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Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

Floriana, Malta, 17-18 February 2015

### **Report of the Conference**

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## **Report of the Conference**

1. The Conference on the Review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was held on 17 and 18 February 2015 in Malta, hosted by the Government of Malta in close collaboration with the Coordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu. The aim of the Conference was to review the draft Strategy document and to provide guidance on its finalization before it is submitted for the endorsement of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), which will take place in Morocco in mid-June 2015 and the adoption by the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

### **Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting, welcoming remarks and award ceremony**

2. The meeting was opened by the Honorable Leo Brincat, Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change of Malta. Following his address, welcoming remarks were delivered by the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, Mr. Gaetano Leone and also by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, Dr. Marguerite Camilleri, who acted as the Chairperson of the Conference.
3. Following the welcoming remarks Honorable Minister Brincat presented Malta's Goodwill Ambassador for sustainable development for 2015, Ms. Ira Losco, with her award.

### **Agenda item 2. Keynote address**

4. Two keynote speeches were delivered by Mr. Najib Saab, Secretary General of Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) and Professor Salvino Bussutil, President of Fondation de Malte.

### **Agenda item 3. Key MAP initiatives of relevance for the MSSD**

5. UNEP/MAP Secretariat and representatives of UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centers presented the current status of the following MAP initiatives: Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Regional Action Plan and Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

### **Agenda item 4. Introduction to the MSSD Review Process**

6. The Director of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center, Mr. Hugues Ravenel presented the MSSD Review Process.

### **Agenda item 5. The Draft MSSD**

7. The draft revised MSSD was presented by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, Dr. Marguerite Camilleri and Senior Advisor, Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, and a short question and answer session was held.
8. The points regarding the general approach and structure of the MSSD can be summarized as follows:

- There was good and constructive participation in the discussions (both plenary and breakout groups) by all participants;
  - All participants recognized the good quality of the draft document and the efficiency of the process followed to produce a synthesis of all input by a broad range of stakeholders, while maintaining a strategic approach;
  - Many participants underlined the need to have at the end of the process a strategy that is aimed at implementation and not only a guidance document;
  - For this purpose the involvement of all stakeholders must be reflected in the description of actions;
  - However, actions need at the same time to be at a level that is generic enough to allow adaptation to national (or sub-regional) level and needs;
  - Mobilizing regional networks, both for implementation as well as for mobilizing the resources needed for it can be an important step;
  - Coordination is key, specifically regarding the need to cooperate with other institutions within the UN system (e.g. Climate Convention) and outside it;
  - The involvement of the Private sector in the implementation regarding action as well as mobilization of resources is recognized as a key condition for successful implementation;
  - Flagship actions/initiatives can be important for the involvement of stakeholders from all sides, as well as effectively mobilizing resources;
  - Issues related to education, awareness and information, especially in relation to working with the Civil Society needs to be a strong part of implementation.
  - More focus is needed in identifying effectively the sources of funding for the implementation of the strategy, including in ways that allow to stakeholders to identify their role within it;
  - Similarly, the ongoing process of developing measurement indicators, both regarding the implementation of actions as well as the progress towards sustainable development needs to produce tools that will provide effective assessment and outreach tools.
9. More specific comments were also expressed in the plenary discussions, following presentation of the MSSD draft, and of the outcomes of the breakout groups (TWGs). The most important are as follows:
- The issue of competitiveness needs to be included in the green economy approach;
  - Governance: the issue is not only to capacitate people but have sound platforms/mechanisms of participation in the implementation;
  - The strategy must be a strong basis for leading countries to implement (i.e. not focus only on the regional aspects);
  - An action plan is needed for implementation, that will identify actors for implementation and financing;
  - A simple introduction, reference table, or executive summary that can be easily reviewed by politicians/decision-makers, as well as the economic sector, will make the document easier to use and gain acceptance and support;
  - It is important to add in the preamble a reference how the UNEP system can better address governance, in comparison to previous MSSD;
  - National focal points and Ministries of Environment need a clear focus to communicate to other ministries;

- What happens after endorsement at the COP is key: we need to secure endorsement at higher political level by states (possibly after approval of the SDGs);
- A marketing plan for the MSSD is necessary: it is proposed to extract a limited number of goals to reach out to higher political level and engage actors;
- Countries need to see themselves in the implementation of the strategy; to this extent countries could be asked for voluntary adoption of quantitative indicators, in line with national targets and commitments.

