

ANNEX VII

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND LAND USE PLANNING



IMPLEMENTING AGENDA

21

CONFERENCE «MED 21»
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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**Draft of Tunis Declaration for
Sustainable Development in the
Mediterranean Basin**

November 1st 1994



Tunisia 1994

Draft of Tunis declaration for sustainable development in
the Mediterranean basin

The Ministers in charge of the environment in the Mediterranean countries, and the member of the European Commission responsible for the environment, participating in the MED 21 Conference held in Tunis on 1st November 1994

- Aware of the specificities of the Mediterranean basin and of the Mediterranean Sea, whose geomorphological character is that of a semi-enclosed sea,
- Aware of the profound and often harmful effects human activity has on public health, the marine environment, the coast and the fragile Mediterranean ecosystems,
- Aware of the socio-economic importance of the Mediterranean at world level, particularly as a tourist place and as a major maritime traffic area,
- Concerned to protect and maintain both the identity and the diversity of the peoples and cultures of the Mediterranean basin,
- Recognising the important contribution made by the Mediterranean Action Plan, approved in Barcelona in 1975,
- Recognising the significance of the 1976 Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols,
- Underlining the contribution resulting from activities carried on in their respective countries,
- Underlining the importance of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the intra-Mediterranean cooperation under way in the Mediterranean basin,
- Noticing the great difference in level and pace of development between Mediterranean countries, which requires the strengthening of regional cooperation,
- Aware that the elaboration and implementation of policies towards sustainable development requires inter-ministerial coordination in each country and the active participation of all the concerned socio-economic partners, including the NGOs,

- Recognising that the peaceful and just settlement of conflicts contributes to peace-keeping and the promotion of sustainable development,
- Reaffirming the principle of the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development, according to which human beings are at the heart of concern about sustainable development and have the right to live healthy and productive lives in harmony with nature,
- Considering all aggression on and destruction of populations, their environment and their resources as inadmissible acts against which solidarity and every effort must be mobilised,
- Determined to give their full effect to and ensure total respect for the commitments entered on at the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development, and the other international agreements to which the Mediterranean countries are party,
- Expressing their political willingness and their commitment to sustainable development in the Mediterranean,

Commit themselves to:

- Promoting resolute consideration of sustainable development when devising and implementing national and local development policies, bearing in mind the principles of the Rio Declaration;
- Working to mobilise the necessary resources and means for sustainable development;
- Pooling their experiences, furthering exchanges of information and developing bilateral, regional and multilateral actions;
- Encouraging economic and social partnership and co-development initiatives to strengthen national capacities for implementing sustainable development;
- Investigating the measures best suited to the objectives of sustainable development and making the necessary institutional arrangements;
- Demonstrating solidarity, via concrete supportive action, with populations suffering from the consequences of aggression and destruction;

- Developing programmes to rehabilitate areas affected by recent hostilities in the Mediterranean basin;
- Promoting, strengthening and sustaining the peace processes in the Mediterranean ;
- Promoting and developing Mediterranean cooperation, especially North-South solidarity and aid to developing countries.