



European Union



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The Hashemite
Kingdom of
Jordan

3rd Working Group on Environment and Climate Change March 14th and 15th, 2022, online

DRAFT AGREED CONCLUSIONS

Considering that:

- 2021 was a key year for advancing climate and environmental action in the region, culminating in the adoption of an ambitious 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Action in October 2021;
- The 2nd UfM Ministerial Declaration (hereinafter the Declaration) adopted in Cairo on 4 October 2021 calls for a specific, structured coordination and monitoring mechanism among initiatives, programs and projects run at regional level to create political and operational convergence and maximize results, through the UfM Agenda 2030 towards a Greener Mediterranean (hereinafter 2030GreenerMed) and the UfM Climate Action Road Map;
- The context of the Covid 19 pandemic displayed the clear ambition to 'build back better' while leaving no-one behind.
- Specific joint actions were agreed in the Final Conclusions of the 2nd WG meeting in November 2018 and of the UfM Environment Task Force and Climate Change Expert Group meetings that have taken place since then (November 2018);

the 3rd Working Group (WG) on Environment and Climate Change took place on the 14th and 15th of March 2022 online, gathering country representatives and regional stakeholders to discuss the following issues:

- the priorities for action on environment and climate change in the Mediterranean region based on the 2030GreenerMed and the UfM Climate Action Road Map.
- Mobilization and preparation for joint activities at COP27 (UN Climate Change Conference), taking place in November 2022 in Egypt, as a unique opportunity for the Mediterranean to gather its broad community of stakeholders; make the case on the alarming environmental and socio-economic consequences generated by climate change; as well as to showcase its advancements in terms of initiatives, processes, projects, ongoing activities, and scientific evidence.

The meeting was chaired by the UfM European and Jordan Co-Presidency, together with the UfM Secretariat.

The WG on ENV and CC:

- Welcomed the joint calendar of international events of regional relevance, as per the attached table;
- Agreed on the joint development of a Mediterranean Pavilion at the COP27 (UfM will share more detailed information), proposed by the UfM Secretariat, and expressed interest and commitment to contribute to its successful organization as a joint, multi-stakeholders effort;

- Reiterated that Agenda 2030 for a Greener Med is a living document, meant as a tool for regional integration, cooperation and collaboration, which acts as a framework for existing and emerging initiatives, programmes and projects to work in a coordinated manner, ensuring maximization of efforts and complementarity towards common goals. In this respect, the group agreed to the 2030GreenerMed baseline assessment for the year 2020, based on 84 GreenerMed supporting projects funded by different donors and on the related Theory of Change and indicators, as a reference for tracking progress on a regular basis on 1) the three GreenerMed Axes (green, circular economy; pollution; biodiversity/ecosystem restoration) and 2) the SDGs up to 2030, as well as the plans for external evaluations in 2025 and 2030.
- Welcomed and supported the added value of the policy papers produced through evidence-based results and data, in line with the UfM Ministerial/s, the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, 2021 and upcoming COPs, and UNEA decisions and namely:
 - the policy paper on ‘wetlands as nature-based solutions’ produced by MedWET with the support of UfM, in connection with the upcoming COP14 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and 2nd UfM Conference on Wetlands, scheduled for the last quarter 2022;
 - The policy paper on marine litter produced by the Plastic Busters Initiative, labelled by the UfM, within the larger circular economy approach, linking with other regional efforts including the Mission to Restore Oceans/Mediterranean Lighthouse on Marine Pollution; the outcomes of UNEA 5.2 and the proposal for an international agreement on Plastic pollution; and the recent joint event of the Bluemed Focal Points, of the UfM ENV Focal Points and of the UfM Blue Economy Focal Points on Marine litter, held on the 1st and 2nd of March in Barcelona;
 - The policy paper on a sustainable finance observatory prepared by SCP-RAC/UNEP-MAP, as a tool to promote a network approach, to achieve economies of scale and foster small industries capable of sustainably producing goods both for the domestic and international markets;
- In addition, welcomed and called for further strengthening of the overall regional efforts on capitalization, upscaling, knowledge and practice sharing, and in particular the ones highlighted on:
 - Governance models for municipal waste management, through Med4Waste, financed by ENI CBC MED and part of GreenerMed, and the WES/UfM/MSSD repository on best practices in achieving waste reduction in the Mediterranean <https://bestpractices-waste-med.net/>;
 - Marine Protected Areas, in particular the main recommendations emerging from the MPA ENGAGE and MPA NETWORKS projects, and the joint final event planned for the 16th of June 2022, taking into account the run up towards CBD CoP15;
- Welcomed efforts to harmonize and improve monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment in the region, based on reliable and comparable data, linking with previous work run under SEIS and the upcoming one under MEDSTAT V and other knowledge sharing platforms such as the “Africa Knowledge Platform” (<https://africa-knowledge-platform.ec.europa.eu/>)

