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MISE EN OEUVRE DE L'AGENDA

21



**CONFERENCE " MED 21 "**  
**ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT**  
**IN THE MEDITERRNEAN REGION**

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**DRAFT INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS :**  
**THE INSTITUTION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION**  
**FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ( MCSD )**

TUNISIA 1994

# INTER-MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## I. The action principle

The environment protection and the development promotion issues in the mediterranean region come out from the rise and real expression of several initiatives or cooperation frameworks between the countries of this region. These highly commendable initiatives, which reflect the keen interest of the mediterranean countries to further strengthen their cooperation links, affirm, on the other hand, the need of the region to pay full attention to these cooperation frameworks in view of enhancing the value of their effect and impact at both national and regional levels and minimizing all kind of redundance.

Among the major initiatives in this context, the existence of the Plan of Action for the Mediterranean (PAM) under the UNEP which objectives are to have a better coordination between the countries of the region in order to provide a follow-up of the environment components condition and to promote any action or intervention in favor of the protection of the sea and waterside regions.

The elaboration of the Barcelona Agreement and inherent protocols, initiatives of all the countries of the region, is an adequate legal framework for the promotion and development of inter-mediterranean cooperation in few environment features.

The Nicosia Chart and its following actions, such as the Cairo program of action, come to that end within the most recent initiatives of the European Union Commission, and may be considered as the most convincing for the mediterranean region as they aim at strengthening regional cooperation in the environment and development fields.

The METAP program jointly directed by the World Bank and the European Investment Bank, together with the LIFE program of the European Union Commission, also fits in these cooperation initiatives for the protection of environment in the mediterranean region.

The new approach aiming at joining environment and development together, as identified in Rio de Janeiro during the "Earth Summit" within the scope of Agenda 21, encourages the mediterraneans to take better advantage from these various initiatives by further centering them on sustainable development issues.

In this regard, institutional agreements aiming at a better coordination between the different initiatives, on one hand, and between these latter and the States of the region, on the other hand, are highly desirable in order to effectively put the intra-mediterranean cooperation on the track of sustainable development. The region needs of such new agreements are now increasingly felt because of two major reasons, i.e. to minimize redundance and dispersion of cooperation efforts, on one side, and to establish an appropriate follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Mediterranean Agenda 21 program which shall be ready before the 9th meeting of the Contracting Parties at the Barcelona Convention is held (May 95).

The major guidelines of these new agreements at the PAM level, which hinge on the constitution of a mediterranean commission for sustainable development, are proposed in the following:

## **II. Objectives of the Proposed Institutional Agreements**

The general objective of these agreements is to ensure the integration of environment and development issues at a national, sub-regional and regional level for the promotion of intra-mediterranean cooperation traditions and further directing them towards sustainable development issues.

The specific objectives are the following:

- a) To ensure and evaluate the implementation of Agenda 21 for a sustainable development in all the countries of the region.
- b) To encourage interaction and cooperation between the PAM system, on one hand, and the inter-governmental and non governmental, sub-regional, regional and international institutions in the environment and development fields, on the other hand.
- c) To strengthen the requested institutional potentialities and agreements for an efficient implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Mediterranean Agenda 21.
- d) To help to enhance and coordinate national, sub-regional and regional potentialities and initiatives in the environment and development fields.
- e) To establish cooperation links and real information exchange between the different bodies, organizations, programs and multilateral financial institutions in the region within the framework of the institutional agreements contemplated for the Agenda 21 follow-up.
- f) To face the environment et development issues that arise or may arise in the future.
- g) To direct the PAM biannual program to achieve well predefined and well delimited objectives with regards to the content, scope and time - Program by objectives.
- h) To ensure that any new institutional agreement is in keeping with rationalization, clear description of responsibilities and elimination of redundance in the mediterranean region and that it utilizes the available

resources as far as possible.

### III. The Proposed Institutional Structure

The proposed institutional agreements relate, at the initial stage, only to the Plan of Action structure for the Mediterranean in connection with the institutional tools of the Barcelona Convention.

With a view of giving free way to the both existing and effective structures at the region's level in order to pragmatically apprehend all the aspects of sustainable development issues, it is necessary to create through these latters a follow-up and evaluation system for the implementation of the Mediterranean Agenda 21.

In this respect, it is suggested that a Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development be constituted at the PAM level, organically connected to the Barcelona Convention system. The components of the new agreements are the following:

#### a) The Contracting Parties meeting

Being the supreme intergovernmental mechanism at the region's level, the meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention is the major leading and review body for environment and sustainable development issues. It shall periodically review the achieved work in the implementation of the Mediterranean Agenda 21. Upon completion of this task, it may deal with issues such as the choice, the date, the form and organization of this review. It might also contemplate holding extraordinary sessions dedicated to reviewing and evaluating the implementation of sustainable development programs as set forth in Agenda 21.

