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**UNITED NATIONS
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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting of the MedProgramme Child Project 1.1

Athens, 5 March 2024

Conclusions and recommendations

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Conclusions and Recommendations of the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of Child Project 1.1 “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” (GEF ID 9684) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607)

On 5-6 March 2024, the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of Child Project 1.1 “Reducing Pollution from Harmful Chemicals and Wastes in Mediterranean Hotspots and Measuring Progress to Impacts” (GEF ID 9684) of the Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607) was held in Athens. The Meeting was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat/MedPCU.

Further to its deliberations, the SCM reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a. The SCM took note of work progress achieved to date by the Executing Partners under the three components (Chemical and Waste, International Waters and Monitoring and Evaluation) of the MedProgramme’s Child Project 1.1 and agreed on the importance of continued collaboration among the different partners for the efficient implementation of the activities.
- b. The SCM welcomed the appointment of the Midterm Review Consultant and committed to providing necessary information and data as required.
- c. The SCM agreed to hold an extraordinary Steering Committee Meeting in September 2024 further to the conclusion of the mid-term review with the aim to review the disposal contracts as well as the new POPs prevention pilots. The MedPCU is requested to propose the modality, agenda and date/venue of the meeting.
- d. With regards to disposal activities of PCB and Hg, the SCM:
 - i. Endorsed the decision for engaging UNOPS for procurement of Phase 2 disposal contracts of the PCB stocks in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, as well as Mercury and PCB in Tunisia. The SCM requested MedPCU to immediately initiate the procurement process.
 - ii. Confirmed the need to hire national consultants in participating countries to coordinate with governmental agencies and oversee/report on disposal activities. To this end, the MedPCU is requested to update the three budget line descriptions to stipulate “national/regional consultants” (currently listing “regional consultants” only).
 - iii. Confirmed that the final waste quantities to be included in the tender documentation may be updated flexibly pending confirmation of PCB stocks availability in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tunisia. The MedPCU was requested to confirm when the final tender documents will be submitted for the procurement process. Tunisia was requested to provide existing inventory data for potential 400 tonnes of PCB waste, no later than 20 March 2024.
- e. With regards to prevention activities of PCB and Hg, the SCM:
 - i. Requested the development of knowledge products on new POPs by MedWaves.
 - ii. Requested the Countries to engage MED POL and/or MedWaves to propose pilot projects for further consideration as part of the work undertaken by MedWaves. Proposal(s) to include workplan, required budget, and outcomes in terms of tonnes of POPs prevented, to be reviewed and decision taken in the September SCM.
- f. The SCM agreed with the proposal of MedPCU to support funding Small Scale Financing Agreements (SSFAs) for 9 GEF Countries in order to develop National Action Plans in accordance with Article 15 of the LBS Protocol. To this aim, the SCM took note that the NAPs

will address national transboundary priority issues and impacts which will be considered in the reformulation of a summary TDA report for the Mediterranean.

- g. The SCM reviewed the work plan of CP1.1 for the year 2024. The SCM approved planned activities subject to incorporating the above mentioned recommendations.
- h. The SCM took note of the budget forecast and expressed its concern on the high balance unspent by end of March 2025 (approximately USD 3 million) and endorsed the proposal to extend the project for one additional year (March 2026).
- i. Regarding the proposed budget revisions (depicted in document: UNEP/MED WG.580/3), the SCM:
 - i. agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat/MedPCU to reallocate a total of USD 185,000 from the three budget lines for the regional experts for POPs, Hg and capacity building to compensate for the technical work undertaken by the Programme Officer CW (P3) in 2022-2023.
 - ii. Agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat/MedPCU to reallocate a total of USD 387,155 from the Programme Officer CW (P3) PMC to the Finance Budget Officer and Finance Assistant of the MedPCU.
 - iii. Noted that the proposed budget revisions require further time for review. The SCM requested an additional one week to provide feedback and agreement to the remaining proposed budget revisions under CW¹ and IW,² with a silent approval procedure.
- j. The SCM confirmed that the Implementing Agency has the authority to approve in line with GEF and UNEP financial rules,³ the re-categorization of individual budget lines within the Umoja classes as proposed by the Executing Agency, countries and project partners, provided that there is no re-purposing in the total amount, substantive activities and component totals.
- k. The SCM requested the MedPCU to provide a detailed procurement plan for the year 2024 for their consideration with a silent approval procedure within 2 weeks of receipt.

¹ CW: USD 80,000 POPs inventories and lab analyses (contractual) to SSFA Montenegro (IP); USD 242,000 POPs inventories and lab analyses (contractual) to Phase 2 - POPs and mercury disposal/ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Tunisia (contractual); and USD 120,000 Mercury wastes removal/EIAs (contractual) to Assessment Montenegro (contractual).

² IW: USD 70,000 POPs Publications – TDA (Operational) to SSFAs with 9 countries for NAPs/PoM (IP); USD 180,000 Thematic assessments TDA (contractual) to SSFAs with 9 countries for NAPs/PoM (IP); and USD 30,000 Workshops and meetings (travel) to MED POL technical staff and regional consultants (travel).

³ GEF rules provides a limit of no more than 10%