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

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Regional Meeting of National Experts on the  
Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of,  
and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

Online, 10 March 2021

REMPEC/WG.49/8  
Date: 10 March 2021

Original: English

**REPORT**  
**OF THE REGIONAL MEETING OF**  
**NATIONAL EXPERTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF,**  
**AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2022-2031)**

Online, 10 March 2021

## **INTRODUCTION**

1 The Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) was organised online by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) on 10 March 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP.

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were to discuss and agree upon the proposed Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as “the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”, prior to its submission, for further consideration by the 14th Meeting of the Focal Point of REMPEC, for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points, and for adoption by the Twenty-second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22).

3 The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	MALTA
CROATIA	MONACO
CYPRUS	MONTENEGRO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN UNION	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	TUNISIA
ISRAEL	TURKEY
ITALY	

by representatives from the following UN organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by a representative from the following inter-governmental organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS (IOPC FUNDS)
- THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS)

by representatives from other organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
- IPIECA
- HYDRO ENGINEERING INSTITUTE SARAJEVO (HEIS)
- UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
- GREEN TRANSITION DENMARK
- CLIMAZUL
- INSTITUTE OF SHIPPING ECONOMICS AND LOGISTICS (ISL)
- OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD. (OSRL)
- SEA ALARM FOUNDATION

4 A complete list of participants appears in **Annex I** to the present report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5 The Meeting was opened by Mr Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 09:00 hours. He welcomed the participants to the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031). He highlighted the diversity and number of participants at the Meeting, which was in itself a testament to the importance

of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). He recalled the work that had been achieved, and the improvements that had been made in the region over the last four decades, which was as a result of the ambition and commitment of the governments and partners in the Mediterranean. He highlighted the timely nature of the development of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), with the publication of the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED), which gives a clear message that the Mediterranean environment is worsening. As a means to address this situation, he stressed the importance of the role of Contracting Parties to improve enforcement in the region. Finally, he acknowledged the importance of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as a means to contribute to the implementation of other overarching thematic strategies and action plans in the Mediterranean, including the Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2033) of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP).

6 Ms. Helen Buni, Technical Officer, from the Subdivision for Implementation, at the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Division, welcomed the participants in the Meeting on behalf of the IMO. Ms Buni made reference to the challenging nature of continuing collaborative work with the current COVID-19 global pandemic and offered her thanks and appreciation to colleagues at REMPEC for successfully organising the online Meeting despite those challenges. She referred to the impact of the pandemic on the work of the IMO and its partners, and the need for evolving and adapting the modus operandi of the organization, and commended REMPEC for taking a 'business as usual approach' in the development of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). Ms Buni confirmed that the IMO is committed to working with all stakeholders who had contributed to date, and would continue to contribute, to the development and finalisation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). She praised the ongoing consultation process that had already taken place, bringing together national competent authorities, relevant regional international institutions, and other stakeholders. The collaborative approach would enable the identification of synergies, which would help the region to recover post pandemic, and help navigate the environmental challenges and opportunities faced in the Mediterranean region.

7 Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, thanked the IMO for supporting REMPEC in the development of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), recognising the efforts of colleagues at the coordinating unit in Athens, alongside colleagues in London at the IMO Headquarters. Mr Gonzalez commented on the high-level representation at the Meeting and thanked the participants who had registered to attend and welcomed the presence of 21 out of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, alongside representation from numerous partner organisations. The Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) would set the agenda for the next 10 years, and therefore having such a high-level of engagement at the Meeting was welcomed and further supported the proposed coordination and collaboration needed to deliver the objectives of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). Mr Gonzalez stressed that the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) had been largely informed by the consultation process that had been undertaken to date, encompassing the objectives, key concerns, and priorities raised by Contracting Parties and associated partners.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1 Rules of Procedure**

8 The Meeting agreed to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, 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 to its deliberations (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

### **2.2 Election of Officers**

9 Following informal consultations with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Head of REMPEC proposed Monaco as Chair, Turkey as Vice-Chair and France as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

Mr. Pierre Bouchet (Monaco)	Chair
Ms Didem Uğur (Turkey)	Vice-Chair
Ms Marie-Sophie Dufaut-Richet (France)	Rapporteur

### **2.3 Working Languages**

10 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre. However, information documents were available in their original language only, unless a translation was provided in the second working language.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

11 The Chair thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.49/3/1 and annotated in document REMPEC/WG.45/3/2, be adopted.

