

# SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

MEDITERRANEE DURABLE • ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΜΕΣΟΓΕΙΟΣ • MEDITERRANEO SOSTENIBILE المتوسطة المستدامة



**Rio+20:**  
**The Mediterranean in focus**  
...  
**En mettant l'accent sur la Méditerranée**



**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development



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Rio de Janeiro during the Rio+20 Summit

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## EDITORIAL

By Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med

This issue is devoted to Rio+20, to what it was all about, what the prospects and the results were for the world, Europe and particularly for the Mediterranean region, its countries, its Civil Society, environmental NGOs and MIO-ECSDE under the current conditions in the region.

Going to Rio we had moderate expectations. We knew that the economic and sociopolitical situation throughout the world and around the Mediterranean was not favourable for major commitments and brave decisions. We approached Rio+20 as a milestone for reflection, not only for what has been achieved since Rio (1992) and Johannesburg (2002) but also since Stockholm (1972).

In fact, Rio+20 has demonstrated directly and indirectly the links between all our attempts of the past, with their inherent limitations and the prospects for the future.

Rio+20 has demonstrated two contrasting features of all these years: on the one hand the efforts and faith of a considerable part of the international community and society to overcome difficulties and find a mode of development (sustainable), which could guide not just individuals and enlightened minorities but also countries, enterprises, regions/groups of countries and the world as a whole to a much more environmentally and socially friendly economy. On the other hand there is an equally considerable part of political and other leaderships who are not willing, or objectively not able, or not in a position, to dynamically overcome national and regional obstacles and clusters of interests and conditions that maintain unsustainable patterns of production, consumption and, most importantly, governance.

In this respect, Rio+20 confirmed this dual reality and, for those who work for a better world, renewed the commitment and opened the way for new alliances. It further offered a formidable opportunity for the exchange of ideas and “new” perspectives, some of which are based clearly on re-circulated, unfulfilled visions of the past.

“Green Economy” for instance, which has various interpretations and was received with suspicion by some developing countries, in its most accomplished version is linked with a different objective and indicator of progress: not the Gross Domestic Product but the “gross national prosperity” measured as “usefulness” or “happiness”, to use the terms of Jan Tinbergen of the late 1960s.

The Mediterranean region, even if not a “UN recognized region”, was represented at Rio+20 by all its actors and stakeholders and on an invitation by MIO-ECSDE, the universally trusted platform that serves the region since the eve of Rio, sent in a firm, realistic and clear way a few concrete messages:

1. Despite dramatic changes in the sociopolitical conditions linked with the Arab Spring in the southern and eastern shores and the economic crisis in its northern ones, the Mediterranean countries and social actors

wish to maintain and strengthen their ties and common work to demonstrate their solidarity and keep this actual North-South interface as one of osmosis and collaboration and not as a boundary of separation. This is so necessary for the sustainable future of the region but also for the entire world.

This is why all existing relevant institutions and programmes (UNEP/MAP, Union for the Mediterranean, Horizon 2020, MedPartnership and others including MIO-ECSDE) need to be maintained, streamlined, fully and properly utilized, strengthened and encouraged to cooperate even more.

2. The Mediterranean region is a smaller scale “model” of the world, where many precious biological resources and ecosystems, several of the most important cultural and archeological sites of the world, some of the most fragile security hotspots, different religions and governance schemes and still some untapped natural resources coexist. It is important for the countries of the region, which still have a low productivity but also for the entire world to invest in this region carefully, so as to shape its future along sustainable development pathways.
3. The Mediterranean has the potential and accumulated expertise to act as a source of inspiration and good practices on a number of issues (non-conventional water resources management, solar energy, etc.) for further utilization, up-scaling and expansion within the region and beyond.
4. The power (“κράτος”/“kratos”) of the people/citizens (“demos”) = democracy itself, seems to be an equation which although born in the region long ago has today evolved into new differentiated forms. New communication technologies (cellular phones, internet, etc.) and self-organization need to be seriously considered and analysed in better understanding and serving the societal needs and aspirations within a social reality, which moves fast in a pendulum-like manner between conservative traditionalism and revolutionary progressivism. Our region is once again in the forefront of experimentation and we, including MIO-ECSDE and its membership, as part of Civil Society, have a role to play in the present and future scene in promoting sustainable development perspectives and in the formulation of this emerging vision.

Rio+20, from this point of view, came at the right moment and facilitated to some extent the exchange of influences between the global and the regional levels, although the latter was much less visible than the individual national contributions due to the set frameworks.

Although it brought nothing new in terms of substantial commitments, Rio+20 has:

- secured the reaffirmation and clarification of previous commitments and smooth continuation of most

of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For instance, Rio+20 extended the commitment for access to drinking water and sanitation for all,

- introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- increased the consensus for the marine environment and its resources in connection to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It called for drastic measures to reduce marine litter,
- emphasized the role of Green Economy and introduced the beyond GDP approach,
- formally raised the role of Civil Society representation in international meetings and negotiations,
- given more emphasis on job creation and decent work issues,
- recognized the role of Education and agreed on a post UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development era (post 2015),
- called again for international solidarity at regional and global level,
- agreed in strengthening UNEP and in this respect we do hope for the strengthening of UNEP/MAP as well.

In all these areas MIO-ECSDE has been a pioneer and has contributed in various ways to the inclusion of a number of relevant points in the agenda and the final document "The Future We Want". It has been widely recognized that our role in strengthening the references to Education, Civil Society participation and the marine environment including the issues of marine litter, in particular, were very successful.

In this respect and without being thrilled with the results, we are satisfied that with our limited resources we have obtained some tangible results that can be starting points for our future action, implementation of accumulated commitments, which is badly needed.

Ce numéro est consacré au sommet Rio +20, de quoi il s'agissait, quels étaient les perspectives et les résultats pour le monde entier, pour l'Europe et pour la région méditerranéenne, en particulier, pour ses pays, sa Société Civile, ses ONG environnementales et pour le MIO-ECSDE dans les conditions actuelles de la région.

Avant notre voyage vers Rio nous avons des attentes modérées. Nous savions que la situation économique et sociopolitique dans le monde entier et autour de la Méditerranée n'était pas favorable à prendre ni des engagements importants ni des décisions courageuses. Nous avons approché Rio +20 comme une étape importante pour la réflexion, non seulement pour ce qui a été accompli depuis le sommet à Rio (1992) mais aussi depuis celui de Johannesburg (2002), et de Stockholm (1972).

En fait, Rio +20 a démontré directement en même temps indirectement les liens parmi toutes nos tentatives du passé, avec leurs limites inhérentes et perspectives d'avenir.

Rio +20 a mis en évidence deux caractéristiques contrastées: d'une part, les efforts et la foi d'une partie considérable de la communauté et la société internationale à surmonter les difficultés et de trouver un mode de développement (durable) qui pourrait guider non seulement les in-

dividus et les minorités d'esprit éclairé mais aussi les pays, les entreprises, les régions / groupes de pays et le monde dans son ensemble vers une économie plus respectueuse de l'environnement et de la société. D'autre part, il ya une partie tout aussi importante de dirigeants politiques et d'autres qui n'ont pas la volonté, ou ne sont pas objectivement en mesure à surmonter de manière efficace les obstacles nationaux et régionaux, les groupes d'intérêts et les conditions qui maintiennent des modes de production, la consommation et, surtout, de la gouvernance

À cet égard, Rio +20 a confirmé cette double réalité et, pour ceux qui travaillent à rendre notre monde meilleur, a renouvelé l'engagement et a ouvert la voie à de nouvelles alliances. Rio +20 a constitué une formidable opportunité pour l'échange d'idées et de "nouveaux" points de vue, certains parmi eux sont basés clairement sur des visions recyclées et non tenues du passé.

L'Economie verte, par exemple, qui a des interprétations diverses et elle a été accueillie avec méfiance par certains pays en développement, dans sa version la plus aboutie, elle est liée à un objectif différent et indicateur de progrès: non le produit intérieur brut, mais la «prospérité nationale brute» mesurée comme «l'utilité» ou le «bonheur», pour reprendre les termes de Jan Tinbergen des années 1960.

