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Plan d'action pour
la Méditerranée
**Convention de
Barcelone**

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21^{ème} réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable (CMDD)

Corinthe, Grèce, 24–26 juin 2025

Rapport de la 21^{ème} réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable

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Introduction

1. Conformément au Règlement intérieur de la Commission Méditerranéenne du Développement Durable (CMDD) et en concertation avec la Présidence et les membres du Comité de Pilotage (CdP) de la CMDD, la 21^{ème} réunion de la CMDD (ci-après « la Réunion ») s'est tenue à Corinthe, en Grèce, du 24 au 26 juin 2025.
2. L'objectif principal de la Réunion était d'examiner, réviser comme nécessaire et d'adopter la Stratégie Méditerranéenne pour le Développement Durable 2026-2035 (SMDD), telle que formulée et présentée dans sa version finale à l'annexe III du présent rapport, ainsi que ses initiatives phares, en vue de leur soumission à la 24^{ème} réunion des Parties contractantes à la Convention de Barcelone et à ses Protocoles (COP24, 2-5 décembre 2025, Le Caire, Égypte).
3. La liste des participants figure à l'annexe I du présent rapport.

Point 1 de l'ordre du jour : Ouverture de la réunion

4. La Réunion a été ouverte à 10 h le mardi 24 juin 2025 par Mme Anne-France Didier, Présidente de la CMDD (ci-après « la Présidente »). La Présidente a souligné l'importance cruciale de la Réunion pour l'élaboration finale et validation de la Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable 2026-2035 (SMDD), en tant que cadre clé de coopération régionale, pleinement aligné sur la dynamique générale et le renforcement de l'engagement et de la vision vers la durabilité et l'accélération de la transition verte dans la région, grâce à la collaboration constructive de toutes les parties prenantes.
5. La Coordinatrice a souligné l'importance stratégique de l'année 2025 et d'événements récents, tels que la 9^{ème} Conférence « Our Ocean » (15-17 avril 2024, Athènes, Grèce) et la Troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'océan (UNOC-3, 9-13 juin 2025, Nice, France), qui ont renforcé la dynamique autour de la nécessité de promouvoir davantage le développement durable et la résilience climatique dans la région. Cette dynamique a culminé avec la Déclaration de l'UNOC-3 des ministres de la Méditerranée qui a été adoptée le 10 juin 2025. Elle a également mis en avant l'alignement de la révision de la SMDD avec cette dynamique et les initiatives connexes.

Point 2 de l'ordre du jour : Questions d'organisation

- a) *Élection du Comité de Pilotage*
- b) *Adoption de l'ordre du jour provisoire*
- c) *Organisation des travaux*

6. La Réunion a exprimé sa reconnaissance pour l'approche collaborative et la vision de la Présidente sortante, Mme Anne-France Didier (France), pour sa conduite de la CMDD durant l'exercice biennal 2024-2025. La Réunion a également remercié les autres membres du CdP de la CMDD, à savoir les Vice-Présidents : M. Mitja Bricelj (Slovénie), M. Mohammed Maktit (Maroc), M. Abderraja Salhi (Tunisie), M. Najib Saab (Forum arabe pour l'environnement et le développement – AFED), M. Almotaz Abadi (Union pour la Méditerranée – UpM), ainsi que le Rapporteur, M. Josep Canals Molina (MedCités).
7. La Réunion a élu son Comité de Pilotage conformément aux Documents constitutifs de la CMDD et à l'article 17 du Règlement intérieur, comme suit:

- Président : M. Mohammed Maktit (Maroc)
- Vice-Présidente : Mme Samah Saleh (Égypte), (*de droit*, en tant que représentante de la prochaine Présidence des Parties contractantes)
- Vice-présidente : Mme Branka Pivčević Novak, Croatie
- Vice-présidente : Mme Andri Christoforou, Chypre

- Vice-président : M. Maher Mahjoub, Centre de coopération méditerranéenne de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN-MED)
- Vice-président : M. Michael J. Scoullou, Cercle des parlementaires méditerranéens sur le développement durable (COMPSUD)
- Rapporteur : M. Josep Canals Molina (MedCités)

8. Les membres élus du CdP de la CMDD ont assuré les fonctions de bureau de la Réunion.

9. La Réunion a examiné et adopté l'ordre du jour provisoire, tel que présenté dans le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.625/1, ainsi que le calendrier figurant dans l'ordre du jour provisoire annoté (UNEP/MED WG.625/2).

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour : Rapport de la Coordinatrice sur les activités relatives au développement durable pour la période juin 2023 – mai 2025

a) Initiatives phares de la SMDD

b) Tableau de bord de la durabilité en Méditerranée

10. La Coordinatrice a présenté les avancées des activités relatives au développement durable depuis la 20^{ème} réunion de la CMDD (14-16 juin 2025, Marseille, France), telles que présentées dans les documents UNEP/MED WG.625/3 et UNEP/MED WG.625/Inf.3. Elle a notamment exposé le vaste processus de révision de la SMDD, les développements de mise en œuvre des initiatives phares, ainsi que les actions de communication et de sensibilisation.

11. Plusieurs participants ont félicité la France pour l'organisation visionnaire de l'UNOC-3, ainsi que le Secrétariat pour la célébration réussie du 50^{ème} anniversaire du PNUE/PAM et du 30^{ème} anniversaire de la Convention de Barcelone post-Rio, pendant le jour de la Méditerranée le 10 juin, ainsi que pour la Déclaration des ministres de l'environnement de la Méditerranée, considérée comme l'un des accomplissements et résultats majeurs de l'UNOC-3 pour notre région.

12. La Coordinatrice a remercié les Parties contractantes pour leur engagement à assurer une forte présence du PNUE/PAM à ces événements, y voyant une opportunité clé de valoriser son action par des contributions et résultats alignés sur la vision, les objectifs et le mandat de la CMDD, ainsi que ceux de la 23^{ème} réunion des Parties contractantes (COP23, 5-8 décembre 2023, Portoroz, Slovénie) et sa Déclaration ministérielle de Portoroz.

13. Les participants ont salué les bons progrès réalisés en matière de développement durable au cours de la période juin 2023 – mai 2025, y compris les avancées des initiatives phares actuelles, et ont remercié le Secrétariat pour la qualité et l'exhaustivité des documents de rapport d'avancement.

14. L'importance de renforcer l'implication d'une diversité d'acteurs, de communautés, de la société civile et du secteur privé a également été soulignée afin de garantir une appropriation locale de la SMDD, et ainsi en renforcer progressivement l'impact. Dans le même esprit, il a également été recommandé de renforcer la coopération avec les réseaux régionaux pertinents.

15. L'accent a été mis sur la nécessité de renforcer les efforts au niveau national et de maintenir l'ambition de la SMDD en bonne place dans les agendas politiques nationaux, en tant que document de référence régional clé pour soutenir le développement durable en Méditerranée. À la suite de cet échange initial sur les progrès présentés par le Secrétariat, les membres de la CMDD ont brièvement fait état de leurs propres efforts pour appuyer la mise en œuvre de la SMDD et les travaux de la CMDD depuis la 20^{ème} réunion.

16. L'Union européenne a informé sur la Stratégie 2025 pour la résilience de l'eau¹ en Europe, fondée sur la restauration et la protection du cycle de l'eau, la construction d'une économie économe en eau et l'accès à une eau propre et abordable pour tous, contribuant à l'agenda mondial de l'eau, tel que discuté récemment lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'eau de 2023. Elle a ajouté que le Pacte pour

¹ [Stratégie européenne pour la résilience de l'eau - Commission européenne](#)

l'océan de l'UE² constitue une stratégie globale articulée autour de six priorités : protéger et restaurer la santé des océans ; renforcer la compétitivité de l'économie bleue durable de l'UE ; soutenir les communautés côtières, insulaires et des régions ultrapériphériques ; faire progresser la recherche océanique, les connaissances, les compétences et l'innovation ; renforcer la sécurité maritime et la défense ; renforcer la diplomatie océanique de l'UE et la gouvernance internationale des océans.

17. L'APM a attiré l'attention de la Réunion sur la résolution adoptée à l'unanimité par les représentations parlementaires de l'APM, concernant la situation alarmante de la pollution de l'air, des sols, de la mer et des aliments par les substances perfluoroalkylées et polyfluoroalkylées (PFAS). Cette problématique, qui représente un enjeu sanitaire mondial et méditerranéen, n'a pas encore été suffisamment prise en compte, alors que le Protocole sur les Sources terrestres de la Convention de Barcelone constitue un cadre juridique contraignant robuste pour agir (la déclaration complète figure à l'annexe V du présent rapport). L'APM a également informé que le ministère italien des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale organisera à Naples, du 15 au 17 octobre 2025, la 11^{ème} édition des Dialogues méditerranéens³, avec une session ministérielle spéciale dédiée à la mise en œuvre du Pacte pour l'avenir de l'ONU de 2024⁴. L'APM a proposé d'accueillir l'une des prochaines réunions de la CMDD ou de son CdP à Naples, en Italie.

18. ECOUNION a souligné que le contexte méditerranéen est non seulement soumis à des pressions environnementales et socio-économiques, mais aussi à des défis de stabilité régionale et externe. Dans ce cadre, il a ajouté que la SMDD constitue un outil clé axé non seulement sur les politiques, mais aussi sur les actions concrètes à mettre en œuvre sur le terrain, avec le soutien de l'ensemble des parties prenantes.

19. MedCités a mis en avant la nécessité d'établir des synergies avec la Stratégie macrorégionale pour la Méditerranée en cours d'élaboration, en positionnant le PNUE/PAM, la CMDD et la SMDD comme contributeurs majeurs. Comme indiqué dans le document UNEP/MED WG.625/3, le Secrétariat suit ces développements et a déjà apporté une contribution substantielle au projet de plan d'action de cette stratégie, préparé par la Commission interméditerranéenne de la Conférence des Régions périphériques maritimes (CRPM), laquelle est proposée en tant que nouveau membre de la CMDD, dans la catégorie des autorités locales.

20. L'UICN-MED a réaffirmé son engagement à poursuivre ses efforts en matière de renforcement des capacités, de promotion de la science, de financement durable et d'outils de gouvernance. Elle a souligné l'importance de renforcer la mise en œuvre locale, encore jugée insuffisante, de promouvoir davantage la coopération entre les parties prenantes, et de poursuivre l'adoption et le renforcement des approches fondées sur les écosystèmes et circulaires, notamment en lien avec les activités productives.

21. L'ESDF a insisté sur la nécessité d'une implication accrue des communautés, de la société civile et des parties prenantes, sur la base des bonnes pratiques et projets disponibles, des réseaux et forums régionaux et nationaux reconnus, ainsi que des financements existants. L'ESDF a noté qu'il est important, dans cette optique, de reproduire et d'amplifier des activités comme celles du projet WES-BCA (Soutien à l'eau et à l'environnement – Biodiversité et action climatique), qui comporte un volet important consacré à la mobilisation des parties prenantes.

22. Le COMSUD a souligné que la CMDD doit être renforcée et renforcée par les pays, en poursuivant la mise en œuvre et la promotion de la SMDD, ainsi que par toutes les parties prenantes, y compris celles représentant des initiatives parlementaires. La CMDD, conjointement avec la SMDD, s'est avérée être un outil de coopération essentiel, même en période de crise ou de conflit, en promouvant le dialogue et une coopération continue. À cette fin, les membres de la CMDD devraient continuer à renforcer son rôle et à élever son niveau d'ambition, la considérant comme une bonne pratique unique au niveau mondial. Le COMSUD a conclu qu'il est important de capitaliser sur cette valeur ajoutée.

23. L'Égypte a rappelé que la région est confrontée à des défis cruciaux de nature variée ; toutefois, il est tout aussi important de noter les nombreuses opportunités, notamment celles offertes par des cadres de coopération tels que la SMDD. L'Égypte a ajouté qu'il est essentiel de redoubler d'efforts pour diffuser un message positif et concret auprès des citoyens, des communautés, des ONG et du secteur privé, y compris

² [Le Pacte européen pour les océans - Commission européenne](#)

³ [Dialogues MED](#)

⁴ [Pacte pour l'avenir - Sommet des Nations Unies sur l'avenir | Nations Unies](#)

via les médias et les réseaux sociaux, et d'assurer leur pleine sensibilisation et implication en tant qu'acteurs de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD.

24. L'AFED a indiqué qu'il continue à mettre en œuvre et à développer des politiques et actions en matière de développement durable et d'environnement dans les pays arabes, sur la base des connaissances scientifiques et de la sensibilisation. Il a ajouté que les rapports annuels de l'AFED sur l'environnement constituent l'une des principales sources de changement dans les politiques de développement durable de la région. Le dernier rapport porte sur les impacts de la pandémie de COVID-19 et des conflits sur le développement durable et l'environnement dans les pays arabes, et souligne la nécessité de renforcer la coopération en Méditerranée dans un contexte mondial en évolution rapide.

25. Chypre a informé qu'un événement sur les ODD est prévu d'ici la fin de l'année 2025, ainsi qu'un événement sur les océans, spécifiquement axé sur la Méditerranée, au cours du premier semestre 2026 dans le cadre de la présidence chypriote du Conseil de l'Union européenne. Chypre a ajouté que la coopération avec la CMDD est la bienvenue pour promouvoir ces événements au plus haut niveau. Chypre a également fait part de ses préoccupations concernant la situation environnementale dans la région, notamment l'érosion côtière, la pollution plastique, la désertification et la pénurie d'eau, ainsi que les aspects socio-économiques connexes.

26. La Croatie a suggéré que le rapport d'avancement devrait également inclure des éléments sur « ce qui n'a pas fonctionné », par exemple l'initiative phare sur les achats publics durables, qui n'a pas été lancée, ainsi que les enseignements tirés. Cela permettrait de mieux cerner les besoins liés à la mise en œuvre de la SMDD et des initiatives phares, ainsi que d'identifier les améliorations possibles et les bonnes pratiques à reproduire.

27. En complément des activités menées par la CMDD au cours de la période juin 2023 – mai 2025 et décrites dans le document UNEP/MED WG.625/Inf.3, les membres suivants de la CMDD ont fourni des informations supplémentaires.

28. La Grèce a brièvement rendu compte de la 9^e Conférence « Our Ocean » (OOC-9) qui s'est tenue à Athènes en avril 2024 et qui comprenait parmi ses sessions thématiques la « transition verte en Méditerranée », afin de présenter les défis et les opportunités de notre région à l'échelle mondiale. Pour organiser cet événement, la Grèce a collaboré étroitement avec le Secrétariat du PNUE/PAM. De plus, en tant que présidente actuelle du Comité de Pilotage du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée Exemplaire (PAMEx), la Grèce a :

- Organisé, en collaboration avec les secrétariats du PNUE/PAM et du PAMEx et la France, et assurée la présidence de deux réunions du Comité de Pilotage du PAMEx, respectivement en décembre 2024 et mars 2025.
- Organisé un événement parallèle au Pavillon méditerranéen lors de la COP29 de la CCNUCC (11-22, Novembre 2024, Baku, Azerbaïdjan) et plus récemment, un événement dédié pendant l'UNOC-3, le 10 juin lors de la Journée de la Méditerranée.
- Conformément aux engagements liés aux objectifs du CMBBKM au niveau mondial et aux objectifs européens en matière de biodiversité, un atelier sera organisé par PAMEx pendant l'automne 2025 afin de partager les approches efficaces pour améliorer la gestion et la couverture des AMP en vue d'atteindre la cible 30x30 en Méditerranée.
- En ce qui concerne la pollution marine, des efforts sont déployés pour élaborer et soutenir une contribution coordonnée à l'échelle de la Méditerranée dans la mesure du possible, et par rapport à la deuxième partie de la cinquième session du Comité intergouvernemental de négociation (INC-5.2) sur un traité mondial visant à lutter contre la pollution plastique, qui se tiendra à Genève, en Suisse, du 5 au 14 août 2025.
- En ce qui concerne le transport maritime durable, l'électrification des pôles verts et l'exploration du potentiel des corridors maritimes verts sont encouragées afin de réduire les émissions du secteur maritime dans la région.

29. MedCités :

- Participation à l'événement spécial de l'UNOC-3 sur la montée du niveau des océans et le Sommet de la coalition pour la résilience côtière⁵, coorganisé par la Ville de Nice et la Plateforme Océan et Climat. Ce sommet a marqué le lancement officiel de la Coalition pour la montée des océans et la résilience côtière, qui accompagnera les villes côtières dans la planification et la mise en œuvre des transformations nécessaires pour faire face à l'élévation du niveau de la mer. 150 villes y ont participé, s'engageant à coopérer pour promouvoir l'adaptation, l'atténuation des changements climatiques et la résilience.
- Des discussions sont en cours avec la municipalité de Barcelone pour organiser un événement célébrant l'anniversaire de la Convention de Barcelone.

30. COMPSUD :

- Le nouveau projet WES-BCA (Water and Environment Support – Biodiversity and Climate Action (Soutien à l'eau et à l'environnement – Biodiversité et action climatique)),⁶ qui se poursuivra jusqu'à la fin du 2027, comporte un volet de sensibilisation et de communication. De nombreuses opportunités de coopération sont identifiées dans des domaines importants tels que la biodiversité, l'eau, les plastiques, les déchets, etc., ainsi que pour les initiatives phares promouvant la gouvernance environnementale (Convention d'Aarhus), en matière d'éducation, etc.

31. La Coordinatrice a remercié les membres de la CMDD pour avoir partagé des informations sur leurs travaux et pour leur engagement continu en faveur de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD à tous les niveaux — stratégique et opérationnel, régional, national et local —, en soulignant qu'il est essentiel de promouvoir davantage l'échange de bonnes pratiques.

32. En lien avec une question soulevée par MedCités, la Coordinatrice a indiqué qu'elle avait engagé, en mars, un premier échange avec la municipalité de Barcelone et la zone métropolitaine de Barcelone en vue d'envisager l'organisation conjointe d'un événement consacré à la promotion des bonnes pratiques en matière de gestion durable des villes côtières, dans le cadre de la valorisation des initiatives phares de la SMDD que sont l'« Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award » (Prix d'Istanbul de la ville respectueuse de l'environnement) et le « Mediterranean Network of Zero Net Cities » (Réseau méditerranéen des villes neutres en carbone).

33. Le Plan Bleu/CAR a présenté les principaux développements du Tableau de bord méditerranéen de la durabilité, offrant une vue d'ensemble des progrès et des préoccupations majeures sur la base du suivi des indicateurs du tableau de bord, ainsi que des perspectives de renforcement de ce dernier, y compris l'introduction de trois nouveaux indicateurs et l'utilisation des indicateurs de base, comme détaillé dans les documents UNEP/MED WG.625/3, UNEP/MED WG.625/Inf.4 et UNEP/MED WG.625/Inf.5.

34. La Réunion a salué la présentation de l'état d'avancement du tableau de bord de la SMDD, les travaux entrepris sur les indicateurs de base ainsi que sur les trois indicateurs potentiels à venir. Elle a souligné que le tableau de bord doit évoluer en cohérence avec la version actualisée de la SMDD et que son processus de suivi est essentiel pour comprendre les progrès actuels et futurs de la Stratégie. La Réunion a noté que les indicateurs relatifs aux changements climatiques, à la rareté de l'eau et à la pollution plastique sont d'importance majeure, car ils permettent de suivre les principaux défis et pressions. La Réunion a recommandé d'utiliser les indicateurs de la SMDD non seulement pour informer le niveau décisionnel, mais également pour sensibiliser la société civile et l'ensemble des parties prenantes à l'évolution des principaux défis liés au développement durable, afin de renforcer leur engagement, leur mobilisation et leur contribution à l'action.

⁵[Événement spécial de l'UNOC 2025 : Sommet de la Coalition pour la résilience côtière face à la montée des océans | Département des affaires économiques et sociales](#)

⁶ [WES-BCA | MIO-ECSDE](#)

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour : Évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD 2016–2025

35. Le Secrétariat a présenté brièvement l'évaluation finale de la SMDD 2016–2025, réalisée par un consultant indépendant en novembre 2024, telle que présentée dans le document de travail UNEP/MED WG.625/4, en mettant en évidence les résultats, les lacunes et les recommandations en vue de la mise à jour de la SMDD.
36. La Réunion a salué l'évaluation finale de la SMDD 2016–2025 en tant qu'analyse de qualité, intégrant notamment les contributions issues des réunions élargies du CdP de la CMDD organisées en 2024. La Grèce a également noté que les recommandations formulées dans cette évaluation ont été intégrées à la SMDD 2026–2035, de manière à refléter de manière cohérente les lacunes identifiées dans la mise en œuvre des ODD dans la région. Il a été noté avec appréciation que le rapport d'évaluation finale de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD recommande également de tenir dûment compte des priorités, initiatives et stratégies au niveau de l'UE, telles que le pacte vert pour l'Europe et son objectif de neutralité climatique.
37. La réunion a recommandé que pour que la SMDD démontre sa pertinence pour les pays et améliore ses perspectives de mise en œuvre au niveau national, l'attention soit portée sur certaines lacunes clés identifiées, notamment la nécessité de renforcer les activités de sensibilisation, de visibilité et de communication afin d'assurer un engagement plus large et plus fort avec les parties prenantes à plusieurs niveaux, ainsi que la nécessité de renforcer les moyens financiers de la SMDD et garantir un impact concret.
38. La Tunisie a rappelé que le Mécanisme simplifié d'examen par les pairs des stratégies nationales de développement durable (SIMPEER), mis en œuvre par le passé, constitue un bon outil pour intégrer les travaux d'évaluation et d'analyse et pour accompagner les Parties contractantes.
39. Dans le cadre des futurs processus d'évaluation, l'APM (Assemblée parlementaire de la Méditerranée) a proposé d'envisager l'élaboration d'un questionnaire à adresser aux parlements des États membres de l'APM afin de recueillir leur point de vue sur la mise en œuvre de la SMDD. Il a précisé que cette proposition s'inscrit dans le cadre des travaux de suivi de la mise en œuvre du Pacte pour l'avenir des Nations Unies de 2024 menés par l'APM, en ajoutant que la Commissaire européenne pour la Méditerranée est très investie dans ce processus et a été présidente de l'APM pendant quatre ans.
40. Un participant a également recommandé d'envisager, à l'avenir, l'inclusion d'indicateurs juridiques dans le cadre d'évaluation de la SMDD, afin de suivre l'effectivité de la mise en œuvre des lois pertinentes pour le développement durable au niveau national.
41. La Coordinatrice a souligné que le document d'évaluation porte principalement sur la mise en œuvre des orientations stratégiques, des actions et des initiatives phares de la SMDD, en actualisation de l'évaluation à mi-parcours de la SMDD réalisée en 2020. Elle a ajouté que, pour le prochain exercice d'évaluation prévu en 2029/2030, qui coïncidera avec le calendrier actuel de mise en œuvre des ODD, il serait important de définir une approche et des critères d'évaluation plus élaborés, tenant compte également d'autres éléments de la SMDD en complément de sa mise en œuvre.
42. La Réunion a pris acte des résultats et des lacunes identifiés dans l'évaluation finale de la SMDD, a salué la démarche participative adoptée pour l'évaluation et a approuvé le document.

Point 5 de l'ordre du jour : SMDD 2026–2035 et ses initiatives phares

- a) SMDD 2026-2035*
- b) Initiatives phares*

43. La Coordinatrice a présenté les travaux liés au point 5 de l'ordre du jour, en mettant en lumière le processus de consultation vaste et inclusif entrepris pour l'élaboration de la version actualisée de la SMDD 2026–2035. Elle a souligné que ce processus a été essentiel à la réussite de ce mandat, rendu possible notamment grâce à la deuxième contribution financière volontaire de la France.

44. La Présidente et la Coordinatrice ont remercié les membres de la CMDD pour leur contribution continue et leur appui tout au long du processus de révision de la SMDD, ainsi que pour la discussion substantielle tenue lors de la Réunion thématique ad hoc de la CMDD (12–14 février 2025, Istanbul, Türkiye), et a pris note des commentaires et suggestions concrets soumis par écrit au Secrétariat après la réunion ad hoc à Istanbul ainsi que par le trois groupes de travail techniques qui ont été créés pour soutenir le processus de révision de la SMDD. Elles ont souligné que la 21^{ème} réunion de la CMDD avait pour mission principale de discuter, élaborer d'avantage, examiner et valider la SMDD 2026–2035 et ses initiatives phares, telles que présentées dans les documents de travail UNEP/MED WG.625/5, UNEP/MED WG.625/5/Add.1 et UNEP/MED WG.625/6.

45. Un membre de la CMDD a exprimé des préoccupations concernant la manière dont ses commentaires ont été pris en compte dans le texte de l'Orientation stratégique 5.5 de la SMDD, ainsi que durant le processus de consultation portant sur la version avancée de la SMDD, en vue de la discussion à la 21^{ème} réunion de la CMDD. Le Secrétariat a précisé que tous les commentaires formulés par ce membre avaient été intégrés dans le document UNEP/MED WG.625/5 sous forme de notes de bas de page, tandis que le texte actualisé de l'Orientation stratégique 5.5, tel que proposé par ce membre, figure dans le document UNEP/MED WG.625/5/Add.1, préparé à la suite d'une réunion bilatérale durant laquelle la question a été clarifiée.

46. Après un examen approfondi du projet de SMDD et une discussion interactive, productive et détaillée visant à évaluer les nouvelles propositions présentées lors de la réunion, notamment en ce qui concerne une SMDD bien structurée et cohérente, avec un nombre plus élevé de cibles et d'indicateurs concrets, existants et mesurables, ainsi que le texte descriptif et les objectifs reflétant au mieux les défis actuels dans la région méditerranéenne, et après avoir examiné la liste complète des initiatives phares du SMDD, la réunion a approuvé le projet final de SMDD 2026–2035, y compris ses initiatives phares, tel qu'il figure à l'annexe III du présent rapport, et a recommandé sa soumission à la 24^e réunion des parties contractantes de décembre 2025 (COP24), après une mise au point rédactionnelle du document par le secrétariat, pour examen et approbation.

47. La Réunion a reconnu que les initiatives phares de la SMDD constituent un levier essentiel pour sa mise en œuvre. Elle a donc recommandé que les membres de la CMDD soient davantage impliqués et soutiennent activement la mise en œuvre de ces initiatives, tout en s'ouvrant à des partenaires et parties prenantes plus larges.

48. Un membre de la CMDD a précisé que le nouveau Pacte pour la Méditerranée de l'UE ainsi que le Pacte pour l'océan de l'UE comportent également une dimension programmatique de financement, qu'il est essentiel d'explorer afin de soutenir la mise en œuvre de la SMDD. Cette dimension est également liée à la Stratégie macrorégionale pour la Méditerranée.

Point 6 de l'ordre du jour : Questions spécifiques

a) Composition de la CMDD pour l'exercice biennal 2026–2027

49. La Coordinatrice a introduit ce point en expliquant que, conformément à la Réforme de la CMDD et aux Documents constitutifs actualisés de la CMDD (décision IG.22/17 de la COP19)⁷, le Secrétariat a lancé en février 2025 le processus visant à remplacer onze membres de la CMDD n'appartenant pas aux Parties contractantes, dont le mandat arrive à échéance fin 2025. À cet égard, la Coordinatrice a remercié les membres de la CMDD pour leur appui à la mobilisation de nouvelles parties prenantes aux niveaux régional et national.

50. La Réunion a remercié les membres sortants de la CMDD pour leur engagement constant et leur participation active aux travaux de la Commission et à la mise en œuvre de la SMDD, y compris le soutien aux initiatives phares.

51. La Réunion a salué la présentation détaillée des manifestations d'intérêt reçues. Il a également été convenu d'accorder une certaine flexibilité à l'Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM) afin de confirmer son intérêt à devenir membre de la CMDD dans la catégorie des organisations intergouvernementales (OIG), sans rouvrir la procédure de manifestation d'intérêt, en raison de son rôle important dans la promotion de

⁷ [16ig22_28_22_17_fr.pdf](#)

politiques et d'initiatives de développement durable dans la région, et du fait que, pour cette catégorie, le Secrétariat n'avait reçu qu'une seule candidature pour deux sièges disponibles.

52. Sur la base des documents UNEP/MED WG.625/7 et UNEP/MED WG.625/7/Add.1, à la suite de la discussion pendant laquelle le nouveau membre proposé le Bureau méditerranéen d'information pour l'environnement, la culture et le développement durable (MIO-ECSDE) s'est retiré en faveur du nouveau membre potentiel le Réseau arabe pour l'environnement et le développement (RAED) en tant que représentant du groupe des ONG, et sur la base des recommandations du 26^{ème} CdP de la CMDD (réuni le 23 juin 2025), la Réunion a convenu de recommander les candidats suivants pour examen par la COP24, pour un mandat de quatre ans (2026–2029), conformément à la Réforme de la CMDD et aux Documents constitutifs actualisés :

- Groupe des autorités locales
 - a. Conférence des Régions périphériques maritimes (CRPM)
 - b. Réseau FISP MED, Développement durable et lutte contre la pauvreté en Méditerranée et en mer Noire
- Groupe socio-économique
 - a. Association des économistes euro-méditerranéens (EMEA)
 - b. Fondation UNIVERDE
- Groupe des ONG
 - a. Réseau arabe pour l'environnement et le développement (RAED)
 - b. Fonds mondial pour la nature – Méditerranée (WWF-MED)
 - c. Institut océanographique de Monaco
- Groupe des OIG
 - a. Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement de la Région Arabe et l'Europe (CEDARE)
 - b. Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM) (*à confirmer*)
- Groupe parlementaire⁸
 - a. Cercle des Représentants Parlementaires Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable (COMPSUD)
 - b. Assemblée parlementaire de la Méditerranée (APM)

53. Sur la base des recommandations ci-dessus, la composition de la CMDD pour l'exercice biennal 2026–2027 serait la suivante, sous réserve de l'approbation par la COP24 des nouveaux membres n'appartenant pas aux Parties contractantes :

- Groupe des autorités locales
 - a. MedCités
 - b. Conférence des Régions périphériques maritimes (CRPM), **nouveau membre**
 - c. Réseau FISP MED (Sustainable development and the fight against poverty in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, Réseau international pour le développement durable et la lutte contre la pauvreté en Méditerranée et mer Noire), **nouveau membre**
- Groupe socio-économique
 - a. Fondation Mohammed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement
 - b. Association des économistes euro-méditerranéens (EMEA), **nouveau membre**

⁸ Conformément à la [La Décision IG.25/3 de la COP22](#) et à la confirmation de l'intérêt de COMPSUD et PAM, la CMDD a conclu en proposant le renouvellement du mandat de COMPSUD et PAM pour une nouvelle période de quatre ans (2026-2029).

- c. Fondation UNIVERDE, **nouveau membre**
- Groupe des ONG
 - a. Réseau arabe pour l'environnement et le développement (RAED), **nouveau membre**
 - b. Fonds mondial pour la nature – Méditerranée (WWF-MED), **nouveau membre**
 - c. Institut océanographique de Monaco, **nouveau membre**
- Groupe de la communauté scientifique
 - a. Experts méditerranéens sur le changement climatique et environnemental (MedECC)
 - b. Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement (CIDCE)
 - c. Dr Fatima Driouech (Groupe de travail I du GIEC, Université Polytechnique Mohammed VI, Maroc)
- Groupe des OIG
 - a. UICN : Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature
 - b. Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement de la Région Arabe et l'Europe (CEDARE), **nouveau membre**
 - c. Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM) (**à confirmer**)
- Groupe parlementaire
 - a. AP OSCE : Assemblée parlementaire de l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe
 - b. Cercle des parlementaires méditerranéens sur le développement durable (COMPSUD)
 - c. Assemblée parlementaire de la Méditerranée (APM)

54. Afin d'améliorer ce processus à l'avenir, un membre de la CMDD a soulevé des préoccupations quant à l'efficacité du mécanisme de rotation des membres, au regard des règles d'élection et de réélection définies dans la Réforme de la CMDD et ses Documents constitutifs.

55. À cette fin, il a fait remarquer que la règle de rotation vise à introduire de nouveaux acteurs. Selon lui, il faudrait éviter que les mêmes personnes représentent différents membres pendant des décennies. Si la CMDD ou le Secrétariat estiment que certains membres non contractants sont très importants pour les travaux de la CMDD et qu'ils pourraient bénéficier d'un statut de membre permanent, la CMDD pourrait décider de soumettre un projet de proposition à la COP pour régler cette question.

56. Le Secrétariat a remercié ce membre d'avoir attiré l'attention sur cet aspect, qui sera pris en considération et discuté au cours du prochain exercice biennal.

57. La Slovénie a souligné le rôle de la jeunesse et son importance dans le processus de mise en œuvre de la CMDD et de la SMDD. Elle a proposé d'inviter des représentants de la jeunesse à la COP24, à l'instar de l'expérience réussie de la COP23, et de renforcer leur participation et leur contribution à la CMDD, dans la continuité du processus entamé à la COP19. Dans cette optique, la Grèce et la France ont proposé d'inclure les organisations de jeunesse dans la composition du MCSD.

58. Le Secrétariat, rappelant l'importance de l'implication des femmes et des jeunes dans les questions de développement durable en Méditerranée, a mentionné la proposition visant à élargir la composition des membres de la CMDD n'appartenant pas aux Parties contractantes pour y inclure des organisations de femmes et de jeunes, figurant dans le document UNEP/MED WG.625/7. Le Secrétariat a précisé que les critères de sélection de la politique actualisée sur les Partenaires du PAM⁹ seront utilisés. Il a ajouté qu'il serait proposé à la COP24 de mettre à jour les Documents constitutifs de la CMDD (décision IG.22/17 de la COP19) pour intégrer ces nouvelles catégories et actualiser les références à la politique sur les Partenaires du PAM adoptée à la COP23.

59. La Réunion a accueilli favorablement la proposition du Secrétariat d'élargir la catégorie des membres n'appartenant pas aux Parties contractantes de la CMDD pour y inclure des organisations régionales et sous-régionales de femmes et de jeunes actives dans les domaines de l'environnement et du

⁹ [Décision IG.26/2 de la COP 23 sur la gouvernance](#)

développement durable, répondant aux critères des Partenaires du PAM conformément aux décisions pertinentes de la COP, portant ainsi le nombre total de membres de la CMDD à 42.

b) Prise en compte de la durabilité dans le programme de travail 2026–2027 du PNUE/PAM

c) Contributions de la 21^{ème} réunion de la CMDD à la COP24

60. La Coordinatrice a présenté brièvement les considérations relatives à la durabilité dans le Programme de travail et budget 2026–2027 du PNUE/PAM, telles que décrites dans le document UNEP/MED WG.625/7, en soulignant que ce programme renforce encore la dimension de durabilité, notamment en vue de la préparation de la prochaine Stratégie à moyen terme 2028–2033 du PNUE/PAM.

