



**21<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019**

**Programme of the Ministerial Session (Wednesday, 4 December 2019)**

**Opening of the session (10:00-11:00)**

*The Opening Session will include statements of approximately 7 minutes duration each.*

- Video Message to COP 21 by H.E. Prof. Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy;
- Address by H.E. Mr. Roberto Fico, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy;
- Address by H.E. Mr. Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy;
- Address by H.E. Mr. Sergio Costa, Minister of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy;
- Address by Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP;
- Video Message to COP 21 by H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean;
- Welcoming remarks by Mr. Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat;
- Address by a representative of Youth.

**Report on Activities Carried Out in the Framework of UNEP/MAP since the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) (11:00-11:30)**

Presentation by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator of the main achievements and challenges faced during the last biennium with regards to the implementation of the programme of work (**15 minutes**).

Participants may wish to take the floor and comment as necessary (**15 minutes**).

**Interactive Ministerial Policy Review Session: Strategic guidance for the preparation of the next UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy, considering the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification Strategic Framework 2018-2030 aimed to the Land Degradation Neutrality, relevant UNEA resolutions and other relevant global processes (11:30– 13:00 and 15:00 – 17:00)**

The session will start with a High-Level Panel discussion on *“Protecting the marine environment and coastal region of the Mediterranean: game-changing action for sustainability”*. The Panel, involving guest speakers, will be rolled out in two consecutive sessions: *“Periscope”* and *“Propulsion”*. The former will focus on challenges and opportunities that should factor into policymaking to achieve Good Environmental Status in the Mediterranean. The latter will take the shape of an action-oriented collective reflection on leverage points that would accelerate the required transition. At the end of the panel discussion, **a short session for questions and comments** is planned (**11:30-13:00**).

**Moderator:** Dr. *Xenia Loizidou*, Ambassador for the Coast in the Mediterranean for 2019.

**Session 1: PERISCOPE - Scanning the Mediterranean Horizon and Beyond**

- a) Dr. **Thomas Froelicher**, IPCC Author, on findings of the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) with emphasis on the Mediterranean region and highlights related to scenarios and impacts of climate change;
- b) Mr. **Kostas Bakoyannis**, Mayor of Athens, on the role of Mediterranean cities in the transition to sustainability and in bolstering resilience to risks linked to climate change in coastal zones;
- c) Mr. **Gavin Edwards**, Global Coordinator Nature 2020, WWF International, on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, with a focus on biodiversity conservation and the rehabilitation of degraded marine and coastal ecosystems in the Mediterranean region;

**Session 2: PROPULSION - Entry Points for Action-Oriented and Climate-Resilient Policymaking**

- d) Ms. **Lilia Hachem Naas**, Director of the North Africa Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), on findings of recent studies conducted by UNECA on environmental policies and progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- e) Mr. **Jacob Duer**, President and CEO of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, on contributions of the private sector in tackling the scourge of marine plastic litter, both at the global level and in the Mediterranean;
- f) Mr. **Augusto Giuseppe Navone**, Director of the Marine Protected Area of Tavolara, Sardinia, Italy, on MPAs as spaces of sustainability and prosperity and on transboundary cooperation linking Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) across the Mediterranean.

**In the afternoon, (15:00 – 17:00)**, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Contracting Parties and the Observers will make their interventions, focusing on the theme of the COP, taking into consideration the panel discussion and responding to the questions prepared to facilitate the Ministerial session (as set out in document *UNEP/MED IG.24/18*). Interventions will be limited to **5 minutes per delegation for Contracting Parties and 3 minutes for observers**.

**Naples Ministerial Declaration (17:00 – 18:00)**

The *Draft Naples Ministerial Declaration*, prepared in consultation with Italy as Host Country of COP 21, will be introduced by the representative of the Host Country. The Meeting will be invited to discuss and adopt the **Naples Ministerial Declaration**.

**Notes:**

- 1) On **Tuesday, 3 December 2019, 19:00-22:30**, a welcome event, including a Gala Dinner and Concert, is organized by the Host Country at the Teatro di San Carlo, for Ministers and Heads of Delegations.
- 2) On **Wednesday, 4 December 2019, at 13:00**, a group photo is envisaged. Lunch will be then offered by the Host Country to Ministers and Heads of Delegations.
- 3) On **Wednesday, 4 December 2019**, the following side events are envisaged:



- a) *13:00-14:00*: On the “Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) in coherence with the EU MSFD: deliverables and project recommendations from EcAP MED II and synergies with other EcAp projects”, co-organized by UNEP/MAP, European Commission and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research.
- b) *14:00-15:00*: On “How environmental and oceanographic data support evidence-based decision-making in the Mediterranean? Examples from the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and UNEP/MAP-EEA environment data reporting and assessment process”, co-organized by UNESCO/IOC, EEA and UNEP/MAP.
- c) *18:00-19:00*: On “Mediterranean Sea Sustainable tourism, marine protected areas, #PlasticFree”, organized by UniVerde Foundation.