Welcomed the results of the MedECC and the special reports under preparation, as well as the progress under ClimaMed and Clima for Cities;

- Expressed its appreciation for the updates and information provided by the participating countries with regards to their current activities around climate change and the environment, in particular on their updated NDCs, on the preparation of their Low Emissions and Development Strategies, on their NAPs, as well as on their work on pollution abatement, plastics reduction, biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration and on their efforts in transitioning towards green, blue and circular economies.
- Welcomed the presentations of the EU, EBRD, EIB and IsDB, on their post-2020 green and climate investment strategies, modalities and tools, with a view to accelerating action against the alarming climate and environmental situation in the Mediterranean.

The meeting concluded by:

- Stressing that in these challenging times, the need to work together is shown to be all the more important and the Ministerial meeting in October last year was a symbol of the commitment to work together.
- Underlining that the recent decision at UNEA 5.2 to launch negotiations for a global agreement on plastics consolidates this commitment at international level and is one that is of great importance for the Mediterranean region as well.
- Thanking the participation of the countries, partner organizations and stakeholders.
- Appreciating the overall willingness to contribute and participate proactively in building a common 2030GreenerMed and Climate Action Road Map.
- Appreciating the openness for the joint development of a Mediterranean Pavilion at CoP27 in Egypt.
- Highlighting that in advance of CoP27, we will also have the Biodiversity CoP where countries will adopt an ambitious set of objectives to overcome the biodiversity crisis we face. With biodiversity under severe pressure in the region, the Biodiversity Post 2020 Strategy will be very important for the Mediterranean.
- Calling for another meeting of the working group on Environment and Climate Change in 2023 as well as convening meetings of the working group on a yearly basis.
- Staying committed to advancing with the agreed steps in the implementation of GreenerMed and to follow-up on the very many partnership/funding opportunities presented and proposed.
- Supporting the 2030GreenerMed projects monitoring approach, with a view to continuously updating it with regional/multi-country contributing initiatives, programs and projects; fine-tuning it with more indicators, if available for most of the UfM countries; define associated targets, as/if appropriate and if so agreed;
- Agreeing that, together with the documents and links shared by the participants, the UfM Co-Presidency and Secretariat would circulate the



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draft Agreed Conclusions by the 18th of March 2022 and that comments can be provided to the UfM Secretariat in writing by the 28th of March, in order to adopt the Final Agreed Conclusions of the 3rd Working Group on Environment and Climate Change.

The presentations shown during the Meeting at the following link: [3rd WG ENV & CA- PPTs](#)

Annex: 2022 Calendar - International events of regional relevance

7th Mediterranean Forestry Week	21-25 March, Turkey
Our Ocean Conference	13-14 April, Palau
COP15, Biodiversity	September (final dates tbc), Kunming, China
World Forestry Congress	2-6 May, Korea
Stockholm+50	2-3 June, Stockholm
UN Ocean Summit	27 June - 01 July, Lisbon
3rd Mediterranean Diet World Conference	28-30 September, Bari, Italy
9th Environment for Europe UNECE Ministerial Conference	5-7 October, Cyprus
COP 27, Climate Change	7-18 November, Egypt
COP 14 Ramsar Convention	22 November, China