La région méditerranéenne, même si elle n'est pas une région reconnue par les Nations Unies, elle a été représentée à Rio +20 par tous ses acteurs et ses parties prenantes et sur une invitation par le MIO-ECSDE, la plateforme universelle qui inspire de confiance et dessert la région depuis le sommet de Rio, et a envoyé quelques messages clairs, concrets ainsi que réalistes:

Malgré les changements dramatiques dans les conditions sociopolitiques liées au printemps arabe des rives méridionales et orientales de la Méditerranée et la crise économique de la rive nord, les pays et les acteurs sociaux souhaitent maintenir et renforcer leurs liens et travail commun pour démontrer leur solidarité et garder cette « interface » Nord-Sud en tant que collaboration, et non comme une frontière de séparation. Ceci est nécessaire pour l'avenir durable de la région, mais aussi pour le monde entier.

C'est pourquoi toutes les institutions et les programmes pertinents (PNUE / PAM, l'Union pour la Méditerranée, l'Horizon 2020, le MedPartnership et autres, y compris le MIO-ECSDE) doivent être maintenus, adaptés et rationalisés, correctement utilisés, renforcés et encouragés à coopérer davantage.

La région méditerranéenne est un «modèle» du monde de plus petite échelle, où coexistent de nombreuses ressources naturelles précieuses et inexploitées et des écosystèmes, certains des plus importants sites culturels et archéologiques du monde, des zones sensibles les plus fragiles en matière de sécurité, de diverses religions et des systèmes de gouvernance. Il est important pour les pays de la région, qui ont encore une faible productivité, mais aussi pour le monde entier d'investir dans cette région afin de façonner son avenir selon les principes du développement durable.

La Méditerranée a l'expertise accumulée et potentielle d'agir comme une source d'inspiration et de bonnes pra-

tiques liées à plusieurs thématiques (gestion des ressources en eau non-conventionnelles, énergie solaire, etc.) pour une utilisation à pleine capacité, ainsi qu'expansion, dans la région et au-delà.

La puissance ("κράτος" / "kratos") des citoyens («demos») = la démocratie elle-même, semble être une équation qui, bien qu'elle soit née dans la région, elle a évolué vers de nouvelles formes différenciées. Les nouvelles technologies de communication (téléphones portables, Internet, etc.) et l'autoorganisation doivent être sérieusement examinées et analysées pour mieux comprendre et répondre aux besoins sociaux et aux aspirations au sein d'une réalité sociale, qui progresse rapidement et bouge comme un pendule entre le traditionalisme conservateur et le progressisme révolutionnaire. Notre région est encore une fois au cours de l'expérimentation et nous, y compris le MIO-ECSDE et ses membres, au sein de la société civile, ont un rôle à jouer dans la scène actuelle et future dans la promotion des perspectives de développement durable et dans la formulation de cette nouvelle vision.

Rio +20, de ce point de vue, s'est déroulé au bon moment et a facilité dans une certaine mesure l'échange d'influences entre le niveau global et régional, bien que ce dernier soit beaucoup moins visible que les contributions nationales individuelles à cause des cadres fixés.

Bien qu'il n'ait rien apporté de nouveau en termes d'engagements substantiels, Rio +20 a:

- obtenu la réaffirmation et la clarification de ses engagements antérieurs et la poursuite harmonieuse de la plupart des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD). Par exemple, Rio +20 a étendu l'engagement pour l'accès à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement pour tout le monde,
- présenté les Objectifs en vue du Développement Durable (SDGS),

- augmenté le consensus pour l'environnement marin et ses ressources dans le cadre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit marin et a réclamé des mesures drastiques pour réduire les déchets marins,
- souligné le rôle de l'économie verte et introduit l'approche «au-delà du PIB»,
- formellement soulevé le rôle de la représentation de la Société Civile au cours des réunions et négociations internationales,
- mis l'accent sur la création d'emplois verts et le travail décent,
- reconnu le rôle de l'Education et a convenu sur une post-Décennie de l'ONU en vue de l'Education au Développement Durable (post 2015),
- réclamé à nouveau la solidarité internationale au niveau régional et mondial,
- convenu pour renforcer le PNUE et à cet égard nous espérons également pour le renforcement du PNUE / PAM.

Dans tous ces domaines, le MIO-ECSDE figurait toujours de pionnier et a contribué de diverses façons à l'inclusion de plusieurs points pertinents de l'ordre du jour et du document final «L'avenir que nous voulons». Il a été largement reconnu que notre rôle dans la promotion et le renforcement de l'éducation, de la participation de la société civile et du milieu marin, y compris les questions de déchets marins, en particulier, ont été très fructueux.

À cet égard, et sans être très heureux des résultats, nous sommes convaincus qu'avec nos ressources limitées, nous avons obtenu des résultats tangibles qui peuvent être des points de départ pour notre action future, la mise en œuvre des engagements pris, ce qui est absolument nécessaire.



## RIO+20: A SUCCESS STORY IN THE MAKING?

By Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment

It would be fair to say that the immediate reaction of media and Civil Society to the outcome of the 2012 UN Conference on sustainable development was overwhelmingly negative. However, within a few days there were already signs of a more mature reflection and a more balanced assessment. Yes, we all wanted more from Rio+20 and I will not pretend that we did not. However, the EU decided that it was better to have the agreement we got than no agreement at all. Why? Because the final outcome document explicitly recognised some important needs and priorities and we now need to get on with making sure they are implemented. Frankly, the time for wish-lists is now over and it is time for action.

The challenges the world faces today are many and although some answers lie at local or national level, long lasting results will only be possible with a strong sense of direction shared internationally. One of the main outcomes of Rio is that the world has finally acknowledged the need to move towards a Green Economy. This should facilitate the sustainable management of natural resources, and raise awareness of the need for urgent action to tackle unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. As a result of the conference, the possibility has emerged of working with a broad range of countries to develop policies on Green Economy as a common undertaking.

Rio+20 has also led to important commitments in a number of key areas including water, energy, oceans, land and ecosystems, food and sustainable production and consumption. The world has recognised the right to clean water and sanitation, the urgency to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine biodiversity, including reduction of marine litter, the need to move towards a land degradation free world, as well as the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste and where possible of transforming it into a resource.

More specifically, on water, in addition to reaffirming the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the Rio outcome document gives commitment to the progressive realisation of access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all. The document also addresses water pollution, water quality, water efficiency, floods, water scarcity and droughts. On oceans and marine biodiversity, we obtained a clear commitment to urgently address the issue on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). On marine litter, an issue particularly relevant in the Mediterranean, we obtained agreement to commit and take action by 2025 based on collected scientific data and achieve significant reduction on marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment. On chemicals and waste, we succeeded in obtaining recognition that there is a need for a more robust and coherent system for sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, which is capable of dealing with emerging issues. And on land, we obtained engagement to strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world, with the objective of arriving at zero net land degradation.

Moreover, Rio+20 has given a strong social angle to sustainable development on matters such as decent work,

green jobs and social protection. This is particularly important because it helps link the three dimensions of sustainable development and it strengthens the message that growth should not only be economically and ecologically sustainable but also fair, just and equitable.

The outcome document signed in Rio de Janeiro offers a number of opportunities for undertaking further substantive work at international level. We obtained concrete results on a Green Economy and institutional reform. The EU welcomes the agreement to reinforce the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD). Although the results are not as ambitious as what we originally hoped for, Rio+20 has reinforced international environmental governance by strengthening and upgrading UNEP. In this new set-up, a truly global UNEP will have a new authority that will allow it to take actions that were until now beyond its reach and to set the global environmental agenda.

The Rio outcome document has many elements required for bringing about change, if we really want to build on its strengths mobilising national and international efforts, including Civil Society and stakeholders at large. Rio+20 has not gone as far as most would have wanted; none of the countries and regions present at Rio achieved in full what was wanted initially. This also applies to the EU. But, it is an important starting point. We worked together to develop common ground and we reaffirmed that we share a common responsibility towards future generations. The power to turn Rio+20 into a success story lies in our hands. It will depend on how strongly we take forward the results obtained. The challenge will be to achieve a real commitment on action from state and non-state actors at international, national and local level. The shared challenge for us all now is to implement in full the potential of the Rio+20 outcome, and ensure that it leads to real action towards sustainable development, an inclusive Green Economy and poverty eradication.

the region. The event was co-organized by MIO-ECSDE, UNEP/MAP, the European Commission, the Union for the Mediterranean, the Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco, RAED and GWP-Med and was funded through the annual grant of MIO-ECSDE by the European Commission DG Environment.



Photograph: © Thomas Vlachogianni

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Prof. Michael Scoullos at the Mediterranean side event.

The Chairman of the meeting, **Prof. Michael Scoullos**, opened the event emphasizing that “The Mediterranean, being an active North-South interface has to provide an example and nurture hope because not only does its importance transcend that of the nations along its coasts but it is an eco-region of high significance for the entire globe.”

**HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco** addressed the audience saying that “It is necessary today to mobilise all our energies and resources to preserve this unique sea. To this end, we know that the Mediterranean can count on the genius and inventiveness of the populations living around it.” He affirmed his belief that “Even today, these people will be able to devise a form of development that can preserve their greatest wealth: the sea that is the cradle of their civilisation.”

**Ernst von Weizsaecker**, Co-Chair of UNEP’s International Resource Panel, emphasized that a greatly enhanced resource productivity is available in the Mediterranean, which helps combine economic well-being and the protection of land and sea.

#### Progress so far

The Coordinator of UNEP/MAP, Ms. **Maria Luisa Silva Mejias**, highlighted the innovative bodies, policies/

strategies and tools adopted, such as the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development, the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development, the unique Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the MedPartnership, etc. towards obtaining sustainable development in the region.

The meeting also affirmed that throughout the past years, regional institutions such as the Union for the Mediterranean and its Parliamentary Assembly, etc. were established and a series of major EU funded projects, namely the EU Water Initiative led by Greece, the Horizon 2020 Initiative, SWIM, SWITCH-MED and others have been launched to help accelerate the region’s progress towards sustainable development. Civil Society organizations tirelessly continue to carry out a large number of essential initiatives such as the Mediterranean Educational Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES), which brings together some 4000 educators and the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) bringing together MPs from most of the Mediterranean Parliaments.

From the Panel, **Jacqueline McGlade**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, **Peter Portelli**, Deputy Minister of Tourism, the Environment and Culture and Deputy Head of the Delegation of Malta, **Mohamed Ait Kadi**, Chair of the Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership and **Mohamed Ftouhi** from the Arab Network for Environment and Development expressed their views on the situation at hand. Active participants included **Egly Pantelaki**, General Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment and Head of the Delegation of Cyprus, the current Chair of the Council of the European Union, **Dimitris Alexandrakis**, Ambassador of Greece to the Federative Republic of Brazil and Head of the Greek Delegation, **Lluís Recoder i Miralles**, Minister of Territory and Sustainability for the Government of Catalonia, **Vangelis Constantianos**, Executive Secretary of GWP-Med, **Daniella Tilbury**, Professor of Sustainability and Chair, UNESCO DESD Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Group”, **Lucien Chabason**, President of Plan Bleu of UNEP/MAP, **Enrique de Villamore Martín**, Director of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of UNEP/MAP, **Guillaume Sainteny**, Member of the Scientific Committee of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and **Ivan Zavadsky**, Sr. Water Resources Management Specialist at the Global Environment Facility.

## RIO+20: MEDITERRANEANS UNITE TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Mediterranean region marked its presence at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) on 19 June, in Rio de Janeiro, at an official side event of the summit entitled “Challenges and Opportunities for a Mediterranean Green Growth”. Over 100 governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders met and renewed their commitment towards peaceful coexistence, environmental protection, Green Growth and sustainable development in the region.

At a moment of acute and persisting political, economic and social challenges in the Mediterranean, governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental

organizations and other stakeholders gathered in Rio, on the invitation of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and other major key actors, to demonstrate their commitment to overcome the difficulties and work in solidarity for Green Growth within a sustainable development of the region.

The Mediterranean official side event brought together distinguished personalities as well as over one hundred major institutions and stakeholders from European, Middle East and North African countries, who provided an overview of the joint efforts undertaken and achievements made towards achieving Green Growth in



All participants emphasized the need for enhanced coordinated efforts, more appropriate means and better governance to enable all parties to engage in more concrete actions at national and regional levels in the sectors of marine resources, water, tourism, energy, education, etc. to overcome obstacles and speed up Green Growth and approach the Sustainable Development of the region.

Panelists statements are included in the following pages. Challenges remain

Still, despite all the efforts, the initiatives taken have not managed to reverse environmental degradation and enhance social cohesion and prosperity, particularly for the poor. This is partly due to increasing pressures, such as rapidly growing population in the southern and eastern coasts, unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, inefficient governance and political instability and financial volatility, all of which hamper proper implementation of policies, strategies and commitments made at international fora.

### Immediate next steps

To consolidate the commitments made, the participants agreed to pursue the following actions:

- The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development should be urgently revitalized.
- The Mediterranean Strategy for Water, which has been for almost two years 'frozen' due to political dif-

ficulties, needs to be urgently adopted and complemented by an Action Plan for its implementation.

- The Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, which is now in its final steps of elaboration, should be adopted within the timeframe of the UN Decade for ESD (2005-2014). In the meeting a pledge was made for the organization of a Ministerial meeting for its adoption within 2013, eventually in Monaco.
- The Mediterranean countries that are not parties to the Aarhus Convention are encouraged to join.

In his closing remarks, **Prof. Scoullios** expressed his belief that the event was a clear demonstration of solidarity among all stakeholders in the Mediterranean. He highlighted the importance of the region saying "Together we can do much more than each one of us alone. If we fail in this region, there is little hope for other parts of the world, where the North-South gap may be bigger. We are all committed and convinced that together we can succeed for the benefit of the future generations of our region!"

The event supported the objectives of the 'MedPartnership' and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), as well as those of the EU projects Horizon 2020 Capacity Building Programme (CB/MEP), Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) and the recently launched SWITCH-MED which promotes sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency in the Mediterranean.

## STATEMENTS TO REMEMBER

### HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco



"I have been fortunate enough to live by this Sea since my childhood. I profoundly believe that the future of the Mediterranean Sea is a global issue and therefore must be discussed in Rio and New York as much as in Monaco or elsewhere around the Mediterranean.

**For its history and geography but even more for its wealth and fragility, the Mediterranean is truly at the heart of most environmental themes. It is also a symbol of both our failures and our hopes.**

We all know the hazards threatening the Mediterranean, just as we know their main cause: 150 million inhabitants and 300 million tourists concentrated along the coast. They represent a fabulous source of wealth, but some behaviours represent a threat and overall population pressures.

Obviously, this population needs to eat, live and exchange, which means they must produce, trade and consume. And these essential activities today are often conducted unreasonably, ignoring all sustainable prospects.

Whether in wastewater management, telluric or maritime pollution, intensive commercial maritime exchanges, overfishing or fragile ecosystems, many warnings are proof of the human thoughtlessness, which will cause much imbalance.

This sea, with all its beauty and wealth - nearly 8% of the world's marine species in 0.8% of the surface of the planet and barely 0.3% of the volume of ocean water - is suffering today.

It is all the more true that the current environmental planetary context also has an impact. Climate change, desertification closer and closer to our own coast, acidification of the marine environment (the progression of

which is the same in the Mediterranean as in the oceans) and the proliferation of invasive species, are all additional factors menacing our marine and coastal ecosystems.

This is why it is necessary today to mobilise all our energies and resources to preserve this unique sea.

To this end, we know that the Mediterranean can count on the genius and inventiveness of the populations living around it. On the crossroads of culture, trade, civilization and progress for millennia.

**Even today, I want to believe that these people will be able to devise a form of development that can preserve their greatest wealth: the sea that is the cradle of their civilisation.**

On its own modest level, the Principality of Monaco intends to contribute fully to this historic challenge. We are already doing so, through my Government's resolute action in favour of the environment and my Foundation's projects but also through all the initiatives emanating from our enterprises in favour of Green Growth in the Mediterranean.

I believe our coming together in Rio will be constructive, fruitful and will inspire us to keep finding better solutions for the Mediterranean's future. In the words of Albert Camus, it has the capacity to "carry us both so far and so close to ourselves."

### Maria Damanaki, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



"In the Mediterranean, the economic opportunities are considerable, and so are the environmental challenges. The Mediterranean Sea is under pressure from pollution, urbanisation and industrial activities, from the overexploitation of fisheries resources and the invasion of alien species, from the modification and the destruction of marine and coastal habitats, to mention only a few.

**We need to assess thoroughly the economic potential on the one hand and the environmental and social challenges on the other. We must accompany this assessment with efficient and practical governance structures.**

This is what I see as the best way to deliver Green Growth in the Mediterranean Sea. I hope that we are going to travel down this path together, starting now."

### Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Coordinator and Executive Secretary UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention



"The Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention is a coherent legal and institutional framework for cooperation established in the 70s by the 21 countries bordering the Sea to address the challenges of environmental degradation in the sea and coastal

areas while linking sustainable resource management with development. The intrinsic connection between Environment and Sustainable Development lies at the heart of the Barcelona Convention particularly after its amendment in 1995 to incorporate the Rio 1992 principles and instruments. Innovative policies and tools have followed, such as the adoption of a unique Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the adoption in 2005 at Ministerial level of an Integrated Strategy on Sustainable Development and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development. Today we are capitalizing on the experience of 20 years of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean through recent initiatives under the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan contributing to a Blue Green Growth such as promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production, enhancing partnerships or implementing the ecosystems approach to the management of human activities."

