

**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
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3rd Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx)
by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)

Videoconference, 3 December 2024

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. The Third Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 was organized by UNEP/MAP Secretariat (PAMEx Technical Secretariat) via a Videoconference, on 3 December 2024.
2. The main objective of the Meeting was to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030, including an update on PAMEx governance and the commitments on leadership of each axis, progress on implementation, communication and visibility, and prospects for 2025.
3. The overall objective of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 is to act as a High Ambition Coalition for the Mediterranean and a catalyst for the intensification of the implementation of regional and global commitments at the Mediterranean level, through enhanced cooperation and discussions, for the environment and sustainable development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda in particular the SGD 14, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) work on marine pollution, including plastic pollution, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, the work under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) as well as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) agenda and portfolio of activities on blue economy, environment and climate action.
4. The intention of the PAMEx is not to duplicate already on-going and existing initiatives, frameworks and institutional bodies but rather try to lead by example to an increased coordination among them to strengthen synergies and partnerships and enhance coherence, towards the overall objective of increasing the visibility of actions for nature and climate in the Mediterranean globally.
5. This Plan of Action is structured around four key areas of work and axes:
 - a) Axis 1: increase ambition for preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean;
 - b) Axis 2: promote and develop sustainable fishing to end overfishing by 2030;
 - c) Axis 3: redouble efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly so that no plastic is discharged into the Mediterranean by 2030; and
 - d) Axis 4: promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change.

Participation

6. The Third Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 was attended by representatives of Egypt, Greece, France, Italy, Monaco, Morocco, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), MedPAN, MedFund, the Blue Med Partnership, the Office Français pour la Biodiversité, the Mediterranean Action Plan/Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP) along with its the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and the Regional Activity Centre/Plan Bleu.
7. The full list of participants including contact details is attached as **Annex I** to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

8. The Third Steering Committee Meeting of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEx) by 2030 was opened on Tuesday, 03 December 2024 at 10:30 (UTC +3), by Mr. Petros Varelidis, Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, and current Chair of the Steering Committee of PAMEx together with Ambassador Ms. Maria Diamantopoulou, Head of the D4 Directorate of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by Ms. Tatjana Hema UNEP/MAP Coordinator.
9. Mr. Petros Varelidis, in his capacity as Chair for the implementation of PAMEx, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting by recalling that Greece has taken over from France the presidency of the PAMEx for one year (October 2024 – October 2025). Then, he invited all participants for a tour de table which allowed all participants to briefly introduce themselves to each other as well as the organizations which they represent.
10. Ms. Tatjana Hema, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed in turn the participants and emphasized the importance and ambition of PAMEx and its four axes of intervention (preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean, promoting and developing sustainable fishing, redoubling efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly with regards to plastic, and promoting sustainable maritime transport practices), its 19 actions and 55 Targets, which are fully in line and supportive of the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention objectives. She thanked the Government of Greece to take the lead on PAMEx for the year to come and the Government of France leading PAMEx in its first years of establishment and for providing financial support to cover the total cost of PAMEx Technical Secretariat at UNEP/MAP and meetings of its Steering Committee.
11. Mr. Nabil Medaghri-Alaoui, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, thanked Greece for taking over the Presidency of PAMEx as well as UNEP/MAP Secretariat for organizing the present meeting. He noted satisfactorily the presence at the meeting of the international expert to take up the position at the PAMEx Technical Secretariat at UNEP/MAP, in replacement of Ms. Elisabeth Chouraki. He emphasized that the ambition of the PAMEx Action Plan is to make the Mediterranean Sea a model to be advanced at the international level based on a number of good practices in relation, among others, to maritime transport, plastic pollution and biodiversity protection through the activities supported by the MedFund. However, he recognized that the state of the Mediterranean Sea requires lot of attention and collaborative efforts between the regional partners need to be strengthened to reach expected targets.
12. Ms. Tatjana Hema recalled the key objectives and the four PAMEx working axes and underlined that PAMEx has been showcased in several important international meetings such as: COP 23 of the Barcelona Convention (Slovenia, December 2023) with an ambitious political declaration, the 9th Our Ocean Conference (Greece, April 2024) and the COP 29 of the UNFCCC (Baku, November 2024). She also pointed out that the objective of the meeting was to take stock of what has been achieved with regard to PAMEx since its last Steering Committee meeting (July 2023) and wished a successful meeting as well as strong and continuous collaboration among participants.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