12 The Meeting adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report. The list of documents is set out in **Annex III** thereto.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: METHODOLOGY AND CONSULTATION PROCESS**

13 At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Joseph Zerafa, REMPEC Consultant, introduced the process detailed in the document REMPEC/WG.49/7, and a brief overview of the survey outcome reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4.

14 At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Jennifer Godwin, REMPEC Consultant, provided a short presentation on the Analysis of relevant projects, strategies and action plans reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.3.

15 The Meeting **noted** the information presented.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: DRAFT STRATEGY**

16 The Head of Office of REMPEC introduced the Second Draft of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) reproduced in REMPEC/WG.49/5.

17 The Meeting examined and commented on the proposed recommendations and conclusions on the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) put forward by the Secretariat under document REMPEC/WG.49/7, based on the feedback received on the draft recommendations and conclusions disseminated by the Secretariat in preparation of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

18 The Head of Office of REMPEC introduced the Action Plan for the Second Draft of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) reproduced in REMPEC/WG.49/5.

19 The Meeting examined and commented on the proposed recommendations and conclusions related to the Action Plan of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) put forward by the Secretariat under document REMPEC/WG.49/7, based on the feedback received on the draft recommendations and conclusions disseminated by the Secretariat in preparation of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

20 The conclusions and recommendations related to the Meeting are reproduced in **Annex IV**.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

21 The Chair closed the Meeting at 17:00 hours on Wednesday, 10 March 2021.

**ANNEX II**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Methodology and Consultation Process
5. Draft Strategy
6. Draft Action Plan
7. Conclusions and Recommendations
17. Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX(E) I**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS**

**CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES**

**ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

Mr Elson THANA  
Expert, Sector of Policies and Strategies for the Development of Maritime Transport  
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

**ALGERIA / ALGERIE**

M. Mohamed Redouane CHAKOUR  
Chef d'Etudes, Ministère des travaux publics et des transports

**BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE**

Mr Dario BUSIC  
Head of Department for Air, Water and Pipeline Transport,  
Ministry of Communications and Transport

**CROATIA / CROATIE**

Mrs Biserka VISTICA  
Environmental Protection Unit,  
Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia

**CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

Mr Marinos IOANNOU  
Officer in Charge of Oil Pollution Combating, Head of Naval Service of the Department of  
Fisheries and Marine Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

Mr Stavros IOANNIDES  
President of the Ad Hoc Committee for evaluation of Facilities contingency plans for oil pollution  
preparedness, response and combating, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research

Mr Ioannis EFSTRATIOU  
Senior Marine Surveyor, Head of Marine Environment Unit,  
Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President.

Mr Themis EVRIVIADES  
Senior Marine Surveyor, Deputy Ministry of Shipping

**EGYPT / EGYPTE**

Mrs Rehab ABOU ELFADL  
Senior Researcher - International Conventions & Treaties Department, The Egyptian Maritime  
Transport Sector

Eng. Yosra ABDELAZIZ  
General Manager of Environmental Crisis Management, EEAA - Egyptian Environmental Affair  
Agency

## **EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE**

Ms Asta MACKEVICIUTE  
Policy Officer, European Commission

Mr Maik SCHMAHL  
Policy Officer, European Commission

Mr Olaf DEUSSEN  
Regional civil protection cooperation co-desk, DG ECHO, European Commission