61. La Coordinatrice a précisé que, outre les réunions de la CMDD et de son CdP, le programme de travail 2026–2027 prévoit de soutenir l'appropriation et le renforcement des capacités des Parties contractantes dans l'intégration des objectifs et actions de la SMDD dans leurs stratégies nationales de développement durable, à travers une analyse des besoins et des ateliers régionaux en ligne. Il vise également à promouvoir la sensibilisation, les synergies régionales, les opportunités de financement et le renforcement des partenariats pour les initiatives phares de la SMDD.

62. La Réunion a pris acte des considérations de durabilité dans le programme de travail 2026–2027 du PNUE/PAM et a convenu de confier au CdP de la CMDD l'élaboration d'un texte sur les ambitions et la vision de la CMDD en matière de développement durable dans la région méditerranéenne, à intégrer dans la Déclaration ministérielle de la COP24. Il a été convenu que le CdP de la CMDD, après avoir élaboré un premier projet de contribution de la CMDD à la COP24 avec l'appui du Secrétariat, le partagera avec les membres de la CMDD, et que la version finale sera soumise à la COP24.

63. Il a également été convenu que la Présidente de la CMDD serait invitée à participer à la réunion des Points focaux du PAM pour présenter la contribution du CMDD pour la session et la déclaration ministérielle de la COP 24, ainsi qu'à la COP24, pour y présenter les travaux de la CMDD et le projet de décision sur la SMDD, en collaboration avec le Secrétariat.

64. La Grèce a suggéré que la déclaration de la COP24 s'appuie largement sur la récente déclaration des ministres de l'environnement des pays méditerranéens adoptée à Nice le 10 juin, lors de UNOC-3, et que la session ministérielle et la déclaration de la COP24 apportent une contribution méditerranéenne à l'UNEA 7 (Nairobi, 8-12 décembre), qui aura lieu juste après la COP24 sur le thème « Promouvoir des solutions durables pour une planète résiliente ».

d) Cadre régional d'adaptation aux changements climatiques du 2016 pour les zones marines et côtières de la Méditerranée

65. Le Secrétariat a rappelé que les éléments principaux de mise à jour du Cadre régional d'adaptation aux changements climatiques (CRACC) ont été présentés et brièvement discutés lors de la Réunion thématique ad hoc de la CMDD (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12–14 février 2025). Les commentaires formulés par les membres de la CMDD lors de la réunion d'Istanbul ont été dûment pris en compte lors de la rédaction de la version actualisée du CRACC. Certains membres ont particulièrement insisté sur le fait que, puisque la SMDD 2026-2035 met l'accent sur le changement climatique, en particulier l'adaptation, la version actualisée du CRACC devrait être conçue de manière à aider les Parties contractantes à mettre également en œuvre les objectifs et activités connexes de la CMDD, principalement dans le cadre de l'objectif 1.

66. Afin de garantir un processus consultatif solide, et grâce à la contribution volontaire de la France, une réunion régionale a été organisée les 8 et 9 juillet à Istanbul (Türkiye) pour examiner et approuver le projet de CRACC 2026–2035 avant sa soumission à la réunion des points focaux du PAM et à la COP24.

67. La CMDD a salué le travail accompli pour la mise à jour du CRACC et a encouragé la participation active des experts en changements climatiques désignés par les points focaux du PAM à la réunion régionale des 8–9 juillet 2025.

Point 7 de l'ordre du jour : Prochaine réunion de la CMDD

68. La CMDD a décidé que la prochaine réunion se tiendrait en mai ou juin 2027 et a encouragé ses membres à proposer d'en assurer l'accueil.

Point 8 de l'ordre du jour : Autres questions

69. Aucun autre point n'a été soulevé pour discussion au cours de la Réunion.

Point 9 de l'ordre du jour : Conclusions et recommandations

70. La 21^{ème} réunion de la CMDD a adopté les projets de conclusions et recommandations, présentés dans leur version finale à l'annexe IV du présent rapport.

Point 10 de l'ordre du jour : Clôture de la réunion

71. Dans leurs remarques de clôture, la Présidente et la Coordinatrice ont félicité les membres de la CMDD pour les résultats majeurs obtenus au cours de la réunion, qui ont une nouvelle fois démontré leur engagement en faveur du renforcement des trajectoires de développement durable dans la région, la SMDD demeurant le cadre de référence essentiel, avec sa vision et ses actions concrètes.

72. La Présidente de la CMDD a levé la séance à 18 h 15, le jeudi 26 juin 2025.

Annexe I
Liste des participants

21^{ème} réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable (CMDD) Corinthe, Grèce, 24–26 juin 2025 Liste des participants	
PARTIES CONTRACTANTES	
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE	Mme Selma Čengić Directrice HEIS – Institut d’ingénierie hydraulique de Sarajevo Courriel : Selma selma.cengic@heis.ba
CROATIE	Mme Branka Pivcevic Novak Cheffe du département du développement durable Ministère de l’Environnement et de l’Énergie Courriel : branka.pivcevic-novak@mzoip.hr ; branka.pivcevic-novak@mzoe.hr
CHYPRE	Mme Andri Gregoriou Direction générale des programmes européens, de la coordination et du développement – Ministère de l’Environnement Courriel : agregoriou@papd.mof.gov.cy ; dgepcd@dgepcd.gov.cy Commissaire chypriote à l’environnement et au bien-être animal Mme Antonia Theodosiou Mme Filio Ioulianou Bureau du Commissaire à l’environnement et au bien-être animal Courriel : fioulianou@presidency.gov.cy
EGYPT/ÉGYPTE	Mme Samah Saleh Cheffe de l’Unité du développement durable Agence égyptienne pour les Affaires environnementales Ministère de l’Environnement Courriel : samah.saleh52014@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION/ UNION EUROPÉENNE	Mme Cécile Roddier-Quefelec Agence européenne pour l'environnement Coordinatrice de la gestion environnementale et de l'engagement international (représentant l'UE) Courriel : cecile.roddier-quefelec@eea.europa.eu
FRANCE	Mme Anne-France Didier Conseillère politiques territoriales Pilote ODD14-DGITM/DAM/Délégation à la Mer et au Littoral Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire Courriel : anne-france.didier@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
GREECE/GRÈCE	Mme Maria Papaioannou Ministère hellénique de l'Environnement et de l'Énergie Direction des affaires internationales et européennes Département des affaires environnementales de l'UE et internationales Courriel : m.papaioannou@prv.ypeka.gr
ITALY/ITALIE	Mme Laura Fanciulli Funzionario Tecnico Direction générale de la biodiversité et de la mer Ministère de la Sécurité énergétique et environnementale Courriel : Fanciulli.Laura@mase.gov.it
LIBYA/LIBYE	M. Almokhtar Saied Chef de la section marine et faune Département de la conservation de la nature Ministère de l'Environnement Courriel : mok405@yahoo.com
MALTA/MALTE	M. Johann Attard Directeur adjoint (développement durable) Bureau du Secrétaire permanent Ministère de l'environnement, de l'énergie et de la Propreté Publique Courriel : johann.attard@gov.mt
MOROCCO/MAROC	M. Mohammed Maktit Chef de la Division des études et de la planification Secrétariat d'État auprès du ministre de l'Énergie, des Mines et du Développement durable, chargé du développement durable Courriel : maktit@environnement.gov.ma ; m.maktit@gmail.com
SLOVENIA/SLOVÉNIE	M. Mitja Bricelj Secrétaire Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du territoire Direction de l'environnement – Département de l'eau Courriel : mitja.bricelj@gov.si

TUNISIA/TUNISIE	M. Abderraja Salhi Sous-directeur à la direction générale du développement durable du ministère de l'Environnement Ministère des Affaires locales et de l'Environnement Courriel : abderraja.salhi@mineat.gov.tn
TÜRKIYE/TÜRKIYE	Mme Vildan Bolukbasi Atay Cheffe du Département de gestion du milieu marin et côtier Direction générale de la gestion environnementale du Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Urbanisme et du Changement climatique Courriel : vildan.bolukbasi@csb.gov.tr
AUTORITÉS LOCALES	
MED CITIES/MEDCITÉS	M. Josep Canals Molina Secrétaire général de MedCités Courriel : jcanals@amb.cat
ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES	
ECO UNION	M. Jeremie Fosse Président d'ECO UNION et Directeur du Global Eco Forum Courriel : jeremie.fosse@ecounion.eu
ESDF : THE EGYPTIAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM (LE FORUM ÉGYPTIEN SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE)	M. Emad Adly Président du Conseil d'administration Courriel : eadly@hotmail.com ; info@esdf.net
COMMUNAUTÉ SCIENTIFIQUE	
MEDECC : MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (EXPERTS MÉDITERRANÉENS SUR LE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE ET ENVIRONNEMENTAL)	Mme Salpie Djoundourian Coordinatrice du MedECC Courriel : sdjndran@lau.edu.lb
CIDCE : CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE DROIT COMPARE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT	M. Laurent Vassallo Administrateur du CIDCE Courriel : laurent.vassallo.mt@gmail.com
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES	
AFED : THE ARAB FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (LE FORUM ARABE POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT)	M. Najib Saab Secrétaire général Courriel : nsaab@afedonline.org ; nwsaab@gmail.com

GWP-MED : THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP – MEDITERRANEAN / LE PARTENARIAT MONDIAL POUR L’EAU – MÉDITERRANÉE	M. Tassos Krommydas Partenariat mondial pour l’eau (GWP) Courriel : tassos@gwpmed.org
IUCN-MED/UICN-MED CENTRE FOR MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE/CENTRE POUR LA COOPÉRATION MÉDITERRANÉENNE DE L’UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE	M. Maher Mahjoub Directeur de l’UICN-MED Centre de coopération méditerranéenne Courriel : Maher.MAHJOUB@iucn.org
PARLEMENTAIRES	
COMPSUD : CIRCLE OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / CERCLE DES PARLEMENTAIRES MÉDITERRANÉENS SUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE	Prof. Michael J. Scoullas Secrétaire exécutif de COMPSUD Courriel : scoullas@mio-ecsde.org ;
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM) / ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE (APM)	Ambassadeur Sergio Piazzì Chef de délégation Courriel : secretariat@pam.int ; progofficer2@pam.int Hon. Gabriel Amard Courriel : secretariat@pam.int ; progofficer2@pam.int
CENTRES D’ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES DU PAM	
PLAN BLEU/RAC – CAR/PLAN BLEU : PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D’ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES PLAN BLEU	M. Robin Degron Directrice Courriel : rdegron@planbleu.org M. Antoine Lafitte Directeur adjoint Courriel : alafitte@planbleu.org
PAP/RAC – CAR/PAP : PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D’ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LE PROGRAMME D’ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES	M. Marko Prem Directeur adjoint Courriel : marko.prem@paprac.org
CAR/CPD – MEDWAVES : SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND	M. Jesús Maestro Directeur Courriel : jesus.maestro@gencat.cat

PRODUCTION REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LA CONSOMMATION ET LA PRODUCTION DURABLES	M. Matías Ibáñez Sales Coordinateur des opérations Courriel : matiasibanez@gencat.cat
SPA-RAC – CAR/ASP : SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D'ACTIVITÉS RÉGIONALES POUR LES AIRES SPÉCIALEMENT PROTÉGÉES	M. Mahmoud Elyes Hamza Directeur du CAR/ASP Courriel : director@spa-rac.org
SECRÉTARIAT DU PNUE/PAM	
	Mme Tatjana Hema Coordinatrice du PAM Courriel : tatjana.hema@un.org M. Ilias Mavroeidis Administrateur de programme – Gouvernance Courriel : ilias.mavroeidis@un.org Mme Patrizia Busolini Chargée du développement socio-économique et du développement durable Courriel : patrizia.busolini@un.org M. Ihab Tarek Abdelazim Ahmed Conseiller juridique Courriel : ihab.tarek@un.org

Annexe II

**Ordre du jour de la 21^{ème} réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable
(CMDD)**

Ordre du jour

Point 1 de l'ordre du jour Ouverture de la Réunion

Point 2 de l'ordre du jour Questions d'organisation

- a) Élection du Comité de Pilotage
- b) Adoption de l'ordre du jour provisoire
- c) Organisation des travaux

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour Rapport de la Coordinatrice sur les activités relatives au développement durable pour la période juin 2023 – mai 2025

- a) Initiatives phares de la SMDD
- b) Tableau de bord de la durabilité en Méditerranée

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour Évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD 2016-2025

Point 5 de l'ordre du jour SMDD 2026–2035 et ses initiatives phares

- a) SMDD 2026-2035
- b) Initiatives phares

Point 6 de l'ordre du jour Questions spécifiques

- a) Composition de la CMDD pour l'exercice biennal 2026–2027
- b) Prise en compte de la durabilité dans le programme de travail 2026–2027 du PNUE/PAM
- c) Contributions de la 21ème réunion de la CMDD à la COP24
- d) Cadre régional d'adaptation aux changements climatiques pour les zones marines et côtières méditerranéennes (CRACC)

Point 7 de l'ordre du jour Prochaine réunion de la CMDD

Point 8 de l'ordre du jour Autres questions

Point 9 de l'ordre du jour Conclusions et recommandations

Point 10 de l'ordre du jour Clôture de la réunion

Annexe III
Stratégie Méditerranéenne pour le Développement Durable (SMDD) 2026-2035 approuvée
(en Anglais)

Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Sustainable development seeks to address the needs of current and future generations, utilizing natural resources and ecosystems in ways that preserve and sustain them, **while further accelerating the decarbonization process**, and ensure equitable access to them in the present and the future. It sets the framework for securing viable and lasting development and decent livelihoods for all, which are particularly important considerations in the current challenging Mediterranean socio-economic context.
2. The Strategy takes into account the outcomes of the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** which put particular focus on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Resolution on the **Pact for the Future**¹⁰, that reaffirms the commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and urgently calls for accelerating progress towards achieving the Goals.
3. The Strategy equally takes into account the **UNGA Resolution 76/296 of July 2022, “Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility”**, which highlights that its goals can also be successfully **applied at regional level**, the **2024 UNEA 6, UNEP/EA.6/Res.15** on Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, scale-up means of implementation to enhance capacity to deliver ocean-related SDGs, as well as the **United Nations' Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030**¹¹ with its vision ‘The science we need for the ocean we want’.¹²
4. The Strategy embeds, inter alia, the commitments and targets stemming from the **2015 UN Paris Agreement**, the **2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**, the **European Green Deal**, the **International Maritime Organization’s Strategy for reducing GHG emissions from ships**, the **Post-2020 SAPBIO**¹³ and other **UNEP/MAP policies adopted after 2016, including Programmes of Measures to achieve Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean Sea and Coast**.
4. bis. The revised MSSD is being endorsed in 2025, an important milestone year both at the global as well as at the regional Mediterranean level for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of marine environment and its resources: it coincides with the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3, Nice, France, 9-13 June 2025) that gave renewed impetus to the acceleration of global efforts and mobilization of all actors towards the achievement of SDG 14; the activation of implementation of numerous concrete new commitments with secured financing, by a wide array of stakeholders, submitted at the preceding 9th Our Ocean Conference (OOC-9, Athens, Greece, 15-17 April 2024); the [likely] entry into force of the historic 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); the 50 years anniversary of UNEP/MAP and the 30 years of the Post Rio Barcelona Convention, that culminated with the Ministerial Declaration renewing their commitment for a sustainable Mediterranean, and their remarkable achievements and unique institutional role in the protection and preservation of the Mediterranean Sea and its sustainable development; the EU Ocean Pact and the [upcoming] New Pact for the Mediterranean, providing integrated frameworks to strengthen policy coherence and a thriving blue economy for the Mediterranean region; the entry into force of the designation of the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA) further limiting air pollution from ships, pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI; and, finally, the 30 years anniversary of the establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), the advisory body of UNEP/MAP for integrating environmental considerations into socioeconomic policies and promoting sustainable development in the Mediterranean, responsible for the elaboration of the MSSD.
4. ter. These milestone achievements reflected in the MSSD [2026-2035] reaffirm the strong commitment and vision towards sustainability and acceleration of the green transition in the region, through the constructive collaboration of all stakeholders.
5. Sustainable development is of key importance for the Mediterranean: it is a closed sea, in which water

¹⁰ Resolution A/RES/79/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 22 September 2024

¹¹ <https://www.unesco.org/en/decades/ocean-decade>

¹² Comment of Mohammed VI Foundation

¹³ Decision IG.25/11 on the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)

renewal is limited by the narrow connection to the ocean, and therefore particularly sensitive to pollution. In addition, its mild climate makes it home to a large diversity of ecosystems and species. The Mediterranean is also subject to considerable pressures. With its rich history and exceptional natural and cultural landscapes, its coasts accounted for 30 per cent of global tourist arrivals in 2011, while in previous years the figure had reached more than 35 per cent. The Mediterranean is the first world tourist destination with 360 million tourists in 2020 with a forecast to reach 500 million by 2030 (UNWTO, 2019), largely concentrated from June to September and on the coast. Approximately half of the 2017 arrivals -170 million - are in Mediterranean coastal areas, aggravating the concentration of human-made pressures in coastal zones, particularly during the summer season. Moreover, the Mediterranean region hosts 26 million cruise passengers/year¹⁴.

6. At the same time, international tourism receipts reached 190 billion Euros, representing approximately 26 per cent of the global total. Urban agglomerations on the Mediterranean coasts, along with tourist infrastructure, have resulted in the development of large and mega-cities¹⁵, with consequent pressures from the rising population levels and the accumulation of economic activities in a particularly fragile environment. Mediterranean coastal and sea products and services, the agricultural products, as well as Mediterranean diets, have a global reputation, but depend entirely on the sustainability of coastal and marine resources and rural landscapes, and decent working conditions. Global shipping routes through the Mediterranean make the density of maritime traffic exceptional for a semi-closed sea. The recent surge of interest in the commercial exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals under the Mediterranean seabed also poses increased risks for the Mediterranean environment.
7. Significant discrepancies in development levels and living standards between countries, together with the conflicts in the region, which are already negatively affecting investment and development, pose also challenges for envisaging a sustainable future of the Mediterranean basin. The fragility of the region is further aggravated by its sensitivity to climate change: in its Sixth Assessment Report¹⁶, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that “during the 21st century, climate change is projected to intensify throughout the region. Air and sea temperature and their extremes (notably heat waves) are likely to continue to increase more than the global average (high confidence)”. Over the last three decades, marine heatwaves (MHWs) in the Mediterranean Sea have caused mass-mortality events in various marine species, and critical losses for seafood industries. In the future, MHWs may undermine many benefits and services that Mediterranean ecosystems normally provide, such as food, maintenance of biodiversity, and regulation of air quality¹⁷.
8. The Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change MedEcc) have confirmed that due to global and regional trends in the drivers, impacts of Climate Change will be exacerbated in the coming decades, especially if global warming exceeds 1.5 to 2°C above the pre-industrial level. Significantly enhanced efforts are needed in order to adapt to inevitable changes, mitigate change drivers and increase resilience¹⁸.
9. The aim of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development [2016-2035] [2026-2035] is to provide a strategic policy framework, built upon a broad consultation process, for securing a sustainable future for the region. The rationale behind the Strategy is the need to accelerate the sustainable development of the region, by equally tackling interlinked key challenges as climate change, biodiversity protection¹⁹ and green transition, by harmonizing the interactions between socio-economic and environmental goals, in line with the SDGs and Agenda 2030 to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies and to stimulate regional cooperation between stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development. The Strategy is underpinned by the conviction that investment in the environment and steady progress towards decarbonization is the best way to secure long-term, sustainable job creation and socio-economic development, and an essential vehicle for the achievement of social and economic objectives. For this reason, the Strategy focuses on addressing cross-cutting issues that lie in the interface between environment and development. It addresses issues across sectoral, institutional and legal

¹⁴ 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean: Summary for Decision Makers (SoED 2020)

¹⁵ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in its 2018 "World Urbanization Prospects" report defines megacities as urban agglomerations with over 10 million inhabitants

¹⁶ Sixth IPCC Synthesis Report (AR6) was released on 20 March 2023

¹⁷ 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

¹⁸ First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) on “Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future”, MedECC, 2020

¹⁹ Comment by EcoUnion

boundaries, emphasizing the interlinkages between environmental issues and economic and social challenges, rather than specific economic sectors such as tourism or agriculture. The Strategy is also expected to lead to synergies being forged between the work of important national and regional players and stakeholders, by providing a commonly-agreed framework, thereby leading to increased efficiency in the implementation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

10. In this framework, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has a pivotal cross cutting role, therefore integrating ESD into strategic planning and community-based initiatives is crucial to support understanding, resilience and sustainable practices of all stakeholders, including citizens, towards adaptation to climate change, marine conservation, sustainable urban development, and green economic models in the Mediterranean region.²⁰

1.1. Background

11. At the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention in Monaco in November 2001, in line with the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention decided to prepare a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.
12. The Strategy 2005-2015 was developed as a result of a consultation process that mobilized Mediterranean stakeholders, including Governments and civil society through the participation of non- governmental organizations and key experts and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2005 at their 14th meeting in Portoroz, Slovenia. The 2016-2025 Strategy has been formulated taking into account the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which put particular focus on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and included an agreement to draft Sustainable Development Goals.
13. The need for the Strategy remains strong today, as while the new global and regional context has changed significantly and the pressures and challenges are even more pronounced. At the same time, under the Barcelona Convention new regional instruments, voluntary²¹ and legally binding measures have been developed and are under implementation to address these pressures.

Mandate for the review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

14. In light of the outcomes of Rio+20, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention requested, at their 18th Ordinary Meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, in December 2013, that a review of the Strategy be launched (Decision IG.21/11), with a view to submitting a new strategy for consideration and adoption by the Contracting Parties at their 19th meeting, to be held in February 2016 in Greece. The Decision emphasizes the importance of synergies with the global Sustainable Development Goals process, in order to ensure coherence between global and Mediterranean regional objectives and targets, while allowing for regional innovation and specificities.
15. 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 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 Status²².

Assessments of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development [2016-2025] [2026-2035]

16. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development draws upon the findings of four assessments carried out to inform the review process, the first focusing on implementation between 2005 and 2010, and the other ones addressing the influence of the regional strategy on national strategies for sustainable development and the implementation of the two MSSD cycles.

²⁰ Comment of Cyprus

²¹ Comment by EcoUnion

²² COP23 Ministerial Declaration (UNEP/MED IG.26/L.3)

https://cop23-slovenia.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/23ig26_L3_eng_portoroz-ministerial-declaration.pdf

17. In 2009, the MAP Secretariat carried out a review and assessment of national strategies for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, in order to “provide an overall assessment of the actions and initiatives carried out so far by the Mediterranean countries for sustainable development and hence allow for a better appreciation of the state of play”. It concluded that the Strategy has played a role more at the regional level, however, it noted that the MAP initiative to assist in the preparation of national strategies was worthwhile and had been embraced by a number of countries.

17.18. In 2011, an assessment of the implementation of the Strategy 2005-2015 was carried out five years after its adoption, which offered a number of useful conclusions related to the emphasis on emerging priorities, such as climate change adaptation and the green economy, on the need to elaborate tangible targets and indicators, the reinforcement of the governance framework, as well as the opportunities for synergies with other programmes, organizations and initiatives²³.

18.19. In addition, the assessment also reported that at a national level the entity responsible for coordinating the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies faced challenges in providing leadership and cross-government support.

19.20. Both the 2019 MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation and the 2024 MSSD Final Evaluation concluded that the MSSD has brought concrete learnings and best practices, including the flagship initiatives, that could significantly upscale the implementation of the Strategy. The two Evaluations also recognized that additional efforts related to its monitoring, means of implementation²⁴ and capacity building actions need to be undertaken to further implement the Strategy at regional, national and local level, to achieve the identified targets and to deliver the SDGs. In order to tackle the gap between policy vision and implementation processes, a more effective participatory process of stakeholders is to be promoted, as well as a more operational integrated approach among the different Strategic Directions, Action and Flagship Initiatives under the same MSSD Objectives and among Objectives. Breaking down fragmentation and achieving the deep transformative changes requires better connecting SDG-14 (Life below water) with the other SDGs, and focusing on synergies between climate action and sustainable development, providing win-win solutions, and minimizing trade-offs. In particular SDG-13 (Climate Action) is a lever to achieve the SDG-14 in Mediterranean as the region is a climate hot-spot. In addition, adaptation and mitigation actions planned by countries to strengthen the resilience of coastal and marine areas, contribute to the achievement of other MSSD objectives/SDGs, in particular SDGs 15 (Land), 6 (Water and Sanitation), 7 (Energy), 8 (Sustainable economic growth), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 11 (Cities and Infrastructure) and SDG 12 (Consumption and Production). In complement ownership and contribution of the MSSD by regional and national stakeholders also outside the UNEP/MAP system and partners is essential, as an effective framework for cooperation effectively supporting the achievement of the SDGs in the region. The Strategy builds on and enhances strong and coherent interlinkages between all SDGs, thus ensuring an integrated and holistic approach that takes into account the overall integrity and inclusive approach of Agenda 2030²⁵. Financing the MSSD, improving its governance, outreach and coordination with regional and national stakeholders are also aspects that require further attention in order to ensure a concrete impact.

1.2. The Mediterranean Region

20.21. With its long history, its rich natural and cultural heritage, the Mediterranean Sea is a meeting point between three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. Surrounded by 21 countries, it is the world's largest semi-closed sea.

Rich natural and cultural resources

21.22. Encompassing seven marine eco-regions, 75 coastal hydrological basins, and 224 coastal administrative regions, the Mediterranean Sea occupies a basin of almost 2.6 million km², has a coastline

²³ UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.358/4: <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7166.pdf>

²⁴ Comment by EcoUnion

²⁵ Comment by Greece

of 46,000 km, with an average water depth of approximately 1,500 m. The riverine systems that are the main source of nutrients and their related human activities have a significant impact on the health of the Mediterranean Sea.

22-23. The Mediterranean Sea is home to a large share of the world's marine biodiversity, but it is also the victim of decades of unsustainable use, despite the efforts for effective management. It also suffers most from the impacts of climate change, warming 20% faster than the rest of the world according to the MedECC²⁶, thus, it holds the highest percentage of threatened marine habitats, including 21% vulnerable and 11% endangered on the EU28 Red List.

23-24. The Mediterranean Sea hosts a very high percentage of the world's marine biodiversity and recognized as one of the 25 top global biodiversity hotspots. The peculiar geographical setting of the sea makes it very vulnerable to various anthropogenic pressures, such as overfishing, heavy maritime traffic, and land-based pollution, including the diffusion of non-native invasive species.

24-25. Home to 17,000 species of fauna and flora representing respectively 7.5% and 18% of the world's marine flora and fauna, the Mediterranean Sea is a hotspot of biodiversity in an area covering less than 1 per cent of the world's oceans and less than 0.3 per cent of its volume. The species diversity of the Mediterranean, although unevenly distributed between the eastern and western basins, is higher than in most other regions of the world with a large number of endemic species and critical levels of habitat loss, due to the geological history of this sea, its close communication with the Atlantic and its position at the junction of three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa which make it a melting pot of biodiversity. Non-indigenous species (NIS) are increasingly present in the Mediterranean Sea generating significant changes in the fauna and flora composition, mainly in the eastern Mediterranean²⁷.

25-26. The Mediterranean region is home to some of the oldest human settlements in the world giving it unique cultural heritage and cultural landscapes. This has forged, over thousands of years, strong bonds among the people of the region and given added meaning to the sense of belonging to the Mediterranean. Despite their diversity, the regional identity of the Mediterranean countries has been strengthened by centuries of commerce and communication. It is still one of the world's busiest shipping routes, that constitutes an important transit and trans-shipment area for international shipping, as well as a realm for Mediterranean seaborne traffic (movement between a Mediterranean port and a port outside the Mediterranean) and short sea shipping activities between Mediterranean ports, and hosting 17% of the world's oil tanker capacity. Despite covering less than 1% of the world's oceans, the Mediterranean Sea accounted for more than a fifth (21-22%) of global shipping activity measured by the annual number of port calls, and around 9% of the annual container port throughput in recent years²⁸. Shipping contributes around 2.6% of total global greenhouse gas emissions, a figure that could more than triple by 2050. This would represent 23% growth from 2015 to 2035. Implementing and promoting the Mediterranean SOx Emission Control Area²⁹, effective as of May 2025, engaging in the process for the designation of the Mediterranean as a whole as Nitrogen oxides emission control area (NECA), and decarbonation is crucial.

Mediterranean coastal zones: A vital interface between land and sea

26-27. The Mediterranean coastal zones form a crucial interface between land and sea. They have historically been densely populated, hosting extensive infrastructure and activities that have progressively intensified, leading to significant environmental impacts. As hubs for human activity, including tourism, fishing, and trade, these coastal zones are integral to the region's economy while facing pressures from urbanization and environmental degradation. These areas serve as transition zones, where the land meets the ocean, which drives changes in landforms, biodiversity, and the distribution of resources. Human activity along coasts further intensifies these land-sea interactions, impacting the balance of these sensitive regions.

²⁶ MedECC 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

²⁷ 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

²⁸ 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

²⁹ On 15 December 2022 the 79th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 79) adopted the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA), with effect from 1 May 2025, to further limit air pollution from ships, pursuant to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

27-28. It is estimated that approximately one third of the Mediterranean population is concentrated in its coastal regions, whereas 70% of the population lives either in cities - which are mostly coastal- or in coastal hydrological basins and 30% in rural areas knowing that rurality in the southern shore of the Mediterranean is more pronounced than in the North³⁰. According to Plan Bleu the Mediterranean hosts 7% of the world population corresponding to 512 million inhabitants in 2018 in the 22 riparian countries with 314 million inhabitants in the South and East and 198 million in the North. In 2021, the population of the Mediterranean countries reached 532 million, increasing by close to 20 million people in only 3 years between 2018 and 2021. It reaches 65 per cent for the southern countries of the region, with around 120 million inhabitants. The population of the riparian states grew from 276 million in 1970 to 532 million in 2021 and is predicted to reach 630 and 690 million by 2050³¹. However, the distribution of population between the Mediterranean countries of the European Union and the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries has changed dramatically over this period: in 1960, the Southern and Eastern countries represented 41 per cent of the total population, while today this figure is 60 per cent. This population growth is associated with a significant increase of the urban population, which grew from 48 per cent in 1960 to 67 per cent in 2010 and 70% in 2020³².

Socio-economic trends

28-29. Mediterranean countries' economy grew less than the world average between 2000 and 2017, leading to a decreasing share of the Mediterranean world's gross domestic product (GDP) in the world GDP: from 12.9% in 2000 to 11% in 2010 and 9.8% in 2017³³. The GDP growth rates in the south and east Mediterranean countries are higher than those of the North Mediterranean countries. However, they are considered low when compared to the population growth rates, as the demographic growth is still high in the southern Mediterranean countries. In 2021, the average income per capita in the South and East Mediterranean countries (10 000\$) is more than 4 times lower than the average income in the North Mediterranean countries (40 000\$). The share of the Mediterranean GDP in the world GDP is decreasing from 14.1% in 2000 to 12.6% in 2010, 11.3% in 2018 and 8% in 2021. This value is to consider with attention because the GDP per inhabitant has increased since 2018 for all of the Mediterranean countries (except for Lebanon, Libya and The Syrian Arab Republic) but less than the other countries in the world³⁴. The economic growth in the Southern and Eastern countries was accompanied by significant improvements in key social indicators as represented by the Human Development Index.

29-30. Traditional resource-based activities (i.e. fisheries, aquaculture forestry, agriculture, and primary industries), secondary industries (e.g. shipping, food processing, housing and construction) and services (e.g. shipping and tourism) will continue to dominate economic development in the Mediterranean coastal regions. Emergent resource-based activities (i.e. marine and deep-sea mining of non-living resources, renewable energies, underwater cables and pipelines, blue biotechnology) have to be taken into account as a source for job creations but also as possible drivers of impacts on the environment. There is a need to anticipate the development of these emerging and fast-growing new activities³⁵. The potential for economic opportunities in coastal cities remains a strong attractive force, attracting populations from the hinterland and fuelling immigration from often economically depressed rural areas. These new coastal cities' inhabitants will demand employment, food, water, energy, housing, and other goods and services, exerting further pressure on the coastal ecosystems and environments, and therefore presenting a substantial development challenge for the Mediterranean.

30-31. Within the region, poverty continues to afflict many: the Arab Forum for Environment and Development reports that it affects 65 million people in the Middle East and Northern Africa.16 Economic insecurity is aggravated by high unemployment rates in the general population, which increase among youth. Sharp income disparities still exist among countries, and in some cases growth figures conceal deterioration in regenerative natural capital.17 That raises questions about the ability of Mediterranean economies to create the millions of new jobs projected to be required to accommodate new entrants into the labor force, while keeping current unemployment rates stable. The impacts of poverty and unemployment have contributed to social marginalization, which is further compounded by income disparities, and gives rise to social and political instability. Demands for change across the Mediterranean reveal that the

³⁰ 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean: Summary for Decision Makers (SoED 2020)

³¹ MED2050 Report: Mediterranean Foresight Report for 2050

³² 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean: Summary for Decision Makers (SoED 2020)

³³ 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean: Summary for Decision Makers (SoED 2020)

³⁴ MSSD dashboard indicator 3, 2023

³⁵ 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report

mounting economic, social, and environmental strains and the resultant implications on livelihood security have become unsustainable. In many countries it is because sustainable development planning was absent that civil and armed conflict has arisen. Similarly, at the regional level, current and emerging socio-economic and political challenges and their impacts remain major concerns for sustainable development.

31.32. Despite demographic and geopolitical challenges, human development in the Mediterranean region has generally improved over the past decade. The gap between northern and southern/eastern shores has narrowed, though it remains. Education, especially in Southern and Eastern countries, has seen significant progress, with girls' enrollment now matching or exceeding boys at all levels. However, women's participation in the workforce remains low due to work-life balance issues, gender discrimination, and sociocultural barriers. Youth unemployment is also a significant concern, often three times higher than national averages.

32.33. Over the past two decades, the share of agriculture and industry in GDP has declined in favor of services, which now account for over half of national GDP in many countries. Mediterranean economies still depend heavily on unsustainable material consumption and carbon emissions, despite some improvements. High import dependency, particularly for fossil fuels and cereals, combined with trade deficits and non-diversified economies, limits resilience. Government debt has also risen, exceeding 100% of GDP in one-third of Mediterranean countries, posing risks to financial sustainability and public investment in the environment. At the regional level, current and emerging socio-economic and political challenges and their impacts remain major concerns for sustainable development.

33.34. In recent decades, production and consumption patterns in the Mediterranean have significantly changed due to demographic growth, urbanization, and rising living standards, leading to increased resource consumption and environmental degradation. The demand for processed food, manufactured goods, and coastal tourism has contributed to food loss, packaging waste, and the depletion of vital resources like water and energy. This situation is exacerbated by inefficient industrial processes and inadequate waste management. In 2016, the Barcelona Convention's Contracting Parties adopted the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), recognizing the need to change consumption patterns to protect marine and coastal environments³⁶.