13. Recalling the Governance Framework of PAMEx agreed upon in 2021 and relevant mandate of the Steering Committee included in the document "The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030" - Governance", the UNEP/MAP Coordinator outlined the proposed agenda for the meeting and requested for comments.

14. The PAMEx Steering Committee reviewed and adopted the provisional agenda. The Meeting Agenda is included in **Annex II** to the present report.

Agenda item 3: Update on PAMEx Governance

15. Mr. Petros Varelidis introduced the discussion on PAMEx governance by highlighting that Greece will chair PAMEx up to 2025 and will then pass on the presidency to another country, preferably a southern country as per the initiative's Governance Framework. He reminded that Greece co-leads on Axis 3 (combating marine pollution) and that he expected the next (4th) meeting of the PAMEx to be convened in person in March 2025 in Athens.

16. Mr. Petros Varelidis then presented the lead countries and partners for each of the axis of the Action Programme:

- a) Axis 1 (preserving marine and coastal biodiversity): Monaco, Algeria and UNEP/MAP;
- b) Axis 2 (sustainable fishing):
- c) Axis 3 (marine pollution): Greece, Morocco and Italy;
- d) Axis 4 (sustainable maritime transport): Egypt, France and REMPEC.

17. Mr. Petros Varelidis asked whether other countries or partners would be interested in joining any of the axes.

18. Ms. Tatjana Hema added that UNEP/MAP expects other countries and partners to engage in PAMEx axes to confirm their full commitment and ownership of the Action Plan. The leadership of Axis 2 remains to be determined and to this aim consultations will be undertaken by the Technical Secretariat in coordination with the Presidency.

Agenda item 4: Progress on Implementation

19. Mr. Petros Varelidis opened this agenda item by giving the floor to the lead countries to outline progress achieved so far.

20. Axis 1: Increase ambition for preserving marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean

- a) On behalf of Monaco a presentation by Mr. Tidiani Couma (Monaco) addressed the Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed) initiative which goal is to reduce plastic pollution by mobilizing committed stakeholders, promoting sustainable solutions, and encouraging the sharing of knowledge and best practices. Through coordinating a network of local stakeholders, BeMed fosters collaboration, promotes the exchange of best practices, and encourages the replication of successful initiatives. BeMed has invested over 3 million euros in the fight against plastic pollution and has backed 106 projects in 15 countries. BeMed also launched a Business Club to bring together companies committed to a plastic-free Mediterranean.

