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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

18th 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

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Note on Methodology to Update the Contribution Table to the UN Scale of Assessment and practice from other Conventions

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A. Introduction

1. The purpose of this Information Document is to explain, as requested by the Contracting Parties at the MAP Focal Points Meeting held in September 2013, the policy and process of defining the scale of assessment for the contributions to the UN regular budget and how global Conventions administered by the UN update their contribution tables.

B. Basis of calculation of the UN Scale of Assessment of the UN regular budget

2. The scale of assessment for the contributions of Member States to the regular budget of the United Nations is decided every three years. The most recent resolution of the General Assembly is the A/RES/67/238 from its sixty-seventh session in 2012, which has set the scale of assessments for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

3. The fundamental principle behind the UN scale of assessment is that the expenses of the Organization shall be apportioned broadly between the Member States according to their capacity to pay which is based on the following criteria and it is periodically reviewed to reflect changes in the relative economic situations of the Member States.

4. By its resolution 67/238, the General Assembly decided that the scale of assessments for the period 2013–2015 shall be based on the following elements and criteria:
- (a) Estimates of gross national income;
 - (b) Average statistical base periods of three and six years;
 - (c) Conversion rates based on market exchange rates, except where that would cause excessive fluctuations and distortions in the income of some Member States, when price-adjusted rates of exchange or other appropriate conversion rates should be employed, taking due account of its resolution 46/221 B;
 - (d) The debt-burden approach employed in the scale of assessments for the period 2010–2012;
 - (e) A low per capita income adjustment of 80 per cent, with a threshold per capita income limit of the average per capita gross national income of all Member States for the statistical base periods;
 - (f) A minimum assessment rate of 0.001 per cent;
 - (g) A maximum assessment rate for the least developed countries of 0.01 per cent;
 - (h) A maximum assessment rate of 22 per cent, exceptionally applied to the USA.

C. Methodology used by other Conventions to update their contributions to the latest UN regular budget scale of assessment

5. The UN administered global Conventions regularly update the rate of assessment applied to their respective contribution tables to the scale of assessment of the UN regular budget as new rates are approved at the General Assembly. The new rates are applied for future years to be adopted at their respective Conferences of the Parties (CoP). The methodology to adjust the rate of assessment of their respective Conventions is to calculate the sum of individual UN assessment rate of the Contracting Parties of their respective Conventions. Then the individual rate is divided by this sum so as to derive the corresponding relative rate of assessment for the respective Conventions.

6. The UNEP administered Multilateral Environmental Conventions such as the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the Convention for Biological Diversity, follow the methodology described in paragraph C. 5. above to update their contribution tables.