

RES/MISC. PROS. 1201



Dalhousie University

International Ocean Institute



ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Policy Proposal

1. Malta has been a leader in the promotion of Mediterranean cooperation and security. The most recent developments in this context, the revision of the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan, and the establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, are largely due to Maltese initiatives. These developments will have repercussions also in other regional seas.

2. With the Year of the Oceans before us, it is timely to consider what could be the next step towards the enhancement of sustainable development and human security in the Mediterranean. It would be in Malta's best interest if it could again take the initiative in this direction. In taking new initiatives, Malta should build on what has already been achieved and fully utilize ongoing processes.

3. UNEP has initiated activities for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. It has put together a very comprehensive Assembly consisting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, as well as "regional institutions concerned with the marine environment, other regional institutions such as regional development banks, the private sector and non-governmental organisations" whose interests must also be reflected on the agenda. This agenda must necessarily be broadened. The Proposal, in fact, repeatedly states that it should serve to "Revitalize the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, in particular by facilitating appropriate activities of the regional programmes."

4. The UNEP proposal states:

The collaboration of UNEP and its partner agencies as well as relevant global and regional programmes, structures and agreements, will be essential for successful implementation of the Global Programme of Action. *Such collaboration will ensure that implementation of the Global Programme of Action will be approached in a wider context, encompassing, inter alia, concern for human health (WHO), productivity of coastal areas (FAO), loss of biodiversity (CBI and others), radiation protection and marine pollution monitoring (IAEA an), retarded development and poverty (UNDP), shifting democratic patterns (UNCHS/Habitat), declining food security (FAO, WFP), global environmental change (IGBP of ICSU), nature conservation (WWF, IUCN), marine pollution monitoring and radiation protection (IAEA and others).* (Italics added)¹

5. It should be noted, however, that the mandate of this broadly based, interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral assembly has been strictly sectoral. It was restricted to dealing with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

PROPOSAL

6. **It is proposed that**

- (a) **The type of Assembly instituted by UNEP to deal with the GPA should be transformed into a permanent institution, meeting every two years, and composed of Delegates of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, representatives of UNEP,**

¹*Institutional Arrangements for Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. Proposal submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme, 28 October 1996.*

IMO, FAO IOC/UNESCO, WMO, WHO, ILO, IAEA, UNDP, UNCHS, UNIDO, IUCN; WFF; the Economic Commissions for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East; the Regional Banks; the World Bank; UNDP, GEF; the Secretariats of the Climate and Biodiversity Conventions; local authorities, socio-economic actors, and NGOs, selected in a similar way, with due adjustments, as those participating in the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development;

- (b) The mandate of the Assembly should be broadened from consideration of the GPA to consider all issues relating to sustainable development and human security in the Mediterranean.**

7. The Bureau (Executive Committee) of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention presently is composed of the Ministers of the Environment. This arrangement is suitable as long as the activities under the Convention are limited to one sector, i.e., the protection of the environment. As we pass from the sectoral to a comprehensive and integrated approach, from the protection of the environment to sustainable development and human security in the Mediterranean, this arrangement is no longer adequate.

Proposal

8. **It is proposed that**

- (a) the meetings of the Bureau should be attended by the Ministers responsible for the sector whose activities are under discussion. This might be, e.g., the Ministers for Fishery or Agriculture, if a decision has to be taken on an issue of the protection and development of fisheries or aquaculture in the Mediterranean; it might be the Ministers for Science and Technology, if issues of science or technology cooperation are under discussion. It might be the Ministers of Defence and/or the Ministers of Foreign Affairs if issues of human security, or of joint surveillance and enforcement are under discussion, with the long-term goal of declaring the Mediterranean as a Nuclear-**

Free Zone or Zone of Peace.

- (b) **The decisions of the Ministers Plenipotentiary are binding, subject to ratification.**

9. Technology cooperation is of fundamental importance for the implementation not only of the GPA but equally of the Law of the Sea Convention, the Mediterranean Action Plan, Agenda 21, the Biodiversity and Climate Conventions, the Nordwijk recommendations on integrated coastal management, the implementation agreement on straddling and highly migratory stocks and the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fishing. Each Convention now has its own mechanism for the implementation of technology cooperation with developing countries to enable them to fulfil their commitments under the respective Convention. It would be more effective, including cost-effectiveness, to have one single regional system to respond to the needs for technology cooperation arising from all the Conventions in the region. One and the same technology -- e.g., for water management -- would in fact serve the purposes of more than one, or even of all, the conventions, agreements, and programmes mentioned. Malta has proposed the establishment of such a system over ten years ago and commissioned a feasibility study to be conducted by the International Ocean Institute. The IOI completed the study, in cooperation with UNEP and UNIDO, but no further action was taken at the time. The feasibility study should now be brought up to date, considering all the developments that have taken place in the Mediterranean with regard to technology cooperation during the last decade.

Proposal

10 It is proposed that

- (a) **A regional centre or system be established for the development and transfer of environmentally and socially sustainable technologies in accordance with Articles 276 and 277 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Such a system should be based on the most advanced principles of technology R&D management, including decentralisation,**

comprehensiveness, networking, and new forms of cooperation and joint investment between the public and the private sector on a regional basis. The system should serve the needs of all Conventions, agreements and programmes with regard to technology cooperation. A list of provisions dealing with technology cooperation in the above mentioned instruments is attached in Annex 1.

- (b) The proposal should be placed on the agenda of the enlarged meeting of Contracting Parties as soon as possible.**

11. Technology cooperation should be linked to the goal of the eradication of poverty, both in the industrialized and in the developing countries bordering the Mediterranean. In the industrialized countries, *the job-creating potential of integrated coastal management should be investigated and enhanced.* In the developing countries livelihoods of poor coastal communities should be upgraded to stem the current trend of poor and unemployed villagers migrating to the big coastal cities, augmenting the social and environmental problems of these cities, or emigrating, legally or illegally, to the countries of the northern Mediterranean shores, augmenting problems of human security. One of the more successful projects to meet these problems and to enhance livelihoods in poor communities is the Ecovillage project, initiated by UNESCO and the *Équipe Cousteau* Society in India and China, and extended by International Ocean Institute from an agricultural orientation to coastal and fishing villages in India and in other countries.. The projects consists in (a) organising and training at the grass-roots level, especially women, and (b) introducing, in cooperation with the local communities, socially and environmentally sustainable high technologies suitable for blending with native wisdom. Work at the grass roots level should be linked with technology cooperation at the regional level.

Proposal

- 12. It is proposed that**

The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

should cooperate with UNESCO, the *Équipe Cousteau*, and the International Ocean Institute to extend the Ecovillage Project to poor coastal communities on the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, thus linking technology cooperation to the goal of eradicating poverty, which is fundamental for the implementation of sustainable development, human security, and the safeguarding of the rights of future generations.