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The 21st Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Corinth, Greece, 24-26 June 2025

**Agenda Item 3: Report by the Coordinator on Sustainable Development Activities for the period
June 2023 – May 2025**

Mediterranean Sustainability and SCP Dashboard

Note by the Secretariat

This document provide an overview of the progress made on the Mediterranean Sustainability and SCP Dashboards including the update of the Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators by MedWaves SCP/RAC, the production of indicator factsheets linked to the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the periodic monitoring to follow the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 by Plan Bleu, as well as the publication of a [dedicated frontpage to the Mediterranean Sea and Barcelona Convention](#) made available on the World Environment Situation Room (WESR).

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I. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Integration of SCP Indicators

1. Since 2021, Plan Bleu relies on MapX functionalities to display geospatial data and statistics from the sustainability dashboard (so called MSSD dashboard) to monitor over time and space the 28 indicators. Plan Bleu's ambition and perspective for the regional observatory in 2024-2025 are to regularly update the dashboard and to identify potential additional indicators with the regular support from the MCSD members.

2. The members of the Steering Committee acknowledged the progress done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and MedWaves-SCP/RAC) on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, including the revised list of indicators and an updated version of the online indicator analytical factsheets.

3. They reiterated the importance of building national capacities for data sharing and peer learning about the Dashboard Indicators.

4. Plan Bleu/RAC, explained that as part of the assessment of the 2016-2024 MSSD, in January 2024 a quantitative evaluation has been done to inform about the evolution and state of sustainable development at the regional scale. The work is based on the monitoring and assessment of the MSSD dashboard and its 28 indicators. [The report is available](#) on Plan Bleu's Observatory website. In addition, 10 core indicators provide a more in-depth analysis on some key issues with the objective to better communicate key figures at regional level.

5. With reference to the 10 core indicators on which Plan Bleu/RAC has focused a more detailed work, 7 are already part of the MSSD Dashboard, and 3 are new indicators which would support communication and outreach objectives to policy makers and broader stakeholders, by providing an easy path to grasp a picture of the main aspects, challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. In particular, the Mediterranean is affected by the highest raise of the temperature globally as well as the temperatures of the sea, which make the Mediterranean a hot spot for the climate change which can be considered as the priority challenge of the Mediterranean that requires not only adaptation measures, but also financial investments.

6. Plan Bleu/RAC highlighted that that MSSD Dashboard was validated in 2015, therefore a lot of work is required to update the indicators' values, as calculation methods, titles, availability of data and methodologies have much evolved since 2015. Accordingly, Plan Bleu/RAC has worked with the regional hub for the Mediterranean area of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN Mediterranean)¹ based in Siena, Italy. SDSN Mediterranean is the network for the 17 SDGs follow up at regional Mediterranean level, based on an extensive number of indicators which provide the same picture as the one provided by the MSSD Dashboard: sustainable development in the Mediterranean is not on an effective path. Despite the evolution of some indicators which is positive (increase of GDP per capita, increase of HDI, access to electricity, increase of ESD) mainly the environmental indicators show problematic trends (loss of biodiversity, constant raise of temperature, increase of pollution, decrease of water availability).⁴

7. The 25th MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2024) reached the following Conclusions and Recommendations regarding the Sustainability Dashboard:

- a) The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the work done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and MedWaves - SCP/RAC) during the period under reporting (June 2023 – March 2024) , including regular updates of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and other specific activities implemented in this framework.
- b) The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed with appreciation the work by Plan Bleu/RAC on the MSSD Dashboard evaluation and the concrete data presented on the MSSD core indicators. The MCSD Steering Committee took note of the proposals for possible new indicators, including measuring inequalities, on sustainable economic welfare, on health and air quality, on water scarcity and drought, on adaptation to climate change, on the marine and coastal environment,

¹ [SDSN Mediterranean – SDSN Mediterranean \(unisi.it\)](#)

and noted the importance of linking indicators with MSSD priorities. To this end, the Committee asked Plan Bleu/RAC to further elaborate proposals on possible new indicators.

8. In addition, the MCSD members recognized the usefulness of the 10 core Indicators that are linked and respond to the objectives, strategic directions, actions and flagship initiatives of the MSSD and allow to measure MSSD progress and achievements.

9. The MCSD members confirmed that indicators are a key tool to efficiently communicate the objectives and challenges the MSSD is tackling to the policy makers and civil society; to this extent Local Authorities are key actors to outreach civil society and concretely support implementation of actions at local level and further promote awareness raising on strengthening the systemic governance of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

10. Plan Bleu has continued working on the developed for the proposal of 10 core indicators which has been shared with the online Extended Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development of 12 November 2024 and shared with the Thematic Ad Hoc MCSD Meeting (12-13 February 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye) as detailed in UNEP/MED WG.625/Inf.5.

11. In the ensuing discussion of the Dashboard in the 20th Meeting of the MCSD, MCSD Members representing Contracting Parties highlighted the need for technical assistance to countries, e.g. methodology for data sharing and verification.

12. The 20th MCSD Meeting reached the following Conclusions:

- a) The 20th Meeting of the MCSD took note of and welcomed the work done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) for updating and populating the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.
- b) The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) and the MCSD Steering Committee were encouraged to continue working towards the optimal alignment and consistency of the dashboard with ongoing global processes on SDGs indicators and to ensure that all indicators are regularly measured and adequately communicated within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system and beyond.
- c) Reminding the living nature of the list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the need to keep it under review under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee and with the technical support of Plan Bleu/RAC as international work on SDG indicators progresses
- d) The MCSD Steering Committee members appreciate this opportunity to efficiently monitor progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean, including more extensive access to quality-ensured relevant data for the Contracting Parties and partners. They encourage the Secretariat to inform and consult the MCSD and its Steering Committee on those relevant perspectives.

13. MedWaves SCP/RAC continue to update the SCP indicators to reflect the above conclusions, recommendations, and interlinkages between human activities and environmental status within the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and strengthen the Dashboard on green, blue and circular economies-related indicators. All the information was gathered on the Regional Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development [website](#)² to facilitate access to information, including factsheets, publications, and thematic maps.

14. Plan Bleu/RAC produced the online indicator factsheets linked to the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the periodic monitoring to follow the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025. A [dedicated frontpage to the Mediterranean Sea and Barcelona Convention](#) is available on the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and a section is dedicated to the [MSSD Dashboard on WESR:Mediterranean](#). It compiles all information produced by Plan Bleu for the MSSD monitoring in an interactive way.

² <https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/>

15. In addition, progress on the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (2016–2027) is being measured using a set of SCP indicators that were developed during [SwitchMed](#) and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean at their COP20 in December 2017.

16. In this regard, it is worth noting that the European Commission has recently voted for legislation to restrict microplastics intentionally added to products, e.g. in cosmetics, paints, detergents, fertilisers, and artificial infill for synthetic turfs. The proposed EU-wide restriction covers intentionally added microplastics in multiple applications, including agriculture, horticulture, coatings, maintenance products, and medical and pharmaceutical applications. The measure will now be sent to the Council and the European Parliament for a scrutiny period of 3 months and is expected to be adopted and published in Q4 2023.