



## Report

### **Civil Society Dialogue on Mediterranean Processes: UfM Ministerial on Environment - Climate Change COP Copenhagen- Long Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean**

1 November 2009

League of Arab States, Cairo – Egypt

The Civil Society Dialogue on Mediterranean Processes: UfM Ministerial on Environment - Climate Change COP Copenhagen - Long Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean took place a few days ago on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2009 in Cairo, Egypt at the premises of the League of Arab States.

The Dialogue focused on the roles and synergies among various representatives of civil society (NGOs, Members of Parliament, journalists and representatives of other stakeholders) in order to provide a coordinated and effective input in specific current processes of high importance for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region. The event was organised by MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and RAED with the financial contribution of the European Commission and Sweden. In kind support was offered by the Ministry for the Environment of Egypt, the League of Arab States and the Arab Office for Youth and Environment.

The Civil Society meeting was attended by 140 participants. Opening remarks were made by Dr. Emad Adly, General Coordinator of RAED, Prof. Michael Scoullou, Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med and Dr. Mawaheb Abdel Moneim Abou El-Azm, Chief Executive Officer, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. Particular mention was made to the Horizon 2020 Initiative, the upcoming COP Meeting of the Barcelona Convention and the meeting of the Council of Arab Environment Ministers, the GEF 'Petersberg Africa' Project supporting dialogue activities of Parliamentarians in priority regional and sub-regional policy processes for integrated water resources management as well as the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Large Marine Ecosystem.

Two key input presentations were made by Ms. Barbara Tomassini, Global Water Partnership-Med, on the *Long Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean* and by Henk Van Schaik, Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate, on the *Climate Change COP Copenhagen*. Participants were also informally informed about the preparations towards the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conference on the Environment to take place in Dubrovnik on 26-27 November by the Chairman of MIO-ECSDE, Prof. Michael Scoullou.

After the presentations an arduous discussion took place on the draft inputs (sent a few days before the meeting in English and French) from Civil Society representatives to the UfM Ministerial on Environment - Climate



Change COP Copenhagen - Long Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean, accordingly.

By the end of the afternoon session the following documents were finalised:



1) Input of the Mediterranean Environmental Civil Society on the Long-Term Strategy on Water for the Mediterranean (SWM);



2) Mediterranean Environment Civil Society input on Climate Change to regional fora, COP 15 (Copenhagen 2009) negotiators and decision makers at all levels;



3) Input of Mediterranean Environmental Civil Society to the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment (Dubrovnik 26-27 November 2009)

All of these documents are available in English and French at the following link: <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/article.php?story=20091116065159290>.

The Civil Society Dialogue also provided the background of the 7th Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development (COMJESD). Each of the Circles held their own closed sessions after the conclusion of the Civil Society Dialogue.



Furthermore, the Dialogue was intrinsically linked with the National Workshop on Climate Change organized on the previous day by RAED with the support of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, ABRI (Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative), ISDR (International Strategy for Disaster Reduction), PME (Presidency of Meteorology and Environment), IWA, RITSEC and Cedare.



Overall, all foreseen activities took place as scheduled and also all objective of the meeting were fulfilled.

Immediate follow-up actions that have already taken place:



1) The adopted *Mediterranean Environment Civil Society statement on Climate Change, which addresses regional fora, the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and decision makers at all levels*, was presented at the UNEP-MAP 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, Marrakesh, 3-5 November 2009 by the MIO-ECSDE representative Dr. Thomie Vlachogianni. There is very clear reference to the intervention in the draft final report of the 16<sup>th</sup> COP. Furthermore, copies of the document were made available outside the conference room and all delegations and organizations were invited to examine it. When read out in the plenary, it was applauded genuinely. Also, a copy of this document will be sent to each delegation and organization present at the meeting.



2) The Civil Society Dialogue was organized back-to-back with the Joint Egyptian-Dutch Water Conference "Towards the new Long-Term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean" that took place on 2-3 November in Cairo. At this Conference which aimed at contributing to the development of the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean as well as to the UN Climate



Conference in Copenhagen, the "Input of the Mediterranean Environmental Civil Society on the Long-Term Strategy on Water for the Mediterranean (SWM)" was presented by Ms. Barbara Tomassini (MIO-ECSDE Project Officer) and well accepted.



3) This document as also presented by Ms. Anastasia Roniotes, Head Officer of MIO-ECSDE, to the 2nd Meeting of the Water Expert Group (WEG) that guides the elaboration of the SWM and which took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November again in Cairo. The WEG acknowledged the document and mentioned it in its final conclusions.



4) The "Input of Mediterranean Environmental Civil Society to the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment (Dubrovnik 26-27 November 2009)" will be finalized in the following days at regional level through further deliberation as the preparation for the Ministerial Meeting is progressing. The final document will then be presented and submitted to the Ministerial Conference on Environment. It has been confirmed that the agenda of the Ministerial Meeting foresees the presentation of this document.

