



External Evaluation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment
and Climate Change
FINAL REPORT

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List of Abbreviations

AFD	Agence Française de Développement
CC	Climate Change
CoP	Convention of the parties
CB/MEP	Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme
DLDD	Desertification, land degradation and drought
EC	European Commission
ECAP	Ecosystem Approach
EEA	European Environment Agency
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
ENV	Environment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEBEA	European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIIN	Green Impact Investing Network
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean
ICZM	Integrated coastal zone management
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IMP	Integrated maritime policy
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategies
MCSDD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MD	Ministerial Declaration
MedECC	Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean
MeHSIP	Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MSESD	Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development
MSP	Marine spatial planning
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAPs	National Action Plans
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
RCFC	Regional Climate Finance Committee
RESCP	Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production
RFCCCA	Regional Finance Cooperation Committee for Climate Action
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SCP/RAC	Sustainable Consumption and Production/Regional Activity Center
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIS	Shared Environment Information Systems
SWIM	Sustainable Water Integrated Management
ToR	Terms of Reference
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean
UfM CCEG	UfM Climate Change Expert Group

UfMS	UfM Secretariat
UfM WG on ENV and CC	UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNEP DTIE	United Nation Environment Programme - Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (now UN Environment Economics)
UNEP/MAP	United Nations Environment Program/Mediterranean Action Plan (now UN Environment MAP)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WG	Working Group

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1. Background and Purpose of the Evaluation

This report is the external evaluation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (MD). A team of independent external experts conducted the evaluation in close cooperation with the UfM Secretariat's divisions on Water & Environment, and Energy & Climate Action. The evaluation covers the period from May 2014 until October 2018, representing the time since the MD came into being until the present. It presents the analysis of data collected through the evaluation process from a wide range of stakeholders and synthesizes conclusions and recommendations.

As the UfM is planning a second Ministerial Meeting to take place in late 2019 or early 2020 in order to agree on a new MD that will define the priorities regarding Environment and Climate Change for the post-2020 period, the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (UfM WG on ENV and CC) had already been working on reviewing the results achieved to date, and on establishing priorities for action on environment and climate change in the Mediterranean region after 2020. The report "Initial Review of The Progress in the Implementation at Regional Level of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change" presented at the UfM WG on ENV and CC meeting in March 2017 gave a snapshot of the progress made over the past years, based on voluntary reporting by member countries and UfM partner organizations. Since then, it has been updated with more recent information; the latest version of the report dates January 2018.

In order to further support this process of defining the post-2020 agenda, the UfM WG on ENV and CC requested an external evaluation of the MD in its Final Agreed Conclusions on the Way Forward from 15th March 2017, indicating that the evaluation will contribute towards defining priorities, operational modalities and the work programme post-2020 towards a reinforced green/circular/low carbon economy in the Mediterranean.

The external evaluation has two main objectives:

Firstly, to look back at the past four years (2014-2018), assessing results achieved against the stated priorities of the MD and identifying main successes, challenges and gaps. Secondly, to provide useful recommendations in a forward-looking manner for the creation of a next MD on Environment and Climate Change post-2020.

Regarding the latter, more specific objectives of the evaluation are to develop recommendations on:

- ❖ Potential key thematic priorities to be included in the post-2020 agenda,
- ❖ Possible operational modalities to be adopted for efficient and effective implementation, and
- ❖ Existing and realistic options/scenarios for actions to achieve post-2020 agenda objectives.

The recommendations, scenarios and options for action emerging from the UfM Task Force on Environment, the UfM Climate Change Expert Group and of this External Evaluation of the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change have been integrated in this report for further discussion and decision at the UfM WG on ENV and CC meeting in November 2018, and will then be used to formulate the initial concept note to the UfM Senior Official/MoFA for advancing the proposal for the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on ENV and CC in 2020.

