Decision IG.27/13

Implementation of Updated National Action Plans (NAPs) containing Measures and Timetables for their Implementation

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 24th Meeting,

Welcoming the outcome document of the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) entitled "Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action", reaffirming the strong global commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources and reconfirming the need to strengthen the role of regional seas conventions and action plans,

Being inspired by the high-level celebration of the anniversary of the 50 years of the UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan and the 30 years of the Post-Rio Barcelona Convention, in UNOC-3, on 10 June 2025, as a strong sign of renewed commitment of the Contracting Parties, as reflected in their Ministerial Declaration,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/296 of July 2022, entitled "Our Ocean, Our future, Our responsibility",

Referring to the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 6/15, adopted in March 2024, on strengthening ocean efforts to address climate change, marine biodiversity loss, and pollution, which underscores the need to implement regional seas conventions, protocols, and action plans for the protection and conservation of the marine and coastal environment; Resolution 3/10, adopted in December 2017, on addressing water pollution in inland, coastal, and marine ecosystems to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, as well as the related Action Plan for its implementation, which focuses on supporting developing countries in freshwater monitoring, sustainable wastewater management; Resolution 5/8, adopted in March 2021, on establishing a science-policy panel, which laid the foundation for negotiations that resulted in the agreement reached in June 2025 on a new global science-policy panel to provide countries with independent, policy-relevant scientific advice on chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention; Resolution 5/14, adopted in March 2022, which set the basis for the process on developing an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution; and the Global Framework on Chemicals, adopted by the 5th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in December 2023, which provides political impetus for addressing the lifecycle of chemicals—including products and waste — and supports transitions to circular economies, together with the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, which assists countries in its implementation,

Complying with Articles 5 and 15 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) on elaboration and implementation of national and regional action plans and programmes containing measures and timetables for their implementation, and COP 22 Decision IG.25/5 (Antalya, Türkiye, December 2022) on Amendments to Annexes I, II and IV to the LBS Protocol; COP 19 Decision IG.22/8 (Athens, Greece, February 2016) on Implementation of Updated National Action Plans (NAPs), Containing Measures and Timetables for their Implementation; COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, December 2021) Decision IG.25/8 on the Regional Plans on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management and Decision IG.25/9 on Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, as well as COP 23 (Portorož, Slovenia, December 2023) Decision IG.26/6 on the Regional Plan on Agriculture Management, Decision IG.26/7 on the Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management, and Decision IG.26/8 on the Regional Plan on Urban Stormwater Management regarding new legally binding measures in various sector of activities; and COP 23 Decision IG.26/3 on the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean,

Considering the findings and policy recommendations of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report - particularly those identifying impacts of pressures from agriculture, industry, aquaculture, tourism, infrastructure, energy facilities, ports and maritime works and structures, as well as maritime activities, together with the emerging impacts of climate change - which together hinder progress towards achieving good environmental status of the Mediterranean marine environment,

Appreciating the efforts of the Contracting Parties in implementing the 2015–2025 NAPs and in undertaking their update through the preparation of the new 2026–2035 NAPs,

1. *Endorse* the 2026–2035 National Action Plans (NAPs) and Programmes of Measures (PoMs) as operational policy instruments essential for the effective implementation of the LBS Protocol and the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean;

2. *Urge* the Contracting Parties to implement the NAPs/PoMs, enhancing coherence with other national policies and strategies, and regularly report on their implementation pursuant to Article 13 of the LBS Protocol, while securing enabling conditions for their long-term sustainability within the broader context of global efforts to address the combined threats of the triple planetary crisis - climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and contribute to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for the period 2026-2035;

3. *Invite* the Contracting Parties to provide on voluntary basis the necessary financial and institutional support for the effective implementation of the NAPs/PoMs;

4. *Invite* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Contracting Parties, to engage with relevant international financing institutions, regional and international organizations, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders to identify and pursue opportunities for mobilizing financial resources in support of the implementation of the updated NAPs/PoMs;

5. *Request* the Secretariat (MED POL) to conduct in 2030 a mid-term evaluation of NAPs/PoMs' implementation for submission to COP 27, based on indicators and the existing reporting framework, in close collaboration with the Contracting Parties, along with developing the actions to address the identified gaps for the remaining period of their implementation, as well as to assess the NAPs/PoMs' contribution to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional, sub-regional and national levels with a particular focus on SDG 14.