

Plenary consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Special Report on climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean elaborated by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)

6 November 2023 (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 (UNEP/MAP), the Members of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and partner organizations, as participants to the Plenary consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers of the Special Report on climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean 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.25/19 on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2022-2023, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021),

Recalling also Decision IG.25/4 on Assessment Studies adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 22nd Meeting (COP 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021),

Recalling also the conclusions of the 2nd Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Action (Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, 4 October 2021),

Deeply concerned with the increasing pressures on the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment, as highlighted in the 2020 State of Environment and Development (SoED) and the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1), provoking numerous impacts on coastal ecosystems and on livelihoods,

Recognizing that there are gaps in the knowledge of the state of the environment and risks related to climate and environmental change in Mediterranean coastal zones and that 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 Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), including the publication of MAR1 in 2020 and related communication activities and the ongoing preparation of three Special Reports, but also 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,

Having considered the conclusions of the meeting of the Plan Bleu Focal Points (Marseille, France, 12-13 June 2023), and the 20th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Marseille, France, 14-16 June 2023), as well as the conclusions of the meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023),

1. *Welcome and express appreciation* for the work undertaken by members of the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), in particular its coordinators, authors and secretariat, for the preparation of the Special Report on climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM);
2. *Acknowledge* the importance of the Science – Policy – Society Interface developed by MedECC in cooperation with the UfM and UNEP/MAP Secretariats and Plan Bleu, 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 climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean;
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 or the next Climate Change Expert Group (dates to be confirmed);
5. *Invite also* the Secretariat of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention to submit the SPM for the consideration and potential endorsement by the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 23) that will be held in December 2023 in Slovenia;
6. *Encourage* the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system to consider the results of MedECC work in the preparation of the draft decisions for the COP 23 and in particular the draft decision on the Programme of Work 2024-25 including in the context of the proposed revision of the 2016 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas;
7. *Encourage* also participation of stakeholders in the consultation process of the two upcoming MedECC Special Reports on climate-water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus and on environmental change, conflict, and human migration;
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 decision-makers, 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.