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Fourth 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

Agenda item 3: Update on progress of PAMEx implementation

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

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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.

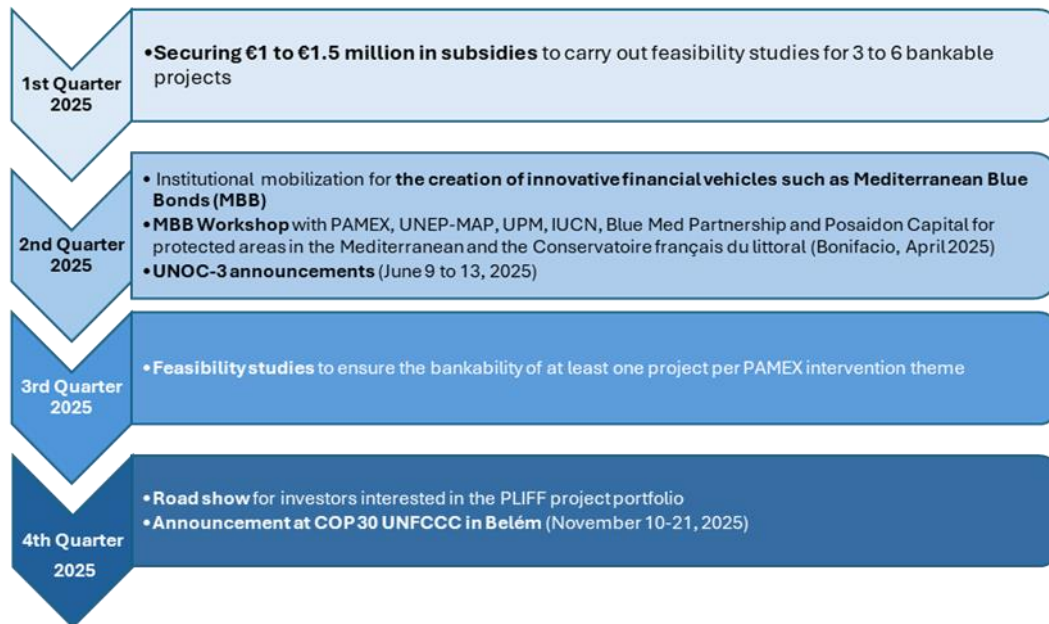
It is built around 3 (of the 4) PAMEx priority axes, namely:

- **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.

PLIFF Timeline 2025



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.