1.3. Formulating the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-[2035] [2026-2035]

34.35. The update of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) is a composite process that combines different interrelated steps and required the development of a number of parallel activities, including the outcome of two independent evaluation process of the status of the implementation of the MSSD for the period 2016-2025. The MSSD formulation process was inclusive and led by the members of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable development and inputs provided by experts through the establishment of technical groups on Circular Economy, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Ocean Economy/Sustainable Finance.

³⁶ 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean: Summary for Decision Makers (SoED 2020)

2. MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2016 [2035] [2026-2035]: OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND ACTIONS

35-36. The aim of this Strategy is to provide a strategic policy framework to secure a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region and efficiently deliver SDGs at regional and national level. To this end, the rationale behind the Strategy is the need to harmonise the interactions between socio-economic and environmental goals, in line with the SDG and 2030 Agenda to adapt international commitments to regional conditions, to guide national sustainable development strategies, and to stimulate regional cooperation between stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development. In this respect, sustainable development translates into the need to take into account environmental, social and economic goals in decision-making at all scales and across all sectors. The Strategy is underpinned by the conviction that investment in the environment, decarbonization, climate resilience and circular, green and blue economy is the best way to protect Mediterranean sea and coasts and secure long-term, sustainable job creation and socio-economic development, and an essential vehicle for the achievement of social and economic objectives. Education for Sustainable Development as a Cross-Cutting enabler supports all MSSD objectives.³⁷

36-37. The Strategy is built around the following vision:
A prosperous, climate resilient, and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity and in the limit of acceptable change of biologically diverse healthy, productive, conserved, restored wisely used and effectively managed ecosystems.

37-38. This is achieved through common objectives, shared actions, strong involvement of all stakeholders, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.

38-39. This vision is encapsulated in the subtitle of the Strategy, which is '*Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social well-being and economic development*'.

39-40. A set of guiding principles also informs the Strategy: the importance of an integrated approach to environmental and development planning; an openness to a plurality of future development models; a balanced approach to territorial development; the precautionary and polluter pays principles; and the Do No Significant Harm Principle (DNSH); a participatory approach to policy and decision-making; the management of demand in order to reduce consumptions; the importance of evidence-based policy; the reconciliation of long- and short-term for planning and evaluation (at least over a few decades); transparency, accountability³⁸ and, the partnership between the MAP system and other international and regional organizations.

40-41. The Strategy focuses on addressing cross-cutting issues that lie in the interface between environment and development. It is based on a set of cross-cutting themes that were chosen to provide scope for an integrated approach to address sustainability issues, as follows: Seas and coasts; Source to Sea; Natural resources, rural development and food; Water-Energy-Food -Ecosystem Nexus; Sustainable cities; Climate; Transition towards a green and blue economy; Governance.

41-42. The first four themes reflect a territorial approach, where complex sustainability issues can be addressed together: a concern over seas and coasts was a major outcome of Rio+20, as well as a cornerstone of the cooperation under the Barcelona Convention; the Source-to-Sea approach was highlighted in the Portoroz Ministerial Declaration of COP 23; rural areas provide a context for addressing a set of inter-related rural issues; and, cities were the theme of the Istanbul 18th Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2013. The four cross-cutting themes that follow are the Water-Energy-Food -Ecosystem Nexus, which is an integrated approach, very important for achieving the SDGs; climate change, which is a major sustainability issue from a global and regional perspective; the green and blue³⁹ economy, which provides a key link between the environment and the economy and is a major focus of the Rio+20 Summit; and governance, which emerged during the consultation as a key issue for implementing sustainability in the Mediterranean region. These themes have been used as a basis for formulating the six objectives of the Strategy, as follows:

³⁷ Comment by Cyprus

³⁸ Comment by EcoUnion

³⁹ Comment by EcoUnion

- 1 Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and⁴⁰ Transition as a priority
- 2 Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems⁴¹
- 3 Promote sustainable resource management especially waterfood security and systems through sustainable forms of rural development
- 4 Plan-and manage sustainable, resilient Mediterranean cities
- 5 Accelerate transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance
- 6 Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development.

42-43. These objectives correspond closely to the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, as indicated in Table 1 below. Nevertheless, due to the cross-cutting nature of the objectives, almost all the Sustainable Development Goals are indirectly relevant to all the Strategy's objectives

Table 1. Linking the objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 [2035] [2026-2035] to the Sustainable Development Goals

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 [2035] [2026-2035] objectives	Sustainable Development Goals
1 Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and ⁴² Transition as a priority	7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all ⁴³ 13. Take urgent action to mitigate climate change and its impacts
2 Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems	6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
3 Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems	2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
4 Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities	6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all ⁴⁴ 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation ⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Comment by PAM

⁴¹ Comment by Malta: it is important to consider realistic timeframes for restoration. For such purpose the strategy should acknowledge the need to assess progress and revise the timelines accordingly

⁴² Comment by PAM

⁴³ Comment by EcoUnion, Greece and Tunisia

⁴⁴ Comment by EcoUnion

⁴⁵ Comment by Greece

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 [2035] [2026-2035] objectives	Sustainable Development Goals
	11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns ⁴⁶
5 Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance	8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
6 Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development	5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries ⁴⁷ 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
7. Cross-cutting sustainable development goals related to social issues	1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all 8- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all ⁴⁸ 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

The six objectives represent the backbone of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 [2035] [2026-2035]. Each objective covers a range of sustainability issues, as presented in Box 1:

Box 1. List of issues addressed by the six objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016- [2035] [2026-2035]
1. Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority ➤ Scientific knowledge and tools on climate change not sufficiently accessible and used for decision-making ➤ The damage caused by climate change, including extreme events and long-term steady changes, increases in key vulnerable populations and economic⁴⁹ sectors ➤ Insufficient number of adaptation plans and accompanying capacities to implement them ➤ Growing trend of greenhouse gas emissions within and beyond the energy and industry sector ➤ Slow pace in emergence of climate-friendly societies due to limited access to best available technologies and alternative development practices ➤ Climate change adaptation and mitigation costs largely unmet at national and local levels, ➤ Untapped potential of Circular economy practices and Sustainable Business Models to foster climate change mitigation/adaptation ➤ Over-reliance on public funding and state-led initiatives ➤ Need to improve the understanding on the assessment process and communication on the progress made by Mediterranean countries in implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).⁵⁰ ➤ Lack of a common Mediterranean energy strategy and need to improve energy cooperation ➤ Still poor dissemination, awareness-raising, and media communication on the issues and challenges of climate

⁴⁶ Comment by Greece

⁴⁷ Comment by Greece

⁴⁸ Comment by Tunisia

⁴⁹ Comment by EcoUnion

⁵⁰ Comment by Tunisia

change. ⁵¹
➤ Disruption of water, food and energy access (WEFE nexus) ⁵²
2. Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems
Continued environmental degradation and increased risks from marine pollution and marine noise including from plastic pollution and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) ⁵³
➤ Loss of biodiversity and introduction of Non-indigenous species ➤ Ecosystem fragmentation and degradation ➤ Unsustainable exploitation of living resources in ecological systems, ➤ Impacts from exploitation of non-living marine resources including hydrocarbons ➤ Incidental catches and collisions with threatened or endangered species and/or species in bad conservation ➤ Protected sensitive or vulnerable⁵⁴ areas at risk from insufficient spatial coverage, planning, management and funding ➤ Increased linear coastal urbanization resulting in inadequate protection and management of land, urban sprawl owing to illegal construction and gentrification of coasts, and unrestricted tourism development leading to loss of public and natural open spaces ➤ Increased coastal vulnerability to natural hazards such as flooding and erosion
3. Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems
<i>Natural resources and ecosystem services</i>
➤ Loss of biodiversity and local varieties of crops and indigenous breeds from: ▪ Overexploitation or illegal use of water and other natural resources ▪ Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, and lack of appropriate valuation ▪ Non-indigenous and invasive species ▪ Genetically modified organisms and Intensive monocultures/single-crop farming⁵⁵ ▪ Climate change ➤ Pollution of soil, water and air and extraction of limited natural resources⁵⁶ ➤ Degradation and fragmentation of terrestrial ecosystems, notably wetlands, forests, dunes, as well as use of non-regenerative practices Insufficient awareness of ecosystem services and their economic benefits from society, industries and policymakers, and lack of appropriate valuation ➤ Cross-border issues in the management of natural resources and livestock production
<i>Rural development and food</i>
➤ Need to promote circular approaches to the use of natural resources in food production especially in the use of water for irrigation ➤ Vulnerability of small producers to economic and climatic changes and natural resource scarcity ➤ Low provision of social services and infrastructure in certain rural areas ➤ Loss of agricultural land, erosion and desertification, coupled with an expanding rural exodus⁵⁷ ➤ Socio-economic inequalities affecting rural populations, particularly women and youth ➤ Logistical deficit at local, national and regional levels, including lack of access of local and small producers to land, water, credit, and markets ➤ Agricultural production and market controlled by large players, leaving limited access for small- scale producers and local products ➤ Loss of traditional know-how and aging farmers ➤ Insufficient collective organization and lack of participation of local communities in natural resource management ➤ Insufficient consideration of water, ecosystems, food and energy, in line with the WEFE nexus approach

⁵¹ Comment by Tunisia

⁵² Comment by EcoUnion

⁵³ Comment by PAM

⁵⁴ Comment by EcoUnion

⁵⁵ Comment by PAM

⁵⁶ Comment by EcoUnion

⁵⁷ Comment by Tunisia

4. Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities

- Urban quality of life and health degraded by traffic congestion, noise, poor air quality, inadequate supply of sanitation and increased generation of urban waste and untreated urban wastewater
- Resilience reduced by natural and human-induced risks, particularly those triggered by climate change
- Unsatisfactory urban economic and social cohesion, especially in slums and informal urban settlements, which is further increased by regional territorial imbalances, resulting in rural migration to large cities that increases urban poverty
- Increased demand for energy, coupled with inefficient use of energy, and low usage of renewable energy sources
- Degradation of historic urban areas
- Increase circularity and reuse of construction and demolition waste as well as create more robust and resilient infrastructure, and raise awareness about the dangers represented by organized crime and toxic waste⁵⁸
- Continued rise in waste generation and food waste due to growing population and increased consumption patterns
- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns that negatively impact energy consumption and transportation choices
- Low capacity of local authorities for youth sensitive, integrated forms of urban management, children and the elderly/disabled person.⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Comment by PAM

⁵⁹ Comment by Tunisia

5. Accelerate Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance

- Socio-economic inequalities between and within countries and high unemployment in particular for youth and women
- Just Economic growth that does not take into account environmental, gender and social impacts, including living wages and fair employment conditions for all
- Unsustainable lifestyles based on high resource-consumption patterns and low recycling rates, limited consumer awareness and insufficient product information
- insufficient education and raising-awareness policies/strategies addressed the entire society for adopting sustainable consumption patterns and understanding the benefits of recycling and circular economy
- Infrastructure Limitations on existing waste management and recycling systems to handle the scale of circular economy initiatives, requiring significant investment and upgrade
- Difficult adoption of Circular Economy practices within the business and industry sector, especially for micro and small companies, due to higher initial investment costs and risk exposure
- Lack of financial incentives and policy support for businesses to adopt circular practices
- Environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS) and inefficient production facilities
- Investment flows financing unsustainable facilities and inefficient infrastructure
- Policy uncertainties increasing the risk of investments in green technologies and processes
- Need to enhance green financing instruments and appropriate-regulatory frameworks and economic mechanisms/incentives as well as, to address the existence of harmful subsidies
- Wrong price/market signals and fiscal incentives not valuing intangible and natural capital and externalities
- A lack of reliable data to assess the environmental impacts and economic benefits of circular practices makes it challenging to promote and scale these initiatives effectively.
- Inefficient trade markets and cooperation at regional level
- Low level of regional economic competitiveness
- Lack of targeted policy measures aiming at developing sustainable business models that generate both socio-economic, gender-oriented and environmental benefits
- Lack of criteria that take due consideration of environmental, climate and in general sustainability objectives in the selection of public and private investments (green taxonomy)
- Relatively high dependence on natural resources for economic development
- Reduced incentive and weak support/guidance for young start-up researchers⁶⁰

6. Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development

- Poor capacities for responding to emergencies, and poor understanding of the relationship between population flows and environmental sustainability
- Lack of both human and financial resources and competences within local authorities and local communities⁶¹
- Non adequate involvement of stakeholders, and consensus building mechanisms, including non-state actors' ones as youth and women, private sector and financial institutions
- Low level of participation and empowerment in decision-making at various levels
- Fragmentation of responsibility in different levels of governance and between sectors, and lack of decentralization
- Lack of coherence and synergies between policies at different levels of decision-making across sectors in the long-term and across borders (Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development - PCSD)
- Insufficient planning, management, implementation and monitoring of existing legal instruments
- Scientific knowledge and tools relevant for sustainable development not sufficiently accessible and used for decision-making Inadequate awareness, education, and research and innovation regarding the understanding of sustainable development challenges and opportunities
- Need to advance public trusteeship concepts in the existing instruments for better and more equitable governance and more effective and efficient public participation+
- Insufficient levels of awareness among Members of National and International Parliaments of the importance of

⁶⁰ Comment by Tunisia

⁶¹ Comment by EcoUnion

their role in fostering sustainable development practices and legislations⁶² ➤ Insufficiency, unavailability of scientific knowledge and data and insufficient use for better informed policy making ➤ lack of coordination mechanisms and tools to ensure vertical and horizontal collaboration among different levels of government and among different sectors
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43.44. A set of strategic directions has been formulated for each of the six objectives of the Strategy, in order to ensure that the relevant issues are addressed. Table 2 lists the strategic directions for each objective. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the objectives, there are interlinkages between the strategic directions, and the implementation of one strategic direction may synergistically affect the implementation of another. Further strategic directions and actions have been elaborated in Chapter 3, which focuses on ensuring implementation and monitoring of the Strategy. Education for Sustainable Development is critical and is embedded cross cuttingly in the MSSD.⁶³

Table 2. Strategic directions under the objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016- [2035] [2026-2035]

Objective	Strategic direction
1. Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority	1.1: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems
	1.2: Accelerate the uptake of climate smart and climate resilient responses
	1.3: Leverage existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms, including international and domestic instruments, and enhance the engagement of the private and finance sectors
	1.4: Encourage institutional, policy, legal and legislative reforms and initiatives ⁶⁴ for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks in all sectors
	1.5 Promote economy decarbonization energy transition and deployment of renewable energies
	1.6 Strengthen national and local capacities on the application of nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation
2. Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems	2.1 Strengthen implementation, compliance and monitoring with regional requirements of regulatory and policy frameworks of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention for coastal and marine management
	2.2 Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources
	2.3: Promote well connected-ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and nature-based solutions at national, transboundary and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss
3. Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems	3.1: Promote the circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region
	3.2: Promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions

⁶² Comment by PAM

⁶³ Comments by Cyprus

⁶⁴ Comments by PAM

Objective	Strategic direction
	3.3: Promote inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, One Health⁶⁵, food security, women's empowerment and youth employment, including equitable and sustainable access to basic local services for rural communities 3.4: Ensure access of local producers to distribution channels and markets, including the tourism market
4. Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities	4.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment 4.2: Encourage inclusive urbanization and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management 4.3: Promote the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban areas 4.4: Promote sustainable production, use of sustainable products and effective waste management within the context of a more circular economy, as well as foster sustainable consumption patterns among citizens 4.5: Promote urban spatial patterns and technological options that reduce the demand for transportation, improve urban air quality and stimulate sustainable mobility and accessibility in urban areas 4.6: Promote green infrastructures and renewable energies and improve energy efficiency to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment 4.7: Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards including climate change
5. Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance	5.1: Create green, just and decent jobs for all, particularly youth and women, to eradicate poverty and enhance social inclusion 5.2: Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, to support the shift towards circular economy approaches and sustainable business models 5.3: Encourage innovation, public private partnerships⁶⁶ and sustainable solutions to advance towards the objectives of a just low-carbon, circular, green and blue economy 5.4: Promote the integration of sustainability, circularity and climate change principles and criteria on the programming and evaluation frameworks of⁶⁷ public and private investment 5.5: Promote an integrated financial ecosystem through a Mediterranean Framework for Green and Sustainable Finance aiming to foster the channeling of private and public capital into sustainable investments.
6. Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development.	6.1: Enhance regional, sub-regional and cross-border dialogue and cooperation, including on emergency-preparedness 6.2 Strengthen the role, awareness and capacities of sub-national and local governments/ municipalities and of National and Regional Parliaments⁶⁸ for implementing national and subnational sustainable development strategies and thus contribute to the achievement of SDG and MSSD objectives 6.3: Promote the engagement of civil society, scientists, youth and women, financial institutions, private sector, local communities and other stakeholders in the governance process at all levels, in order to secure inclusive whole of society processes and integrity in decision-making 6.4: Promote the implementation, and monitoring of the SD Strategies at all levels of government, considering synergies and tradeoffs between different policies and sectors, including intersectional management (WEFE NEXUS)

⁶⁵ Comment by PAM

⁶⁶ Comment by PAM

⁶⁷ Change proposed by Italy

⁶⁸ Comment by PAM

Objective	Strategic direction
	through by improving ⁶⁹ policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) based on whole of government approach, inter-ministerial coordination and multi-level government
	6.5: Promote education and research for sustainable development
	6.6: Strengthen regional capabilities for information management and enhance the promotion of evidence-informed policymaking and foresight

44.45. The strategic directions are complemented by actions to be taken at national and regional levels, which are accompanied by a broad indication of Responsible Actors, timeframes and indicators. Flagship initiatives are also identified, which demonstrate the vision of the Strategy in an exemplary way; these initiatives are indicative of a regional or (multi) national action that carries significant potential for results, demonstration and visibility.

45.46. A set of targets has also been developed for the Strategy, bearing in mind its focus on the interface between the environment and socio-economic development. The main source for the targets was the Sustainable Development Goals. The targets are summarised by objective in Table 3 below and appear in the Strategy under the relevant objective and strategic direction.

Table 3. Targets in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016- [2035] [2026-2035]

46.47. The MSSD 2016- [2035] [2026-2035] aims at contributing to an ambitious set of targets through the implementation of its flagship initiatives and actions at regional, national and local scale. Its targets are inspired by the global agenda for sustainability and SDGs of relevance for the Mediterranean Region, considering its specificities.

MSSD Objectives	Targets
Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority	Target 1: By 2030, Contracting Parties to minimize the impact of climate change and Mediterranean Sea acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as well as investments on climate-resilient infrastructures, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity
	Target 2 Option 1 By 2030 Contracting Parties have in place national climate change adaptation strategies
	Target 2: Option 2 By 2030 Contracting Parties should develop strategies that include information on climate change risks, its priorities, plans and actions to build adaptation and climate resilience
	Target 3: by 2030 Contracting Parties [to the Barcelona Convention] should develop and submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5°C, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 43% and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050
	Target 4: By 2030, Contracting Parties will reach a minimum of 20% of renewable energy in their energy mix, by increasing the renewable energy share derived from renewable resources in total final consumption, thus encouraging shifting towards energy transition, including soil management and food systems transformation and building sectors

⁶⁹ Comment by Greece

Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems	Target 5: By 2030, Contracting Parties have ratified the Barcelona Convention Protocols and the appropriate legislative measures to implement them at the national level have been already taken
	Target 6: By 2030 Good Environmental Status of marine and coastal environment is maintained and enhanced through effective implementation of Ecosystem Approach and commitment under Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
	Target 7: By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, and sustainably managed by applying ecosystem-based approaches including biodiversity and climate change-informed marine spatial planning, and by conducting environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments
	Target 8: By 2030 Contracting Parties shall ensure effective implementation of the legally binding measures adopted under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols on wastewater, marine litter, plastic pollution and under IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention and its Annexes)
Promote sustainable resources management, especially water, food security and systems through sustainable forms of rural development	Target 9: By 2030, Mediterranean Countries [ensure that have] at least 75% of their population using safely managed drinking water services and at least 30% using safely managed sanitation in a multi-level context of water stress, competing demands and growing shortages, particularly for vulnerable populations and women.
	Target 10: By 2030, [Contracting Parties Mediterranean Countries] will ensure that at least 90% of the population has access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food all year round, through the promotion of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems, including local supply chains.
Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities	Target 11: By 2030, all Mediterranean countries have substantially reduced waste generation through prevention, recycling and reuse, particularly by ensuring that at least 60% of municipal solid waste is sustainably recycled, composted or managed, including separate collection and material recovery, including biowaste, with emphasis on packaging waste and on the most environmentally damaging SUP products as a priority.
	Target 12: By 2030 ⁵⁹ , Contracting Parties/ Mediterranean Countries have adopted regulatory and policy frameworks with ambitious health-based standards for indoor and outdoor air quality, in in line with the World Health Organization (WHO).
Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance	Target 13: By 2030, Contracting Parties/ Mediterranean Countries have in place effective regulatory and policy frameworks, including economic incentives, aimed at facilitating the development of sustainable business models that integrate circularity and eco-innovation principles in the green and blue economies, while contributing to the development of non-pollutant and socially inclusive economies, in line with the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan for the Mediterranean.
	Target 14: By 2035 Contracting Parties/ Mediterranean Countries have established sustainable finance frameworks that mobilize capital towards green and sustainable investments, while fostering collaboration among all stakeholders.
Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in	Target 15: By 2030, Contracting Parties/ Mediterranean Countries have [institutional formal] mechanisms in place to ensure subsidiarity and synergies between policies at different levels of decision-making and across sectors in the

support of resilience and sustainable development.	long-term and across borders thus enhancing policy coherence on sustainable development (PCSD), including involvement of stakeholders.
	Target 16 : By 2030, ensure that all learners, including the general public, acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.
	Target 17: By 2030, 59, Mediterranean Countries Contracting Parties have acceded to the Aarhus Convention.

47-48. The Strategy takes as a given the implementation of all national, regional and international obligations relevant to the Mediterranean, even if it does not explicitly mention them.

48-49. The actions proposed are aimed at providing guidance and inspiration, as they summarize the opportunities for developing national actions and regional collaboration within and outside the MAP system for the most effective implementation of the Strategy. It is understood that not all countries may have the necessity or the resources to undertake all the proposed national level actions. It may be preferable, in line with national planning procedures, to adapt the proposed actions to national needs. National actions should therefore serve as a reference framework to help countries design national policies to implement the strategic directions. For the purposes of the Strategy, which has a focus on the Mediterranean region, sub-national regional authorities are included under the term 'local authorities'.

Objective 1: Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority

Vision and Actions

49-50. Addressing climate change is a priority for the Mediterranean. As highlighted in the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Mediterranean region, considered one of the world's major climate change hotspots, is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of global warming.

50-51. Climate variability and change is already becoming increasingly evident in the Mediterranean. In recent decades, warm days and nights, heat waves, extreme precipitation and soil dryness have increased and cold days and nights have decreased. Regarding sea level rise, there are areas in the Mediterranean Sea with current average increases of more than 6 mm/year, but also with decreases of more than 4 mm/year.³² All model projections agree on the region's future warming and drying with potential huge risks and costs to the region's economy, population centres and biodiversity. More specifically, in the first MedECC Assessment Report annual average temperatures on land and sea across the Mediterranean Basin are 1.54°C higher than during pre-industrial times and they are projected to rise until 2100 by an additional 3.8 to 6.5°C for a high greenhouse gas concentration scenario and 0.5 to 2.0°C for a scenario compatible with the long-term goal of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement to keep the global temperature well below +2°C above the pre-industrial level⁷⁰.

51-52. In the near future, warm temperature extremes will increase and heat waves will intensify in duration and peak temperatures. For 2°C of global warming above the pre-industrial value, maximum daytime temperatures in the Mediterranean will likely increase by 3.3°C. With 4°C global warming, nearly all nights will be tropical (nighttime temperature for at least five days above a location-dependent threshold) and there will be almost no cold days (below a location-dependent threshold) with dramatic effect on populations. Since the beginning of the 1980s, average Mediterranean Sea surface temperatures have increased throughout the basin, but with large sub-regional differences in the range between +0.29 and +0.44°C per decade, with stronger trends in the eastern basins (Adriatic, Aegean, Levantine and north-east Ionian Sea), marine heat waves have become longer and more intense.

52-53. Despite strong regional variations, summer rainfall will likely be reduced by 10 to 30% in some regions,

⁷⁰ 2020 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

increasing existing water shortages, desertification and decreasing agricultural productivity. Aquifer recharge will be strongly impacted by warming and reduced rainfall, particularly in semi-arid areas. At current extraction rates, overexploitation of groundwater is likely to continue having a greater impact on decreasing groundwater levels than climate change⁷¹.

53.54. Depending on the extent of climatic disruption, the consequences of climate change are expected to worsen already critical situations present in the region. The Mediterranean will face an increased risk of desertification and soil degradation, sea level rise, an increase in the duration and intensity of droughts, changes in species composition, habitat losses, and agricultural and forests production losses, resulting in an increased risk of coastal erosion, infrastructure damage and threatened water and food security. Changes in climate are also affecting and modifying the composition of forest stands and mix of species that affect carbon storage and balance. Social acceptance of these changes has to be taken into account by managers in a dynamic conservation forest perspective. The Middle East and North Africa region, which already has one of the lowest water availabilities per capita world-wide, is expected to be more severely affected. These risks all have social and human impacts related to increased vulnerability, particularly for the groups already living in poor conditions. In addition, given the inherent physical characteristics of small islands, which are emblematic of the Mediterranean Sea, the Sixth Assessment Report reconfirms their high level of vulnerability to climate stressors.

54.55. All Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols have ratified the Paris Agreement and are officially committed to achieve global peaking and 'climate neutrality' by the second half of the century. The contribution of the region to global greenhouse gas emissions is low: in 2021, Mediterranean countries contributed to 1,2% of the global CO₂ emissions but varies considerably. Since 2018, CO₂ emissions have decreased in most of the Mediterranean countries except Libya, Morocco, Malta, Algeria and less in Tunisia and Türkiye. The COVID-19 period contributed to reducing CO₂ emissions but since 2021 the trend is again rising. In the northern Mediterranean, the CO₂ emissions per capita are extremely diverse: from 1.6 tons per capita in Albania to above 5.95 tons in Slovenia, in 2021. The differences in CO₂ emissions per capita are also significant in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries: from 1.26 tons in the Syrian Arab Republic to 11 tons in Libya⁷². Nevertheless, carbon footprints are increasing steadily in southern Mediterranean countries as well, which highlights the need to mitigate climate change. In particular, the energy sector, accounting for 85 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in the Middle East and North Africa region³³, and the transport sector play a crucial role in mitigation efforts.

55.56. In the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable 2016- [2035] [2026-2035] a range of actions were recommended to address common adaptation and mitigation challenges. Other climate change-related initiatives have followed, in particular the Union for the Mediterranean Expert Group on Climate Change, with a mandate to provide a multilateral and multi-stakeholder platform for exchange of information, best practices, and opportunities for cross-border cooperation.

56.57. However, progress towards a green, low-carbon and climate-resilient Mediterranean region remains limited and constrained by a number of issues and barriers that still need to be addressed. Scientific knowledge, data and information from research and monitoring systems remain insufficiently developed and shared. When such information resources have been developed, they are often not easily utilisable in decision-making processes. Moreover, even when information is utilisable, it is often not used. Awareness of the co-benefits of climate change policies for economic development is low, which hampers their implementation. Regional cooperation efforts are scattered and would benefit from better coordination. Persistent market distortions and substantial financing and technology gaps across the region limit the shift towards more climate-friendly development models, especially in the area of renewable energies and energy efficiency. In addition, public participation, the involvement of the private and finance sectors, and the capacity to benefit from international funding mechanisms need to be fostered.

57.58. Adapting to climate change is as important as addressing its root causes. The acknowledgement of the diverse socio-economic, environmental and political contexts within individual Mediterranean countries is also critical. The Mediterranean countries need to identify and develop a country-based approach as well as a regional approach to climate change adaptation, with common regional priorities in order to benefit from a more tailored and coordinated response and to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean to climate change. This is the main purpose of the updated Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the

⁷¹ First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) on "Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future", MedECC, 2020

⁷² Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development dashboard indicator No. 21 (2023 data)

Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Zones (RCCAF) framework will assist stakeholders and policy makers at all levels across the Mediterranean in order to: (i) promote appropriate institutional and policy frameworks, increase awareness and stakeholder engagement and enhance capacity building and cooperation; (ii) Identify, assess and implement best practices (including low regret measures) for effective and sustainable adaptation to climate change impacts; (iii) promote leveraging of existing and emerging finance mechanisms relevant to climate change adaptation, including international and domestic instruments; (iv) promote better informed decision-making through research and scientific cooperation and improved availability and use of reliable data, information and tools.

58:59. The Mediterranean region is at a crossroads with regard to climate change and development. If left unaddressed, climate change will pose a serious risk to economic growth and may jeopardize achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in most Mediterranean countries. Climate change is no longer considered an environmental or scientific issue but rather a developmental challenge that requires urgent and dynamic policy and technical responses at the regional, national and local levels. Adaptation is not only about responding directly to the impacts of climate change but also about addressing wider sources of existing vulnerabilities. Mitigation is not only about avoiding dangerous climate change but also an opportunity to re-orientate the way natural resources are used, in more sustainable directions.

Objective 1: Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	<u>Relevant Global Indicators</u> <u>SDGs</u>
Target 1: By 2030, Contracting Parties to minimize the impact of climate change and Mediterranean Sea acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as well as investments on climate-resilient infrastructures, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity	MSSD Core indicator 6 a), Atmospheric Surface temperature; 6 b), Sea surface temperature <u>NEW Indicator Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations</u>	SDG Indicator 14.3.1: <u>Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations</u> Target 8 Indicators of KMGBF: Component indicators — Total climate regulation services provided by ecosystems by ecosystem type (System of Environmental Economic Accounts) — Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 that include biodiversity — National greenhouse inventories from land use and land-use change - Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience Index (BERI) Complementary indicators — Above-ground biomass stock in forests (tonnes/ha) — National greenhouse inventories from land use

Objective 1: Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority		
		and land-use change — Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies — Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications — Index of coastal eutrophication - Carbon stocks and annual net GHG emissions, by land-use category, split by natural and non-natural land cover
Target 2 Option 1 By 2030 Contracting Parties have in place national climate change adaptation strategies Target 2 Option 2 By 2030 Contracting Parties should develop strategies that include information on climate change risks, its priorities, plans and actions to build adaptation and climate resilience		SDG Indicator 13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Target 3: by 2030 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention should develop and submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5°C, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 43% and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050	MSSD Dashboard indicator 21, Green House Gas emissions per capita (related to GDP) [MSSD] MSSD Core indicator 5, Carbon dioxide emissions per capita	SDG 13, Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Indicator 13.2.1, Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Indicator 13.2.2, Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Objective 1: Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority		
Target 4: By 2030, Contracting Parties will reach a minimum of 20% of renewable energy in their energy mix, by increasing the renewable energy share derived from renewable resources in total final consumption, thus encouraging shifting towards energy transition, including soil management and food systems transformation and building sectors	MSSD Dashboard Indicator 22b Renewable energy share in the total energy consumption	SDG 7, Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Indicator 7.2.1, Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

59-60. Climate change policies need to be based on sound scientific knowledge and data, coupled with awareness raising and technical capacities to ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems (strategic direction 1.1). At a national level, the Strategy focuses on the strengthening of monitoring systems and the establishment of innovative communication programmes with the cooperation of academic institutions, centres of excellence and national and intergovernmental institutions, and also through dedicated education programmes and sensitization campaigns. It also emphasizes assessment and enhancing the climate change adaptation capacity of ecosystems such as coasts, wetlands and forests, as well as their mitigation services, as in the case of forests and marine areas – considering that these actions are often already available without the need for upfront investment **as well as the need to support Countries in developing legal indicators for efficient climate governance**. At a regional level, the Strategy promotes a Mediterranean research agenda to be implemented through synergies, data sharing and harmonization, and regional level education through various schemes such as massive open online course (MOOC) programmes on Mediterranean climate change issues and responses. This section contains also a regional action for enhancing regional capacities for climate change monitoring and analysis through multi-country data-sharing agreements and integration of existing climate observation and early warning systems. This calls for the promotion of harmonised indicators and tools for climate change vulnerability and mitigation assessments such as climate risk analysis and adaptation planning under uncertainty, disaster risk management, climate change economic costs, as well as monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions/reductions in greenhouse gases. The flagship initiative **Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC)**, an open and independent international scientific expert network, providing information to decision-makers and the general public on the basis of available scientific information and on-going research, further focuses on the **promotion** of a regional science-policy interface mechanism, including the social and behavioral sciences, with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation option, **as the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MARI)⁷³, the Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks in the Mediterranean⁷⁴ and the Special Report Interlinking climate change with the Water – Energy – Food – Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin⁷⁵.**

Strategic Direction 1.1: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		

⁷³ <https://www.medecc.org/medecc-reports/climate-and-environmental-change-in-the-mediterranean-basin-current-situation-and-risks-for-the-future-1st-mediterranean-assessment-report/>

⁷⁴ <https://www.medecc.org/medecc-reports/med-coastal-risks/>

⁷⁵ <https://www.medecc.org/medecc-reports/climate-wefe-nexus/>

Strategic Direction 1.1: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
1.1.1. Upgrade, sustain and expand climate, weather and water monitoring systems.	National governments, government specialized agencies, National and Regional Parliaments ⁷⁶ regional and global institutions, academia	2030
1.1.2. Assess, communicate, protect and enhance climate change adaptation capacity of ecosystems such as coasts, wetlands and forests, as well as their mitigation services, as in the case of forests and marine areas.	National governments, government specialized agencies, National and Regional Parliaments , regional and global institutions, academia	2030
1.1.3. Establish national climate clearinghouses to ensure that the relevant knowledge, data and information reach the various types of stakeholders.	National governments, academia, regional and global institutions, private sector	2030
1.1.4. Raise public awareness through environmental education campaigns, youth events and ensure climate change is mainstreamed in the formal educational curricula, including through dedicated courses.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments , local authorities, regional and global institutions, academia, civil society, youth	2030
1.1.5. Ensure training programs for local authorities and community leaders, teachers, educational stakeholders, youth to increase knowledge on climate adaptation and resilience. ⁷⁷	Educational Institutions, academia, schools, professional development Institutions, Environmental Education Centers	2030
Regional		
1.1.6. Promote a Mediterranean research agenda on climate change by encouraging collaborative programmes and networking amongst research centres and universities.	Regional and global institutions, UfM , PAM , academia, research centres, civil society	2035
1.1.7. Enhance regional capacities for climate change monitoring and analysis through multi-country data-sharing agreements and integration of existing climate observation and early warning systems.	Regional and global institutions, PAM-CGS , academia, research centres, civil society	2030
1.1.8. Promote harmonised indicators and tools for climate change vulnerability and mitigation assessments, including climate risk analysis and adaptation planning under uncertainty, disaster risk management, climate change economic costs, as well as monitoring, reporting and verification of emissions/reductions in greenhouse gases.	Regional and global institutions, academia, specialized governmental agencies, civil society, MedECC	2030

⁷⁶ **Comment by PAM**

⁷⁷ **Comment by Cyprus**

Strategic Direction 1.1: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
1.1.9. Establish regional courses (promote a “Mediterranean Climate Change Literacy Program”) and diplomas; promote e-learning and massive open online course (MOOC) programmes on Mediterranean climate change issues and responses.	Regional and global institutions, academic networks, specialized governmental agencies, civil society, MedECC	2030
1.1.10. Develop legal indicators for efficient climate governance in the Mediterranean	Regional and global institutions, National and Regional Parliaments, academic networks, specialized governmental agencies, civil society	2030

~~60-61.~~ Strategic direction 1.2 seeks acceleration in the uptake of climate-smart and climate-resilient responses that can assist in addressing climate change issues. At a national level, a key action to be undertaken is the designing, financing and implementation of national technology investment plans for climate change. At the Mediterranean level, the Strategy promotes climate change adaptation and mitigation knowledge-sharing platforms and support mechanisms aiming at fostering collaborative R&D and innovation programmes between universities, governments and businesses, including start-ups and SMEs. This calls for the utilisation of existing structures within the MAP system to support the dissemination of regional climate knowledge, also hosting a web-based regional climate change clearinghouse mechanism that will contain information on climate change monitoring, research, practical tools and projects. A regional action focuses on the creation of a Mediterranean Climate Technology Initiative, taking advantage of such existing initiatives at the global, European and national levels.