- b) Mr. Romain Renoux (Executive Director, MedFund) made a presentation on MedFund contribution to Axis 1. MedFund is a conservation trust fund set up by France, Monaco, and Tunisia to support the management costs of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean, with a focus on North Africa, Adriatic and Middle East. In 2024, the fund provided support to 20 MPAs in nine countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Türkiye, Greece, Albania, Montenegro and Croatia) for a total of 9,000 km², including 204 km² of highly protected areas and 2,100 km² of newly created MPAs, which benefited to more than 50,000 people. The Fund activities are grounded on a robust alliance of institutional donors, philanthropic organizations and private sector. It is currently preparing its new strategy with the ambition to scale up its activities.
- c) Mr. Elyes Hamza (SPA/RAC, Director) pointed out that, in relation to Marine and Coastal Protected Area (MCPA) and Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM), SPA/RAC is focusing on two major strategies: the Post-2020 SAPBIO and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). SPA/RAC gives priority to countries with protection rates below 2% of MPAs as a percentage of territorial waters, with a view to extending existing MPAs and OECM identification, with the overall scope to increase the current 8% of MPAs coverage in the Mediterranean to 30% by 2030. However, the main constraints for MPAs are policy and governance, legislation, management and sustainable finance. UNEP/MAP Secretariat pointed out that at the last Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) Meeting (June 2023) an MSSD flag ship initiative had been presented on a new Strategy for the protection of Posidonia in the Mediterranean region. PAMEX can be instrumental in pushing for results in the MPA/OECM area, notably in cooperation with GFCM, MedPAN or IUCN, by supporting actions related to capacity strengthening of MPAs managers or MPAs management plans, among others.
- d) Ms. Carole Martinez (MedPAN) reaffirmed that MedPAN is actively supporting PAMEX through its cooperation with SPA/RAC and co-projects implemented with MedFund. She also highlighted that the MedPAN 2030 Road Map has just been adopted with a view to making the protection of MPAs in the Mediterranean a successful story.
- e) Mr. Nabil Medaghri-Alaoui (France) stated that France has renewed its National Biodiversity Strategy with the objective to extend its protected areas and reach 10% of strict protection. COP 16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, Cali, October 2024) urged countries to strengthen National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Moreover, France has already ratified the international agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and he requested for clarification on UNEP/MAP position on BBNJ.
- f) Ms. Maria Papaioannou (Greece) stressed that due to the small percentage of MPAs coverage in the Mediterranean at the moment, efforts towards the achievement of the 30x30 target should be clearly given priority in the context of PAMEX activities as well as the support to countries with MPAs covering less than 2% of territorial water. Greece is aiming to extend its MPAs up to 32% of territorial waters by the end of 2025, including through the designation of two new national marine parks. Surveillance of MPAs will also be enhanced in Greece with the help of remote sensing and state-of-the-art high technology systems. In this context, Greece will as well ban bottom trawling fishing in MPAs and there is interest to explore upscaling such measures from national to regional level.

- g) In relation with Axis 1, the Foundation Prince Albert II de Monaco also launched the Monk Seal Alliance (MSA), a coalition of donors dedicated to preserving the monk seal and its habitat. The partners of the MSA are currently: the Foundation Prince Albert II de Monaco, the Segré Foundation, the Thalassa Foundation, and the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation. The MSA promotes collaborative actions to protect the Mediterranean monk seal and its habitat by supporting conservation projects across its range. 20 projects across 17 Mediterranean and Atlantic countries are being supported, with a total funding of over €5.1 million.

21. Axis 2: Promote and develop sustainable fishing to end overfishing by 2030.

In the absence of leader for this axis, at the time of the meeting, no comments and update on progress were provided.

22. Axis 3: Redouble efforts to combat marine pollution, particularly so that no plastic is discharged into the Mediterranean by 2030

- a) Ms. Maria Papaioannou (Greece) reported on behalf of Axis 3, on the organization of 3 side events on PAMEx as part of major international events. In detail:
- (i) During the 2nd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution (INC2, Paris, May-June 2023), in collaboration with France and UNEP/MAP and with the support of the PAMEx Technical Secretariat, a side event was organized to present a Mediterranean perspective and position on the Global Treaty on Plastics still under negotiation, emphasizing the need to build on the experience of the Regional Sea Conventions and focus on prevention;
 - (ii) A side event on “Enhancing the sustainability of the Mediterranean Sea environment by means of political mobilization and financial instruments” was organized at the 9th Our Ocean Conference (OOC, Athens, April 2024) by France, PLIFF and the Hellenic Spanish Chamber of Commerce, with the participation of Greece;
 - (iii) More recently, another side event on the activities carried out by UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system and by PAMEx relating to climate change and the UNFCCC talks was organized by UNEP/MAP and Greece, with France and the support of the UfM, during the UNFCCC COP 29 (Baku, November 2024).
- b) Ms. Nassira Rheyati (Morocco) thanked Greece for its leadership as PAMEx new Chair and France for its financial and technical support to the initiative. Morocco’s priorities also as the UNEA 6 Chair, focus on plastic pollution and climate resilience, seeking to strengthen cooperation on intertwined issues linking climate change/plastic pollution/biodiversity. It supports multilateral instruments like the GBF, IMO strategy on GHG emission from ships as well as regional initiatives such as PAMEx. It encourages Mediterranean countries to contribute to major meetings which offer opportunities to foster Mediterranean environmental actions visibility through side events like the upcoming 3rd UN Ocean Conference (Nice, June 2025).
- c) Ms. Valentina Mauriello (Italy), congratulated Greece for its PAMEx presidency. She stated that Italy had been silent on PAMEx over the last years due to its reserve on PAMEx structure, and operational relation between PAMEx and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat. Now Italy is expressing its willingness to get back onboard in PAMEx and is

