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2nd Steering Committee of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEX) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF)

Online, 18th July 2023

The Annex to the present note sets out the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting of the 2nd Steering Committee of the Plan of Action for a model Mediterranean Sea (PAMEX) by 2030 and its Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF), 18 July 2023, as reviewed and adopted by the Meeting.

These documents have been prepared by UNEP MAP in its capacity as Technical Secretariat of PAMEX.

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ANNEX

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 18th July 2023, the 2nd Steering Committee meeting of PAMEx and its Local Investment Finance Facility took place online.

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

1. Welcomes the interest expressed by Greece to take the PAMEx Presidency, pending final confirmation. The upcoming Presidency name will be communicated by PAMEx Secretariat shortly upon confirmation. The current Presidency remains in function until the new Presidency takes its functions.
2. Welcomes the decision by France to continue covering for a hundred percents of the 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 1st Steering Committee, and confirms:
 - a. The endorsement of the PAMEx Declaration on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas submitted, subject to minor adjustments to be circulated after the Steering Committee for its consideration.
 - b. The common PAMEx position in support of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.
5. Takes note of the activities reported by the different PAMEx partners, which contribute to PAMEx objectives and their successful continuation.
6. Takes note of the PLIFF consortium governance, action plan and expected deliverables including criteria for projects' development and selection at the local level addressing PAMEx ambitions.
7. Invites PAMEx partners to take the necessary actions to benefit from investment opportunities individually or collectively by exploring operational cooperation, including by framing and pursuing the submission of the following projects' proposals to PLIFF on:
 - a. The scaling up of nature-based solutions contributing towards the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources at the regional, national and local levels.
 - b. The upgrading of new wastewater treatment plants and/or the creation of new ones, the promotion of water re-use, the addressing of illicit waste discharges and marine litter collection, the promotion of a circular economy preventing plastic waste production.
 - c. The greening of Mediterranean ports through the development of among others, renewable energy sources for electrification and the use of green hydrogen.
8. Encourages the creation of synergies and further collaborative work and cooperation among the PLIFF and Blue Mediterranean Partnership.
9. Adopts a workplan for the period July 2023 – March 2024, constituted of the following elements driven by PAMEx Technical Secretariat:
 - a. Organization of the next PAMEx Steering Committee

- b. Priority actions as follows:
 - i. The promotion by PAMEx of the Bonifacio Declaration on wastewater treatment and re-use on the Mediterranean coast.
 - ii. The promotion of the PAMEx position on an international legally binding instrument addressing plastic pollution including in the marine environment, across INC-3 (Nairobi, November 2023) considering the need for its further update as appropriate.
 - iii. The promotion of the PAMEx Declaration on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.
 - iv. The call for support to the ratification of WTO Agreement prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies.
 - c. Communication and visibility activities across the following milestone events on the international and regional roadmap, pending availability of resources:
 - i. The third meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, November 2023, Nairobi / Kenya
 - ii. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean High-level conference on MedFish4Ever initiatives, Malta, 3-4 October 2023
 - iii. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP28, 30 November - 12 December 2023, Dubai / United Arab Emirates
 - iv. The Barcelona Convention COP23, 4-8 December 2023, Portoroz / Slovenia
 - v. The Sixth meeting of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-6), 26 February - 1 March 2024, Nairobi / Kenya
 - vi. The ninth Our Ocean Conference, April 2024, Athens / Greece
 - vii. The High level event of the United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC), 7-8 June 2024, Costa Rica
10. Invites all PAMEx partners to contribute to the effective preparation delivery of the proposed communication events to maximize the visibility and achievement of the PAMEx initiative in global and regional fora with support from PAMEx Technical Secretariat.
 11. Further agrees to complete the online concise progress report providing input on ongoing and future related actions by all partners.
 12. The next Steering Committee of PAMEx will take place in Athens, Greece on 27-28 March 2024 (to be confirmed by October 2023 at the latest).