

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 Decision IG.22/17 Annex II

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Decision IG.22/17

Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, hereinafter referred to as "the Barcelona Convention";

Recalling the Extraordinary COP (Marseille, France, July 1996) adopting the Terms of Reference and Composition of the MCSD, and COP 10 (Tunis, Tunisia, November 1997) adopting the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD;

Recalling also Decision IG.17/5 "Governance Paper" of COP 15 (Almeria, Spain, January 2008); the Decision IG.20/13 of COP 17 (Paris, France, February 2012); and Decision IG.21/11 of COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, December 2013), which invited the Steering Committee of the MCSD to work on reforming the MCSD taking into account the need to sharpen the mandate of the MCSD, strengthen the role and contribution to integrate the environment in other public policies, and revise the constitutive documents of the MCSD accordingly;

Taking note of the report of the 16th Meeting of the MCSD (Marrakech, Morocco, June 2015) in particular with respect to the reform of the MCSD which considered that there was a need for further Secretariat support to the work and the reform of the MCSD;

- Adopt the Composition of the MCSD and its terms of reference as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties, as contained in Annex I to this Decision;*
- Approve the rules of procedure of the MCSD, as provided in Annex I to this Decision;*
- Request the Secretariat to improve MCSD visibility notably at the United Nations High Level Political Forum and other relevant fora at global and regional level, relying on UNEP institutional capacities;*
- Request the Secretariat to consider the need for at least one face to face meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee in the intermissional period between MCSD Meetings;*
- Encourage the members of the MCSD to support this process by hosting the meetings of the Steering Committee, to enable at least one face to face meeting in a biennium;*
- Decide on the new non-Contracting Party membership of the MCSD, as proposed by the MCSD and its Steering Committee, which add the parliamentary group and therefore brings the total number of MCSD Members from 17 to 40:*
 - The Local Authorities Group: Association of Italian Local Agenda 21, MEDCTERS, the Mediterranean Commission of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG);*
 - The Socio-economic Stakeholders Group: Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), Union of Mediterranean Civilizations of Enterprise (UMCE), ANIMA Investment Network (Cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean);*
 - The Non-Governmental Organizations Group: World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MedPO), Environment et Développement au Maghreb (ENDA-Maghreb), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO ICSDE);*
 - The Scientific Community Group: Forum EuroMediterranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (FEMISE), Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Vegetation (MEPILAN) and Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Med-SDSN);*

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)

