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Action Plan**  
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Convention

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**Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices  
(Organized back to back with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy)**

Seville, Spain, 17-18 May 2022

**Report of the Meeting**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2022

## **Table of Contents**

|                                                | <b>Pages</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Report of the Meeting                          | 1-5          |
| Annex I      List of Participants              |              |
| Annex II      Agenda of the Meeting            |              |
| Annex III      Conclusions and Recommendations |              |

## Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 adopted by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021), within the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED II project, and the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between UNEP/MAP and the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition (Mite); UNEP/MAP organized the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices on 17-18 May 2022 in Seville, Spain, back-to-back with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy.
2. The objectives of the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, were to:
  - Exchange information and knowledge on best practices around the Mediterranean on the implementation of the new measures included in the 2021 Regional Plan on marine litter Management in the Mediterranean Decision COP 22; and
  - Interconnect with MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy allowing participants to take stock of additional principles and actions, including for governance and circular economy and microplastics, implemented in other regions.

## Participation

3. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.
4. A number of UNEP/MAP partners attended the Meeting, including the following: European Topic Center – University of Malaga (ETC-UMA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Oceana, Plastics Europe, Plastic Busters MPA Project, Sustainable Development Solutions Network – Mediterranean (SSDN-MED), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
5. The UN Environment Programme /Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) Secretariat was represented by its Coordinating Unit, as well as the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC). The full list of participants is attached to the present report as Annex I.
6. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

## Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

7. The Meeting was opened by Ms Tatjana Hema, Coordinator of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention. The MAP Coordinator, after expressing her gratitude to the Spanish authorities and in particular to the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge and the Marine Litter Spanish Association (AEBAM) for the invitation to host the Meeting, stressed the that this meeting comes just right after the deliberation of UNEA 5.2. in March 2022, when the negotiators, have delivered the first step in this process by agreeing to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) that will forge a global agreement on plastic pollution, including a timeline till the end of 2024. The MAP Coordinator shared with the Meeting the important outcomes yielded from COP22 (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021), including the [updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean](#) and the [Antalya Ministerial Declaration](#). She stressed the fact that in the Mediterranean we have consolidated efforts against marine litter by implementing actions addressing the whole management cycle of marine litter, from monitoring and assessment to prevention and mitigation, as well as strengthening networking between and among coastal and pelagic MPAs in the Mediterranean. The said actions are well framed within the Barcelona Convention System as well as in the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean focusing on strengthened regional responses, supported by global political processes and voluntary initiatives, guidelines, standards and tools that have a strong potential of catalyzing actions at the national and regional level.

8. Mrs Marta Martínez-Gil Pardo de Vera, representing the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge of Spain, welcomed the Meeting participants, thanked the Secretariat for organizing the Meeting in conjunction with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy creating a tradition originating from back in 2019. She highlighted the fact that MARLICE 2022 is organized in link with the UN Decade for Ocean Science, she made reference to the Antalya Declaration adopted by COP 22 and stressed the importance of addressing marine plastic pollution in an integrated manner connecting both sea- and land-based sources.

## **Agenda items 2: Organizational Matters**

### **a) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting on IMAP Implementation: Best Practices, Gaps and Common Challenges**

9. 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 applied mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

### **b) Election of officers**

10. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a) for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting elected one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

|       |   |                                             |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------------|
| Chair | : | Mrs Marta Martínez-Gil Pardo de Vera, Spain |
| Vice- | : | Mr Mohammed Elbouch, Morocco;               |
| Vice- | : | Mr Bassam Sabbagh, Lebanon;                 |
| Vice- | : | Mrs Klodiana Marika, Albania;               |
| Rappo | : | Mrs Natasa Bratina, Slovenia.               |

### **c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda**

11. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.526/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.526/2/Rev.1, was reviewed and adopted without changes.

### **d) Organization of Work**

12. Discussions were held in plenary sessions and break-out groups in line with the provisional agenda. Simultaneous interpretation into English and French was provided during the Meeting. The Meeting addressed all items of the agenda during the two-day meeting (17-18 May 2022). On 18 May 2022, the Meeting conveyed jointly with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy (18-20 May 2022), organized by the Spanish Marine Litter Association (AEBAM) and the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

## **Agenda item 3: New Elements of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management**

13. The MAP Secretariat and its MED POL Programme presented a comprehensive overview of the Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol (Decision IG.25/9), as adopted by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22), held in Antalya, Turkey, on 7-10 December 2021.

