

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

We, representatives of Civil Society organizations in the Mediterranean region working on environment and sustainable development, gathered in Cairo on the 1st of November 2009¹

1- *acknowledge* the progress of the Horizon 2020 initiative and its contribution to the de-pollution of the Mediterranean and to regional environmental cooperation and call upon the Ministers of Environment of the UfM to reconfirm their support, also on the basis of the “Progress Report for the first three years of Horizon 2020”.

2- *recall* the importance and need for a holistic approach towards achieving sustainable development in the Mediterranean on the basis of good governance, transparency and accountability, enhanced public awareness and participation.

3- *urge* for the mobilisation of the necessary political and financial support for full implementation of Horizon 2020.

4- *commit to enhance our continued support* for the effective implementation of the next steps in the Cairo Road-map (2007-2013) as adopted by the Ministers in 2006.

5- *highlight* the urgency of an action plan and mechanism for the monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area, with the participation of civil society.

6- *urge* the Ministers to support the progress towards the elaboration of the Long term Strategy on Water for the Mediterranean to be adopted at the next UfM Ministerial Conference on Water to be hosted by Spain on 12-14 April 2010 in Barcelona. Such a Strategy needs to integrate provisions and actions related to Horizon 2020.

7- *invite* the Ministers to work towards achieving maximum synergies with actions of international/regional initiatives and conventions/legal instruments (e.g. CBD, International Water Convention) particularly on climate change in the region in view of COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009. In line with this, we call upon the Ministers to *take full consideration* of the “Marrakesh Declaration” (Marrakesh, 3-5 November 2009) and go to Copenhagen with equal determination to seek a global agreement, with identified common goals and mutual commitments.

8- *urge* the Ministers of Environment of the UfM to encourage the effective and active representation of organized Civil Society in the overall UfM process and structure as well as specifically in the environment and sustainable development processes and projects. The Horizon 2020 Steering Group where Civil Society fully participates as an equal partner could be used as a good example at regional level.

9- would have welcomed a more transparent and participatory preparation for this Ministerial meeting.

¹ Dialogue on Mediterranean Processes: UfM Ministerial on Environment – Climate Change COP 15 Copenhagen – Long Term Strategy on Water in the Mediterranean, invited by MIO-ECSDE and co-organized by MIO-ECSDE, GWP-Med and RAED, with the support of the European Commission and the Swedish EU Presidency. Over 120 NGOs, Members of Parliament and journalists from most Mediterranean countries participated in the event and adopted this text.