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**4th Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its
Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)**

Athens, Greece, 6-7 March 2025

Report of the Meeting

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UNEP/MAP
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Report of the Meeting

Introduction

1. The Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (PAMEx Technical Secretariat) together with Greece currently holding the Presidency of the PAMEx Steering Committee, in person, in Athens, at the Academy of Athens, on 6-7 March 2025. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French was made available for the plenary sessions as well as English and French versions of the working documents.

2. The main objectives of the Meeting were to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 since the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting that took place by virtual means on 3 December 2024, to present and discuss the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025, to propose communication and visibility activities, to receive update on PLIFF implementation, which was not possible during the previous Meeting, and to present the PLIFF Road Map for 2025.

Participation

3. The Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) was attended, either in person or online, by representatives of Egypt, Greece, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Blue Med Partnership, the Office Français pour la Biodiversité, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) along with its Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), representatives from the Greek Ministries of Fisheries & Rural Development and of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy, and several PLIFF partners.

4. Over the two days, the Meeting was attended overall by 65 people. The full list of participants including contact details is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Fourth Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) was opened on Thursday, 06 March 2025 at 10:00 (UTC +3) by Mr. Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, and current Chair of the Steering Committee of PAMEx together with Ambassador Ms. Maria Diamantopoulou, Head of the D4 Directorate of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator.

6. Mr. Petros Varelidis, in his capacity as current Chair of the Steering Committee, welcomed the participants and opened the Meeting by briefly recalling the objectives of the PAMEx initiative, its governance framework, and that Greece is holding the Presidency of the PAMEx for one year (October 2024 – October 2025). Then, he introduced Mr Christos Zerefos, Secretary General of the Academy of Athens, the host of the Meeting, and invited him to provide opening remarks. Prof. Christos Zerefos emphasized the importance of ensuring the protection of the environment and of sustainable development, in particular of the seas and oceans, especially vis-à-vis climate change impacts, with a historical perspective focusing on the historic region of the Mediterranean and in relation to the work undertaken by the Academy of Athens.

7. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed in turn the participants and reminded the importance and ambition of PAMEx and its four axes of intervention (preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, promoting and developing sustainable fishing, redoubling efforts to combat marine pollution, and promoting sustainable maritime transport practices), which are fully in line and supportive of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention objectives. She emphasized the strong input and directions expected from the Meeting, especially in view of the upcoming third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), to take place in the Mediterranean, in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025. She thanked the Government of Greece for its strong leadership on PAMEx implementation since it took over the Presidency in October 2024, and the Government of France for its commitment and financial support to cover the full cost of PAMEx Technical Secretariat hosted at UNEP/MAP and for sharing the cost for organising the present Meeting of the PAMEx Steering Committee with the Government of Greece. Finally, she wished for a successful Meeting as well as strong and continuous collaboration among participants.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

8. Mr. Petros Varelidis introduced the Agenda item 2 and invited the PAMEx Technical Secretariat to present the Agenda of the Meeting as outlined in the document UNEP/MED WG.611/1.

9. The PAMEx Steering Committee reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda. The Meeting Agenda is included in **Annex II** to the present report, as well as the Annotated Agenda (**Annex III**).

10. As foreseen, the present Report of the 4th Steering Committee Meeting is distributed to the Members of the PAMEx Steering Committee after the Meeting, for their perusal, comments and approval through electronic means.

Agenda item 3: Update on Progress of PAMEx Implementation

11. Mr. Petros Varelidis introduced the discussion on the update on Progress of PAMEx Implementation recalling that this was the second Steering Committee Meeting under the Greek Presidency of the Initiative and thanking France for ensuring that its Technical Secretariat is again operational since early December 2024.

12. The Chair stressed that the session was devoted to reporting on PAMEx achievements since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee on 3rd December 2024 and gave the floor to PAMEx Technical Secretariat, to outline the main elements of the Progress report on PAMEx Implementation (UNEP/MED WG.611/3, see **Annex IV**).

13. Mr. Petros Varelidis then invited the participants to share their comments and recommendations on the document.

Italy pointed out that the proposals for a side event submitted to the 10th Our Ocean Conference (Busan, 29-30 April 2025) had not been shared with all PAMEx Members and therefore it was suggested to inform all member of such initiatives in the future. The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP explained that, on this occasion, the deadline was very short and there was no time to engage in broad consultation. Nevertheless, it was confirmed that the PAMEx Technical Secretariat will consult PAMEx Members before proposing any activities, in view of the preparation of UNOC-3 and the COP 24 of the Barcelona Convention.

14. The PAMEx Steering Committee reviewed and adopted the Progress report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee.

Agenda item 4: PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025

15. Mr. Petros Varelidis opened Agenda item 4, highlighting that it will provide the way forward by establishing an indicative list of activities to be undertaken under PAMEx in 2025. Next, he gave the floor to the PAMEx Technical Secretariat to present the proposed list of activities for the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/4), underlining that they are based on discussions from previous Steering Committee Meetings and suggestions from Axis leaders received in writing prior to the Meeting.

16. The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP also presented activities undertaken under MAP Programme of Work (PoW) contributing to PAMEx priorities, including:

- On Axis 1 (Raise the ambition for the preservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean): UNEP/MAP provides support in collaboration with SPA/RAC, IUCN, and GFCM to certain Mediterranean countries to address the 30x30 target which is a major challenge for the region (currently only 8-11% of designated MPAs).
- On Axis 2 (Promote and develop sustainable fishing to end overfishing by 2030): GFCM needs a mandate from its Members to be able to participate in PAMEx work, and discussions are ongoing with GFCM to move forward on this institutional pre-condition.
- On Axis 3 (Redouble efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly so that no plastic is discharged into the Mediterranean by 2030): A number of UNEP/MAP projects are addressing marine litter and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The Contracting Parties will have to develop Action Plans and UNEP/MAP is supportive of the proposal for the reviving of the informal Task Force -that was set up prior to the 2nd session of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee](#) to develop an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-2) in 2023- to help identify common positions from the Mediterranean to be presented during the negotiations for a Global Treaty on plastic pollution.
- On Axis 4 (Promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change): REMPEC highlighted a number of flagship activities, in particular the ratification of Annex 6 of MARPOL Convention.

17. In the absence of representatives from the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in this session, who unfortunately could not attend the Meeting due to other commitments, the Chair invited the PAMEx Technical Secretariat to read a UfM Note in support to the PAMEx initiative stating that *“The Union for the Mediterranean is pleased to take part in this Steering Committee Meeting and to reaffirm our commitment to supporting the PAMEx initiative as a key framework for strengthening cooperation in the Mediterranean on marine and coastal protection”*.

18. Mr. Petros Varelidis then opened the floor and invited representatives to provide any additional comments and suggestions on the proposal of PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 that was displayed and to share with the Meeting information about their activities that could contribute to PAMEx PoW. It was also reminded that the Members of the Steering Committee, besides comments on deliverables, are also expected to express their potential interest in leading the proposed activities and indicate potential financial options for their implementation. Short presentations of relevant case studies or projects were also made under each Axis to further enrich discussions and help formulate new ideas and prospects of scaling up actions.

19. On Axis 1 (the preservation of marine biodiversity), the following commentaries and discussion were noted:

- There were questions about the possibility of amending or introducing new activities in the PAMEx PoW for 2025.
- Under proposed activity a.1) regarding the potential organization of a workshop to exchange successful approaches between interested countries on how to improve the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), it was questioned who will organize it and what results are expected from it. It was emphasized that it should be closely coordinated with Barcelona Convention Programme of Work and activities to prevent duplication of efforts. The Chair stated that the presence of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator in this Meeting can guarantee that there will be no duplication. The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP added that online workshops could be organized in collaboration with SPA/RAC and IUCN to exchange on best practices and draft a vision paper on MPAs and Other Effective Area-based Conservation (OECM) with milestones and key actions. This can be proposed to MAP Focal Points as an integral part of the UNEP/MAP Biennial Programme. Italy was supportive of the idea. Greece suggested to explore possibilities for organizing such a workshop in an on-person format back-to-back with the upcoming COP24 in Egypt in December this year, as the achievement of the 30x30 target is a matter relevant to all Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties. Egypt agreed to coordinate the process in view of the preparation of COP 24 of the Barcelona Convention where a potential side event could be scheduled to this effect.
- Under activity a.2) “Support to the Bardawil Lake and Bouches de Bonifacio projects”, a question raised related to how PAMEx could support these projects and the response was that PAMEx could indeed assist in promoting both projects in practice and facilitating their development.
- Greece supported the projects under Axis 1, confirmed its commitment towards the 30x30 target and expressed its intention to reach around 32% of designated MPAs of territorial waters by the end of this year.
- France noted with satisfaction the alignment of PAMEx with UNOC-3 objectives, i.e., the combination of global commitments and projects; informed that it has ratified already the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) with an objective of 30% protection of high seas; recalled that the 30x30 target is an UNOC-3 priority; supported the project of a regional workshop and recalled that COP16 of the CBD had provided the concrete directions regarding the biodiversity finance.
- Two presentations of projects followed, presented by:
 - a) Ms Aimilia Drouga, Expert on Marine Biodiversity, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy on the “Establishment of monitoring and early warning systems for passing by ships, to timely identify large marine mammals (SAvE Whales)” (see attached document).
 - b) Mr Philippe Amar, LANEGO company, and Mr Daniel Hayes, Marine Sciences Research Director, Cyprus Marine & Maritime Institute (CMMI), on “The project EONIOS: MPA monitoring and protection based on nature-based artificial reefs protected by resident drones” (see attached document).

