

Plenary consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Special Report on interlinking climate change with Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin elaborated by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)

29 April 2024 (online)

Conclusions and recommendations adopted at the meeting

The Focal Points of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Climate Change Expert Group (CCEG) and the UfM Environment Task Force, the Focal Points of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan – UNEP/MAP, the Focal Points of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan – UNEP/MAP), the Members of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and partner organisations, as participants to the Plenary consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Special Report on interlinking climate change with Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin, elaborated by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC),

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling further the Environment Assembly resolution of 15 March 2019, UNEP/EA.4/Res.23 entitled “Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook”,

Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/296 of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,

Having regard to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, and in particular Article 4 thereof on general obligations, and Article 13 thereof on scientific and technological cooperation,

Recalling decision IG.25/1 on the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027 adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021),

Recalling also Decision IG.26/14 on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 23rd Meeting (COP 23) (Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023),

Recalling also Decision IG.26/13 on Assessment Studies concerning the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks

adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 23rd Meeting (COP 23) (Portoroz, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023),

Recalling the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, as well as the other relevant UfM ministerial declarations, in particular the 2021 UfM Ministerial Declarations on Sustainable Blue Economy of 2 February 2021 and Energy of 14 June 2021,

Deeply concerned with the impacts of climate and environmental changes on water, energy, food and ecosystems (WEFE) in the Mediterranean, as highlighted in the 2020 State of Environment and Development (SoED) and the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1), leading to increasing vulnerability of local communities and insecurity of the WEFE elements,

Recognizing the gaps in knowledge regarding the state of the environment and risks related to the interconnections between impacts of climate and environmental change and the WEFE nexus in the Mediterranean. There is an urgent need to continue to strengthen efforts to bridge those gaps through building and reinforcing existing mechanisms,

Expressing appreciation for the work undertaken by the network of MedECC, including the publication of MAR1 in 2020 and related communication activities and the ongoing preparation of three Special Reports. Also acknowledging MedECC's involvement in other MAP processes and products such as the MED2050 foresight exercise, the Mediterranean observatory on environment and development and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcome and express appreciation* for the work undertaken by members of the MedECC network, in particular its coordinators, report coordinators, Coordinating Lead Authors and authors and MedECC secretariat, for preparing the Special Report on interlinking climate change with Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin and its SPM;
2. *Acknowledge* the importance of the Science – Policy – Society Interface developed by MedECC in cooperation with the UfM Secretariat, and UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Plan Bleu/RAC, and welcome the inclusive process undertaken to consult the scientific community, government representatives, policymakers and stakeholders on the findings of the MedECC Special Report on interlinking climate change with Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin and its SPM;
3. *Agree*, on a consensual basis, that the Plenary consultation did not identify any factual inaccuracy or error in the SPM;
4. *Invite* the Secretariat of the UfM to submit the SPM for the consideration and endorsement by the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Action.
5. *Invite also* the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat to submit the SPM for the consideration and potential endorsement by the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 24) that will be held in December 2025 in Egypt;
6. *Encourage* taking into consideration the issues raised in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) during the ongoing revision of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025), with one of its flagship initiatives being the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus;
7. *Encourage* the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat to consider the results of MedECC work in the preparation of the draft decisions for the COP 24 and in particular the draft decision on the Programme of Work 2026-2027;
8. *Encourage* also the MedECC secretariat, supporting institutions and partners to proceed with a timely publication of the SPM and use its key messages toward a broad dissemination and communication campaign, targeting policymakers, other stakeholders and citizens, supporting policy-

making processes and awareness of the public at regional, national and local levels in the Mediterranean region;

9. *Urge* the participating stakeholders to take concrete steps to foster positive responses to the issues raised in the SPM in their environmental and sectoral policies, and to reinforce dialogue and create platforms for open discussions and awareness-raising to ensure better understanding and implementation of the issues highlighted in the SPM.