

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

18th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

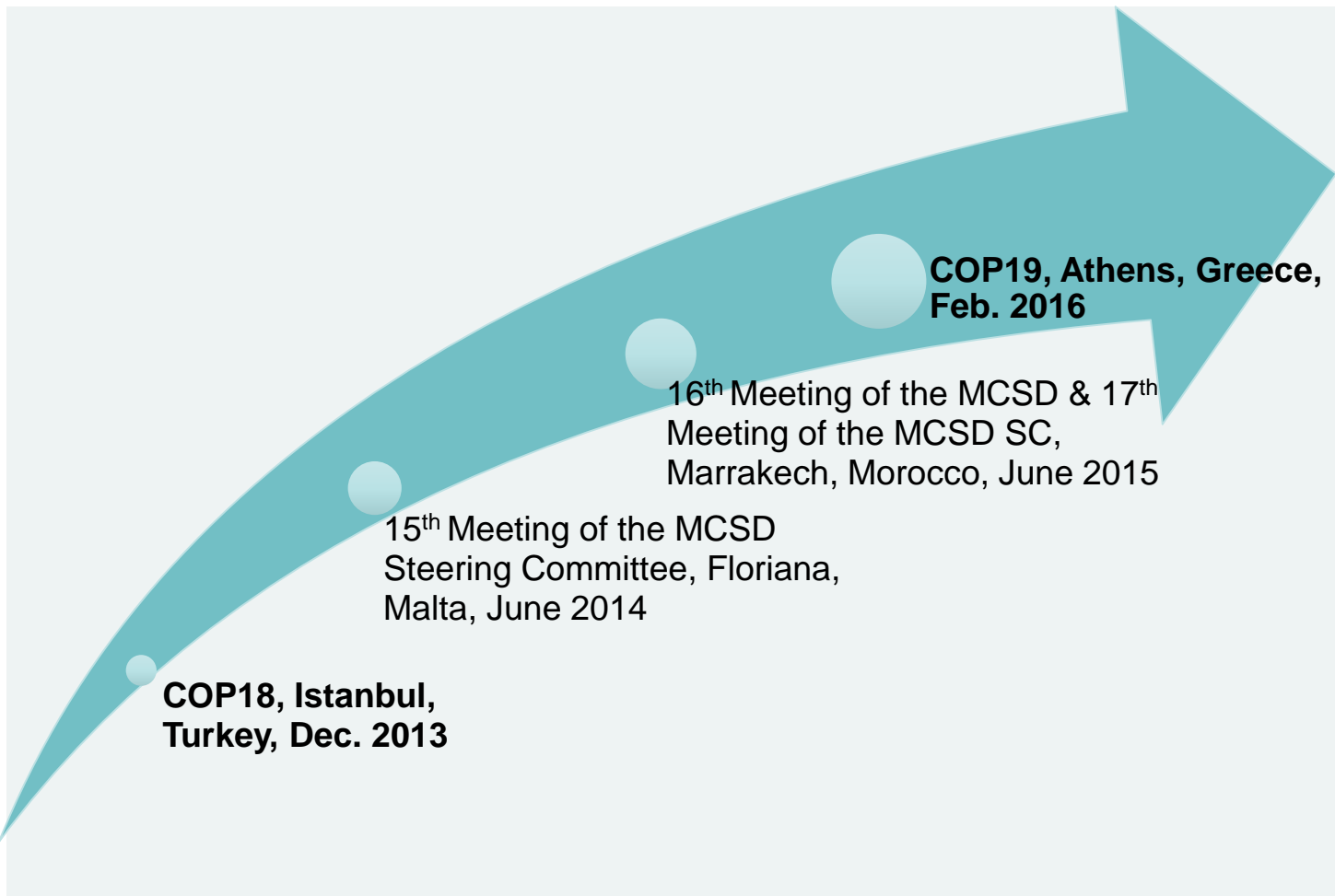
Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017



