



Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Development Account Project 121C “ROA-207”: Strengthening National Capacities to
Manage Water Scarcity and Drought in West Asia and North Africa

Technical Report on
The Planning and Coordination Process to Develop and Implement
a National Drought Management Plan in Morocco

National Consultancy Assignment
Technical Advisory Service for Developing and Implementing Mitigation and
Preparedness Drought Management Plans in Pilot Project Countries

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Acronym List

ABH	Agence de Bassin Hydraulique
ADA	Agency for Agricultural Development
ANAFIDE	Association Nationale des Améliorations Foncières, de l'Irrigation, du Drainage et de l'Environnement
ANDZOA	Agence Nationale pour le développement des Zones Oasiennes et de l'Arganier
CAM	Crédit Agricole MAROC
COMADER	Confédération Marocaine de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
CRTS	Royal Centre of Spatial Remote Sensing/Centre Royal de Télédétection Spatiale.
DDFP	Direction des filières de Production
DEWFORA	Drought Early warning and Forecasting to Strengthen Drought Preparedness In Africa
DF	Direction Financière
DMN	National Direction of Meteorology/Direction de la Météorologie Nationale.
DSS	Direction de la Stratégie et des Statistiques
DRA	Direction Régionale de l'Agriculture
DRPE	Direction of research and water planification
ENA	Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HCEFLCD	the High Commissariat for water and Forests and Fight against Desertification
HCP	Haut Commissariat au Plan
INRA	National Institute for the Agricultural Research/Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique.
IAMZ-CIHEAM	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza
IAV Hassan II	Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute/Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II.
MAMDA	Mutuelle Agricole Marocaine d'Assurances
MAPM	Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries/Ministère de l'agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime
ONEE	Office National de l'Eau et de l'Electricité
ORMVA	Office Régional de Mise en Valeur Agricole
PPP	Partenariat Public Privé
SMAS	Système Maghébin d'Alerte à la Sécheresse
SSWE	State Secretary to Water and Environnement
MEDROPLAN	Mediterranean Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Planning
NDMC	National Drought Mitigation Center
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations.
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

I. Introduction

Due to its geographical position and its climate features, Morocco is a drought prone country and historical evidence corroborated by tree ring studies illustrates the recurrent nature of drought. However, drought episode frequencies, intensities and lengths increased during the last four decades, probably as a consequence of climate change, and made the phenomena being now considered as a structural feature.

Thus, because of those severe droughts which dominated much of the country during the 1980's and their sever impacts; the Government adopted in 1985 a reactive action plan to mitigate the drought effects in the form of relief operations. The subsequent development of the droughts that occurred more frequently during the 1990's and the growing awareness from the scientific community and civil society led the policy makers to orient their actions towards a more pro-active approach to this reoccurring problem. This led to the creation of the National Drought Observatory (NDO) in 2001, which took the form of an institutional network of representative stakeholders working on drought issues at the national/regional/local levels.

The objectives of this new structure, entirely devoted to drought management, were to:

- Improve drought characterization, monitoring and impact evaluation;
- Asses regional differences in drought characteristics, vulnerability and impacts;
- Effectively govern drought management.

However, nearly a decade after its creation, the NDO is not fully operational mainly because of the lack of cooperation and collaboration between the different institutions and ministerial departments involved in drought management. In addition, although Morocco has developed many sectorial strategies to mitigate droughts effects both in short and long terms, the country still lacks a comprehensive drought management plan that would be utilized in the case of an emerging drought which would clearly identify each step necessary in order to effectively overcome and recover from a drought episode.

Therefore, enhancing and improving the collaboration, cooperation and coordination between the institutions involved in drought management represent the main challenge to drought management in Morocco. In this context, the UN-DESA project 121C "ROA-207" will assist the country in filling the identified gaps through the development and implementation of a drought management plan. This process will rely on both the University of Nebraska¹ and MEDROPLAN Drought Management Guidelines² that provide a thorough framework for the development of drought management plans. Both emphasize as starting points and key elements:

- The identification of the objectives of the drought planning process.
- The involvement of stakeholders and appointment of a drought management task force.