Strategic Direction 1.2: Accelerate the uptake of climate smart and climate resilient responses		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
1.2.1. Design, finance and implement national technology investment plans for climate change.	National governments, regional and global institutions, private sector	2030
Regional		
1.2.2. Develop regional climate change adaptation and mitigation knowledge-sharing platforms and support mechanisms aiming at fostering collaborative R&D and innovation programmes between universities, governments and businesses, including start-ups and SMEs.	Regional and global institutions, academia, civil society, private sector	2030
1.2.3. Create climate change specific funding lines on innovation open to southern and eastern Mediterranean countries under large-scale international programmes (e.g. European Union Research Programmes Climate KIC, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)	Regional and global institutions, national governments, private sector, civil society	2030

1.2.4. Utilize existing structures within the MAP system and its partnerships ⁷⁸ , to support the dissemination of regional climate knowledge, also hosting a web-based regional climate change clearinghouse mechanism that will contain information on climate change monitoring, research, practical tools and projects.	UNEP/MAP, regional and global institutions, civil society, MedECC, PAM	2030
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~~61-62.~~ Strategic direction 1.3 focusses on the leverage of existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms, including international and domestic instruments, and on enhancing the engagement of the private and finance sectors. Financing in support of responses to climate change issues will be mobilised through various instruments including pricing, targeted subsidies, national funds, eco-taxes, concessional interest rates, and others as appropriate, at the national level, while encouraging the shift of public and private spending and consumption habits towards green and climate-friendly practices, processes and products. **New fund-raising opportunities need to be developed that advocates the legal frameworks and economic policies that incentivize green practices.** Conducive legal frameworks are also required. At a regional level, the focus is on assisting countries to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to improve access to international climate funding mechanisms, including non-conventional and innovative funding, and ensure effective delivery of funds.

Strategic Direction 1.3: Leverage existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms, including international and domestic instruments, and enhance the engagement of the private and finance sectors		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
1.3.1. Set up suitable domestic financial instruments to finance the costs of adaptation and mitigation efforts at national level while encouraging climate -friendly investment.	National governments, local authorities, private sector	2030
1.3.2. Establish conducive legal and legislative ⁷⁹ frameworks for leveraging private sector investments and developing partnerships between public and private actors in the delivery of climate change actions.	National governments, civil society, private sector	2030
1.3.3 Capacity building for stakeholders on bonds to access climate/green and sustainable finance ⁸⁰		2030
Regional		
1.3.4. Assist countries and relevant international organizations to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to improve access to international climate funding mechanisms, including non-conventional and innovative funding and ensure effective delivery of funds.	Regional institutions, national governments, National and Regional Parliaments,	2030

~~62-63.~~ Strategic direction 1.4 addresses mainstreaming climate change at the legislative and policy levels. It provides a particular focus on measures concerning energy and transport, and delivering sustainable no/low regret adaptation measures across all vulnerable sectors and territories such as coastal and urban areas, water

⁷⁸ Comment by PAM

⁷⁹ Comment by PAM

⁸⁰ Comment by Tunisia

management, agriculture, health, and tourism. The inclusion of climate measures into coastal policies and plans is particularly highlighted. With respect to energy, the Strategy seeks to mainstream climate change through scaling up investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, promoting universal energy access, reforming energy subsidies, and ensuring that energy projects are assessed for their climate impact. Coordination mechanisms will be reinforced and the effective involvement of local authorities in planning and implementation will be enhanced. At the regional level, the Strategy calls for enhancing national structures and strengthening the implementation of commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as implementing high-level regional initiatives including the UNEP/MAP **updated** Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and other regional initiatives. The national efforts will be supported by a regional climate change knowledge and innovation centre contributing also to regional coordination and cooperation. **Country-specific analysis of legal needs guided by regional climate objectives on climate change adaptation and project designed to support countries in this process, offering technical and financial assistance to strengthen legal frameworks is key to facilitating cross-border knowledge exchange and best practice sharing, allowing the region to make significant progress.**

Strategic Direction 1.4: Encourage institutional, policy legal and legislative reforms and initiatives for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks in all sectors		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
1.4.1. Mainstream climate change into national legislation and policies with a focus on measures concerning energy and transport and on delivering no/low regret adaptation measures across all vulnerable sectors and territories such as coastal and urban areas, water management, agriculture, health, and tourism; introduce climate change measures into urban and coastal policies and plans.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments , local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
1.4.2. Mainstream climate change in the energy sector through scaling up investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, promoting universal energy access and reforming energy subsidies and ensuring that energy projects are assessed for their climate impact.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2030
1.4.3. Establish designated climate change coordination mechanisms or utilize existing mechanisms within countries involving all relevant stakeholders.	National governments, local authorities, regional and international organizations, UfM, academia, civil society, private sector	2030
1.4.4. Enhance the leadership and capacity of local authorities addressing climate change issues, through twinning and capacity-building programmes and greater access to climate finance.	National governments, local authorities, regional and international organizations, academia, civil society, private sector	2030
1.4.5. Implement and monitor commitments and obligations under the UNFCCC climate agreement and its implementation mechanisms.	National governments, local authorities, civil society	2030
1.4.6. Implement high-level regional initiatives, including the UNEP/MAP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework, and other regional initiatives as appropriate.	Regional and international organizations, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society	2030

Strategic Direction 1.4: Encourage institutional, policy legal and legislative reforms and initiatives for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks in all sectors		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
1.4.7. Implement a country-specific analysis of legal needs guided by regional climate objectives on climate change adaptation	Regional and international organizations, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society	2030
Regional		
1.4.8. Provide policy tools and guidance through the available climate change knowledge and innovation platforms ⁸¹ for enhancing national governance, legal and investment frameworks in terms of climate change strategies and action plans and regional coordination and cooperation.	Regional and international organizations, national governments	2030
1.4.9. Mobilize resources and support for the development of trans- Mediterranean power grids for efficient utilization of renewable energy sources in the region, including solar energy.	Regional organizations, national governments, local authorities, private sector	2030

63-64 Strategic Direction 1.5 is strictly linked to Objective 5 Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance, as well as with Objective 4 Plan-and manage sustainable [and resilient] Mediterranean cities, Strategic Direction 4.6, Promote green infrastructures and renewable energies and improve energy efficiency, to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment. Related Actions under Strategic Direction 1.5 are therefore complementary. In 2021, Mediterranean countries contributed to 1,2% of the global CO2 emissions, while the expected impacts of climate and environmental changes necessitate an accelerated energy transition in the countries of this region to enable a secure, sustainable and inclusive development.⁸² In fact, economy decarbonization and deployment of renewable energies play a pivotal role in contributing to decline of the greenhouse gas emissions, and by leveraging on resource-efficient, low-carbon and circular economy as well as on a diverse range of renewable energy sources. At national level Action 1.5 proposes the development of country-specific cost-effective and inclusive economy decarbonisation policies and strategies/Actions Plans as well as the definition of complementary policies on reallocation of public/private sector budget/investment, long-term infrastructure planning, emissions pricing standards, as well as on labor market adaptation and related reskilling needs. The flagship initiative on delivering 1TW of renewable energy capacity in the Mediterranean by 2030 (TERAMED) stands as concrete response towards accelerating the uptake of climate-smart and climate-resilient.

Strategic Direction 1.5 Promote economy decarbonization energy transition and deployment of renewable energies		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
1.5.1 Design and deploy country-specific cost-effective and inclusive economy decarbonisation policies and strategies/Actions Plans, taking in due account through the pivotal role of green technologies, research and innovation, digitalization and Artificial Intelligence to support low-carbon economic ⁸³ activities	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments, sub-national and local authorities	2030

⁸¹ Comment by EcoUnion

⁸² Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin – Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

⁸³ Comment by EcoUnion

Strategic Direction 1.5 Promote economy decarbonization energy transition and deployment of renewable energies		
1.5.2 Definition of complementary policies on reallocation of public/private sector budget/investment, Long-term infrastructure planning, carbon ⁸⁴ emissions pricing standards and regulations to enhance the cost-effectiveness of decarbonisation strategies	National governments, private sector and investors	2030
1.5.3 Development of policies and Action Plans on labor market adaptation and related reskilling needs for a low-carbon and circular economy ⁸⁵	National governments, educational/academic institutions	2030
1.5.4 Development of policy frameworks and Plans to streamline renewable energy infrastructures and projects, including on renewable energy technologies, and catalyze private sector investments	National governments, sub-national and local authorities, private sector and investors	2030

64-65. Nature-based solutions are recognised for their potential to address the threats, providing multi-purpose solutions to support ecosystem restoration and enhancement of ecosystem services to protect society against negative impacts of climate change. In March 2022, the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly adopted the Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.5⁸⁶ on the definition of nature-based Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development, while at the UNFCCC COP27, nature-based solutions emerged for their potential to address climate change. Nature-based solutions are typically stakeholder-driven and tailored to regional conditions therefore it is key to empower regional and local authorities and stakeholder communities to identify and implement Nature-Based solutions on capacity building and knowledge sharing. To this aim, Action 1.6 focuses on the development of activities aimed at strengthening national and local capacities, while building on the exiting regional platforms and networking initiatives, including the EU Mission on adaptation to climate change and on water and ocean.

Strategic Direction 1.6 Strengthen national and local capacities on the application of nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
1.6.1 Assess the national and local capacity needs for implementing nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation	National governments, sub-national and local authorities	2030
1.6.2 National Guidelines for the development of national and local capacities for the application of nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation	National governments, sub-national and local authorities	2030

⁸⁴ Comment by EcoUnion

⁸⁵ Comment by EcoUnion

⁸⁶ <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39864/NATURE-BASED%20SOLUTIONS%20FOR%20SUPPORTING%20SUSTAINABLE%20DEVELOPMENT.%20English.pdf>

Strategic Direction 1.6 Strengthen national and local capacities on the application of nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
1.6.3 Promotion of trainings, educational programmes and learning platforms/hubs policies, knowledge and best practices on nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation	National governments, educational/academic institutions Environmental Education/ESD Centers ⁸⁷	2030
Regional		
1.6.4 Support national, sub-national and local capacities to participate and set up regional and sub-regional projects, networks and Platforms on best practices exchanges on Nature-Based Solutions, taking also into account the activities and network of the EU Mission on adaptation to climate change water and ocean and future developments	National governments, sub-national and local authorities, regional and sub-regional organizations/institutions	2035

Objective 2: Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems

Vision and Actions

65-66. The objective focusing on healthy marine and coastal areas sits firmly and historically in the basin approach taken by the MAP and the Barcelona Convention. The 1975 MAP was the first ever regional seas programme under the UNEP umbrella. The Barcelona Convention was adopted in 1976 by the Mediterranean countries and the European Community. Since then various protocols have been adopted under the Convention to help with the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions. The protocols currently cover dumping from ships and aircraft, oil and harmful pollution emergencies, land-based pollution, specially protected areas and biological diversity, pollution from exploitation of the continental shelf, hazardous wastes and, most recently, integrated coastal zone management.

66-67. In the last decade the Convention has actively worked on developing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) approach and framework, recognizing it as an essential component of integrated coastal zone management.

67-68. The 2005 Strategy established the sea and coastal zones as one of its seven priority fields of action, deeming this priority as essential in making real progress in the sustainable development of the Mediterranean. In the years since its adoption, there have been a number of sub-regional, regional and global developments relevant to this objective, which include:

- **Higher profile for marine issues within sustainable development.** Rio+20 increased the focus on marine issues through its chapter on oceans and seas. In addition, there is increasing recognition of the role of marine areas in economic development, as the concept of the blue economy illustrates. In addition, at the Mediterranean level, the Istanbul Declaration¹⁹ contains a commitment from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, “to make the Mediterranean an exemplary model in implementing activities effectively protecting the marine and coastal environment as well as contributing to sustainable development”.

- **The COP23 Ministerial Declaration commits the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to intensify the activities at all levels, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to a swift update of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 in order to effectively implement 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.**

⁸⁷ Comment by Cyprus

- **Growing relevance of the MSSD and of the awareness of the global community and the Contracting Parties on the importance to connect SDG-14 (Life below the Sea) with the other SDGs**, particularly those with ocean-related targets. Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development support Governments in opening up to new and concrete opportunities to secure the sustainable long-term development of the sea⁸⁸. Marine Spatial Planning approach can be a concrete example of a tool that concretely enhances linkages among SDGs at national and regional level.
- **Stronger regional policy instruments under the Barcelona Convention.** The adoption (2008) and entry into force (2011) of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, **including the 2023 Conceptual Framework for Implementing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)** recognized the importance of an integrated management approach for the sustainable development of coastal zones. In addition, since 2008 the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention committed to apply the ecosystem-based approach – through the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap – to the management of human activities while enabling a sustainable use of marine goods and services, with the view to achieving or maintaining good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions, their protection and preservation, as well as preventing their subsequent deterioration.
- **Sub-regional policy development.** The European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008) and the associated criteria and indicators have become applicable to European Union Member States. In addition, Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is recognised as an important tool for integrated planning. The European Union Macro Regional Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is also being implemented at sub-regional level, with a pillar focusing especially on Blue Growth.
- **Launch of a regional process since 2008 aiming at the establishment of protected areas in the areas beyond national jurisdiction**, on the basis of joint proposals by neighbouring countries for inclusion in the List of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance. **The further resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument 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 (General Assembly resolution 72/249), adopted by consensus 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 (A/CONF.232/2023/4).** Recognizing that action is needed from the Mediterranean Region as a contribution to its early entry into force and the pivotal role of the Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties in this process.
- **Global recognition of Mediterranean marine areas in need of protection, including areas of national jurisdiction and deep sea habitats and the importance of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs).** The 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2014 listed 15 Mediterranean areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically- or biologically-significant marine areas, due to issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. **The 30 by 30 Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed, as well as the Target 1.4 and 1.5 of Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO).**

68-69. Increased realization of the economic value of the open sea and the need for blue growth has promoted an increase in the exploration for and exploitation of non-living open sea resources (e.g. oil, gas) and emphasized the need for robust integrated maritime spatial planning to support sustainable development.²² Therefore the Strategy promotes the blue economy concept through strong partnerships between maritime sectors and public authorities in regard to the sustainable and equitable use of marine areas and resources. In

⁸⁸ https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ID_8_Leveraging_interlinkages.pdf

addition, the global momentum behind assessing vulnerabilities and the impacts of climate change and delivering an effective and efficient response has grown rapidly over the last decade, leading to the increased inclusion and mainstreaming of climate change in many sectors associated with coastal and marine areas.

The strategy for marine and coastal areas rests on **three** pillars:

- Strengthen compliance **with implementation and monitoring of regional requirements and policy frameworks** of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention **for coastal and marine management** (strategic direction 2.1)
- **Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources** (strategic direction 2.2)
- Promote **well connected** ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and **coastal** protected areas and **other effective area-based conservation measures** at national and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss (**strategic direction 2.3**)

Objective 2: Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
Target 5: By 2030, Contracting Parties have ratified the Barcelona Convention Protocols and the appropriate legislative measures to implement them at the national level have been already taken	MSSD Dashboard Indicator 6: Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by Barcelona Convention Contracting Parties	No corresponding SDGs
Target 6: By 2030 Good Environmental Status of marine and coastal environment is maintained and enhanced through effective implementation of Ecosystem Approach and commitment under Barcelona Convention and its Protocols	Indicators of: a) Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) b) Quality Status Report for the Mediterranean (MED QSR)	SDG 14 , Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Indicator 14.2.1 , Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to manage marine areas
Target 7: By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Mediterranean Sea is protected and conserved through well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ensuring adequate geographical balance, and sustainably managed by applying ecosystem-based approaches including biodiversity and climate change-informed marine spatial planning, and by	MSSD Dashboard Indicator 7: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine territorial waters MSSD Dashboard Indicator 9a: Number of protected areas participating in the Green List initiative MSSD Dashboard Indicator 10: Official development assistance and public expenditure on	SDG 14 , Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Indicator 14.2.1 , Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to manage marine areas SDG 15 , Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of

Objective 2: Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
conducting environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments	conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems MSSD Core indicator 10 Evolution of Mediterranean protected areas and their associated surfaces NEW indicator: % of MPAs with effective management plans in place NEW indicator: Protected area and OECM management effectiveness (MEPCA) indicator [NEW indicator: Level of connectivity of the existing MPA networks]	terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss Indicator 15.5.1, Red List Index
Target 8: By 2030 Contracting Parties shall ensure effective implementation of the legally binding measures adopted under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols on wastewater, marine litter, plastic pollution and under IMO International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention and its Annexes)	MSSD Core indicator 7 a) Water withdrawal per inhabitant; b) Renewable freshwater resources per capita MSSD Core indicator 8, Plastic leakages at sea Indicator: All Number of Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols that have ratified the MARPOL Convention and its Annexes, particularly Annex VI, Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships	SDG 6, Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Indicator 6.3.1, "Proportion of wastewater flows safely treated" SDG 14, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development Indicator 14.1.1, (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density Indicator 14.2.1 Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas

69-70. National actions under strategic direction 2.1 include strengthening implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, with focus on the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, national coastal conservation initiatives, and the updated Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, as well as delivery of ratified protocols through strengthened national policies and priority actions. These processes, developed in

more detail in the strategic direction 6.4(Governance objective), will be supported by regional and sub-regional roadmaps for delivery of protocols and enhanced coordination, exchange of good practices, including technology and local knowledge transfer. Joint efforts will be initiated for the coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Sea, including the areas beyond national jurisdiction, as part of the wider efforts to implement the **Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)**.

Strategic direction 2.1: Strengthen implementation, compliance and monitoring with regional requirements of regulatory and policy frameworks of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention for coastal and marine management		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
2.1.1. Strengthen the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and other regional policy instruments, as well as related national action plans and through enhanced prioritization and results-based management through ministries with environmental and budget portfolios and implementing line agencies.	National governments, local authorities, regional institutions, private sector, civil society	2035
2.1.2. Implement the updated Ecosystem Approach Roadmap and in synergy with the implementation of MSP , to achieve healthy marine ecosystems and conserve marine biodiversity	UNEP/MAP, national governments	2035
2.1.3. Transpose the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (where ratified) and its Action Plan into national policies and further its implementation, and implement COP 23 MSP Decision IG.26/10	National governments, local authorities, regional institutions, with the support of UNEP/MAP (PAP/RAC)	2030
2.1.4. Support national coastal conservation initiatives and strengthen or develop specific national laws for management of coastal areas, including concepts such as public trusteeships.	National governments	2030
2.1.5. Create or strengthen delivery nodes for ratified protocols through national prioritization and policy strengthening.	National governments	2030
2.1.6 Implement the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) , and its related national action plans.	SPA/RAC in cooperation with regional institutions, national governments, civil society	2030
2.1.7. Ensure All Marine and coastal protected areas (MCPAs) have adaptive management plans adopted, effectively implemented and periodically reviewed	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments, local authorities, regional institutions, civil society	2035
Regional		
2.1.8. Improve regional and sub- regional coordination, exchange of good practices, including technology and local knowledge transfer, including through the MSP Working Group	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society, UNEP/MAP	2035

Strategic direction 2.1: Strengthen implementation, compliance and monitoring with regional requirements of regulatory and policy frameworks of the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention for coastal and marine management		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
2.1.9 Develop and implement regional and sub- regional targeted measures and roadmaps, where lacking, for delivery of all Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in synergy with other regional policy instruments as relevant.	Regional institutions, national governments and local authorities	2030

70,71. In order to address the issues resulting from the unsustainable exploitation of living and non-living coastal and marine resources, the Strategy calls for sustainable and equitable use of marine and coastal resources. A regional advocacy towards integrated marine spatial planning, based on ecosystem approach principles, will support the implementation of the strategic direction.

Strategic direction 2.2.: Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
2.2.1. Promote and support the blue economy concept through strong partnership between maritime sectors and public authorities in regard to the sustainable and equitable use of marine areas and resources, including supporting the coexistence in using marine space , as promoted by COP 23 MSP Decision IG.26/10	National governments, regional institutions, UNEP-MAP	2035
2.2.2. Ensure that the necessary regulatory instruments, including strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment, national development guidelines, and exploration and extraction tender criteria are effectively in place, and amend national regulatory framework as required.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments , regional institutions	2035
2.2.3. Implement relevant legislative and policy measures to control open ocean exploitation within national and regional requirements, including liability regimes.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments , regional institutions, private sector	2035
2.2.4. Translate the Offshore Protocol (where ratified) and its Action Plan into national policies and further its implementation.	National governments, local authorities, regional institutions, with the support of UNEP/MAP (REMPEC)	2035
2.2.5. Safeguard the Mediterranean fisheries by ensuring that all fish stocks are being fished sustainably and effectively.	National governments, regional institutions	2030
Regional		
2.2.6. Prepare a regional programme on assessment and control regarding open ocean exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources.	Regional institutions, private sector, with support of UNEP/MAP	2030

Strategic direction 2.2.: Promote balanced and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
2.2.7. Promote MSP implementation, including capacity building and sharing of best practices at regional and sub-regional level	UNEP/MAP	2030
2.2.8 Coastal resilience platform, including regional compendium of adaptation measures for coastal and marine sectors	UNEP/MAP	2030
2.2.9 Develop and implement monitoring, supported by Artificial Intelligence, to assess the overexploitation/loss of natural resources, in particular water, forests, space, sand, etc	UNEP/MAP	2030

71-72. Strategic Direction 2.3 focuses on the promotion of networks of ecologically protected marine and coastal areas at national and Mediterranean level, as well as the enhancement of stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss. The pressures on protected areas created by insufficient spatial coverage, planning and management processes call for, at the national level, programmes that strengthen the protection of biodiversity and the actual management of such areas. Legal or financing mechanisms accompany actions that raise awareness on the economic, social and environmental value of ecosystem services. The promotion of national and regional networking processes aims at reuniting directors and managers for enhancing the synergies of their actions. At the regional level, the Strategy supports further networking, as well as the promotion of the “Green list” standards to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of park management bodies created at the IUCN World Parks Congress, and it launches the flagship initiative on Promote the protection and conservation of Seagrass/Posidonia Meadows as crucial ecosystem.

Strategic direction 2.3: Promote well connected-ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and nature-based solutions at national, transboundary and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
2.3.1. Promote well connected, ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and nature-based solutions at national level	National governments, local authorities, civil society	2030
2.3.2. Establish programmes to enhance awareness among local stakeholders on the economic, social and environmental value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss for their daily lives.	National governments, local authorities, rural communities, civil society	2030
2.3.3. Set up financial mechanisms (national funds, payment for ecosystem services, compensations) to support policies ensuring the provision of environmental and social services.	National governments, local authorities	2035
2.3.4. Promote Marine literacy and Education targeting coastal communities, schools, and local governance structures. Integrate sustainable fishing practices, and ecosystem restoration into educational curricula. Support community-school	National governments, local authorities, educational Institutions, civil society,	2030

Strategic direction 2.3: Promote well connected-ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures and nature-based solutions at national, transboundary and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
based marine stewardship programs for sustainable management ⁸⁹		
Regional		
2.3.5 Promote a regional network of managers of ecologically protected areas, and nature-based solutions, building on the experience of the existing initiatives	Regional Institutions	2035

Objective 3: Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems

Vision and Actions

72-73. Rural areas in the Mediterranean are relatively diverse in their history, culture, natural conditions, population density, settlements, economic structure, and human resources and thus require different policy interventions, but share a potential for the establishment of new bases for economic and social development.

73-74. When addressing the use of natural resources in rural areas, attention must be paid to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, which provide essential goods and services for human development. Those range from food and water to medicinal plants, fuel, timber, and housing materials. The maintenance of the good status and health of those ecosystems is therefore fundamental for both biodiversity conservation and human well-being.

74-75. The three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity – conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources – reflect the importance of this theme. The 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and builds on the Convention's previous Strategic Plans, sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. Among the Framework's key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030. The intention is not only to guarantee the conservation of all biodiversity components, but also to address key socioeconomic aspects, such as poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, the needs of women and local communities, traditional knowledge, and public participation.

75-76. In the northern Mediterranean countries, there has been agricultural and pastoral land abandonment and reforestation campaigns have been effective, while in southern and eastern Mediterranean countries the pressures on ecosystems remain strong, particularly in North African countries because of the high population pressure on land and water resources, urban sprawl, over-exploitation of forests and overgrazing; in addition, desertification processes are exacerbated by climate change, causing increased aridity and extreme events (long periods of drought, devastating floods of land and livestock, large cold spells), with strong socio-economic impacts on farmers. In this context, food cooperation among Mediterranean countries is also a main issue as regards the situation of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries and the existing complementarities between the North and the South.

76-77. The Mediterranean agri-food sector consumes significant rural resources and constitutes one of the main drivers of environmental degradation through processes such as desertification of marginal lands and pollution run-off from farming and industry⁹⁰. At the same time the sector is a key player in the conservation of the Mediterranean agricultural landscape and in providing livelihoods and employment.

⁸⁹ Comment by Cyprus

⁹⁰ Comment by PAM

The sustainable management of natural resources, rural development and food production and security are interdependent aspects that ensure the well-being of rural communities and provide significant inputs to downstream industries, from food processing to tourism.

~~77.~~**78.** All around the Mediterranean's rural areas, and food security are of paramount importance. Given the importance of small and medium-sized farms in the rural areas of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries and their mobilization of the family workforce, family farms contribute to food security of farm households and local communities by the supply of domestic markets. Furthermore, the intra-family and intergenerational solidarity prevailing in farm households contribute significantly to the fight against food insecurity and social vulnerability of rural populations. However, access to land is increasingly open to foreign capital and investors without much consideration of the effects on agricultural and rural societies at the local level. The southern and eastern Mediterranean countries are also vulnerable to changes in international agricultural prices due to their high dependence on cereal imports. This context makes agricultural and food security issues particularly sensitive.

~~78.~~**79.** Furthermore, since the impacts of climate change are likely to include the degradation of agricultural water resources and loss of fertile soils, ensuring food security and rural vitality by adapting agriculture to climate change is also necessary. Indeed small farmers will be directly affected by these impacts, which represent risks in terms of the stability of rural areas. This calls for adaptation strategies and services for agricultural and rural areas, as well as public and private support for those adaptations, such as promotion of agri-environmental practices, alternative agricultural methods, crop diversification, controlling and limiting use of genetically modified organisms, and conservation of water and soil, limiting the consumption of such natural resources.

Objective 3: Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
Target 9: By 2030, Mediterranean Countries have at least 75% of their population using safely managed drinking water services and at least 30% using safely managed sanitation in a multi-level context of water stress, competing demands and growing shortages, particularly for vulnerable populations and women.	MSSD Dashboard 14: Proportion of population (in %) using safely managed drinking water service <u>MSSD Core indicator 7</u> <u>a) Water withdrawal per inhabitant;</u> <u>b) Renewable freshwater resources per capita</u> <u>MSSD Core indicator 8, Plastic leakages at sea</u>	SDG 6, Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Indicator 6.1.1, Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services <u>Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water</u> <u>Indicator 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources</u>

Objective 3: Promote sustainable resource management, and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
Target 10: By 2030, Contracting Parties will ensure that at least 90% of the population has access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food all year round, through the promotion of resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems, including local supply chains.	MSSD Indicator 11: Global Food Security Index	SDG 2 , End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture Indicator 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

79.80. The Strategy underlines the need for compliance of national legal measures with international and regional commitments to promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems (strategic direction 3.1). It calls for effective and participatory management of protected areas and exploitation of renewable natural resources for a regulated development in rural areas, including through Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and permitting processes. The Strategy aims to address the limits to sustainable rural development caused by the unsustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem goods and services, particularly energy, food and water, through improving efficiency. The Strategy takes into consideration that the UN General Assembly recognized in 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. An improved forests management is equality tackled, both at national and regional level, while water desalinization and natural resources reuse approaches and plans are included. The Flagship initiatives Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE Nexus) in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum and the Mediterranean Forest Initiative will concretely support these approaches. The Strategy recommends institutional and legal reforms fostering water cooperation programmes among sectors and cross-borders. The Strategy also suggests adopting policies, regulatory measures and instruments for sustainable exploitation of non-renewable resources and related post-extraction restoration.

Strategic direction 3.1: Promote the circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
3.1.1. Ensure that legal measures are in place to conserve/restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in line with international and regional commitments.	National governments, civil society	2035
3.1.2. Ensure Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and permitting processes are implemented to support the development in rural areas, as well as monitoring and adaptive management of interventions.	National governments, local authorities, regional institutions, civil society, private sector	2035

Strategic direction 3.1: Promote the circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
3.1.3. Put in place participative cross-sectoral resource management strategies to ensure that renewable natural resources are extracted in ways that do not threaten the future use of the resources, and without exceeding their maximum sustainable yield.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
3.1.4. Achieve a sustainable balance between production of food, use of water and use of energy, through improving energy and water use efficiency, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, as well as through the introduction of institutional and legal reforms.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
3.1.5. Develop socio-economic models for national strategic choices for water allocation between agriculture, industry, tourism, and domestic uses, taking into account environmental and social aspects, as well as One Health initiatives and economic development needs.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, Private sector	2035
3.1.6. Ensure that extraction and management of non-renewable resources are carried out in ways that minimize environmental impacts, and that permitting systems include post-extraction restoration.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
3.1.7. Develop action plans for the restoration of land from extractive activities.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
3.1.8. Secure, in a climate change context, water supply considering the development of nonconventional resources such as reuse and desalination withdrawal and also promotion of sobriety in conventional water uses	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2030
3.1.9. Ensure that forests are managed in a sustainable way to allow managers to benefit from goods & services (cultural, regulation, supply) they provide including social consideration (acceptance) of forest stands evolution due to climate change	National governments, local authorities	2035
3.1.10 Develop national plans / strategies to secure means and better prevent fires but also dieback and desertification of the Mediterranean Basin	National governments, local authorities,	2030
Regional		
3.1.11. Develop or strengthen cross border water cooperation programmes and networks	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035

Strategic direction 3.1: Promote the circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources and ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
3.1.12. Strengthen regional plans on reuse and desalination making them more sustainable, in particular regarding brines discharges and CO2 emissions and renewable energy sources for desalination production	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, private sector	2035
3.1.13 Harmonize a monitoring system and assessment programme for a more sustainable management of forests	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities	2035

~~80-81.~~ The Strategy aims to promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, as well as to value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions (strategic direction 3.2). It calls for establishing national seed banks and knowledge repositories and encourages them to engage in regional collaboration. It promotes the valorisation of traditional knowledge and land races, emphasizing the need for supporting their integration in education and training for rural and agricultural practices.

Strategic direction 3.2: Promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
3.2.1. Establish national seed banks and knowledge repositories of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds.	National governments, local authorities, agricultural associations and cooperatives, civil society, academia, private sector	2030
3.2.2. Support the integration of traditional knowledge in education and training for rural and agricultural practices at national level.	National governments, local authorities ⁹¹ , civil society, academia, private sector	2035
3.2.3. Promote the valorisation of traditional knowledge in rural development funding programmes.	National governments, local authorities, donor agencies	2035
3.2.4. Integrate Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Land Stewardship in education programs at a formal and non-formal level. Emphasize soil conservation, water management, and sustainable crop techniques in school education and strengthen collaboration between various actors ⁹²	National government, educational institutions, environmental education centers, academia, civil society	2035
Regional		
3.2.5. Establish regional collaboration between seed banks and knowledge repositories around the Mediterranean.	Regional institutions, civil society	2035

~~81-82.~~ The Strategy addresses the social and environmental consequences created by inequalities affecting rural populations, particularly women and youth, by developing skills and opportunities through participatory rural development programmes that take into account traditional knowledge, skills and crafts in order to add value to rural territories and local cultural assets. Strategic direction 3.3 promotes inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication. At a national level, policy measures and fiscal arrangements should encourage rural multi-functionality, coupling tourism and agriculture, benefiting to

⁹¹ Comment by MedCities

⁹² Comment by Cyprus

women's empowerment and youth employment. Such actions should also lead to equitable and sustainable access to basic local services for rural communities. A regional action focuses on international partnerships and networks to build capacity in the promotion of traditional knowledge, skills and crafts, as well as the establishment of capacity development programmes for local communities.

Strategic direction 3.3: Promote inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, food security, women's empowerment and youth employment, including equitable and sustainable access to basic local services for rural communities		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
3.3.1. Develop participatory rural development programmes and adapt measures and fiscal arrangements to encourage rural pluriactivity and sustainable economic development of vulnerable rural communities, particularly for the benefit of women and youth, taking into account also the vulnerability of such communities to natural and human-induced hazards, which recognise the multi-functionality of rural areas.	National governments	2035
3.3.2. Develop training programmes and businesses to encourage the reviving of traditional skills, arts and crafts in view of the protection and preservation of the local cultural as well as a means to establish economic activities locally.	National governments	2030
3.3.3. Prepare action plans to support the development of rural tourism that will alleviate overcrowding in coastal cities and resorts, stimulate the utilization of locally produced products and generate local employment opportunities.	National governments	2030
Regional		
3.3.4. Develop regional/sub-regional partnerships and networks to build capacity in the promotion of traditional knowledge, skills and crafts, as well as establishment of capacity development programmes for local communities.	Regional institutions	2035

82-83. In order to ensure an equitable access of local producers and small-scale farmers to distribution channels and markets, including the tourism market (strategic direction 3.4 national programmes supporting agro-ecological and organic technologies will add value to local assets, products, and processes. This will be achieved through the use of innovative products and processes, cooperation schemes, market instruments, marketing plans, and labelling schemes. The Strategy focuses on the added-value of organic, labelled, and conservation agriculture, while controlling and limiting the use of genetically modified organisms. On the demand side, awareness-raising campaigns will be developed in order to sensitise consumers regarding local economic benefits

Strategic direction 3.4: Ensure access of local producers to distribution channels and markets, including the tourism market		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
3.4.1. Undertake actions to improve access of small-scale producers to markets, including tourism markets, through the use of innovative products and processes, cooperation schemes, market instruments, marketing plans and labelling schemes.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, local cooperatives	2030
3.4.2. Undertake initiatives to raise awareness on environmental, economic and social benefits of consuming local products, including in the tourism sector.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments, local authorities, civil society, local cooperatives	2030
3.4.3. Develop and strengthen agriculture based on agro-ecological and organic technologies, including organic, labelled, and conservation agricultures, controlling and limiting the use of genetically modified organisms, with special support to small-scale farmers.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, rural communities, local cooperatives, private sector	2030

Objective 4: Plan-and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities

Vision and Actions

83-84. While the SDGs are global in their ambition, their achievement will depend on the ability to transform them into reality at local level. With at least 65 per cent of SDG targets linked to the work and mandates of local and regional governments⁹³ the localization of the SDGs and a multilevel governance approach is a key accelerator for the 2030 Agenda implementation⁹⁴.