14. Following the presentation delivered by MED POL, the floor was opened the Meeting participants and a discussion took place in line with the following questions:

- How do the new additions of the updated Regional Plan complement the governance framework for a litter-free Mediterranean?
- How do the legally binding measures of the updated Regional Plan and their timetable for implementation align with the specific countries' priorities?
- What are the main challenges that are foreseen and how could be possibly addressed?
- What kind of technical and financial support is further required?

15. The Meeting participants commented and stressed the relevance of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, and a number of Contracting Parties commented on the following aspects:

- Littering of the general population directly affects riverine inputs of marine litter;
- Changing littering behaviors is a key challenge;
- Environmental impact should be considered vis-à-vis the respective economical activities and management policies;
- Proposed solutions should address the entire life cycle of the (plastic) products;
- The updated Programmes of Measures (PoMs) already in place by several European Contracting Parties are fully aligned with the provisions of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean;
- Priority should be given on law enforcement, especially dealing with marine litter and waste management;
- Plastic consumption and production should be further reduced, coupled with increased effectiveness of the reduction and prevention measures;
- An increasing connection between monitoring and assessment, and the respective reduction and prevention measures is undergoing;
- Efforts should be further enhanced towards bridging the gap between regional and national (on-the-ground) implementation;
- Contracting Parties should increase their efforts and capacities towards integrating as many provisions as possible of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

16. The Meeting recommended to the Secretariat the following follow-up actions:

- To strengthen capacity building actions to compensate and overcome existing national limitations and constraints;
- To further update Appendix II "List of Chemical Additives of Concern Used in Plastic Production" of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean (Decision IG.25/9) by including the respective CAS numbers that would allow a better identification of the listed chemicals;
- To prepare a table, and distribute it to the countries for input, including information on the existing legislation, national action plans, projects and monitoring actions, in conformity with the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean;
- To further enhance and stimulate synergies between projects supporting and facilitating the provisions of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

17. The Meeting's final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

**Agenda item 4: Best Practices Addressing the New Elements of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**

- a) Plastics and Circular Economy;
- b) Microplastics;
- c) Riverine Marine Litter;
- d) Sea-based Sources of Marine Litter.

18. MED POL and SCP/RAC introduced documents UNEP/MED WG.526/3 and UNEP/MED WG.526/4 respectively, consisting of:

- a) (MED POL) A comprehensive overview of measures and instruments that could be potentially applied to prevent, control and manage marine litter generation from wastewater treatment plants, aquaculture activities, riverine inputs, and shipping; and
- b) (SCP/RAC) A number of policy recommendations to address marine litter in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to achieve Good Environmental Status based on the finding of concrete projects implemented in the region.

19. The analysis provided by MED POL focused on a series of measures that are available at regional and international level with the scope to further support the implementation of the specific provisions of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. The next steps and way forward were also discussed.

20. Further to the MAP Secretariat's presentations the Contacting Parties<sup>1</sup> attending the Meeting presented (in alphabetical order) their experience on addressing plastics and circular economy, microplastics, riverine inputs, shipping, as well as any other specific countries' priorities.

21. The Meeting embarked on a discussion and make recommendations as deemed them useful considering the existing best practices including under the previous and current UNEP/MAP executed projects (i.e., EU-funded and under the bilateral agreement with Italy) and on ways and means to maximize the effectiveness of related measures.

22. The Meeting's final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

**Agenda item 5: Opening Ceremony of the MARLICE 2022 Conference**

23. Under this agenda item, the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices convened with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy for its opening ceremony. All Meeting participants attended the opening ceremony.

**Agenda item 6: Connecting Seas – Regional Seas Conventions Alliance**

24. UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the participants of the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices participated to the session "Connecting Seas – Regional Seas Conventions Alliance".

25. During this session a number of Regional Seas Programmes and Conventions namely UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, OSPAR, HELCOM and Black Sea Commission, as well as the European Commission, participated in an open discussion on the work undertaken on plastic pollution prevention and marine litter based on the outcome of UNEA 5.2, and in particular in relation to the mandate for negotiating a global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including on the relevant way forward. UNEP/MAP will be represented at this panel by its Coordinator.

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<sup>1</sup> Dedicated presentations were delivered from: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.

26. This session provided an insight including detailed and comprehensive information on:

- The common vision or goal that could be shared to address plastic pollution at the global level;
- The different measures of relevance that could put in place by regions to effectively support the new agreement (in terms of scaling up or as a reference for other regions);
- The role of the regional seas in promoting and reporting progress;
- The contribution of regional monitoring and assessments to scientific and socioeconomic global assessments related to plastic pollution; and
- The support that could be provided from the Regional Seas on the development and implementation of a new global agreement.