**Agenda item 6. Breakout groups to discuss the revised MSSD**

10. During the afternoon session of the first day, three parallel working groups met and focused on the following themes:
  - Theme 1 - Seas and coasts
  - Theme 2 - Natural resources, rural development and food
  - Theme 4 - Sustainable cities
11. During the morning session and the first half of afternoon session of the second day, three parallel working groups met and focused on the following themes:
  - Theme 3 - Climate
  - Theme 5 - Transition towards a green economy
  - Theme 6 - Governance
12. The working groups were moderated by members of the core group responsible for the review of the MSSD. Substantive support was provided to the groups by the thematic experts who carried out the preparatory work during the development of the draft of the MSSD.
13. The breakout groups discussed the Priority themes looking into all levels of analysis (introduction, Strategic Directions and Actions/Owners/Indicators). The detailed outcomes of each working group are provided in Annex 1.
14. The outcomes of breakout groups has been important for enriching the Strategy in many senses (see more detailed presentation of the Rapporteurs of breakout sessions below):
  - They have identified gaps that need to be addressed more effectively in the strategy;
  - Duplication of some cases has been also identified, while at the same time issues of more horizontal importance are identified under only one priority theme;
  - The role of Sustainable Consumption and Production as a key means for promotion of green economy has been discussed, as well as the potential it presents for linking with the private sector;
  - Importantly, the limits of the Barcelona Convention have been examined in the discussion, in relation to Directives and Actions that may extend beyond its strict borders (example: open seas in relation to environmental protection from non-living resources exploitation);
  - A strong communication and outreach plan, including mobilization of stakeholders that have been less involved (most importantly the private sector) has been underlined;
  - Owners of actions should be described in more detail at a regional level;

- Indicators are sometimes too generic, and could follow the SMART methodology (Specific, Measureable, Assignable, Realistic, Time-related)
15. More detailed comments in the breakout sessions included:
- Some participants considered necessary the development of a specific Natural Resources section;
  - Water issue is missing as a specific case;
  - Employment and job creation for youth and women must be a basis for development of actions;
  - The issue of fisheries and aquaculture was identified as missing in general;
  - Food security was mentioned as key issue for the future, to be addressed in the Agriculture sector, also in relation to Strategic directions and Indicators.

**Agenda item 8. Closure of the conference**

16. The outcomes of the Conference were briefly presented by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, Dr. Marguerite Camilleri and the MAP Coordinator, Mr. Gaetano Leone.
17. The Conference was closed by the Chairperson at 17:00 on Wednesday 18 February 2015.

## **ANNEX I: DETAILED OUTCOMES FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS**

### **Thematic Working Group 1: Seas and Coasts**

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Seas and Coasts” (TWG1) reported detailed outcomes, as follows:

- There is a need for clearer articulation on weaknesses of the initial MSSD (2005-2015);
- The MSSD should have a role of “facilitation document”, providing architecture and provisions for broad inclusion and further implementation;
- Following a transversal approach, synchronisation between interfaces should facilitate the fill-up of interfaces between sectors at a regional level, as well as the development of platform for involvement of relevant stakeholders;
- Maritime spatial planning and network of protected areas network should be included;
- In addition of regional and national scales, the thematic area “Seas and Coasts” should also endorse and promote sub-regional initiatives;
- “Open ocean” should be defined in relation to governance arrangements (e.g. economic exclusive zones, international waters);
- The strategic direction focusing on ‘shared monitoring’ has to include the science-governance interface;
- Participants suggested an additional Strategic direction, as follows: “Promote the Mediterranean regional sea governance to enhance dialogue and cooperation between member states”;
- Participants suggested more concrete actions, more proactive and more measurable outcomes.

