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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

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24th 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

Cairo, Egypt, 2-5 December 2025

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2025

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Egypt and in line with the decision of the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols (Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023), the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 24) will be hosted in Cairo, Egypt, on 2-5 December 2025.
2. In accordance with Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention, the objective of the Meeting is to review the progress achieved during the 2024-2025 biennium by the Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention system and take decisions on a number of important matters, including on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2026–2027. A Ministerial Session is also envisaged to take place on 4 December 2025.
3. The following annotations to the proposed agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.
4. The opening session will be preceded, as per practice, by an informal meeting of the Heads of Delegations at 9 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 December 2025, by, Mr. Mitja Bricelj, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols;
6. Opening statements will be made by:
 - a) Mr. Mitja Bricelj, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of Slovenia;
 - b) H.E. Ms. Manal Awad Mikhail, Minister of Local Development and Acting Minister of Environment of Egypt;
 - c) Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, or her representative;
 - d) Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention.

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Working Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/1, 27/2

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/Inf.1

2.1 Rules of Procedure

7. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols will apply to this meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

8. Subject to the Rules of Procedure, the meeting shall elect the members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. It is recalled that “*the principle of equitable geographical distribution shall be observed*” (Article 19 of the Barcelona Convention).

2.3 Adoption of the Agenda

9. The Provisional Agenda of COP 24, as agreed during the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025), is contained in document UNEP/MED IG.27/1 and annotated in the present document.

10. Subject to the Rules of Procedure referred to in paragraph 2.1, the Meeting may wish to adopt the agenda and timetable appearing in the Annex to the present document, amended as appropriate.

2.4 Organization of Work

- a) It is proposed that the Meeting be held in daily sessions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on 2 and 4 December, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on 3 December, subject to adjustments as necessary.
- b) It is expected that the Meeting address all items of the Agenda within the allotted sessions.
- c) No session is envisaged to be held on the morning of the last day (5 December 2025) to allow for the preparation of the Meeting Report. The afternoon session is proposed to start at 4 p.m. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 7 p.m. after adopting its Report, including the Decisions.
- d) In accordance with Rule of Procedure 24, the Meeting may consider establishing such committees and other working groups as required for the transaction of its business. As per Decision IG.21/13 (Annex II), *“A Budget Contact Group should be set up during COPs in order to facilitate informed discussion among the Parties about its budget that can take account of draft decisions and the state of contributions and commitments in the ongoing biennium”*. On the basis of the well-established practice and following the discussions at the MAP Focal Points Meeting, it is also expected to create an informal working group to prepare the draft Cairo Ministerial Declaration, under the leadership of Egypt as the Host Country of COP 24, for the consideration of the Plenary and for adoption during the Ministerial Session of COP 24.
- e) The Meeting will feature a Ministerial Session on Thursday, 4 December 2025. The Ministerial session will focus on the theme *“Sustainable Blue Economy for a resilient and healthy Mediterranean”*.
- f) Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, French and Spanish will be available in all plenary sessions throughout the meeting.

2.5 Verification of Credentials

11. Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that each Contracting Party shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required.

12. Rule 19 stipulates that the credentials of the representatives and the names of the alternate representatives shall be submitted by the Contracting Parties before the opening session of the meeting which the representatives are to attend. It provides also that the Bureau shall examine the credentials of representatives and submit its report to the meeting.

13. Details for the submission of credentials in accordance with the above-mentioned Rules of Procedures have been provided to Contracting Parties with the invitation to COP 24 by the Executive Director of UNEP.

Agenda Item 3: Thematic Decisions

Working Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/4-16

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/Inf. 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

14. Under this agenda item the Meeting will consider for possible adoption a number of decisions reviewed at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025), addressing specific issues related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and including strategic and programming documents.

15. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will briefly introduce each decision highlighting in particular the main points raised at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025).

16. In relation to Decision IG.27/1 on Compliance and Reporting, the Coordinator will introduce the Decision and its Annexes I, IV and V, while the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee will introduce its Annex II on the Activity Report of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2024-2025 and its Annex III on the Programme of Work of the Compliance Committee for the biennium 2026-2027.