27. An open discussion between the European Regional Seas and European Commission senior representatives took place and subsequently the floor was opened to questions from the meeting participants.

28. The Meeting's final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

**Agenda item 7:                      Session A: Governance and Circular Economy**  
**Session B: Citizen Science and Microplastics**

29. Under this agenda item, 2 different sessions were offered by UNEP/MAP and MARLICE 2022, and participants attended "Session A" or "Session B" in line with the respective registration provisions.

30. Session A "Governance and Circular Economy" focused in providing an insight on the transition towards a circular economy requiring scientific and technical knowledge together with the economic and governance support. SCP/RAC participated in this session by ensuring its moderation and making an intervention related to the Barcelona Convention framework.

31. The session gathered different stakeholders including public administrations aiming to examine initiatives in terms of coordination, funding opportunities, engagement with private businesses, and consumers' awareness, among others. The discussion on best practices, lessons learned and challenges having a focus on circular economy allowed for better insights on the way forward and strengthening the cooperation among stakeholders.

32. Session B "Citizen Science and Microplastics" focused on several aspects on microplastic monitoring currently being developed for different ecosystems and how citizen science can be actively involved in them.

**Agenda item 8:                      Conclusions and Recommendations**

33. The Meeting reviewed the draft Conclusions and Recommendations prepared by the Rapporteur and adopted them as slightly revised as presented in Annex III to the present report.

**Agenda item 9:                      Any Other Business**

34. No additional element was introduced this agenda item.

**Agenda item 10:                    Closure of the Meeting**

35. After expressing the usual courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 16:30 on Wednesday, 18 May 2022.

## **Annex I**

### **List of Participants**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES / REPRESENTANTS DES  
PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ALBANIA / ALBANIE</b>                                  | <p><b>Ms. Klodiana Marika</b><br/>Ministry of Tourism and Environment</p> <p><b>Ms. Ledjana Bojaxhi</b><br/>Ministry of Tourism and Environment</p>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>ALGERIA / ALGERIE</b>                                  | <p><b>Mme. Souad Boustila</b><br/>Chef de Bureau<br/>Ministère de l'Environnement</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA /<br/>BOSNIE ET HERZEGOVINE</b> | <p><b>Ms. Selma Osmanagic Klico</b><br/>Legal and Institutional Expert<br/>Hydro Engineering Institute</p> <p><b>Ms. Sanela Krdzalic</b><br/>Technical Associate<br/>Hydro Engineering Institute</p>                                                                                                             |
| <b>CROATIA / CROATIE</b>                                  | <p><b>Ms. Virna Milinov</b><br/>Senior Expert, Adviser<br/>Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>CYPRUS / CHYPRE</b>                                    | <p><b>Ms. Athena Papanastasiou</b><br/>Environment Officer<br/>Department of Environment, Ministry of Agricultural, Rural<br/>Development and Environment</p>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>EGYPT / EGYPTE</b>                                     | <p><b>Ms. Ghada Ahmed</b><br/>General Manager of Solid Waste &amp; Hazardous Substances and Waste<br/>Department, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA),</p> <p><b>Mr. Mohamed Tahooun</b><br/>Director of Lakes Administration<br/>Ministry of Environment<br/>Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency</p> |
| <b>EUROPEAN UNION / UNION<br/>EUROPEENNE</b>              | <p><b>Mr. Georg Hanke</b><br/>European Commission-Joint Research Centre</p> <p><b>Mr. Luis Francisco Ruiz Orejon</b><br/>European Commission-Joint Research Centre</p>                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>FRANCE /FRANCE</b>                                     | <p><b>Mme. Camille Lacroix</b><br/>Head of Aquatic Litter Monitoring and Studies Department, Cedre,<br/>Brest</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>ISRAEL / ISRAEL</b>                                    | <p><b>Mr. Frederic Arzoine</b><br/>Deputy Director<br/>Marine Environmental Protection Division<br/>Ministry of Environmental Protection</p>                                                                                                                                                                     |