The target audience of the UfM external evaluation are the 43 countries of the UfM (28 EU Member States and 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries), the UfM Jordanian and EU Co-Presidencies, the UfM Secretariat and the key partners of the UfM Environment and Climate Change agendas.

2. The UfM Ministerial Declaration

Created by the 43 Euro-Mediterranean Heads of State and Government meeting in Paris on 13th July 2008, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat is a multilateral partnership composed of 43 countries (28 EU Member States and 15 Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries) with the mandate of enhancing regional cooperation and integration between both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

As an intergovernmental organization that aims to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue in the Mediterranean region, the UfM makes use of MDs in key thematic areas that the organization works on, to document and give visibility to UfM member states’ commitments and key priorities for collaboration. The MDs are non-binding political statements; however, they are the result of political processes in which the respective ministers of each member state jointly agree on common challenges, priorities and overall objectives for regional cooperation. In this regard, they constitute a unique instrument for formulating a framework and setting a general agenda for collaboration between the EU and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, considering the key priorities from both shores of the Mediterranean.

The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change from 13 May 2014 expresses the UfM member states’ priorities and commitments to collaborate on environmental and climate-related challenges in the Mediterranean region, in line with other international frameworks such as the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”), the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conventions on Biological Diversity, or the post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction.

In this context, it defines three key thematic areas with related priorities, as well as a number of other key priorities that should be addressed:

Table 1: Key topics and priorities of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change

Key thematic areas	Related priorities
H2020 Initiative for the De-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	<p>While continuing the initiative’s four components and three sectors targeted (waste water, solid waste and industrial emissions); strengthen pollution prevention dimension and pay attention to emerging and related issues, such as hazardous waste and marine litter.</p> <p>Strengthen synergies with the Barcelona Convention and other regional initiatives, including those on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).</p> <p>Ensure full implementation and enforcement of policies supporting the H2020 Initiative goals, in line with the Ecosystem Approach (ECAP) and the priorities included in the NAPs.</p> <p>Address data needs by applying the principles of Shared Environment Information Systems (SEIS) in line with the commitments under the ECAP Decisions of the Barcelona Convention.</p> <p>Take steps to accelerate reforms to create a favourable and sustainable investment environment, and to ensure adequate project preparation and implementation.</p> <p>Take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities</p>

¹ At the time the Ministerial Declaration was elaborated, the SDGs had not been in place yet, but the Declaration makes reference to the development of Sustainable Development Goals.

	<p>between Euro-Mediterranean partners and develop the necessary incentives for increasing knowledge and technology transfer.</p> <p>Support the elaboration of a pipeline of relevant projects, continue collaborative work to develop criteria for sustainable investments prioritisation and align with the NAPs revision process undertaken by UNEP/MAP.</p> <p>Revamp the H2020 Pollution Reduction sub-group, with full involvement of the UfM Secretariat.</p> <p>Develop a work programme for the second phase by December 2014 on the basis of the guidance provided in the UfM Ministerial Declaration and previous declarations, regularly report on its progress to Senior Officials.</p> <p>Cooperation between the Secretariats of the UfM and the Barcelona Convention through the implementation of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding; exploring ways to streamline MAP and H2020 Initiative focal points and related meetings.</p>
<p>Sustainable Consumption and Production</p>	<p>Initiate policy reforms to provide appropriate incentives to accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, while paying attention to unequal economic development and social disparities among Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>Support for green and low-emission economy and the required innovations, and technology transfer in the area of sustainable products and services and new sustainable business models, as well as tools such as eco-design.</p> <p>Promote the development of innovative and sustainable marine and maritime activities, acknowledging the potential for sustainable blue growth.</p> <p>Develop activities to ensure the full coverage of the region.</p> <p>Support the complementary efforts of the European Union and of the UfM Secretariat on SCP, particularly SWITCH-Med programme and the UfM labelled project Mediterranean ReScp.</p>
<p>Climate Change adaptation and mitigation</p>	<p>Establish a "UfM Climate Change Expert Group" that meets at least once a year and brings together governments, agencies, civil society, relevant international institutions including international donors, private sector representatives and other experts, as appropriate, from the Union for the Mediterranean region on a regular basis. The Expert Group should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ promote better knowledge about common climate change challenges across the region ❖ provide multilateral and multi-stakeholder exchanges on cross-border and regional cooperation on climate change, including exchange of information and best practices ❖ advance discussion on climate change priority actions on adaptation and mitigation including but not limited to low-emission and climate-resilient development in the region and related costs, co-benefits, and feasibility ❖ catalyse the identification, development and support of concrete projects and initiatives related to low-emission and climate-resilient development ❖ foster the elaboration of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and adaptation policies ❖ support and further stimulate climate-relevant work of local and regional authorities, as well as civil society and the private sector

