

II. GENOA DECLARATION ON THE SECOND MEDITERRANEAN DECADE

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related protocols, meeting in Genoa on 9 - 13 September 1985;

- having reviewed their co-operation in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan over the past ten years and the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) therein;
- 1. Consider that the actions already taken and the progress achieved are positive developments, while noting that the state of the environmental quality of the Mediterranean Sea requires great acceleration of action to improve it;
- 2. Firmly believe that their co-operation in the protection of the Mediterranean is a good example of the contribution of environmental protection towards sustainable development, and better understanding among the people of the region;
- 3. Consider that the health of the Mediterranean is of paramount importance to the well-being of the peoples of the Mediterranean in their totality;
- 4. Further consider that the political will and solidarity of all countries concerned are already in place and that the foundation is already established for more concrete action to protect their common heritage;
- 5. Reaffirm their commitment to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea through the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan which is a very useful mechanism to ensure their common action;
- 6. Reaffirm their determination to co-operate for the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the rational use of its resources, especially through the harmonization of legislation and developing common standards; strengthening research and monitoring centres; the establishment of training programmes; the transfer of know-how; and broadening the scope of technical co-operation with developing countries of the region to enable them to meet their obligations in the protection of the Mediterranean;
- 7. Commit themselves to accelerate the implementation of national and international programmes in order to achieve the objectives of the various components of the action plan;
- 8. Commit themselves to increase investment to combat pollution and to increase their vigilance on the application and adherence to the legislation on the protection of the environment;
- 9. Decide to use the budget of the Action Plan in a catalytic way in projects with organizations willing to contribute their own resources;
- 10. Decide to increase efforts, through all appropriate information channels, to make the aims and achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan more widely known;
- 11. Recognize that the provisions of the Action Plan should constitute an important framework for national development activities;

12. Further recognize that the support of the international, regional and non-governmental organizations is essential for the full achievement of the goals of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
13. Consider that the protection of the Mediterranean requires major support of governments' efforts through a much greater acceleration of the action-oriented activities of parliaments, local authorities, industries, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, the media and the public at large to reverse the trend of deterioration of the sea and of its coastal areas;
14. Appeal to the 350 million inhabitants of the Mediterranean Coastal States and to the 100 million tourists visiting the region, to become more aware of the exceptional natural, economic and cultural values of the Mediterranean and to commit themselves individually and collectively to its protection;
15. Invite the governments to proclaim an annual Mediterranean Environment Week to serve as the rallying point for local, national and regional initiatives for its protection;
16. Decide to launch a new phase of their co-operative efforts to accelerate ongoing activities and to achieve concrete targets during the second decade of the Mediterranean Action Plan;
17. Adopt the following ten targets to be achieved as a matter of priority during the second decade of the Mediterranean Action Plan:
 - (a) Establishment of reception facilities for dirty ballast waters and other oily residues received from tankers and ships in ports of the Mediterranean;
 - (b) Establishment as a matter of priority of sewage treatment plants in all cities around the Mediterranean with more than 100,000 inhabitants and appropriate outfalls and/or appropriate treatment plants for all towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants;
 - (c) Applying environmental impact assessment as an important tool to ensure proper development activities;
 - (d) Co-operation to improve the safety of maritime navigation and to reduce substantially the risk of transport of dangerous toxic substances likely to affect the coastal areas or induce marine pollution;
 - (e) Protection of the endangered marine species (e.g. Monk Seal and Mediterranean sea turtle);
 - (f) Concrete measures to achieve substantial reduction in industrial pollution and disposal of solid waste;
 - (g) Identification and protection of at least 100 coastal historic sites of common interest;
 - (h) Identification and protection of at least 50 new marine and coastal sites or reserves of Mediterranean interest;
 - (i) Intensify effective measures to prevent and combat forest fires, soil loss and desertification;
 - (j) Substantial reduction in air pollution which adversely affects coastal areas and the marine environment with the potential danger of acid rains.