84-85. Although affected by the economic crisis, the urbanization of the Mediterranean population continues at a fast pace, in particular along its southern shores. Two in every three people are already living in the urban areas of Mediterranean countries, which is higher than the world average.

85-86. By around 2050, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme predicts that the urban population will grow to around 170 million in the countries on the northern shore (140 million in 2005) and to over 300 million to the south and east (151 million in 2005). This fact generates serious challenges: for example, by 2030 some 42 million additional dwellings will be required, mainly in cities.²⁸ In addition, notwithstanding, most Mediterranean cities, in particular those located on the coast, are not currently being managed sustainably, particularly in relation to the carrying capacity of those coasts. They are insufficiently resilient in terms of coping with natural and human-made risks and hazards, including climate change and the increasing level of risks due to climate change impacts mainly flooding and storm surges. At the same time, the potential of cities as drivers of innovative and sustainable social and economic change is insufficiently recognized. Cities have the potential to be laboratories to test and successfully apply engineering to adapt to climate change impacts, i.e. green infrastructure and Solutions based on Nature (SbN) to adapt to "urban heat island effect"; development of green - parks - and blue rivers corridors to generate coolness; design and architecture of buildings to use the effect of wind and increase natural coolness.

86-87. Mediterranean cities are insufficiently resilient in terms of coping with natural and human-made risks and hazards, including climate change. They are also highly energy-dependent, with low shares of renewable energy used, and their productive capacity in terms of renewable energy, urban agriculture and waste recycling is highly underutilized. Waste generation in the region has grown over the last decade, mostly due to a growing population and increased consumption. Waste management needs significant improvement: while three-quarters of waste is collected, most is disposed of in open dumps, which have negative health and environmental impacts. In 2020, the recycling rate is also widely varying. In the northern countries, the recycling rate rises to 46% in Slovenia, except in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a rate close to 0 (the rate for Israel is 25%). France, Italy and Greece are around 20 to 25%. Croatia, Spain and Cyprus are around 10-17%. Algeria, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Monaco and Morocco are around 5 to 10% (MSSD dashboard indicator 20; 2023). In the Mediterranean, E-Wastes and hazardous wastes respectively represent 8 billion tons and 28 billion tons.⁹⁵ In addition, the participation of residents in decision-making on urban matters in many sub-national and local governments/ municipalities remains low, as does the level of access to urban services.

87-88. Urban growth prospects in the Mediterranean cities point towards an exacerbation of the current challenges: excessive land uptake; more rapid degradation of architectural heritage; aquifer pollution; inefficient and untreated waste management; atmospheric air pollution and noise; and the cumulative effect of all these factors on the environment and on human health. On this basis, if actions and initiatives aimed at correcting the impacts of urban territorial, environmental, economic and social imbalances are not taken, Mediterranean societies and ecosystems may suffer serious consequences, particularly in combination with the expected impacts of climate variability and change. Those are likely to impact most strongly the coastal zones of the Mediterranean, where the majority of the population lives in cities and in particular within the LEAC which are prone to coastal flooding.

88-89. Sound policies in favor of social and territorial cohesion in rural areas, which are addressed under Objective 3, are also necessary for ensuring sustainable urban development. Urban sustainability is linked to food security and sustainable forms of rural development: poor rural conditions have strong social and

⁹³ UN, Inter-agency Policy Briefs on Accelerating Progress on the 2030 Agenda from Local to Global levels: The Critical Importance of SDG Localization, July 2024

⁹⁴ UN-Habitat, Multi governance for SDGs localization, December 2022

⁹⁵ 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean: Summary for Decision Makers (SoED 2020)

political impacts also on cities, as urban areas are largely populated by rural migrants.

89-90. Cities are critical for sustainable development in the Mediterranean, because they are engines of economic development, innovation and creativity: the climate friendly cities agenda is an example of the potential of urban areas to contribute to sustainability. For those reasons, a new, sustainable and creative approach to planning and managing Mediterranean urban agglomerations, offering longer- term sustainable solutions, and building on common aspirations and understandings among the relevant stakeholders, is the best hope for the Mediterranean cities' future.

90-91. Urban green and blue areas in the city have a multitude of positive environmental and socio- cultural functions: mitigating environmental pressures, improving aesthetics, reducing the urban heat island effect, mitigating flooding, and providing direct or indirect urban ecosystem services. Urban green and blue areas, or 'green and blue infrastructures' are networks of natural and engineered ecological systems providing a diverse range of services to increase the resilience of urban systems. While the simple addition of a green area could have a minor effect on the global city sustainability, and a park planned in an inaccessible area would not satisfy the needs of citizens, while requiring many resources to be managed, the same park could acquire greater value if its resultant overall potential ecosystem services (including water management) are taken into account. Several urban best management practices can be applied in Mediterranean cities. Moreover, urban regeneration projects and new urban settlements may also be planned and designed on the basis of urban best management practices related to multifunctional green and blue infrastructure. This will contribute to the transition to environments which are more resilient to changing future conditions.

Objective 4: Plan-and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
Target 11: By 2030, all Mediterranean countries have substantially reduced waste generation through prevention, recycling and reuse, particularly by ensuring that at least 60% of municipal solid waste is sustainably recycled, composted or managed, including separate collection and material recovery, including biowaste, with emphasis on packaging waste and on the most environmentally damaging SUP products as a priority.	MSSD Dashboard Indicator 20 Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	SDG 11, Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Indicator 11.6.1, Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities SDG 12, Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Indicator 12.5.1, National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
Target 12: By 2030, Contracting Parties have adopted regulatory and policy frameworks with ambitious health-based standards for indoor and outdoor air quality. in line with the World Health Organization (WHO).	MSSD Core indicator 9 Air quality: a) concentration of PM2.5; b) carbon monoxide emission	SDG 11, Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Indicator 11.6.2, Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

94-92. The Strategy addresses pressures on the environment caused by urban sprawl, particularly in coastal areas, where in some cases triggered by tourism development (strategic direction 4.1). The proposed solutions include strengthening the development of small and medium sized towns as focal points for sustainable regional development, and monitoring and control of coastal urbanization and encroachment. The Strategy underlines the need for strong regulations and tools for spatial planning and tourism. It calls for the promotion of blue and green infrastructure, safe and green public open spaces, which will provide urban ecosystem services that will contribute to improved resilience to climate change and variability. This requires use of spatial planning systems, capacity building and sharing of best practices at the national level, as well as the preparation of regional guidelines for planning multi-functional green and blue infrastructures in the Mediterranean. A flagship initiative promotes and implements the “Environment Friendly City” Award, as per Decision IG.22/19 by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP19 Athens Greece, 9-12 February 2016), complemented by the flagship initiative Mediterranean Network of Zero Net Cities.

Strategic direction 4.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		

Strategic direction 4.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
4.1.1. Utilize spatial planning systems and land management instruments for sustainable urban/coastal planning and balanced development in urban areas that incorporate measures for infrastructure provision, and land- take reduction where possible, as well as the provision of multifunctional urban green and blue infrastructures, which provide urban ecosystem services that are also important for climate change adaptation.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities	2030
4.1.2. Ensure that legally-binding instruments for tourism development are put in place for those areas that suffer from tourism pressures, and related real-estate expansion and coastal deterioration.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments, local authorities, planning authorities	2030
4.1.3. Strengthen small and medium- sized towns as focal points for regional development that will reduce population pressures on urban agglomerations, including by ensuring appropriate transport links from major urban centres to medium and small ones.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society	2030
4.1.4. Promote the protection, upgrading and creation of additional public open space that is safe, green and shady, and part of a network of green infrastructure.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society	2035
Regional		
4.1.5. Monitor coastal urbanization and encroachment at regional level and provide monitoring support to national and local authorities.	Regional and international institutions, national governments, local authorities, planning authorities	2035
4.1.6. Establish a regional process to build capacity and share good practices on improving compliance with spatial planning regulations.	Regional and international institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society	2030
4.1.7. Set up a process to prepare regional guidelines for planning multifunctional nature-based solutions green and blue infrastructures, and provide opportunities for exchange of related urban best management practices.	Regional and international institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
4.1.8. Identify Mediterranean urban biodiversity hotspots and share experiences on their protection.	International and regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society	2030

92-93. The Strategy promotes participation of urban populations in planning and decision-making to support sustainable urban planning and management (strategic direction 4.2). In this respect securing the flow of information and enhancing capacities for participation are key- At the national level, participatory

mechanisms will be established, and governance regimes put in place that allow urban jurisdictions to regulate, register and manage land, within a rights-based framework. In addition, planning measures will support the development of urban models upgrading informal settlements within the urban fabric through forward-looking territorial planning. Regional networks of cities will be developed or strengthened, and a sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean (flagship initiative) will be developed in cooperation with these networks. This will help as to ensure that Mediterranean cities are planned cities to be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable-

Strategic direction 4.2: Encourage inclusive urbanization and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
4.2.1. Strengthen urban governance by establishing communication and participatory mechanisms to enhance urban stakeholders' involvement and engagement in decision-making.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil Society private sector	2035
4.2.2. Upgrade informal settlements into cities and anticipate the expected rates of urban growth through more balanced territorial planning and the provision of decent and affordable housing.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society	2035
4.2.3. Put in place governance regimes that allow urban jurisdictions to regulate, register and manage land, within a rights-based framework.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society	2035
Regional		
4.2.4. Develop or strengthen regional networking and partnership programmes and regional/sub/regional projects between cities and at the city-region level around the Mediterranean to promote knowledge-sharing and capacity building on sustainable cities.	Regional and international institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society	2035

93.94. The Strategy focuses on the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban centres as a means to retain population and economic activity, against the trend of increased dereliction and marginalization, based on fiscal and planning incentives (strategic direction 4.3). It also focuses on creating opportunities to strengthen local distinctive character both in planning and in project development in order to enhance local attractiveness. This recognises that retaining the distinctiveness of territories has a potential for economic development and competitive advantage. The Strategy recommends developing or strengthening existing networks of historic cities, involving economic players, including the tourism sector and that representing traditional industries. In addition adequate social dwelling provision coupled with fiscal incentives and the rehabilitation of historic centres could enhance the attractiveness of the historic stock in comparison with peripheral urban expansions. At a regional level, networking between historic centres and connecting them to economic activities are promoted as a means to secure viability.

Strategic direction 4.3: Promote the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban areas		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
4.3.1. Utilize forms of integrated and sustainable rehabilitation of historic urban centres, building on good practices to maintain the population in historic centres.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2030
4.3.2. Provide fiscal and planning incentives to utilize and rehabilitate historic urban centres.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities	2030

Strategic direction 4.3: Promote the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban areas		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
4.3.3. Create opportunities to strengthen local distinctive character both in planning and in project development in order to enhance local attractiveness, as a tool for economic development and enhancing competitive advantage.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities	2035
4.3.4. Provide adequate social housing coupled with fiscal incentives and the rehabilitation of historic centres to enhance the attractiveness of the historic housing stock in comparison with peripheral urban expansions.	National governments, local authorities, planning authorities	2030
Regional		
4.3.5. Develop or strengthen existing networks of historic cities in the Mediterranean, involving economic players, including the tourism sector and that representing traditional industries.	International and regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2030

94.95. Solid and liquid waste production and management remain major concerns in many urban regions in the Mediterranean (strategic direction 4.4). The Strategy promotes national measures for implementing innovative waste management solutions, in line with the waste hierarchy: prevention, reduction, reuse, sorting, recycling, recovery, and, as the least preferred option, disposal. It is also a priority to foster sustainable consumption patterns among citizens and develop behavioral change schemes that will lead to reduction in waste volumes and to develop legal and financial frameworks to support sustainable waste management. At the regional level, an assessment of the effectiveness high-tech and low-tech solutions (flagship initiative), including but not limited to awareness-raising and economic measures that have been implemented, will be carried out with a view to their more widespread utilization in waste reduction efforts. Finally the Strategy also includes a regional action to develop a database of generated and treated waste and related material flows.

Strategic direction 4.4: Promote sustainable production, use of sustainable products and effective waste management within the context of a more circular economy, as well as foster sustainable consumption patterns among citizens		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
4.4.1. Implement innovative, integrated and sustainable production, use of sustainable products and efficient waste management solutions, in line with the life cycle assessment, extended producer responsibility and waste hierarchy: prevention, reduction, reuse, sorting, recycling, recovery, and disposal.	National governments, local authorities/municipalities, civil society, private sector ⁹⁶	2035
4.4.2. Develop schemes to encourage and educate local communities to change their behavior with regard to the use of products and waste, and raise awareness on consumption patterns	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035

⁹⁶ Comment by Greece to highlight the distinction with Strategic Directions 5.4.1 and 5.4.3 that address mainly business

Strategic direction 4.4: Promote sustainable production, use of sustainable products and effective waste management within the context of a more circular economy, as well as foster sustainable consumption patterns among citizens		
4.4.3. Develop legal and financial frameworks for sustainable production and waste management.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
4.4.4. Embed Sustainable Urban Planning and Green Building awareness in School and VET Education Programs and Curricula. Promote education on sustainable transport, green infrastructure, and energy-efficient urban design. Encourage schools and community involvement in sustainable city planning initiatives. ⁹⁷	National governments, Educational Institutions, Academia, VET Institutions, Environmental Education Centers, local authorities	2030
Regional		
4.4.5. Develop robust database of generated and treaded waste and related material flows.	Regional organizations, national governments	2030

95-96. Many Mediterranean cities have increased their dependence on private vehicles, an increase that is further aggravated by urban sprawl, leading to pollution, congestion, high economic and social costs and land sealing for traffic management and parking. The Strategy, under strategic direction 4.5, calls for a reduced dependence on private vehicles by developing efficient integrated public transport systems between coastal cities and their functional regions. It recommends also to anticipate future transport needs, to be provided mainly by collective forms of transport, accompanied by economic and regulatory instruments, and increase virtual connectivity. At the regional level, the development of a sustainable transport and mobility framework for the Mediterranean is included.

⁹⁷ Comment by Cyprus

Strategic direction 4.5: Promote urban spatial patterns and technological options that reduce the demand for transportation, improve urban air quality and stimulate sustainable mobility and accessibility in urban areas		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
4.5.1. Redesigning transportation offer by promoting alternatives to individual cars, put in place spatial planning provisions that reduce the need for personal private mobility, and improve urban air quality	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
4.5.2. Reduce urban traffic congestion and pollution through economic and regulatory instruments promoting low- pollution collective transport systems at the local urban level, maritime public transport (blue ways), multi-modal links, and more sustainable freight transport.	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
4.5.3. Increase virtual connectivity at least to basic services in order to reduce the need to travel.	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
Regional		
4.5.4. Develop a sustainable Mediterranean transport and mobility framework, taking into account the objectives of the European Union transport policy and other relevant regional initiatives, including guidelines for compact cities, in order to minimize transport and service delivery costs and improve urban air quality.	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society	2035

96-97. The Strategy promotes green buildings, including the retro-fitting of the existing building stock, alternative building materials, reshaping housing organization patterns to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment (strategic direction 4.6). At a national level, various instruments are to be put in place to construct green buildings and retrofit existing buildings (e.g. institutional and legal arrangements, strategies, support schemes, training programmes, and standards). At a regional level, the Strategy focuses on the development of regional standards, certification and quality frameworks to encourage green buildings suitable for the Mediterranean climate. These regional standards and frameworks will provide guidance to national level efforts to encourage green buildings suitable for the local environment.

Strategic direction 4.6: Promote green infrastructures and renewable energies and improve energy efficiency to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
4.6.1. Put in place institutional and legal arrangements, strategies, support schemes, training programmes and standards to construct green buildings -retrofit existing buildings and improve energy efficiency	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, professional associations (architects, civil engineers)	2030
4.6.2 Ensure green transitions for cities in terms of using alternative building materials, reshaping housing organization patterns with regards to Nature based solutions (NBS) and improve energy efficiency	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, professional associations (architects, civil engineers)	2035
Regional		

4.6.3. Develop regional/ sub-regional standards, certification and quality frameworks to encourage green and improved energy efficiency buildings suitable for the Mediterranean climate.	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, professional associations	2035
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97-98. Urban areas, particularly those situated close to the coast, are vulnerable to natural and human- induced disasters and large-scale changes, including climate change. Strategic direction 4.7 focuses on enhancing urban resilience, in order to reduce their vulnerability to risks from natural and human- induced hazards including climate change. Besides the regional measures relating to emergency- preparedness, the Strategy also highlights a number of actions required to be undertaken by cities with regard to resilience. At a national level, climate proofing is addressed in the implementation of programmes increasing urban resilience. National guidelines for planning of green and blue infrastructure will be prepared, which will also support urban level climate change adaptation plans. The third national action involves the preparation and implementation of action plans to improve urban resilience to natural and human induced risks, including through natural solutions, smart development and awareness-raising. A fourth national action focuses on undertaking a set of integrated measures to support the productivity of cities in terms of energy production, composting and urban and peri-urban agriculture, including through the recognition of such activities as urban land uses and economic activities, ensuring that necessary health safeguards are in place. At the regional level, the Strategy calls for an inventory of local authorities in the region which are developing natural risk response mechanisms.

Strategic direction 4.7: Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards including climate change		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
4.7.1. Ensure urban spatial plans are subject to climate proofing.	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
4.7.2. Develop national guidelines for auditing and planning of green and blue infrastructure, with reference to natural and human-induced risks, including climate change.	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, private sector, civil society	2035
4.7.3. Prepare and implement action plans, based on prevention, preparedness and response approaches, to improve urban resilience to natural and human induced risks, including through natural solutions, smart development and awareness-raising.	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, civil society	2035
4.7.4. Undertake a set of integrated measures to support the productivity of cities in terms of energy production, composting and urban and peri-urban agriculture, including through the recognition of such activities as urban land uses and economic activities, while ensuring that necessary environmental health safeguards are in place.	National governments, local authorities, urban planning authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
Regional		
4.7.5. Set up an inventory of Mediterranean local authorities developing natural risk response mechanisms, including climate change adaptation actions and relevant good practices.	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society	2030

Objective 5: Transition towards **sustainable, green, blue **and circular** economy **and sustainable finance****

Vision and Actions

98.99. The green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication has attracted much attention from the international community at a time when the financial crisis, geo politic developments and climate change impacts are seriously affecting socio-economic development. A green economy – called blue economy when applied to the coastal, marine and maritime sectors of the Mediterranean³⁵ – is one that promotes sustainable development whilst improving human well-being and social equity, and significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In other words, a green economy promotes resilient, low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially-inclusive economic development.

99.100. The circular economy offers a transformative approach that prioritizes the continual reduction, reuse, refurbishment, and recycling of products and materials. A circular economy in the blue and green sectors refers to a sustainable economic framework that integrates ecological principles into economic activities, emphasizing the responsible use of natural resources, minimizing waste, and fostering regeneration. In the blue economy, this involves sustainable practices in marine and aquatic systems, ensuring that fishery and marine resource extraction is done responsibly to protect ocean health. In the green economy, it encompasses land-based systems where agricultural practices, renewable energy sources, and resource management prioritize environmental restoration, biodiversity, and carbon footprint reduction.

100.101. Together, these approaches create a resilient and integrated economy that balances economic growth with sustainable development, increasing environmental resilience, and fostering socio-economic benefits for all, including women and youth, such as job creation and innovation.

101.102. A Mediterranean circular green and blue economy will generate sustainable development and employment through public and private investments, while reducing carbon emissions and pollution, enhancing energy and resource efficiency, and preventing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The related sustainable investments would be catalysed by targeted public and private expenditure, innovative policy and regulatory changes, awareness, training and research initiatives, innovation and the uptake of new technologies and processes, progressive tax and job reforms, the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns in general, as well as by increasing the role of social enterprises.

102.103. This green development path would maintain, enhance and, where necessary, rebuild natural capital as a critical economic asset and a source of public benefits, especially for people whose livelihoods and security depend heavily on natural resources. Indeed, the Arab Forum for Environment and Development, in advocating a development model rooted in a green economy as a sound foundation for addressing the shortcomings of Arab economies, also emphasizes the efficient use and deployment of natural assets to diversify the economy, which in turn provides immunity against the volatilities and recessionary pressures of the global economy.

103.104. This objective related to the transition towards a circular green and blue economy is crucial for the achievement of the Strategy's vision. These new paradigms are likely to illuminate the paths for the necessary decoupling between prosperity and use of resources, and to provide credible responses to the sustainability challenges being faced today. In addition, through its first objective on coastal and marine areas, the Strategy promotes the blue economy concept through strong partnership between maritime sectors and public authorities in regard to the sustainable and equitable use of marine and coastal areas and resources.

104.105. The green economy explicitly includes the objectives of job creation and social inclusion, in order to promote a more healthy and just society. The social economy, including cooperatives and the voluntary sector, has an important role to play in the green economy. In addition, the active participation of all relevant stakeholders in the necessary transition would be guaranteed in an efficient, consistent and transparent manner, engaging with local communities and respecting cultural contexts. The link with the Strategy's sixth objective on Governance, another cross-cutting objective, is therefore fundamental in facilitating the transition to the green economy. Making the transition to green development will not be a one-time event. Rather, it must be viewed as a long and demanding process guided both by top-down policy prescription as well as bottom-up public participation. This approach will give the ecological transition the political and social legitimacy needed to ensure the wide-scale mobilization of efforts required.

105.106. A key pillar of the transition to a green and blue economy is finance that supports green and sustainable activities. The terms green and sustainable are often used together in the context of investment, but they represent distinct but complementary concepts. Green investments focus specifically on environmental benefits—such as reducing carbon emissions, conserving biodiversity, or investing in renewable energy solutions. These are targeted towards addressing environmental challenges and directly supporting the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy. On the other hand, sustainable investments take a broader view. They not only consider environmental factors but also incorporate social and

governance elements (known as ESG factors). Sustainable investments aim to achieve a balance between economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection, thus ensuring long-term resilience and prosperity. Mediterranean countries require green and sustainable investments and related economic tools to support their transformation and adapt/mitigate climate and environmental change. To achieve this, it is essential to establish a common regional Framework for Green and Sustainable Investments in the Mediterranean. It is also essential to progressively phase-out harmful policies and economic tools, such as environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS), as highlighted by UNEP/MAP & Plan Bleu 2024) while addressing the barriers and challenges that hinder the adoption of greener financial strategies. At the same time, identifying opportunities to enhance green and sustainable finance and related economic instruments will be crucial in promoting sustainability. Additionally, fostering inclusive, multi-level engagement between public and private stakeholders is essential in shaping green finance initiatives, including the involvement of banks and financial institutions in the definition of a sustainable investment system for the Mediterranean. Financial strategies should also reflect societal needs and strengthen community resilience to ensure a just and effective transition.

Objective 5: Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
Target 13: By 2030, Contracting Parties have in place effective regulatory and policy frameworks, including economic incentives, aimed at facilitating the development of sustainable business models that integrate circularity and eco-innovation principles in the green and blue economies, while contributing to the development of non-pollutant and socially inclusive economies, in line with the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan for the Mediterranean.	NEW Indicator-Option 1: Percentages of companies per International Standard Industrial Classification SIC codes sustainability reports NEW Indicator-Option 2: Number of Mediterranean countries that have implemented the regional SCP Action Plan	SDG 12, Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Indicator 12.6.1, Number of companies publishing sustainability reports
Target 14: By 2035 Contracting Parties have established sustainable finance frameworks that mobilize capital towards green and sustainable investments, while fostering collaboration among all stakeholders.	NEW Indicator: Number of Mediterranean Countries established a sustainable finance framework	No corresponding SDGs

106;107. Addressing socio-economic inequalities between and within countries, owing partly to the high unemployment rate, is a key concern for the green economy. The creation of green ~~and~~ ~~just fair~~ ~~and~~ jobs for all is therefore critical, in particular for youth and women (strategic direction 5.1). New jobs would be gender-inclusive and provide social solidarity mechanism to workers. The Strategy includes an action to strengthen the role of green jobs in eradicating poverty and enhancing social inclusion through skills assessment and gap analysis for green jobs, which will help develop tailored capacity-development programmes. At an international level, the compilation and dissemination of best practice guidelines, including harmonised regional definitions, to promote the growth in green jobs and green and social entrepreneurship is envisaged.

Strategic direction 5.1: Create green, just and decent jobs for all, particularly youth and women, to eradicate poverty and enhance social inclusion		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
5.1.1. Undertake a skills assessment and gap analysis considering the advances in digitalization and AI, monitor and forecast demand for green jobs to strengthen the role of green jobs in eradicating poverty and enhancing social inclusion.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2030
5.1.2. Develop training and capacity building programmes for green and digital skills and green jobs, particularly for youth and women.	National governments, local authorities, regional institutions, civil society, private sector, academia, education institutions	2030
5.1.3. Raise awareness, particularly among decision-makers, about the potential of the circular-economy transition to promote resilient, low- carbon, resource-efficient and socially- inclusive economic development.	National governments, National and Regional Parliaments, local authorities, regional institutions, civil society, private sector, academia	2035
5.1.4. Foster labour justice and gender mainstreaming within green jobs strategies and policy instruments	National governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, private sector	2035
Regional		
5.1.54. Compile and disseminate best practice guidelines, including harmonised regional definitions, to promote the growth in green jobs and green and social entrepreneurship	Regional institutions, national, governments, specialised agencies	2035
5.1.65. Develop and implement strategies to secure funding and establish financial instruments and mechanisms aimed at promoting green jobs	Regional institutions, national, governments, specialised agencies	2035

~~107~~.108. Fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving sustainable development. Therefore the Strategy is complemented by the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan for the Mediterranean. The Action Plan highlights four priority areas of consumption and production, namely food, agriculture and fisheries; goods manufacturing; tourism; and, housing and construction.

~~108~~.109. In the priority area of food, agriculture and fisheries, operational objectives are provided on: the promotion of best environmental practices, technologies and innovation in growing and harvesting; set-up of sustainable business models across different sectors; policy and legal frameworks to promote sustainable agriculture, fisheries and food production and consumption; the education of food producers, retailers and consumers; and, support to the development of appropriate market tools and information to promote sustainability.

~~109~~.110. In the priority area of goods manufacturing, operational objectives are provided on: the integration of best available technologies and practices throughout the value chain of goods production; integrated policy-making and legal framework to promote sustainable consumption, production and recovery, to move towards a circular economy; and, raising awareness of consumers and stakeholders and supporting the development of market structures, increasing the visibility and market share of sustainable and alternative goods and services.

~~110~~.111. With respect to tourism, the Action Plan provides operational objectives addressing: practices and solutions for efficient use of natural resources and reducing the environmental impacts of tourism, respecting the carrying capacities of the destination; regulatory, legislative and financial measures to mainstream sustainable consumption and production in tourism to reduce tourism seasonality and promote

local community engagement and empowerment; and, awareness, capacities and skills to support sustainable destinations and green tourism services, and marketing schemes for a competitive and sustainable Mediterranean tourism sector.

~~111.~~112. Finally, for the priority area on housing and construction, the ~~draft~~ Action Plan provides operational objectives on the following topics: innovation, knowledge and integration of best available technologies and environmental practices for achieving resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of a building; regulatory and legal frameworks to enhance the contribution of housing and construction to sustainable development, social integration and cohesion; and, awareness-raising and capacity- building with stakeholders in urban planning, housing and construction to mainstream sustainable urban development.

~~112.~~113. The implementation of the action plan, thus strategic direction 5.2, will be secured through awareness raising programmes on sustainable lifestyles targeting the wider public. Regional capacity building to support countries in implementing the Action Plan is also envisaged.

Strategic direction 5.2: Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, to support the shift towards circular economy approaches and sustainable business models		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
5.2.1. Implement the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan for the Mediterranean.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector, academia	2035
5.2.2. Undertake awareness-raising and education programmes on sustainable lifestyles for promoting sustainable behaviour and increase the understanding of the benefits of circularity and sustainable consumption among citizens.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, educational Institutions, Environmental Education ESD Centers ⁹⁸	2030
5.2.3 Foster the set-up of sustainable business models across different sectors	National governments, local authorities, private sector, civil society	2035
Regional		
5.2.4. Carry out capacity building programme to support countries in implementing the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Action Plan for the Mediterranean.	UNEP/MAP, SCP/RAC	2035

~~113.~~114. A large part of the pollution in the Mediterranean is due to inefficient industrial processes and poor management of waste. Apart from harming the environment and health, it also jeopardizes the competitiveness and long-term sustainability of industries. Strategic direction 5.3 promotes resource efficiency and eco-innovation as critical tools to allow businesses and economies to be more productive, while reducing cost, waste and use of raw materials. Promoting labour justice and gender mainstreaming in the circular blue and green sectors is crucial to ensure a sustainable and just development in the Mediterranean region. Creating and connecting green and social incubators and training programmes, including through partnerships between universities, businesses and research centres at national and regional scales is also necessary. At a regional level, a Mediterranean network of green and social incubators and training programmes is envisaged. A flagship initiative to create a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation is also included.

⁹⁸ Comment by Cyprus

Strategic direction 5.3: Encourage innovation, public private partnerships and sustainable business solutions to advance towards the objectives of a just low-carbon, circular, green and blue economy		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
5.3.1. Adopt regulatory and economic incentives to foster sustainable business models that integrate circular economy principles and Increase capacity for eco- innovation in the industry and service sectors, and the adoption of eco-design principles that extend all along the lifecycle of products through circular economy models, including to promote market uptake.	National governments, civil society, academia, private sector	2035
5.3.2. Support networks of Business Support Organizations (BSOs) and circular economy hubs adopting sustainable and circular approaches for businesses and entrepreneurs.	National governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035
5.3.3. Promote and support collaborative partnerships between universities, businesses and research centres, civil society organizations (CSOs) and public institutions fostering cooperation to drive innovation	National governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, private sector	2035
5.3.4. Promoting labor justice in the circular green and blue economy	National governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, private sector	2035
5.3.5. Promote policies and enact legislation fostering gender mainstreaming within the circular economy sector	National governments, local authorities, civil society, academia, private sector	2035
Regional		
5.3.6. Create a regional/sub-regional of circular economy incubators including social innovation, and training programmes and enhance the capacities and networks of Business Support Organizations [BSOs] for sustainable business development	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector	2035

114.115. Misallocation of capital contributes to the development of inefficient, underused and environmentally-harmful infrastructure. The Strategy promotes the integration of sustainability principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment through the provision of tools and guidelines (strategic direction 5.4), while addressing externalities are often not sufficiently addressed by markets and policies, creating misleading price signals and incentives for business-as-usual practices linked to a high-carbon economy and by integrating the polluter-pays principle extended producer responsibility and payment for ecosystem services based on economic valuation. This is linked to strategic direction 2.2 under the marine and coastal areas objective. The integration of sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels and promoting key instruments such as eco-design criteria and the environmental certification of products and services are also envisaged, together with the promotion to extended producer responsibility. In the public sector, governments can lead by example by implementing policies that require sustainability assessments for public investments. This could include evaluating projects based on their potential for promoting circularity, minimizing waste, and reducing carbon emissions. At the regional level, capacity-building is required, in addition to improved dialogue with international donors for securing the mainstreaming of economic and social criteria in investments, including capacity- building on market instruments and on integrating the polluter- pays principle. This holistic approach encourages investments in technologies and practices that support a circular economy, such as renewable energy, waste reduction, and resource efficiency, ultimately leading to long-term benefits for both investors and communities. Finally, a flagship initiative focuses on the integration of sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels.

Strategic direction 5.4: Promote the integration of sustainability, circularity and climate change principles and criteria into decision making on the programming and evaluation frameworks of public and private investment		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
5.4.1. Promote environmental fiscal ⁹⁹ reform to reduce tax on labour and integrate the polluter-pays principle and extended producer responsibility into finance policy.	National governments	2030
5.4.2. Establish clear sustainability, circularity and climate change criteria for evaluating public and private investments, ensuring that financial flows prioritize resource efficiency, low-carbon innovation, and environmental impact reduction	National governments, private sector, civil society	2030
5.4.3. Promote extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or similar mechanisms that enhances resource efficiency, waste reduction, and product lifecycle accountability, encouraging industries to design products that are durable, repairable, and recyclable	National governments, private sector, civil society	2030
5.4.4. Raise the awareness of financial actors on the need to mainstream environmental and social impact assessments prior to investments decisions by providing tools and guidelines and enhancing capacities.	National governments, private sector, civil society	2035
5.4.5. Promote eco-design criteria covering the whole lifecycle of products and environmental certification of products and services.	National governments, academia, private sector	2035
Regional		
5.4.6. Provide assistance to countries interested in integrating the polluter- pays principle, extended producer responsibility and payments for ecosystem services into national finance policies.	International institutions, national governments, private sector	2030
5.4.7. Build capacity of national agencies on sustainable investment and promotion corporate social responsibility in private sector, including corporate environmental responsibility.	International institutions, national governments and agencies, private sector	2030
5.4.8. Initiate or strengthen dialogue with international funding institutions with a view to obtaining a commitment regarding the use of environmental and social criteria for investments.	International institutions, national governments, private sector	2035

115,116. Mediterranean countries require green and sustainable finance and related economic tools to support the necessary transition of the region, particularly to adapt to the impacts of climate and environmental change. To successfully drive this transition, they need a compelling and forward-looking vision that engages the relevant stakeholders at all levels, and fosters support for green and sustainable finance and economic policies. This vision should promote a positive and proactive approach to foster public and private investments that cater to regional, national, and local needs, while ensuring sustainable economic development and enhancing societal well-being, in line with the Strategic Directions (SD) of the MSSD. A deeper understanding of the current landscape of green and sustainable finance and related economic tools in the Mediterranean is thus essential. This includes three elements: the mapping of existing financial instruments with recommendations for scaling up the most effective ones in term of sustainability; the

⁹⁹ Change proposed by EcoUnion

scoping of economic activities in the Mediterranean that contribute to sustainability (taxonomy); and the identification of environmentally harmful subsidies in economic sectors that affect the Mediterranean region. This would constitute the Mediterranean Framework for Green and Sustainable Finance, which should be supported by concrete, actionable steps to ensure sustainability while addressing social and employment challenges (green and blue jobs). Mediterranean countries must first tackle the barriers and challenges they face in developing and implementing greener financial strategies. In this context, it is crucial to identify opportunities to enhance green and sustainable finance and related economic tools to promote sustainability. The lack of data and structured finance strategies in some countries underscores the heterogeneity across the region, making the creation of a Mediterranean Framework for Green and Sustainable Finance essential for coherent and effective action. Additionally, coherence between public and private financial mechanisms and flows is necessary to ensure that sustainable strategies and action plans are effectively implemented. Finally, Mediterranean countries must engage in discussions about interconnections and synergies between economic, environmental, and social priorities and involve all relevant stakeholders, national and local, in a cross-cutting, inclusive decision-making process to drive the green and sustainable transition forward.