Additional key priorities	
Biological diversity	Achieve the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the commitments under the Barcelona Convention, particularly relating to marine protected areas, the ecosystem approach, and the action plan on ICZM.
Integrated maritime policy	Application of the cross-cutting policy tools available under Integrated Maritime Policy, such as marine spatial planning, integration of environment and climate change concerns into relevant horizontal policies.
Sustainable urban development	Initiatives such as the Eco-Cities of the Mediterranean launched by Jordan, or the UfM, EU, Barcelona Convention and Covenant of Mayors initiatives on sustainable cities are recognised as important vehicles for advancing action and sharing engagement.
Governance and stakeholder involvement	<p>Take appropriate measures to ensure environment and climate change are mainstreamed into sectoral policies and institutional structures, promoting and reinforcing the cooperation between ministries, agencies, local and regional authorities, and the private and public sector.</p> <p>Enhance the opportunities and capacity for civil society, including recognised and registered NGOs, academic, financial and research institutions, local and regional authorities, the private sector, and other stakeholders to participate in decision-making processes regarding environmental and climate-related objectives.</p>
Increased awareness and education	Encourage all countries, stakeholders and media in the region to implement the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (annexed to the MD) in the best way possible.
Environment and climate investments	<p>Ensure that the measures and policies required to address environment and climate challenges are clearly identified as priorities, fully integrated in national development strategies and adequately resourced, and detailed with clear and precise work plans to provide a clear message to international, regional and bilateral donors, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Green Climate Fund, and the private sector about the importance of their contribution to the implementation of the investments required.</p> <p>Invite relevant IFIs and donors, including the GEF as well as private investors to consider providing the needed financial resources to support the priorities identified in this declaration.</p> <p>Continue the UfM labelling of projects in line with the recommendations of the MD and in close cooperation with all relevant actors, to further enhance visibility, ownership and access to financing; and recommend relevant IFIs and donors, including the GEF, to prioritise both existing and planned UfM-labelled projects for funding</p> <p>Promote integrated approaches to project investments and invite IFIs to fully engage in existing sustainable project preparation facilities and to develop or strengthen other financial tools deemed necessary to incentivise such projects.</p>

In order to facilitate the implementation and follow-up on progress made regarding the above mentioned topics and priorities, three different bodies have been established over time by UfM member countries that are coordinated by the UfM Secretariat:

- ❖ UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (WG on ENV and CC)
- ❖ The UfM Task Force on Environment

- ❖ The UfM Climate Change Expert Group (UfM CCEG), established by the MD itself.

Each of these bodies has a defined work programme and monitors progress through (voluntary) reporting mechanisms and regular periodic meetings. National Focal Points (NFP, one for environment and one for climate change in each member country) are responsible for follow up at regional and national level.

While the Declaration covers all 43 UfM countries, the implementation of initiatives at the regional level is focused on the countries of the Mediterranean region. Key initiatives include, among others the H2020 initiative and the SWITCH-Med programme as well as the UfM labelled Mediterranean ReScp.