20. On Axis 3 (marine pollution), the following commentaries and discussion were noted:

- The proposed activity c.1) “Promoting the exchange of information on plastic pollution management in the Mediterranean” was supported by several countries (Morocco, Italy, Egypt, Greece, France) which committed to contribute to facilitating the exchange of information on lessons learned to address the plastic pollution challenge in the

Mediterranean. In this context, there was a request to possibly revive the informal Task Force that was set up prior to INC-2 in 2023 under the UNEP/MAP umbrella, aiming to a possible coordination of a Mediterranean position that could be presented in the INC context. The state of play is that there is currently no consideration of the role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in INC negotiations, whereas their experience should be captured, especially in the implementation phase of the ILBI on plastic pollution once adopted. The objective of the revitalized Task Force would be to establish an exchange of information, focusing primarily on experiences and best practices, between PAMEx Partners and to review and update the previous PAMEx Position Paper “In support of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment” elaborated in May 2023 and presented at INC-2. The issue of the lack of scientific and technical evidence to move the political agenda on this topic was raised and could be addressed by the informal Task Force if remobilized by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, including sharing successful experiences on plastic collection, recycling and value chains for plastic recovery. There was a call from some countries for an ambitious Mediterranean position vis-à-vis the global INC discussions, advocating for a whole life-cycle approach for plastics. Discussions on the matter between Axis 3 Leaders (Greece, Italy, Morocco) prior to the Steering Committee Meeting had already provided with a refinement of the proposed activity for the PAMEx 2025 PoW and the Leaders committed to further continue exchanges and work so as to come back to the Steering Committee participants with a final written proposal that would also take into account discussions and points raised during the Meeting. The Chair of the Steering Committee proposed to begin the work of the informal Task Force by understanding the specific needs and objectives of each country and to set initially moderate targets to avoid any blockage. Greece stressed that it is important, in order to promote these efforts in practice, for the UNEP/MAP Secretariat to participate in person in the upcoming resumed INC session (INC-5.2, Geneva, 5-14 August 2025) and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP reassured that all necessary steps are made in order to ensure their in person presence at the forthcoming INC-5.2 session to make a case on the Mediterranean experience in this respect.

- Then two presentations followed:
 - a) Professor Konstantinos Topouzelis, Co-founder of SciDrones, University of the Aegean, Greece, on the project “Coastal Marine Litter Observatory (CMLO): Enabling Smarter Policies with AI and Drones” (see attached document).
 - b) Mr Yannis Spanos, Project PARALIES Coordinator, Greece, on the “Project PARALIES: A bottom-up initiative catalysing private sector involvement and promoting awareness towards the protection and restoration of coastal and marine environment against marine litter” (see attached document).
- The presentations were followed by questions regarding the selection criteria of private companies and of beaches to be cleaned up in the PARALIES project. Greece confirmed that since it is a simple win-win scheme in its conception, any company regardless of its size can participate in the project to “adopt” a beach and financially support its cleanup activities for a whole summer period and that results on the ground are very positive for both local populations and authorities as well as for companies’ environmental and sustainability profile, while solid statistics are extrapolated for marine litter quality and quantity. Italy shared the ongoing recent national activities and projects on marine pollution. In particular, it was reported the experience developed under Directive 848/UDCM of 2020 according to which, the national fleet specialized in the recovery of hydrocarbons, was also tasked with the collection of floating marine litter, in particular plastic waste packaging, both in protected marine areas and in areas in front of river mouths. The outcome of this project, which ended

in 2024, made it clear that land-based collection systems, located at river mouths, would be much more effective, both in financial and management terms, than sea-based collection systems. Morocco pointed out that this experience resonates with Morocco priorities and that the private sector is becoming more and more interested and involved.

21. On Axis 4 (sustainable maritime transport), the discussion began with a presentation of REMPEC's related activities regarding:

- a) The reduction of GHG emissions from ships, including through energy efficiency and decarbonisation. Thanks to a contribution from France a report will be presented in May on the subject.
 - b) An analysis of the implementation of the 2023 International Maritime Organization (IMO) Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships in the Mediterranean, which encompasses actions undertaken by Mediterranean countries and prospective activities.
 - c) The application of the EU Emissions Trading System to maritime transport and its implications for the Mediterranean, including energy efficiency measures to be deployed in ports.
 - d) The analysis of Green Corridor in the Mediterranean and related recommendations.
 - e) The green transition of shipping in the Mediterranean.
 - f) Drafting a project proposal on the implementation of Green Ports in the Mediterranean (EC funded project). The concept note has been circulated to Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties to explore possible interest in joining the project. The project would cover energy efficiency, capacity building activities and pilot projects in selected ports.
 - g) A technical and feasibility study for the examination of the possibility to designate the Mediterranean as a whole as a Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) Emission Control Area (NECA).
 - h) A study on emergency responses to accidents.
 - i) A project proposal to improve capacity on implementation of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention, since some Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties have not yet ratified Annex VI.
 - j) Awareness raising campaign on air and marine pollution from ships, especially in ports.
- REMPEC's presentation gave rise to several comments by Italy, Egypt and France. The quality and number of activities led by REMPEC were commended. The capacity building activities proposed to countries for the implementation of Annex VI of MARPOL Convention were unanimously welcomed and Egypt announced it is closed to ratifying it. France recalled that a workshop on GHG emissions from maritime transport had been organized in London in February 2025 by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 83); expressed its support to the proposal of imposing a levy on GHG emissions from the maritime transport sector and highlighted that PAMEX could assist in the work on NECA and Green Corridors. While welcoming the activities reported under Axis 4 on maritime transportation, Italy questioned how to ensure that PAMEX strengthens and not overlaps with the work undertaken by REMPEC in the framework of Barcelona Convention. To this regard, it was highlighted the study on the possible implementation of green shipping routes and maritime hubs in the Mediterranean region that was financed by Italy in the context of a bilateral agreement with Barcelona Convention as a starting point to build collaboration upon, in the context of PAMEX.

- Ms Evangelina Kaselimi of the Hellenic Ministry of Shipping and Insular Policy held a presentation on “Progress in implementing the commitment of equipping at least 12 Greek ports with cold ironing by 2030” (see attached document). Ms Evangelina Kaselimi’s presentation was commented by Egypt and UNEP/MAP Secretariat. Egypt in particular expressed great interest in the issue and the need to have access to guidelines on how to best achieve port electrification. The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP stressed that the region is moving in the right direction with PLIFF portfolio focusing inter alia on green ports and other related projects presented, and that REMPEC can provide valuable input to PAMEx Axis 4 also as a participant to the UfM Blue Economy Partnership (BMP).

22. Axis 2 (sustainable fisheries), the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP recalled that GFCM needs a mandate from its members to act as leader of this Axis. Therefore, PAMEx needs to resume talks with the GFCM and the European Commission while representatives of Fisheries Departments of PAMEx countries need to express their wish to see both organizations take the lead of Axis 2. Dr. Michael Chatziefstathiou, Head of Department of Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) & Common Market Organisation (CMO) of the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development & Food, said he will make the case for the involvement of GFCM in PAMEx work in the next GFCM Meeting. In addition, he pointed out that there is a need for better information on the emissions of the fishing ships.

23. Mr. Petros Varelidis concluded the session noting that there had been many comments and extensive discussions on PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025. In agreement with the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP and following the request of participants, he proposed that PAMEx SC Members could provide written inputs within a period of two weeks on the draft PAMEx PoW for 2025 presented and discussed during the Meeting, on the condition that the inputs are clearly related to the discussions that took place in the various sessions (see the final version of the document in **Annex V**).

Agenda item 5: Contribution to the preparations for the forthcoming UNOC-3

24. The Chair of the Steering Committee opened Agenda item 5 highlighting that the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) which will be convened in Nice, France, 9-13 June 2025, will be a major event providing an excellent opportunity for PAMEx to showcase the unique experience of the Mediterranean with regards to regional cooperation as highlighted in the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/4).

25. Then, the Chair gave the floor to the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP who reminded that 2025 will be the 30th anniversary of the revised Barcelona Convention and the 50th anniversary of UNEP/MAP. UNEP/MAP Secretariat is preparing a Ministerial High-Level Event, in cooperation with France, to take place during the Mediterranean Day (10 June), with the participation, up to now, of the following countries: Slovenia (Chair of the Bureau of the Barcelona Convention), France (Host of UNOC-3), Egypt (Host of COP24 of the Barcelona Convention) and Spain (country where the Convention was adopted). She explained that Slovenia, as Bureau Chair, will submit the proposal for this special event to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) within deadline for the submission of proposals for side events in the blue zone (reserved to governments and accredited organizations). In the unfortunate case the proposal is not granted, then the Mediterranean Ministerial High-Level Event can be organized in the green zone (a zone for civil society) in the context of the overall Mediterranean Day sessions, where a slot is already secured. The aim is to promote the Mediterranean cooperation model as an effective tool to achieve regional and global objectives. The UNEP Executive Director is foreseen to open the Ministerial High-Level Event and several Contracting Parties are going to be invited. Apart from

the 4 above mentioned core Contracting Parties that are envisaged to take part in the High-Level Event, the Coordinator extended the invitation to Greece which will be represented at UNOC-3 at the Prime-Minister's level, and to Italy, while also suggesting that the competent Ministers of some other countries could take part. Among the most beneficial potential contributions of MAP are:

- a) The prohibition of bottom trawling in all MPAs
- b) The phasing out of harmful subsidies
- c) Capacity building on Blue Finance
- d) The prospect of strengthening the efforts undertaken in the context of the Barcelona Convention to promote renewable marine energy in the Mediterranean.

26. Mr. Petros Varelidis then gave the floor online to Ms Ariane Bernard of the Interministerial Delegation for the Mediterranean, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, who is part of the French Organizing Committee for UNOC-3, to provide participants with further details on the Conference's themes and organizational aspects.

27. Ms Ariane Bernard underscored that the blue finance and scientific networking were two major aspects of the Conference. She also described the key events leading up to UNOC-3, as follows:

- a) 28 May-15 June: a sequence of events for civil society
- b) 4-8 June: 3 upstream social events
- c) 3-6 June: One Ocean Congress, will gather 2000 researchers
- d) 7 June: coastal cities and regions
- e) 4-8 June: the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) in Monaco

The accreditation procedure for the blue and green zones is specified on the Conference website. With regard to the deadlines for the submission of side event proposals, these are 14 March for the blue zone and 21 April for the green zone.

The Mediterranean Day (10 June) will be the only thematic day of the Conference: it will take place in the green zone and will include a series of sessions and events and a ministerial segment, that would focus on decentralized cooperation, on the Blue Economy (coordinated by UfM), and on the civil society advocacy (fisheries, tourism, etc.).

28. The Chair of the Steering Committee called for comments on the presentation of preparations and prospects for UNOC-3. UNEP/MAP Secretariat, France, Italy and Greece asked for the floor.

29. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP underlined that UNEP/MAP will provide inputs on the blue economy in relation with the revision of the MSSD and success stories of the region, and on the innovative role of PAMEx in relation with the Barcelona Convention anniversary. France pointed out this is a UN Conference open to all, and that France's priorities include the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, the 30x30 target and MPAs expansion, plastic pollution and decarbonation, while flagging out the forthcoming annual meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions as well as the UNEA 6 Resolution (6/15) on Strengthening Ocean efforts. Italy recalled the G7 Declaration on Regional Seas under the G7 Italian Presidency and informed that the Italian Minister will co-chair the Ocean Action Panel on Regional Cooperation in Nice ensuring that the regional perspective is well addressed at UNOC-3. Greece thanked UNEP/MAP Coordinator for the invitation to the Mediterranean Ministerial High-level Event, suggested that UNOC-3 be an opportunity to promote PAMEx and upgrade its visibility and announced that the

Greek Prime Minister will co-chair the first Ocean Action Panel of the Conference on marine biodiversity, a crucial issue also for the Mediterranean region.

30. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP concluded Agenda item 5 confirming that PAMEx will be part of the events related to the 30th (Barcelona Convention) and 50th (MAP) anniversaries, during the Mediterranean Day (10 June). Blue economy and the PLIFF, together with showcasing best practices from countries will also be part of the Mediterranean Day's programme.

Agenda item 6: PAMEx Communication activities

31. The Chair of the Steering Committee opened Agenda item 6 underlining that communication activities are essential to improve PAMEx visibility as well as the understanding of Mediterranean experience and pioneering role, in general, and its potential for scaling up at the global level. The Chair gave the floor to the PAMEx Technical Secretariat who displayed a list of international and regional events with good opportunities to improve the visibility of the PAMEx Initiative at the global and regional levels, while positioning the Mediterranean as a model regional sea worldwide. The list is outlined in the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/4).

32. The Chair opened the floor asking for comments on the proposed list of events and suggestions for additional communication activities. Greece, Morocco, Egypt and UNEP/MAP asked for the floor. It was proposed to extend the list to also include: the next GFCM Meeting of November 2025 with a view to feature there a presentation of the PAMEx initiative; the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in July 2025, in New York, where Malta will be the Mediterranean country presenting its Voluntary National Review (VNR) this year; the next United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) to take place in December 2025 in Nairobi; and, as appropriate, the 4th UN International Conference on Financing for Development to take place in June 2025 in Seville. The question was raised on the main messages that PAMEx Members would like to deliver to these multiple events and on the prioritization of events to be targeted.

33. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP concluded the agenda item 6 emphasizing the number of potential good opportunities to promote PAMEx in the coming months, calling for leadership and contributions from countries and bearing in mind that proposals should be realistic due to the limited resources available to PAMEx as well as should be prepared well in advance of any event so as to be shared with PAMEx SC members. The priority for UNEP/MAP Secretariat will be COP 24 of the Barcelona Convention in December 2025 in Cairo.

Conclusions and closure of day 1 of the Meeting

34. The Chair of the Steering Committee expressed satisfaction with the level of discussion and the commitments of the participants, as well as with the results of day 1 of the Steering Committee Meeting and gave the floor for the conclusion to the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

35. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP pointed out the interesting discussions that took place all along the first day of the Meeting. She regretted that there were not more people taking part in person to the Meeting and expected that PAMEx members would attend physically in the next Steering Committee Meeting. She noted that the Progress report had been endorsed and that, regarding the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025, there was an overall agreement on its contents while space will be left for written comments and amendments to PAMEx Members, exclusively in the spirit of the discussion of the Meeting. She also stated that a number of projects are now in the process of implementation and that Axis 2 still faces difficulties for its deployment, calling for countries to talk with GFCM to facilitate a better understanding of PAMEx objectives and finding

way to move forward. As for UNOC-3, the various entry points to participate in this major event were highlighted and there is still a need for additional time to finalize the proposals and priority topics. On communication activities, there was also a general agreement on the additional events to follow up: GFCM next Meeting, UNEA-7, the UN 2025 HLPF. PAMEx countries are invited to take the lead, identify relevant subjects and propose specific input, the UNEP/MAP priority being COP 24 of the Barcelona Convention.

Opening of day 2 of the Meeting

36. Mr. Varelidis, Chair of the PAMEx Steering Committee, welcomed the participants to the second day of the Steering Committee Meeting and opened the Agenda item 7. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP pointed out that raising sufficient funds is essential for the preservation and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea and that PLIFF was created to address this necessity.

Agenda item 7: PLIFF and Blue Finance for the Mediterranean

37. Mr Christophe Nuttall, PLIFF Secretary General, presented the PLIFF Road Map for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/5, see **Annex VI**) which sets the main objectives and targets to be achieved in 2025, as well as the main milestones. In this context, he reminded that PLIFF covers three complementary portfolios (Green Ports, Marine pollution & Zero Plastics and Biodiversity) and that new funding may come from various sources: public or private funds, philanthropy, equity, debt, green/blue bonds, innovative finance such as carbon credits, etc. He then facilitated the session which focused on projects currently under development and partnerships to be consolidated as part of the PLIFF roll-out under its three portfolios and introduced the speakers who represent PLIFF's key partners.

38. Mr Anisse Terai (TELL Group) made a presentation on PLIFF Green Ports portfolio highlighting the various players, from the public and private sectors, the new regulatory context (EU), the vast technical, infrastructure and financial challenges to convert ports to green ports through electrification (cold ironing) and renewable energy (solar, hydrogen) and competitiveness issues related to smart port development. He also highlighted the various sources of finance that could be tapped, ranging from conventional private, public, public-private-partnership (PPP) to blended finance, including tradable carbon credits. Then he presented a map of ports in the Mediterranean with greening potential (see attached document).

39. The presentation was followed by comments from the Chair of the meeting, REMPEC, Egypt and Greece. Mr. Varelidis (Chair) asked where the funding would actually come from, how port electrification can be made compulsory and how the charging costs for the electricity supply of the ships could be estimated. REMPEC underlined that the greening of ports is a priority and suggested finding synergies with the MEDports Association. REMPEC's study presented during the first day of the meeting highlighted the new legal obligations for ports, which vary according to countries. REMPEC announced that it will also examine the investment requirements of several ports in the region through a new INTERREG project. It mentioned the need for guidance (operations, implementation, electricity charges, etc.) and offered to be partner of PLIFF. Egypt mentioned the fact that green hydrogen is not yet mature, electricity tariffication mechanisms need to be clarified as well as taxation and certification schemes. Promoting green ports requires huge investments to allow for the transition between old and new systems. The representative of the Hellenic Ministry of Fisheries pointed out that, within this overall picture and efforts, the greening of the fishing fleet and fishing ports, in particular, constitutes another specific challenge that is being promoted by Greece, however technological changes towards port electrification can be complex. The

Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP asked about PLIFF's consortium achievements in terms of funds raised.

40. Mr Anisse Terai replied that cooperation with REMPEC was more than welcome. TELL Group is currently working with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) such as the Islamic Development Bank or the African Development Bank (AfDB) and has mobilized 75 M US\$ on a pure project basis with not impact on national debt, and this is attracting private investors. Mr Christophe Nuttall gave two examples of ongoing projects with regard to electrification facilities: Corsica Ferries for boat trips from Marseille to North Africa (Tunisia, Algeria) and the port of Tanger. He recalled that PLIFF needs 1.5 to 2 M Euros to carry out feasibility studies necessary to select bankable projects. Blue Med Partnership (BMP) has shown interest in PLIFF's Portfolio.

41. The Chair concluded the session on ports recalling that electrification has positive results for both CO2 emissions and air pollution reduction and that the transitions towards smarter ports should be progressive. He also underscored that challenges and competition rules are different for commercial fleet, tourism and small boats.

42. Mr Christophe Nuttall introduced the next session devoted to the PLIFF Marine pollution and Zero Plastic portfolio. Mr Olivier Stintzy, Edifice Capital, made a presentation of some of the key projects developed under this portfolio (see attached document).

- a) Reuse of Treated Wastewater for Agricultural in South Tunisia. In the context of a country prone to water stress, the project aims at constructing the required infrastructure that would connect the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) output with the agricultural irrigation system and other users. The project supports the elaboration of the technical feasibility study for 14 WWTP. The total estimated Investment amounts approximately to 15M€ (to be confirmed by feasibility study).
- b) Developing a Global Value Chain for the Recycling of Marine Plastic waste from the Mediterranean - Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia), Cairo (Egypt) and 10 other coastal areas in the Mediterranean. The project aims at developing a value chain for "recycled Mediterranean marine plastic" through the scaling up of successful projects (Kerkennah, Tunisia; Cairo, Egypt) and their duplication to 10 new areas in the Mediterranean.
- c) Solid Waste Management and Treatment Plant in Chefchaouen (Morocco). The project aims at constructing the required infrastructure between the current waste landfill and a new landfill (site identified: Bab Taza) to replace the current one, equipped with additional treatment facilities: composting, sorting, recycling, methanisation. Total cost of the Project €3,15m.
- d) Solid Waste Management and Treatment Plant in Al Zarka (Jordan). The project aims at reducing waste directed to landfilling through sorting and recycling. The estimated cost of the project is around 5 M€.

Following the presentation, both Egypt and Morocco asked for the floor. Egypt announced that the Prime Minister has signed a decree for the setting up of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for plastic packaging waste. On this occasion, a special fund will be created to encourage the reduction, recycling and reuse of plastic waste, which could be presented as good practice. Morocco, for its part, has been experimenting for three years now on a project in Rabat very similar to the one that has been presented, on the reuse of treated wastewater for irrigational purposes in agriculture which requires low investment costs.

43. The floor was then given to Mr Enrique Manzanares, Delimara Ltd and University of Loyola, PLIFF Spain, who recalled the support provided by the Sub-National Climate Fund (SCF, part of the Green Climate Fund) in the initial phase of the PLIFF (18 M US\$). Eight Mediterranean countries are now eligible for the SCF. He added that many other funds can be mobilized to financially support or co-fund relevant projects and that the Andalusia Region is now interested in joining PLIFF as well as Andalusian banks and Universities (see attached document).