Strategic direction 5.5: Promote an integrated financial ecosystem through a Mediterranean Framework for Green and Sustainable Finance aiming to foster the channeling of private and public capital into sustainable investments.		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
5.5.1. Develop national Frameworks for Green and Sustainable Finance identifying financial and policy instruments (e.g., green and blue bonds, concessional loans, grants, investment funds, tax incentives for accelerating the sustainable transition, and climate risk insurance) to facilitate financial flows to sustainable investments, while supporting adaptation, resilience-building, and considering social implications and acceptability.	National governments, local authorities, financial institutions	2030
5.5.2. Develop national green and sustainable finance networks bringing together different stakeholders (e.g. financial institutions, governments, private sector, academia, and NGOs) to enhance collaboration, share best practices, and facilitate knowledge exchange on green and sustainable finance.	National governments, local authorities, financial institutions, private sector, academia	2030
Regional		
5.5.3. Develop a Mediterranean Framework for Green and Sustainable Finance that incorporates Mediterranean-specific challenges and priorities to guide investments in green and sustainable projects, particularly on adaptation, taking into account national priorities.	Regional institutions, national authorities, regional/international donors, Plan Bleu	2030
5.5.4. Develop a Mediterranean-wide sustainable finance network connecting financial institutions, governments, private sector, academia, and NGOs to foster cross-border collaboration and accelerate sustainable investment (supporting both adaptation and mitigation efforts).	Regional institutions, financial institutions, governments, private sector, academia, NGOs	2030
5.5.5. Develop and implement regional guidelines for green and sustainable budgeting practices to integrate environmental and climate objectives into both annual and multi-year national and regional budgets.	National governments, local authorities, regional/international institutions, Plan Bleu	2030
5.5.6. Identification of major strategic projects, including proposals by local communities, that are key	National governments, local authorities, financial	2030

Strategic direction 5.5: Promote an integrated financial ecosystem through a Mediterranean Framework for Green and Sustainable Finance aiming to foster the channeling of private and public capital into sustainable investments.		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
to enhance sustainability in the whole Mediterranean, with the aim to attract capital flow. .	institutions, private sector, academia, Plan Bleu	

Objective 6: Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development.

Vision and Actions

~~116~~.117. Governance is a cross-cutting objective, relevant to each of the other objectives of the Strategy. This objective focuses on improving institutional capacities on sustainable development governance at the national level. Furthermore, the objective focuses in ensuring the full involvement of all stakeholders in promoting and achieving sustainable development at the regional, national and local level; for the latter. The objective considers the promotion of the role and reinforced awareness and capacities of local authorities in implementing the MSSD objectives, while aspects of governance related to the implementation of the Strategy are addressed in Chapter 3. Governance is characterized by the inclusion of non-state actors in the decision-making process, such as civil society, in particular local authorities, youth and women, financial institutions, private sector, and international organizations. This also involves new forms of cooperation arrangements, either at a national or at a transnational level, such as public-private partnerships. This multi-level governance, with different parallel yet interlinked rule-making systems, demands for a reinforced multi-stakeholder processes for supporting and monitoring policy development and implementation, while science-policy interface should also be further exploited to provide better information for decision-makers, also through a set of core indicators providing a summary of the major environmental and socio-economic challenges the Mediterranean faces, shedding light on the region's progress over the past three decades. The core indicators offers a perspective on the Mediterranean's evolution, reflecting the intricate interplay between education, health, economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

~~117~~.118. Governance issues in the Mediterranean range from endangered peace in the region, to inequalities among and within countries and weak public engagement, involvement and participation. Challenges for environmental governance include horizontal and vertical (due to lack of subsidiarity) fragmentation of responsibility for the environmental dossier, insufficient, uncoordinated and non- results-based planning, management, implementation and monitoring, as well as weak human, technical and financial resources in the public sector, particularly at the local level. Finally, inadequate awareness and education, research and innovation, and sharing of knowledge and information, are also sustainable development governance challenges faced in Mediterranean countries.

~~118~~.119. Effective inclusive and efficient governance requires that participation in decision-making and cooperation to ensure social justice considerations are taken into account. Participation and cooperation need to be strengthened, and more sustainable development opportunities to address inequalities should be found. Governance has to be flexible and adaptive; it should devise new forms of institutions based on discussion and participation, as well as innovative legal conceptions and constructive practices directly related to sustainability governance, taking also into account the new digital world and the opportunities it offers.

~~119~~.120. Finally, wide variations in the development models of Mediterranean countries do not allow a “one policy for all” approach and therefore emphasis needs to be placed on their specific needs and contexts. Fragmentation of responsibility needs to be addressed through increased policy integration and coordination. Horizontal institutional reforms including, inter alia, legal, administrative and taxation reforms (such as green national accounting, green tax reform) and efforts to fight corruption, are some of the approaches to be considered. The science-policy interface should also be expanded to provide better information for decision-makers and the public.

Objective 6: Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development.		
Targets	Indicators	
	Regional	Global
	MSSD Dashboard and Core indicators UNEP/MAP System other indicators	SDGs
Target 15: By 2030, Contracting Parties have formal/institutional mechanisms in place to ensure subsidiarity and synergies between policies at different levels of decision-making and across sectors in the long-term and across borders thus enhancing policy coherence on sustainable development (PCSD), including involvement of stakeholders.	NEW Indicator: Number of countries with mechanisms addressing marine and coastal environment subject to strategic environment impact assessment and policy consultation NEW Indicator: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development Number of countries with Institutional Coordination Mechanisms, including inter-ministerial committees	SDG 17, Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Indicator 14.2.1. Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas Indicator 17.14.1, Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development
Target 16:- By 2030, ensure that all learners, including the general public, acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.	MSSD Core indicator 3, Average years of schooling MSSD Dashboard Indicator 28: Education for Sustainable Development Extent to which education for sustainable development is mainstreamed in the national education policies, curricula and teacher education	SDG 4, Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Indicator 4.7.1, Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment
Target 17: By 2030, Contracting Parties have acceded to the Aarhus Convention.	MSSD Dashboard Indicator 27: Effective public participation and public access to environmental information Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	SDG 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels Indicator 16.10.2, Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

^{120:121.} Strategic direction 6.1 addresses enhanced regional, sub-regional and cross-border dialogue, cooperation, and networking processes, including emergency-preparedness mechanisms. At the national level,

the Strategy focuses on preparedness / prevention plans and alert mechanisms in case of (natural and human-made) disasters, as well as adaptive actions. At the regional level, an action to strengthen regional dialogue through cooperation and networking, including on emergency- preparedness is included, along with an action to strengthen regional and sub-regional dialogue and cooperation to better understand the relationship between environmentally-sustainable development and the challenges and opportunities related to population flows.

Strategic direction 6.1: Enhance regional, sub-regional and cross-border dialogue and cooperation, including on emergency-preparedness		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
6.1.1. Strengthen preparedness / prevention and cooperation plans and alert mechanisms in case of (natural and human-made) disaster, as well as adaptive actions.	National governments, local authorities, civil society	2035
Regional		
6.1.2. Strengthen regional and sub- regional dialogue, cooperation and networking processes, including on emergency-preparedness.	National governments, international institutions, civil society	2035
6.1.3. Strengthen regional and sub- regional dialogue and cooperation in order to better understand the relationship between environmentally- sustainable development and the challenges and opportunities related to population flows.	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society	2035

121-122. Strategic Direction 6.2 addresses strengthening the governance of the MSSD as crosscutting endeavor that concerns the systemic reinforcement of the role of sub-national and local governments/ municipalities, in the MSSD decision-making and implementation processes, in order to further promote and encourage stakeholders' engagement and action at local level as well as a stronger inclusive processes, therefore upscaling the impact of the MSSD on the ground.

Strategic direction 6.2: Strengthen the role, awareness and capacities of sub-national and local governments/ municipalities and of National and Regional Parliaments ¹⁰⁰ for implementing national and subnational sustainable development strategies and thus contribute to the achievement of SDG and MSSD objectives		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
6.2.1. Strengthen the institutional capacity and of sub-national and local governments/ municipalities to integrate and implement the MSSD objectives, while Strengthening coordination and collaboration mechanisms with national governments/authorities	National governments and sub-national and local government/municipalities	2035
6.2.2. Enable the implementation of SDGs and MSSD objectives at the sub-national and local level through training programs aimed at public policy coherence	National governments and sub-national and local government/municipalities ¹⁰¹	2035
6.2.3 Implement awareness campaigns for inclusive decision-making and participatory governance, also by strengthening ESD networks for policy understanding. ¹⁰²		2035
Regional		
6.2.4. Promote at regional level the exchange of best practices among sub-national and local governments/ municipalities on institutional capacity building for sustainable development and local stakeholders' engagement	Regional Conventions, National governments and sub-national and local government/ municipalities	2035

¹⁰⁰ Comment by PAM

¹⁰¹ Comment by EcoUnion

¹⁰² Comment by Cyprus

122.123. The Strategy promotes the engagement of civil society, scientists, local communities, **youth and women, financial institutions, private sector**, and other stakeholders in the governance process at all levels, in order to secure inclusive processes and integrity in decision-making. Public participation is particularly important at the local level, which is the level of government closest to the people, and the level of decision-making where many environment-related decisions are taken. Increased public participation has to be achieved through support for national, sub-national and local governments and institutions by means of improved legal frameworks and human and financial resources, and has to include skills related to partnership- building, negotiation and conflict resolution. The Strategy also envisages support for and strengthening of the organizational capacity of local, national and regional stakeholders, including voluntary organizations, cooperatives, associations, networks, and producer groups, in terms of legal frameworks and human and financial resources. That will contribute to better decision-making, implementation of policies, plans and projects, and monitoring. At the regional level, accession to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) is encouraged as a flagship initiative.

123.124. The Strategy promotes the engagement of civil society, scientists, local communities **youth and women, financial institutions, private sector** in the governance process at all levels, in order to secure inclusive processes and integrity in decision-making (strategic direction 6. 3). Public participation is particularly important at the local level, which is the level of government closest to the people, and the level of decision-making where many environment-related decisions are taken. Increased public participation has to be achieved through support for national, **sub-national and** local governments and institutions by means of improved legal frameworks and human and financial resources, and has to include skills related to partnership- building, negotiation and conflict resolution. The Strategy also envisages support for and strengthening of the organizational capacity of local, national and regional stakeholders, including voluntary organizations, cooperatives, associations, networks, and producer groups, in terms of legal frameworks and human and financial resources. That will contribute to better decision-making, implementation of policies, plans and projects, and monitoring.

Strategic direction 6.3: Promote the engagement of civil society, scientists, youth and women, financial institutions, private sector, local communities and other stakeholders in the governance process at all levels, in order to secure inclusive whole of society processes and integrity in decision-making		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
6.3.1. Set up, where relevant, and strengthen the capacity of national governments sub-national and local authorities for public participation in terms of legal frameworks and human and financial resources	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society	2035
1.3.2 Support and strengthen the capacity and awareness of local, and national stakeholders and non-state actors , also by strengthening ESD networks for civic engagement in sustainability projects ¹⁰³	National governments, local authorities, regional actors and initiatives , civil society	2035
6.3.3 Develop and implement policies that promote gender equality in coastal management and decision-making processes, including targeted training programs to build women's knowledge and skills in coastal resource management, fisheries, marine conservation, and environmental governance	National governments , civil society, academia	2035

124.125. The Strategy promotes implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements to guide actions at national and regional levels (strategic direction 6.4). It highlights the importance of ensuring policy coherence, based on mechanisms for inter-ministerial coordination and cross-sectoral planning. The Strategy promotes the implementation of the precautionary principle through instruments such as environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments. It encourages the support, through legal provisions where relevant, of partnerships in planning and implementation, including but not limited to private sector involvement, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing at regional (subnational) and/or local level. A flagship initiative is included to develop

¹⁰³ **Comment by Cyprus**

capacity-building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.

Strategic direction 6.4: Promote the implementation, and monitoring of the SD Strategies at all levels of government, considering synergies and tradeoffs between different policies and sectors, including intersectional management (WEFE NEXUS) by improving policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) based on whole of government approach, inter-ministerial coordination and multi-level government		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
6.4.1. Ensure ratification, compliance and implementation of global and regional agreements related to environmental sustainability, to guide actions at national and regional levels.	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society	2035
6.4.2. Ensure the adoption of the precautionary principle and its application by undertaking environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and other relevant procedures.	National governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, private sector	2035
6.4.3. Enhance inter-ministerial coordination and cross-sectoral planning and multi-level governance through policy coherence for sustainable development.	National governments, local authorities, civil society	2035
6.4.4. Encourage and support, through legal provisions where relevant, partnerships in planning and implementation, including but not limited to private sector involvement, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing at regional (subnational) and/or local level.	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, private sector	2035

125.126. The Strategy promotes education and research for sustainable development (strategic direction 6. 5). in particular through the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development³⁷. The aim of the latter Strategy is to encourage Mediterranean countries to develop and incorporate education for sustainable development into their formal education systems, in all relevant subjects, in particular in green and blue economy sectors and circular economy related professions, as well as in non-formal and informal education. The objectives of this Strategy focus on the following aspects of education for sustainable development: policy, legislation and other regulatory and operational support frameworks; promotion through formal, non-formal and informal learning; equipping educators with the competence to include sustainable development in their teaching; accessible and adequate tools and materials; research and development; and, cooperation at all levels, including exchange of experience and technologies within the region.

126.127. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development also includes an action to strengthen research capabilities in the area of sustainable development, as well as the science-policy interface. At the regional level, the Strategy underlines the value of large-scale programmes (e.g. European Union Horizon Europe Research Programmes) to promote sustainable development research and innovation, and the importance of encouraging and supporting partnerships amongst countries. It promotes also the exchange of good practices and knowledge in all aspects of education and learning for sustainable development.

6.5: Promote education and research for sustainable development		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
6.5.1. Implement the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, which promotes the integration of the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, and taking in due account the	Regional institutions, national governments, local authorities, civil society, academia and educators	2035

6.5: Promote education and research for sustainable development		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
United Nations' Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 ¹⁰⁴		
6.5.2. Strengthen knowledge and research capacity at the national level, through long-term provision of training opportunities, particularly in the green and blue economy sectors and circular economy related professions, transfer of knowledge and research infrastructure development.	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, educational and scientific communities, private sector, and civil society	2035
6.5.3. Strengthen the science-policy interface, to support decision making by scientific analysis and data, through research fora, seminars, and other opportunities for exchange, , and taking in due account the United Nations' Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.	International institutions, national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society	2035
Regional		
6.5.4 Promote research and innovation by ensuring that large-scale programmes and initiatives (e.g. European Union Horizon Europe Research Programmes) take into account Mediterranean priorities for sustainable development.	International institutions, academia, civil society	2030

127,128. Strategic direction 6.6 addresses regional capabilities for information management in relation to scientific data on sustainable development and environment. In order to allow for appropriate knowledge-based decision- and policy-making, as well as policy foresight, national information centres will be established, which will collect existing and new information. Joint knowledge-creation and knowledge-sharing initiatives with stakeholders, including the scientific community, the private sector and civil society are envisaged, which follow the European Union's Shared Environmental Information System principles on data-sharing and fair data management principles. At the regional level, capacity-building on data and information production and sharing and the coordination of national monitoring programmes are included. A flagship initiative is also envisaged to establish a publicly-accessible Mediterranean integrated information system, through which synergy is established between national governments, international institutions and the private sector, to collect and transparently display information on the state of the environment and the status of delivery on the protocols to the Barcelona Convention. This will draw on data and support systems already in place, for example the UNEP/MAP Knowledge Management Platform as the hub of UNEP/MAP knowledge heritage, following commitments of the adopted UNEP/MAP data policy.

Strategic direction 6.6: Strengthen regional capabilities for information management and enhance the promotion of evidence-informed policymaking and foresight		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
6.6.1. Establish or strengthen support for data monitoring processes, including through survey information, as well as national centres providing integrated and publicly-accessible information.	National governments, regional institutions, civil society, private sector	2030
6.6.2. Foster joint knowledge-creation and knowledge-sharing initiatives between stakeholders that respect the European Union's Shared Environmental Information System principles on data sharing.	International institutions, national governments, and local authorities, academia, civil society	2035

¹⁰⁴ Comment by Mohammed VI Foundation

Regional		
6.6.3. Develop capacity on data and information production, sharing and management and enhance technology where necessary to create comparable and compatible data, and support informed policy making and policy foresight evidence based, also through a set of core indicators providing a summary of the major environmental and socio-economic challenges	Regional institutions, national governments, academia Plan Bleu/RAC INFO /RAC	2035
6.6.4. Coordinate national and regional monitoring programmes at the regional level, including through annual workshops.	Regional institutions, national governments, National and Regional Parliaments	2035

3. ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2016- [2035] [2026-2035]

~~128.~~129. The implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 [2035] [2026-2035] is a collective process. Although facilitated by the MAP system, it is the participation and active role of all stakeholders that will play a decisive role in its delivery.

~~129.~~130. The MAP system, which includes the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centres, as well as the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, will provide leadership and guidance with respect to implementing the Strategy. Indeed the main UNEP/MAP policies and related measures formulated with a view to implementing the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention as well as other key existing regional mechanisms and instruments are essential for the implementation of the Strategy (Box 2). In addition, the MAP system will provide support and technical guidance to the Contracting Parties, as well as the coordination of implementation actions and monitoring processes, as well as a platform for the exchange of relevant information, experience and synergies developed at regional or sub-regional level.

~~130.~~131. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is a key structure within the MAP system for supporting the development and implementation of the Strategy. As a central point of reference and bringing together representatives of the Parties and stakeholders involved with sustainable development, it will work closely, supported by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat, with the relevant organizations for the effective implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy represents a policy and actions-oriented framework for the Commission's work, which will be complemented by MSSD implementation Work Plans.

~~i. The Mediterranean countries are invited to use the Strategy as a starting point for better integration of sustainable development into their national policies. The Strategy provides them with tools to integrate sustainable development into their national policies and build horizontal synergies between different government sectors and vertical synergies between different levels of government, from local to central and vice versa. That will allow for better coordination and integration of policies around the objective of sustainability.~~

~~131.~~132. Intergovernmental and regional and sub-regional institutions also have a very important role to play in the implementation of the Strategy. As mentioned in chapter 1, there are already a number of regional and sub-regional institutions with strategies and actions aimed at supporting sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, as well as addressing significant environmental challenges. Working in tandem with each other and with the MAP system, as well as facilitating synergies with Contracting Parties using the Strategy as a common platform, they can be critical for successful implementation. They will not only create an important critical mass of significant national and regional players working in a coordinated way towards sustainable development, but will also have a positive effect on using the limited human and financial resources needed for the implementation of joint activities more efficiently. Among these, National and Regional Parliaments play a pivotal role in the Monitoring and Evaluation phase by fostering their oversight exercise, also through parliamentary assemblies and regional forum. For these partners, the Strategy represents a coherent and integrated set of priority strategic directions and actions that need to be implemented to achieve sustainable development in the region, in which their actions and objectives are placed within an overall framework.

~~132.~~133. The private sector is a key partner for the implementation of the Strategy. As a key player in the emerging green economy, the private sector can be one of the strongest allies in the process of implementing the Strategy. This is not only through corporate social responsibility, but also through more sustainable consumption and production processes that are part of its core business, through the integration of innovative technologies, and through improved upstream and downstream processes of the industrial, artisanal and marketing chains. That will also contribute towards the sustainability of its own operations. For the private sector, the Strategy provides an indication of issues, directions and actions that have to be implemented to further sustainable development goals at regional, national and local level, and the type of discussions that have to be held within the context of sustainable development in the near future. This indication is of prime importance for business planning.

~~133.~~134. Science is key to success: all action and policy development at the national or regional level must rely on a strong evidence bases. The analytical tools that will allow the forecasting, planning and assessment of sustainable development-related impacts and actions need to be developed with the scientific community, which itself needs to direct its research capacity in support of decision making. For academia, the Strategy contains a series of sustainable development concerns that require assistance from science to

understand.

~~134.~~^{135.} Civil society has always been an important group of stakeholders in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. In the implementation of the Strategy, its role becomes more pronounced: besides being a catalyst for supporting and monitoring the implementation process at the regional and national level, civil society can take up important tasks related to awareness and sensitization, as well as acting as the third pillar of democracy, along with decision-makers and judicial entities, to ensure transparency and secure the participation of the people. For civil society, the Strategy contains a set of strategic directions that at once inform its work along with other partners, and provides fertile grounds for the development of projects.

~~135.~~^{136.} The importance of strengthening the role of local authorities, women and youth representatives in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the Mediterranean was highlighted at the 20th MCSD meeting in 2023. Delivering on SDG-14 and the 2030 Agenda as a whole will require youth and women empowerment, and inclusive policies that leave no one behind. Young people in the Mediterranean are solution-oriented, seeking green jobs and opportunities from a sustainable blue economy that delivers on its promises, including in the digital space. At the same time, the role of women in sustainable development is multidimensional and their voices need to be included at every forefront; they are often the first responders to their families, have unique ideas and perspectives, and often drive change at various levels. Local authorities are key actors of implementation for two main reasons: a) They are implementors by nature, since around 70% of SDG's rely on the effective work of local (including metropolitan) authorities; b) They are closer to citizens, both organised or individuals; the engagement of general public and citizens is very relevant to the implementation of the MSSD. Through its proximity, local authorities may be first hand enhancers of those behavioural changes.

~~136.~~^{137.} National and Regional Parliaments play a pivotal role in supporting implementation, by fostering their oversight exercise, also through parliamentary assemblies and regional fora.¹⁰⁵

~~137.~~^{138.} Funding ~~institutions~~^{bodies} are also key partners for the implementation of the Strategy. For these partners, the Strategy contains a set of widely-agreed regional objectives as well as strategic directions within these objectives, which will help such bodies to position and assess funding proposals aimed at advancing sustainable development in the region.

Box 2: Existing regional programmes and frameworks constituting essential tools for implementing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-~~[2035]~~ ^[2026-2035]

- Integrated coastal zone management is recognised as the way forward for the sustainable development of coastal zones and is characterised by a distinctive integrated approach to providing solutions to the complex environmental, social, economic and institutional problems of the coastal zones. As indicated by Article 2 of the **Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management for the Mediterranean** under the Barcelona Convention, “Integrated coastal zone management means a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account at the same time the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land parts”. The adoption of this protocol is a fully achieved policy-objective of the initial Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2005). Its implementation is supported by the Action Plan 2012-2019.
- The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention committed to apply the ecosystem-based approach – through the **Ecosystem Approach Roadmap** – to the management of human activities while enabling a sustainable use of marine goods and services, with the view to achieving or maintaining good environmental status of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions, their protection and preservation, as well as preventing their subsequent deterioration. They recognize the ecosystem approach as an integrated operational approach for the successful implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols while enhancing sustainable development in the region, as well as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.
- The **Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean** (entered into force in 1999) is implemented through **the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO) adopted in 2021**. In addition, the extension of the network of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance and the adoption and implementation of **a Post-2020**

¹⁰⁵ **Comment by PAM**

Regional Strategy for marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures in the Mediterranean represent important achievements for the region.

- **The Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan for the Mediterranean**, which is under preparation, aims at achieving the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production in priority economic sectors while addressing related environmental degradation challenges. It supports the implementation of sustainable consumption and production actions at the regional level and identifies actions to guide the implementation of the sustainable consumption and production at the national level, addressing key human activities which have a particular impact on the marine and coastal environment and related transversal and cross-cutting issues

~~The preparation and adoption by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention of a **Strategic Action Programme of regional and national activities to address land-based pollution** is one of the major breakthroughs in the Mediterranean countries' efforts to combat land-based pollution. This action-oriented initiative is implemented under the MED POL Programme identifying priority target categories of polluting substances and activities to be eliminated or controlled by the Mediterranean countries through a planned timetable for the implementation of specific pollution reduction measures and interventions.~~

- The adoption by the Contracting Parties of Regional Plans on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, on Urban Wastewater Treatment, on Sewage Sludge Management, on Agriculture Management, on Aquaculture Management and on Urban Stormwater Management, are major breakthroughs to combat marine pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities. ~~Entered into force in 2014, the **Marine Litter Regional Plan** is the first regional plan on marine litter under a regional sea convention. It presents measures and operational targets to achieve good environmental status and respective targets on marine litter; develop and implement appropriate policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements, including solid waste and sewer system management plans which shall incorporate marine litter prevention and reduction measures; raise awareness by the development of education programmes by the Contracting Parties; ensure institutional coordination and close coordination and collaboration between regional, national and local authorities in the field of marine litter; mobilize the producers, manufacturer brand Responsible Actors and first importers to be more responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product and also sustainable procurement policies contributing to the promotion of the consumption of recycled plastic made products; and, identify hotspots and implement national programmes to remove disposal in a sound manner regularly.~~

- The **Offshore Action Plan** includes priority actions and measures for the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify the Offshore Protocol; designate Contracting Parties' representatives to participate to the regional governing bodies; establish a technical cooperation and capacity building programme; establish a financial mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan; promote access to information and public participation in decision-making; enhance the regional transfer of technology; develop and adopt regional offshore standards; develop and adopt regional offshore guidelines; establish regional offshore monitoring procedures and programmes; and, report on the implementation of the Action Plan.

- **The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas**, which is under preparation, aims to increase the resilience of the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas to climate change through the development of a regional approach to climate change adaptation. Once adopted, this framework will form the basis for the development of a detailed Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

~~The **action programmes of the Ministerial Declarations and other frameworks established under the Union for the Mediterranean, including the 2030 GreenerMed Agenda**. On launching the Union, the heads of State and Government of Mediterranean countries agreed six priority areas of action, including depollution of the Mediterranean and alternative energies. At its 2021 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate change Action (Athens, 2014), the Union for the Mediterranean affirmed its commitment to accelerate the transition towards sustainable, climate-neutral, green, fair, circular and resilient economies; the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and the transition to a green and low-emission economy, among others.~~

- *With a 2030 target, the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. The Mission's new approach will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. Cross-cutting enabling actions will support this*

objective, in particular broad public mobilisation and engagement and a digital ocean and water knowledge system, known as Digital Twin Ocean. The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based “lighthouses” in major sea/river basins: Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic-North Sea, and Danube-Black Sea. Mission lighthouses are sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins.

➤ ~~The Horizon 2020 Europe and its Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters" aims to protect and restore the health of ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments.~~

➤ **The Environmental Reports on Resolutions unanimously adopted by all the 31 Member Parliaments of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) at the 17th, 18th and 19th PAM Plenary Sessions**, recalling the crucial role of National and Regional Parliaments in implementing the provisions of the Barcelona Conventions and its Protocols, to facilitate the advancement of SDGs in the region. The 2024 “Parliamentarian’s guide to protecting the Mediterranean Sea and coast” (UNEP, 2024) is a concrete tool for parliamentarians engage for stronger enforcement of, and compliance with, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

➤ Endorsed at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change of the Union for the Mediterranean, the **Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development** encourages the Mediterranean countries to develop and incorporate education on sustainable development into their formal education systems, in all relevant subjects, and in non-formal and informal education. This will equip people with knowledge of and skills in sustainable development, making them more competent and confident and increasing their opportunities for acting for a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and with concern for social values, gender equity and cultural diversity.

WestMed Initiative was adopted by the European Commission on 19 April 2017 and endorsed by the Council of the EU on 26 June 2017. In 2018 a common roadmap was agreed for the development of a sustainable blue economy in the sub-basin to generate growth, create jobs and provide a better living environment for Mediterranean populations, while preserving the services performed by the Mediterranean ecosystem. The roadmap includes 6 priorities: Maritime safety and the fight against marine pollution; Maritime cluster development; Skills development and circulation; Sustainable consumption and production; Biodiversity and marine habitat conservation and restoration; Development of coastal communities and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

➤ The Macro-regional Strategy for the Mediterranean has appeared in recent years as an important tool to accelerate changes and address challenges and menaces regarding climate change, biodiversity loss, protection and restoration and sustainable development promotion. The European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and the European Economic and Social Council have approved or expressed resolutions and opinions to support such strategy. This Mediterranean Strategy salutes these steps and will consider the developing of this initiative as a potential enhancer of the implementation of this MSSD

➤ The European Union (DG-MENA) funded “Water and Environment Support- Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) in the Neighbourhood South region” aims to improve the protection of the environment, the restoration of biodiversity and the management of scarce water resources, while enhancing the resilience to climate change in the Mediterranean region, strengthening the formulation, enforcement and implementation of the relevant policies of the Contracting Parties which are not member of the n-EU Mediterranean Countries- and the two regional political frameworks, namely the MAP/Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). It works primarily with the relevant Ministries through appointed Focal Points but it also involves a large number of non-State stakeholders. The WES-BCA builds on the experience and achievements of its predecessor projects (WES, SWIM H2020 SM, SWIM SM, Horizon 2020 CB/MEP) and provides continuity in regional and national initiatives including on capacity building, technical assistance, ESD, awareness raising and access to environmental information and public participation as well as on activities and good practices addressing key issues such as marine litter/ plastics, waste water treatment and reuse,

WEFE Nexus & Source-to-Sea approaches etc

- Under the New Pact for the Mediterranean, the EU is expected to renew commitment to strengthen engagement with the region, addressing shared challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, inclusive growth, and regional stability. Building on the foundations of the 2021 Agenda for the Mediterranean, the Pact is expected to promote concrete initiatives for deeper, impact-driven cooperation.

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council in 2014. The general objective of the EUSAIR is to promote economic and social prosperity and growth in the region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity. With four EU members and four non EU countries the strategy will contribute to the further integration of the Western Balkans. The countries are aiming to create synergies and foster coordination among all territories in the Adriatic-Ionian Region in the four thematic areas/ pillars: sustainable tourism, environmental quality, connecting the region and blue growth.

- **The Interreg Euro-MED Programme 2021-2027** supports cooperation across Mediterranean borders. The programme provides funds for projects developed and managed by public administrations, universities, private and civil society organizations to jointly implement transnational projects. The Programme brings together partners from 69 regions of 14 countries from the Northern shore of the Mediterranean with a common objective: a climate neutral and resilient society for the benefit of its citizens. The total programme budget amounts to about 294M€ for the 2021-2027 period. The Interreg Euro-MED Programme funds projects willing to bring solutions to answer 4 complementary missions: Strengthening an innovative sustainable economy, Protecting, restoring and valorising the natural environment and heritage, Promoting green living areas, Enhancing sustainable tourism.

- **The Interreg Next Med Programme 2021-2027** aims to contribute to smart, sustainable, fair development for all across the Mediterranean basin by supporting balanced, long-lasting, far-reaching cooperation and multilevel governance. The programme mission is to finance transnational cooperation projects that address joint socio-economic, environmental and governance challenges at Mediterranean level such as the uptake of advanced technologies, competitiveness of SMEs and job creation, energy efficiency, sustainable water management, climate change adaptation, transition to a circular and resource efficient economy, education and training, health care, etc. The cooperation area covers 15 countries: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia – and two new members, namely Algeria and Türkiye.

- With a 2030 target, **the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters"** aims to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments. The Mission's new approach will address the ocean and waters as one and play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature. Cross-cutting enabling actions will support this objective, in particular broad public mobilisation and engagement and a digital ocean and water knowledge system, known as Digital Twin Ocean. The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through area-based "lighthouses" in major sea/river basins: Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic-North Sea, and Danube-Black Sea. Mission lighthouses are sites to pilot, demonstrate, develop and deploy the Mission activities across EU seas and river basins.

- This final chapter addresses the implementation of the Strategy, focusing on three critical areas:
- institutional structures and processes for the implementation of the Strategy;
- financing the implementation of the Strategy; and,
- monitoring system and regional dashboard on the implementation of the Strategy

3.1. Institutional structures and means for the implementation of the Strategy

138-139. Further reinforcing adequate institutional structures is a key priority in providing for effective implementation of the Strategy. The existing management system for the Strategy implementation faces a number of challenges.

- ii. One of the major challenges for implementing sustainability strategies in any context is that of complexity. In the Mediterranean there is complexity both in terms of management scales

(international, national and local), and in terms of the various competencies of the related international organizations, coupled with a number of regional initiatives and programmes. In addition, in the national context, complexity also arises from the need to coordinate the remits and competencies of the various ministries and regulators at various scales. While there are many established cooperation forums at the international level, cooperation between the various stakeholders, at multiple scales, is not always integrated in the processes and activities relevant for the implementation of the Strategy. Such a complex management system runs the risk of excessive simplification of activities and lack of harmonization of practical actions to apply sustainability principles. Efficient coordination and capacity building of relevant stakeholders is therefore an urgent requirement for the Strategy implementation. As noted under the Governance objective, timely consultations on proposed contents, which, implemented early enough, would help avoiding misunderstandings, divergent objectives and overlapping of competencies. Consultations that begin at the early stages of policy development are more likely to motivate stakeholders to provide good quality professional contributions. A commitment towards transparency also helps to build trust, which increases the chances of policy, programme and project implementation. This is an area where capacity building is required.

iii. — A second key challenge relates to defining clear policy objectives and the expected results of plans, programmes and projects, and to a lack of tradition to act in accordance with determined objectives. Objectives often lack clear indicators for performance assessment or responsibility for the achievement of results. Capacity building is also required here, while the MSSD implementation Work Plans will concretely support this process.

iv. — A third key challenge for implementation relates to the difficulty of successfully integrating economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives when faced with the over-riding expectation that governments achieve immediate economic goals. Related to this is the fact that the environment and social implications of development are often not clearly understood, in particular at national and local scales.

v. — Third, organization building and restructuring for the implementation of sustainable development is often hampered by inadequate institutional system capacity to efficiently carry out duties within the scope of its competencies. Lack of capacities, of human resources and financing sources, at various scales, was identified as a shortcoming by numerous stakeholders in the process of consultations during the review of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

139.140. In the context of the above challenges facing the management system for sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, the following strategic directions and actions are required. In order to improve sustainable development governance it is essential that the right structures are put in place or strengthened, and properly resourced (strategic direction 7.1). At a national level, it is essential to ensure the wide participation of relevant organizations in sustainable development management through the setting up of sustainable development commissions, councils, fora, and networks as appropriate in each national context. These coordination and consultation bodies should serve to achieve wide and high-level political support at national level, particularly with key ministries whose competencies affect or are effected by, sustainable development, including the prime minister, where relevant, and must be supported by adequate human and financial resources.

