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

Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine
Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the
Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.56/1/1
23 May 2023
Original: English

Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only. Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

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 Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, is being convened in Kappara, Malta from 13 to 15 June 2023, pursuant to the Programme of Work (PoW) 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 (COP 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021).

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting are:

- .1 to examine the implementation of the activities and deliverables by REMPEC pursuant to the approved UNEP/MAP PoWs and Budgets for the biennia 2020-2021 and 2022-2023, since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (online, 29 May-1 June 2021); and
- .2 to discuss and agree upon the activities and deliverables of the draft UNEP/MAP PoW for the biennium 2024-2025, as proposed by REMPEC, prior to their submission, for approval by the next meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023), and for adoption by the Twenty-third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 23) (Izola, Slovenia, 4-8 December 2023).

3 All REMPEC Governmental Focal Points were invited to nominate, jointly and in consultation with their respective REMPEC Prevention Focal Points and REMPEC OPRC Focal Points, their representatives in the Meeting. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations was strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialised agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to the international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre.

4 In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the following annotations to the provisional agenda provide information on the actions the Meeting will be invited to take under each agenda item.

Opening of the Meeting

5 The Meeting will open on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 0900 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 1630 hours.

Organisation of the Meeting

Rules of Procedure

6 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

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

Working Languages

8 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 their original language unless a translation is provided in the second working language.

Related Documents

9 For reasons of economy, documents referred to during the Meeting which have already been issued for any other REMPEC meeting will **not** be reissued. Delegations are requested to bring their own copies of such documents.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

10 The agenda, as proposed in document REMPEC/WG.56/1/Rev.2 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, which is of a tentative nature and may be modified by the Meeting, as appropriate, is proposed in the **Annex** to the present document.

Agenda Item 2: Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC

11 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/2 setting out an outline of the activities carried out by the Centre since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (online, 29 May-1 June 2021).

12 In its presentation, the Secretariat will refer to the Report of the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (Floriana, Malta, 29 November-1 December 2022), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.56/INF.3.

13 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided and comment, as deemed appropriate.

Agenda Item 3: Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships

- **Final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report**

14 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/3/1, which provides information on the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report developed within the framework of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS).

15 In its presentation, the Secretariat will refer to the Report of the Fifth Meeting of MENELAS (Floriana, Malta, 22-23 February 2023), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.56/INF.4.

16 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.56/3/1, as well as examine and endorse the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, as set out in the Appendix thereto.

- **Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities**

17 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/3/2 providing an update on the progress made by the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (online, 29 May-1 June 2021) and proposing future activities to be integrated into its work programme for the biennium 2024-2025.

18 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the final version of the ‘Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide for the Mediterranean’ developed within the framework of the MTWG.

19 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.56/3/2, as well as examine and agree upon the ‘Condensates – Chemical Intervention Guide for the Mediterranean’, as set out in the Annex thereto.

- **Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) and related activities**

20 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/3/3 presenting the developments on funding the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) that celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2023.

21 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to its proposal to increase the MAU Special Revolving Fund to cover an additional month so that it will be able to fund the average expenses of a two months’ expert mission.

22 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, and consider the proposal put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.56/3/3, with a view to submitting the draft decision of the Contracting Parties, as set out in the Annex thereto, for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP focal Points and for adoption by COP 23, as appropriate.

- **Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting**

23 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/3/4 setting out an outline of the progress made on data sharing, monitoring, and reporting since the last Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (online, 31 May-2 June 2021).

24 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the revised template of the ‘Manual on National Mechanisms for the Mobilisation of Response Equipment and Experts in case of Emergency’ (Version 2023), as set out in Annex 1 to document REMPEC/WG.56/3/4.

25 The Secretariat will also refer to the revised Data Standard and Data Dictionaries for the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) Common Indicator 19 (CI 19) as well as the final version of IMAP CI 19, as set out, respectively, in Annex 2 and Annex 3 to document REMPEC/WG.56/3/4.

26 Finally, the Secretariat will refer to the best practices review of Descriptor 8 (D08C03, D08C04) of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹ (MSFD), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.56/INF.6, and the assessment findings in relation to IMAP CI 19 for the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report (MED QSR 2023), as laid down in document REMPEC/WG.56/INF.7.

27 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided and consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.56/3/4.

¹ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive).

Agenda Item 4: Air Pollution from Ships

28 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/4 providing information on the latest developments related to the prevention of air pollution from ships in the Mediterranean Sea.

29 In particular, the Secretariat will refer to the adoption of the amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SO_x ECA) at the 79th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) (London, United Kingdom, 12-16 December 2022).

30 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided and consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.56/4.

Agenda Item 5: Introduction of non-indigenous species by shipping activities

31 Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/5, which provides information on the final draft regional harmonised procedures for the uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea.

32 In its presentation, the Secretariat will refer to the Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on the harmonisation of procedures in the Mediterranean pursuant to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (Kappara, Malta, 22-23 March 2023), as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.56/INF.5.

33 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided, consider the proposals put forward by the Secretariat in document REMPEC/WG.56/5, as well as examine and endorse the final draft regional harmonised procedures for the uniform implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea, as set out in the Annex thereto, and request the Secretariat to submit them for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points.

Agenda Item 6: Activities and deliverables of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for the biennium 2024-2025, as proposed by REMPEC

34 The Secretariat will introduce document REMPEC/WG.56/11 setting out the activities and deliverables of the draft UNEP/MAP PoW for the biennium 2024-2025, as proposed by REMPEC, and explaining the rationale used to prepare them.

35 **The Meeting will be invited** to take note of the information provided as well as consider, discuss and agree upon the activities and deliverables of the draft UNEP/MAP PoW for the biennium 2024-2025, as proposed by REMPEC, which are set out in the Annex to document REMPEC/WG.56/11, prior to their submission, for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points and for adoption by COP 23, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 7: Any other business

36 **The Meeting will be invited** to consider any other relevant matters that may be raised under this agenda item.

37 Under this agenda item, organisations wishing to provide brief information on their activities that may be of interest to the Meeting will also be given the opportunity to do so.

Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations

38 Under this agenda item, the Rapporteur will present the draft conclusions and recommendations, which result from the meeting discussions, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.56/WP.1.

39 **The Meeting will be invited** to review, amend, as appropriate, and adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting.

40 The report of the Meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated after the Meeting.

Closure of the Meeting

41 The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chairperson on Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 1630 hours.

Annex

Draft timetable

Day 1 – Tuesday, 13 June 2023		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration of the participants</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening of the Meeting	
09:30 – 10:00	Agenda Item 1	Adoption of the Agenda
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda Item 2	Progress Report on REMPEC activities since the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 4	Air pollution from ships
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	Agenda Item 5	Introduction of non-indigenous species by shipping activities
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00 – 17:00	Agenda Item 3	Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report

Day 2 – Wednesday, 14 June 2023		
09:00 – 10:00	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) and related activities
10:00 – 10:30	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) and related activities
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 3 (cont.)	Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sharing, monitoring, and reporting
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	Agenda Item 6	Activities and deliverables of the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for the biennium 2024-2025, as proposed by REMPEC
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00 – 17:00	Agenda Item 7	Any other business

Day 3 – Thursday, 15 June 2023		
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	Agenda Item 8	Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00 – 16:30	Closure of the Meeting	