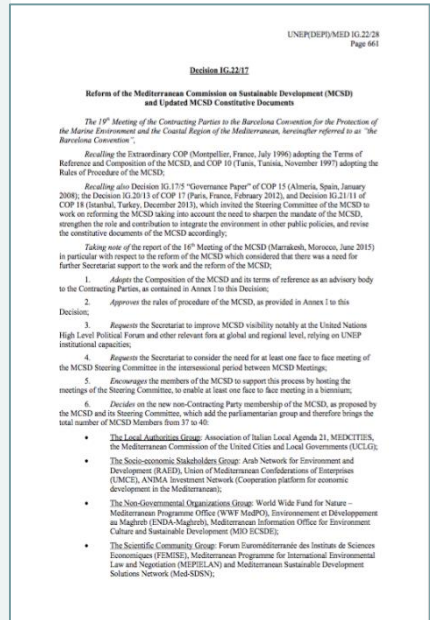
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The SIMPEER in the COP Decisions



COP19 Decision IG.22/17 Annex II



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 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

COP19 Decision IG.22/17 - Annex II (2/3)

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)

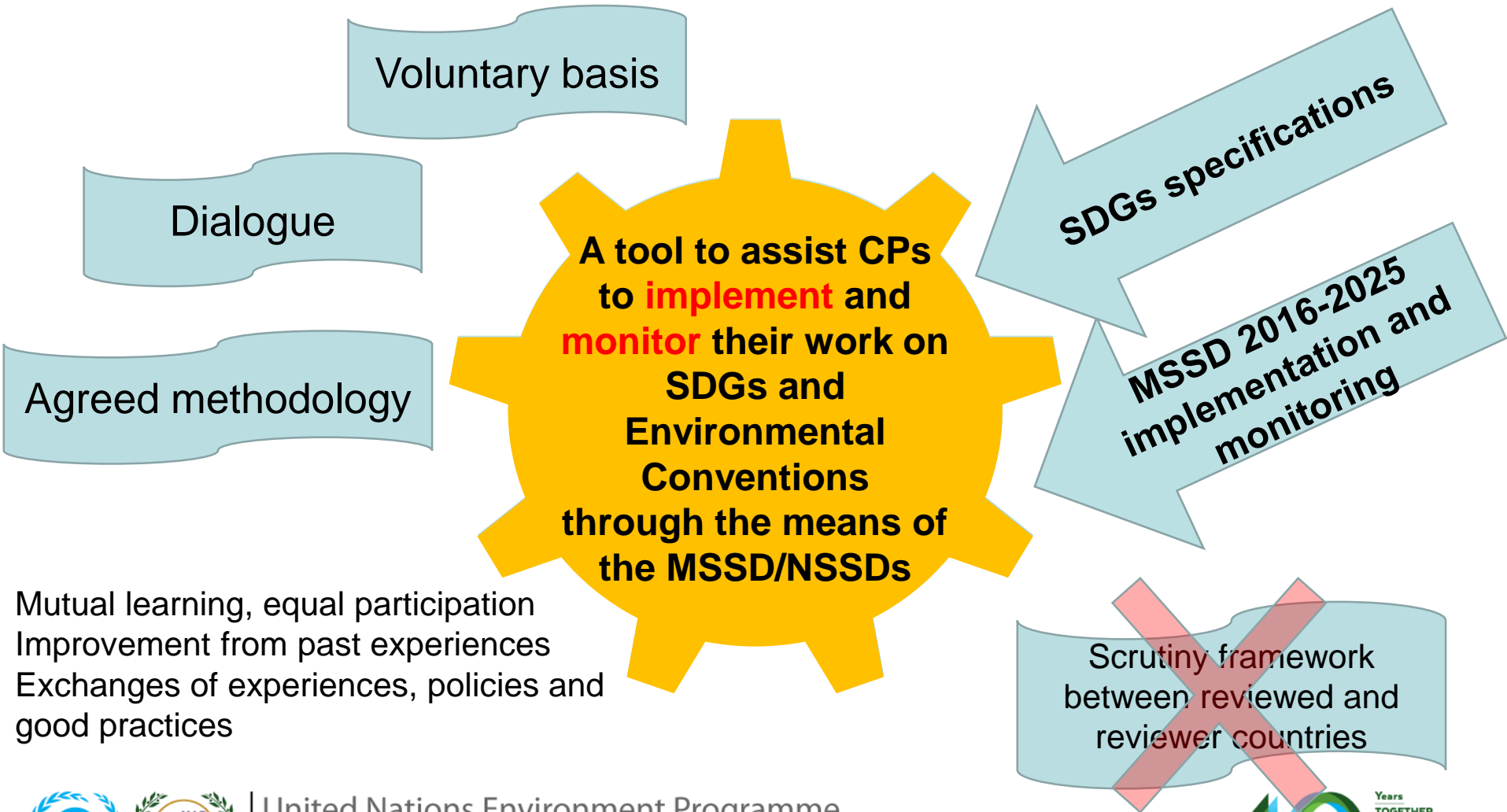
Process (role distribution):