Mr Giuseppe RUSSO  
Senior Project Officer for Training and Cooperation, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Ms. Stephanie SEDDON-BROWN  
Senior Project Officer, Sustainability European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Mr Frédéric HÉBERT  
Head of Unit Sustainability, European Maritime Safety Agency

## **FRANCE / FRANCE**

Mr Nicolas TAMIC  
Deputy manager - head of operations, Cedre

Ms Mathilde KRAFT  
Head of West MoPoCo Project, Secrétariat général de la mer

Mme Marie-Sophie DUFAU-RICHET  
Chargée de mission, Secrétariat général de la mer

## **GREECE / GRÈCE**

Mr Constantinos TRIANTAFILLOU  
Director General, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)

Mr Ioannis PESMATZOGLOU  
Training Officer, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)

Mr Dimitrios STRINGLIS  
Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Coast Guard

Ms Aikaterini STAMOU  
Head of Section, International co-operation, Hellenic Coast Guard,  
Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy

## **ISRAEL / ISRAEL**

Mr Nir LEVINSKI  
North Regional Manager, Marine environment protection division, Ministry of the environment state of Israel

Mr Fred ARZOINE  
Deputy director at the marine environmental protection division, Ministry of environmental protection

Mr Rotem Trivizki  
Atarim, municipal corporation managing the coast line of Tel Aviv Yafo

**ITALY / ITALIE**

Mrs Anna GEROMETTA  
Head Cittadini per l'aria ETS

Mr Luca LACITIGNOLA  
Manager Policy Development, Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning

Mr Matteo BOCCI  
Deputy Leader, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

Mr Leonardo MANZARI  
WestMED National Hub for Italy, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

**LEBANON/ LIBAN**

Dr. Manal NADER  
Director Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, Ministry of Transport and Public Works

Capt. Hassan CHABAN  
Maritime expert, Directorate general of land & maritime transport (DGLMT)

Dr. Rania MAROUN  
Water, Environment and Oil Spill Contingency Planning Expert, SSTEPS sarl

Mr. Assem ABOU IBRAHIM  
Board Member, Lebanese Petroleum Administration

Dr. Grace RACHID  
HSE Consultant, Lebanese petroleum administration

Mrs Darine MAWLA  
HSE Consultant, Lebanese petroleum administration

**LIBYA/ LIBYE**

Mr Ali SHAGRUNE  
Libyan Hub WestMED Steering Initiative Committee, General Authority For Marine Wealth State of Libya

Eng Mohamed ZAYED  
Head of Division for Monitoring the Implementation of the International Conventions, Libyan Ports & Maritime Transport Authority

MR Abdelbaset ELMIRI  
Environment Public Authority, Director of Emergency Department, Tripoli, Libya

Mr KHAIRI KROUZ  
Environmental Advisor, National Oil Corporation

**MALTA / MALTE**

Capt. Richard GABRIELE  
Head Marine Operations, Incident Response, Transport Malta

Ms Evangelia POULI  
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Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects



Mrs Josianne MUSCAT  
Environmental Protection Officer, Environment and Resources Authority

Dr Stephanie VELLA  
Executive Director Ecubed, Westmed National Hub, Malta

Ms Annabel VELLA  
Economist, WestMed Initiative - Malta National Hub

Mr Massimo FANARA  
Senior Compliance Officer, The Environment and Resources Authority

Mr. Nathan BARBARA  
Assistant Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental & Resource Authority

## **MONACO**

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## **MONTENEGRO / MONTENEGRO**

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Administration

Ms Ana KUSOVAC  
Senior adviser, Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Inland Waterways, Ministry of capital  
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## **MOROCCO/ MAROC**

Ms Naoual ZOUBAIR  
Chef du Service Littoral, Secrétariat d'état chargé du développement durable  
Ministère de l'énergie, des mines et du développement durable, chargée du développement  
durable

M. WAHID RAHMOUNE  
Commandant Adjoint Sécurité et Intervention, Tanger Med Port Authority

Mrs Loubna SALHI  
State Engineer, Directorate Of Merchant Marine

Mr Youssef HOUMAI  
Chef du service de la sécurité de la navigation maritime et de la lutte contre la pollution marine,  
Direction de la Marine Marchande

