The Simplified Peer Review Mechanism on National Strategies for Sustainable Development (SIMPEER)

18th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee
Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017
The SIMPEER in the COP Decisions

COP19, Athens, Greece, Feb. 2016
16th Meeting of the MCSD & 17th Meeting of the MCSD SC, Marrakech, Morocco, June 2015
15th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, Floriana, Malta, June 2014

COP18, Istanbul, Turkey, Dec. 2013

COP19, Athens, Greece, Feb. 2016
Decision IG.22/17 Annex II

United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention
COP19 Decision IG.22/17 - Annex II (1/3)

Rationale:
- Diverse approaches of NSSDs (reference framework)
- New challenges after adoption of the MSSD 2016-2025 (implementation, monitoring, review)
- Great potential for experiences and practices sharing
- 15th Meeting of the MCSD recommended a Simplified Peer Review Mechanism to upgrade the role of the MCSD, as a tool to foster exchange of practices
- COP18 IG.21/12 “request[ed] the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the MCSD on how a Simplified Peer Review Mechanism could be put in place”

Aim:
- Dialogue about national SD structures & processes
- Mediterranean countries engaged in a mutual improvement and learning process
- Contribute to the MSSD 2016-2025 ownership, implementation and monitoring

Scope:
- NSSDs structure and processes
- MSSD 2016-2025 as a reference framework – and a declination of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs
Principles:

• Voluntary basis, equal participation
• Learning by doing and sharing (constructive process)
• Participatory approach (with relevant national stakeholders) – credibility, commitment
• Flexibility (simplicity) – opening avenue to thematic scope…

Enabling conditions & criteria for success:

• Commitment and ownership (political back-up)
• Adequacy of resources: UNEP/MAP PoW; CPs’ support; external funding shall be sought
• Value sharing: Participating countries share the same views on the standards and criteria for a successful improvement and learning process
• Mutual trust, respect
• Credibility (independent body: project team)
COP19 Decision IG.22/17 - Annex II (3/3)

Process (role distribution):
• MCSD supported by the Secretariat with the technical expertise of its Plan Bleu RAC
• Expression of interest from volunteer CPs
• Methodological report & roadmap; Key questions for stakeholders’ consultations (interviews & plenary meetings during country missions)
• Countries’ missions & national reports; Master report
• Peer Review Meeting (face-to-face), plus specific session during Meeting of the MCSD

Expected benefits for involved countries:
• Enhanced cooperation & partnerships (between and within countries)
• Contribution to capacity building: foster sharing info & skills; from domestic issues to international exchanges and experiences
• Encouragement and enhancement of compliance: the SIMPEER acts as a platform for encouraging & enhancing the compliance for the CPs
• Cost effectiveness: access to expertise from other countries instead of expensive assessments by consultants and firms
Do CPs have the luxury to devote workforce and resources to the MSSD 2016-2025 alone?

A tool to assist CPs to implement and monitor their work on SDGs and Environmental Conventions through the means of the MSSD/NSSDs

Voluntary basis

Dialogue

Agreed methodology

Mutual learning, equal participation
Improvement from past experiences
Exchanges of experiences, policies and good practices

SDGs specifications

MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring

Scrutiny framework between reviewed and reviewer countries

United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention
## Actions towards implementation (2016-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Drafting ToR for Sustainable Development and Peer Review Experts</td>
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<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Constitution of the SIMPEER’s project team: Plan Bleu PO, Peer Review Senior Expert, SD Senior Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>July – Nov. 2016</td>
<td>Expression of interest of volunteer countries: France, Montenegro and Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>July – Sept. 2016</td>
<td>Drafting Methodological Report and Roadmap (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.428/Inf.3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 October 2016</td>
<td>SIMPEER First Technical Meeting, Barcelona, Spain: volunteer countries &amp; MCSD Members, plus observers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. – Dec. 2016</td>
<td>Collection of key documents from national contact: Preparation of the desktop analysis</td>
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<td>Sept. – Jan. 2016</td>
<td>Completion of the template (support from national person contact): Preparation of national factsheets --&gt; national reports</td>
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<td>Jan. – Feb. 2016</td>
<td>Country missions: face-to-face interviews, plenary meetings, and roundtables with national policymakers and other stakeholders</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Peer Review Meeting between 3 volunteer countries: national reports discussed</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Master report to be delivered at the MCSD and MAP NFPs Meeting, plus COP20</td>
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SIMPEER three-phases roadmap

**Phase 1:** Analysis of existing Peer Review Mechanisms

**Phase 2:** Design and test of SIMPEER

**Phase 3:** Consultation and review - Reporting and dissemination

Common pattern of existing peer review mechanisms:

**Preparatory, consultation and review phases**

- Communication phase of the peer-reviews’ results
- Monitoring of the implementation of recommendations and outcomes
- Dissemination and knowledge management of lessons learned
### Existing peer review mechanisms (1/2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Dimensions for delivering effective development co-operation and humanitarian assistance in various development contexts – To improve development aid assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Four Focus areas – To foster adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, and sustainable development</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Set of agreed questions discussed at national and international level – A platform for an open exchange among experts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Standard chapters and specific topics - Set of indicators - To assist European-non-OECD countries in improving their environmental situation and promote the harmonization of environmental policies in the UNECE region</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Volunteer National Review – Efforts made by countries to implement the 2030 Agenda</td>
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Existing peer review mechanisms (2/2)

Structural elements shared by all PRM:

- a system of reference
- an agreed on set of principles
- standards and criteria against which the performance of the reviewed country will be assessed (analytical framework)
- designated stakeholders to carry out the review (organizational chart)
- a set of procedures leading to the final result (process phases)

APPROACH FOR THE SIMPEER
Design of the SIMPEER (1/2)

National Level

Sound and effective NSSD

Leadership, completeness, participation, resources and means, monitoring...

How it is integrating MSSD' issues?

How they are supporting NSSD’s implementation?

Regional Level (Mediterranean)

Adopted and implemented MSSD 2016-2025

6 Objectives – 29 Strategic directions – 147 Actions

Dashboard of Sustainability Set of indicators

How they can be used to monitor MSSD’ effectiveness?

How they are linked to?

Global Level

2030 Agenda for SD

17 SD Goals

169 Targets

251 Global SD Indicators

How they are integrated?
Design of the SIMPEER (2/2)

Fundamental dimensions of a NSSD analysis:

1. **Leadership, country ownership, and strong political commitments**

2. **Completeness**, addressing the linkages among the three sustainable development pillars (i.e. integrated economic, social and environmental objectives across sectors, territories and generations)

3. **Governance**, inclusiveness, broad participation, effective and institutionalized partnership, and building trust

4. **Resources and means of implementation**: clear objectives and responsibilities, developing capacities and enabling environment, focus on outcomes

5. **Monitoring and evaluation** of the process, the outcomes, and the impacts

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United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention
## Implementation at the national level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory Phase</td>
<td>• Expression of interest of volunteer countries</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Methodological approach defined and discussed with MCSD SC members</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and volunteer countries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Desktop analysis based on material provided by countries</td>
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<td>• Template questions formulated</td>
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<td>Consultation Phase</td>
<td>• Country mission</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Synthesize national reports (desktop analysis + mission reports)</td>
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<td>• National reports sent to volunteer countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Phase</td>
<td>• Review meeting: volunteer countries</td>
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<td>Dissemination Phase</td>
<td>• Dissemination at national level</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• MCSD and Barcelona Convention meetings</td>
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</table>
Environmental Conventions

- Convention on Biological Diversity 1992
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1992, Kyoto Protocol 1997
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 1994
- Rotterdam Convention (1998) and Stockholm Convention (2001) on toxic chemicals

Commitments
Actions
Compliance
Workload
SDGs

Targets & Actions

Workload

United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention
Barcelona Convention

Protocols

Workload
Commitments and Compliance

SIMPEER is not meant to add to the workload, but to provide a useful tool to streamline it.
Making it a useful process for the CPs

• What are the policies and action plans than need to be covered by the SIMPEER to have the most comprehensive view in relation to global / regional commitments?

• What are the key issues to be addressed?
  • **Technical** (completeness, tools, etc.)
  • **Administrative** (institutions, means, funding, etc.)
  • **Governance** (leadership, participation, transparency, etc.)

• How can it become a tool for integration of policies?
Building Opportunities for Synergy

- Identify opportunities for joint activities between CPs
- Look for ways to involve MCSD Members in supporting MSSD 2016-2025 implementation
- Increase publicity and awareness in order to engage stakeholders and the public
A process to help, not to burden

• How can it best serve the CPs need to monitor multiple mechanisms?

• How can it be integrated to work with existing structures?

• How can it be carried out with minimum extra burden to the structures?
COUNTRIES’ MISSIONS

Countries’ missions are at the core of the SIMPEER process. They constitute the key step and aim at:

- Reviewing and completing the analysis of national background documents with national stakeholders
- Preparing a draft assessment report to be presented to peer countries for review
- Identifying key topics to be discussed during the review meeting
Expected outputs (1/2)

- **Country missions expected results are:**
  - Background report, elaborated by the SIMPEER project team, is discussed by national stakeholders
  - Template questions identified during the desktop analysis are discussed with stakeholders and possible answers are elaborated
  - Countries draft assessment to be shared with peer review countries
Expected outputs (2/2)

- Desktop Analysis
- Draft Background Report
- Country Mission Report
- Peer Review Meeting (3 countries)
- Draft Assessment Report (desktop analysis + template)

National Report to feed Master/Final Report
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