

**Input of Mediterranean Environmental Civil Society
on the Long-Term Strategy on Water for the Mediterranean (SWM)
to the 2nd Water Expert Group
4 November 2009, Cairo**

We, representatives of civil society in the Mediterranean region, gathered in Cairo on the 1st of November 2009¹,

- 1- *welcome* and *support* the progress towards the elaboration of the SWM to be adopted at the next UfM Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water to be hosted by Spain on 12-14 April 2010 in Barcelona.
- 2- *recall* the Jordan Civil Society Statement, the points of which we continue to believe are valid.
- 3- *reiterate* our commitment, expressed during the Jordan Civil Society meeting, to work in partnership with the governments of the region for the development and implementation of the Strategy.
- 4- *welcome* the statement that the SWM should become a real Strategy for Action, with clear objectives and an Action Plan with a realistic time-frame, an estimation of financial needs and a roadmap for implementation and also indicators of achievement. This will also give a signal to donors and funding institutions about the seriousness of the efforts undertaken. Civil Society input will contribute to securing that the time-frame, roadmap and indicators are realistically set, along with the criteria for specific projects. A modality for Civil Society to effectively partake in implementation of actions and the monitoring of achievement should be facilitated.
- 5- *ask* that water-related projects proposed under the UfM are decided based on their proven necessity and selected according to internationally recognized criteria and sustainability standards (i.e. SEAs, EIAs, etc.), taking into account the environmental context of the region, and that stakeholders are adequately involved in the monitoring of their operation to ensure proper implementation and benefit-sharing of such projects.
- 6- *propose* that apart from inviting civil society representatives to assist, as observers, in the Water Expert Group (WEG) meetings, a modality should be provided throughout the entire process, for civil society to comment on the documents produced by the Technical Drafting Group (TDG) and the WEG. This could be facilitated if the documents are available online and stakeholders are granted reasonable time to submit reactions in relation to these documents.
- 7- *emphasise* the need for the SWM to include provisions for effective management of shared waters.
- 8- *greatly appreciate* the opportunity the Joint Egyptian Dutch Conference offered for providing an input of the Civil Society to the SWM process.
- 9- *urge* the UfM Co-Chairs, the WEG and Spain as the organizer of the 2010 Ministerial Conference to positively consider and support a Civil Society Conference to take place in advance of the Ministerial Conference to discuss the final drafts of the SWM and, if available, an outline of the Action Plan among a multi-stakeholder audience and prepare the ‘Civil Society Statement for the Ministerial Conference on Water’.

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