Technologies

Nicosia, Cyprus, 07-08 November 2024

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP PoW and Budget 2024-2025, as adopted in Decision IG.26/14 by COP 23 (Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023), the Secretariat (MED POL) is mandated to implement “Activity 1.2.3: Promote Sustainable Desalination Sector in the Mediterranean” and is therefore organizing the “Regional Meeting for the Implementation of Desalination Guidelines and Application of the State-of-Art Technologies”, scheduled for November 07-08, 2024, in Nicosia, Cyprus. This meeting is being organized with the kind contribution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, in close collaboration with the EU- Funded WATER-MINING Project entitled “Next generation water-smart management systems: large scale demonstrations for a circular economy and society”.

2. Following the endorsement of the “Updated Guidelines on Desalination Activities” (IG.23/13, COP20, Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2020) by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, MEDPOL developed the “Guidelines on Regional Standards for Discharges from Desalination Plants and Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Desalination Technologies in the Mediterranean” (UNEP/MED WG.563/13). These guidelines were subsequently approved by MED POL FPs (24-26 May 2023, Athens, Greece) with a recommendation for their implementation. In line with Decision IG.26/14 regarding the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025, the objectives of this regional meeting are to:

- Present key aspects of available state-of-the-art desalination technologies and their potential implementation, including circular desalination technologies aiming to recover water, minerals, and chemicals from seawater.
- Facilitate the exchange of information, innovative approaches, and lessons learned among participants, with a focus on sharing national experiences and practices; and
- Discuss possible policies for incorporating these technologies and standards into the NAP and NBB updates, considering the recommended discharge standards for desalination plants.

3. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The Meeting will be opened at 9:30 AM on Thursday, 07 November 2024, by Her Excellency Maria Panayiotou, the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus, alongside Ms. Tatjana Hema, the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention.

Agenda items 2: Organizational Matters

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.599/1</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.599/2</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.599/Inf.1</i>

a) Rules of Procedure

5. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) will apply mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting.

b) Election of Officers

6. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned in para. 2(a), the Meeting will elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur.

c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

7. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned in para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.599/1 and annotated in the present document UNEP/MED WG.599/2 will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the meeting including the timetable presented at the end of the present document.

d) Organization of Work

8. The discussions are planned to be held over one day and a half with two three-hour plenary sessions opening daily at 9:30 and closing at 17:30 as per the meeting timetable included at the end of the annotated agenda.

9. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for all sessions. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session. The meeting will be recorded for future reference.

10. It is envisaged to close the meeting at 12:00 on 8 November 2024 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

11. A site visit is planned for the second day of the meeting to the desalination plant operated by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, located in Vassilikos, Limassol.

Agenda item 3: Framework and Regional Standards on Sustainable Desalination

12. Under agenda item 3, the Secretariat will present the regional legal framework in line with the “Updated Guidelines on Desalination Activities (IG.23/13)” and the “Guidelines on Regional Standards for Discharge from Desalination Plants and Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Desalination Technologies in the Mediterranean (UNEP/MED WG.563/13)”, along with the regionally recommended emission limit values (ELVs).

13. The representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will be invited to further contribute to the discussions on the implementation of the legal framework and its integration in the NAPs Updates (2025-2035).

Agenda item 4: Desalination Experiences and Challenges of the Contracting Parties

14. Under this agenda item, representatives of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will be invited to present their current national situations, highlighting key achievements, challenges encountered, and future requirements to ensure sustainable and circular desalination. The meeting will also facilitate the discussions on lessons learned from the national implementation of both national and regional legal frameworks, focusing on how these experiences can inform future practices and policies for desalination across the region.

15. In this context, meeting participants are encouraged to propose key directions for the implementation of the Guidelines.

Agenda item 5: Recent Development and Latest Technologies for Sustainable Desalination

16. Under this agenda item, the following presentations will be made: (a) the representative of Delft University of Technology, Executive Project Coordinator of EU- Funded WATER-MINING project, will present “Circular Desalination: Recovery of water, high value minerals and chemicals from seawater, powered by waste heat and renewables. Results from Large-Scale Demonstration at the Lampedusa Island and Almeria” (b) the representative of SEALEAU B.V. will present “The Business Case of Circular Desalination in Lampedusa Island & Business Replication Activities within the Mediterranean Region” and (c) the representative of University of Palermo will present “SEArcularMINE: Integration of Desalination with Saltworks and Minerals Recovery Schemes for Sustainable Growth of Mediterranean Region.”

17. The meeting participants are expected to contribute to the discussions on the potential implementation of the Guidelines, considering the state of art technologies presented by the speakers.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

18. Under this Agenda item, the participants will be able to raise any other business related to the agenda items.

Agenda Item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

19. Under this Agenda item, the meeting will review, amend as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

20. The Chair will close the Meeting at 12:00 hours on 08 November 2024, after which a site visit to the desalination plant operated by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, located in Vassilikos, Limassol, will follow.

Proposed Timetable for the Meeting and Related Documents

Thursday 07 November 2024		Documents
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
09:45 – 10:00	Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters	<i>UNEP/MED WG.599/1</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.599/2</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.599/Inf.1</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Agenda Item 3: Framework and regional standards on sustainable desalination	
11:30 – 12:30	Agenda Item 4: Desalination experiences and challenges of the Contracting Parties)	
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 4: Desalination experiences and challenges of the Contracting parties (continuation)	
15:30 – 17:00	Agenda Item 5: Recent Development and Latest Technologies for Sustainable Desalination (a) Circular Desalination: Recovery of water, high value minerals and chemicals from seawater, powered by waste heat and renewables. Results from Large-Scale Demonstration at the Lampedusa Island and Almeria (b) The Business Case of Circular Desalination in Lampedusa Island & Business Replication Activities within the Mediterranean Region (c) SEArcularMINE: Integration of Desalination with Saltworks and Minerals Recovery Schemes for Sustainable Growth of Mediterranean Region	
17:00 – 17:30	Discussion – Q&A	
Friday 08 November 2024		
09:30 – 10:30	Agenda Item 6: Any other business	<i>UNEP/MED WG.599/3</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Agenda Item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations	
11:00 – 12:00	Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 17:30	Site visit to the desalination plant operated by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, located in Vassilikos, Limassol	