¹ Wilhite, Donald A., Michael J. Hayes, and Cody L. Knutson. "Drought Preparedness Planning: Building Institutional Capacity." Ed. Donald A. Wilhite. Boca Raton, FL: Taylor & Francis Group, 2005. 94-135.

² Cancelliere, A., D. Gabina, A. Lopez-Francos, M. Moneo, and G. Rossi (eds). *Drought Management Guidelines*. European Commission, MEDA Water, and MEDROPLAN

This report will focus on these two steps and will prepare the national workshop that will be organized in October 2014 through:

- The identification of stakeholders
- The identification of a drought management body
- The outcomes of discussions with ministries and stakeholders
- The planning of future activities and the identification of a work plan

II. Stakeholder Identification Process

Stakeholder identification and analysis are critical first steps in a participatory planning process. Stakeholder analysis is often undertaken late in a planning and management process, in response to a crisis. However, early identification and analysis exercises can help prevent such crises and act in a proactive way. This is particularly true in the context of drought management, where specific management issues need to be addressed and where stakeholder identification and analysis provide a basic understanding of the social and institutional context.

Therefore, it is essential to include in the planning process all institutions, ministerial departments and non-governmental organizations involved directly or indirectly in drought management. It is also important to follow a rigorous methodology and process to be sure to involve all the stakeholders. In that sense, analyzing and identifying stakeholders by categories, geographical units or any other typology represents a strategy.

As mentioned previously, the MEDROPLAN guidelines provide a thorough framework for the development of drought management plans and are divided into five components. The second one, the operational component proposes a methodology for stakeholder identification and participation in drought management which is summarized in Table 2 of the guidelines. This table presents the different categories of stakeholders, how they should be involved in the management process, what are their expectations and also their adaptive capacity which refers also to the ways of reducing drought vulnerability on the long term. These categories are very diverse and range from end-users (farmers, urban water consumers) to high level policy makers.

Thus, in the context of the UN-DESA project and in the first steps to the implementation of a drought plan, the stakeholder identification processes in Morocco were based on:

- Concentrations with the national coordinator
- Concentrations and meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture (MAPM), Water (SEEE), Environment, the Royal Center for Remote Sensing (CRTS), the High Commissariat for Water, Forests and Fight against Desertification (HCEFLCD), the Ministry of Statistics (Haut Commissariat au Plan, HCP), the National Directorate of Meteorology (DMN), research and education institutions (INRA, IAV Hassan II)
- The outcomes and learning from previous drought projects: MEDROPLAN, SMAS, DEWFORA, XEROCHORE, AQUATRESS.
- The guidance of the operational component of the MEDROPLAN guidelines
- The personal experience of the national consultant

On these bases, the forthcoming national workshop will seek the participation of the following institutions, ministerial departments and stakeholders that represent all the different components of the drought planning process:

Table 1: List of the institutions, ministerial departments and stakeholders to be invited to the National workshop

Institution / Organisation	Responsibility
I. Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries (MAPM) :	
Direction of Irrigation and Territorial Planning	Planning and realization of all projects related to irrigation and drainage
Financial Direction (FD)	Subvention and development of drought insurance
Direction des filières de Production (DDFP)	Implementation of drought relief programs
Direction of Strategy and Statistics (DSS)	Monitoring of the agricultural campaign
Regional Direction of Agriculture (DRA) (Agriculture/ livestock Pastures)	Agricultural and pastoral development of rain-fed areas
Regional offices for agricultural development (ORMVAs)	Assessment of agricultural development plans for irrigation perimeters, monitoring and management of the infrastructures.
Agency for agricultural development (ADA)	Implementation of the national strategy for agricultural development
ANDZOA	National Agency for the Development of Oasis and Argan trees
II. State Secretary in charge of Water and Environment (SEEE):	
<u>Department of Water:</u>	
Direction of Research and Water Planning (DRPE)	Policy formulation and implementation in planning, mobilizing, managing and protecting quality of water resources
River Basin Agencies (ABH)	Key actors in regional water management, Maintenance and management of the public hydraulic infrastructure
<u>Department of Environment</u>	
National Direction of Meteorology (DMN)	Climate monitoring and forecasting
National Office for Drinking Water and Electricity (ONEE)	Planning of urban water supply in the Kingdom Assessment, implementation and management of drinking water abstractions throughout the country, Management of water supply and sewerage services in cities where this service cannot be provided by local authorities
III. Royal Center for Remote-Sensing (CRTS)	Use, promotion and development of remote-sensing
IV. High Commissariat for Water, Forests and Fight against desertification (HCEFLCD) Central Direction Regional representation	Natural environment, forestry, wetlands, fresh water bodies conservation reforestation, preventing desertification,
V. Ministry of Economy and Finance	Drought programs budget
VI. Haut-Commissariat au Plan (HCP)	In charge of the production and monitoring of statistical, economic, demographic and social data and parameters