44. At the invitation of Mr Christophe Nuttall, Mr Andrea Tinagli, European Investment Bank (EIB), Senior Officer at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), provided an update on the Blue Med Partnership (BMP) which is co-chaired by UfM. The BMP comprises three categories of partners: the beneficiaries, the implementers and the donors. It facilitates the funding of projects by banks and its objective is to identify and deliver bankable projects. It uses blended resources: grants, debt and equity funds. So far Morocco, Egypt and Jordan are part of BMP. However, there is a strong need for Technical Assistance funds (TA) which are exclusively managed by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), i.e. EIB, EBRD, AFD, KfW. BMP funds are managed by the EBRD and selection criteria are those of international donors (EIB, EC, etc.). TA funds are required to deliver bankable projects. BMP has secured so far 20 M€ (10 M€ from the EC). At UNOC-3 a first lot of projects in the three above-mentioned countries of a total amount of 6 M€ will be presented on green ports, water reuse, plastics and biodiversity. As for the synergies with PLIFF, PLIFF mainly focusses on equity, whereas BMP operates through debt. Therefore, there can be a combination of debt (BMP) and equity (PLIFF) funds. In addition, UfM has a facilitator role in identifying country priorities and fostering the dialogue between MDBs and the private sector. Following the presentation, Egypt asked if it is a signatory of BMP, and the response was that Egypt participates in BMP since 2024.

45. Mr. Cyprien Fonvielle CEO NEEDE, was asked then to present the project MEDTRAIN Cité Bleue, which aim is to provide a unique working space for environmental projects in the Mediterranean, including a permanent immersive museum for the general public, an auditorium for conferences, a training centre based on an academic network, travelling exhibitions, a space for hosting environmental innovation start-ups and an institute for territorial foresight. The project also intends to assist Mediterranean stakeholders to develop projects and raise funds (see attached document).

46. Mr Christophe Nuttall called Mr Michael Kokkinos, President and CEO of the Hellenic-Spanish Chamber of Commerce, to share some comments from his side on PLIFF. Mr Kokkinos stressed that users would have to pay for additional services, like in the case of the reduction of CO2 emissions in the tourism sector. He also highlighted that the Hellenic-Spanish Chamber of Commerce has created a platform to fund feasibility studies.

47. There were questions from Italy and France on the PLIFF Biodiversity portfolio. Mr Christophe Nuttall replied that due to a lack of time during the Meeting, it has not been possible to present the Biodiversity portfolio. The two related PLIFF projects are the restoration of the Bardawil Lake, located in the North Sinai region in Egypt and the extension of the Maritime Protected Area of the “Bouches de Bonifacio” in Corsica (France), where an innovative Blue Bonds approach will be tested in both cases. France also welcomed the progress made in and synergies between PLIFF and BMP.

48. In concluding the session, the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP requested that all the speakers to share their presentations in order to be distributed to the participants. She also suggested to ensure stronger references to the Barcelona Convention work (i.e. synergies with REMPEC, addressing plastic marine litter, etc.) in PLIFF’s activities since it would provide a better chance of fundraising.

Since UNEP/MAP is a signatory of the BMP agreement, she will engage in further discussions with BMP, on this matter.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters, Including Date and Venue of the next PAMEx SC Meeting

49. Mr. Varelidis announced that the 5th Steering Committee Meeting will be held in the second half of October 2025, either in person, if funds are available, or online, if not.

50. Italy asked on the next steps and Mr. Varelidis replied that a deadline of two weeks is set for written comments and inputs to the draft PoW so as to finalise it and proceed with practical work in 2025. He also pointed out that the PAMEx Presidency should be rotating, the next one to be taken over by a country from the southern shore of the Mediterranean, as stated in the PAMEx Governance document, and, therefore, that we should start preparing as of now who will take the lead during the next term.

Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

51. Mr. Varelidis asked the PAMEx Secretariat to present a draft version of the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting. The participants reviewed the draft Conclusions and Recommendations and adopted them as revised and presented in **Annex VII** to this report.

The current full report of the Meeting has been agreed to be circulated to the PAMEx Members at a later stage for adoption.

Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting

52. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was declared closed at 13:00 on Friday, 7 March 2025 by Mr. Petros Varelidis, Chair of the PAMEx Steering Committee.

Annex I

List of Participants

EGYPT	Dr. Ali Abosena CEO and MAP Focal point Ministry of Environment of Egypt Email: ceo.ceaa@moenv.gov.eg Dr. Heba Sharawy Head of loans and grants follow up unit Head OF ICZM Central Department General manager for Environmental Economy MAP Coordinator/ WAVES focal point SCP/RAC & Switchmed Focal point Ministry of Environment of Egypt Email: heba_shrawy@yahoo.com
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Annex II

Agenda of the Meeting

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| Agenda Item 1: | Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda |
| Agenda Item 2: | Organizational Matters |
| Agenda Item 3: | Update on Progress of PAMEx Implementation |
| Agenda item 4: | PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 |
| Agenda Item 5: | PAMEx contribution to UNOC-3 |
| Agenda Item 6: | PAMEx Communication Plan for 2025 |
| Agenda Item 7: | PLIFF and Blue Finance for the Mediterranean |
| Agenda Item 8: | Any Other Matters, including date and venue of the next PAMEx SC Meeting |
| Agenda Item 9: | Conclusions and Recommendations |
| Agenda Item 10: | Closure of the Meeting |

Annex III

Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. Following the kind offer of the Government of Greece, and in consultation with the Members of the PAMEx Steering Committee, the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) will be convened on 6-7 March 2025 in Athens, Greece.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting are to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 since the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting, to present and discuss the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025, propose communication and visibility activities, receive update on PLIFF implementation and present the PLIFF Road Map for 2025.
3. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for the plenary sessions. Working documents will be in English and French. Participants are encouraged to download documentation on their computers in advance of the session.
4. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda (UNEP/MED WG.611/1) were prepared by the PAMEx Technical Secretariat to assist the Meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The Meeting will be opened at 10:00 on Thursday, 6 March 2025, by Honorary Professor Mr Christos Zerefos, Secretary General of the Academy of Athens. The introduction to the Meeting will be made by Mr Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, and current Chair of the Steering Committee, followed by opening remarks by the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention, Ms Tatjana Hema.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

- a) *Organization of Work*
- b) *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*

Working and Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.611/1	Provisional Agenda
	UNEP/MED WG.611/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
	UNEP/MED WG.611/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
	UNEP/MED WG.611/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants

6. The Chair of the Steering Committee will open Agenda item 2 and will give the floor to the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP who will present the Provisional Agenda and organization of work as indicated in document UNEP/MED WG.611/1.
7. The Meeting will be invited to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda (document UNEP/MED WG.611/1) and annotated in the present document.
8. It is expected that the PAMEx members will discuss all the items of the Agenda during its one day and a half Meeting, including the adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 13:00 on Friday, 7 March 2025.

9. The Report of the 4th Steering Committee Meeting will be distributed to the Members of the PAMEx Steering Committee after the Meeting, for their perusal, comments and approval through electronic means.

Agenda item 3: Update on Progress of PAMEx Implementation

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.611/3	Progress report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee
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10. The Chair of the Steering Committee will open Agenda item 3 recalling that this is the second SC Meeting under the Greek Presidency of the Initiative and thanking France for its support to the PAMEx initiative and to the organization of this Meeting, and for ensuring that its Technical Secretariat is again operational since early December 2024.

11. The Chair of the Steering Committee will stress that this session is devoted to reporting on PAMEx achievements since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee of 3rd December 2024 and will give the floor to PAMEx Technical Secretariat, who will outline the main elements of the Progress report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee (UNEP/MED WG.611/3).

12. The Members of the PAMEx Steering Committee will be invited by the Chair of the Steering Committee to share their comments in view of validating the Progress report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee.

Agenda item 4: PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.611/4	PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
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13. The Chair of the Steering Committee will open Agenda item 4, highlighting that it will provide the way forward by establishing an indicative list of activities to be undertaken under PAMEx in 2025.

14. The Chair will give the floor to the PAMEx Technical Secretariat who will outline the list of activities proposed in the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/4), underlining that they are based on discussions from previous Steering Committee Meetings and suggestions from Axis leaders received in writing prior to the Meeting.

15. The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP will also present activities from MAP Programme of Work (PoW) contributing to PAMEx priorities. All PAMEx members will be invited to share with the meeting information about their activities that could contribute to PAMEx.

16. The Chair of the Steering Committee will then open the discussion Axis per Axis. The four PAMEx priority Axes are:

- a) Axis 1: Raise the ambition for the preservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean

- b) Axis 2: Promote and develop sustainable fishing to end overfishing by 2030
- c) Axis 3: Redouble efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly so that no plastic is discharged into the Mediterranean by 2030
- d) Axis 4: Promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change

17. During the discussion in each Axis, the Chair will call on participants to provide any additional comments and suggestions on the proposals made by Axis leaders and the PAMEx Technical Secretariat for each Axis, as presented in the proposed PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 document (UNEP/MED WG.611/4). The Members of the Steering Committee, besides comments on deliverables, are also expected to express their potential interest in leading the proposed activities and indicate potential financial options for their implementation.

18. Short presentations of relevant case studies/projects will also take place under each Axis to further enrich discussions and help formulate new ideas and prospects of scaling up actions. The Chair will invite identified presenters to give their presentations under the corresponding Axis, as follows:

On Axis 1: the Chair will invite:

- i) Ms Aimilia Drouga, Expert on Marine Biodiversity, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, to present the project on “Establishment of monitoring and early warning systems for passing by ships, to timely identify large marine mammals (SAvE Whales)” (presentation in person);
- ii) Mr Philippe Amar, LANEGO, and Mr Zacharias Siokouros, CEO of the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI) to present the France/Cyprus project on “MPA monitoring and protection based on nature based artificial reefs protected by resident drones (EONIOS)” (presentation online)

On Axis 3: the Chair will invite:

- i) Prof. Konstantinos Topouzelis, Co-founder of SciDrones, University of the Aegean, Greece, to present the project on “Coastal Marine Litter Observatory (CMLO): Enabling Smarter Policies with AI and Drones” (presentation online);
- ii) Mr Yannis Spanos, Project PARALIES Coordinator, Greece, to present the “Project PARALIES: A bottom-up initiative catalysing private sector involvement and promoting awareness towards the protection and restoration of coastal and marine environment against marine litter” (presentation in person).

On Axis 4: the Chair will invite the representative of the Hellenic Ministry of Shipping and Insular Policy to present progress in implementing the commitment of “equipping at least 12 Greek ports with cold ironing by 2030”.

19. At the end of each session the Chair of the Steering Committee, with the assistance of the PAMEx Technical Secretariat, will provide a brief conclusion and will move to the next session.

