

MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION FOR THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, meeting in Monaco from 14 to 17 November 2001 in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Considering the Draft Declaration prepared by the Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, meeting in Tunis from 14 to 17 November 2000,

Having examined the progress towards sustainable development at the regional level, in the light of the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - and the need for an integrated approach,

Recognizing that good governance, based on democratic processes, respect for human rights, especially of women and children, the promotion of justice and international law, the eradication of poverty and empowerment of concerned people, and the establishment of peace and security, based on international legitimacy, is a prerequisite for sustainable development,

Stressing the importance and unique nature of the Mediterranean as an eco-region and an arena for solidarity, as well as its vocation for bringing different cultures closer to each other,

Also stressing the need to promote sustainable development strategies for eco-regions such as the Mediterranean, as well as associated regional commissions,

Recognizing the contribution of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development's activities and recommendations to the promotion of sustainable development,

Welcoming the increasing role and the active networking of the Mediterranean non-governmental organisations, the socio-economic groups, the local authorities, the scientific educational community and the media as actors and partners in sustainable development,

Stressing the impact of globalization and the intensification of economic, cultural and tourist exchanges, and the risks to which the natural and cultural heritage and the unique character of the Mediterranean are exposed,

Concerned by the pressures on the environment and biodiversity, the deterioration of forests and wetlands, desertification and land degradation the persistence of practices that are not sustainable in the long term, such as littoralization, the excessive exploitation of vulnerable natural resources, and particularly of water, the concentration of tourist activities, the increased production of solid domestic and industrial waste, the growing consumption of fossil fuels, contributing to the greenhouse effect, and related natural and technological risks, as well as the spread of non-sustainable production and consumption patterns,

Concerned by the growing disparity between the human and financial resources available and the challenges to be faced,

Agree the following:

Social development

The widening income gap between countries of the North and South of the region and between rich and poor sectors of society within each country should be addressed. They affirm their commitment to achieve and surpass the 2015 targets for poverty reduction of the Millennium Summit, by designing and implementing appropriate regional and national gender equitable

policies, strategies and programmes to address poverty effectively. This will include issues emerging from migration trends and economic transitions, which have created new forms of poverty.

Health protection and development and the wise use of healthcare resources are essential components for the sustainable development of the region.

The region needs to invest in capacity building and empowering its young population. Mediterranean countries are committed to review, reform and/or develop sound educational and appropriate information, communication and training strategies to develop the human capital needed to fuel sustainable development. Access by all people to general education should be secured, including education for environment and sustainability.

Management of natural resources and pollution combating

Actions at international, regional, national and local levels with collaboration between all the actors are needed in order to protect effectively the quality of this unique marine environment, to facilitate integrated management of coastal areas, to promote integrated management of water resources at watershed level, to sustain the precious biodiversity of the region and to combat desertification and land degradation efficiently.

Considering that the Mediterranean region attracts one third of international tourism, sustainable tourism respecting the environment and natural landscapes should be promoted.

Natural and technological risks should be systematically addressed, adopting prevention measures at all governance levels, ensuring safety for people and their property, as well as the natural environment and cultural heritage.

Clean and safe water, land productivity and food security should be addressed at regional and national levels by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and environmentally friendly consumption patterns.

The share of environmentally-sound renewable energy, particularly solar, wind and geothermal energy, in total primary energy production and use should be significantly increased, and energy efficiency technologies should be promoted

Policies for safe management and, where possible, elimination of industrial pollution and hazardous chemicals in the region should be promoted and implemented.

Monitoring networks, observatories and data collection systems should be efficiently linked for the purpose of analysing long-term trends and elaborating appropriate management policies.

Institutional and legal framework

Sustainable development requires that economic, social and environmental considerations be integrated into decision-making processes, planning procedures and law-making at all levels.

Institutional and legal frameworks must provide for public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice. The implementation of the precautionary and the polluter pays principles and the principle of common and differentiated responsibility is essential in all relevant policies.

The Contracting Parties support efforts to strengthen global environmental governance and will contribute towards it in the Mediterranean region.

Increasing the effectiveness of the international legal framework foreseen at the Rio Conference requires countries to implement their commitments under the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC, as well as to ratify and implement the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Cartagena Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol. The progress made on the latter at COP 7 of the UNFCCC, hosted in Marrakech by a southern Mediterranean country, is a valuable contribution to sustainable development, to whose implementation the Mediterranean Action Plan should contribute.

The regional level is extremely important in promoting sustainable development. To this end, the Contracting Parties have renewed the Mediterranean Action Plan, revised the 1976 Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, adopted new Protocols and agreed on a reporting mechanism to monitor progress in implementing their commitments. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development is proving to be a valuable instrument for promoting partnership with major groups, notably through its working groups on water, tourism, and industry. The Parties are also seeking to strengthen ties between the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Governance, decentralization and participation

The role of Mediterranean regional, national and local levels of governance and participatory decision-making structures should be strengthened.

Countries should facilitate the implementation of recommendations and action plans deriving from local Agendas 21, establishing appropriate institutional frameworks by providing or facilitating access to adequate means by local authorities.

All countries and major groups of the region should develop and implement practicable and targeted Sustainability Strategies at various levels of governance, including Integrated Water Resources Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, in particular aiming at decreasing pressures on coastal areas.

Cooperation, partnership and financing

As globalization is a rapid, irreversible, powerful process, Mediterranean countries are determined to reap its benefits and address effectively any adverse side-effects on social cohesion, environmental quality and cultural identities in order to promote sustainable development, in particular in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the forthcoming Free-Trade Area and the proposed enlargement of the European Union.

Scientific knowledge on achieving sustainable development and promoting eco-efficiency should be shared and the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies should be encouraged; Mediterranean regional centres have an important role to play in this regard.

Domestic resources, trade liberalization compatible with environmental protection and private financial flows, notably foreign direct investment, are fundamental in generating resources for sustainable development. National financing should be considerably increased while incentives for environmentally and socially responsible investments should be promoted and environmentally damaging subsidies should be gradually removed.

Multilateral and bilateral international or regional funding available under public development aid should be considerably increased and better adapted to the programmes for the protection of the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

The international community should strive to reach the accepted UN aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP as soon as possible. The commitment of the European Union Heads of States and Governments, in June 2001, to make concrete progress towards reaching this target before the Johannesburg Summit is welcomed.

New and additional resources of funding and innovative financial mechanisms respecting sustainable development principles, such as debt for nature and sustainable development swaps, as well as the Clean Development Mechanisms in the Kyoto Protocol, should be promoted.

These initiatives constitute innovative mechanisms of solidarity for real and effective Mediterranean partnership.

To this end, the Contracting Parties decide to:

- draw up or revise their own sustainable development strategies in the light of the results of the Johannesburg Summit and the agreements reached above;
- elaborate policies for regional development, including an efficient management of natural capital;
- implement appropriate institutional, fiscal and legal reforms to promote the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan as renewed in 1995, with due attention to socio-economic considerations particularly in eastern and southern Mediterranean countries;
- promote the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development and its contribution to the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, and take the necessary measures to implement its recommendations and proposals for action;
- promote the establishment of information, monitoring and evaluation systems on the State of the Environment and sustainable development at regional, national and local levels;

and Invite:

The Mediterranean Governments to increase the resources devoted to meet these commitments;

The international organizations and the European Community to improve allocated resources, increase synergies and mutual support between their programmes of intervention in the Mediterranean, so as to meet more effectively the needs of the region;

The United Nations to consider the needs and resources of eco-regions, such as the Mediterranean, when addressing sustainable development issues.