



Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit  
Barcelona Convention Secretariat



# Delivering the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025

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**Translating the 2030 Agenda and  
its SDGs at the regional level  
through a highly inclusive process**

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# Background

- The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established in 1995. It is an advisory body to the Contracting Parties and other regional or local actors to assist them in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in socioeconomic programmes and, in so doing, promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. It is unique in its composition: its 40 members (22 Contracting Parties and 18 stakeholders) participate on an equal footing. The MCSD holds an ordinary meeting on a biannual basis; a Steering Committee oversees the work of the MCSD between sessions.
- The Contracting Parties adopted in 2005 the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD, with subtitle: A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Shared Prosperity), which was built under the MCSD coordination. The MSSD 2005-2015 provided an integrative policy framework for achieving the vision of a sustainable Mediterranean region, as well as for the deployment of sustainable development policies of riparian countries. It was a regional response to the global and regional sustainable development agenda (e.g. MDGs, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership).



# MSSD Review: COP18 decision (Istanbul, 2013)

“(CPs) Request MAP Secretariat to launch the process of the review of the MSSD with a view to submitting a revised MSSD for consideration and adoption by the Contracting Parties in their 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting”



# A broad and inclusive consultation process (1/4)

- February 2014: MSSD Review officially launched (in Malta)
- April/May 2014: Online consultation on issues/themes and vision (60 stakeholders)
- June 2014: MCSD SC Meeting (structure and vision agreed)
- July-November 2014: Thematic Working Groups (400 participants): online consultations and participatory workshops (strategic directions and actions)
- January 2015: Draft text of the MSSD 2016-2015
- 17–18 February 2015: MSSD Review Conference in Malta
- 9–11 June 2015: 16<sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting in Morocco
- 13-15 October 2015: Draft decision discussed and amended at MAP NFPs meeting (Greece)
- 9-12 February 2016: Submission of the new Strategy 2016-2025 for formal approval by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention at COP 19 (Greece)



## A broad and inclusive consultation process (2/4)

During the participatory process, a key challenge was to propose suitable means and ways to ensure ownership by regional and national decision-makers and stakeholders.

**Phase1** contained a stakeholder consultation (online), which took place between 10 April-9 May 2014, asking feedback on the new MSSD vision and on a set of issues to be addressed in the new strategy. In total 60 detailed responses were received during this consultation, both from individuals and from organizations representing a variety of sectors and geographic division across the Mediterranean



# A broad and inclusive consultation process (3/4)

The MCSD Steering Committee at its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (Malta, 11-12 June 2014) approved the vision and structure in recommending six cross-cutting themes/objectives:

- 1) Seas and coasts;
- 2) Natural resources, rural development and food;
- 3) Climate;
- 4) Sustainable cities;
- 5) Transition towards a green and blue economy; and
- 6) Governance.

These themes merged the results of the first stakeholder consultation with the SDGs Focus Areas.

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# A broad and inclusive consultation process (4/4)

**Phase 2** of the MSSD Review consisted of establishing six thematic working groups (TWGs), following the six cross-cutting themes approved by the MCSD Steering Committee, each by one thematic expert, plus one Sustainable Development Senior Adviser for coordinating the groups. In parallel to the three online consultation sessions per group, participatory workshops were organized for the TWGs. Having mobilized about 450 participants from March until December 2014, the exchanges and consultations allowed a collective formulation of the main strategic directions for each theme and the identification of the corresponding concrete actions at national and regional scales (as well as Flagship Initiatives), which address recommendations for all categories of stakeholders in the Mediterranean.





# Vision of the MSSD 2016-2025

Built upon a broad consultation process, which involved more than 1,000 participants all over the Mediterranean, representing various sectors and geographic areas, the MSSD 2016-2025 was adopted in COP 19 (Greece, February 2016) ***as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.***

***Vision: “A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean Region, in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance”.***

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