

Decision IG.26/12

Establishment of Regional Activity Center on Climate Change

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols at their 23rd Meeting,

Deeply concerned by the unfolding climate crises and their impact on the Mediterranean region and its marine and coastal environment and by the adverse effects of climate change, with serious economic and social implications;

Conscious that recent extreme events such as deadly floods, draught, and unprecedented wildfires across Mediterranean countries, are symptomatic of the rapidly worsening condition of the climate of the region;

Recognizing the gaps between the gravity of the effects of climate change and the urgency of responding to them, and the ongoing efforts to reduce and prevent such effects by building on and strengthening current regulatory and implementation systems;

Recalling the conclusions of numerous scientific reports and assessments that point to the vulnerability of the Mediterranean basin, as a hotspot for climate change, such as recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the 2020 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED), and the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1);

Recalling the Kunming Declaration adopted by the CBD COP 15 part 1 (Kunming, China, 11- 15 October 2021) towards the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework; the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted by the UNFCCC COP 26 (Glasgow, UK, 31 October-13 November 2021) towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement objectives as crucial milestones for addressing the threats of biodiversity loss and climate change universally; and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan adopted by the UNFCCC COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 6-20 November 2022);

Recalling also the relevant United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions, as well as Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international instruments, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and instruments regulated under the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) among others to strengthen the regional dimension of the implementation of climate change activities;

Noting with appreciation the Decisions taken by the Contracting Parties of UNFCCC in COP20 and COP25, expressing the intentions of Parties to cooperate and engage through multilateral, bilateral and regional complementary initiatives that aim to raise awareness and enhance education on climate change and its impacts, opportunities, and co-benefits;

Recalling the Decisions IG.17/5 “Governance” taken at the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Decision 20/13 taken by the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Decision IG.25/3 “Governance” taken by the 22nd of the Contracting Parties that aim to ensure an effective MAP governance based on stronger cooperation and integration among MAP Components;

Reiterating the commitments expressed by the Conference of the Parties in the context of its previous Meetings through political declarations and decisions, and in the context of global and regional inter- governmental processes towards strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both;

1. *Decide* to establish the MAP Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change (CC/RAC) as one of the Components of the MAP system, in accordance with the common operational principles for MAP Components (Decision IG.25/3 Annex 6);
2. *Admit* the “*Mediterranean Climate Change Research Center/Akdeniz İklim Değişikliği Araştırma Merkezi (AIDAM)*” Institution at Caferağa, Gürbüz Türk Street. No:38, 34710 Kadıköy/İstanbul, a structure of the Ankara University National Center for the Sea and Maritime Law (DEHUKAM), to be the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change;
3. *Emphasize* that the establishment of the newly established CC/RAC will not bear any cost for the Mediterranean Trust Fund, and *Accepts with gratitude* the generous offer of Türkiye to cover all the establishment costs of the CC/RAC as its Host Country;
4. *Request* the Secretariat to develop an independent mapping exercise including a fully-fledged assessment of the UNEP/MAP system and its different components with a view to define the mandate and integrate the newly established CC/RAC within the UNEP/MAP system, the results of which shall be submitted in a timely manner to all Contracting Parties for consideration of the MAP Focal Points Meeting of the biennium 2024-2025, then for decision at COP24 in order to operationalize the CC/RAC. Such assessment should be developed in a transparent and inclusive way, taking into account all governance, legal, financial, and administrative aspects and should ensure full complementarity and synergies, for the benefit of the Mediterranean region and the implementation of global and regional commitments;
5. *Also request* the Secretariat to present to the Bureau for its consideration during 2024 the terms of reference for the above mentioned independent mapping exercise and its conclusions. On the basis of the outcome of the above mentioned exercise a draft proposal for a mandate for the CC/RAC shall be developed for decision by COP 24.