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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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Fourth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil  
and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental  
Impact

Floriana, Malta, 23-24 May 2023

REMPEC/WG.55/1/1  
26 April 2023  
Original: English

**Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

**Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable**

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### **Note by the Secretariat**

This document provides brief information on the actions to be taken by the Meeting as well as a draft timetable for the Meeting. This timetable prepared by the Secretariat is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate.

## **Introduction**

1 The Fourth Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact, hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened in Floriana, Malta from 23 to 24 May 2023, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty-second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021) (UNEP/MED IG.25/27).

2 The Meeting, which is organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), is financed the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF).

3 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 Review and provide further guidance on the key outcomes that have been prepared or updated in the current biennium in relation to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
- .2 Review and approve for consideration by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 23):
  - .1 Offshore Protocol – IMAP Common Indicators;
  - .2 Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects; and
  - .3 Amendment of the Annexes to the Offshore Protocol.
- .3 Inform on the progress of the ratification of the Offshore Protocol and of the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan with its comprehensive plan of actions, looking for its long-term sustainable implementation;
- .4 Share best practices and lessons learnt among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and other relevant international organizations, MAP partners and the private sector regarding offshore activities.

4 The target audience for the Meeting are the Government officials responsible for ratification, implementation and enforcement Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol). Representative from each Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention that is a participating member of OFOG were invited as well as observer organizations/Mediterranean Action Plan partners.

5 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

## **Opening of the Meeting**

6 The Meeting will open on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 1700 hours.

## **Organisation of the Meeting**

### **Rules of Procedure**

7 The Rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the deliberations of this Meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

8 **The Meeting will be invited** to elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Rapporteur.

### **Working Languages**

9 The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation services will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in both official languages of the Centre, i.e. in English and in French. Information documents will be available in the original language they were submitted.

10 The Meeting may consider establishing working groups at the end of day 1 to address specific issues that remain unresolved during the plenary sessions.

## **Agenda Item 1                      Adoption of the Agenda**

11 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.55/1/Rev.1 and annotated in the present document, will be proposed for adoption by the Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on a timetable to carry out its work. A draft timetable is set out at **Annex** to the present document.

## **Agenda Item 2                      Offshore monitoring programme – IMAP Common indicators**

12 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the proposed IMAP Common indicators, as presented in document REMPEC/WG.55/2.

13 The Secretariat will refer to the following documents:

- .1 The proposed IMAP Common indicators to be monitored as part of the Offshore Protocol, as set out in the Annexes to document REMPEC/WG.55/2;
- .2 Guidance Factsheets to the respective Common Indicators proposed, as set out in the document REMPEC/WG.55/INF.3; and
- .3 Data Standards/Data Dictionaries (DS/DD) to the respective proposed Common Indicators, as set out in the document REMPEC/WG.55/INF.4.

14 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the proposed IMAP Common indicators to be monitored as part of the Offshore Protocol.

15 **The Meeting will be invited** to provide feedback with the view to having a list of IMAP Common indicators finalized and submitted to MAP Focal Points Meeting and for COP 23 consideration.

**Agenda Item 3**      **Draft Decommissioning guidelines**

16 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the drafted Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects.

17 The Secretariat will refer to the following documents:

- .1 the summary of the work of the Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on draft Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects, in document REMPEC/WG.55/3; and
- .2 the draft proposed Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects prepared by the Lead Country of the ICG with the compilation of the feedback and comments received as presented in document REMPEC/WG.55/INF.5.

18 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the proposed Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects.

19 **The Meeting will be invited** to take appropriate action for the future approval of the Guidelines on Regional offshore standards and guidelines on the removal (decommissioning) of installations and the related financial aspects.

**Agenda Item 4**      **Technical review of the Annexes to the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol**

20 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will the present the Recommendations for the Technical review of the Annexes I, II and III, to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (the Offshore Protocol).

21 The Secretariat will refer to the following documents:

- .1 the summary of the work of the Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on the Recommendations for the Technical review of the Annexes I, II and III, to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (the Offshore Protocol), and the compilation of the feedback and comments received therein, are contained in documents REMPEC/WG.55/4 and REMPEC/WG.55/INF.6 respectively.

22 Participants will be encouraged to present their views on the recommendations for the Technical review of the Annexes.

23 **The Meeting will be invited** to examine and comment on the recommendations to be submitted for consideration by the MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP 23.

**Agenda Item 5**      **Progress on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan**

24 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.55/5, on the Progress on the Implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

25 The Contracting Parties will be invited to update the Meeting on the progress achieved since the 3<sup>rd</sup> OFOG meeting held in 2021, highlighting achievements as well as challenges with regards to the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan.

**Agenda Item 6**                      **Status of Ratification of the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol**

26 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the updated Status of Ratification of the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol as introduced in document REMPEC/WG.55/6.

27 **The Meeting will be invited** to provide feedback and guidance to the Secretariat on the challenges to the ratification of the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol and proposals to promote its ratification.

**Agenda Item 7**                      **Technical cooperation and capacity building programme**

28 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present the updated Technical cooperation and capacity building programme as introduced in document REMPEC/WG.55/7.

29 **The Meeting will be invited** to provide feedback and guidance to the Secretariat on the next steps to be undertaken.

**Agenda Item 8**                      **Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Actions and PoW 2024-2025**

30 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present a reviewed comprehensive plan of actions, including the resource mobilization strategy as introduced in document REMPEC/WG.55/8.

31 **The Meeting is expected** to provide feedback and guidance to the Secretariat on the next steps to be undertaken in establishing a sustainable process for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol, and its alignment with the Programme of Work 2024-2025.

**Agenda Item 9**                      **Any Other Business**

32 Under this agenda item, the participants and the Secretariat will be able to raise any other business related to the subject of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 10**                      **Conclusions and recommendations**

33 Under this agenda item, **the Meeting will review, amend**, as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the meeting discussions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

34 The report of the Meeting will be prepared and circulated after the Meeting.

**Closure of the Meeting**

35 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Wednesday, 24 May 2023 at 1700 hours.

**Annex****Draft timetable**

<b>Day 1 – Tuesday, 23 May 2023</b>		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda
09:45 – 10:30	Agenda Item 2	Offshore Monitoring Programme – IMAP Common Indicators
10:30 – 11:00	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 3	Draft Decommissioning Guidelines
12:30 – 14:00	<b><i>Lunch break</i></b>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Draft Decommissioning Guidelines
15:00 – 15:30	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>	
15:30 – 16:15	Agenda Item 4	Technical review of the Annexes to the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol
16:15 – 17:00	Agenda Item 5	Progress on the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

Day 2 – Wednesday, 24 May 2023		
09:00 -10:30	Agenda Item 8	Reviewed Comprehensive Plan of Action and PoW 2024-2025
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Agenda Item 7	Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building programme
11:30 – 12:15	Agenda Item 6	Status of the Ratification of the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol
12:15 – 12:30	Agenda Item 9	Other business
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Agenda Item 10	Conclusions and recommendations
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:30 – 16:45	Agenda Item 10 (cont.)	Conclusions and recommendations
16:45 – 17:00		Closure of the Meeting

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