

Plenary consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) elaborated by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC)

22 September 2020 (Marseille, France, and online)

Conclusions and Recommendations adopted at the Meeting

The Focal Points of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Climate Change Expert Group (CCEG) and the UfM Environment Task Force, the Focal Points of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan – UNEP/MAP), the Members of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), as participants to the Plenary consultation on the draft Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) elaborated by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC),

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and the Paris Agreement of 12 December 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling also the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution of 15 March 2019, UNEP/EA.4/Res.23 entitled “Keeping the world environment under review: enhancing the United Nations Environment Programme science-policy interface and endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook”,

Recalling further the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 and its Objective 4 “Climate change as a priority in the Mediterranean”, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for Marine and Coastal Areas, and the 1st UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (Athens, Greece, 13 April 2014),

Having regard to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, and in particular Article 4 thereof on general obligations,

Recalling Decision IG.24/4 on Assessment Studies adopted at the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), approving the elements of the “Roadmap for the Consultation of Decision-Makers and Stakeholders on the First Assessment Report on the Current State and Risks of Climate and Environmental Changes in the Mediterranean (MAR1)” as set out in Annex IV of that Decision,

1. *Welcome and express appreciation* for the work undertaken by members of the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), in particular its coordinators, authors and secretariat, for the preparation of the MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM);
2. *Acknowledge* the importance of the Science – Policy – Society Interface developed by MedECC in cooperation with the UfM and UNEP/MAP Secretariats and Plan Bleu, and *welcome* the inclusive process undertaken to consult the scientific community, governments representatives, policymakers and stakeholders on the findings of MAR1;
3. *Agree*, on a consensual basis, that the Plenary consultation did not identify any factual inaccuracy or error in the SPM;

4. *Invite* the Secretariat of the UfM to submit the SPM to for the consideration and endorsement by the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Action expected to be held in Egypt;
5. *Invite also* the Secretariat of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention to submit the SPM for the consideration and endorsement by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 22nd Meeting to be held in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2021;
6. *Encourage* the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system to consider the results of MedECC work in the preparation of the draft decisions for the COP 22 and of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2027;
7. *Encourage* the MedECC secretariat, supporting institutions and partners to proceed with a timely publication of the SPM and use its key messages toward a broad dissemination and communication campaign, targeting decision-makers, other stakeholders and citizens, supporting policy-making processes and awareness of the public at regional, national and local levels in the Mediterranean region.