### **Thematic Working Group 2: Natural resources, Rural development and Food**

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Natural resources, Rural development and Food” (TWG2) reported general comments about the MSSD and its introduction, as follows:

- The participants asked if there will be an implementation plan for the 10 years of the strategy;
- The outcomes of the consultation process seemed much more detailed than the draft and participants wondered if the material gathered during the consultation will be taken into consideration and wondered what will be the concrete result of the MSSD; The transition towards green economy must be considered as a cross-cutting issue: all the thematic areas of the MSSD should deal with;
- The two aspects of youth employment and funding need to be addressed globally (maybe under theme 6 Governance);
- MSSD is very ambitious and it should be more detailed regarding financing.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Natural resources, Rural development and Food” (TWG2) reported comments on Issues, as follows:

- The Theme 2 seems mainly focused on Rural development issues: Natural Resources should be a theme on itself;
- While social aspects are well covered, environmental aspects should be more clearly considered;

- Water is not specifically addressed as an issue, while it is a crucial issue especially in Southern Mediterranean countries;
- The text should mention the Integrated Water Resources Management;
- The Theme 2 deals exclusively with agriculture and should deal with fisheries that are neither considered in Theme 1 nor in Theme 2;
- Tourism is a big issue in the region as it is a major source of incomes and a sector that calls for a sustainable transition. However sustainable tourism was include in the Theme 5 (Green economy);
- The interdependency between rural development, agriculture and climate change should be better emphasized;
- A reference to food production should be added, as well as the concept of “efficient use of resources”;
- The issue of food security should be clearly addressed;
- Some indicators should be considered such as the Global Hunger Index, as well as indicators that deal with food dependence;
- The materials management should be included (mining, minerals...).

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Natural resources, Rural development and Food” reported comments about the Strategic directions, as follows:

- Each strategic direction should be clearly linked to a specific issue;
- A reference about ecosystem services should be added in Strategic direction 2.1 “*Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems*”;
- The strategic directions should promote the concept of “Climate resilient agriculture based on agro-ecological and organic technologies”, with special support to farmers;
- A stronger attention should be paid to environmental aspects;
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) should be clearly addressed in the strategic directions;
- The strategic directions and related actions should clearly deal with Water, Fisheries, Tourism and Climate Change.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Natural resources, Rural development and Food” reported comments about the Actions and Flagship initiatives, as follows:

- The MSSD should be more specific regarding the owners of the actions. Several actions are targeted well-known actors without mentioning them explicitly;
- Some indicators are not measurable (e.g. in 2.1.1: *Status of legal measures that are in place*) or too vague (e.g. 2.1.3 *Number of countries with targeted capacity development and training programme(s)*);
- Indicators must be SMART (Simple, Measurable, Assignable, Reliable, Time-related) and be shared by partners;
- A reference to the financing of each action must be clearly specified;
- The word “extraction” of natural resources should be replaced by “management” of natural resources.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Natural resources, Rural development and Food” reported detailed outcomes for each of the Strategic directions, as follows:

- Strategic direction 2.1: *Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems*
  - This Strategic direction should include a new action as follows “Ensure efficient use of natural resources, land, water, energy (...) and efficient food production, with main focus on agriculture”. The corresponding indicator could be: unit or resources per unit of product;
  - The Action 2.1.1 (*Ensure that legal measures are in place to conserve biodiversity in line with international and regional commitments as applicable*) should mention the ecosystem services;
  - The Actions 2.1.2 (*Ensure that management processes are in place for protected areas*) and 2.1.3 (*Ensure that management processes are in place for protected areas*) should be moved under the Strategic direction 2.3 (*Promote networks of ecologically protected areas at national and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss*);
  - The Action 2.1.5 (*Put in place cross-sectoral resource management strategies to ensure that renewable natural resources are extracted in ways that do not threaten the future use of the resources*) should be reformulated in order to include fisheries and water (notably the Integrated Water Resources Management);
  - The issue of the knowledge base is missing and a new action should be added as follows: “Ensure that knowledge base is developed, available for policy development process”.
- Strategic direction 2.2: *Promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, value traditional knowledge in rural management decisions*
  - The “traditional positive practices” should be mentioned in rewording the strategic direction as follows: “(...) value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions”.
- Strategic Direction 2.3: *Promote networks of ecologically protected areas at national and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss*
  - Networking should not be a strategic direction in itself but rather considered as a tool to achieve certain objectives like those of the actions 2.3.1 (*Promote national networking activities for ecologically protected areas with similar and different protection status*) and 2.3.3 (*Promote a regional network of managers of ecologically protected areas building on the experiences of existing initiatives*);
  - It is important for these actions 2.3.1 and 2.3.3 to mention the targeted groups of networking.
- Strategic Direction 2.4: *Promote inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, women’s empowerment and youth employment, including equitable and sustainable access to basic local services for rural communities*
  - The job opportunities are not clearly addressed by the Strategic direction. The action 2.4.1 (*Develop participatory rural development programmes to encourage sustainable economic development of vulnerable rural communities, particularly for the benefit of women and youth*) should include the “creation of job opportunities for youth” and could propose as indicator the number of jobs created;
  - Job creation could be included in theme 5 (Green economy), as it is not only linked to rural development;