VII. Ministry of Interior / Direction of Rural Affairs	In charge of local collectivities
VIII. Research and Education: Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV Hassan II), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) Ecole nationale D'agriculture de Meknès University Al Akhaouiiane (Ifrane)	Universities and Research Centres
IX. United-Nations representatives FAO, UNECA, PNUD	Technical support and funding, involvement in several development projects
X. NGO's and Associations	
Association Nationale des Améliorations Foncières, de l'Irrigation, du Drainage et de l'Environnement (ANAFIDE)	NGO working for more than 40 years in the field of rural development, scientific vocation
Confédération Marocaine de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (COMADER)	Agricultural federation that englobe more than 50 professional associations and works for the protection of farmers and industrial of the agricultural sector rights.
Association inter-professionnelle des céréales	Representatives of farmers (cereal crops)
Association d'éleveurs d'ovins de l'Oriental	Representatives of herders
Water user associations	Participatory irrigation management, coordination problems at the perimeter level
Insured farmers	Will provide its impressions about the actual drought insurance scheme
XI. Bank and Insurance Companies:	
Mutuelle Agricole Marocaine d'Assurances (MAMDA)	Implementation of the multi-risk agricultural insurance
Crédit Agricole Maroc (CAM)	Leading bank company in charge of the development of the agricultural sector, supports the national strategy of agricultural development

III. Identification of Drought Management Body Process

After the completion of the previous step that allowed for the identification and confirmation of all the stakeholders involved in drought management in Morocco, the next essential step for the project implementation is the identification of a drought management body that will also constitute the steering committee of the project.

Indeed, in the framework of the project, it is important to implement a national structure composed of representatives of the main institutions and ministerial departments involved in drought management whose objectives and missions would be:

- i. As a Steering Committee of the project:
 - Promote, encourage and guarantee the dynamic of the trans-sectorial cooperation
 - Formalise the project's objectives, strategy and expected results,
 - Identify the workplan and the planned activities
 - Assess and evaluate the project's progress and achievements through periodical meetings

- ii. As a Drought Management Body to :
- Be responsible of monitoring drought conditions and assessing drought risks
 - Overseeing inter-governmental coordination
 - Disseminating information

According to the MEDROPLAN guidelines, the competences and mode of operation, both during drought and non-drought periods of the Drought Committee should be clearly defined. It should also be interdisciplinary and composed of both policy and technical experts.

Thus, on the basis of:

- The previous considerations
- The former experience of the implementation of the national Drought Observatory with the support and the guidance of the US National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)
- The consultations with the national coordinator
- The outcomes of the consultative meeting held on July 16th with representatives of the main institutions and ministerial departments involved in drought management

It is proposed that the drought management committee for Morocco will be composed of the following institutions:

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MAPM)
- The State Secretary in charge of Water and Environment (SEEE)
- The National Directorate of Meteorology (DMN)
- The High Commissariat for Water, Forests and Fight Against Desertification (HCEFLCD)
- The Royal Center for Remote Sensing (CRTS)
- The National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA)
- Hassan II Institute for Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (IAV Hassan II)

However, participants of the July 16th meeting expressed their initial engagement and commitments to the project but also underlined that the coordination process and the implementation of the Steering Committee should further be discussed during the forthcoming national workshop.

During the meeting, the national coordinator of the project also underscored the fact that the responsibility for national coordination of the project is falls under the Ministry of Agriculture, however the coordination of the drought steering committee is a key element to be discussed to determine placement.