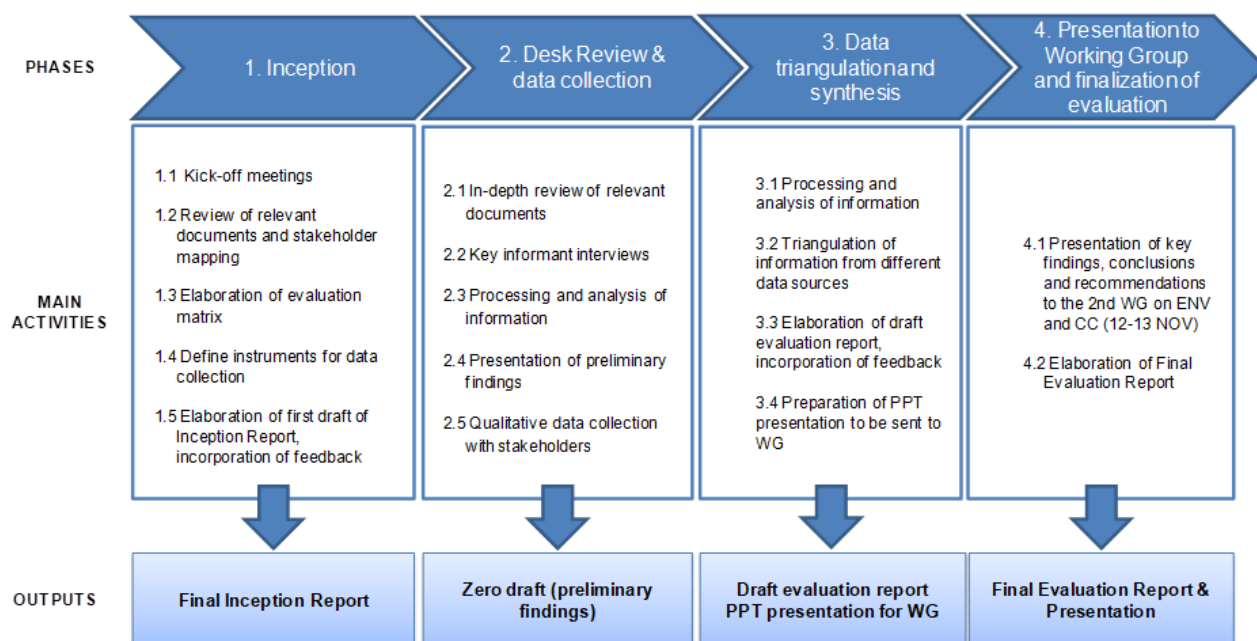
3. Evaluation Methodology

3.1. Evaluation scope

The evaluation looks at the implementation of the MD through the evaluation of the implementation of the different regional initiatives, programmes and actions run under the overall framework of the MD, and assesses the added value of the MD for bringing different initiatives forward. To this end, the evaluation combines elements of organizational, process and programme evaluations, and includes both a summative and a formative assessment of the MD by evaluating main achievements, challenges and gaps, and recommending key thematic priorities, operational modalities and action scenarios for the post-2020 agenda. While the evaluation takes into account the implementation of different initiatives and programmes under the framework of the MD, the analysis is focused on the MD and in how far it contributed to results, i.e., it is an evaluation of a political declaration, and not a programme or project evaluation.

The assignment has been implemented in four main phases as detailed below.²

Figure 1: Evaluation implementation phases



3.2. Evaluation approach and methods

Given the political nature of the MD and certain challenges related to the evaluability of its implementation (e.g. no specific MD implementation plan, no clear targets or indicators established in the declaration itself, rather the associated implementation plans (H2020 work plan, UfM Climate Change Expert Group Work Plan (2017-2022), Switch Med etc) or project related plans (Plastic Busters MPAs, Clima South etc), the consultants make use of outcome harvesting as the main methodological approach.

² For a detailed description of all methodological phases, please see the inception report of this assignment.