20. At the end of the discussions of this Agenda item, the Chair of the Steering Committee will conclude the session and the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 will be adopted.

Agenda item 5: Contribution to the preparations for the forthcoming UNOC-3

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.611/4	PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
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21. The Chair of the Steering Committee will open Agenda item 5 highlighting that UNOC-3 will be a major event providing good opportunities for PAMEx to showcase the unique experience of the Mediterranean with regards to regional sea cooperation and management. Then the Chair will give the floor to the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP.

22. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP will present the planned arrangements under UNOC-3 and the opportunities to promote PAMEx achievements as highlighted in the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/4).

23. The Members of the PAMEx Steering Committee are expected to provide comments and suggestions with regard to participation in UNOC-3 activities.

24. After the discussion has ended the Chair of the Steering Committee will conclude the session on Agenda item 5.

Agenda item 6: PAMEx Communication activities

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.611/ 4	PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
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25. The Chair of the Steering Committee will open Agenda item 6 underlining that communication activities will be essential to improve PAMEx visibility as well as the visibility of the Mediterranean and its experience and pioneering role, in general, at the global level.

26. The Chair will give the floor to the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP, who will present a list of international and regional events with good opportunities to improve the visibility of the PAMEx Initiative at the global and regional levels, while positioning the Mediterranean as a model regional Sea worldwide.

27. The Members of the PAMEx Steering Committee are expected to provide comments and ideas to contribute to the proposed PAMEx communication activities.

28. After the discussion has ended, the Chair of the Steering Committee will conclude the session on Agenda item 6.

Conclusions and closure of day 1 of the Meeting

In closing day 1 of the Meeting, the Chair of the Steering Committee, with the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, will take stock of exchanges during the day and will highlight the main results achieved.

Opening of day 2 of the Meeting

29. The Chair of the Steering Committee will welcome the participants to the second day of the Steering Committee Meeting and will open the Agenda item 7, giving the floor to the Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP.

Agenda item 7: PLIFF and Blue Finance for the Mediterranean

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.611/5	PLIFF Road Map 2025
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30. The Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP will introduce the session recalling that raising sufficient funds is essential for the preservation and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea. Then, she will give the floor to Mr Christophe Nuttall, Secretary General of PLIFF, who will facilitate (online) the session on PLIFF.

31. Mr Christophe Nuttall will present the PLIFF Road Map for 2025 (UNEP/MED WG.611/5) which sets the main objectives and targets to be achieved in 2025, as well as the main milestones. He will then facilitate the session which will focus on projects currently under development and partnerships to be consolidated as part of the PLIFF roll-out. Mr Christophe Nuttall will be introducing the speakers who represent PLIFF's key partners including:

- Mr Anisse Terai, TELL Group: PLIFF Green Port portfolio of projects (online);
- Mr Olivier Stintzy, Edifice Capital PLIFF: Zero Plastic portfolio of projects (online);
- Mr Matthew McLucky, POSAIDON Capital: PLIFF biodiversity: Green bonds for the Mediterranean (online);
- Mr Enrique Manzanares, Delimara Ltd and University of Loyola, Spain: Conclusion of operationalization (in person);
- Mr. Andrea Tinagli, EIB Senior Official at the Union for the Mediterranean: Partnership between Blue Med Partnership under the UfM – ERBD leadership (online);
- Mr Kamal Dadi, Deputy Director, AFD Partnership: AFD signing the PLIFF Charter, Progress achieved and next steps: (online);
- Mr Michael Kokkinos, President and CEO, Hellenic-Spanish Chamber of Commerce, Greece: Signing the PLIFF Charter: Progress achieved and next steps (in person);
- Mr Cyprien Fonvielle, CEO NEEDE, MEDTRAIN Cité Bleue: (online).

32. After the discussion has ended, the Chair of the Steering Committee will conclude the session on Agenda item 7.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters

33. The meeting will consider other issues that may be raised by the participants.

Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations

34. The Chair of the Steering Committee will submit for adoption a set of Conclusions and Recommendations based on the discussions under all Agenda Items.

35. The full report of the meeting will be circulated to the PAMEx Members at a later stage for adoption.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

36. The meeting is expected to be closed by the President of the PAMEx at approximately 13:00 on Friday, 7 March 2025.

Timetable

(The timetable is the local time of Athens, Time: GMT+3)

Thursday, 6 th March 2025		
Time	Agenda item	Documents
09:45 - 10:00	Arrival of participants and Registrations	
10:00 - 10:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
10:15 - 10:20	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters: Organization of Work and Adoption of the Agenda	UNEP/MED WG.611/1 Provisional Agenda UNEP/MED WG.611/2 Provisional Annotated Agenda UNEP/MED WG.611/Inf.1 Provisional List of Documents UNEP/MED WG.611/Inf.2 Provisional List of Participants
10:20 - 10:40	Agenda item 3: Update on Progress of PAMEx Implementation	UNEP/MED WG.611/3 Progress report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee
10:40 - 11:45	Agenda item 4: PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 a) Presentation of PAMEx proposed Programme of Work for 2025 b) Axis 1: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity	UNEP/MED WG.611/4 PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
11:45 - 12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00 - 13:00	Agenda item 4: PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (<i>Cont'</i>) c) Axis 3: Addressing Marine Pollution	UNEP/MED WG.611/4 PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 - 15:30	Agenda item 4: PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (<i>Cont'</i>) d) Axis 4: Sustainable Maritime Transport	UNEP/MED WG.611/ 4 PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
15:30 - 16:00	Agenda item 4: PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 (<i>Cont'</i>) e) Axis 2: Sustainable Fisheries f) Adoption of PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025	UNEP/MED WG.611/4 PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee Break	
16:15 - 17:00	Agenda item 5: Contribution to the preparation for the forthcoming UNOC-3	UNEP/MED WG.611/4 PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025
17:00 - 17:20	Agenda item 6: PAMEx Communication activities	UNEP/MED WG.611/4 PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025

17:20 - 17:30	Conclusions and closure of day 1 of the meeting	
17:45 - 18:30	Reception hosted by the Greek Presidency	

Friday, 7th March 2025		
Time	Agenda item	Documents
10:00 – 10:10	Opening of day 2 of the meeting	
10:10 - 12:00	Agenda item 7: PLIFF and Blue Finance for the Mediterranean	UNEP/MED WG.611/5 PLIFF Road Map 2025
10:10 - 11:15	a) PLIFF update and Road Map for 2025	
11:15 - 12:00	b) Partnership and support to PLIFF	
12:00 - 12:15	Coffee Break	
12:15 - 12:30	Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters, including Date and Venue of the next SC Meeting	
12:30 - 13:00	Agenda item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations	
13:00	Closure of the Meeting	

Annex IV

Progress report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee

Introduction

The Third (3rd) Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (PAMEx Technical Secretariat), under the Presidency of Greece, via a Videoconference, on 3 December 2024. It was attended by 29 participants.

The Fourth (4th) Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF), is also organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (PAMEx Technical Secretariat), under the Presidency of Greece, and will be held in person on 6 and 7 March 2025 in Athens, Greece, in the premises of the Academy of Athens (Panepistimiou Avenue). The main objective of the Meeting is to discuss and agree on the Programme of Work for 2025. Furthermore, the Meeting is also going to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action since the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting, examine the progress on implementation under each PAMEx Axis, receive update on recent PLIFF development and identify key communication activities suitable for raising the visibility of the work under PAMEx as well as under the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system at a wider scale.

Since 3rd December 2024, the following activities have been undertaken under the PAMEx initiative:

- a) Preparation of the 4th Meeting of the PAMEx Steering Committee.
- b) Drafting of a proposal for a side event application for the 10th Our Ocean Conference (Busan, 29-30.4.2025).
- c) Liaising with the Steering Committee Members and other partners.
- d) Preparation of PLIFF roadmap.
- e) Preparation of actions related to the forthcoming Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3).
- f) Participation in the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).
- g) Providing support for the "Immersion - Cité Bleue" project.

a) Preparation of 4th PAMEx Steering Committee

In view of the 4th Meeting of the PAMEx Steering Committee, the PAMEx Technical Secretariat together with the UNEP/MAP and the Greek PAMEx Presidency Team, composed of representatives of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, collaborated closely for the preparation of the Meeting's practical arrangements (venue, invitations, logistics, interpretation, speakers) and preparatory documents (agenda, themes, etc.).

b) Drafting of a proposal for a side event application for the 10th Our Ocean Conference (Busan, 29-30.4.2025)

A proposal for a side event application was prepared under the Presidency of Greece (PAMEx Presidency) in cooperation with the PAMEx Technical Secretariat, France, Monaco, The MedFUND, MedPAN and UNEP/MAP on “*Mediterranean sea, a model sea by 2030: Regional approaches for leveraging global action for the ocean*”. It was submitted on 9 December 2024. However, due to a large number of side event applications, it was not selected for inclusion in the first list of selected events by the 10th OOC selection committee. A short Strategic Note on “The 10th OOC Side Event Selection: Result of the first round and preparation for the second round” was drafted by the PAMEx Secretariat on 20 January 2025 advising on the way forward. The submission of another proposal for the second round for side event selection, under the leadership of PAMEx Presidency, on the following subject: “*Accelerating the achievement of the 30x30 target of the Global Biodiversity Framework: lessons learned from the Mediterranean*” was agreed. The new proposal was submitted by MedPAN, as leader, in partnership with Greece, The MedFUND, UNEP/MAP and PAMEx on 7 February 2025. The response of the 10th OOC selection committee is still pending. In case the new proposal is selected, the Technical Secretariat of PAMEx together with submitting partners will need to start the side event organization.

c) Liaising with the Steering Committee Members and other partners

The following PAMEx members and partners have been consulted to speed up work and mobilize partnerships:

- The MedFund,
- MedPAN,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France,
- Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD),
- PLIFF,
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM),
- French Embassy in Athens,
- Expertise France/Greece Office,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Interministerial delegation for the Mediterranean,
- Agence française de développement (AFD),
- Lanego company,
- The Greek Presidency PAMEx Team,
- Edifice Capital,
- Ministry of Ecological Transition of France,
- Ministry of Environment and Energy of Italy,
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

Several other meetings are scheduled for the upcoming period.