- SMEs should be clearly mentioned as job creation does not rely only on large corporations.
- Strategic direction 2.5: *Ensure access of local producers to distribution channels and markets, including the tourism market*
  - The strategic direction should include a new action that deal with Certification or Labelling scheme in order to recognize the strengths of local producers (higher quality, traditional practices, and services) and to add value to their products. An indicator that could follow up this action could be “the number of products labelled or certified”.

### **Thematic working group 3: Climate change**

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Climate Change” (TWG3) reported general comments, as follows:

- The linkages between the MSSD and COP21 decisions should be mentioned;
- References to social and human impacts of Climate Change should be included;
- The introduction should acknowledge that Risk Management and Resilience concepts apply to all types of hazards and not to only Climate Change-related hazards.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Climate Change” (TWG3) reported comments about Issues, as follows:

- There are insufficient reference to the vulnerability of islands and their specific adaptation needs, and insufficient reference to the role of ecosystems and their associated services for building resilience and adaptation;
- Climate change costing and funding should appear as two separate issues;
- The issue is not about the development of Climate Change knowledge but rather about its subsequent use in decision making;
- The lack of BATs is not the only factor that hampering climate-sensitive economies.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Climate Change” (TWG3) reported detailed outcomes about the Strategic Directions and Actions/Flagship initiatives as follows:

Concerning the Strategic directions:

- The Strategic direction 3.1 “*Develop scientific knowledge and technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels*” should be rephrased as follows “Foster scientific knowledge and capacities on climate change to ensure informed decision-making”;
- The Strategic direction 3.2 “*Accelerate the uptake of climate-smart technologies*” focuses too much on technological aspects and should include non-technological solutions, including ecosystem-based responses. This Strategic direction should be rephrased as follows “Accelerate uptake of climate-smart and climate-resilient responses”.

Concerning the Actions:

- The Action 3.1.3 “*Sensitise the public through environmental education campaigns and ensure climate change is mainstreamed in the formal educational curricula, including through dedicated courses*” should add more stakeholders engagement and be linked with the Action 3.1.7 “*Establish regional courses and diplomas; promote cutting-edge e-learning and massive open online course (MOOC) programmes on Mediterranean climate change issues*”;

- The Action 3.1.7 should focus more on education of policy-makers and stakeholders;
- The Action 3.2.4 *“Establish a regional climate knowledge and innovation centre, also hosting a web-based regional climate change clearinghouse mechanism that will contain information on climate change monitoring, research, practical tools and projects”* could be replaced under the Strategic direction 3.1;
- The Flagship initiative 3.1.8 *“Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism endorsed by all the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options”* should include the social and behavioural sciences to the interface mechanism;
- The Flagship initiative 3.1.8 should be merge with the action 3.2.4;
- The Action 3.2.5 *“Launch a Mediterranean Climate Technology Initiative in conjunction with the EU Climate KIC, and UNFCCC CTI platform”* should be re-considered regarding the possible added value of having a Mediterranean mechanism;
- Participants suggested removing the Action 3.2.6 *“Mobilize resources and support for the development of trans-Mediterranean power grids for efficient utilization of renewable energy sources in the region”* as it is not directly connected to the Strategic direction 3.2;
- Some detailed comments have been provided about the Action 3.3.1 *“Set up suitable domestic financial instruments to finance the costs of adaptation and mitigation efforts at the national level”*:
  - The consumption habits do not change only according to price signal mechanisms;
  - The Action should add innovative forms of financing as well;
  - The Action should be more specific on fossil fuel subsidies or tax carbon;
  - The Action should add Climate finance readiness;
  - The Action should add an indicator on fossil fuel and an indicator on insurance;
- Concerning the Action 3.3.3 *“Assist countries to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to improve access to international climate funding mechanisms and ensure effective delivery of funds”*:
  - The regional dimension should be reconsidered as it is not enough relevant here;
  - The CDM should be replaced by Carbon finance (in indicators).
- Comments have been provided about the Action 3.4.1 *“Mainstream climate change into national legislation and policies with a focus on measures concerning energy and transport and on delivering no/low regret adaptation measures across all vulnerable sectors”*, as follows:
  - The wording “sectors” should be replaced by “areas”. Some mentions should be made here about relevant policies on coastal areas;
  - “Energy and transport” should be removed;
  - The action could introduce a separate activity promoting ICZM and ecosystem-based approaches.
- The Action 3.4.3 *“Enhance the leadership and capacity of local authorities addressing climate change issues, through twinning and capacity-building programmes and greater access to climate finance”* should add local communities and local knowledge.
- The group questioned the added value of the Action 3.4.4 *“Implement commitments and obligations under the new UNFCCC climate agreement and its future implementation mechanisms”*.