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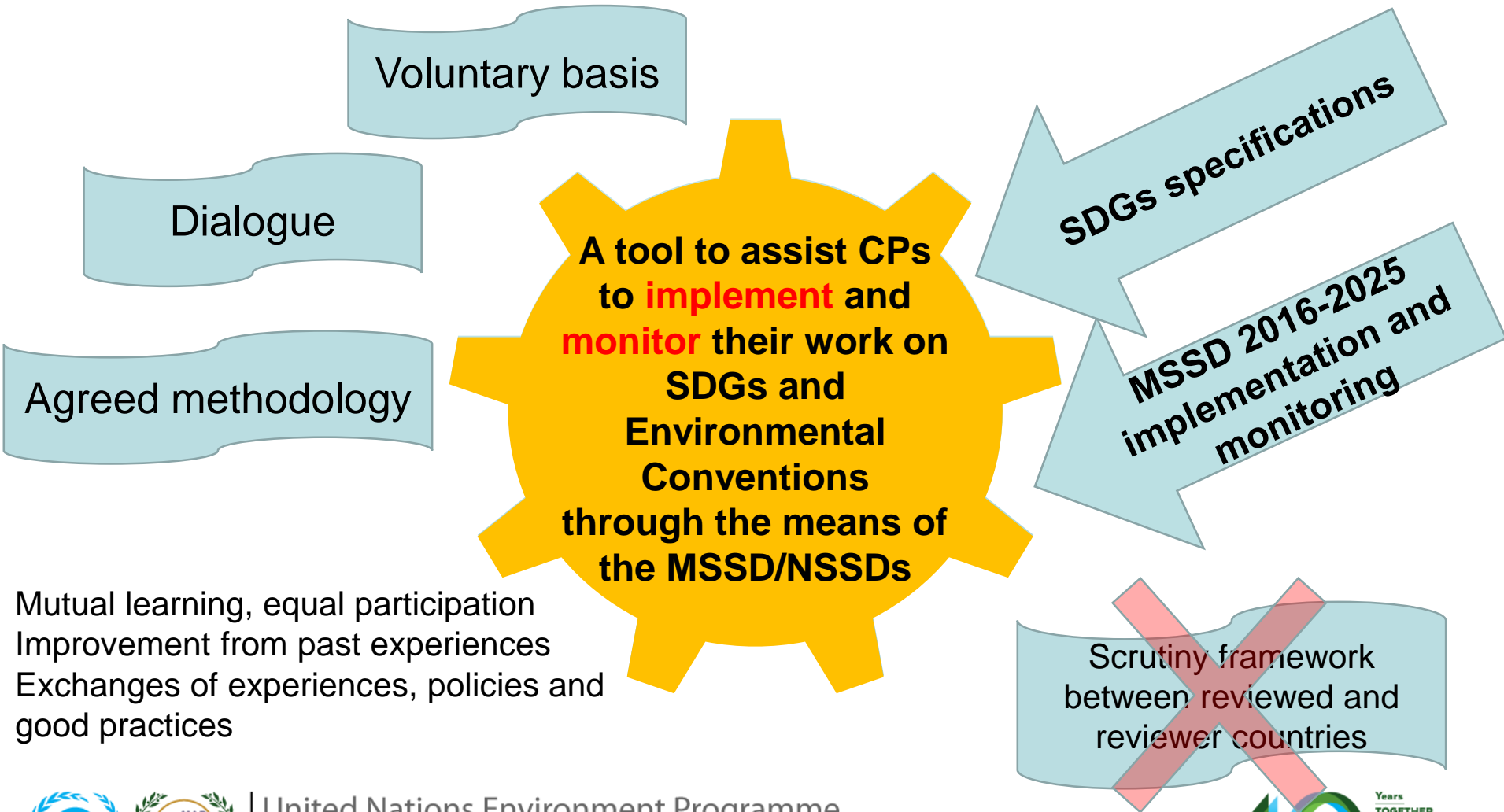
Process (role distribution):

- 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?

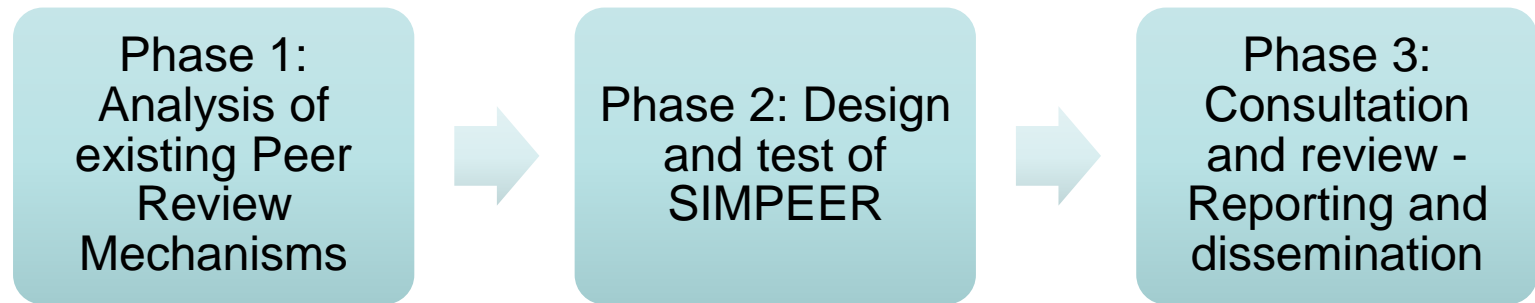


Mutual learning, equal participation
Improvement from past experiences
Exchanges of experiences, policies and good practices

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



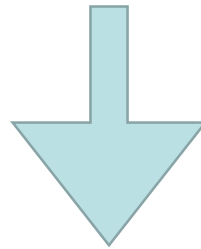
United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)
Barcelona Convention