- 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?

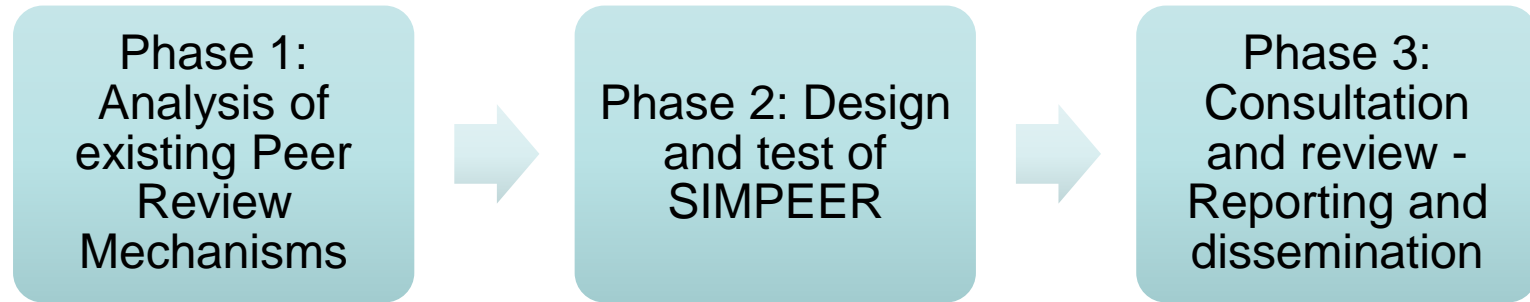


Mutual learning, equal participation
Improvement from past experiences
Exchanges of experiences, policies and good practices

Actions towards implementation (2016-2017)

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

SIMPEER three-phases roadmap



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)



1962 – Dimensions for delivering effective development co-operation and humanitarian assistance in various development contexts – To improve development aid assistance



2002 – Four Focus areas – To foster adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, and sustainable development

BRICS+G

Sustainability and Growth in Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and Germany



2005 – Set of agreed questions discussed at national and international level – A platform for an open exchange among experts



1993 - 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



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

2015 – Volunteer National Review – Efforts made by countries to implement the 2030 Agenda



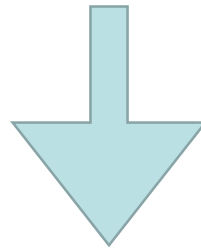
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Existing peer review mechanisms (2/2)

