

## **COP24 Youth Side Event Key Messages and Outcomes**

### **1. Youth as Co-Architects of the Mediterranean Decarbonization Pathway**

Mediterranean youth must be recognized not only as beneficiaries but as *co-designers* of decarbonization efforts of coastal and marine ecosystems in the region. Young professionals, researchers, and innovators need stronger representation within the Barcelona Convention System, and in cooperation with other regional initiatives as those promoted by the UfM, IMO, EUSAIR and other processes.

### **2. Invest in Youth Skills for a Just and Green / Blue Economy Transition**

A sustainable Mediterranean Blue Economy requires a **new generation of skilled youth, without gender disparities**, in green shipping, sustainable blue economy value chains, coastal and marine tourism, marine renewable energies, and other key sectors.

Skills on marine and climate science and resilience, digital tools, research and innovation, technology transfer as well as sustainable financial tools are crucial. Training programmes, scholarships, and exchange schemes that equip youth with these emerging competencies should be accessible, while also giving priority to youth from rural areas, marginalized coastal regions, and underserved communities who face disproportionate barriers.

### **3. Strengthen Regional Cooperation for a Carbon-Neutral Mediterranean Sea**

Decarbonization process cannot be achieved by single countries. Mediterranean Ministers and relevant stakeholders should prioritize:

- Harmonized emission standards,
- Greener port infrastructure,
- Circular economy approaches applied to blue economy sectors
- Collaborative research across the basin, and Innovation hubs connecting Mediterranean startups, industry and academia, while supporting youth to have an active role in the process

Youth demand stronger cross-country coordination to ensure no Mediterranean country is left behind

### **4. Scale Youth-Led Innovation for Maritime Emission Reduction**

Youth-led solutions in clean technologies, coastal monitoring, maritime safety and security, digitalization show high potential but lack funding and visibility. A **Mediterranean Youth**

**Innovation Fund for Blue & Climate Solutions** should be established to accelerate scalable decarbonization innovations.

## **5. Make the Mediterranean a Global Hub for Green Shipping Innovation**

Youth call on Mediterranean governments to position the region as a leading hub for **green maritime technologies**, including alternative fuels (green hydrogen, ammonia, biofuels), electrification, and smart navigation systems with **youth-led startups and universities as core partners** in research and innovation.

## **6. Welcome the Proposed MSSD Flagship Initiative on Youth and Strengthen Youth & Women's Representation in the MCSD.**

Youth welcome the proposed MSSD flagship initiative on youth as a mobilizer for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. Youth also strongly support the decision to institutionalize permanent seats for youth and women within the MCSD, ensuring their continuous participation in shaping regional sustainability policies.

The Mediterranean Youth Group (MYG) calls Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, MCSD Members and other stakeholders to support the launch and development

The Mediterranean Youth Group (MYG), as new MSSD flagship initiative, stands ready to carry these messages forward, support their implementation, and ensure that youth-driven recommendations are effectively reflected in regional and national decision-making.