Existing peer review mechanisms (2/2)

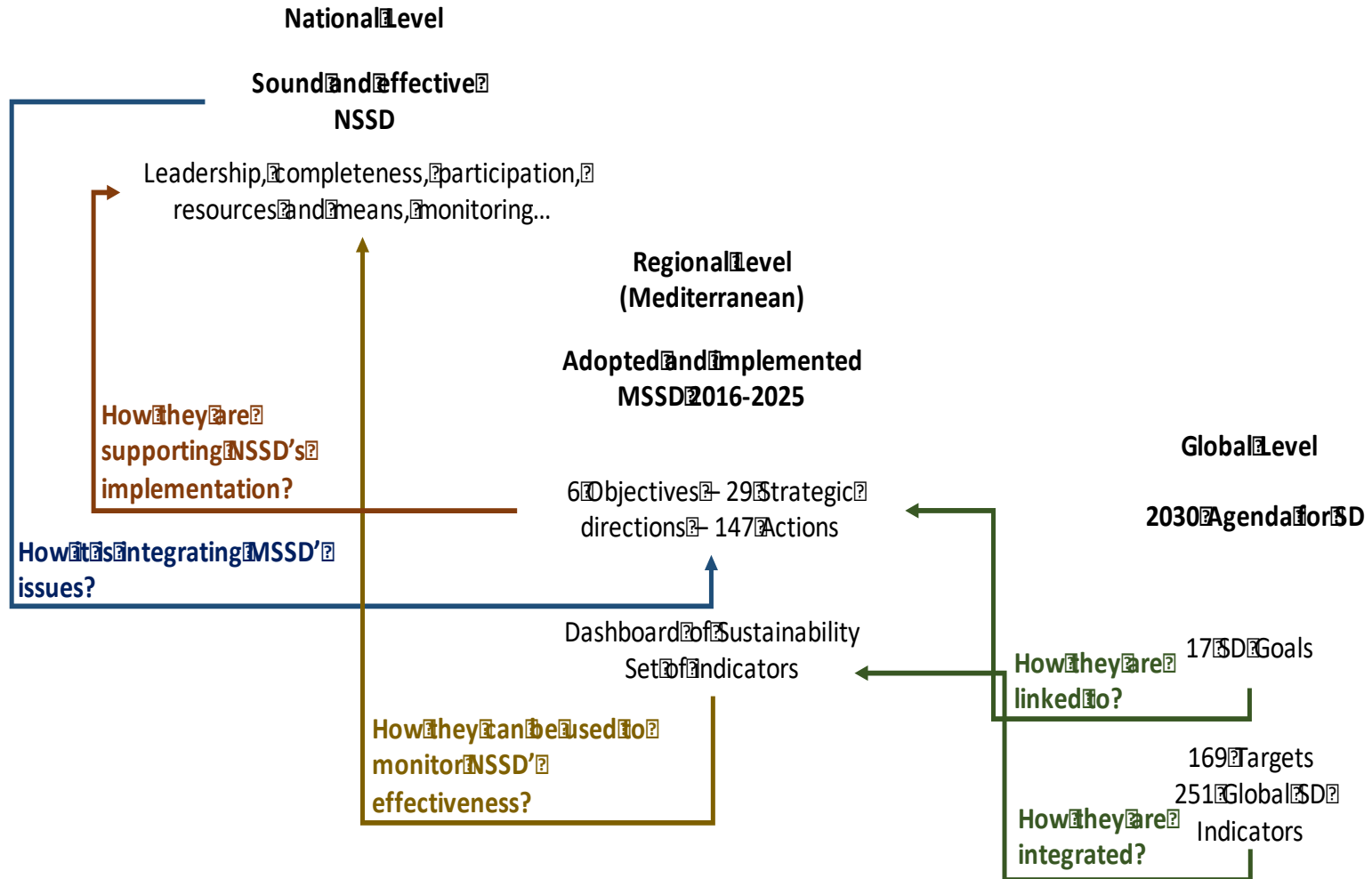
Structural elements shared by all PRM:

- 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

Preparatory Phase	<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
Consultation Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country mission • Synthesize national reports (desktop analysis + mission reports) • National reports sent to volunteer countries
Review Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review meeting: volunteer countries
Dissemination Phase	<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?**

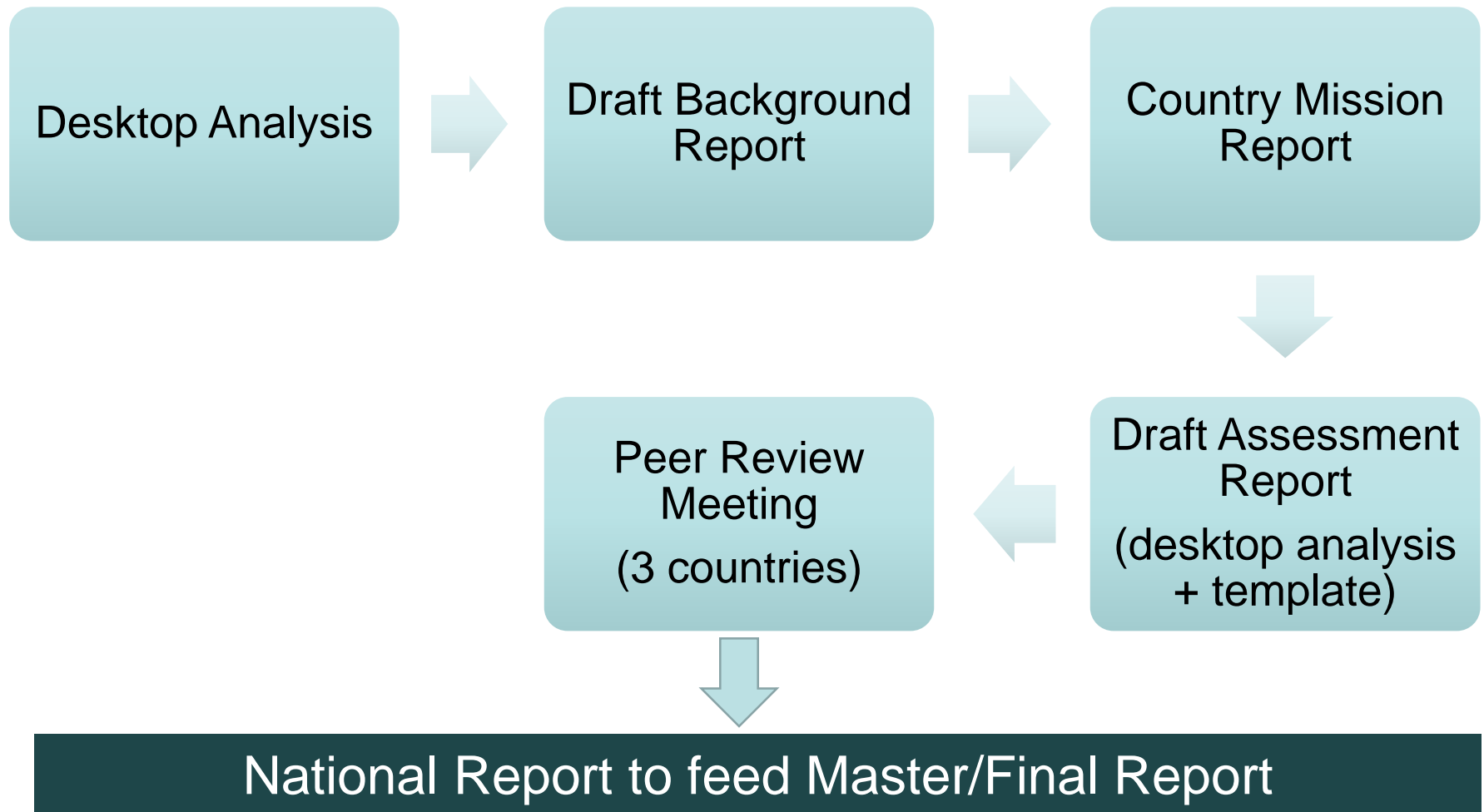
COUNTRIES' MISSIONS

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