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITALY /ITALIE</b>       | <p><b>Ms. Erika Magaletti</b><br/>Ispra, Rome</p> <p><b>Ms. Cecilia Silvestri</b><br/>Researcher, Ispra, Rome</p>                                                                                                        |
| <b>LEBANON / LIBAN</b>     | <p><b>Mr. Bassam Sabbagh</b><br/>Head of Urban Environment Service<br/>Ministry of Environment</p> <p><b>Ms. Jamila AL Hadi</b><br/>Environmetal Engineer, Ministry of environment</p>                                   |
| <b>MOROCCO / MAROC</b>     | <p><b>Mr. Mohammed EL Bouch</b><br/>Directeur, Département du Développement Durable</p> <p><b>Mr. Driss Nachite</b><br/>Professor, 2niversity of Abdelmalek Essaadi</p>                                                  |
| <b>SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE</b> | <p><b>Ms. Nataša Bratina</b><br/>Focal point MED POL Slovenia<br/>Waste Management Department, Ministry of the Environment and<br/>Spatial Planning, Ljubljana</p>                                                       |
| <b>SPAIN / ESPAGNE</b>     | <p><b>Ms. Marta Martinez-Gil Pardo DE Vera</b><br/>Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic<br/>Challenge, Madrid</p>                                                                                  |
| <b>TUNISIA / TUNISIE</b>   | <p><b>Mr. Yassine Marzougui</b><br/>Point Focal National MED POL<br/>Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement<br/>Mr. Nouredine Zaaboub, , National Institute of Marine Sciences and<br/>Technology, Sousse</p> |
| <b>TURKIYE / TURKIYE</b>   | <p><b>Ms. Bahar Özöğüt</b><br/>Expert,<br/>Ministry of Environment<br/>Urbanization and Climate Change</p>                                                                                                               |

**REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS/REPRESENTANTS DES  
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

|                                                           |                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR<br/>CONSERVATION OF NATURE</b> | <b>Ms. María Del Malr Otero</b><br><br><b>Ms. Mercedes Muñoz Cañas</b> |
| <b>OCEANA</b>                                             | <b>Ms. Pilar Marin</b><br>Senior Marine Scientist                      |
| <b>0UNION FOR THE<br/>MEDITERRANEAN</b>                   | <b>Ms. Adriana Salazar</b>                                             |

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - COORDINATING UNIT AND COMPONENTS  
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - UNITÉ DE COORDINATION ET  
COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

|                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UNEP/MAP COORDINATING UNIT<br/>PNUE/PAM UNITÉ DE COORDINATION</b>                    | <b>Mr. Tatjana Hema</b><br>Coordinator<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:tatjana.hema@un.org">tatjana.hema@un.org</a><br><br><b>Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis</b><br>Project Manager   Marine Litter Expert<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:christos.ioakeimidis@un.org">christos.ioakeimidis@un.org</a> |
| <b>MEDWAVES, THE UNEP/MAP REGIONAL<br/>ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SCP (FORMER<br/>SCP/RAC)</b> | <b>Ms. Magali Outters</b><br>Team Leader Policy Area<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:moutters@gencat.cat">moutters@gencat.cat</a><br><br><b>Mr Pedro Fernandez Bautista</b><br>Project manager<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:pfernandezb@gencat.cat">pfernandezb@gencat.cat</a>                 |

## **Annex II**

### **Agenda of the Meeting**

### **Provisional Agenda**

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational Matters:
- a) Election of Officers;
  - b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda;
  - c) Organization of Work.
- Agenda Item 3:** New Elements of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management
- Agenda Item 4:** Best Practices Addressing the New Elements of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean<sup>2</sup>:
- a) Plastics and Circular Economy;
  - b) Microplastics;
  - c) Riverine Marine Litter;
  - d) Sea-based Sources of Marine Litter.
- Agenda Item 5:** Opening Ceremony of the MARLICE 2022 Conference
- Agenda Item 6:** Connecting Seas – Regional Seas Conventions Alliance  
(*Open to all participants*)
- Agenda Item 7:** Session A: Governance and Circular Economy  
Session B: Citizen Science and Microplastics  
(*Sessions jointly organized with MARLICE 2022*)
- Agenda Item 8:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 9:** Any Other Business
- Agenda Item 10:** Closure of the Meeting

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<sup>2</sup> Presentations by UNEP/MAP, Countries and Partners

**Annex III**  
**Conclusions and Recommendations**

## Conclusions and Recommendations

On 17-18 May 2022, the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices was held in Seville, Spain. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat back-to-back with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy.

The Meeting was held in person with main objective to review the progress and keep up the high momentum created by COP22 (Antalya, Turkey, December 2021) with the adoption of the new MAP Mid-Term Strategy for 2022-2027 and the substantive revision of the regional plan on marine litter management in the Mediterranean, both containing major commitments to prevent and control marine litter and plastic pollution.