IV. Meeting Outcomes with the Main Institutions and Ministerial Departments Involved in Drought Management

To date, in the framework of the UN-DESA project, two meetings were organized by the national coordinator and consultant at the premises of “the Direction de l’Irrigation et de l’Aménagement de l’Espace Agricole” in Rabat.

- The first one took place on the 16 of April during the visit of the UN project coordinator to Morocco and represents the official launching of the project. It gathered

representatives of the main institutions involved in drought management at central but also local levels and saw the participation of UN agencies representatives in Morocco.

- The second meeting took place on July 16th. It was restricted to representatives of the institutions and ministerial departments selected as potential members of the drought steering committee. It was the occasion for the national consultant to inform them about the outcomes of the TOT workshop held in Zaragoza from May 5-10 2014.

During these two meetings, participants underlined some strengths and weaknesses of the national drought management in Morocco:

Thus, they recalled:

- The progress and achievements realized by the country in the field of drought management on both monitoring, mitigation and adaptation aspects
- The sectorial strategies developed by each ministerial department
- The success of the new drought insurance model developed in the framework of the multi-risk climatic insurance
- The successful experiences of proactive management and coordination of the fights against the forest fires and the locus.

But underlined:

- The lack of a comprehensive drought early warning system
- That each ministerial department develops its own strategy and tools according to its own needs and specific objectives and that the country lacks therefore a global strategy that would unify and englobe all the sectorial strategies
- Coordination issues
- The lack of information sharing between institutions
- The unsuccessful experience of the National drought Observatory

And therefore the need:

- For a cross-sectorial coordination approach
- To capitalize on successful examples of coordination and organization and learn from the past failures
- For a better access to information but also the need to address this issue on a realistic way, taking into account data costs

These two meetings and other interviews with representatives of the main institutions involved in drought management also allowed the national consultant to gather their perceptions on drought management and the achievements of their institutions. Outcomes of those meetings can thus be summarized as follows:

(It is also important to underline that the list of the project and activities mentioned below is by far not exhaustive, but is representative of the types of activities conducted)

Ministry of Agriculture:

Green Morocco Plan

The Green Morocco Plan, which is the strategy of the Government of Morocco for the agricultural sector aims to a sustainable improvement of productivity while saving water and soil resources. In term of drought adaptation, many outcomes have to be highlighted as the dry-land farming, the water policy taxation and the introduction of new drought resistant cultivars.

In the framework of the Green Morocco Plan, a project aiming the integration of Climate Change in the Green Morocco Plan (PICCMV) was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, the ADA and INRA. The objectives of this project was to build the capacities of public, private institutions and farmers and introduce to small farmers adaptation strategies to CC (increasing water scarcity drought in particular) in 5 Moroccan regions.

- **DIAEA : Direction of Irrigation and development of agricultural land/ Direction de l'irrigation et de l'aménagement de l'espace agricole**

This direction has three main missions:

1. The management of agricultural water resources through their monitoring and the planning of their use, the promotion of water saving.
2. The planning and monitoring of the development of irrigation and pastoral schemes.
3. The development of the Private Public Partnership (PPP) in the field of irrigation.

One of the main achievements of this direction in the field of water saving is the PNEEI (National strategy for irrigation water saving). The objective of this project is to ensure rational use and exploitation of water resources for irrigation to address scarcity concerns and to manage drought mainly through the reconversion from surface to drip irrigation. It allowed great outcomes in terms of water use and water use efficiency improvements.

- **DF: Financial Direction**

The subvention and management of the Drought Insurance in cooperation with MAMDA (Insurance Company) is the main field of intervention of the DF in the field of drought management. Recently, in March 2014, the DF launched thanks to a funding from the French Environmental Fund, and in cooperation with DMN, INRA and IAV Hassan II, a pilot project for the development of a new a parametric drought insurance program that will rely on rainfall data, NDVI index and crop forecasts. Investigations are also going on regarding the development of drought insurance for pastoral lands.

- **DFPP: Direction of Crop Production**

This direction is in charge of the implementation of the Drought Relief emergency plan and also works closely with the DF for managing drought insurance. It is also in charge of the elaboration of agricultural data bases and of the monitoring, in coordination with the DSSS (Direction of Strategy and statistics) of the agricultural campaign and crop evolution.