committed to cooperate in implementing activities under its Action Plan. As for the update on the activities under Axis 3, she explained that given the Italian absence from PAMEx, for the reasons above, it would have been difficult to provide the members of the PAMEx Steering Committee with information to this matter. To this regard, it was suggested the opportunity to create specific groups of work (i.e. task forces), per axis, as to better mainstream the work of each Axis and the related objectives. This, in view of raising the relevance and profile of the Action Plan as well as its concrete contribution to the achievement of global ocean related targets. Italy is currently holding the presidency of G7 where ocean is one of the priorities under the environment track. Ms. Mauriello informed about two processes launched in this context, namely the adoption of a G7 Declaration on BBNJ committing G7 to pursue the ratification of the Agreement by the 3rd UN Ocean Conference as well as the G7 Declaration on the role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) in ocean governance that will be hopefully promoted at UNOC-3. She added that PAMEx together with UNEP/MAP could be a good platform to facilitate an effective follow up to the mentioned processes, in particular in the Mediterranean context.

- d) Ms. Maria Papaioannou (Greece), with regard to the forthcoming INC 5.2 meeting, stressed that the Mediterranean is extended across 4 different UN regional groups (WEOG, EEG, African Group, Asia-Pacific, EEG) with very diverging positions expressed in the INC negotiations for a Global Treaty on Plastic Pollution, thus it would be easier to focus first on side events to raise the visibility on the knowledge and experience of the Mediterranean region at the global level and then see how we could proceed with more coordinated actions such as a Mediterranean statement/position with the support of PAMEx.
- e) Mr. Nabil Medaghri-Alaoui (France) added that the Mediterranean and PAMEx will be promoted at UNOC3. Plastic pollution would be an interesting entry point to communicate on.

23. Axis 4: Promote maritime transport practices which protect the marine environment and combat climate change

- a) Mr. Sameh Ayoub (Egypt) thanked France, Greece and UNEP/MAP for their respective contributions to fostering the Mediterranean agenda and provided an update on Egypt actions regarding the marine environment:
 - (i) Egypt has joined the Nature Based Initiative and has launched a climate adaptation programme in the Delta region with the support of UNDP. It has also signed the BBNJ Agreement at COP 16 (CBD) in Cali;
 - (ii) MPAs cover 14.1% of territorial waters in the country and they are expected to grow up to 34.1% by 2030;
 - (iii) Egypt has adopted a new law on plastic pollution.
- b) Mr. Nabil Medaghri-Alaoui (France) highlighted flagship initiatives for France in this area:
 - (i) The designation of particularly sensitive areas;
 - (ii) The impacts of ship-generated pollution especially for cetaceans (areas of ecological importance) in the framework of the International Whaling Commission (IWC);
 - (iii) The implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention (BMW Convention).