Further to its deliberations, the following conclusions were reached by the Meeting:

### Agenda item 3: New Elements of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management

1. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the update to the 2013 Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean with a view to supporting countries to effectively cope with marine litter challenges in the context of triple planetary crises (i.e., pollution, biodiversity and climate change), in particular relevant to the dimensions of prevention and upstream measures, circularity, plastics and microplastics, and integrated solutions across sectors.
2. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction with progress achieved in the implementation of a number of regulatory, monitoring, assessment and technical measures and encouraged the Contracting Parties to further enhance their efforts in the implementation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.
3. In this respect, the Meeting requested the Secretariat to consider ways and means for providing as appropriate technical and financial support to the Contracting Parties on a number of priority areas (i.e., capacity building monitoring and actions to minimize microplastics from wastewater treatment plants; prevention and reduction marine litter measures; marine litter removal actions to minimize potential impact to species and habitats and ensure their sound environmental management; extended producer responsibility implementation; waste separation at source; strengthening institutional setup; strengthening monitoring capacities in measuring the effectiveness of measures), as well as the need for more awareness and education.
4. The Meeting took note of the Secretariat's observation of the need to also update the reporting format for the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in order to incorporate the additional measures in the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), as well of the Secretariat's encouragement to the Contracting Parties to undertake the necessary analysis and assessment of the existing measures and to identify the necessary actions to comply with the commitments provided in the framework of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.
5. In this respect the Meeting expressed its satisfaction and congratulated those Contracting Parties which have already or are in the process of revising the respective Programmes of Measures (PoMs), creating the perfect momentum to consider the implementation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

**Agenda item 4: Best Practices Addressing the New Elements of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean**

- a) Plastics and Circular Economy;**
- b) Microplastics;**
- c) Riverine Marine Litter;**
- d) Sea-based Sources of Marine Litter.**

6. Following the presentation of working document “Overview of measures/instruments to prevent, control and manage marine litter generation from wastewater treatment plants, aquaculture activities, riverine inputs and shipping” (UNEP/MED WG.526/3), the Meeting took note with appreciation of the analysis and proposals for measures to effectively tackle the generation of marine litter from wastewater treatment plants, aquaculture, fisheries and rivers, which are currently subject to further developments in the region, considering also the related regional plans adopted in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol of UNEP/MAP in Antalya, Turkey in December 2021 (i.e., Regional Plans on Wastewater and Sludge Management) and the new ones to be developed during the current biennium (i.e., Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management).
7. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to capitalize on the information provided during the meeting in order to enrich the information already at Secretariat’s disposal to monitor and assess progress in the implementation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, subject to validation of the Contracting Parties. To this aim, the Meeting encouraged the Secretariat to benefit from the work carried out by JRC (under the implementation of the MSFD) and other organizations with regard to databases on marine litter measures implemented by the respective Contracting Parties.
8. The Meeting took note with appreciation of working document “Policy recommendations to address marine litter in MPAs to move towards Good Environmental Status in the Mediterranean” (UNEP/MED WG.526/4) and recommended its use as a tool for capacity building, peer-to-peer learning, as well as to prepare the said recommendations in a more visually appealing version in multiple Mediterranean languages (i.e., English, French and Arabic). In this respect the Meeting encouraged further strengthening the recommendations to consider the protection of Posidonia banquetts in Marine Protected Areas during beach marine litter removal actions.
9. The Meeting requested the Secretariat (MED POL and SCP/RAC) to use the information presented during the Meeting and to the extent possible promote the national achievements at the Mediterranean level and beyond.
10. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the contribution of the Partners (ETC-UMA, IUCN, Oceana, Plastics Europe, PlasticBusters, SSDN, UfM) to the deliberation of the Meeting and took note of their encouragement for the effective implementation of the Updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean by the Contracting Parties as well as of all relevant stakeholders as appropriate at regional, national and local levels.

**Agenda Item 5: Opening Ceremony of the MARLICE 2022 Conference**

11. The Meeting welcomed the organization of the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices back-to-back with the MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy in Seville, Spain in 18-20 May 2022, creating a tradition for exchanging views and best practices around the Mediterranean pertinent to the implementation of the updated Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

**Agenda Item 6: Connecting Seas – Regional Seas Conventions Alliance**

12. The Meeting appreciated UNEP/MAP involvement to MARLICE 2022 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy organized by the Marine Litter Spanish Association (AEBAM) and the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, and expressed full appreciation to the organizers for enabling an effective exchange among the European Regional Seas Conventions and possibly interaction during the development of the global legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, ensuring the contribution of the Regional Seas into the negotiation, future involvement in the implementation, as well as to use the global dimension to support the work carried out at regional level.