

Annex

ACTION PLAN

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean, convened by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in Barcelona from 28 January to 4 February 1975, to consider an Action Plan for the Mediterranean, has reached agreement on the recommendations set forth below, based on consideration of four main aspects:

- I. Integrated planning of the development and management of the resources of the Mediterranean Basin
- II. Co-ordinated programme for research, monitoring, and exchange of information and assessment of the state of pollution and of protection measures
- III. Framework convention and related protocols with their technical annexes for the protection of the Mediterranean environment
- IV. Institutional and financial implications of the Action Plan

I. INTEGRATED PLANNING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

1. The Meeting, having studied and discussed document UNEP/WG.2/2, entitled "Integrated Planning of the Development and Management of the Resources of the Mediterranean Basin", took note of it and considered that it raised delicate and vital problems, having regard to the inequality in economic and social levels prevailing as between the various coastal countries.
2. Consequently and taking into account the need to avoid hindering the inevitable development of the Mediterranean developing countries, the countries of the region declared themselves ready to make a joint, thorough study of any proposal aimed at reconciling the demands of development with the need to protect and improve the quality of the Mediterranean environment, with a view to the optimal utilization of its potentialities.
3. The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean requested the Executive Director of UNEP in collaboration with the Governments of the region, the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and regional organizations concerned, to draw up a co-ordinated programme of concerted activities, aimed at a better utilization of resources in the interest of the countries of the region and of their development, while being in accordance with sound long-term environmental management rules.
4. It would be appropriate, in particular, to develop programmes of activities or to amplify those which are already being implemented; for example:
 - (a) The development and application of rational techniques from the point of view of the economy, ecology and health in various fields such as;

- (i) treatment, use and safe disposal of organic and industrial waste resulting from various human activities;
 - (ii) restoral of degraded natural communities, in particular the protection, improvement and stabilization of soils, the arrangement of hydrographic basins and the regulation of torrents;
 - (iii) best use and recycling of fresh water;
 - (iv) improvement and better utilization of the living resources of the sea, in particular by aquaculture.
- (b) The study of the costs and of the economic and social advantages of taking the environment factor into consideration in development projects, such a study being carried out on the basis of environmental assessments of certain projects which are at present being carried out or have already been completed.
 - (c) The study of the repercussions of economic development, particularly of the development of tourism and industry, on the environment of the region, taking into account national sovereignty and the level and policies of development in each country.
 - (d) The study of a system of vocational training at all levels.

5. These programmes would be supported by training and technical assistance activities, particularly in favour of developing countries, designed to enable all countries of the region to undertake activities in those fields themselves and to participate fully in regional activities. The Executive Director of UNEP is requested to proceed with the compilation of an inventory of the needs of the developing coastal countries of the Mediterranean, and of the training possibilities available through both the international organizations and the developed countries of the Mediterranean region experienced in research and the campaign against pollution, in order to pinpoint the possible fields and methods of co-operation.

6. In the preparation and implementation of this programme, the Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with the Governments and organizations mentioned in paragraph 3 above is requested:

- (a) to organize meetings of national experts in order to guide the development of the various parts of the above programme;
- (b) to provide assistance for national institutions of the region in programming and implementing the projects adopted, or to help them to obtain such assistance;
- (c) to take necessary steps, with a view to maximum efficiency and within the budgetary framework laid down for the purpose by the Governing Council of UNEP, for the implementation and co-ordination of this programme of activities.

II. CO-ORDINATED POLLUTION MONITORING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

1. Having considered the research and monitoring projects, as set forth in document UNEP/WG.2/3, entitled "Co-ordinated programme for research, monitoring, and exchange of information and assessment of the state of pollution and of protection measures".

2. Agrees that, due to limitations in facilities and scarcity of trained scientists the seven proposed programmes, not listed in order of priority:

- Baseline studies and monitoring of oil and petroleum hydrocarbons in marine waters
- Baseline studies and monitoring of metals, particularly mercury, in marine organisms
- Baseline studies and monitoring of DDT, PCB's and other chlorinated hydrocarbons in marine organisms
- Effects of pollutants on marine organisms and their populations
- Effects of pollutants on marine communities and eco-systems
- Coastal transport problems of pollutants
- Coastal water quality control programmes

should be, in the first stage, pilot projects.

3. Calls upon the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with Governments, and with the co-operation of appropriate organizations of the United Nations system as well as of competent intergovernmental regional organizations, to convene a limited number of meetings of experts selected from institutions expressing their desire to participate in the various programmes, to draw up documents describing in detail the operations for each pilot project. The pilot projects should have an operational phase of at least two years.