### Dr. Rafiq Husseini, Deputy Secretary General for Environment and Water, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat



"It is becoming crystal clear that current governments around the Mediterranean must seriously engage with the concept of sustainable development; otherwise we will be facing environmental calamities. **To ensure sustainability in a region extremely susceptible to climate change and desertification, countries must adopt "Green" economic policies and measures in order to improve the integration of economic development with environmental sustainability, regardless of the structure of their economy or level of development.** To achieve this, we must:

- Elaborate a comprehensive regional sustainable urban strategy and support the development of regional frameworks to combat climate change and protect the marine environment.
- Legislate and regulate for economically and environmentally sound governance and finance.
- Harness and utilize more renewable energies.
- Ensure that Civil Society is a co-owner of this process and channels of dialogue and cooperation are open with its effective players.
- Emphasize the importance of culture in environmental issues and call for a holistic approach to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature.
- Communicate better with our public and educate it that a "Green Economy is a Sustainable Economy", beneficial not only to them but to their children and many generations to follow.

### The Hon Dr. Mario de Marco, Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Environment, Malta



“As a small island nation at the geographic, cultural, geopolitical and economic cross-roads of the Mediterranean, Malta attaches high priority and relevance to all matters concerning the Mediterranean, a region that shares our common past, present and crucially – our common future. With a centuries-old maritime tradition, **Malta is intimately aware of the fact that the well-being of our shared sea and its surrounding region is critical for sustainability.**”

Malta welcomes a fresh impetus towards a commitment to deliver a “green”, or in the case of the Mediterranean – “blue” economy, which is an essential prerequisite for sustainable growth. In this context, Malta is committed to implementing the principles laid out in the Paris Declaration, adopted at the 17th COP meeting of the Barcelona Convention earlier this year.

Malta also welcomes a strong drive towards strengthening the global institutional framework for sustainable development. Malta believes that a stronger institutional framework at the UN level would benefit the Mediterranean region by promoting continuity, a strategic approach and a future-oriented vision in decision making.

On its part, Malta is currently legislating for sustainable development at the national level and establishing the function of a Guardian for Future Generations within the national framework for sustainable development.

Malta also believes that a strengthened UNEP would further energise the MAP process and its interaction with the Union for the Mediterranean, Horizon 2020 and related initiatives for the Mediterranean basin.

Malta wholly supports the initiation of a process leading up to the development of Sustainable Development Goals, which we believe should fully encompass all three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and synergistic way, while ensuring coherence with the Millennium Development Goals review process. It is important to have an overarching post-2015 framework that encompasses the three dimensions of sustainable development with goals that address key challenges to ensure the optimal mix of measures to attain lasting solutions. Malta believes that this framework is essential to promoting Green Growth in the Mediterranean region.

In this context, Malta is especially pleased to be hosting the 15th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development next year, which we anticipate will contribute to the translation of the renewed Rio commitments into the Mediterranean context.”

### Dr Mohamed Ait Kadi, Chair of the Technical Committee, Global Water Partnership



“**In the Global Water Partnership the conviction that a new economic order, driven by a Green Economy, has as a corollary a new ecological order and a new solidarity order. Water security is at the heart of this trilogy.**”

Twenty years on from the first Rio Conference in 1992, the world is still facing immense challenges. Meeting the Millennium Development Goals has been clouded by major issues that have slowed progress.

Over the past five years, the world has experienced several, and in some cases, unprecedented shocks – the rise in energy, food and commodities prices, the financial crisis, the economic recession, etc. These shocks are testing the optimistic vision of increasing prosperity and the relevance of the economic model accepted by industrialized countries. **There is a growing realization that the earth’s resources are insufficient for the world to continue along this path if it is to meet the rapidly changing demands and expectations of a growing population.**

But, the consequences of these shocks and concerns about natural resources degradation are coming together in a way that is creating unprecedented opportunities for fundamental economic, institutional, technological, social and political changes.

Innovative economic models are required together with a fundamental need to “green” the economy in order to provide long term economic and resource sustainability. Water security is crucial to these changes because water is not just part of the economy; it is embedded in the economy. Therefore, water, especially in the Mediterranean Region, should be central to the innovative thinking and effective solutions required to establish a Green Economy. Indeed, in our Region, Green Economy goes beyond energy and climate change. A Green Economy would recognize the sum total of all humankind and ecosystem contributions to well-being and how they provide the life system we need for present and future generations.

A key question is how to best manage transition to a water secure Green Economy. It will require contextualization and differentiation as it will depend on each country’s specific conditions. Demographic, economic and social transitions will all be needed as well as core changes in institutions and governance. I insist on institutions and capacities because domestic institutions may play a major role in either facilitating or inhibiting the transition. The higher the level of institutionalization and governance, the more the transition is likely to be facilitated. Technology remains a key driver for this transition.

I strongly believe that Green Economy requires not only a shift in thinking on the way economies are run but, most importantly, it requires an ethical change in our societies’ relation to water. Water security is a social responsibility. It is everybody’s business!

In this context, we need to create a new solidarity order at all levels, South-South, North-South. The age of globalisation must now be supplemented by an age of global and regional cooperation, where shared goals motivate countries and stakeholders to pull in the same direction. The Mediterranean Region has the potential to lead the way in this direction.

I would like to conclude by saying that like our renaissance geographers before us, we need to map our world. As we partner for development solutions, as we democratise; and as we navigate this new world, we need global/regional initiatives to ensure that in no corner of the world are we navigating development in the dark.”

### Egly Pantelaki, General Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus and Head of the Delegation of Cyprus



“There is no doubt that the whole of the world is going through very difficult times. The financial crisis has hit almost every country in the world, including the Mediterranean countries. The negative aspects of this crisis should guide us in re-evaluating our principles, our way of life and the economic development model, which has definitely proved to be a failure. In this respect, Green Growth can be a way to turn this crisis into an opportunity.

The Mediterranean has been the cradle of civilization and democracy, historically embracing the most important ideals and concepts of sustainable development and having a long history of environmental cooperation. The Mediterranean Sea is surrounded by many countries, which irrespective of their cultural or religious differences, have common interests and a common future.

**There are many actors and initiatives in the Mediterranean related to environmental protection and sustainable development and it is very important to strengthen the linkages and synergies between them for achieving common goals. It is no accident that the Mediterranean is the only region, which has a Sustainable Development Strategy, developed under the Barcelona Convention.**

Rio+20 provided the world with a new opportunity. It is important not to fail in embracing, on a political level, the concept of sustainable development.

I am confident that the Mediterranean countries and other regional actors will continue and enhance their efforts in order to ensure that the nations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea will prosper not only economically but achieve what we all wish for: sustainable development with all its three pillars.

On our part, we will do everything we can towards this direction, holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, from July 2012.”

### Dimitris Alexandrakis, Ambassador of Greece to the Federative Republic of Brazil, Head of the Delegation of Greece

“**On a Mediterranean level, Greece’s main objective is the achievement of effective and interactive cooperation with all Mediterranean countries in a synergetic framework, in order to promote effectively all three pillars of sustainable development for present and future Mediterranean generations.**”

In order to achieve this, Greece supports and participates actively in the activities of UNEP/MAP, hosted in Athens, Greece since 1981. Moreover, Greece has been leading successfully and with very positive results the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative

(MED EUWI), since 2003, with the assistance of a Secretariat undertaken by GWP Med. The overall EUWI as well as its MED EUWI that was launched 10 years ago at the WSSD, have already contributed and will continue to contribute considerably to:

- the elaboration of proper programmes and projects, based on actual needs,
- the coordination of aid and cooperation, avoiding overlaps and enhancing synergies, and
- capacity building for project preparation and funding.

Additionally, Greece contributes considerably to all environmental activities in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean, like, for instance, the implementation of Horizon 2020, an initiative for the depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and the elaboration of the draft Mediterranean Strategy on Water.”

### Lluís Recoder i Miralles, Minister of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia, Spain



“The Government of Catalonia is giving priority to Green Economy as a driver for economic development, competitiveness and job creation, as well as a means for enhancing our environmental assets. In this regard, we are tirelessly working to integrate environmental concerns into economic development by carrying out now and implementing in the future the Catalan Plan on Green Economy.