140.141. At a regional level, it is essential that the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development should have its proper funding and its human resources and that MAP's own governance and funding programmes are designed to take into account the need for resources for sustainable development. A second regional action reflects to the need to enlarge the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to ensure the participation of a larger number of relevant international organizations and stakeholder groups from the Mediterranean region involved in sustainable development processes.

141.142. Improving visibility and outreach of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, particularly within the United Nations system, such as within the Conferences of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention and at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development is essential. This would entail the establishment of a ministerial level of action through organization of regular four-yearly sessions dedicated to sustainable development of the Mediterranean at the ministerial level within the framework of the Conferences of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention. The final action under this strategic direction focuses on ensuring that the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development fulfils its role in promoting the exchange of good practices and networking in areas relevant to its remit.

Strategic direction 7.1: Put in place or strengthen structures for sustainable development implementation at national and regional scale, and ensure their adequate resourcing		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
National		
7.1.1. Ensure a wide participation of relevant organizations in sustainable development management at the national level through the setting up of sustainable development commissions, councils, fora, and networks as appropriate.	National governments, local authorities as authorities to be taken into account to ensure the participation of relevant organizations in sustainable development at National level ¹⁰⁶	2035
Regional		
7.1.2 Improve the impact of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in the regional context through strengthening of the administrative and financial support for its operation, in particular by strengthening the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit as the Commission Secretariat for it to be able to coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2026-2035 and the regular reporting on progress.	UNEP/MAP	2035
7.1.3 Enlarge the New MCSD participants as observers to ensure the participation of a larger number of relevant international organizations and stakeholder groups including women and youth from the Mediterranean region involved in sustainable development processes, and 7.1.3.bis to enhance coordination at the regional level between related frameworks in order to and to establish/acknowledge the MSSD as the overarching Strategic Reference document for the region. ¹⁰⁷	Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP/MAP UFM, WestMed Initiative, EUSAIR macro regional strateg, -Interreg Euro-Med, Interreg Next South, Interreg Adrion, Ocean Mission, Mediterranean Committee on ESD Action Plan ¹⁰⁸	[Ongoing 2035]
7.1.4. Improve visibility and outreach of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and the MSSD ¹⁰⁹ , with the support of a communication strategy , particularly within the United Nations system, such as within the Conferences of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention and at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development, to complement the four-yearly ministerial sessions on sustainable development at the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention.	Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP/MAP	2035
7.1.5. Ensure that the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development fulfils its role in promoting the exchange of good practices and networking in areas relevant to its remit on sustainable development, as well as through appointing ‘champions’ where relevant.	Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP/MAP	2035

~~142.~~^{143.} The second strategic direction in this section focuses on establishing mechanisms for management of sustainable development processes, in particular the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 [\[2035\]](#) [\[2026-2035\]](#) at the regional level (strategic direction 7.2). The actions recommended take on board the understanding that policies and strategies exist within a policy cycle, beginning with policy formulation and continuing with policy implementation and monitoring and then policy review.

¹⁰⁶ [Comment by MedCities](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Comment by Greece](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Comment by Cyprus](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Comment by EcoUnion](#)

- vi. — The first action under this strategic direction focuses on the need to integrate the role of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development Secretariat and the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy into the regular MAP programmes of work. A second action concerns the drafting of an implementation plan for the Strategy, which identifies the optimal mechanisms for the participation of national institutional frameworks responsible for sustainable development in the implementation of the Strategy national actions. This implementation plan should include the possibility of achieving voluntary agreements with key stakeholders in the region, thus contributing to the coherence of the common work in the Mediterranean basin towards sustainable development. It should also take into consideration the need to regularly communicate the work on implementation of the Strategy in order to retain momentum.
- vii. — The fourth action under this strategic direction focuses on the need for a participatory mid-term evaluation based on the first 5 years of data regarding the implementation of the Strategy, based on indicators associated with the actions, as well as the [proposed] dashboard of Sustainability Indicators [subject to regular update]. [This dashboard will draw on the indicators already selected in connection with the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, as well as the Regional framework for ICZM and the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap]. The Strategy will be reviewed after ten years, taking into consideration global developments, and a new Strategy will then need to be defined by 2035.

Strategic direction 7.2: Establish regional processes for the implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
Regional		
7.2.1 Ensure that the regular programmes of work of UNEP/MAP allocate the necessary resources for leading the implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016- [2035] [2026-2035]	Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP/MAP, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention	2035
7.2.2 Strengthen the support of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to national/local authorities	UNEP/MAP	2035
7.2.3 Undertake a participatory mid- term and final evaluations of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016- [2035] [2026-2035] based on the first 5 years of data regarding its implementation, using indicators associated with the actions, as well as the proposed dashboard of Sustainability Indicators.	UNEP/MAP	2035
7.2.4 Review the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016- [2035] [2026-2035] issuing a new Strategy for the period 2036-2045, based on the MSSD final evaluation.	UNEP/MAP	2035

3.2. Financing the implementation of the Strategy

143-144. Implementation of the Strategy, based on the ambitious but necessary and realistic vision of establishing a sustainable Mediterranean on strong economic and social foundations, needs significant financial resources. The resources for financing the Strategy implementation cannot and should not be expected to come from only one or a few sources. It is, again, a collective effort, through which the sum will be much greater than the addition of the parts, thanks to the synergies developed and economies of scale achieved.

144-145. In that sense, the national budgets of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, allocating funds for the implementation of strategic targets aligned with the Strategy and the mobilization of resources for participation in regional and sub-regional actions aligned with the Strategy can significantly assist in promoting implementation, while at the same time serving national objectives and policies. The proposed activities within the Strategy are designed in such a way as to allow the Parties to adhere to existing activities, or to develop actions that fit within one or more strategic directions and relevant actions, thus directing national funding for sustainable development in the direction proposed in the Strategy.

145-146. Similarly, the coordination between MAP and other regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations and development agencies can be streamlined around selected topics and actions of the Strategy, so that collective support can produce the necessary resources for significant actions in the region. The development of flagship initiatives is aimed at concentrating the efforts of all involved partners and stakeholders on actions that will gain significant impetus, through publicity and promotion, and increased effectiveness through the synergies developed and the focusing of resources on common targets.

146-147. The private sector needs to be in a central place in the process. By mobilizing resources for its own research, development and integration of technologies into the production process, and shifting some of the resources invested annually in marketing and promotion activities, it can play a very significant role in critically strengthening the process of implementation. For that purpose, the MAP system, as well as the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and other stakeholders, such as civil society, need to develop close working relations with the private sector and construct a platform of trust and synergy through which 'win-win' collaborations will be established for the implementation of actions in the context of the Strategy.

147-148. Strategic direction 7.3 addresses the need to strengthen capacity for financing the Strategy. The first action in this regard relates to the development of a project portfolio drawn from the Strategy to support

fundraising activities. The second action relates to the provision of capacity-building workshops on fundraising. In addition, the Strategy recommends the creation of an investment facility for sustainable development implementation in the Mediterranean, involving international financial institutions, development banks, the European Union and bilateral donor agencies. Finally, the Strategy encourages private sector to engage with civil society and foster greater corporate social responsibility.

Strategic direction 7.3: Strengthen capacity for financing the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-[2035] [2026-2035]		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time frame
Regional		
7.3.1. Build a project portfolio aimed at supporting the implementation of Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development actions, and associate possible funding sources with the portfolio.	UNEP/MAP	2030
7.3.2. Provide capacity-building workshops to national governments and stakeholders, as well as sub-regional bodies in fundraising to improve their access to funding.	UNEP/MAP, UFM, National and Regional Parliaments, other regional-and/ international organizations-/initiatives /programmes, WES/BCA, INTERREG Med/ PRIMA Programmes	2035
7.3.3. Mapping funding opportunities and develop a MSSD funding strategy and create an investment facility for sustainable development implementation in the Mediterranean, involving international financial institutions, development banks, the European Union and bilateral donor agencies, as well as engaging with the private sector	UNEP/MAP, regional and international organizations, national governments, European Union, WB, EBRD, EIB	2035

3.3. Monitoring system and a regional dashboard on the implementation of the Strategy

~~148-149.~~ A comprehensive monitoring system and relevant indicators are necessary to assess for the implementation of the Strategy. This is done using the MSSD dashboard indicators.

150. The indicators ~~are~~ set to monitor the progress of sustainable development issues are available online (<https://wesr.unep.org/article/dashboard>), in an interactive way. The MSSD Dashboard indicators should be subject to regular update.

151. The implementation of the Strategy is subject to an independent Mid-Term evaluation in 2030 that should take into account the forthcoming global sustainability framework and recommend the necessary directions as appropriate.

152. The Strategy is subject to a final evaluation in 2035. Both evaluations should be independent, participatory and inclusive involving the MCSD members, partners and stakeholders and be accompanied by an updated evaluation of the MSSD Dashboard indicators to assess sustainability trends.

~~149-153.~~

viii. ~~[Data and information sharing is facilitated by the Aarhus Convention. The UNEP Live knowledge platform aims to fill the gaps between data providers and consumers.⁴³¹ The crowd-sourcing of data could complement the institutional data sources generally used in international reporting. The population of the indicators in the Strategy should also mobilize a data revolution for sustainable development^[44] taking into consideration more open data.] [to be considered for deletion]~~

ix. — Based on the existing reporting systems and through countries involvement, strong partnerships with regional and national experts and stakeholders, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols are encouraged to proceed with periodic evaluation of the MSSD and its dashboard to timely consider the regular update of national and regional datasets, while it will allow precise and up to date analysis of the progress towards the sustainable development of the region based on the sustainability dashboard, utilizing on primary basis the data from already existing reliable sources. sources should also be the practice to the extent possible. Strategic direction 7.4 contains four actions to ensure the regular monitoring of the Strategy, the first being for national governments and regional organizations to support the monitoring process through regular and timely provision of regular data. Although much data is found through international databases, there is also the need for national governments and other stakeholders to provide some information directly. A second action concerns the need to ensure that the Strategy monitoring systems are built taking into account the existing and planned data sharing and information systems of the MAP and highlights the potential of meetings of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to assist with monitoring the implementation of the Strategy through discussions in breakout groups.

Strategic direction 7.4: Ensure the regular monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025		
Actions	Responsible Actors	Time Frame
National		
7.4.1. Provide data on biannual basis for monitoring the Strategy, reporting on the progress of the MSSD biannually	National governments, regional organizations, UNEP/MAP	2035
Regional		
7.4.2. Ensure that the Strategy monitoring systems are built taking into account the existing and planned data-sharing and information systems of the MAP, complementing with the potential of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development meetings for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy using breakout groups.	UNEP/MAP, national governments, regional organizations, Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP/MAP	2035
7.4.3 Update and populate the dashboard of sustainability indicators for the Mediterranean, with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development playing an advisory role in the selection process.	UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development	2035

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>P</u> Leading partner
OBJ 1 Climate Change	SD 1.1: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness	ONGOING: Regional science-policy interface mechanism to prepare consolidated regional scientific assessments on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options (MedEcc)	MedEcc Supported by UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu/RAC, UfM
		NEW: Launching of educational initiatives (e.x. Mediterranean ESD Network: Platform for collaboration among schools, universities, and civil societies Mediterranean Green Skills Program: Training for youth and women in sustainable business practices	CYPRUS, Mediterranean Committee on Education and Sustainable Development , WES/BCA
	SD 1.5: economy decarbonization energy transition and renewable energies	NEW: Delivering 1TW of renewable energy capacity in the Mediterranean by 2030 (TERAMED)	Presented by ECOUNION and RAED . Regional governments, international organizations, private sector stakeholders, and civil society groups

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>P</u> Leading partner
OBJ 2 Health, productivity, restoration and resilience	SD 2.1: implementation, compliance and monitoring with regional requirements of regulatory and policy frameworks of BC for coastal and marine management	Achieving 30 by 30 MPAs/ OECMs Targets (Update of MEDFUND Flagship Initiative)	SPA/RAC Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation ; Oceanographic Institute – Prince Albert 1st of Monaco Foundation ; UNEP/MAP Specially Protected Area Regional Activity Centre (SPA/RAC) ; Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund ; MedPAN ; WWF Mediterranean ; IUCN Centre for Mediterranean cooperation ; French coastal protection agency Conservatoire du Littoral ; Mediterranean Small Islands Initiative . MedPAN is the network of Mediterranean marine protected area managers.

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>P</u> Leading partner
		NEW: Mediterranean Coast Day	PAP/RAC Partnership , Secretariat of UNEP/MAP and Regional Activity Centres under the Barcelona Convention System Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention UNEP Regional Seas Programme & Regional Seas UNESCO UNEP/MAP— Barcelona Convention system Partners (IGOs and NGOs) Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ocean & Climate Platform International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) WWF-Mediterranean Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MiO-ESCEDE) MedWet Initiative MED SEA Foundation ARTPORT_making waves

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>P</u> Leading partner
	SD 2.3: Promote well connected ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures nature-based solutions at national, transboundary and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss	ONGOING: Promote the IUCN Green list standard in riparian states to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of parks managing bodies created.	IUCN-Green List The following countries support the initiative: Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Spain.
		NEW: Promote the protection and conservation of Seagrass/Posidonia Meadows as crucial ecosystem	SPA/RAC Partners: The French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, WWF Mediterranean, The Mediterranean Posidonia Network Countries: France, Tunisia, Spain, Malta, Cyprus, Algeria, Türkiye, Italy, Greece
OBJ 3 Sustainable resource management, food security, rural development, food systems	SD 3.1: circular/regenerative use, management and conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resources	NEW: Strategy for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus (WEFE Nexus) in the Mediterranean Source to Sea continuum (WEFE NEXUS)	<u>MED</u> Programme; UfM; DG NEAR; <u>UNEP/MAP</u> ; Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) Water and Environment Support mechanism (WES/ <u>BCA</u>) Project PRIMA Partnership for Research & Innovation in the Mediterranean area

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	PL Leading partner
		NEW: Mediterranean Forest Initiative	UNEP, FAO and UNDRR UfM, EFIMed, Partner countries of the Mediterranean, Barcelona Convention, UNEP/MAP RACs, Mio-ECSDE, IUCN, CEDARE, Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS)
OBJ 4 Sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities	SD 4.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment	ONGOING: Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	UNEP/MAP MedCities
		NEW: Mediterranean Network of Zero Net Cities	UNEP/MAP MedCities Countries/states: Contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention, starting for example from those that their cities won the previous 4 IEFCA, Greece, Cyprus and Albania Winner cities of previous 4 IEFCA: Izmir, Genoa, Malaga, Ashdod Interested Mediterranean Cities from the 112 NetZeroCities, starting by MedCities members, such as Barcelona, València, Marseille, Rome, Limassol and Izmir Other interested cities: Athens, Tirana, as e.g. Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors PAP/RAC PLan Bleu/RAC and SCP/RAC

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>P</u> Leading partner
	SD 4.2: Encourage inclusive urbanization and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management	ONGOING: -Sustainable urban toolbox for the Mediterranean (Medurbantools) (Capitalises the former flagship initiative 'Undertake regional assessments, knowledge exchanges, of high and low tech solutions, to achieve waste reduction')	MedCities, Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB), Interreg MED Urban Transports Community and REV-ACTE projects
OBJ 5 Sustainable, green, blue and circular economy, sustainable finance	SD 5.3: Encourage innovation and sustainable business solutions to advance towards the objectives of a just low-carbon, circular, green and blue economy	ONGOING: WeMedBusiness Award	SCP/RAC, UNEP/MAP
		NEW: Sustainable blue tourism	ECO-UNION and -IDDRI CSOs: Plan Bleu/RAC, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation. Supportive Countries: France, Spain Implementing countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Montenegro.
		Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels	

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>P</u> Leading partner
OBJ 6 Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development	SD 6.3: Promote the engagement of civil society, scientists, youth and women, financial institutions, private sector, local communities and other stakeholders in the governance process at all levels, in order to secure inclusive whole of society processes and integrity in decision-making	ONGOING: Encourage the adoption and implementation of the Aarhus Convention	MIO-ECSDE COMPSUD MEPIELAN UNECE Aarhus Convention secretariat, UNEP/MAP, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (Committee on Energy, Environment and Water),
		NEW: Women leadership for SDGs in the Mediterranean	UNEP/MAP, -women representatives of MCSD members PAM Women Parliamentary Forum Countries: France, Slovenia (Current Bureau Chair), Egypt (Next Bureau Chair), Algeria (hosting of 2024 Mediterranean Coast Day), etc UFM Plan Bleu/ -R RAC, PAP/RAC and INFO/RAC Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) ASCAME EPLO CPMR-InterMediterranean Commission OECD – Istanbul Centre

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	Leading partner
		NEW: Youth involvement in MSSD decision process and implementation	Mediterranean Youth Group IECD –J-Med NGOs involved in the implementation of SDGs, Med sustainable development in the Med Sea (Mediterranean SOS Network (MedSOS) – Greece; Amici della Terra Italia (Friends of the Earth Italy) – Italy; L'Association de Sauvegarde de la Nature et de l'Environnement (ASNE) – Tunisia; RAED (Arab Network for Environment and Development) – Egypt; DOTO (Diaries of the ocean) - Lebanon Med Countries INFO/RAC Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) MIO-ECSDE Anna Lindh Foundation Académie des Talents Méditerranéens
		NEW: MED Green Week	UNEP/MAP UFM, UNEP/MAP

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	<u>Leading partner</u>
	SD 6.4: Promote the implementation, and monitoring of the SD Strategies at all levels of government, considering synergies and tradeoffs between different policies and sectors, including intersectional management (WEFE NEXUS) through policy coherence for sustainable development based on whole of government approach, inter-ministerial coordination and multi-level government	Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligation	
	6.5: Promote education and research for sustainable development	ONGOING: Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development	MIO-ECSDE The following countries participate in the Bureau of the initiative: Cyprus (chair), Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine. and the <u>The following</u> international/regional organizations participate, as well as in <u>the</u> Bureau of the initiative: <u>UNEP/MAP, UfM, UNESCO, UNECE, League of Arab States, Mediterranean Committee of ESD</u>

MSSD OBJ	Strategic Directions	Flagship Initiative	Leading partner
	6.6: Strengthen regional capabilities for information management and enhance the promotion of evidence-informed policymaking and foresight	ONGOING: Observatory on Environment and Sustainable Development	Plan Bleu, Tunisia , Lebanon , Egypt , Morocco , Turkiye

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¹⁹ Decision IG.21/9 of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Annex I.

²⁰ See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008L0056>.

²¹ See <http://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/>; http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/adriatic-ionian/

²² See http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm.

²³ <http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/>

²⁴ Giulio Malorgio, *New Medit* N. 2/2004, http://www.iamb.it/share/img_new_medit_articoli/343_02malorgio.pdf

²⁵ See <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

²⁶ State of Mediterranean Forests 2013. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3226e/i3226e.pdf>

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²⁸ UN-Habitat, 'State of the world's cities, Harmonious cities, 2008-2009', UN-Habitat, *Cities for All: Bridging the Urban Divide*, 2010-2011.

²⁹ EEA 'The European Environment: State and outlook 2015: Countries and Regions: The Mediterranean Region.' (<http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/countries/mediterranean>)

³⁰ Haase, D., Larondelle, N., Andersson, E., Artmann, M., Borgström, S., Breuste, J., Elmqvist, T. (2014). A quantitative review of urban ecosystem service assessments: concepts, models, and implementation. *Ambio*, 43(4), 413–33. doi:10.1007/s13280-014-0504-0

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³² See <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/>

³³ See <http://www.ecomena.org/tag/ghg-emissions/>

³⁴ See <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/AboutGEI>

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³⁸ See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

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⁴² See <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/seis/>; <http://enpi-seis.pbe.eea.europa.eu/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2035- 2026-2035 provides a strategic policy framework, built upon a broad consultation process, for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with Sustainable Development Goals and efficiently deliver them at regional and national level. It aims to harmonise the interactions between socio-economic and environmental goals, adapt international commitments to regional conditions, guide national strategies for sustainable development, and stimulate regional cooperation between stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development. As highlighted in its subtitle (*Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development*), the Strategy is underpinned by the conviction that investment in the environment, green transition, climate resilience, circular economy supported by the development of green taxonomy and whole of society involvement is the best way to protect Mediterranean sea and coasts and achieve Good Environmental Status and secure long-term sustainable job creation and socio-economic development, leaving nobody behind while improving public health, and an enhanced quality of life.

2. The Strategy focuses on addressing cross-cutting issues that lie in the interface between environment and development. It addresses issues across sectoral, institutional and legal boundaries, emphasizing the interlinkages between environmental issues, climate change challenges, sea and coasts' management and multiple use governance, sustainable circular economy, reviewable energies, Water-Energy-Food -Ecosystem Nexus, Nature-based solutions, rural development and food security and management, sustainable cities and social challenges, rather than specific economic sectors. The Strategy is also expected to boost synergies between the work of key national and regional stakeholders, by providing a commonly-agreed framework, thereby leading to increased efficiency in the implementation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, as well as by further supporting the engagement of civil society, scientists, youth and women, financial institutions, private sector, local communities, thus ensuring an inclusive framework.

3. In particular the urgent need to address climate change as a top priority for the Mediterranean basin is a red flag alert to be urgently addressed, while all key recent reports¹¹⁰ confirm worrisome scenario in the short and long perspectives.

The frequent and dramatic impacts on the environment, on key economic sectors of the region and last but not least on our lives, do not admit any further delayed action.

Adaptation to climate change is for UNEP/MAP and its Contracting Parties the common matter to be jointly addressed. Doing so it will also contribute to further strengthening regional cooperation, also weaving more specific and decentralized cooperation with sub-national authorities, municipalities, territories, to ensure targeted adaptation actions.

4. The Mediterranean Sea is home to a large diversity of ecosystems and species subject to considerable pressures and it is home to a large share of the world's marine biodiversity, but it is also the victim of decades of unsustainable use, despite the efforts for an effective management. It also suffers most from the impacts of climate change, warming 20% faster than the rest of the world according to the MedECC¹¹¹, thus, it holds the highest percentage of threatened marine habitats, including 21% vulnerable and 11% endangered on the EU28 Red List.¹¹² Its coasts account for 30 31 per cent of global tourist arrivals. Development of large and mega-cities is increasing pressures from the rising population levels and the accumulation of economic activities in coastal zones. Mediterranean agricultural products and diet have a global reputation, but depend on the sustainability of rural landscapes, resources and decent working conditions. Global shipping routes through the Mediterranean constitutes an important transit and trans-shipment area for international shipping, hosting 17% of the world's oil tanker capacity and making the density of maritime traffic exceptional for a semi-closed sea. The recent surge of interest in the exploitation of hydrocarbons and minerals under the Mediterranean seabed poses also increased risks for the environment.

¹¹⁰ Plan Bleu/RAC State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED 2020); Med2050 foresight exercise; First MedECC assessment report (MAR1 2020); MedECC Special Report on Climate Wefe Nexus : moving away from silo approaches (2024) and the special report on Coastals Risks: building resilience in coastal communities

¹¹¹ MedECC 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

¹¹² Additional descriptive elements shared with the Conference Room Paper (UNEP/MED WG.600/CRP.1) on 12 February 2025

5. Significant discrepancies in development levels between countries, together with conflicts in the region, pose challenges for envisaging a sustainable future of the Mediterranean basin. The fragility of the region is further aggravated by its sensitivity to climate change: the Mediterranean ecosystems are and will **continue** being among the most impacted by global climate change drivers.
6. The Strategy is formulated taking into account the outcomes of the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)** which put particular focus on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, **the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the adopted UN Resolution on the Pact for the Future**¹¹³, that reaffirms the commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and urgently calls for accelerating progress towards achieving the Goals. **The United Nations process on the Sustainable Development Goals built upon the Millennium Development Goals and adopted a set of goals that is coherent and integrated into the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
7. The Strategy equally takes into account the **UNGA Resolution 76/296 of July 2022, “Our Ocean, Our Future, Our Responsibility”**, which highlights that its goals can also be successfully **applied at regional level** and the **2024 UNEA 6, UNEP/EA.6/Res.15** on Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution, scale-up means of implementation to enhance capacity to deliver ocean-related SDGs, as well as the **United Nations' Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030**¹¹⁴ with its vision ‘The science we need for the ocean we want’.
8. The Strategy embeds the commitments and targets steaming from the **2015 UN Paris Agreement, the 2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the European Green Deal, the International Maritime Organization’s Strategy for reducing GHG emissions from ships, the Post-2020 SAPBIO**¹¹⁵ and other UNEP/MAP recently adopted policies, including **Programmes of Measures to achieve Good Environmental Status of Mediterranean Sea and Coasts.**
9. The **institutional** landscape is characterized by the emergence of regional initiatives focusing on increased collaboration between the South, North and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean, such as the **General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Union for the Mediterranean and Horizon Europe 2020 initiative** and its Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters"¹¹⁶ aims to protect and restore the health of ocean and waters by 2030. Other regional and sub-regional initiatives, such as the **Pact for the Mediterranean, the WestMed Initiative**¹¹⁷ and the **EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)**¹¹⁸, focus on specific sustainable development issues to be addressed at the Mediterranean level, looking also at the most significant sources of environmental degradation in the region.
10. The Strategy is built around the following vision:
A prosperous, **climate resilient**, and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity and in the limit of acceptable change of biologically diverse healthy, **productive, conserved, restored wisely used and effectively managed** ecosystems
11. This is achieved through common objectives, **shared actions**, strong involvement of all stakeholders, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.
12. A set of **guiding principles** also informs the Strategy: the importance of an integrated approach to environmental and **sustainable** development planning; an openness to a plurality of future development models; a balanced approach to territorial development; the precautionary and polluter pays principles; a participatory approach to policy and decision-making; the importance of evidence-based policy; the reconciliation of long- and short-term in

¹¹³ Resolution A/RES/79/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 22 September 2024

¹¹⁴ <https://www.unesco.org/en/decades/ocean-decade>

¹¹⁵ Decision IG.25/11 on the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO)]

¹¹⁶ Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters

¹¹⁷ <https://westmed-initiative.ec.europa.eu>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.adriatic-ionian.eu>

terms of planning and evaluation; transparency; and, the partnership between the MAP system and other international and regional organizations.

13. The Strategy follows a **structure** based on **six objectives** that lie in the interface between environment and development, and were chosen to provide scope for an integrated approach to address sustainability issues. The first Objective on climate change reflects the urgency to accelerate related adaptation actions, three first objectives 2, 3 and 4 reflect a territorial approach, while the other last two objectives are cross-cutting ones, addressing key policies and areas, as follows:

- 1 Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority for the Mediterranean
- 2 Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas
- 3 Promote sustainable resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems
- 4 Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities
- 5 Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance
- 6 Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development.

14. A set of **strategic directions** is formulated for each of the six overall objectives. The strategic directions are complemented by **national and regional actions**, as well as **flagship initiatives** and **targets**. The actions aim at providing guidance and inspiration for the most effective implementation of the Strategy. Not all countries may have the necessity or the resources to undertake all the proposed actions: it may be preferable to adapt the proposed actions to national needs. The **targets** are inspired by the global and regional agendas for sustainability and SDGs of relevance for the Mediterranean Region, considering its specificities, and monitor MSSD progress at Objectives' level' along with the framework of regional and global indicators. The **flagship initiatives** have an upscaled key role in the framework of the MSSD implementation, as concrete initiatives and best practice that can lead the way in supporting the countries and stakeholders to partner up, commit and promote replication and spin off initiatives on sustainable development, both at regional and national level.

15. The scope and content of the six objectives of the Strategy can be summarised as follows:

Objective 1: Address climate change with emphasis to adaptation to its impacts and promote Energy Security and Transition as a priority for the Mediterranean

16. According to the first MedECC Assessment Report¹¹⁹, annual average temperatures on land and sea across the Mediterranean Basin are 1.54°C higher than during pre-industrial times and they are projected to rise until 2100 by an additional 3.8 to 6.5°C for a high greenhouse gas concentration scenario and 0.5 to 2.0°C for a scenario compatible with the long-term goal of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement to keep the global temperature well below +2°C above the pre-industrial level. While climate variability and change is evident in the Mediterranean, the consequences of climate change are expected to worsen already critical situations present in the region. The Strategy calls for progress towards a green, low-carbon and climate-resilient Mediterranean region, promoting complementary strategic directions, as follows: Increase scientific knowledge, education, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems; Accelerate the uptake of climate smart and climate resilient responses; Leverage existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms, including international and domestic instruments, and enhance the engagement of the private and

¹¹⁹ 2020 1st Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1)

finance sectors; Promote economy decarbonization energy transition and deployment of renewable energies; Strengthen national and local capacities on the application of nature-based solution for climate change adaptation and mitigation; Encourage institutional, policy and legal reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks, particularly in the energy sector. The Strategy is complemented by the 2026 UNEP/MAP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

Objective 2: Improve the health, productivity, restoration and resilience of the marine and coastal ecosystems **Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas**

17. The objective focusing on “~~Sea and coasts~~” **healthy marine and coastal areas** sits firmly and historically in the basin approach taken by the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Barcelona Convention. The strategy for marine and coastal areas rests on strengthen implementation of and compliance with the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and other regional policy instruments and initiatives supplemented by national approaches, as well as establish and enforce regulatory mechanisms, including the development of the approach and framework of Maritime Spatial Planning recognizing it as an essential component of integrated coastal zone management, for the sustainable management and development of coastal zones, including the prevention and control unsustainable open ocean resource exploitation. In complement, the promotion of well-connected ecologically representative and effective systems of marine and coastal protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures at national and Mediterranean level will further tackled biodiversity loss crises.

Objective 3: Promote sustainable resource management, ~~food production~~ and food security through sustainable forms of rural development and food systems

18. Rural areas in the Mediterranean are diverse in natural conditions, and social and economic structure, but share a potential for the establishment of new bases for economic and social development. The maintenance of the good status and health of rural ecosystems is fundamental for both biodiversity conservation and human well-being. The sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources, rural development and food production and security are interdependent aspects that ensure the well-being of rural communities and provide significant inputs to downstream industries, from food processing to tourism. The Strategy calls for conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, valuing traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions. ~~It promotes networks of ecologically protected areas, enhancing stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss.~~ The Strategy also recommends inclusive rural development, poverty eradication, women’s empowerment, youth employment, equitable access to basic local services, as well as access of local producers to distribution channels and markets, including the tourism market. **An improved forests management is equality tackled, both at national and regional level, while water desalinization and natural resources reuse approaches and plans are included.**

Objective 4: Plan and manage sustainable and resilient Mediterranean cities

19. While the urbanization continues apace, in particular along its southern shores, most Mediterranean cities, notably the coastal ones, are not being managed sustainably in relation to their carrying capacities and are insufficiently resilient. Yet as engines of economic development, innovation and creativity, cities are critical for sustainable development, as the climate friendly cities agenda shows. For those reasons, a new, sustainable, inclusive and creative approach to planning and managing Mediterranean cities is the best hope for riparian urban settlements. Key elements of this approach are the following: use inclusive urban planning and management processes, promote socio-economic cohesion, reduce environmental pressures, increase resilience, protect and rehabilitate historical areas, and promote green buildings infrastructures and renewable energies and improve energy efficiency and sustainable production, use of sustainable products and effective waste management within the context of a more circular economy as well as foster sustainable consumption patterns among citizens. Seven strategic directions put the emphasis on the following recommendations: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes; Encourage inclusive urbanization; Promote the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban areas; Promote sustainable waste management; Promote urban spatial patterns and technological options that reduce the demand for transportation, stimulate sustainable mobility and improve urban air quality; Promote green buildings and reduce ecological footprint of the built environment; Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards.

Objective 5: Transition towards sustainable, green, blue and circular economy and sustainable finance

20. A green economy – called blue economy when applied to the coastal, marine and maritime sectors – is one that promotes sustainable development whilst improving human well-being and social equity, and significantly reducing environmental risks, climate change impacts and ecological scarcities. Circular economy offers a transformative approach that prioritizes the continual reduction, reuse, refurbishment, and recycling of products and materials. A circular economy in the blue and green sectors refers to a sustainable economic framework that integrates ecological principles into economic activities, emphasizing the responsible use of natural resources, minimizing waste, and fostering regeneration. Besides being about renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable consumption and production, the green economy concept draws on new and emerging paradigms such as the circular economy, the collaborative economy and the functional economy. The green economy explicitly includes the objectives of decent jobs creation for all, particularly youth and women, and social inclusion, in order to eradicate poverty and promote a more healthy and just society. The Strategy encourages the measurement of development, progress and well-being, as well as environmental friendly and social innovation. It promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as the integration of sustainability principles into decision-making on public and private investment. The Strategy also recommends a greener and more inclusive market that integrates the true environmental and social cost of products and services. The Strategy is complemented by the UNEP/MAP Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan for the Mediterranean.
21. A key pillar of the transition to a green and blue economy is finance that supports green and sustainable activities. Green investments focus specifically on environmental benefits—such as reducing carbon emissions, conserving biodiversity, or investing in renewable energy solutions. Sustainable investments aim to achieve a balance between economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection, thus ensuring long-term resilience and prosperity. Mediterranean countries require green and sustainable investments and related economic tools to support their transformation and adapt/mitigate climate and environmental change. To achieve this, it is essential to establish a common regional Framework for Green and Sustainable Investments in the Mediterranean.

Objective 6: Improve governance at all levels, cooperation and partnerships in support of resilience and sustainable development.