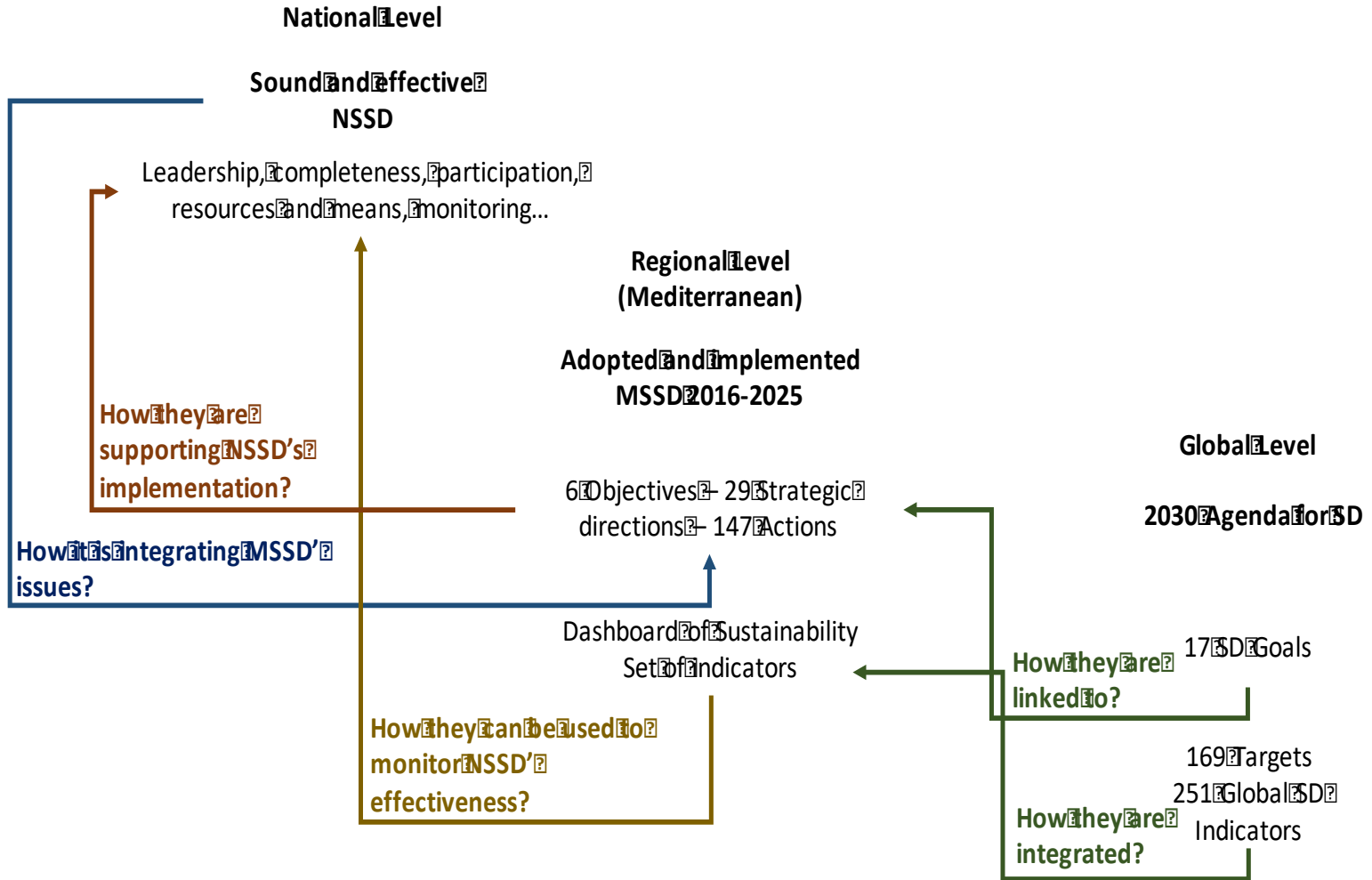
Structural elements shared by all PRM:

- 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)



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

Implementation at the national level

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Preparatory Phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of interest of volunteer countries • Methodological approach defined and discussed with MCSD SC members and volunteer countries • Desktop analysis based on material provided by countries • Template questions formulated
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Consultation Phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country mission • Synthesize national reports (desktop analysis + mission reports) • National reports sent to volunteer countries
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Review Phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review meeting: volunteer countries
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Dissemination Phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination at national level • MCSD and Barcelona Convention meetings

