



ENGLISH



Meeting of MAP Focal Points
Athens (Greece), 21-24 September 2005

**DRAFT INPUT ON THE MSSD
FOR THE PORTOROZ DECLARATION**

DRAFT INPUT ON THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PORTOROZ DECLARATION

(to be included in the final declaration of the Contracting Parties Meeting in Slovenia)

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region in the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia, from 8 to 11 November 2005, in the framework of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP),

Recognizing the valuable work undertaken by the MAP Secretariat, the MCSD and the MAP components, in particular BP/RAC throughout the preparatory process of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;

Taking note with appreciation of the outcomes and proposals of the Tenth Meeting of the MCSD, Athens, Greece, 20-22 June 2005, in particular the finalization of the MSSD and the Athens Charter,

Reaffirming the necessity for achieving sustainable development at regional, national and local levels in line with the decisions taken in the Millennium Development Goals, the Mediterranean Declaration for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Catania Declaration,

Noting with satisfaction the recognition by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, through the Second Conference of the Ministers of Environment, Athens, July 2002, and the Seventh Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg, May 2005, of the importance of the MCSD and its MSSD for mainstreaming sustainable development throughout the Partnership,

Convinced that promoting sustainable development is a vital necessity to meet development challenges in the Mediterranean Region,

Convinced also that the elaboration and implementation of sustainable development strategies are necessary steps for promoting equity, shared prosperity and stability through valuing the Mediterranean assets, reducing disparities, changing unsustainable production and consumption patterns, ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and improving governance at all levels,

Acknowledging that the MCSD is an Advisory Body and a Forum for Dialogue of the Mediterranean Action Plan, and that the MSSD is a framework and non-binding strategy for environmental sustainability and shared prosperity,

Agree that,

1. The MSSD should seriously address the development of the Mediterranean Societies and the Mediterranean economy, the protection of the environment, the integration of environment and development objectives and actions, the poverty, disparities and inequalities challenges, the cultural diversity asset, the innovation and entrepreneurship stakes together with efficient governance and ethics, all contributing to peace, stability and shared prosperity in the Region;
2. The MSSD is a framework and non-binding strategy that defines key challenges, principles, steps and actions for guiding the promotion and implementation of

sustainable development at regional and national levels, as well as for rationalizing regional and international cooperation and promoting dynamic partnerships for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region;

3. The MSSD does not concern only MAP and the Contracting Parties but also all other actors and stakeholders from private sectors, civil society and other major groups as well as relevant regional and international institutions; it provides an excellent opportunity to make coordinated efforts and joint progress;
4. The MSSD is a flexible framework to allow for adaptation to major developments and integration of determinant emerging issues;
5. The implementation of sustainable development strategies requires serious policy and institutional reforms together with the promotion of a dynamic culture of change, in particular concerning the unsustainable production and consumption patterns;
6. The MSSD constitutes an essential contribution to a pro-active win-win-win scenario based on synergies, efficient management and cultural diversity for a co-developed eco-region and a shared destiny;
7. The implementation of sustainable development strategies requires the application of various principles, including access to basic needs to all citizens, access to information, multi-stakeholders participatory approach, precautionary and polluter/user pays principles as well as common, shared but differentiated responsibility;

Decide,

1. To adopt the MSSD and commit themselves to do their utmost to implement its objectives, orientations and proposed actions,
2. To prepare and/or update respective National Strategies for Sustainable Development, giving due consideration to the MSSD,
3. To integrate sustainable development principles in policies and laws, in particular through the adequate revision of legal frameworks and relevant policy reforms,
4. To mobilize and provide relevant adequate human, technical and financial means for the implementation of the MSSD and the NSSDs,
5. To demonstrate clearly their commitments to implement the MSSD through the identification and implementation of specific and relevant projects at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels,
6. To propose or actively participate in the elaboration and implementation of partnership initiatives that correspond to the objectives, orientations and proposed actions of the MSSD and respective NSSDs,
7. To promote an interactive consultation mechanism and awareness-raising campaigns to ensure larger ownership and stronger support from and implication by all concerned actors, in particular the private sector and the NGOs, in their implementation,
8. To evaluate progress in the implementation of the MSSD at the regional and national levels, using an adequate set of indicators, to revise as appropriate, if necessary in two

years, and to undertake an overall assessment and review of the MSSD in not more than six years,

9. To request the Partners, concerned Actors and Funding Agencies at regional, sub-regional and national levels to give due consideration to the MSSD objectives, orientations and proposed actions in their cooperation programmes and to actively contribute to the implementation of the MSSD and respective NSSDs.