22. Governance is a crosscutting objective and concerns the inclusion and engagement with non-state actors in decision-making processes, including local authorities, women, youth, private sector and financial institutions and using new forms of cooperation arrangements to involve citizens. Regional challenges for environmental governance sustainable development include fragmentation of responsibility, a reinforced role of sub-national and local authorities uncoordinated and non-results-based planning and implementation, as well as weak human and financial resources in the public sector, particularly at the local level. The Strategy for improving environmental governance in the Mediterranean rests on five pillars: Enhance international dialogue and cooperation, including on emergency-preparedness; Strengthen the role, awareness and capacities of sub-national and local governments/municipalities for implementing national and subnational sustainable development strategies and considering synergies and tradeoffs between different policies and sectors. Promote whole of society stakeholders' engagement including youth and women, financial institutions, private sector to secure inclusive processes and integrity in decision-making; Promote implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including through policy coherence based on inter-ministerial coordination; Promote education and research; and, Enhance Strengthen regional capabilities for information management and enhance the promotion of evidence-informed policymaking and foresight.
23. The third chapter of the Strategy focuses on implementation, funding and monitoring aspects, as follows: Institutional structures and processes for the implementation of the Strategy; Financing the implementation of the Strategy; and, Monitoring system and regional dashboard on the implementation of the Strategy.
24. Although facilitated by the MAP system and its Components, it is the participation and active role of all stakeholders that will play a decisive role in the delivery of the Strategy. The MAP system provides leadership and guidance with respect to implementing the Strategy. The UNEP/MAP action plans formulated with a view to implementing the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention, as well as other key existing regional mechanisms and instruments, are essential tools for implementing the Strategy. The MAP system is of primary importance to provide support and technical guidance to the Contracting Parties to the Convention, as well as for coordinating

implementation actions and monitoring processes. The **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and its Steering Committee** are a key ~~structure~~ **Bodies** within this system for **leading and** supporting the implementation of the Strategy **its evaluation and update processes.**

25. **The countries** are invited to use the Strategy as a framework for a better integration of sustainable development into their national policies and to build horizontal synergies between different government sectors and vertical synergies between different levels of government, from local to central and vice-versa. **Intergovernmental and regional and sub-regional organizations** also have a very important role, working in tandem with each other and with the MAP system, to facilitate synergies with countries using the Strategy as a common platform.
26. **For civil society**, the Strategy contains a set of strategic directions that inform its work along with other partners, and provides fertile grounds for the development of projects. Civil society can also take up important tasks related to awareness and sensitization. **The sub-national and local authorities, private sector, youth and women** are another key partners, notably in the ~~emerging~~ **circular** green and blue economy, not only through corporate social responsibility, but also through more sustainable consumption and production processes. The analytical tools that will allow the forecasting, planning and assessment of sustainable development-related impacts and actions need to be developed with **the scientific community**, which itself needs to direct its research capacity in support of policymaking. For **funding bodies**, the Strategy contains a set of widely-agreed regional objectives, as well as strategic directions within these objectives, which will help such bodies to position and assess funding proposals aimed at advancing sustainable development in the region.
27. Putting in place adequate **institutional structures** is a key priority in providing for effective implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy in this area rests on two pillars: Put in place or strengthen structures for sustainable development implementation at national and regional scale, and ensuring their adequate resourcing; and, Establish regional processes for the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy.
28. Implementation of the Strategy, based on the ambitious but necessary and realistic vision of establishing a sustainable Mediterranean on strong economic and social foundations, needs significant **financial resources**. The Strategy includes a series of actions to strengthen capacity for financing its implementation such as a project portfolio, capacity building processes and an investment facility for funding sustainable development actions in the Mediterranean.
29. A comprehensive **monitoring system** and relevant **indicators** are necessary for the implementation of the Strategy. Two forms of monitoring are required, both the follow-up of the implementation of the actions recommended in the Strategy, such as the number of countries implementing an action, and the progress of the wider sustainable development issues, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, for instance. While both are relevant for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, the indicators and approaches are different. Therefore, the regular monitoring of the Strategy ~~will be~~ **is constantly** developed through the ~~establishment of a dashboard of~~ **sustainability indicators** populated for the Mediterranean, **the MSSD Dashboard.**

Annexe IV

Discours de bienvenue et remarques/déclarations d'ouverture

**Hon. Gabriel Amard (France) – Rapporteur de l'APM au droit à l'eau et à l'assainissement de qualité
et Chef de la délégation auprès de l'APM**

21^e réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne de développement durable (CMDD) des Nations unies

Corinthe, Grèce, 24 - 26 juin 2025

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers collègues,

C'est avec gravité que je prends la parole devant vous en tant que Rapporteur de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Méditerranée sur le droit à l'eau et à l'assainissement de qualité. La protection de la santé environnementale des régions euro-méditerranéennes et du Golfe est une priorité et à ce titre, je suis intervenu il y a deux semaines à la 3^e Conférence des Nations unies sur la protection des océans à Nice.

La stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable ne cesse de mettre en exergue les défis environnementaux, auxquels nous sommes confrontés et continueront de l'être davantage dans les dix prochaines années en l'absence de mesures concrètes et ambitieuses.

Nous connaissons la surpollution actuelle de la mer Méditerranée et l'accentuation des sécheresses d'eau douce de notre bassin de vie. Ces crises sont maintenant documentées et audibles. C'est pourquoi, je souhaite vous alerter, ici, toutes et tous, sur une autre crise. Une crise sanitaire et environnementale sinieuse, non perceptible à l'œil nu et pourtant déjà mortelle pour l'ensemble du vivant.

En effet, l'ensemble des pays du bassin de vie méditerranéen et du Golfe est déjà contaminé par les substances perfluoroalkylées et polyfluoroalkylées. Les PFAS. Ces polluants persistants.

L'Autorité européenne de sécurité des aliments (EFSA) est formelle : l'alimentation est la voie principale d'exposition des populations humaines aux PFAS.

Les PFAS utilisés dans l'industrie se retrouvent rejetés dans l'environnement, contaminant la biodiversité et s'intégrant dans la chaîne alimentaire. Des substances comme le beflubutamid, le flonicamid et le flurochloridone sont même directement utilisées dans les pesticides destinés à l'agriculture. Les pesticides contenant des PFAS se retrouvent donc servis sur un plateau dans notre alimentation, dans notre corps.

Le rapport du 19 juin 2025 de l'association Générations futures dresse un constat édifiant de la présence des PFAS dans l'alimentation. Basée sur des données officielles des États membres de l'Union européenne, il révèle que sur les 7 PFAS réglementées dans l'UE : 69 % des poissons, 55 % des abats, 55 % des mollusques, 39 % des œufs, 27 % des crustacés, 23 % des laits et 14 % des viandes contiennent au moins l'un des quatre PFAS réglementés. Sept autres PFAS dangereux, mais non réglementés, sont également détectés, notamment dans les abats, les poissons et les œufs.

Si les seuils de contamination sont effarants, il convient de souligner que ce rapport va dans le sens des autorités publiques. L'EFSA, avait déjà déclaré que les produits de la mer, les œufs et les viandes sont les aliments contribuant le plus à l'exposition au PFOS et au PFOA.

En France, l'Académie des Sciences tirait les mêmes conclusions dans son rapport de mars 2025 : *« la viande, les œufs et les produits de la mer représentent une voie de contamination significative »*. Elle ajoute qu'aujourd'hui, plusieurs PFAS à longue chaîne (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS) sont systématiquement mesurés dans le sérum sanguin des populations humaines des pays industrialisés, dès la vie *in utero*. Leur omniprésence, même chez des personnes non exposées professionnellement, suggère que la principale source de contamination provient de l'usage généralisé des PFAS dans les produits de consommation (alimentation) et par les industries (agriculture).

Toujours selon ce rapport, en France, l'exposition aux PFAS a été évaluée dans le cadre du programme Esteban, qui a mesuré 17 PFAS, sur la période 2014-2016, dans le sérum d'enfants et d'adultes. Le PFOA et le PFOS, principaux contributeurs à l'imprégnation, ont été détectés chez 100 % des participants,

parmi lesquels la moitié est contaminée au-delà du seuil de sécurité actuellement admis, formulé par la Commission allemande de biosurveillance humaine (HBM).

Pire encore, les études de l'association Global 2000 et le réseau Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) mettent en exergue que le TFA, polluant persistant le plus répandu, n'est pas contrôlé, tandis qu'il serait présent dans les aliments du quotidien, tel le pain, les pâtes et les céréales. Si au sein de l'Union européenne, 20 PFAS seraient contrôlés pour l'eau potable, il ne serait que 3 pour l'alimentation. Pour rappel, les substances PFAS sont une famille de plus de 16 000 substances ! Une partie de la Méditerranée n'en contrôlerait que 3 concernant la chaîne alimentaire !

Cela a des conséquences sur notre santé : l'EFSA a indiqué dès 2020, puis l'Agence européenne pour l'environnement, que l'exposition aux polluants persistants avait des conséquences néfastes directs sur le système reproducteur des hommes et femmes, le développement du fœtus *in utero*. Une exposition renforcerait le risque de déclarer des maladies thyroïdiennes, maladies inflammatoires de l'intestin, des maladies cardiométaboliques. Par ailleurs, en novembre 2023, le Centre international de Recherche sur le Cancer évalua la cancérogénicité du PFOA et PFOS, comme cancérogène et cancérigène pour l'humain.

Enfin, des boues d'épuration contenant des PFAS sont régulièrement épandues sur les cultures destinées à l'alimentation. Un cercle vicieux est en marche : le peu de dépollution d'un côté ne cesse qu'à renforcer la pollution d'un site de l'autre.

L'un des seuls moyens efficaces connus à ce jour, pour dépolluer les milieux des PFAS consiste à les capter grâce à des charbons actifs. Mais faute de filière nationale de régénération, ces charbons sont souvent exportés ou stockés, sans traitement. De plus, les macérats issus de la potabilisation, qui sont souvent contaminés par les PFAS, devraient être intégrés dans les dispositifs de traitement et de surveillance, au même titre que les charbons actifs. À ce jour, les macérats, pollués, sont remis dans la nature. On dépollue très peu d'un côté, pour repolluer davantage de l'autre. Toute la chaîne du vivant est contaminée et les processus actuels de dépollution ne permettent pas d'améliorer cette situation, au contraire.

Quant aux déchets issus de ces opérations, ils ne doivent pas être traités dans les filières classiques de gestion des déchets ménagers. En effet, les déchets ménagers ultimes, lorsqu'ils sont incinérés, le sont généralement à des températures allant de 800 à 900 °C, tandis que selon l'Académie des Sciences et l'Institut national de l'environnement industriel et des risques (INERIS), la destruction efficace des molécules de PFAS nécessiterait des températures d'au moins 1 400 degrés. Le traitement actuel est donc insuffisant pour neutraliser ces substances.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les PFAS ne connaissent pas de frontières. Ils circulent par l'eau, les sols, l'air, les produits de consommation. Ils empoisonnent, respectivement et sans discrimination la biodiversité et les êtres vivants, animaux humains et non-humains.

Par conséquent, notre réponse doit être commune, ambitieuse et coordonnée au niveau méditerranéen et du Golfe. Des réponses nationales unilatérales et faibles ne feraient que renforcer les inégalités concernant un environnement sain et le droit à une vie saine. Nous ne pouvons être divisés sur le sujet. La création de « paradis PFAS » et le renforcement de « clusters de cancer » ne sont pas une possibilité.

Nous avons les outils pour agir. La Convention de Barcelone et en particulier son « Protocole sur les sources terrestres » offre déjà un cadre solide et juridiquement contraignant à cet effet. Les PFAS relèvent clairement de son champ d'application.

Par conséquent, nous, parlementaires, appelons cette Commission à veiller à ce qu'ils soient mentionnés dans notre Stratégie, comme demandé par l'APM.

Nous recommandons également à tous les États méditerranéens, côtiers et enclavés, d'utiliser cet outil contre les PFAS, d'adopter des seuils régionaux contraignants, de renforcer le réseau de surveillance

PNUE/APM pour suivre leur présence, et de protéger le droit à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement sûr, au cœur de l'ODD 6.

L'APM souhaite que notre commission joue un rôle moteur dans la reconnaissance des PFAS comme menace majeure pour la santé et pour l'environnement, et qu'elle œuvre à l'adoption de normes communes de surveillance, de restriction et de dépollution.

Notre bassin de vie doit devenir un exemple de coopération environnementale.

L'APM est depuis longtemps investie sur les questions de protection du vivant. Elle défend l'adoption d'un traité international global sur les plastiques, qui limiterait la pollution marine, tout en encourageant ses membres à ratifier rapidement le Traité sur la haute mer. Permettez-moi de rappeler, par exemple, qu'en avril 2024, l'APM et le PNUE/APM ont collaboré à l'élaboration du premier *Guide parlementaire pour la protection de la mer et des côtes méditerranéennes*, un outil phare destiné à aider les législateurs à transformer les accords environnementaux internationaux en lois nationales exécutoires.

Enfin, permettez-moi d'évoquer un autre enjeu majeur pour nos régions : les crimes environnementaux. Un phénomène souvent sous-estimé, mais qui ne cesse de croître, finançant d'autres activités illicites et le crime organisé.

En tant que l'APM, nous avons contribué à maintenir cette question au sommet de l'agenda méditerranéen, ayant adopté notre première Résolution sur ce sujet en 2010, et vous vous souviendrez peut-être de notre Rapport sur les « Navires des poisons »...

À l'APM, nous estimons qu'il est crucial de les inclure dans notre Stratégie, et nous rendrons compte des résultats de la réunion d'aujourd'hui lors de la prochaine conférence du groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur les crimes affectant l'environnement, qui se tiendra à Vienne le mois prochain.

Nous sommes convaincus que les Parlementaires de notre bassin de vie ont un rôle à jouer et nous parlerons d'une seule voix lors de la COP30 à Belem, en novembre prochain.

Pour conclure, je souhaiterais citer Rachel Carson, biologiste marine et pionnière de l'écologie : « *Dans chaque verre d'eau que nous buvons, dans chaque molécule que porte notre sang, c'est toute la mémoire du vivant qui circule. En polluant l'eau, nous brisons le lien qui nous relie au reste du monde.* »

Je vous remercie.

Annexe V
Conclusions et recommandations

**21^{ème} réunion de la Commission méditerranéenne du développement durable (CMDD)
(Corinthe, Grèce, 24–26 juin 2025)**

Conclusions et recommandations

Point 1 de l'ordre du jour : Ouverture de la réunion

1. La Présidente et la Coordinatrice ont souligné l'importance capitale de la 21^{ème} réunion de la CMDD, ci-après « la Réunion », pour la validation de la Stratégie méditerranéenne pour le développement durable (SMDD) actualisée, en tant que cadre clé de coopération régionale pleinement aligné sur le processus global et l'élan renouvelé de fort engagement et de vision en faveur de la durabilité et de l'accélération de la transition verte dans la région, grâce à la collaboration constructive de toutes les parties prenantes.

Point 2 de l'ordre du jour Questions d'organisation

2. La Réunion a exprimé sa reconnaissance pour l'approche collaborative et la vision de la Présidente sortante, Mme Anne-France Didier (France), pour sa conduite de la CMDD durant l'exercice biennal 2023-2025. La Réunion a également remercié les autres membres du Comité de Pilotage, à savoir les Vice-Présidents : M. Mitja Bricelj (Slovénie), M. Mohammed Maktit (Maroc), M. Abderraja Salhi (Tunisie), M. Najib Saab (Forum arabe pour l'environnement et le développement – AFED), M. Almotaz Abadi (Union pour la Méditerranée – UpM), ainsi que le Rapporteur, M. Josep Canals Molina (MedCités).

3. La Réunion a élu son Comité de Pilotage conformément aux Documents constitutifs de la CMDD et à l'article 17 du Règlement intérieur, comme suit :

- Président : M. Mohammed Maktit (Maroc)
- Vice-Président : (nom à confirmer), Égypte (de droit, en tant que représentant de la Présidence des Parties contractantes)
- Vice-présidente : Mme Branka Pivčević Novak, Croatie
- Vice-Président : (nom à confirmer), Chypre
- Vice-président : M. Maher Mahjoub, Centre de coopération méditerranéenne de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN-MED)
- Vice-président : M. Michael J. Scoullou, Cercle des parlementaires méditerranéens sur le développement durable (COMPSUD)
- Rapporteur : M. Josep Canals Molina, MedCités

Point 3 de l'Ordre du Jour: Rapport de la Coordinatrice sur les activités relatives au développement durable pour la période juin 2023 – mai 2025

4. La Réunion a félicité les progrès réalisés en matière de développement durable durant la période juin 2023 – mai 2025, y compris des avancées concernant les initiatives phares actuelles de la SMDD, et a invité à renforcer l'engagement des parties prenantes diverses, des communautés, de la société civile et du secteur privé, afin d'assurer le déploiement de la SMDD au niveau local et ainsi favoriser un impact progressivement plus efficace. Dans le même esprit, la Réunion a recommandé de renforcer la coopération avec les réseaux régionaux pertinents.
5. La Réunion a également recommandé aux membres de la CMDD de renforcer leur action au niveau national et de maintenir une forte ambition politique en lien avec la SMDD, en reconnaissant son potentiel d'impact sur le développement durable en Méditerranée, tout en servant de levier pour la stabilité régionale.
6. La Réunion a salué la présentation de l'état d'avancement du Tableau de bord de la SMDD, les travaux complémentaires sur les indicateurs de base ainsi que les travaux en cours sur trois nouveaux indicateurs potentiels, en soulignant que le suivi de la SMDD est essentiel pour évaluer les progrès actuels et futurs de la Stratégie.
7. La Réunion a recommandé d'utiliser les indicateurs de la SMDD non seulement pour éclairer les politiques publiques, mais aussi pour informer la société civile et les parties prenantes au sens large sur l'évolution des principaux défis les concernant, afin de favoriser leur engagement et leur adhésion aux objectifs de développement durable.
8. La Réunion a félicité la France pour l'organisation visionnaire de la troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les océans (UNOC-3), ainsi que le Secrétariat pour la célébration réussie du 50^{ème} anniversaire du PNUE/PAM et du 30^{ème} anniversaire post-Rio de la Convention de Barcelone, ainsi que pour la Déclaration des ministres de la Méditerranée, un accomplissement majeur de l'UNOC-3.
9. La Réunion a reconnu que 2025 est une année charnière à l'échelle régionale, marquée par des réalisations clés telles que l'UNOC-3 et sa Déclaration ministérielle, le Pacte européen pour les océans et le Nouveau Pacte pour la Méditerranée de l'UE, qui témoignent d'un engagement commun de haut niveau et tourné vers l'avenir pour la Méditerranée. Ces éléments fournissent les moyens nécessaires pour intensifier et accélérer la mise en œuvre du développement durable. À cet égard, la Réunion a également reconnu que les Parties contractantes sont appelées à porter ces dynamiques au niveau national, avec pour point d'orgue la validation de la SMDD actualisée lors de la COP24, en décembre 2025 au Caire (Égypte).
10. La Réunion a conclu qu'il est important de renforcer la visibilité de la CMDD tant au niveau national que régional, et que le 30^{ème} anniversaire de la CMDD, qui sera célébré l'an prochain, constituera une opportunité clé à cette fin.

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour : Évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la SMDD 2016–2025

11. La Réunion a salué l'évaluation finale de la SMDD en tant que bonne évaluation, ayant bien intégré les contributions issues des réunions élargies du CdP de la CMDD tenues en 2024. Elle a toutefois recommandé d'attirer davantage l'attention sur certaines lacunes clés relevées par cette évaluation, notamment la nécessité d'investir davantage dans la sensibilisation, la visibilité et la communication afin d'assurer un engagement plus large et plus fort des parties prenantes à tous les niveaux, ainsi que sur les moyens financiers de la SMDD pour garantir un impact concret.
12. La Réunion a pris acte des résultats et des lacunes identifiés dans l'évaluation finale de la SMDD, a salué la démarche participative adoptée pour l'évaluation et a approuvé le document.
13. La Réunion a également recommandé, pour l'avenir, d'envisager l'inclusion d'indicateurs juridiques parmi les indicateurs de la SMDD afin de suivre la mise en œuvre effective des lois pertinentes pour le développement durable au niveau national.

Présentation à la fin du premier jour de la 21^{ème} Réunion de la CMDD : rapport « La Méditerranée à l'horizon 2050 : une prospective du Plan Bleu » (rapport MED2050)

14. La Réunion a salué le rapport MED2050 coordonné par le Plan Bleu, en appréciant le travail remarquable réalisé, tout en exprimant ses préoccupations face aux tendances alarmantes de la situation environnementale et du changement climatique, et en soulignant la nécessité d'actions urgentes pour remettre la région sur la voie du développement durable. La Réunion a reconnu que les scénarios prospectifs ne suivent pas une approche uniforme, mais qu'ils constituent un outil permettant aux pays d'identifier les combinaisons de réponses aux défis nationaux et régionaux les plus appropriées pour un avenir durable. La Réunion a également recommandé de se concentrer sur les actions à planifier et à entreprendre en réponse à ces scénarios.

Point 5 de l'ordre du jour : SMDD 2026–2035 et ses initiatives phares

15. Après un examen approfondi du projet de SMDD et une discussion productive et détaillée, notamment sur les cibles, les indicateurs et la narration, et après avoir examiné la liste complète des initiatives phares de la SMDD, la Réunion a approuvé la version actualisée de la SMDD 2026-2035, jointe en Annexe I aux présentes conclusions et recommandations, et a recommandé sa soumission à la 24^{ème} Réunion des Parties contractantes de décembre 2025 (COP24) pour examen et approbation, après un peaufinage éditorial du document par le Secrétariat.

16. La Réunion a reconnu que les initiatives phares de la SMDD sont un levier essentiel pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie. Par conséquent, la Réunion a recommandé aux membres de la CMDD de s'y engager davantage et de soutenir ces initiatives, tout en élargissant la mobilisation à d'autres partenaires et parties prenantes.

Point 6 de l'ordre du jour : Questions spécifiques

a) Composition de la CMDD pour l'exercice biennal 2026–2027

17. En ce qui concerne les membres de la CMDD issus des parties non contractantes, la Réunion a apprécié la présentation détaillée des manifestations d'intérêt reçues et, après discussion et sur la base des recommandations du 26^{ème} CdP de la CMDD tenu le 23 juin 2025, a conclu à recommander les candidatures suivantes à l'attention de la COP24 :

- Groupe des autorités locales
 - a. Conférence des Régions périphériques maritimes (CRPM)
 - b. Réseau FISP MED, Développement durable et lutte contre la pauvreté en Méditerranée et en mer Noire
- Groupe socio-économique
 - a. Association des économistes euro-méditerranéens (EMEA)
 - b. Fondation UNIVERDE
- Groupe des ONG
 - a. Réseau arabe pour l'environnement et le développement (RAED)
 - b. Fonds mondial pour la nature – Méditerranée (WWF-MED)
 - c. Institut océanographique de Monaco

➤ Groupe des OIG

- a. Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement de la Région Arabe et l'Europe (CEDARE)
- b. Union pour la Méditerranée (UpM) (à confirmer)

➤ Groupe parlementaire

La Réunion a conclu de renouveler le mandat du Cercle des parlementaires méditerranéens pour le développement durable (COMPSUD) et de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Méditerranée (APM) pour une nouvelle période de quatre ans.

18. La Réunion a accueilli favorablement la proposition du Secrétariat d'élargir la catégorie des membres n'appartenant pas aux Parties contractantes de la CMDD pour y inclure des organisations régionales et sous-régionales de femmes et de jeunes actives dans les domaines de l'environnement et du développement durable, répondant aux critères des Partenaires du PAM conformément aux décisions pertinentes de la COP, portant ainsi le nombre total de membres de la CMDD à 42.

b) Prise en compte de la durabilité dans le programme de travail 2026–2027 du PNUE/PAM

c) Contributions de la 21ème réunion de la CMDD à la COP24

19. La Réunion a pris acte des considérations de durabilité dans le Programme de travail du PNUE/PAM 2026-2027 et, en ce qui concerne l'élaboration des ambitions et de la vision de la CMDD en matière de développement durable dans la région méditerranéenne à intégrer dans la Déclaration ministérielle de la COP24, a convenu de confier cette tâche au CdP de la CMDD.

20. Le CdP de la CMDD, après avoir élaboré un premier projet avec l'appui du Secrétariat, le partagera avec les membres de la CMDD, et la version finale sera soumise comme document d'information à la Réunion des points focaux du PAM, puis comme document de travail à la COP24. La Présidence de la CMDD sera invitée à participer à la Réunion des points focaux du PAM pour présenter les travaux de la CMDD, ainsi qu'à la COP24 pour présenter, avec le Secrétariat, le projet de décision relatif à la SMDD.

d) Cadre régional pour l'adaptation aux changements climatiques de 2016 dans les zones marines et côtières de Méditerranée

21. La CMDD a salué le travail accompli en vue de la mise à jour du Cadre régional 2016 pour l'adaptation au changement climatique en Méditerranée, et a encouragé la participation active des experts du changement climatique désignés par les Parties contractantes à la Réunion régionale des 8 et 9 juillet 2025 (Istanbul, Türkiye), afin de garantir la finalisation du document et sa soumission aux points focaux du PAM et à la COP24.

Point 7 de l'ordre du jour : Prochaine réunion de la CMDD

22. La CMDD a décidé que sa prochaine Réunion se tiendrait en 2027 et a encouragé ses membres à proposer d'en assurer l'accueil.

Annexe VI

Déclaration des ministres de la Méditerranée à la troisième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les océans (UNOC-3)

(En Anglais)

**Declaration of the Ministers of the Mediterranean
Mediterranean Day of the United Nations Ocean Conference (June 10, 2025)**

We, the Ministers of the Environment and heads of delegations of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, gathered today to reaffirm our common commitment to the protection and preservation of our Mediterranean Sea, an invaluable common good, as a regional contribution to the global efforts aiming at achieving SDG14.

We celebrate the 50 years of UNEP/MAP and the 30 years of Post Rio Barcelona Convention, appreciating their pioneer work and achievements and, as Contracting Parties to the Convention, commit to continue cooperating and act for the benefit of people and nature.

We welcome the third edition of the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), in Nice (France), as a key milestone to accelerate and mobilize all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and reaffirm our will to effectively contribute to the success of this event. To this aim, we commit to properly mainstream UNOC-3 relevant outcomes in our work, in particular with a view to the 24th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP24) to be held in Cairo (Egypt) next 2-5 December 2025.

We thank the four Champion Countries as decided by COP23, namely Slovenia, France, Egypt and Spain, and the hosts of UNOC-3, France and Costa Rica, for the organization of this major milestone in the life of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention.

1. *Alarmed by* the consequences of the environmental planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and land degradation in the region, *we are determined* to continue supporting the achievement and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 14, which has strong interlinkages with many other SDGs due to its cross-cutting nature, the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. *We affirm* the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources by implementing international law as reflected at the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.

2. *Noting with concern* that due to anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, the rate of climate change in the Mediterranean basin, both historical and projected, is faster than global trends and deeply concerned that 2024 was the hottest year on record according to the World Meteorological Organization, *we reiterate* our commitment to integrating climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures into our policies, including maritime policies, compatible with a trajectory to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level. *We will* support actions and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the effects of climate change, promote decarbonization especially of energy production through renewable energy sources as well as to promote nature-based solutions and strengthen the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to the effects of climate change, considering the local context and country determinations for development. *We will* integrate them, as appropriate, in our nationally determined contributions to be submitted ahead of the 2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30).

3. *We support* the scientific assessment work conducted by the Mediterranean Network of Experts on Climate Change and the Environment (MedECC) on the impact of climate change on the Mediterranean basin, and *call for* the protection and the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, particularly by advocating for a new approach based on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus, and to intensify, as appropriate, ocean-based mitigation measures.

4. *We welcome* progress towards implementing the integrated source-to-sea approach through Integrated River Basin Management planning and enhanced interregional cooperation between the Mediterranean, the Danube and Black Sea to improve the climate resilience of river basins and coasts and enhance the health of coastal and marine ecosystems, taking into account the strong

interlinkages between SDG 14 and SDG 6.

5. *We welcome* activities for integrating Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management to enable sustainable management and planning to ensure the development of sustainable and resilient blue economy as a vehicle for green transition, together with the application of Strategic Environmental and Environmental Impact Assessments as important tools to integrate environmental consideration in MSP plans, with the view to applying an ecosystem-based approach, as agreed at COP 23 in Portorož.

6. *Deeply concerned* about the rapid deterioration of biodiversity worldwide, particularly in the Mediterranean, at an unprecedented rate, *we commit* to strengthening and expanding the network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as well as establishing Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean Sea with the aim to protect 30% of the Mediterranean Sea by 2030, ensuring effective conservation and sustainable management of the protected areas, including OECMs, and their integration into national and regional policies, thus contributing to target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), through the implementation of the Post-2020 SAP BIO for the marine and coastal environment, adopted at COP 22 of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

7. *We encourage* Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to take action to ratify, approve, accept or accede to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), as a contribution from the Mediterranean countries to its early entry into force.

8. *We renew* our commitment to take measures to ensure the protection of marine endangered species in the Mediterranean and *we will* support the dissemination of best practices to combat, control or manage non-indigenous species and the implementation of effective monitoring actions and coordinated management measures based on the most relevant scientific data.

9. *We reiterate* our commitment to raise the level of ambition and implement targeted actions to accelerate progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status and the SDGs, considering the very important processes of revision and update of the Ecosystem Approach RoadMap and of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). These will take into account key findings of the 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and the fact that work shall continue to achieve and maintain Good Environmental Status of the marine and coastal environment.

10. *Aware of* the ecological importance of marine and coastal ecosystems, *we commit* to intensifying conservation and restoration efforts for these ecosystems, in particular the Posidonia seagrass meadows *inter alia*, by supporting the Mediterranean Posidonia Network (MPN) and the related Flagship Initiative under the MSSD. *We affirm* our willingness to promote sustainable management practices and protection measures against anthropogenic pressures to preserve these critical habitats for marine biodiversity.

11. *We commit* to decisive and collective action to ensure sustainable fisheries and to strengthen the fight against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which poses a threat to the sustainable exploitation of marine resources in the Mediterranean. *We call* for the reinforcement of the international legal framework to fight IUU fishing activities, by ratifying the Food and Agriculture Organization's Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Cape Town agreement on fishing vessels safety, the International Labour Organization's convention on work conditions on fishing vessels and the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, as well as WTO negotiations on additional provisions on fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.

12. *We welcome* the efforts and the collective work for the implementation of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area in the North Western Mediterranean Sea, a key tool for protecting marine mammals from collision risks designated by the IMO and commit to contribute to the effective application of its associated protection measures.

13. *We welcome* the outcome of the 83rd session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee

(MEPC) of the IMO aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping, in line with the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy and recommend the formal adoption of the proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex VI at the next MEPC extraordinary session to reach net-zero emissions from international shipping by or around 2050 i.e. close to, 2050.

14. *We welcome* the entry into force of the Sulfur Emission Control Area (SECA) in the Mediterranean, as decided by IMO MEPC.361 (79), as a crucial step in reducing air pollution from ships. *We commit* to rigorously applying SECA regulations, including through the ratification of MARPOL Annex VI, and promoting clean technologies for maritime transport to protect human health and the marine environment, and to accelerate our work in exploring the feasibility for the designation of a Nitrogen Oxide Emission Control Area (NECA) in the Mediterranean as a whole.

15. *We encourage* all stakeholders to integrate into their decision-making processes the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and consider as appropriate the outcome of the Mediterranean 2050 Foresight report, coordinated by the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Center of UNEP/MAP.

16. *Noting with concern* the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution in the Mediterranean Sea as well as globally, with adverse effects on both human health and the environment, *we affirm* our determination and ambition to work together, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution 5/14, towards fulfilling the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee's (INC) mandate to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plasticsⁱ as highlighted by the Contracting Parties at the 2023 Barcelona Convention COP in Portoroz Ministerial Declaration.

17. *Reaffirming* the commitments made at previous Barcelona Convention COPs, we call for the identification, at the upcoming COPs, of relevant measures to implement the Barcelona Convention and support the contracting parties in the implementation of the future international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, building on the Mediterranean experiences and the well-established circular economy models, sustainable production and consumption patterns, and environmentally sound management of plastic waste, among other tools and measures to address marine litter, including plastic marine litter.

18. In that regard, we will strengthen the implementation of the legally binding Regional Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean under the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), by taking concrete actions coherent to the implementation timeline of the measures provided for in the Plan to achieve a substantial reduction and prevention of pollution, with the intention to eliminate the release of plastics into the environment, through circular economy and source-to-sea approaches.

19. *We will* promote policies to phase out the production and consumption of unnecessary and problematic plastic products, based on criteria to be defined under the international legally binding instrument, in favour of safe, sustainable, reusable and cost efficient alternatives that are better for human health and the environment, taking into account specific national circumstances. *We therefore will* work on regulating and progressively eliminating, by 2030, the production and consumption of the most environmentally damaging single-use plastics and the use of chemicals of concern in plastics, based on criteria to be defined under the international legally binding instrument, especially those that come in direct contact with consumers and those most likely to cause harm or hinder circularity. *We also recognize* the importance of our constant monitoring of and combatting plastic litter in the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea, and encourage the use of innovative technologies to remove this waste, including microplastics, to protect and restore marine ecosystems.

20. *We reiterate* our commitment to invest in effective wastewater treatment and waste management infrastructures, including recycling and material recovery facilities, and to implement national plans to gradually reduce and ultimately close coastal dump sites and where national geographical circumstances allow, landfills, in order to drastically reduce plastic waste and microplastics

entering the marine environment. To achieve these goals, *we will* promote the mobilization of financial resources from a wide variety of sources as well as support research and development of new environmentally friendly technologies and materials.

21. *We decide* to strengthen cooperation among Mediterranean coastal countries and actors to harmonize policies, taking into account national circumstances as appropriate, and share best practices in plastic waste management, particularly within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). In this regard, *we support* the Mediterranean circular economy network Circe.med.

22. *We reiterate* our commitment to enhance action and synergies with relevant regional frameworks and agreements in particular the UfM, the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean, Ramoge and Pelagos. *We also encourage* the implementation of concrete initiatives and actions, such as in the context of the Plan of Action “a Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” (PAMEX), the Blue Med Partnership, the MedFund, and the the WestMED initiative.

23. *Aware of* the strong attractiveness of the Mediterranean region as a tourist destination and the impacts of unsustainable tourism practices on natural resources, and recalling the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, *we will* work on promoting the transition to a sustainable blue economy in national strategies and, in particular, on supporting the Flagship Initiative on sustainable tourism under the MSSD.

24. *We recognize* the role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) in assisting countries and regions in addressing marine pollution and enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, as well as their contributions to the achievement of SDG14 and the ocean related targets of the 2030 Agenda, and *commit* to raise the profile of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and promote its involvement, as appropriate, at relevant ocean-related global events with the participation and support of the Secretariat.

25. *We reaffirm* our commitment to involve youth in environmental issues, including those related to climate change and decision-making processes innovatively, including through modernizing education programs and promoting education for sustainable development and global citizenship in both formal and informal settings to raise young people's awareness on the importance of the environment and sustainable development from an early age and as an instrumental tool for the achievement of the SDGs. To this aim, *we promote* inter-generational cooperation processes and global initiatives, such as but not limited to Youth4Climate, co-led by Italy and the United Nations Development Program, as effective tools to support youth-led and youth-inclusive solutions. *We reaffirm* the importance of facilitating public access to information and public participation, including that of civil society, which is key to ensure the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

26. *We call* on all actors, including local authorities, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society, academia, and the private sector including industry, to join us in this vital mission in the spirit of solidarity and reinforced regional collaboration. Together, we can look back to see the incredible path we went through for the last 50 years and look forward to ensure a sustainable future for the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal communities through the effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

ⁱ Egypt set a reservation regarding “the full life cycle of plastics”, since Egypt would like to add at the end of the paragraph “starting from product design”