The Government of Catalonia has progressed in the areas of municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution - 80% of the sources of overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. We are proud to say that after 20 years of Environmental Policy in Catalonia, our country has significantly changed in these fields, at least reaching European standards and in some cases going above and beyond.

As a sub-national government, we are close to citizens to whom we are liable and accountable, while being well placed to identify and understand the needs, opportunities, challenges and strengths of our societies and our respective territories.

Through constitutional attribution of powers, sub-national governments, such as Catalonia, are responsible for the development and implementation of laws, policies, strategies and fiscal mechanisms in ways that contribute directly to a Green Economy to help achieve sustainable development. Sub-national governments play a key role in enabling public policy frameworks, economic conditions and incentives and investment in infrastructures.

Since the summit in Rio in 1992, regional and local governments have become directly involved in these sustainable development initiatives, and have since demonstrated in numerous ways that their contribution and leadership are essential in helping to attain sustainable development objectives. These initiatives have evolved significantly in the last few years, and have shown that the efforts and actions of one country are stronger when

they can work collaboratively with sub-national and local authorities in their country.

The Mediterranean Region is high on Catalonia's political agenda. The environmental, social, political and economic challenges that the Mediterranean region must face are considered of utmost importance.

The Mediterranean region, which is the south of the North and north of the South, a meeting point between Africa, Asia and Europe, a place where East meets West and an intercultural and interracial melting pot, is also one of the regional systems most threatened by global climate change and a laboratory for putting practices into place that can later be extrapolated to other regions of the world.

**To obtain effective results from public policies, territorial cohesion is important, and so is the territorialisation of the resolutions reached. It is therefore necessary that the Rio agreements are translated at regional level so as to create regional governance subsystems to facilitate implementation and to ensure access to the corresponding regional funds.**

We request the recognition of the Mediterranean region as a priority area, in terms of the complexity of the challenges and the diversity of opportunities that it is facing, and demand for a territorialised implementation of the Rio+20 agreements in this region by means of a specific plan.

The government of Catalonia offers to play a major role in the coordination process of institutions in the Mediterranean region in order to promote a specific plan for this region, the implementation of the measures adopted and the evaluation of results.

Catalonia is promoting the creation of a Mediterranean Water Partnership to tackle one of the most strategic environmental challenges in the Mediterranean region: water. The cluster is expected to be hosted by the Hospital de Sant Pau, which is gaining momentum as a hub for international organisations.

The process of change across the Mediterranean continues; ... let's keep making it possible."

#### Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean



"The Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean is a multi-stakeholder platform working to promote integrated water resources management. GWP-Med brings together around 80 institutions and organisations from almost all the countries of the region, including 10 regional networks of different disciplines-networks of governments, river basins, local authorities, water users associations, water professionals, NGOs and research institutes.

Centuries ago, Leonardo da Vinci, a Mediterranean citizen, insisted that "with time and water everything can change". Now, during a challenging era for the region, water is getting scarce, time to show tangible results has become pressing and the responsibility to deliver should be felt uncompromisingly.

With a rapidly growing population, presenting a diversity of economic realities and social conditions, and being in the red zone for climate change impacts, the success of Green Economy in the Mediterranean depends highly on water security. IWRM must be central in the strategies towards Green Economy objectives, tackling cross-sectoral integration including the nexus among water, food and energy, while striving to fight poverty and taking care of environmental needs.

At a time of change, often through turmoil, in many countries around the region, transboundary waters need our collaborative action; they represent more than 70% of the region's water resources. Countries of Southeastern Europe have proven that past conflict can shift into present collaboration, towards a more optimistic future. Amongst the latest examples, the collaboration for the management of the extended Drin River Basin, shared by five riparians and connecting three international lakes, has marked notable progress.

Groundwater, a hidden source of strategic importance on which we know less, needs our further focus and management action. Amongst the good cases, the collaboration on the transboundary North Western Sahara Aquifer, shared between Algeria, Libya and Tunisia, is making steps towards developing knowledge and joint management approaches.

So-called 'non-conventional' water resources like grey water reuse, desalination, rainwater harvesting, etc, have turned out to be very 'conventional' in the present conditions of water scarcity and can contribute substantially to the water balance. They need careful planning and monitoring to ensure high water quality standards, a better energy footprint and appropriate environmental performance. Many countries like Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Tunisia practice these already, while expansion plans are in national agendas.

A joint management planning of the coastal zone and the river basins within is a steadily growing agenda that provides holistic solutions for managing complex natural systems under great development pressures. Such pilot work is on-going in the transboundary Buna/Bojana River area, shared between Albania and Montenegro, with the support of GEF and the MED EUWI.

**Over the last 10 years, GWP-Med as member of the global GWP family, has advocated on the reasons water should be placed higher on the emerging development agenda and on the dynamics shaping the Mediterranean future. We have debated, acted and tried to be useful in a range of water-related fields, having as a principle that 'all-are-interconnected', so solutions have to be integrated. We are committed to continue contributing, within and outside the water box, building on the capacities of our partners and thanks to the support of our donors.**

Within our plans is to organise in 2013, with the collaboration and under the technical guidance of the Technical Committee of GWP, a Regional Conference to discuss a simple question: Could there be a Green Economy without a prominent role for water or how will water assist in meeting Green Economy objectives in the region, including jobs?

Fellow Mediterraneans, do we have the vision and enough knowledge to sketch the future we need and enough capacity and leadership to take us there? Are we committed to work and invest towards more crop-per-drop and more KW-per and for drop? Do we share the view that all actors: governments, the civil society, the private sector and the public at large are in the same boat and that we should act our distinctive but inter-linked roles towards safer waters? And, are we ready to monitor more and share this information? 'What gets measured, gets managed', and this is more true when such measurements are reported to regulators, investors and, most importantly, to the public.

Many assist towards this direction: regional institutions such as the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Union for the Mediterranean, initiatives like the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) under the leadership of Greece already since Johannesburg and the Horizon 2020 Initiative, as well as programmes like the GEF/MAP UNEP MedPartnership and other programmes of GEF and the EC Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM), just to mention but a few. Our aspiration is that the final outcomes of the Rio+20 Summit, by supporting and complementing such existing tools and creating the needed momentum, will act as a compass towards the better future we all desire."

#### Dr. Emad Adly and Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi, the Arab Network for Environment and Development



"Both sides of the Mediterranean region are facing multiple and common challenges, related to the environment and development. To achieve sustainable development goals and improve the quality of life, a large segment of the population in the southern Mediterranean countries needs among others:

- access to water,
- clean air,
- food security,
- safe shelter and sound sanitation,
- well-planned and sustainable urbanisation,
- the mastery of the population growth and controlled internal and external immigration,
- youth employment and poverty eradication, particularly in the rural areas,
- good governance and more democracy.

In addition, we note that development and the environment in the Mediterranean basin suffer from several factors, linked to the development, production and consumption models followed. This situation may threaten the stability and security in the region. To respond to these challenges, **a different type of cooperation and solidarity based on values and ethics, between the two shores of the Mediterranean needs to become more than ever a priority and a prerequisite for sustainable development.**

Finally, another point that we believe should have a more prominent position in this summit, is the need for an Education oriented towards a new development model based on values, ethics and solidarity.

Rio+20 comes with more emphasis on what we have been promoting on green economy for so many years and we hope we can develop a good model in the Mediterranean despite the challenges on peace, security, democracy, unemployment and poverty."

#### Lucien Chabason, President of Plan Bleu, UNEP/ MAP

"The stakes of sustainable development are key in the Mediterranean. The natural environment is subject to pressures from tourism, urban sprawl along its coasts, irrigated agriculture, unmanaged mountainous areas, overfishing, intercontinental maritime transport between Asia and Europe... These pressures are heavy on such limited and vulnerable resources as water, natural coastal zones and the marine environment.

The Mediterranean brings together countries with different development levels and patterns: there are still many areas with much poverty and limited access to basic services. This is why the concept of sustainable development appealed to the main stakeholders as early as the 1992 Rio Summit.

The assessment of 20 years of sustainable development in the Mediterranean sheds light on positive trends, particularly as regards Civil Society: less insalubrious housing, higher adult literacy rates, higher school attendance for girls, growth of the Human Development Index. The assessment is contrasted as regards the environment: although sea pollution peaks are significantly less frequent, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are increasing in most Mediterranean countries, and pressures on the environment remain high. **The region posted an ecological deficit in 2007 and its resources are spent 2.6 times faster than they can be regenerated (1.5 for the planet). This situation jeopardizes the capacity of the Mediterranean countries to pursue their development.**

To preserve this capacity, Mediterranean countries will have the opportunity to rely on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and to revise the MSSD, with emphasis on Green Economy and adaptation to climate change."