Mr Amine EL KARAM  
DIRECTEUR, ANP

Mrs Mounia HAMDIOU  
Ingénieur, Ministère de l'Energie, des Mines et de l'Environnement

Mr. Fathi Amine SAANANE  
Environnemental manager, National Port Agency / Agence Nationale des ports

Mr Mostapha BENOMAR  
Scientific research, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique

Mme Niama MAAMOUR  
Ingénieure, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique

Docteur Sanae AMMARI  
Chercheur, Institut National de Recherches Halieutiques (INRH)

Mme Btissam EL MENOJAR  
Cadre supérieure, Département de l'ENVIRONNEMENT

#### **SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE**

Mr Arturo STEFFE  
Head of Section, Slovenia Maritime Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure

Mr Aleš GOMBAČ  
Coastal Sea Guard, Slovenia Maritime Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure

#### **SPAIN / ESPAGNE**

Mr Pablo PEDROSA REY  
Head Pollution Response Unit, Directorate General of Merchant Marine, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

#### **TUNISIA / TUNISIE**

Mr Samir KHEDHIRA  
Expert contrôleur général de la pollution marine, Agence nationale de protection de l'environnement (ANPE), Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement

#### **TURKEY / TURQUIE**

Ms Derya Didem UĞUR  
Environmental Eng. Msc, Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation

Mrs Vildan BÖLÜKBAŞI ATAY  
Environmental Engineer, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, DG Environmental Management, Marine and Coastal Management Department

Ms Özlem ÖZER  
Environmental Expert, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Mr. Gokhan DONMEZ  
Maritime Expert, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

#### **UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES**

##### **International Maritime Organization (IMO) / Organisation maritime internationale (OMI)**

Ms Helen BUNI  
Technical Officer, Subdivision for Implementation, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization

##### **United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) / Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement / Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PNUE / PAM)**

Mr Gaetano Leone

Coordinator, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit,  
Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Ms Tatjana HEMA  
Deputy Coordinator, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit,  
Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Mr Stavros ANTONIADIS  
Policy and Project Expert, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat

#### **INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION/ ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES**

##### **International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC FUNDS) / *Fonds internationaux d'indemnisation pour les dommages dus à la pollution par les hydrocarbures (FIPOL)***

Ms Chiara DELLA MEA  
Claims Manager

##### **The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)**

Ms. Susana SALVADOR  
Executive Secretary

Ms Maylis SALIVAS  
Project officer

#### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS**

##### **International Ocean Institute (IOI)**

Mr Cosmin NICOLAE CHIVU  
Project Officer, Malta

##### **IPIECA**

Mr Robert COX  
Technical Director

##### **Hydro Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS)**

Ms Senida DZAJIC-RGHEI  
Researcher, Bosnia & Herzegovina

##### **Union for the Mediterranean**

Ms Alessandra SENSI  
Head of Sector Environment and Blue Economy

Ms Celia MURCIA  
Blue economy expert

##### **Green Transition Denmark**

Dr. Kare PRESS KRISTENSEN  
Senior advisor on air quality & climate, Partner in the new EU LIFE project on the Med ECA  
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##### **CLIMAZUL**

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Mr Andy NICOLL  
Senior Oil Spill Preparedness & Response Advisor

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Ms Saskia SESSIONS-PUPLETT  
Senior Technical Advisor

Mr Christophe BLAZY  
Technical Advisor

**SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT**

**Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) /  
Centre régional Méditerranéen pour l'intervention d'urgence contre la pollution marine  
accidentelle (REMPEC)**

Mr Gabino GONZALEZ  
Head of Office

Mr Malek SMAOUI  
Programme Officer (OPRC)

Mr Franck LAUWERS  
Programme Officer (Prevention)

Mr Wentao SHI  
Junior Programme Officer (JPO)

Ms Phyllis THEDROS  
Junior Programme Officer (JPO)

Ms Agnieszka PAWINSKA  
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Ms Rodothea VGENOPOULOU  
Head of Office Assistant

Ms Amanda INGLIS  
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**MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF, AND RESPONSE TO  
MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2022-2031) CONSULTANT TEAM**

Capt. Joseph ZERFAFA  
Independent Consultant

Ms Jennifer GODWIN  
Marine Environmental Consultant, JKG Consultancy Ltd.