17. In relation to Decision IG.27/4 on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2026-2035, the Coordinator will introduce the Decision and will present the Annex to the Decision together with the President of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

18. The Meeting may wish to consider and adopt the following decisions under this agenda item:

<i>Decision Number</i>	<i>Title of the Decision</i>	<i>Working Document Number</i>
<i>Decision IG.27/1</i>	Compliance and Reporting	UNEP/MED IG.27/4
<i>Decision IG.27/2</i>	Governance	UNEP/MED IG.27/5
<i>Decision IG.27/3</i>	Reporting Format for Articles 6, 7, 11, and 15 of the Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol Implementation	UNEP/MED IG.27/6
<i>Decision IG.27/4</i>	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026-2035	UNEP/MED IG.27/7
<i>Decision IG.27/5</i>	Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas 2026-2035	UNEP/MED IG.27/8
<i>Decision IG.27/6</i>	Upgraded Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Policy, Roadmap, and Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast (IMAP)	UNEP/MED IG.27/9
<i>Decision IG.27/7</i>	Amendments to the “Common Criteria for proposing amendments to Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean” and Proposals for amendment of Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol	UNEP/MED IG.27/10
<i>Decision IG.27/8</i>	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs), Strategies and Action Plans under the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, including the Post-2020 SAPBIO	UNEP/MED IG.27/11
<i>Decision IG.27/9</i>	Mandate of the Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change and Terms of Reference of its Focal Points	UNEP/MED IG.27/12
<i>Decision IG.27/10</i>	Assessment Studies: Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the MedECC Special Report on interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food - Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus in the Mediterranean Basin (MedECC Special WEFE Report)	UNEP/MED IG.27/13
<i>Decision IG.27/11</i>	Marine Pollution from Ships: Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL in the Mediterranean Sea (MENELAS) and Roadmap for	UNEP/MED IG.27/14

<i>Decision Number</i>	<i>Title of the Decision</i>	<i>Working Document Number</i>
	Transitioning to Low Carbon Shipping in the Mediterranean Sea	
<i>Decision IG.27/12</i>	Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035 in the framework of the Offshore Protocol	UNEP/MED IG.27/15
<i>Decision IG.27/13</i>	Implementation of Updated National Action Plans (NAPs), containing Measures and Timetables for their Implementation	UNEP/MED IG.27/16

Agenda Item 4: Decision on Programme of Work and Budget for 2026 – 2027

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.27/17

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/Inf.4, 8

19. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will present the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 2026-2027, as well as the changes introduced during and following the discussions held at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Athens, Greece, 16-19 September 2025).

20. The Meeting may wish to consider and adopt the relevant decision under this agenda item, following the report of the Budget Contact Group mentioned under agenda item 2.4 (d) above.

<i>Decision Number</i>	<i>Title of the Decision</i>	<i>Working Document Number</i>
<i>Decision IG.27/14</i>	Programme of Work and Budget for 2026-2027	UNEP/MED IG.27/17

Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Session

5.1 Opening of the session

21. Statements will be made as follows:

- Welcoming address and introductory remarks by, H.E. Ms. Manal Awad Mikhail, Minister of Local Development and Acting Minister of Environment of Egypt;
- Welcoming address by Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, or her representative;
- Keynote address by Ambassador Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.

5.2 Report on Activities carried out in the framework of UNEP/MAP since the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 23)

Working Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/3, IG.27/18

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.27/Inf. 3-7, 9, 10, 12-22

22. The Meeting has before it documents UNEP/MED IG.27/3 “Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2024-2025 Biennium” and UNEP/MED IG.27/18 “Statement of Account for the Financial Period, as per Procedure 5.2 of the Financial Rules and Procedures for the Funds of the Barcelona Convention”.

23. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will introduce the two documents, highlighting the main achievements and challenges faced during the last biennium with regards to the implementation of the programme of work.

24. The Meeting may wish to comment as necessary on the progress achieved on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget adopted by COP 23.

5.3 Interactive Ministerial Policy Review Session

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.27/19

Information Document: UNEP/MED IG.27/Inf.14, 17

25. To facilitate the discussion at the Ministerial session, the Meeting has before it document UNEP/MED IG.27/19 “Background Note for Ministerial Discussions at COP 24”.
26. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations will be invited to make their interventions on the themes presented in the background document UNEP/MED IG.27/19. A panel discussion of relevance to the themes of the session is also envisaged.
27. Additional information on the Ministerial Session will be provided at a later stage.