#### Daniella Tilbury, Professor of Sustainability and Chair, UNESCO DESD Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Group

"Education is critical to the future and sustainable development of the Mediterranean basin. There is a need to increase opportunities for Education, particularly in countries bordering the South of the Mediterranean Sea as well as a reorientation of existing Education in the more affluent countries of the North. **We must learn to collaborate to protect the environment and regener-**

ate cultures and communities in this region. For these reasons, it is important to progress a Mediterranean Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.”

**Enrique de Villamore Martín, Director, Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of UNEP/ MAP**



“According to the World economic Forum, entrepreneurs are key drivers of economic progress, contributors to technological innovation and new job growth. Accordingly, green entrepreneurs are called to have a leading role in the transition to green economies.

**In the Mediterranean region, the importance of the environmental, economic and social benefits brought by green entrepreneurs is being reflected in the growth experienced by markets such as ecotourism, recycling, sustainable mobility, organic agriculture and renewable energy, among others and the number of green jobs associated to these new activities.**

Aware of this, the last Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention recommended supporting successful cases of green entrepreneurship among the Mediterranean countries and specifically recognized, through the Paris Declaration, the need to boost eco-innovation in the region.

Nevertheless, recent reports on the state of play of Green Entrepreneurship in Mediterranean developing countries developed by UNEP/MAP together with local experts show that there are several factors hindering the promotion of local green entrepreneurship and the creation of green jobs.

That is why the EC-funded SWITCH Med programme will include a specific action plan led by UNEP/MAP, through the Regional Activity Center for Cleaner Production, including demonstration activities with the objective of training and supporting green entrepreneurs that provide eco-innovative solutions to the way goods and services are produced, consumed and offered and hence propose business models whose scaling-up contributes to the greening of Mediterranean economies.”

## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: AT THE TOP OF MIO-ECSDE'S AGENDA AT RIO+20

Having Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) high on the agenda for Rio+20, MIO-ECSDE welcomed the recognition of the pivotal role of Education in the transition towards a Green Economy. MIO-ECSDE participated in and attended a series of meetings on the subject highlighting the importance of Education in protecting the environment.

Prof. Scoullas represented the Government of Greece at the side event organized by the Government of Georgia on “The Role of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development in Transition to Green Economy - from Tbilisi to Rio+20”, which took place on June 18, 2012. His paper “From Tbilisi to Rio+20 and beyond: concept evolution and perspectives - with emphasis on the Euro-Mediterranean region” provided a detailed overview of the history of ESD and offered food for thought on the necessary steps forward. Prof. Scoullas also participated in a roundtable discussion together with Mr. George Zedginidze, Deputy Minister of Environment Protection of Georgia and Mr. Otar Berdzenishvili, Ambassador of Georgia to the Federative Republic of Brazil on the same subject. At the meeting, the intergovernmental conference on “Tbilisi+35: Environmental Education for Sustainable Development” was announced to commemorate the 1977 Tbilisi Declaration and 35 years of global educa-

tional efforts. Prof. Scoullas was invited and participated at the conference in Tbilisi on 6-7 September 2012 where he once again represented the Hellenic Ministry of Education and very actively contributed to the Conference discussions and outcomes.

At Rio+20, MIO-ECSDE also participated at the UNESCO side-event “Educating for a sustainable future”, where the need of serious investment in Education for Sustainable Development was underscored. The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova opened the high-profile panel, which shared examples of ESD good practice and stressed the crucial need to attune Education to address the huge challenges debated at the Rio conference.

Overall, ESD came out of Rio+20 stronger, as its crucial role was underlined in the final document “The Future We Want” as follows: “We resolve to promote Education for Sustainable Development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into Education beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.”

Although many felt that the outcome did not go far enough, Education was frequently mentioned as an important area of sustainable development and the need to extend the various ESD programmes and activities beyond the UN Decade for ESD (2005-2014) was fully recognized.

## MIO-ECSDE'S POSITIONS FOR RIO+20

### EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is undoubtedly a very powerful tool for obtaining sustainable development. Today, more than ever before, it can contribute significantly in promoting peace and stability. Progress in ESD at national and international level, is closely linked with the potential of achieving agreed targets for sustainable development and poverty reduction and could facilitate the reduction of inequalities between countries and within societies.

MIO-ECSDE has been in the forefront of developments in Environmental Education (EE) and ESD since its establishment. The International Conference on Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability held in Thessaloniki in 1997, was co-organised by UNESCO and the Greek Government and facilitated by MIO-ECSDE and the University of Athens, concluding with the “Thessaloniki Declaration” and marking the transition from Environmental Education towards ESD.

Following Thessaloniki, MIO-ECSDE launched the ERA-21 Campaign (Education Re-Affirmation for the 21st Century) prior to the Johannesburg WSSD and the MEDIES as a Type II Initiative during the Summit itself (2002). MEDIES is today a major e-network of approximately 4000 educators ([www.medies.net](http://www.medies.net)) working jointly on common ESD projects, promoting and developing ESD within the educational community of the region.

In view of the UN Decade on ESD (2005-2014) MIO-ECSDE has contributed substantially to the drafting of the Strategy on ESD adopted by the Ministers of Environment and Education of the UNECE member states (2005) and has a leading role in ensuring the Strategy's implementation in the Mediterranean region. Along this line, in November 2005, MIO-ECSDE in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Education, UNEP/MAP, UNESCO, UNECE, etc. organised in Athens the “Official Launching of the UN Decade of ESD in the Mediterranean”. The participants decided to develop and adopt a “Mediterranean Strategy on ESD” inspired by and utilising the UNECE Strategy for ESD, as an input to the UN Decade on ESD and mandated MIO-ECSDE and the Government of Greece to take the necessary subsequent steps.

Indeed, after some consultations, the text of the draft Strategy was presented and preliminarily agreed in a meeting organised in Athens (December, 2011). The Strategy is expected to be completed soon. At Rio+20 a pledge was made for a Ministerial meeting on the adoption of the Strategy to be organized in 2013, possibly in Monaco.

MIO-ECSDE has collaborated closely with UNESCO/BRESCE, GWP-Med, the University of Athens, UNEP, the Anna Lindh Foundation, several of its members and other institutions and organizations in carrying out projects, in organizing workshops and in producing a wide

range of educational material and supporting methodological and other documentation. Among them particularly noteworthy are the publications: Water in the Mediterranean, Waste in our lives, Mediterranean Food - Historical, Environmental, Health & Cultural dimensions, ESD in MAB Biosphere Reserves and other designated areas in the Mediterranean, YouthXchange Guide for Sustainable Consumption. Furthermore, the HYDRIA Project uses water as a ‘vehicle’ to unfold the diverse, yet common, tangible and intangible Mediterranean water cultural heritage, through reviving representative ancient water management visions, concepts and techniques of the distant and more recent past through an interactive webpage ([www.hydraproject.net](http://www.hydraproject.net)).

MIO-ECSDE, as a major partner of the EU funded Horizon 2020 Mediterranean Environment Programme has organized throughout the Mediterranean several capacity building workshops on ESD, being a prerequisite for sustainable development and an essential tool for good governance, informed decision-making and for the promotion of democracy and environmental concerns into other sectors.

### MONITORING & CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMULATION OF VITAL POLICY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Throughout its existence, MIO-ECSDE has put substantial effort in monitoring and formulating international and

MIO-ECSDE ...

...is a **Founding Member** of:

- The European Seas Environmental Cooperation (ESEC)
- GWP-Med
- Resource Efficiency Alliance

...is a **Member** of:

- The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development
- The Comité de Suivi of Euro Mediterranean environmental policies
- The EuroMediterranean NG Platform
- The Anna Lindh Foundation

...holds “**Accredited Organization**” status for:

- ECOSOC
- UNESCO
- The Convention to Combat Desertification

...is a **partner** of:

- UNEP/MAP

...**facilitates** regional circles of:

- Parliamentarians (COMPSUD)
- Educators (MEDIES)
- Journalists (COMJESD)

European policies relevant to the Mediterranean and most specifically the Barcelona Convention, UNEP/MAP and its RACs (CP/RAC, SPA/RAC, etc.), the European Union through its DGs that elaborate and implement policies, programmes and projects in the Mediterranean within the European Neighbourhood and sectoral policies, the Union for the Mediterranean as well as relevant UN bodies such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNESCO and other UN bodies and conventions.