These discussions have resulted in a number of suggestions regarding activities to be implemented by PAMEx and its longer-term strategy, including funding opportunities and partnership building for PLIFF.

d) Preparation of PLIFF roadmap

Following the previous PAMEx (3rd) Steering Committee Meeting and after an initial meeting with PLIFFs key entities in late December 2024, it was agreed that the priority should be to draft a strategy for PLIFF in 2025. The document was prepared by PLIFF Secretary General and was then discussed with the PAMEx Secretariat. The document was shared with a few PAMEx members directly involved or interested in the mechanism to benefit from their views and recommendations.

The strategic note, which is very concise and substantive, provides useful information on where the PLIFF stands at the moment, its portfolio of projects, partnerships built and key landmarks for the year to come.

It is built around 3 (of the 4) PAMEx priority axes, namely:

- **Green ports** based on the production of renewable energies and the electrification of quaysides. Some ten ports in all the countries on the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean have expressed their interest with the proposed approach, with pre-feasibility studies completed for some ports.
- **Zero plastic, sanitation and waste.** The projects here are focusing on equipping local authorities with household waste management and sanitation projects, mainly in Morocco and Jordan. A REUT (Reuse of treated wastewater) project is also being studied in 4 Tunisian governorates. At the same time, based on a successful project for the collection, sorting and recycling of marine plastic waste on the island of Kerkenah in Tunisia, PLIFF has been asked to replicate and scale up this project in ten or so areas on the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.
- **The Protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity axis** is illustrated by two flagship projects: the Bardawill Lake in Egypt, for which a proposal for a green bond issue has been accepted by the highest authority of the Suez Canal, and the Bouches de Bonifacio Nature Reserve (France). The Tunisian Ministry of the Environment has also asked PLIFF to study the modalities of a similar intervention for Tunisia's marine and coastal nature reserves.

Several potential funding partners have been identified who clearly expressed their interest in financing parts of the project portfolio, in line with their own priorities: the Michael Bloomberg Foundation, Brookfield, Mitsubishi Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Blue Med Partnership initiative, the Subnational Climate Fund of the Green Climate Fund.

The objective for 2025 is to mobilize between 1 and 1.5 million euros in subsidies to carry out feasibility studies for 3 to 6 bankable projects and to be able to showcase PLIFF progress at UNOC-3, COP-CC 30 and COP-BC 24.

e) Preparation of actions related to the forthcoming UNOC-3 (Nice, 8-13.6.2025)

The Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) will be convened in Nice, France, from Monday 9 June to Friday 13 June, 2025. The Governments of France and Costa Rica will co-chair the Conference, which aims to generate transformative action and provide solutions the ocean needs, supported by ocean science and funding for SDG 14 (life below water).

The PAMEx Secretariat has been associated with the preparation of the Mediterranean Day (June 10, 2025), where 4 sessions are currently programmed:

- Segment 1: Asserting the role of local authorities in preserving the ocean;
- Segment 2: Finance and Innovation as accelerator for Sustainable Blue Economy;
- Segment 3: Envisioning the Mediterranean of the Future;
- Segment 4: Ministerial Panel on the Barcelona Convention 50th Anniversary (UNEP/MAP Panels).

f) Participation in the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

At the invitation of the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, the PAMEx Technical Secretariat attended two MCSD related meetings whose objectives were to review and discuss the revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025, that would allow the MCSD to conclude the work of the MSSD revision during its formal forthcoming Meeting in June 2025:

- The Extended Steering Committee of the MCSD meeting (20 December 2024);
- The Ad-Hoc Meeting of the MCSD (Istanbul 12-13 February 2025).

The PAMEx Technical Secretariat will continue to contribute to the process of elaborating and finalizing the revised MSSD 2026-2035 which is scheduled for June 2025, in order to promote PAMEx objectives and maximise complementarities and synergies

g) Providing support for the "Immersion - Cité Bleue" project

Located in the historic site of the port facilities of La Seyne-sur-Mer (France), the "Immersion - Cité Bleue" project aims to create a centre of excellence for the preservation, restoration, knowledge and the promotion of the Mediterranean, as part of an ecological transition approach. "Immersion - Cité Bleue" will constitute a multidimensional center, dedicated to the Mediterranean, its history, its biodiversity, its heritage and its ecological, economic and cultural challenges. The "Immersion - Cité Bleue" benefits from the support of a major private sponsor, the FORTIL group, which provides the initial investment and running costs of the project.

The PAMEx Technical Secretariat contributed to the promotion of the project and the signing of two letters of support for the project: one by the PAMEx Presidency and another one by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator.

Annex V

Final PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025

This document presents the actions planned as part of the PAMEx initiative for the year 2025 that were discussed during 4th Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF), including additional amendments provided after the meeting in the spirit of the discussions and points raised during the Steering Committee Meeting as agreed by the participants. These activities are structured around the priority areas of intervention of the PAMEx initiative and are based on discussions from previous Steering Committee meetings and suggestions from Axis leaders received in writing prior and after the meeting.

e) Actions planned under Axis 1: Raise the ambition for the preservation of marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean

a.1) Contributing to the achievement of the 30x30 target in the Mediterranean

Explore how to practically support the achievement of the 30x30 target in the Mediterranean, and in particular how to support countries with MPAs covering less than 2% of territorial waters. This issue was highlighted during the 3rd PAMEx Steering Committee by several countries and partners.

→ PAMEx Secretariat, in close collaboration with UNEP/MAP, and with the involvement of PAMEx Members and UNEP/MAP Contracting Parties, to organise an online Workshop with the support of PAMEx Technical Secretariat to exchange successful approaches between interested countries on how to set up MPAs within territorial waters, how to enhance the level of protection in practice including through modern state-of-the-art technological surveillance systems, how to ensure patrolling and synergies with efforts/actions to promote sustainable fisheries, etc.

a.2) Support to the Gulf of Gabes and Bouches de Bonifacio projects

In view of UNOC-3, BC-COP 24 and CC-COP 30, promote PLIFF projects developed to protect and restore the Gulf of Gabes and the Bay of Sfax, including the Kerkennah islands, in Tunisia and reinforce and enlarge the Maritime Protected Area of the “Bouches de Bonifacio” in Corsica (France), which has been labelled by SPA/RAC as an ASPIM (Area of special importance for the Mediterranean). A blue bond approach is being tested, which would attract innovative public and private investors. Those two projects situated in South and North ridges of the Mediterranean should serve as examples for scaling up and replication all around the Mediterranean aiming at mobilizing very substantial funds.

→ PAMEx Technical Secretariat to work with volunteer countries and PLIFF on developing further both projects and showcasing results in regional/international events, including UNOC-3.

b) Actions planned under Axis 2: Promote and develop sustainable fishing to end overfishing by 2030

PAMEx needs to resume discussions with GFCM and the EU to identify a leader for the axis and then to define priorities actions for 2025.

c) Actions planned under Axis 3: Redouble efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly so that no plastic is discharged into the Mediterranean by 2030

c.1) Promoting the exchange of information, best practices and experiences on plastic pollution management in the Mediterranean in view of the meeting of the

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2) for the development of an International Legally Binding Instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

Establish a structured exchange of information, including via electronic means, focusing primarily on experiences and best practices in the Mediterranean region, between the PAMEx Members and involving all Contracting Parties to the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, with the aim to contribute to the ongoing negotiations, under UNEP, for the development of an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on Plastic Pollution. Emphasis should be given to aspects of potential convergence that are of particular interest/relevance for the Mediterranean, as well as on the contribution of the Mediterranean experience in the implementation of the ILBI once adopted.

Request the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat to re-mobilise the informal Task force that was set up prior to INC 2, to explore ways to contribute to the ongoing preparatory discussions for the forthcoming INC 5.2 Meeting (Geneva, 5-14 August 2025), including through formulating, to the extent possible, a coordinated Mediterranean approach on plastic pollution and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), taking into account existing tools like the updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

→ [PAMEx Technical Secretariat to assist the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, in re-mobilising the informal Task Force in view of INC 5.2 and promote its outputs to the global level.](#)

c.2) Scaling up Zero Plastic Projects on the ground over the Mediterranean

Plastic gyres are increasing in the Mediterranean Sea, pouring out most degraded plastic on different Mediterranean seashores. While ineffective practices of waste management are spread on different Mediterranean coastlines, the collection and recycling of maritime plastic, through public-private partnerships and new value chains, can lead to pro-poor jobs creation, local business creation or upgrading, cleaning tourist beaches and areas and provide specific recycled maritime plastic to a number of manufacturing companies as raw material, from the sport equipment industry to the luxury equipment industry.

PLIFF thanks to the successful CIHEAM/Seaqual pilot project on the Kerkennah Island in Tunisia (“Kerkennah Plastic Free”) and the VeryNile project in Cairo (Egypt), also in partnership with Seaqual, aims at replicating the projects in ten other territories in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Lebanon and structuring a global value-chain of mediterranean recycled plastic.

→ [PAMEx Technical Secretariat with volunteer countries to provide assistance to the duplication of the CIHEAM/Seaqual project in other countries targeting the collection and recycling of maritime plastics.](#)

d) Actions planned under Axis 4: Promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change

d.1) Promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change

Support to countries with a view of the ratification and effective implementation and enforcement of **MARPOL Annex VI**:

- To contribute to REMPEC efforts to enhance the effective implementation and enforcement of MARPOL Annex VI;

- Support is provided to ensure further ratification of MARPOL Annex VI by all Contracting Parties;
- Support provided to those Contracting Parties that require the effective implementation and enforcement of MARPOL Annex VI;
- Support provided to Contracting Parties on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a Nitrogen Oxides Emission Control Area.

Mobilise and implement innovative solutions **to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports**, including through energy efficiency and decarbonization:

- Improve the institutional capacity of CPs to implement and enforce IMO's energy efficiency measure from ships and in ports;
- Capacity building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports;
- Support activities to encourage technology cooperation, innovation, exchange of best practices;
- Encourage partnerships and synergies with MAP Partners and stakeholders.

→ PAMEx Technical Secretariat, within available resources, could:

1. Facilitate coordination with PLIFF in view of identifying potential financing for the implementation of projects for clean energy hubs in the Mediterranean as well as for the activities of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention PoW, in need for funding;
2. Support REMPEC in its activity of assistance to countries in the Mediterranean to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.

d.2) Assisting PLIFF in developing its portfolio on Sustainable Green Ports

The PLIFF portfolio on Sustainable Green Ports, which has been identified over the last two years all around the Mediterranean, covers both the South and North shorelines. This portfolio aims at equipping ports with electric plugs, thus permitting boats getting into ports to switch off their engines, enabling a dramatic fall down of ports pollution. In parallel, renewable energy off grid will be installed, within ports, allowing fueling green power to boats.