#### b) The PAM Secretariat

Within the framework of its role as imparted to it by the UNEP

with regard to the Contracting Parties meeting and the contemplated restructuration following the recent development worldwide and in the region as to development program conciliation with the requirements of the environment protection, the PAM Secretariat will be in charge of providing assistance to the Contracting Parties meeting, and through the Board, will also be in charge of assisting the Contracting Parties meeting in following-up and implementing the PAM biannual programs by:

- ensuring coordination of activities at the region's level;
- preparing the meetings of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD) the secretarial duties of which are ensured by it;
- supporting the elaboration of the MCSDD meetings reports;
- ensuring communication of such reports to the Board and to Contracting Parties.

Moreover, the PAM Secretariat will ensure coordination and integration of results of various programs implemented by international and regional organizations (such as METAP, LIFE, Avicenne, CEDARE programs, etc.) related to environment and development, and will submit recommendations to the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

#### c) Commission of Sustainable Development

To efficiently ensure the follow-up of the Contracting Parties decisions in connection with the implementation of programs as set forth in the Mediterranean Agenda 21 and to promote intra-mediterranean cooperation in the sustainable development fields, it would be proper to create a commission for sustainable development. This commission will comprise representatives of the mediterranean countries. Integrated to the PAM and under the direct authority of the Contracting Parties meeting, this commission might substitute the scientific, technical, social and economic committees already existing within the PAM structure.

Consequently, it would be necessary to enlarge representation of all countries at the level of this Commission to specialized experts in the development fields who make up the existing representation at the level of the above committees. Each country should determine the number and qualifications of its representatives in the Commission for Sustainable Development.

The Commission should take advantage from the administrative and logistic support of the Secretariat in the coordination unit and the PAM activity centers in the completion of its tasks, namely for the preparation of its meetings, the elaboration of its report following every meeting and communication of such report to the Board and the Contracting Parties.

The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development will be comprised as follows:

- One member from the Contracting Parties Board: President;
- Representatives of Contracting Parties: Members;
- Representatives from regional and international organizations: Members;
- Representatives from non governmental organizations: Members;
- PAM Coordinator: Secretary.

In addition to the duties of the three former PAM committees, the Commission for Sustainable Development shall have the following responsibilities:

- To control progress achieved in the execution of Agenda 21 and in the integration works of objectives related to environment and development in the overall programs related to the mediterranean region through review and analysis of reports provided by different bodies operating in the mediterranean as well as those provided by the PAM activity centers.

- To review the information provided by governments, including those presented in the form of periodic communications or national reports, related to undertaken activities in order to comply with the provisions of Agenda 21 (including the progress in the implementation of the scientific, technical, social and economic components of the PAM), the problems that they face, particularly those relating to financial resources, technology transfer and other relevant environment and development issues.
- To review the achieved progress in the implementation of the contemplated undertakings in the Mediterranean Agenda 21 programs, including those relating to technology transfer and exchange of experience and knowledge in fields connected to environment and development.
- To provide an evaluation of the scientific knowledge status of relevant issues.
- To identify the technologies and the innovative knowledge in sustainable development matters in the region and provide advice on the various means to develop them and facilitate their exchange among the countries of the region.
- To collect and analyze information provided by concerned non governmental organizations, the independent sector, the scientific circles and the private sector, in relation with the implementation of Agenda 21.
- To strengthen dialogue between the mediterranean regional systems, on one hand, and between these systems and concerned non governmental organizations, the independent sector and other non UN bodies.
- To review the information related to the progress achieved in the execution of the Barcelona Convention and its



protocols and environment related conventions.

- To submit to the Contracting Parties meeting, through the Board and the logistic support of the PAM Secretariat, the necessary recommendations on the basis of an integrated examination of reports, data and information concerning the implementation of Agenda 21 and the sustainable development.
- Examine, as appropriate, the results of the Contracting Parties Board decisions in completing its tasks in view of reporting to the Contracting Parties meeting.
- To review the work plans and budgets proposed by the PAM Secretariat for the different components of its program, including scientific, technical, social and economic programs and programs connected with the implementation of Agenda 21.
- To prepare the annual report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Agenda 21 in view of reporting it to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development through the Board.

#### d) The Contracting Parties Board

It is necessary that the Contracting Parties Board assures the efficiency of the decision making process, as set forth in these new agreements, by giving an energetic impetus to the PAM Secretariat as well as to the organization and work of the Commission for Sustainable Development.