This cooperation is obtained through following on a daily basis the most important developments and via regular participation in major international meetings and events.

With a track record which includes presence in regional bodies such as the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly and the League of Arab States and major national institutions such as the Parliaments of Mediterranean Countries (e.g. Croatia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, etc.) MIO-ECSDE has remained in the forefront of policy-making in the region.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIO-ECSDE has since its establishment promoted Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and the principles of the Aarhus Convention in all EuroMediterranean political fora, as key to environmental integrity in the region. Recognising the crucial importance of public awareness and participation in the achievement of social and economic well-being of the Mediterranean people, MIO-ECSDE has invested considerable time in research, development and amelioration of participatory techniques leading to consensus among social partners and eventually to action. The participatory processes that MIO-ECSDE has initiated among NGOs since 1991 have contributed considerably to consensus building, mutual trust and solidarity in the Mediterranean and to the improvement of North-South, South-South and East-West cooperation.

Within this framework, MIO-ECSDE has produced multiple publications, Guidelines for Public Participation and toolkits for journalists, has organized special seminars as well as joint conferences of Civil Society Organizations with parliamentarians and the press.

Rio+20 is expected not just to reaffirm Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, but also to address its weaknesses in implementation. Engaging the public in decision making and during implementation is a prerequisite. Under the light of recent political and social developments taking place in the southern and eastern Mediterranean, great emphasis should be placed on promoting institutions able to ensure environmental rights, thereby contributing to building democracy and good governance, creating an enabling environment for Civil Society organizations and enhancing environmental performance in countries throughout the region. This will be achieved by:

- (i) Promoting the establishment and/or strengthening of the legal and institutional frameworks supporting environmental rights;
- (ii) Raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of non-State actors to promote and safeguard

active participation in environmental decision-making;

- (iii) Inviting all Mediterranean countries to recognize and implement the principles of participation, free access to environmental information and access to justice and join the Aarhus Convention as soon as possible.

## PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT & BLUE ECONOMY

The protection of the marine environment and the promotion of clean, healthy and productive seas/oceans were recognized during the Rio+20 preparatory work as key for the future economic and social development and vital in the fight against poverty.

MIO-ECSDE has been following developments in legislation, research and initiatives related to the assessment and challenges of the impact of anthropogenic activities while also being active in promoting legislation and policies to address marine pollution issues. More specifically, MIO-ECSDE has been monitoring and contributing to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the European Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), the EU Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the new Maritime Strategy for Growth and Jobs, the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean, etc. On the issue of marine litter, MIO-ECSDE together with HELMEPA and Clean-up Greece and with the support of MED/POL of UNEP/MAP have launched the “Keep the Mediterranean Litter-free Campaign” to raise public awareness on the causes and impacts of the pollution of the sea from solid waste. On the same issue and preparing for Rio+20, it prepared a Joint Paper with the other partners of European Seas Environment Coalition, participated in the relevant forum and within the framework of Horizon2020 and the 2012 European Maritime Day, organized a major training on the subject with the participation of major actors.

Further on and leading up to Rio+20, MIO-ECSDE, together with its other Resource Efficiency Partners (European Partners for the Environment, European Water Partnership, etc.) organised in the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union in Brussels the meeting on “Europe and the Global Blue Economy: Oceans, New Frontier, Sustainable Use”, which contributed significantly to the formulation of the EU and other partners’ positions concerning the oceans, marine issues under discussion in Rio+20 and their direct link to a Blue/Green Economy.

MIO-ECSDE has advocated for the efficient coordination between EU policies such as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive with the existing international structures under the UN - the Regional Sea Conventions, to reduce bureaucracies and enhance effectiveness at the regulatory, monitoring and enforcement of practical measures.

## GREEN ECONOMY

MIO-ECSDE has been working since its early days on the promotion of the prerequisites of Green Economy: peace, stability through social cohesion, integrity and func-

tioning of ecosystems as well as the safeguarding of biodiversity and cultural diversity in the region.

Sustainable Development and the proper understanding of what Green Economy is, the concept of “inclusion” and the interlinkages between them are the starting points for all policies.

In the past two years, MIO-ECSDE has made more concrete and intensified efforts to promote the pivotal shift towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean (see below the article “Towards an Inclusive Green Economy: Visualisation of the Concepts”). Together with the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP CP/RAC) and within the framework of the EU funded Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme, it has carried out capacity building workshops and field visits on Green Economy and explored how national strategies can be developed and implemented through sustainable financing and green banking. These activities will be closely linked with the SWITCH-MED project, which will address the need to promote sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency in the Mediterranean.

The necessary actions to create the enabling environment and necessary momentum towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean include the identification and eradication of what is generally agreed on as unsustainable in order to alleviate/reduce the pressures; the encouragement of the development and rapid implementation of no regret measures; the utilization in a wise and sustainable way of all natural and cultural assets.

Green Economy is, obviously, a horizontal issue touching upon the management of seas and oceans as well as sustainable consumption and production.

## SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

The promotion of environmentally and socially sustainable production patterns is a critical pathway of the Green Growth paradigm, but so is the encouragement of sustainable consumption habits and demand-side management in critical sectors such as food, housing, tourism, manufacturing, mobility, which are reflected in the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

MIO-ECSDE efforts to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) are mostly carried out within the framework of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). A recent example is the “YouthXChange in the Mediterranean: A joint project with UNESCO-UNEP to challenge our consumption behaviours and inspire responsible consumer choices”; nonetheless a vast array of other activities has been focusing on sustainable use of natural resources. Quite recently, MIO-ECSDE together with UNEP/MAP CP/RAC, have launched the “Sustainable Events in the Mediterranean” initiative, within which a web-based toolkit has been developed. In parallel, demonstration activities to empower Civil Society as key SCP drivers and to implement specific priorities identified by the SCP National Action Plans and a networking function to allow for exchange, lesson learning and further scaling up of SCP activities are to be implemented in the near

future. The need to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and resource efficiency in the Mediterranean has also been addressed by H2020 CB/MEP.

## WATER

MIO-ECSDE has been a contributing partner, representing views of the Mediterranean NGO community and providing technical expertise, in several key regional water initiatives and processes, such as the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (since 2003), the Petersberg Phase II / Athens Declaration Process on Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southeastern Europe (since 2005), and the elaboration of the draft Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (2009-2010) for the discussion and finalisation of which it has organized two Civil Society meetings, one at the Dead Sea and one in Barcelona.

Furthermore, it has led or contributed to regional and sub-regional dialogues on water governance issues, including public participation, Civil Society engagement, access to information, as well as on climate change adaptation, joint IWRM/ICZM planning, transboundary water resources management, and capacity building and networking of targeted groups like decision makers, parliamentarians, the media and Civil Society. Among others, the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MedIES) serves a range of activities in the water agenda, with emphasis on the overall water cycle, water demand management, rain water harvesting and other non-conventional water resources.

Most recently, MIO-ECSDE has engaged in the Drin Dialogue which aims at promoting collaboration among the riparians of the Drin River (Albania, FYR of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo and Montenegro) towards sustainable water management in the extended Drin River Basin and is a member of the Drin Core Group.



Heron spotted in a lagoon right outside RioCentro, the UN Summit Conference Center, June 2012.

Photograph: © Thomais Vlachogianni

## TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY: VISUALISATION OF THE CONCEPTS

By Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman of MIO-ECSDE and GWP Med



Figure 1

The Concept of Sustainable Development (SD) and the proper understanding of what Green Economy (GE) is, how it is becoming “inclusive” and how it is linked with SD are the starting points for all our policies.

The level of abstraction of these notions is not always

compatible with the ability of our brain to connect them in a meaningful way. The tool to facilitate such an understanding is visualization through models and schemes.

Based on the Rio 1992 Conference, SD is represented through the “Ancient Greek Temple” model, as shown in Figure 1, where Environment, Economy and Society are the three pillars.



Figure 2

In such an approach the Economy pillar may include Green Economy but it refers to the economy as a whole and, in the mind of most, reflects the type of economic growth “as usual”. This is because, as we visualize it, the economy runs on its own and, in some way,

Environment and Society do the same. Environment refers to “Environmental Protection” and Society to “Social Welfare” and cohesion or inclusion. The policies to be implemented in an integrated way need to be labeled and clustered “sustainable” only within the roof of the “temple”.

The mechanism/factor that brings them together is unclear. Unless we place the “temple” structure on a foundation-basis which is proposed to represent governance, as shown in Figure 2.

