

# Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

Floriana, Malta, 17-18 February 2015

In the framework of the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), in close collaboration with the Coordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu, the Government of Malta is organising a Conference to discuss the first draft of the reviewed MSSD with stakeholders. The Conference will take place at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana, Malta on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Following the decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in December 2013, to review the Strategy, the reviewed MSSD will be submitted for the endorsement of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in Morocco in mid-June 2015, and for the approval of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Athens at end 2015.

The decision of the Contracting Parties in 2013 indicates that the reviewed MSSD2 must be articulated with global, regional and MAP governance processes, integrating MAP's priority fields of action (such as, inter alia, Integrated Coastal Zone Management) and relevant processes (such as, inter alia, the ecosystems approach and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan).

The review process of the MSSD was launched in Malta on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014, by the Hon. Leo Brincat, the Maltese Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change. During April-May 2014, a wide stakeholder consultation was carried out on the basis of a [MSSD Review Consultation Document](#) prepared to support the consultation. During the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (SC) in June 2014 in Malta, a vision and structure to guide the formulation of the revised MSSD were agreed. The following vision was recommended:

*“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.”*

It was also agreed that a set of guiding principles should be included in the strategy, such as the importance of an integrated approach, balanced development and openness to a plurality of future development models. Echoing the decision of the contracting parties, the SC also highlighted that the revised MSSD should focus on the interface between environment and development. The SC recommended that the MSSD 2.0 focuses on the following six thematic areas:

1. **Seas and coasts;** including efforts towards reaching Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean marine and coastal ecosystems
2. **Natural resources, rural development and food;** including links not only to marine and coastal, but also terrestrial habitats, and to fresh waters
3. **Climate;** including the impacts of climate change on natural resources and socioeconomic sectors and possible responses

4. **Sustainable cities**; including coastal urbanisation and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, land transport, waste management, infrastructure, housing and energy
5. **Transition towards a green economy**; including sustainable consumption and production
6. **Governance**, including financing, Aarhus Convention–related issues such as public participation, and cooperation.

## **Provisional Agenda**

### **DAY 1**

- Agenda item 1.           Opening of the meeting and welcoming remarks
- Agenda item 2.           Keynote address
- Agenda item 3.           Key MAP Initiatives of relevance for the MSSD (e.g. Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan, Ecosystem Approach Implementation, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Action Plan, Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework)
- Agenda item 4.           Introduction to the MSSD Review Process
- Agenda item 5.           The Draft Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2.0 (MSSD 2.0)
- Agenda item 6.           Breakout groups to discuss MSSD 2.0
- Group 1 - Seas and coasts
  - Group 2 - Natural resources, rural development and food
  - Group 3 - Climate
  - Group 4 - Sustainable cities
  - Group 5 - Transition towards a green economy
  - Group 6 – Governance

### **DAY 2**

- Agenda item 6 (cont'd). Continuation of breakout groups
- Agenda item 7.           Report to the plenary from breakout groups, discussions and recommendations
- Agenda item 8.           Closure of the meeting