**ANNEX III**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

**WORKING DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.49/3/1	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/WG.49/3/2	Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable
REMPEC/WG.49/5	Second Draft Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)
REMPEC/WG.49/7	Initial draft conclusions and recommendations
REMPEC/WG.49/WP.1	Conclusions and recommendations
REMPEC/WG.49/8	Report of the Meeting

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.49/INF.1	List of documents
REMPEC/WG.49/INF.2	List of participants
REMPEC/WG.49/INF.3	Analysis of relevant projects, strategies and action plans (English only)
REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4	Survey for the preparation of the of the Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (Post2021) (English only)
REMPEC/WG.49/INF.5	Links between the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan and other regional and international goals and objectives

## **ANNEX IV**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), which was held online on 10 March 2021, hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting”:

1 expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

2 welcomed the establishment of the “Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group” composed of representatives from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), IMO, the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP), the European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and IPIECA and its joint analysis to identify the complementarities of relevant projects implemented in the Mediterranean region, in particular the SAFEMED IV Project, and REMPEC activities in the framework of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and to propose concrete synergies;

3 expressed its satisfaction on the success of the ongoing wide consultation process involving national competent authorities, relevant regional and international institutions and stakeholders addressing challenges and offering expertise, resources, and funding to progress in the improvement of the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region:

- a) to define, through a collaborative approach, the vision, the strategic directions, and objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, hereinafter referred to as “the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan”;
- b) to outline the main institutions and stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities within their respective mandate, and identify required synergies; and
- c) to propose a modus operandi (e.g. Action Plan) to ensure concerted planning, coordinated implementation, and monitoring procedures;

4 acknowledged the collaborative and consultative approach applied for the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, through:

- a) the two separate surveys completed by the Focal Points of REMPEC, and by the Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4;
- b) the preparation of a comparative analysis of relevant strategies and action plans, National Action Plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), and sheets providing information on projects supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)), presented in document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.3;
- c) the review of the First Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”), and by specialised agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre; and
- d) the examination by the present Meeting of the Second Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, prepared by the Secretariat based on comments received in the

consultation process referred in paragraph 4.c above, and submitted as document REMPEC/WG.49/5;

5 agreed upon the **title of the Strategy**, i.e. "Mediterranean Strategy for the prevention, preparedness and response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)" and notably on the period of 10 (ten) years from 2022 to 2031, inclusive;

6 concurred with the proposed **vision** of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, i.e. "A clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations";

7 acknowledged the contribution of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan in meeting the regional and global objectives laid down in the amended **Overarching Objectives** and took note of links between the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan and other regional and international goals and objectives presented in the document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.5;

8 recognised the importance of the amended **Guiding Principles** to ensure a balanced and cooperative approach, in particular by building on the achievements and lessons learnt, taking into account the precautionary approach and streamlining the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp);

9 welcomed the valuable updated data on the **Mediterranean Region** extracted notably from the REMPEC (2020) Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean prepared by REMPEC to inform decision-makers;

10 acknowledged the **geographical scope** of the application of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, as defined in in Article 1 of the 1976 Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution as amended by the 1995 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;

11 recognised the progress that has been achieved in the framework of the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of, Preparedness for, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), notably through the preparation of National Action Plans for the implementation of the said strategy and stressed the importance of **building the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) on the said Regional Strategy (2016-2021)**;