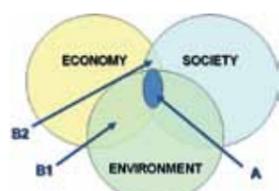


Figure 3

A scheme widely used by the European Commission is depicted in Figure 3. It is unclear, in this representation, where Green Economy lies. If Green Economy is represented by (A) this type of economy simultaneously fulfills both environmental and social requirements in a more or less homogeneous way. If B1 and B2 are also included, then Green Economy may be characterized as an economy that has either an important environmental component without social concern or an important social component without environmental concern.

In many cases, this is in fact a depiction of the reality, which in my point of view, does not fulfill the criteria for the characterization of an economic activity as part of a Green Economy.

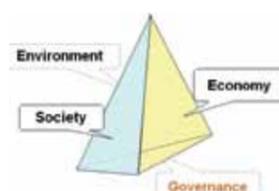


Figure 4

In many cases, this is in fact a depiction of the reality, which in my point of view, does not fulfill the criteria for the characterization of an economic activity as part of a Green Economy.

To overcome these shortcomings I have proposed the use of the most stable stereostructure of the world which is the “tetrahedron” (Figure 4). In this scheme, SD is included “within” Economy, Society and Environment while it is based on Governance. However, all four facets may equally serve as bases, while the contribution of each one of them in obtaining SD is differentiated according to the prevailing conditions, needs and circumstances.

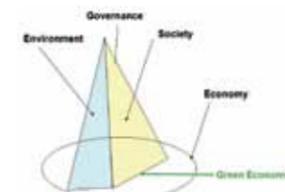


Figure 5

Each facet extends beyond the limits of the pyramid. This applies also to economy. However, Green Economy represents only the part corresponding to the base of the pyramid, as seen in Figure 5.

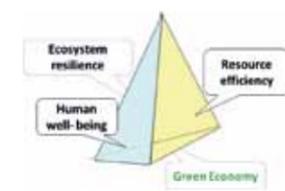


Figure 6

Ecosystem resilience, human well-being and resource efficiency (Figure 6), which are used as tools for Green Economy by the European Environment Agency are, in my point of view, attributes suitable to define indicators but not adequate to “service” Green Economy. Similarly, “poverty eradication” and “economic growth” are, to my understanding, components of a Green Economy (GE).

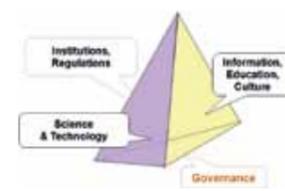


Figure 7

The ways and tools to obtain Green Economy and its components, are the same as those required for obtaining sustainable development as a whole and these are the basic constituents of Governance, also shown in Figure 7:

- institutions and regulations,
- science, technology and innovation
- information, education, awareness and culture (influencing human behavior)

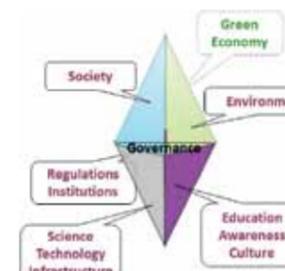


Figure 8

Therefore, in the combined double pyramid (hexahedron - Figure 8), Green Economy, as part of Sustainable Development, is “serviced” by the aforementioned tools.

## RAED AT RIO+20: A STRONG PRESENCE

The Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) took a leading role at Rio+20 by contributing to the organization of four side events on a wide array of issues ranging from climate induced displacement and the issue of food security to the challenges and opportunities for Green Growth in the Mediterranean.

RAED was the lead organizing partner at “The Role of Climate Induced Displacement on Socio Economic Development” which took place on June 17, 2012 and was attended by more than seventy participants from all over the world. Considering climate induced displacement as a possible future “human security” issue that requires coordinated international action, RAED highlighted the major role to be played by Civil Society to support governments in identifying the needs of the displaced and in addressing climate displacement in the vulnerable Arab countries.

The speakers Dr. Emad Adly, RAED General Coordinator, Dr. Magdy Allam, Environmental Expert, Ziyad Alawneh, Director of Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) and Tine Ramstav, NRC, presented a detailed overview of the evolution of climate induced displacement, the effect of climate change in the Arab world, the case of Egypt and opportunities for cooperation through best practices and lessons learnt from other countries.

The event was successful in highlighting the need for a regional response mechanism to address climate displacement, identifying the necessary tools to overcome policy, institutional and relevant financial challenges and in establishing an ongoing dialogue between governmental and non-governmental organizations on steps ahead.

At RAED’s second event “Tackling displacement by natural disasters in the sustainable development” headed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (19 June 2012), displacement by disasters was recognized as a growing and increasingly complex challenge that is directly linked to the effects of unsustainable development practices. Panelists included Elisabeth Rasmusson, Secretary General of the NRC, Manuel Bessler, Assistant Director-General of the Swiss Development Cooperation, Head of Humanitarian Aid Department and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) for the Government of Switzerland, Heikki Holmas, Minister for Development of Norway, Mostafa Hussein Kamal, Egyptian Minister of State for Environment and Seethapathy Chander, Director General of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department at the Asian Development Bank. The event concluded that greater political attention to disaster risk reduction with-

in the context of sustainable development is needed to ensure that populations displaced or at risk of displacement are protected. To ensure that displacement does not continue to set back development gains, concerted and collaborative action is needed on the local to global levels amongst actors from multi-disciplinary fields of expertise and across organisational mandates including disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, humanitarian action, human rights, and disaster management.

RAED also co-organized a side event with the League of Arab States (LAS) in which the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) together with the German Agency of International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) participated. The event, entitled “Food Security and Safety Discussed in Rio + 20”, evaluated food security in the Arab region, within a discussion that gathered around 50 participants. Discussions also identified potential ways to alleviate the growing food concern, which has turned out to be one of the main economic, social, political and environmental challenges facing the region.

To highlight these concerns ESCWA, in partnership with RAED, produced a short documentary to show how youth from the region perceives the issue of food security and safety, which was based on interviews of RAED youths from Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen.

Featured at the event was Palestine’s Minister of Environment Dr. Youssef Abu Safieh who highlighted the poverty and undernourishment aspects of food security-food insecurity prevailing in the ESCWA region and how it affects mostly women and children in remote rural areas. Participants highlighted the growing concern of water scarcity, which is expected to worsen the food situation in the region, the need to strengthen food related research and development as well as the importance of continuing the dialogue on these issues and pooling efforts to maximize the outreach of programs and projects designed for promoting food security.

Finally, in the Mediterranean side event “Challenges and Opportunities for a Mediterranean Green Growth” co-organized with MIO-ECSDE and other major actors in the region (see relevant article), RAED was represented by Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi. Prof. Ftouhi suggested that a different type of cooperation and solidarity based on values and ethics, between the two shores of the Mediterranean need to become more than ever a priority and a prerequisite for sustainable development.

## GREEN ECONOMIES AROUND THE WORLD?

### An interesting UNIDO report on the Implications of resource use for development and the environment

The first complete world atlas for resource use and resource efficiency for all countries in the last 30 years has been produced within the UNIDO Green Industry programme.

The new report entitled «Green Economies around the world? Implications of resource use for development and the environment» presents data from the global, continental and country level, featuring illustrative

case studies. The report evaluates the performances of different countries, highlighting the critical issues of current trends in resource use and examines whether all countries worldwide can actually reach “Green Growth” as discussed in the concept of a “Green Economy”.

This interesting report can be found here: <http://seri.at/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/green-economies-around-the-world.pdf>

## MIO-ECSDE at UN Sustainable Development Summits: constant presence and marked impacts

The collective efforts towards achieving sustainable development in the Mediterranean eco-region were initially demonstrated twenty years ago in a special event at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) where MIO-ECSDE, the Athens Declaration of Mediterranean NGOs and the Cairo NGO Memorandum, called for a special Mediterranean Commission for Energy and Natural Resources, which eventually led to the establishment of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

Ten years ago, MIO-ECSDE was once again present at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg where it coorganized the side event entitled: “The Mediterranean Eco-Region: the first firm steps towards Sustainability”, where MedIES (Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability) was also launched.

“Challenges and Opportunities for a Mediterranean Green Growth” was the third official Side Event organized by MIO-ECSDE at the Global Summit of Rio+20, in a tireless effort to keep the Mediterranean region at the heart of international developments and with the objective to consolidate progress since Rio and Johannesburg and speed up processes that effectively promote Green Economy as a contribution to the Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean.



## MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

### Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 121 NGOs from 26 Mediterranean countries.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

### Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, cooperation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

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