- (iv) France supports the proposal of establishing a universal levy on GHG emissions from shipping that is backed by EU and SIDS and would welcome support from Mediterranean countries.
- c) Mr. Ivan Sammut (REMPEC/IMO) provided details on:
- (i) The Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031);
 - (ii) The regional cooperation on the designation of the Mediterranean as a whole a sulfur emission control area;
 - (iii) The support provided to countries in view of the ratification of Annex 6 of MARPOL Convention (air pollution from ships around ports and harbors);
 - (iv) The Ballast Water Management Strategy for the Mediterranean Sea (2022-2027);
 - (v) An initiative on nitrogen oxide emission control area submitted at COP 23 of the Barcelona Convention. A feasibility study and an impact assessment have been drafted.
- Mr. Ivan Sammut underscored that resource mobilization is key to develop new activities, an area where PAMEx could provide useful assistance.
- d) Ms. Tatjana Hema said she was impressed by progress made by countries, notably in relation to the 30x30 target. There is a lot of ongoing work, and we will be able to showcase together the Mediterranean leadership in this field, in 2025 when we will have important milestones like UNOC3. Moreover, she prompted six countries of the region that have not yet ratified Annex 6 of MARPOL convention to do so.

24. Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)

- a) In the absence of a representative from PLIFF, Mr. Andrea Tinagli (Advisor for Sustainable Finance and Investments, UfM/EIB, Blue Med Partnership) pointed out that the Blue Med Partnership's mission, which could be complementary to the PLIFF, is to bring partners together, mainly multilateral development banks (e.g. EIB, AFD, KfW, EBRD), to identify in coordination a pipeline of bankable projects and funding opportunities. The beneficiary countries are up until now: Egypt, Morocco and Jordan. The projects funded will be presented at UNOC3 with emphasis on green ports/ports' electrification, offshore wind farm, sustainable tourism, wastewater treatment.
- b) Ms. Carole Martinez (MEDPAN) asked for an update and follow-up on the environmental pillar of the PLIFF activities to be explored and presented at the next PAMEx Steering Committee Meeting.
- c) Ms. Tatjana Hema added that PLIFF faces difficulties at present in terms of project funding. She pointed out that now that the technical Secretariat of PAMEx is on board, efforts will be made to contact PLIFF and follow up with them and their involvement in PAMEx. The outcome of this discussion and actions taken will be reported to the next PAMEx Steering Committee meeting. She also praised the work done by the Blue Med Partnership under the UfM and stressed that UNEP/MAP has a permanent observer role in the BMP board.

Agenda item 5: Updated Workplan including on Communication

25. Mr. Petros Varelidis opened this agenda item and introduced few proposals for priority objectives suitable for the workplan, also in line with the thematic priorities of the Greek Presidency, i.e.

- a) Scaling up solutions towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the national and regional levels and in line with the 30x30 targets;
- b) Further updating the PAMEx position in the context of efforts towards an international legally binding instrument addressing plastic pollution including in the marine environment, and fostering discussions on a possible input of the Barcelona Convention system in the INC talks;
- c) Encouragement of water re-use, addressing pollution and marine litter collection, and promotion of circular economy approaches;
- d) Supporting sustainable maritime transport and greening of Mediterranean ports.

Opportunities for exchange, sharing ideas and experiences, and informing about projects in the Mediterranean are:

- a) 3rd UNOC (Nice, June 2025);
- b) 10th OOC (Busan, South Korea, April 2025);
- c) COP24 of the Barcelona Convention (Egypt, December 2025);
- d) The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC 5.2, tbc).

PAMEx should have a strong input to these events to highlight the Mediterranean activities and experience and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat should facilitate the participation of the regional partners in those forthcoming events.

26. Mr. Varelidis opened the floor to the meeting participants to provide for additional proposals and recommendations, especially with regards to enriching the list of international/regional events suitable for the needs of enhancing communication and visibility.