“Outcome Harvesting has proven to be especially useful in complex situations when it is not possible to define concretely most of what an intervention aims to achieve, or even, what specific actions will be taken over a multi-year period ... Outcome Harvesting does not measure progress towards predetermined objectives or outcomes, but rather, collects evidence of what has changed and, then, working backwards, determines whether and how an intervention contributed to these changes. The outcome(s) can be positive or negative, intended or unintended, direct or indirect, but the connection between the intervention and the outcomes should be plausible” (Wilson-Grau, 2015)³.

This approach implies a use of mainly qualitative methods to identify different results, including literature review and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders. Thus, the evaluation includes a participatory process by engaging and consulting with the UfM Secretariat staff, member countries’ national focal points as well as partner organizations, and it is utilization-focused, taking into account the needs of the UfM Secretariat and of key stakeholders.

Overall, the evaluation considers the evaluation criteria and standards defined in the EC “Commission staff working document, Better Regulation Guidelines” for Evaluation (July 2017)⁴, as referenced in the ToR for the assignment. In addition, it is aligned with international evaluation standards and criteria as defined by the OECD⁵ and the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG)⁶.

In line with these criteria and the ToR for the assignment, the consultants developed an evaluation matrix with guiding questions for the data collection and analysis. The key criteria and questions included in the evaluation matrix are the following:

Table 2: Key evaluation criteria and guiding questions⁷

Evaluation Criteria	Question no.	Evaluation Questions
Relevance	1	To what extent have the Ministerial Declaration key priorities been and are still relevant in the Mediterranean for the different thematic areas? How relevant are the priority topics for the next Ministerial Declaration indicated by the countries at the January Task Force on ENV? (Circular economy, Plastics/marine litter, Desertification/drought/land rehabilitation, ecosystems, etc.)
	2	What have been the most relevant components and actions of each thematic area, and have any relevant components and actions been missing?
Effectiveness	3	To what extent have the objectives of the different thematic areas been achieved?
	4	To what extent were the initiatives and operational modalities of the different thematic areas instrumental in contributing towards the achievement of priorities set in the Ministerial Declaration?
	5	To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration resulted in the mobilization of additional funding for the priority areas of action?
Efficiency	6	To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration been instrumental in increasing synergies between UfM and other relevant regional organisations and initiatives, and other key stakeholders?
	7	To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration been instrumental in enhancing the uptake of measures at both regional and national level?

³ Wilson-Grau, R. (2015) Outcome Harvesting. BetterEvaluation. Retrieved from: http://betterevaluation.org/plan/approach/outcome_harvesting

⁴ The document can be downloaded here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/planning-and-proposing-law/better-regulation-why-and-how/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en

⁵ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

⁶ <http://www.uneval.org/document/guidance-documents>

⁷ The complete evaluation matrix is included in the annex of this report.

Coherence	8	How coherent, complementary and coordinated are the priorities and initiatives of the different thematic areas from the Ministerial Declaration? How coherent are they with other regional and international policies and initiatives?
Added Value	9	What has been the additional value resulting from the UfM Ministerial Declaration compared to what could reasonably have been expected from Member States acting at national and/or regional levels?
	10	How can the role of the Ministerial Declaration be enhanced/ scaled up post-2020? In particular to reinforce the so called ‘green economy package’ made of three components: the depollution component (supported by the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean); the pollution prevention (supported by SwitchMed and the UfM labelled MedRESCP project), and the newly established CC component?
	11	What are the main lessons emerging from the Ministerial Declaration in the past that can be built on for the future? What would be the added value of a future joint initiative, such as a ‘H2030 Initiative’?

The guiding questions included in the evaluation matrix further served to develop semi-structured interview guidelines for the implementation of the data collection process with key stakeholders.⁸

3.3. Data collection

The findings included in this report are based on information collected from desk review and primary data collection through semi-structured interviews.