Environmental Conventions

Montreal Protocol
1987
Phase out of Ozone
Depleting
Substances

**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

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?**

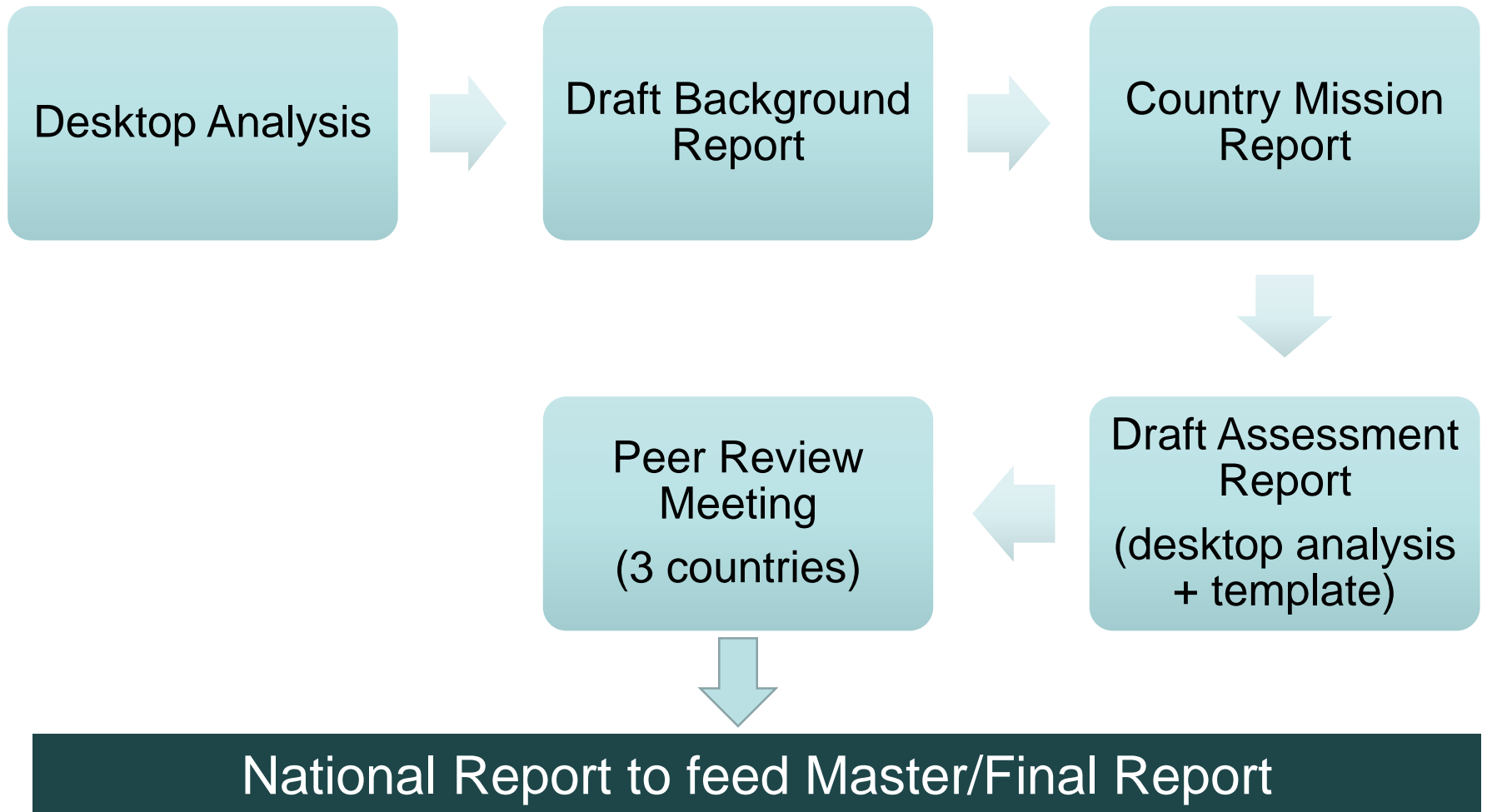
COUNTRIES' MISSIONS

- **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)



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