27. Ms. Tatjana Hema also stressed the importance of enhancing PAMEx visibility in the global fora of relevance. In the same vein as the Chair, and in more operational terms:

- a) She recommended that some countries and partners can volunteer for preparing the proposal for a PAMEx side event at the 10th OOC.
- b) She informed that a high-level event is planned at UNOC3 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention during the Mediterranean day. It will be an opportunity to show what PAMEx is doing and to organize a number of thematic sessions.
- c) She stressed that the success of the 9th OOC (Athens, April 2024) with specific emphasis on the Mediterranean region needs to be replicated at UNOC 3.
- d) She also pointed out that the experience of the Mediterranean region on plastic management has to be showcased in the context of the next INC meeting.

28. Ms. Maria Papaioannou (Greece) highlighted that the deadline for side event applications for the 10th OOC is the 10th of December 2024 and that there is little time left. PAMEx Secretariat should be instrumental in coordinating the preparation of a proposal and in raising the ambition of such participation.

29. Ms. Carole Martinez (MedPAN) indicated that MedPAN is already preparing an application or a side event on MPAs at the 10th OOC. PAMEx and UNEP/MAP are welcome to join the proposal.

30. Ms. Valentina Mauriello (Italy) welcomed the idea of preparing a side event for 10th OOC. Yet, she warned against limiting PAMEX contribution to the organization of side events during global ocean related events. To this regard, she proposed to explore ways to be more incisive and concrete, including in the negotiation processes leading to the adoption of global targets and decisions, in close collaboration with UNEP/MAP.

31. Mr. Romain Renoux (The MedFund) said he would be happy to contribute to the preparation for a side event on Axis 1 at the 10th OOC while there could be a second application for a side event on Axis 3.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters, Date and Venue of the next Steering Committee Meeting

32. Mr. Varelidis announced the 4th Steering Committee Meeting (with physical attendance) to be held in Athens, Greece, early March (*tbc*).

33. Ms. Tatjana Hema stated that, in addition to communication activities, a PAMEX Work Plan for 2025 will be prepared based on the discussion that we had during this meeting and will be discussed with the partners. Documents for the meeting will be prepared and sent in advance to the partners by the PAMEX Secretariat. Support to attend the meeting will also be provided to the attendants. Before the 10th of December, the PAMEX Secretariat will facilitate the preparation and submission of a proposal for a side event at the 0th OOC in close partnership with interested partners.

Agenda item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

34. Mr. Varelidis asked the PAMEX Secretariat to present the draft version of Conclusions and Recommendations of the meeting. The participants reviewed the draft conclusions and recommendations and adopted them as revised and presented in **Annex IV** to this report.

35. The Meeting's final conclusions and recommendations concerning this agenda item are presented in **Annex IV** to this report.

Agenda Item 8: Closure of the Meeting

36. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Meeting was declared closed at 14:30 on Tuesday, 03 December 2024 by Mr. Petros Varelidis Chair for the implementation of PAMEX.

Annex I

List of Participants

EGYPT	Mr. Sameh Ayoub Focal Point for MedPOL E-mail: samehayoub@hotmail.com
GREECE	Ambassador Maria Diamantopoulou Head of the D4 Directorate for Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Global Issues Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs Email: dd4@mfa.gr Mr. Ioannis Rigas Expert Minister Counsellor on Environmental and Climate Issues D4 Directorate for Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Global Issues Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs E-mail: rigas.yannis@mfa.gr Mr. Petros Varelidis Secretary General for Natural Environment and Water Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy E-mail: p.varelidis@prv.ypeka.gr; Ms. Maria Papaioannou National Expert European and International Environmental Affairs and Sustainable Development Issues Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy E-mail: m.papaioannou@prv.ypeka.gr Mr. Nicolas Mavrakis National Expert Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy E-mail: n.mavrakis@prv.ypeka.gr
FRANCE	Mr. Nabil Medaghri-Alaoui Protection internationale des océans – Global Ocean Protection Sous-direction de l'environnement et du climat Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères Email: nabil.medaghri-alaoui@diplomatie.gouv.fr Ms. Phénia Marras-Ait Razouk Multilateral cooperation & international networking for marine protected areas and biodiversity strategies Office français de la biodiversité E-mail: phenia.marras@ofb.gouv.fr