State Secretary in charge of Water and Environment (SEEE):

- **Direction of Research and Water Planning (DRPE)**

SEEE is in charge of policy formulation and implementation in planning, mobilizing, managing and protecting quality of water resources at national level. It is also responsible for all the large infrastructure projects, in terms of implementation, management and maintenance. It has the responsibility of surface and underground water resources mobilization, water storage in the dams, and evaluates with water users the water needs throughout the drought period. The evaluation is regularly made in joint meetings on the basis of indicators concerning the average rainfall deficit across the country, the amount of water stored in dams and the situation of the main groundwater tables.

In the field of drought management, the DRPE has recently commissioned an expert mission for the elaboration of a water resources management plan in situation of water shortage. This study is actually ongoing and aims at drought characterization, identification and development of monitoring indices, the implementation of structural actions and the formulation of a drought plan, the identification of legal, institutional and financial mechanisms for drought management.

This study is divided in three missions:

Mission I: Assessment of the current situation of drought management in Morocco, international benchmarking

Mission II: Formulation of a drought management plan, reflections on the legal, institutional and financial mechanisms for drought management

Mission III: Application of the drought management plan to the Ebro River basin

- **DMN: National Directory of Meteorology**

Until very recently, The DMN was managing 43 synoptic weather stations, most of which are located at airports. A big effort was achieved towards the extension of the network and the DMN has now about 200 operational stations offering good coverage of the country. In addition, there are some 45 automated weather stations, plus some 600 "climatological units" managed by outside parties such as the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Agriculture.

Thanks to its network, The DMN produces several meteorological drought indices that are used by National and Regional Authorities as triggers to implement proactive and reactive drought responses. The DMN monitors daily weather and produces national and regional short term, medium range and seasonal weather and drought forecasts.

Regarding drought monitoring, it has a narrow partnership, through specific conventions, with the main departments of agriculture and water resources management. It is therefore involved in several agro-meteorological projects and in particular in the National cereal yield forecasting program called CGMS Maroc.

The DMN is also implementing several programs and projects oriented towards Climate Change. They concern:

- The assessment of Climate change thanks to different indices
- The Modeling of CC, the establishment of different scenarios and their analysis.

Among these projects and initiatives:

- Project of Adaptation to CC in Morocco (ACCMA).
- Project of Adaptation of the Agricultural sector to CC in collaboration with the World bank and the MAPM.
- Participation to the GIEC works

The High Commissariat for Water, Forests and Fight Against Desertification (HCEFLCD)

In the framework of the implementation of the International Convention *Fight Against Desertification*, and in the framework of the cooperation between the Government of Morocco and the PNUD, the HCEFLCD implemented the NAP (National Action Program) for the fight against desertification (PAN-LCD). The strategy focuses on building the resource mobilization capacity of NAP stakeholders, strengthening consultations with development partners, financing priority NAP projects, and promoting diversified sources of funding. Within the HCEFLCD, responsibilities are divided between the central administration and the regional directions. The NAP which is the main objective of HCEFLCD is based on 4 pillars:

- Eliminate poverty
- Rural development
- Drought mitigation
- Natural resources protection

Activities of the HCEFLCD are also strongly oriented towards the fight against forest fires, which are in part due to drought. Forest fire frequencies increase during drought periods. In that sense, the HCEFLD has developed a system of forest fire monitoring with the contribution of several institutions and the CRTS in particular. This system represents an example of successful multi-institutional coordination.

The Royal Center for Remote Sensing (CRTS)

The CRTS was created in December, 1989. It was appointed to promote the use and the development of the applications of the remote sensing in Morocco. With regard to drought, CRTS provides maps and data about the land cover, the water resources used as indicators of agricultural and hydrological level drought, the vegetation cover and the water and soil surface temperature.

The CRTS has also developed in close collaboration with the HCEFLCD a forest fire monitoring methodology based on earth observation data in low spatial resolution. The inputs to this tool are satellite images for the identification of forest fire risk areas, the detection and characterization of hot spots and the cartography of burned areas.