4. Invites the Executive Director of UNEP, in order to increase the number of participants in the various programmes, to organize, as a first priority, an intensive in-service training of scientists and technicians and to provide additional equipment, this being the best basis for the development of the abilities of national laboratories and institutions. The in-service training should be organized and confined within the Mediterranean countries to the largest possible extent.

5. Requests the Executive Director of UNEP to keep Mediterranean Governments informed of these programmes as they are formulated and developed.

6. Calls upon Governments and appropriate international bodies to help the national institutions concerned to participate in the preparation and implementation of these monitoring and research activities.

III. FRAMEWORK CONVENTION AND RELATED PROTOCOLS WITH THEIR TECHNICAL ANNEXES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT

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Deeply concerned about the alarming state of the environment in the Mediterranean, due to the deliberate or unintentional neglect which has aggravated environmental pollution in this important part of the world.

Having regard to the note by the Executive Director of UNEP containing an analysis of the draft framework convention and related protocols with their technical annexes for the protection of the Mediterranean environment (UNEP/WG.2/4).

1. Considers it to be particularly necessary and urgent to provide a legal basis for international co-operation to protect the marine environment in the Mediterranean;
2. Endorses the principle regarding the setting up of a framework convention and related protocols and technical annexes;
3. Notes with satisfaction the preparatory work undertaken by FAO for a draft framework convention for the protection of the marine environment against pollution in the Mediterranean, by the consultant from IMCO for a draft protocol on co-operation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean by oil and other harmful substances, and by the Spanish delegation for a draft protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft, all of which was submitted for information and given careful examination;
4. Requests the Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with the Governments and United Nations agencies concerned, to convene working groups of governmental legal and technical experts as required, with the eventual collaboration of other international organizations concerned, to put into definitive form the draft legal instruments enumerated in paragraph 3 above, with a view to their adoption by a conference of plenipotentiaries. These working groups should take due account of the debates of the Barcelona meeting, without prejudice to the codification and elaboration of the law of the sea by the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea;
5. Further requests the Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with FAO and other United Nations agencies concerned, to convene such a conference of plenipotentiaries, to invite to this conference the coastal States of the Mediterranean region as well as observers in accordance with United Nations practice, and to provide the necessary support for the preparation and completion of the conference;
6. Recommends that the Executive Director of UNEP, in co-operation with the Governments and United Nations agencies concerned, convene as soon as practicable working groups of governmental experts to prepare additional protocols, taking into account the work of the present meeting.

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Recognizing the need to give special protection to the Mediterranean against pollution due to the operation of ships;

Mindful of the 1973 International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from ships,

1. Expresses the wish that all States become parties to the said convention.
2. Recommends that all coastal States of the Mediterranean become parties to the 1973 Convention and use their concerted efforts by appropriate measures within the framework of IMCO to have the Mediterranean designated as a special area for the purposes of Annex II of that Convention.

3. Recommends that the coastal States of the Mediterranean provide the shore facilities envisaged in Annexes I and II of the said Convention and to establish technical co-operation for this purpose.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACTION PLAN

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In establishing the institutional arrangements for carrying out these recommendations the Executive Director of UNEP is requested to:

1. Use available funds with minimum allocation for staffing and other administrative costs.
2. Establish simple co-ordinating mechanisms which use, to the greatest extent possible, existing international organizations and co-ordinating bodies and which would deal with national institutions through the appropriate national authorities of the country concerned.
3. Keep under review, as the programme develops, the possible need for the strengthening of appropriate institutions in the region. This review, which should be carried out in consultation with the Governments of the region, should take into account the question of establishing specialized regional organisms to undertake particular tasks of the programme, or play a co-ordinating role, taking into account offers already made in the course of this meeting such as those of Malta and Monaco and others yet to be made. Such organisms should only be established if no appropriate regional organism already exists, and should be based on existing national institutions which could be strengthened and given a regional role.
4. Have early consultations with the Governments of the region on the possibility of establishing a regional oil-combating centre to deal with the ever-present and growing threat of a major oil spillage in the Mediterranean, and takes note of the proposal of Malta to host such a centre.

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In establishing the financial arrangements for carrying out the Action Plan, the Executive Director of UNEP should work within the budgetary and institutional framework and within the methods of work established by the Governing Council.

The Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean,

V. Requests the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council of UNEP at its next session of the recommendations agreed to by the coastal States of the Mediterranean region and to keep the Council and these States informed of steps taken by UNEP in co-operation with the Governments concerned and with United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations to give effect to these recommendations.

VI. Wishes to record its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Spain for the hospitality and support shown throughout this Meeting in Barcelona.