#### **Thematic working group 4: Sustainable cities**

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Sustainable Cities” (TWG4) reported general comments about the MSSD and its introduction, as follows:

- The introduction is too long;
- The introduction should rather emphasize on the ways to transfer the messages to the decision-makers and to make the MSSD their matter;
- The introduction should identify “champions”;
- The introduction could be better organized, possibly following the DPSIR approach.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Sustainable Cities” (TWG4) reported comments about the Issues, as follows:

- Not all strategic directions and actions are related to issues;
- Climate friendly cities are not mentioned;
- A reference to the issue of time in planning should be added;
- If supply side is well addressed, the life style of the inhabitants are not enough covered (demand);
- The issue of the “spirit of the city” is not addressed;
- A reference to migrations should be added;
- If the text deal with cities as consumers, it should also considering the cities as producers (related to local energy production notably);
- The participants wondered why only coastal cities and urbanization are addressed;
- A reference to man-made risks should be added;
- The waste, especially solid waste, should be presented as a resource;
- The difference between processes on the two shores of the Mediterranean should be pointed out;
- The reference to the building efficiency is missing.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Sustainable Cities” (TWG4) reported comments on Strategic directions, as follows:

- The Strategic directions should be better linked with the issues. This probably implies the rewording of the issues for connecting them to the Strategic directions;
- The choice of words should be regarded and oriented towards more positive sense such as “promote, encourage, strengthen”;
- A reference to the shared economy should be added;
- The concepts of gentrification and de-gentrification have to be mentioned;
- The Strategic directions should be made to be feasible for southern countries;
- The cities should be presented as attractive for investments;
- Regarding the marine litter and the maritime transport, a reference to the blue urbanism should be added;
- Local capacities for sustainable urban development should be rather more considered;
- The group stresses the importance of “circular” economy.

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Sustainable Cities” (TWG4) reported comments about the Actions, as follows:

- About Strategic direction 4.1 *“Apply holistic and integrated coastal spatial planning processes based on ICZM principles, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce urban pressures on coastal areas”*:
  - The Strategic direction should include instruments such as regulation, public and private participation and economic;
  - The Strategic direction should identified quantitative targets and relevant indicators;
  - The Strategic direction should add the protection of biodiversity urban hot spots.
- About Strategic direction 4.2 *“Encourage inclusive urbanization and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management”*:
  - The social housing is not enough addressed;
  - Concerning the informal settlements, the approach should be less permissive. The SD should deal with affordable housing on the coast.
- About Strategic direction 4.3 *“Promote the protection and rehabilitation of Mediterranean historic urban areas”*:
  - Many cultural networks already exist, they should be rather “strengthened” than “developed”.
  - Some stakeholders are missing.
  - Large cities are missing.
- About Strategic direction 4.4 *“Promote sustainable waste management within the context of the circular economy”*:
  - The actions should be more ambitious;
  - The Strategic direction should deal with liquid waste;
  - A reference to “zero” waste should be added;
  - The Strategic direction should deal with informal management of waste;
- Strategic direction 4.5 *“Promote urban spatial patterns that reduce demand for transportation, stimulate sustainable mobility and accessibility in urban areas”* should deal with the mixed land use, the multi-modality and the freight transport
- Strategic direction 4.6 *“Promote green buildings to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment”* should mention the retro-fitting strategies.
- About Strategic direction 4.7 *“Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards including climate change”*:
  - Prevention, preparedness and response to “man-made” risks have to be considered;
  - The Strategic direction should include disaster response plans;
  - The impact of the PPRD project should be evaluated;
  - The displacement of population due to climate change should be mentioned;
  - The Strategic direction should make references to land regulation, land governance, land and building rights, land registration, taxation