5.4 Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024–2025

28. The fifth edition of the “Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award”, established through Decision IG.22/19 adopted at COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), will be conferred to the winning Mediterranean coastal city/town by the President of the Bureau and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

5.5 Cairo Ministerial Declaration

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.27/20

Information Document: UNEP/MED IG.27/Inf.11

29. The Meeting has before it document UNEP/MED IG.27/20 “Draft Cairo Ministerial Declaration”, which will be introduced by the representative of Egypt as Host Country, who has led the process of its preparation.
30. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations will be invited to discuss and adopt the Cairo Ministerial Declaration.

Agenda Item 6: Date and Place of the 25th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP25)

31. The Meeting will be invited to consider the dates and place of the 25th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 25) to be convened in 2027.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

32. Participants will be invited to discuss other matters that may require attention of the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties that were raised and agreed upon during the adoption of the provisional agenda.

Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the Report

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.27/21

33. At its final session, the Meeting will be invited to consider and adopt its Report including the Decisions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting

34. It is expected that the Meeting will be closed by the President at 7 p.m. on Friday, 5 December 2025.

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 2 December 2025			
Time	Agenda item		Working Documents
8:30 – 10:00	<i>Registration</i>		
9:00 – 10:00	<i>Informal Meeting of Heads of Delegations</i>		
10:00 – 10:30	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Organizational Matters	President of the Bureau Host Country Minister ED UNEP UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/1; 27/2
10:30 – 11:00	5.5 Cairo Ministerial Declaration	Host Country UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/20
11:00 – 12:00	4. Programme of Work and Budget 2026-2027	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/17
12:00 – 13:00	3. Thematic Decisions: IG.27/1 (Compliance and Reporting) IG.27/2 (Governance) IG.27/3 (Reporting Format for Articles 6, 7, 11, and 15 of the Land-Based Sources (LBS) Protocol Implementation)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator Compliance Committee Chair	UNEP/MED IG.27/4; 27/5; 27/6
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch Break and Side Events</i>		
15:00 – 18:00	3. Thematic Decisions: IG.27/4 (MSSD 2026-2035) IG.27/5 (RCCAF 2026-2035) IG.27/6 (Upgraded EcAp Policy, Roadmap, and IMAP) IG.27/7 (Amendment of Annexes II and III of the SPA/BD Protocol) IG.27/8 (SPAMIs, Strategies and Action Plans under the SPA/BD Protocol)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator MCSD President	UNEP/MED IG.27/7-27/11
Wednesday, 3 December 2025			
9:30 – 12:00	3. Thematic Decisions: IG.27/9 (Mandate of CC/RAC) IG.27/10 (Assessment Studies: SPM of the MedECC Special Report on WEFEX Nexus) IG.27/11 (Marine Pollution from Ships) IG.27/12 (Updated Offshore Action Plan 2026-2035) IG.27/13 (Implementation of Updated NAPs)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/12-27/16
12:00 – 12:30	5.5 Cairo Ministerial Declaration	Host Country UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/20

12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break and Side Events</i>		
14:30 – 17:30	4. Programme of Work and Budget 2026-2027	Budget Contact Group Chair UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/17
Thursday, 4 December 2025 Ministerial Session			
10:00 – 11:00	5.1 Opening of the Session	Host Country Minister ED UNEP Keynote Speaker	
11:00 – 11:30	5.2 Report on Activities carried out in the framework of UNEP/MAP since the 23 rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 23)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.27/3, IG.27/18
11:30 – 13:00	5.3 Ministerial Session: “ <i>Sustainable Blue Economy for a resilient and healthy Mediterranean</i> ”.	Keynote Speaker(s)/Panelists Ministers/Heads of Delegation	UNEP/MED IG.27/19
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch Break and Side Events</i>		
15:00 – 16:30	5.3 Ministerial Session: “ <i>Sustainable Blue Economy for a resilient and healthy Mediterranean</i> ” - <i>Continued</i>	Ministers/Heads of Delegation	UNEP/MED IG.27/19
16:30 – 17:00	5.4 Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2024-2025	President of the Bureau UNEP/MAP Coordinator	
17:00 – 18:00	5.5 Cairo Ministerial Declaration	Ministers/Heads of Delegation	UNEP/MED IG.27/20
Friday, 5 December 2025			
16:00 – 16:15	6. Date and place of COP 25 7. Any Other Business	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	
16:15 – 18:45	8. Adoption of the Report	President of the Bureau Rapporteur	UNEP/MED IG.27/21
18:45 – 19:00	9. Closure of COP 24	President of the Bureau	