ITALY	<p>Ms. Valentina Mauriello E-mail: mauriello.valentina@mase.gov.it</p> <p>Ms. Cristina Farchi E-mail: farchi.cristina@mase.gov.it</p> <p>General Directorate for Biodiversity Protection and Sea</p>
MONACO	<p>Mr. Tidiani Couma Secrétaire des Relations Extérieures Directions des Affaires Internationales Département des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération E-mail : tcouma@gouv.mc</p>
MOROCCO	<p>Mr. Mustapha El Alami el Fellouss Head of the Division of Global, Security and Social Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kingdom of Morocco E-mail: elalami@maec.gov.ma</p> <p>Mme Nassira Rheyati Chef de la Division de la Coopération Internationale Direction du Partenariat, de la Communication et de la Coopération Département de l'Environnement Email: rheyati@environnement.gov.ma; nassira.rheyati@gmail.com;</p>
FAO/GFCM: GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN	<p>Mr. Ahmed Siliman Compliance Officer, GFCM E-mail: Ahmed.Siliman@gfcmonline.org</p>
UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN	<p>Mr. Andrea Tinagli Principal Advisor for sustainable finance & Investments at UFM. EIB representative at UFM Governing Bodies E-mail: andrea.tinagli@ufmsecretariat.org</p>
MedPAN: MEDITERRANEAN PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK	<p>Ms. Carole Martinez Policy manager E-mail: carole.martinez@medpan.org</p>
MEDFUND	<p>Mr. Romain Renoux E-mail: rrenoux@themedfund.org</p> <p>Ms. Emna Halimi E-mail: ehalimi@themedfund.org</p>
Grob Aircraft France	<p>Mr. France Philippe Amar E-mail: philippe.amar@gaf-aerospace.com</p>
DISAITEK	<p>Mr. Antoine Graveline E-mail: agraveline@disaitek.com</p>

REMPEC- Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea	Ms. Ivan Sammut Director E-mail : isammut@rempec.org
PLANBLEU Regional Activity Centre	Mr. Antoine Laffitte Deputy Director
SPA/RAC-Specially Protected Areas Regional Activity Centre	Mr. Elyes Hamza Director director@spa-rac.org
United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit -Barcelona Convention Secretariat	Ms. Tatjana Hema Coordinator Email: tatjana.hema@un.org Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis Programme Management Officer - Governance Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org Mr. Christos Ioakeimidis Quality Status Report (QSR) Programme Management Officer E-mail: christos.ioakeimidis@un.org Ms. Patrizia Busolini Socio-Economic and Sustainable Development Officer E-mail: patrizia.busolini@un.org Mr. Marc Attallah Associate Programme Management Officer SEMPA Project Manager E-mail: marc.attallah@un.org Mr. Arnaud Comolet PAMEx Secretariat/UNEP-MAP E-mail: arnaud.comolet@un.org

Annex II**Agenda of the Meeting**

- Agenda Item 1:** Opening of the Meeting
- Agenda Item 2:** Organizational Matters
- Agenda Item 3:** Update on PAMEx Governance Project's activities
- Agenda item 4:** Progress on Implementation
- Agenda Item 5:** Updated Workplan including on Communication
- Agenda Item 6:** Any Other Matters, Date and Venue of the next Steering Committee Meeting
- Agenda Item 7:** Conclusions and Recommendations
- Agenda Item 8:** Closure of the Meeting

Annex III

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 3 December 2024, the 3rd Steering Committee meeting of PAMEx took place online.

Further to its deliberations, the Meeting reached the following conclusions:

1. Welcomes Greece as the PAMEx Presidency for one year, taking over from France.
2. Welcomes the decision by France to continue covering for the total cost of PAMEx Technical Secretariat at UNEP/MAP.
3. Encourages partners to enhance their efforts sharing on their actions against PAMEx objectives, highlighting the importance of ensuring participation from partners from the southern Mediterranean shore.
4. Expresses its satisfaction with the successful completion of the priority actions adopted by the 2nd Steering Committee, and confirms:
 - a. The promotion by PAMEx of the Bonifacio Declaration on wastewater treatment and re-use on the Mediterranean coast.
 - b. The update of the PAMEx position on an international legally binding instrument addressing plastic pollution including in the marine environment and the fostering of discussions with regard to the possible input of the Barcelona Convention system to the ongoing INC negotiations.
 - c. The promotion of the PAMEx Declaration on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.
 - d. Progress in undertaking a study on the application of harmful subsidies on fisheries in the Mediterranean region as a follow up of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022 and prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies.
 - e. Communication and visibility activities at:
 - The PAMEx side event in the margins of INC-2, 31 May 2023, Paris / France,
 - The Barcelona Convention COP23, 4-8 December 2023, Portoroz / Slovenia and at
 - The ninth Our Ocean Conference, 16-17 April 2024, Athens / Greece.
5. Takes note of and appreciates the activities reported by the different PAMEx partners (MedPan, the MedFund, Union for the Mediterranean and the Blue Med Partnership, etc.), which contribute to PAMEx objectives and their successful continuation.
6. Takes note of the information provided on difficulties faced by PLIFF over the last year in terms of resource mobilization and asks the technical secretariat of PAMEx in consultation with the Presidency to clarify the matter and report at the next Steering Committee of the PAMEx.
7. Adopts a workplan for the period November 2024 – December 2025, constituted of the following elements driven by PAMEx Technical Secretariat:
 - a. Organization of the fourth (4th) PAMEx Steering Committee in person, in Athens, in the first (1st) quarter of 2025.

- b. Promotion of individual or collective actions towards the following general objectives but not limited to:
- Scaling up actions (including on MPAs) to reach the 30x30 target.
 - Explore how to concretely contribute to the ongoing negotiations on an international legally binding instrument addressing plastic pollution including in the marine environment, including through further updating of the PAMEx position, and fostering discussions within the Barcelona Convention system for possible input to be delivered in view of INC 5.2 based on its longstanding experience on normative frameworks to address marine pollution including plastic, at regional as well as national levels (including through assistance in the elaboration of NAPs).
 - Promotion of water re-use, addressing pollution and marine litter collection, promotion of circular economy approaches preventing plastic waste production.
 - Promotion of sustainable maritime transport and greening of Mediterranean ports in particular, through the development of *among others*, renewable energy sources, electrification, use of green hydrogen, etc.
- c. Communication and visibility activities including but not limited to the following milestone events on the international and regional roadmap, subject to availability of resources and approval by the organizers:
1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP29, 11 – 22 November 2024, Baku / Azerbaijan (Done).
 2. The tenth (10th) Our Ocean Conference, 28 – 30 April 2025, Busan / Republic of Korea .
 3. The third (3rd) UN Ocean Conference (UNOC-3), 9 – 13 June 2025, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica / Nice /France.
 4. The second part of the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (to be further elaborated once information on the date and venue of the INC 5.2 is made available).
 5. Other to be identified at a later stage.
8. Invites all PAMEx partners to contribute to the effective delivery of the proposed communication events (in particular through side events) to maximize the visibility of the PAMEx initiative in global and regional levels with the support from the PAMEx Technical Secretariat and UNEP/MAP. To this aim with the support from the Secretariat the following partners will take the lead to prepare the related activities for these actions:
- a. 10th OOC, Busan / Republic of Korea: Greece together with France and Spain, and with MedPan and the MedFund.
 - b. 3rd UNOC, Nice, France: France, Greece and Egypt
 - c. Other to be identified and detailed at a later stage.
9. Requests the Technical Secretariat of PAMEx to coordinate the work of preparing the concept notes for these side events under the leadership of countries and partners for their timely consultation, finalization and submission with a particular focus on the one for the 10th OOC, Busan, RoK.
10. The 4th Steering Committee of PAMEx will take place in Athens, Greece in March 2025 (dates to be confirmed).