

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The Regional Workshop on Cooperation Arrangements in the Field of Preparedness for and Response to Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Spills (MEDEXPOL 2016), which met in St. Julian's, Malta, between 14 and 15 December 2016:

1 expressed appreciation for the financial support provided to the activity related to the preparation of the Draft Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents, hereinafter referred to as the Draft Guide, by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF), the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and The global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues (IPIECA);

2 thanked the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), as well as the Consultant specifically contracted for the above-mentioned activity, for their respective contributions to the preparation and organisation of this meeting;

3 recognised that the Draft Guide highly contributes to the implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) and the Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol) as well as 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 (Offshore Protocol), concerning cooperation and mutual assistance in case of pollution incident as lay down in these legal instruments;

4 noted that the preparation of the Draft Guide, fully comply with the Specific Objective 21 of the Regional Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), aiming at revising the existing recommendations, principles and guidelines, and developing new ones to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance within the framework of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol;

5 acknowledged that this activity satisfies the request of the Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (COP19), which was held in Athens, Greece from 9 to 12 February 2016 to update of the Mediterranean "Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance" and to organise a technical regional workshop on cooperation arrangements in the field of preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills;

6 recognised that the Draft Guide built on existing international and regional manuals and guidelines, in particular the IMO Guidelines on International Offer of Assistance, contributes to IMO's effort concerning cooperation and mutual assistance, in the Mediterranean region;

7 welcomed the comprehensive guidance on overall issues of the management of cooperation and mutual assistance in case of pollution incident, in particular on the legal and institutional context as well as on the practical procedures related to this matter;

8 appreciated that in addition to the practical aspects of the guide, it increases awareness and compiles the background basic information required to understand the regional and international framework, the various situations and the relationship between the relevant stakeholders;

9 although the Draft Guide does not cover operational aspects which are dealt in other regional guidelines, concurred that it will contribute to the national preparedness and response system;

10 considered the comments and contributions submitted in writing (REMPEC/WG.40/3) to the Secretariat as well as those introduced during the Meeting and on the basis of the deliberation of the Meeting, the text of the Draft Guide including its Annexes which contains inter alia the Mediterranean Principles and Guidelines on cooperation and mutual assistance (REMPEC/WG.40/2) was revised and amended accordingly and is reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.40/WP.1;

11 agreed to develop a fiche for each institution which may be involved in the coordination and/or mutual assistance in case of pollution incident describing their (1) names, status, obligations, (2) services, resources and conditions and (3) contacts and procedures for mobilization;

12 concurred with the need to develop a specific fiche presenting the relationship and the working procedures between REMPEC and the institutions mentioned in point 11 above; and a flowchart showing the step by step procedures related to cooperation and mutual assistance described in the Part III of the Draft Guide;

13 also agreed to modify the format of the Draft Guide to be divided into two (2) parts: the first one dedicated to **background information** (legal, institutional, relationships, etc.) which will include the two fiches mentioned in paragraph 11 and 12 above and the second **operational** part addressing the management of regional and international assistance and the administrative, legal, and financial issues, which will include the revised Annexes to the Draft Guide; and

14 recognised the link between this Draft Guide and the Regional Information System already in place, in particular the REMPEC Country Profile and the MEDGIS-MAR.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15 The Meeting requested the Secretariat (REMPEC):

.1 to finalise the templates of the fiches referred in paragraph 11 and 12, and forward them to the members of the Working Group prior to its dissemination for completion to the institutions which may be involved in the coordination and/or mutual assistance in case of pollution incident;

.2 to prepare the flowchart referred above;

.3 to reformat the Draft Guide into two parts keeping the substance of the agreed text (REMPEC/WG/40/WP.1);

.4 to prepare a revised Draft Guide to be submitted to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, to be held in Malta between 23 and 25 May 2017, for its review, recommendation and approval, taking into consideration the comments and amendments proposed by the Meeting;

.5 to report to the Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC on the outcome of this Meeting.

16. The Meeting invited the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols:

.1 to regularly update the [Country Profile](#) and [MEDGIS-MAR](#);

.2 to inform through official channel the change of Focal Points.