### **Thematic working group 5 : Transition towards Green Economy**

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Transition towards Green Economy” (TWG5) reported general comments introduction, as follows:

- Green economy is a cross-cutting issue that could help to “sell” MSSD to policy- and decision-makers (in particular to “non-environmental” bodies);
- There is a need to precise the link between MSSD and other Roadmaps: SCP, Climate;
- The theme in general has to be more precise with owners/targets/indicators/wording;
- The main issues seem to be covered such as:
  - Unemployment and social inequalities (in particular for youth and women);
  - Negative impact of unbalanced economic growth;
  - Lifestyles pattern;
  - Resource inefficiency and industrial pollution;
  - Inadequate investment flows;
  - Wrong price/market signal;
- A reference to trade cooperation and regional integration, and economic (un)competitiveness could be added.

The moderators of the breakout group reported detailed outcomes about each Strategic direction as follows:

- References to circular economy, sharing/collaborative economy, ecosystem services, Life Cycle Assessment should be added in the Strategic directions;
- The Strategic direction 5.1 *“Promote green and decent jobs for all, in particular for youth and women, to eradicate poverty and enhance social inclusion”* should put emphasize on the social economy, its definition, its assessment and its harmonization;
- The Strategic direction 5.2 *“Review the definitions and measurement of development, progress and well-being”* should include well-being indicators – well-related to quality, consistency and ownership of database, including subjective and objective indicators;
- The Strategic direction 5.3 *“Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns”* should include specific sectors and targets (e.g. from Switch-Med programme for instance);
- The Strategic direction 5.4 *“Encourage environmentally-friendly innovation”* should include the social innovation, and in this sense should promote in its actions financing schemes, awards, certifications and collaborations;
- The Strategic direction 5.5 *“Promote sustainability principles and criteria for public and private investment”* should deal with the finance as well, and include in its actions the process from dialogue to commitment, the awareness of economic risk linked with climate, CSR;
- The Strategic direction 5.6 *“Promote a greener and more inclusive market that integrates the true environmental and social cost of products and services to eliminate social and environmental externalities”* should mention under its actions the market / tax reform price such as subsidies, tax reform, fiscal policies or trade cooperation.

### **Thematic working group 6 : Governance**

The moderators of the breakout group related to “Governance” (TWG6) reported detailed outcomes, as follows:

- There is a need to identify in the MSSD, who are the addressees of the Strategy, in order to select the appropriate recommendations and wording.

- Clarity is needed about whether the word governance refers to the implementation of this Strategy only, or whether governance refers to the implementation of the whole Barcelona Convention and protocols.
- Informing decision-making with research results is a real challenge. So the interface between science-policy-governance should be strengthened.
- Formal education should be separate from other informal capacity activities.
- Capacity is different than capability, which goes beyond technical training; it gives trainees choices for initiating changes.
- The role of the MCSD should be very clear within the Strategy. The Commission is the institution responsible for facilitating its implementation, so in its reform, it should be made sure that it is equipped and structured to have this role.
- Governance is a cross-cutting theme. It refers to governing the Seas and Coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, so many same issues come up referring to Seas and Coasts.
- The indicators on Governance actions could be improved and be more specific than they are now.
- The theme Governance should take into account the big differences among the countries of the Mediterranean. It is difficult to have a “one policy for all” approach in the Strategy. Flexibility should allow for each country to implement it according to their own needs and capabilities.
- In order to go beyond environmental governance, into the main governance structures, networking is very crucial and needs to be strengthened.
- There was confusion about the population movements, whether it was referring to civil society activism, or migration flows.
- The role of civil society should be emphasized as well.