12 emphasised the importance of the **governance, partnership and resource mobilisation** proposal, notably the governance of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the establishment of partnership agreements between regional and international institutions to formalise their cooperation to provide financial and technical support to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

13 concurred with the need to carry out a **mid-term review and evaluation** of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, in 2026, to ensure its adaptation to new priorities and full alignment with the Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2033) of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP);

14 took note of the assumptions made to **mitigate risks** related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, appropriate and adequate funding and potential political instabilities;

15 agreed upon the **title of the proposed Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs)**:

- a. CSO 1: Prevent, prepare for, and respond to operational, illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships;
- b. CSO 2: Promote and support the development and implementation of innovative global solutions to mitigate and respond to climate change;

- c. CSO 3: Reduce and monitor air emissions from ships to a level that is not harmful to the marine environment, or the health of the coastal population of the Mediterranean;
- d. CSO 4: Prevent and reduce litter (in particular plastic) entering the marine environment from ships, in order to limit the environmental, health, and socio-economic impact of marine litter in the Mediterranean;
- e. CSO 5: Eliminate the introduction of non-indigenous species by shipping activity;
- f. CSO 6: Achieve a well-managed safe and pollution free Mediterranean, with integrated marine spatial planning and designation of special areas, where shipping activity has a limited impact upon the marine environment; and
- g. CSO 7: Identify and understand collectively emerging issues related to pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, and define required actions to address issues identified.

16 noted the **amended content of the Common Strategic Objectives** following the consultation process, laid down in the document REMPEC/WG.49/7;

17 acknowledged **Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention's responsibility to achieve, as far as possible, the seven CSOs** with the support of all relevant stakeholders in the region through a collaborative, coordinated, and collective effort to plan, finance, and implement at national, sub-regional and regional level actions on people and institutions, as well as action for infrastructure, information and knowledge sharing;

18 understood the concept of the interconnection between the CSOs, the corresponding areas of influence (people, institutions, infrastructure, information and knowledge sharing), and the implementing / governing body responsible for delivering the actions;

19 agreed on the **practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan**, in particular the terms of reference and objectives of the biennial meeting, the definition of its Secretariat and members, the terms of condition for participation and the required national network;

20 concurred with the proposed **reporting and monitoring procedure**, in particular the completion of an online concise progress report providing input on ongoing and future related actions based on the action tables of the Action Plan;

21 encouraged Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to take the necessary measures to raise **public awareness** on key issues relevant to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

22 agreed upon the need to define for each action, measurable indicators and targets and endorsed the proposed indicators and targets, as amended by the meeting;

23 requested the Secretariat of the present Meeting to coordinate the approach leading to the identification of the most relevant lead implementing / governing body responsible for supporting the implementation of each action, during the biannual meetings for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

24 valued and agreed upon the proposed prioritisation of each action as high, medium, or low, taking into account the outcome the two separate surveys completed by the Focal Points of REMPEC, and by the Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4;

25 took note of the **amended content of the Action Plan** following the consultation process, presented in Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.49/7;

26 invited the Secretariat in consultation with members of the "Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group", to assess the human and financial resources required for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan;



27 invited relevant regional and international institutions and stakeholders addressing challenges and offering expertise, resources, and funding to progress in the improvement of the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region and Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

- a. to submit a sheet for each bilateral, multilateral or regional project or activity relevant to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), based on the template set out in the Annex to document [REMPEC/WG.41/12](#), to REMPEC by no later than 15 April 2021; and
- b. report the main developments or outcomes at the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC following the submission of the fiche, possibly by means of information documents, with a view to increasing visibility on these projects/activities;

28 agreed upon the Second Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan as amended by the Meeting; and the Conclusions and Recommendations presented in the present document, and requested the Secretariat to make the necessary editorial corrections, prior to onward transmission to the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Point of REMPEC for its review and approval; and

29 thanked the chair of the Meeting, and REMPEC, as Secretariat, as well as the members of the “Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group”, and all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention who activity contributed to the work carried out with regard to the preparation of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan.