

ANNEX I

MARRAKESH DECLARATION

We, Ministers of the Environment and Heads of Delegation of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 4 November 2009,

Concerned by the serious threats to the environment that are confronting the Mediterranean, including the destruction of its biodiversity, adverse effects on the countryside, coastline and water resources, soil degradation, desertification, coastal erosion, eutrophication, pollution from land-based sources, negative impacts related to the growth of maritime traffic, the over-exploitation of natural resources, the harmful proliferation of algae or other organisms, and the unsustainable exploitation of marine resources,

Recalling the regional cooperation framework established through the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) since 1975, which has enabled the countries in the region to combine their efforts to improve the quality of the marine and coastal environment and promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean,

Considering that climate change is a major challenge that humanity will face over the next few decades and that all regions of the world will experience effects on human health, well-being and food security, habitable areas, development of all communities, wetlands, water and other natural resources,

Considering that, in the specific case of the Mediterranean, in which a great majority of the population is concentrated on the coastline, these impacts will have particularly significant consequences, especially in economic, social and environmental terms,

Concerned at the scientific conclusions contained in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the most recent scientific findings, particularly those relating to the impact of climate change in the Mediterranean, which is considered to be among the regions most vulnerable to climate change,

Also concerned at the effects of climate change on the ecosystems and resources of Mediterranean coastal areas resulting, among other factors, from the rise in the level of the sea, an increase in temperatures, the acidification of marine waters and the modification of the economic and social equilibrium of coastal communities,

Considering that it is necessary to continue research into the extent of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean, while making full use of existing evaluations,

Emphasizing the importance of the adoption by all countries of further measures to combat climate change as a matter of urgency, taking into account their shared but differentiated responsibilities, their respective capacities and the principle of equity,

Considering that adaptation to climate change and its consequences is a high priority for all the countries in the Mediterranean region, and that the response should be such as to establish sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), taking into account in particular the capacities and needs of the developing countries,

Noting with concern that current financial instruments made available to Mediterranean countries by the international community to facilitate their adaptation to climate change and for the reduction of their emissions have been broadly underutilized,

Further emphasizing that the current financial crisis needs to be considered as an opportunity and not an obstacle to the establishment of low-carbon development strategies which create wealth, employment and social cohesion, and cannot be used as a pretext for inaction in the face of the economic, social and environmental challenges of climate change,

Aware that it is essential to reinforce regional cooperation to identify and assess the short-, medium- and long-term impacts of, and vulnerabilities to, climate change in the Mediterranean region, and to design and implement the best adaptation and prevention options,

Considering that the pooling of the efforts of all the Contracting Parties in the Mediterranean could serve as an example for other regions of the world,

Recalling the recommendations of the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCS D - Cairo, September 2009), which call on the Contracting Parties to implement adaptation measures on an urgent basis with a view to strengthening the resilience of the Mediterranean region in the face of climate change,

Welcoming the Union for the Mediterranean, launched on 13 July 2008, which is based on and builds on the success achieved in the context of the Barcelona Process, and *aware* of the positive effects of the initiatives launched since 2008 in the fields of water, energy and the environment with a view to contributing to sustainable development and combating climate change in the Mediterranean region,

Reaffirming the necessity, at the Mediterranean level, of pursuing efforts to identify varied methods and tools for the conservation and management of ecosystems, including the establishment of marine protected areas and the creation of networks representing such areas in accordance with the relevant objectives for 2012 of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002),

Welcoming the designation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and *desirous of* preserving the Mediterranean's potential in the field of biodiversity, responding to regional and international ecological imperatives and contributing actively to the process that is currently being implemented by the United Nations General Assembly in relation to biodiversity strategy for post-2010 and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),

Recognizing the role of MAP in the assessment and control of marine pollution, the formulation and implementation of marine and coastal environmental and sustainable development policies, and the strengthening of capacities to identify the best options for making better and more rational use of resources and adopting alternative development models,

Noting the progress achieved in terms of the strengthening of MAP through the entry into force of the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the amendments to the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources of Pollution and the adoption of legally binding measures within its framework on the reduction of BOD₅ and the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the signature of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol in the Mediterranean and its ratification by two States,¹ and the measures taken by the Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the MSSD and their national strategies for sustainable development, and the importance of the establishment of the Compliance Committee under the Convention and the need for better use to be made of these mechanisms to promote more effective implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

¹ France and Slovenia.

Hereby declare that we are resolved to:

Work together to achieve an ambitious and balanced agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009) that is commensurate with the future challenges of climate change so as to limit the rise in temperature to less than 2°C in relation to preindustrial levels, and comprehensively develop all five pillars of the Bali Action Plan. ***In this context, we undertake to:***

- *Continue to implement* the Bali Action Plan as well as the agreed outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, and *cooperate* to this end with the other parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- *Strengthen* consultations between the countries of the region on the negotiating themes in the context of the UNFCCC with a view to the convergence of viewpoints in order to raise awareness at the global level of the problems and challenges faced by the Mediterranean in the field of climate change;
- *Promote* Mediterranean cooperation to combat the effects of climate change in the region and enhance the institutional mechanisms, particularly to provide a mechanism for exchanges and the sharing of experience with other regions of the world;
- *Promote* new mitigation technologies in the region so as to ensure a better evaluation of their impact on the Mediterranean ecosystem, taking into account the precautionary principle;
- *Implement* effective coordination to ensure the integration of climate change issues into development policies with the aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the MSSD, and *ensure* the strengthening of cooperation for the sharing of experience in the field of surveillance (early-warning systems) and the development and implementation of adaptation and risk-management strategies;
- *Call for* adaptation to climate change to be fully taken into account in the review of the MSSD during the next biennium: this review should be broadened to include an analysis of the structuring of the Strategy, in order to integrate adaptation into development policies, including at the regional level;
- *Reinforce* the implementation of the principle of participation and ensure that long-term concerns are taken into account through the MCSD and the diversity of its representation of all Mediterranean stakeholders;
- *Promote* the development of the carbon market in the Mediterranean region;
- *Develop* renewable energy through current regional initiatives, such as the Mediterranean Solar Plan and the Mediterranean Programme for Renewable Energy (MEDREP).

Promote better regional environmental governance in the Mediterranean by

- *Confirming* the need for an integrated approach that guarantees coherence between the various sectoral strategies and takes into consideration their impact on ecosystems;
- *Calling on* the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify the MAP legal instruments, and particularly to expedite procedures for the ratification of the ICZM Protocol;
- *Taking* firm measures to make progress in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and to achieve the objectives of the MSSD;

- *Fully supporting* the process of the formulation and adoption of legally binding measures according to the MAP programme of work for the progressive elimination of all land-based pollution and implementation of new measures adopted for the reduction of BOD₅ in urban waste water and the elimination of persistent organic pollutants (POPs);
- *Calling on States* to continue the establishment of marine protected areas and to pursue the protection of biodiversity with a view to the establishment by 2012 of a network of marine protected areas, including on the high seas, in accordance with the relevant international legal framework and the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- *Inviting States* to extend, in accordance with international law, the areas under their jurisdiction and recalling that the right to do so can be used to achieve the protection of the marine environment;
- *Ensuring* better coordination with other regional institutions and initiatives, such as the Horizon 2020 initiative, the Mediterranean component of the European Union Water Initiative and the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and *working* in close collaboration with international organizations and donors in the region in order to achieve greater synergy in their actions and in the sustainable use of financial resources;
- *Promoting* synergies between the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy ;
- *Enhancing* collaboration with regional fisheries management organizations and others, such as CITES, on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable management of the Mediterranean Sea and its resources and to achieve better protection of the most endangered species and their habitats in the Mediterranean;
- *Strengthening* the capacity of MAP and its components to collect, manage, analyse and share data on sustainable development in the region, in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, as appropriate;
- *Calling for* the strengthening of the MAP system through the full and effective implementation of the Five-Year Programme of Work and the biennial programme of work and;
- *Strengthening* the coordination of MAP activities at the national level, particularly between the national focal points and other respective national and regional sectoral institutions, including NGOs, with a view to achieving greater integration, the sustainable use of resources and the relevant exchange of information in order to reinforce MAP, and its impact and visibility at the country level and in the region.