→ PAMEx Technical secretariat with the support of volunteer countries to support the implementation of the PLIFF portfolio on Sustainable Ports.

e) Cross-cutting activities

e.1) Promoting the experience of the Barcelona Convention in a wider context

In 2024, under the G7 Italian Presidency, a G7 workshop on the role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in ocean governance was co-organized by Italy and the Coordinating Unit of UNEP/MAP, with the involvement of G7 Countries and representatives of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. One of the main outcomes of the workshop was a Declaration committing G7 to strengthen the role and visibility of RSCAPs in the major relevant ocean fora. The G7 Declaration, which was officially adopted by G7 last December 2024, will be promoted at the third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) to be held next June in Nice, as the best platform at global level in the context of ocean governance.

The objective is to build *inter alia* on the results of the G7 workshop, including the G7 Declaration on the role of RSCAPs in ocean governance, to highlight the important role of the Mediterranean as a key contributor in the achievement of global ocean related goals and to advocate for stronger

involvement of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in major processes and events related to ocean governance, including UNOC-3.

→ PAMEx Technical Secretariat to assist in promoting the Mediterranean unique experience, in particular the role of UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention and its successful institutional tools, at a global level, while advocating for the involvement of the Convention in major processes and events related to ocean governance.

e.2) Developing capacity building activities on blue finance in the Mediterranean

Developing capacity-building activities for local actors enabling them to identify projects and making sure they are both impactful and bankable with better access to the variety of financing available, including green and blue bonds for the Mediterranean.

Currently, PAMEx is helping PLIFF to raise between 1,5 to 2,5 M euros for feasibility studies for the PLIFF portfolio of projects worthy around 200 MUSD in order to permit unleashing investors willing to invest in impact bankable projects.

→ As part of the PLIFF Road Map 2025, to organize a workshop on Blue Finance and Blue Bonds in the Mediterranean. PAMEx Technical Secretariat to help PLIFF in organizing the event with the support of voluntary countries. Adoption of a proposal to prepare a regional workshop to reach consensus on the standards, foundations, and proposals for blue financing.

e.3) Providing continuing support to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development process

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 provides an integrative policy framework for all stakeholders, including MAP partners, to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels in the Mediterranean region. As a strategic document, the MSSD serves to:

- Adapt international commitments to regional conditions.
- Guide national strategies and stimulate regional cooperation in the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

The revision process of the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) is foreseen by its Action 7.2.5 “Review the 2016-2025 MSSD issuing a new Strategy for the period 2026-2035”.

The 20th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) of 14-16 June 2023 (Marseille, France) welcomed the proposal to launch, in the biennium 2024-2025, an update of the 2016-2025 MSSD that would lead to its alignment with relevant and recent global and regional agendas and commitments, rather than to extensive changes, thus confirming the consistency of the current MSSD six Objectives, while further supporting the delivery of the SDGs in the Region.

The 23rd meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP23) of 5- 8 December 2023, Portoroz, Slovenia, mandated the Secretariat to update the 2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) in order to effectively implement the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its SDGs at the regional level, seeking to amend

current unsustainable trajectories and place the region on alternative pathways to sustainability and resilience, thus accelerating the progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status.

The process has been led by the MCSD Steering Committee (SC) with the support from the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and MAP Components.

Since its re-establishment (December 2024), the PAMEx Technical Secretariat has provided its support to the revision process of the MSSD, notably by participating in two meetings (the Meeting of the Extended Steering Committee of the MCSD on 20 December 2024 and the Thematic Ad-Hoc Meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul on 12-13 February 2025).

→ PAMEx through its Technical secretariat to continue supporting the elaboration and finalization of the revised MSSD 2026-2035 until its endorsement by the MCSD in June 2025.

f) Contribution to the preparations for the forthcoming UNOC-3 (Nice, 9-13.6.2025)

The Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) will be convened in Nice, France, from Monday 9 June to Friday 13 June, 2025. The Governments of France and Costa Rica will co-chair the Conference, which aims to generate transformative action and provide solutions the ocean needs, supported by ocean science and funding for SDG 14 (life below water).
<https://unocnice2025.org/en/>

The PAMEx Technical secretariat has been associated with the preparation of the Mediterranean Day (June 10, 2025), where 4 sessions are currently programmed:

- Segment 1: Asserting the role of local authorities in preserving the ocean;
- Segment 2: Finance and Innovation as accelerator for Sustainable Blue Economy;
- Segment 3: Envisioning the Mediterranean of the Future;
- Segment 4: Ministerial Panel on the Barcelona Convention 50th Anniversary (UNEP/MAP Panels).

UNEP/MAP for its part will celebrate the 50 years of Mediterranean Action Plan and the 30 years of the Barcelona Convention during the Mediterranean Day and it is expected to organise a Ministerial Round Table (1h30 to 2 hours), preferably in the Blue zone (reserved to governments and accredited organizations) with potentially the participation of UNEP Executive Director) and a final declaration including ambitious commitments as appropriate.

In addition, the Green Zone, called La Baleine (the Whale), an open exhibition space welcoming civil society, academia, research institutions, artists, and businesses, will be installed in Nice's Palexpo. The plan is that The Whale includes a number of pavilions by different organizations, auditoria, and other spaces for agora and other meetings and consultations, as well as thematic and institutional spaces such as the Day of the Mediterranean on 10 June.

There are good opportunities to propose side events to showcase the experience of the Mediterranean as a successful regional sea programme and examples of fruitful cooperation between riparian countries and other regional partners as well as concrete achievements on the field.

Applications for side event proposals are open (<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/side-events>) and the instructions can be found as follows:

- To apply for an in-person side event inside the Conference Venue (Blue Zone):
<https://bit.ly/UNOC3BlueZoneSideEventForm>

Deadline: 14 March 2025.

- To apply for an off-site side event at alternative locations in Nice:

<https://bit.ly/UNOC3OffSiteSideEventForm>

Deadline: 21 April 2025.

- To apply for a virtual side event: <https://bit.ly/UNOC3VirtualSideEventForm>

Deadline: 21 April 2025.

→ As requested by the 3rd PAMEx Steering Committee Meeting, the Technical Secretariat of PAMEx will coordinate under the leadership of countries and partners the work of preparing a side event or a concept note in line with the envisioned outcomes of the Mediterranean Day, for this major international event.

g) PAMEx Communication activities

The goals of the proposed communication activities are to foster cooperation among partner countries and regional organizations for PAMEx timely implementation and to maximize the visibility of the PAMEx initiative at the global and regional levels, while positioning the Mediterranean as a model regional sea worldwide.

In that respect, several international and regional events have been identified which are of interest for PAMEx members and where communication activities, either side events, position papers or other communication initiatives, could be proposed under the leadership of countries and partners and the support of the Technical Secretariat of PAMEx. These include:

- The Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), Nice, 9 - 13 June 2025 (see above).
- The meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), June 2025 (venue to be confirmed).
- The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New-York, 14-23 July 2025.
- The second part of the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, Geneva, 4-15 August 2025.
- The UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 30), Belém, 10-21 November 2025.
- The Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Egypt, December 2025.

Other international and regional events such as the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) (Monaco, 7-8 June 2025) could provide additional opportunity for the PAMEx members to develop targeted and timely communication activities.

Annex VI
PLIFF Road Map 2025

1. PLIFF Background

Building on the experience and success of the “Subnational Climate Fund”, set up for local authorities in emerging countries with the support of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Catalytic Finance Foundation (formerly R20) has proposed the development of similar financial vehicles (technical assistance, equity, debt and bonds) for the implementation of PAMEX.

To this end, in 2022, several States including France, Spain and Greece; International Organizations including UNEP-MAP, UfM, IUCN; NGOs; academic institutions; private companies and fund managers have drafted and signed the PLIFF Founding Charter (Pamex Local Investment Finance Facility) at the service of three PAMEX objectives, respectively i.) zero plastic, ii.) zero greenhouse gas emissions for maritime transport and iii.) protection and restoration of maritime and coastal biodiversity.

2. The PLIFF portfolio at the end of 2024

Between 2022 and 2024, thanks to national (France and Spain) and internal financial supports, a substantial portfolio of projects has been identified, with recipient partners in the field: in Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. These projects, which cut across the three PAMEX / PLIFF themes, can be broken down as follows:

- **Green ports** based on the production of renewable energies (mainly green hydrogen) and the electrification of quaysides, enabling ships from the northern Mediterranean to stop their engines at the quayside in southern Mediterranean ports. Some ten ports in all the countries on the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean have expressed their interest in these proposals, with pre-feasibility studies completed for some ports.
- **Zero plastic, sanitation and waste:** focusing on equipping a number of local authorities with household waste management and sanitation projects, mainly in Morocco and Jordan. A REUT (Reuse of treated wastewater) project is also being studied in 4 Tunisian governorates (14 STEPs serving a population of 960,000). At the same time, based on a successful project for the collection, sorting and recycling of marine plastic waste (67 tons/year of PET) on the island of Kerkennah in Tunisia (“Kerkennah Plastic Free” developed with the support of CIHEAM - with the Spanish private plastics recycling company Seaqual), we have been asked to replicate and scale up this project using the same methods and a bankable business model in ten or so areas on the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, with a collection target of 700 tons/year per area. 7 areas have already been identified: 4 in Tunisia (Kerkennah, Zarzis, Djerba and 1 north of Tunis), 1 in Morocco (Tétouan), 1 in Egypt (Alexandria) and 1 in Lebanon (Mennieh).
- **Protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity.** Two flagship projects have been identified: the Bardawill Lake in Egypt, which has been the subject of numerous studies and for which a proposal for a green bond issue has been accepted by the highest authority of the Suez Canal, and the Bouches de Bonifacio Nature Reserve, which has also accepted the principle of a green bond issue. The Tunisian Ministry of the Environment has asked us to study the modalities of a similar intervention for Tunisia's marine and coastal nature reserves.