The CRTS is currently implementing a GEF funded project, in collaboration with the Ministry of water called LDAS-Maroc. The objectives of this project are to:

- Strengthen the national capacities for an operational use of the combination of land surface models and the land data assimilation system (LDAS) developed and widely used by NASA and its partners
- Contribute to a more accurate characterization of the national hydraulic potentialities to be used by decision makers for improving actual water resources management and long-term planning

- Improve capacities to better assess past, actual and future climate change impacts on the local and national water conditions, including surface and groundwater storage, and related irrigated agricultural activities
- Apprehend the climate change impacts on the environment by consolidating the actual knowledge and strengthening the adaptation measures to face the extreme phenomena such as floods, drought and locust migration

Research Institutions:

- **The National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA):**

- CGMS-Maroc:

National cereal yield forecasting called CGMS Maroc is managed by INRA in partnership with DSS (Direction de la stratégie et des statistiques) and DMN. Cereal yields can be forecasted 3 months ahead of harvests offering a very important tool for drought plan preparedness.

- Parametric Insurance:

Currently, a pilot project is launched in order to test the feasibility of a parametric insurance that would be a complement or even a substitute to the multi-risk insurance. The used indices will be Mixte indices: Climate indices (Rainfal, + ET0 + ...) + Remote data (NDVI from SPOT and MODIS). This is a joint project between MAPM, INRA and DMN.

- **Hassan II Institute for Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (IAV Hassan II):**

Among its missions, IAV performs Education and Research in drought management. Indeed, in addition to the delivering of courses and training in this field, IAV conducts many drought studies and was a partner in the MEDROPLAN and DEWFORA projects. IAV has also hosted the NDO at the time of its creation.

The most recent or the current programs focus on:

- Use of medium range weather forecasts for drought mitigation
- Drought Vulnerability assessment and mapping.

United-Nations Agencies:

The United-Nations Agencies in Morocco, and in particular the FAO and the PNUD are involved in several projects which may not be directly linked to drought but contribute to the country's long term adaptation to climate change.

Some of the FAO projects:

- Pilot project for the conservation and valorization of irrigation water in the perimeter of "Doukakla".
- Capacity building for the modernization of irrigated agriculture in the Ebro River basin.
- Pilot project for the adaptation of small farmers of the Tadla-Azilal region to CC.
- Implementation of the "MOSAICC" (Modelling System for Agricultural Impacts of Climate Change) system.
- Use of remote sensing to monitor crop water consumption in the perimeter of Doukkala

PNUD

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the PNUD is contributing to the elaboration of the third National communication regarding climate change.

V. Planned Activities

The next planned activity is the organization of a national workshop that will bring together all the institutions/associations selected during the stakeholder identification process. The 2-day workshop will be organized on October 15-16 2014 in Rabat.

The first day will be devoted to:

- The presentation of the current drought management situation in Morocco
- The planning, coordination, information-sharing, and stakeholder involvement
- The formulation of the specific elements of a comprehensive drought management plan

During the second day, a field trip visit to drought prone areas and to water scarcity and drought management mitigation and preparedness projects will be organized. At the time being, it is scheduled that the field trip includes:

1. A visit to the River basin Agency (ABH) of Bouregreg:
 - a. Overview of water governance
 - b. Tools for ground water scarcity management: example of the tablecloth of Berrechid
2. A Visit to the dry-land farming center of INRA Settatt
3. A visit of a waste water reuse project (Settat)

At this moment, the national consultant and coordinator agreed for the organization of a two-day meeting. It might be subject to changes upon coordination with the UN-DESA representative.

VI. Coordination of Work Plan

As previously mentioned, representatives of the main ministerial departments involved in drought managed expressed their engagement in the project and their willingness to be members of the drought steering committee but they also underlined that the coordination process and the implementation of the steering committee should further be discussed during the forthcoming national workshop.

Thus, it is proposed that the constitution and validation of the Steering Committee takes place during the National Workshop in October 2014 and that the following key points shall be presented and discussed:

- Validation of the constitution of the steering committee
- Coordination and leadership modalities
- Duties and responsibilities of the committee
- Periodicity and venue of the meetings
- Committee roadmap on the basis of the UNL and MEDROPLAN guidelines