All these projects were subjected to a rigorous selection process based on the following criteria:

- I.) **Scientific**, with a rigorous mapping of Hot Spots in the Mediterranean carried out by Posaidon Capital on behalf of AFD (Agence française de développement);

- 2.) Institutional, demand-driven and relying on a reliable implementation policy, and
- 3.) Economic, to guarantee a minimum level of profitability and bankability in order to secure strong interest from potential public and private investors.

All these projects are at the pre-feasibility stage. To get the PLIFF initiative up and running in 2025, we now need to carry out feasibility studies on a number of flagship projects in each of the three focus areas, to encourage investors to finance these projects using credible financial instruments.

3. Requirements at the beginning of 2025 to implement the PLIFF

The PLIFF partners propose to act in two stages over the course of 2025.

Initially, the announcement of financial commitments for technical assistance of 1 to 1.5 million euros at the United Nations Summit on the Oceans in Nice in June 2025, in order to then secure financing from private and public investors for an initial portfolio of projects of around 100 to 150 million euros at the next COP 30 climate change summit in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

To this end, a number of strong words of encouragement were expressed in the second half of 2024, which are now waiting to be put into practice:

- The Michael Bloomberg Foundation, which has signed a major partnership agreement with Catalytic Finance to support the C40 network in developing its portfolio of green ports, has responded favorably to the request to set up a Mediterranean sub-portfolio. Fund manager Brookfield and Mitsubishi Bank have informed us that an investment request could be submitted to them based on the presentation of bankable projects.
- Several financial partners, including the Islamic Development Bank and Middle East Family Offices, have indicated to TELL Group, manager of the Green Ports portfolio, that they are prepared to make initial investments of up to USD 75 million following the submission of bankable projects;
- The Blue Med Partnership initiative led by the UfM with the EIB, the EBRD and several development agencies has also agreed in principle to consider projects from the PLIFF portfolio;
- The Technical Assistance and Equity funds of the Subnational Climate Fund are able to co-invest in the PLIFF.

4. Proposed next steps for the UN Oceans Summit in June 2025, followed by COP 30 in November 2025

4.1. First quarter 2025

In the first quarter of 2025, **we expect to mobilize between 1 and 1.5 million euros in subsidies to carry out feasibility studies for 3 to 6 bankable projects** (a feasibility study requires an average of 250,000 euros for an average investment project of 15 to 25 million euros).

The feasibility study for green ports could focus on the port of La Goulette in Tunisia, the port of Alexandria in Egypt or the port of Beirut in Lebanon. At the same time, discussions are underway with the UfM as part of the “Blue Med Partnership” on a larger budget for the Port of Tangier Med in Morocco.

The feasibility study for the zero-plastic theme, based on the example of Kerkennah, can be reinforced and replicated in Tunisia and one or two territories in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt or Lebanon.

The feasibility study for the protection and restoration of biodiversity can be carried out for either Lake Bardawil in Egypt or the Gulf of Gabes and Bay of Sfax, including the Kerkennah Islands in Tunisia.

France and Spain, which have already contributed to the first stage of PLIFF, can be mobilized again in the light of the initial results, around i.) a solid, credible partnership in their areas of intervention, ii.) a portfolio of concrete projects identified on a sound scientific, institutional and economic basis.

Two new countries - Greece, which has signed the PLIFF Charter and now chairs PAMEX, and Italy - may be approached. Total or partial mobilization of these countries will trigger additional subsidies from private foundations with which PLIFF partners are already in contact.

4.2. Second quarter 2025

The second quarter of 2025 will be used **to mobilize institutions for the creation of innovative financial vehicles such as Mediterranean Blue Bonds**, with the aim of providing the means to reach 30% of protected areas in the Mediterranean.

Blue bonds can help mobilize substantial capital from private financial institutions (pension funds, insurance companies, banks, impact investment funds), which are looking for credible financial instruments to invest in, such as bonds. **A workshop** bringing together PAMEX, UNEP MAP, UfM, IUCN, the Blue Med Partnership and Posaidon Capital for protected areas in the Mediterranean and the Conservatoire français du littoral is planned for Bonifacio in April 2025.

4.3. Announcements at the United Nations Ocean Summit in Nice in June 2025

These two parallel actions should enable us to make **credible announcements of large portfolios of bankable projects at the Oceans Summit to be held in Nice in June 2025**.

4.4. Third quarter 2025

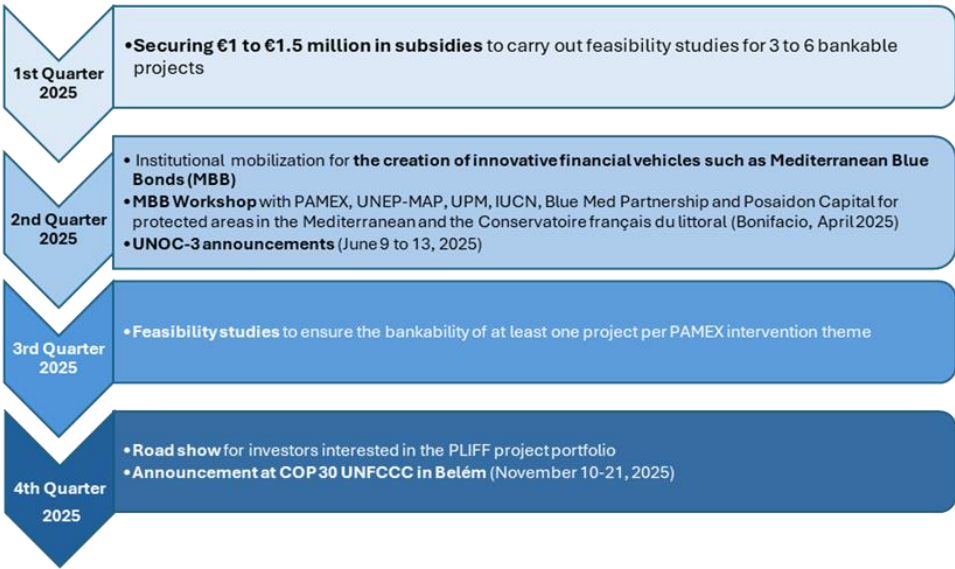
As soon as the grant funds for Technical Assistance have been mobilized, **feasibility studies to ensure the bankability of at least one project per PAMEX intervention theme will be carried out** in the field with the recipient partners, in order to be able to present the project portfolio to public and private investors.

4.5. Fourth quarter 2025

Feasibility studies will be near completion. A road show will be organized for potential investors who have already expressed an interest in PLIFF and its portfolio of projects. Negotiations will be completed to enable a significant announcement (between 150 and 200 million euros at least) at COP 30 in Belém.

4.6. Announcement at COP 30 in Belém in November 2025

PLIFF Timeline 2025



Annex VII

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 6 and 7 March 2025, the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of PAMEx took place in Athens, Greece.

Further to its deliberations, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

1. Expresses its gratitude towards Greece for holding PAMEx Presidency for one year and thanks Greece for convening the 4th Steering Committee Meeting in a such a prestigious place as the Academy of Athens.
2. Expresses its appreciation for the financial support of France and the work undertaken by the PAMEx Technical Secretariat being operational again since December 2024.
3. Expresses its satisfaction for the successful completion of a number of substantial activities since the last Steering Committee Meeting, in particular liaising with the Steering Committee Members and other PAMEx partners, participation in the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and supporting the relaunching the PLIFF.
4. Endorses the Progress Report on PAMEx Implementation since the last Meeting of the Steering Committee.
5. Welcomes the various contributions of PAMEx Axes Leaders and other partners for the elaboration of the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025. Expresses its satisfaction for the productive and substantial discussions that took place following the presentation of the draft PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025.
6. Encourages partners to enhance their efforts to lead and actively contribute in PAMEx objectives and activities as outlined in the Programme of Work for 2025, highlighting the importance of ensuring participation from Members and partners in particular from the southern Mediterranean shore.
7. [Agrees in principle on] the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 and provides the opportunity to PAMEx Members to comment on the draft document, in the spirit of the discussions and points raised during the Steering Committee Meeting, within a two-week period. The PAMEx Technical Secretariat will consolidate the comments/proposed amendments to be received, and, subsequently, the final version of the PAMEx Programme of Work for 2025 will be circulated to PAMEx Members for final [endorsement] via electronic means.
8. Acknowledges that a number of interesting projects with a high potential of scaling up in the region are currently being implemented, thematically related to all PAMEx Axes. Notes that Axis 2 is still lacking leadership, and therefore Member countries are encouraged to go through their GFCM National Focal Points in order to extend an invitation of PAMEx to the next GFCM meeting which would offer a good opportunity to present its objectives and achievements, and to support further progress in Axis 2.

9. Encourages PAMEx Members and partners to contribute to communication and visibility activities during the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), Nice, France, 9 -13 June 2025. Agrees on the procedure to follow to propose activities in UNOC-3: PAMEx Members are given two weeks to propose topics, best practices and successful case studies/activities they would like to be promoted in the framework of UNOC-3. The PAMEx Technical Secretariat will consolidate comments received and propose actions to be undertaken.
 10. Invites all PAMEx Members and partners to contribute, in addition to the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), to the effective delivery of communication activities (in particular through side events and/or position papers) to maximize the visibility of the PAMEx initiatives in regional and global-related meetings and events, with the support from the PAMEx Technical Secretariat.
 11. Requests the Technical Secretariat of PAMEx to coordinate the work of preparing the concept notes for these side events and position papers under the leadership of Members and partners for their timely consultation, finalization and submission, with a particular focus on the COP 24 of the Barcelona Convention.
 12. Takes note of additional international and regional events in which PAMEx activities and good practices could be promoted, such as United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) and next General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) meeting, [and, as appropriate, the UN 4th International Conference on Financing for Development].
 13. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts made since the last PAMEx Steering Committee to develop the Local Investment Finance Facility instrument (PLIFF) and secure funding for the promotion of its portfolio of projects and activities.
 14. Takes note of the progress made under the PLIFF and expresses its appreciation for the information provided, including on the ongoing collaboration between PLIFF and the Blue Mediterranean Partnership (BMP) which should be further encouraged, as well as on the availability of funding. In this respect, welcomes the PLIFF Road Map 2025, [as]presented [and looks forward to its implementation]
 15. [Emphasizes] the need for ensuring in person participation in future PAMEx Steering Committee Meeting.
 16. Decides that the next 5th Steering Committee Meeting of PAMEx will take place in the second half of October 2025 (dates to be confirmed) either as an online or as an in-person Meeting subject to the availability of resources (to be explored).
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