In total, more than 60 documents⁹ were reviewed guided by the questions included in the evaluation matrix. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in person, via telephone and Skype with UfM Secretariat personnel, NFP on ENV and CC, the UfM Jordanian and EU Co-Presidencies, and key partners of the UfM Environment and Climate Change agendas. A list of contacts and priority stakeholders to consult was provided by the UfM Secretariat. The evaluation team initially contacted the priority stakeholders (20 stakeholders) and was able to organize interviews with 65% of them. After the priority stakeholders, the evaluation team initiated a second round of contacts with the remaining stakeholders. In total during the data collection process, 162 people were contacted through email to ask for interviews.

Of all people contacted, 55 internal and external stakeholders participated in the evaluation, representing 37 different countries or organisations.¹⁰ From these, 47.3% of the participants were from regional and international partner organizations, 36.4% were national focal points, and 16.3% were from the EU and Jordan Co-Presidencies and the UfM Secretariat.

Table 3: Number of semi-structured interviews conducted

	Number of represented Organisations/Countries	Number of interviewees
UfM Member countries	12	20
Regional and International Stakeholders	20	26
UfM Co-presidencies and UfM Secretariat	3	9
Total	37	55

⁸ Interview guidelines are included in the annex of this report.

⁹ A list with all documents reviewed can be found in the annex of this report.

¹⁰ For more detail regarding the interviews conducted, please see the annex of this report.

In total, 13 regional partner organizations and 8 international partner organizations have participated in the evaluation. Regarding the 43 UfM Member States, 30% of them have participated through their NFP. From the European Union member states, seven countries have participated, and from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean member states six countries. Overall, 20 NFP were interviewed and among these, 11 were ENV focal points (55%) and nine were CC focal points (45%).

3.4. Data processing and analysis

All data gathered during the desk review of relevant documents and semi-structured interviews were processed into standardised formats. This allowed for data aggregation and facilitated a more in-depth analysis.

- All relevant documents have been listed and categorised according to topics and level of importance.
- Semi-structured interviews have been introduced into a data processing tool made-to-measure for this evaluation.

Furthermore, the consultants created a tool based on the evaluation matrix that enabled them to assign the data collected to each evaluation question in order to obtain a better overview of the data available and to identify possible gaps or a need for further research and data collection. Moreover, quantitative and qualitative information was distributed according to different levels of analysis and by stakeholder type (e.g. UfM Co-presidencies, CC National Focal Points, ENV National Focal Points, regional partner organisations, etc.) in order to allow for cross-checking and data triangulation.

As a next step, for each evaluation question, the corresponding data was analysed in depth, taking into account evaluation criteria and questions as defined in the evaluation matrix. Data analysis included the analysis of the primary data that was compared against the secondary data obtained through the desk review.

Triangulation techniques ensured the reliability of information whilst increasing the validity of findings and conclusions. In this regard, the evaluation team checked whether given information was confirmed across data sources and collection methods used. In addition, weekly meetings of the evaluation team members ensured consistency and coherence of data analysis regarding the different evaluation criteria and thematic areas, and facilitated the joint elaboration of the draft conclusions and recommendations. After data triangulation and synthesis, a first draft report was circulated through UfMS team and presented to the UfM WG on ENV and CC in November 2018 for stakeholder comments and feedback. Received comments are incorporated into this final report.

4. Findings

4.1. Relevance

Key questions:

- ❖ *To what extent have the Ministerial Declaration key priorities been and are still relevant in the Mediterranean for the different thematic areas?*
- ❖ *What have been the most relevant components and actions of each thematic area, and have any relevant components and actions been missing?*
- ❖ *How relevant are the priority topics for the next Ministerial Declaration indicated by the countries at the January Task Force on ENV? (Circular economy, Plastics/marine litter, Desertification/drought/land rehabilitation, ecosystems, etc.)*

Overall

Overall, all of the consulted stakeholders consider that the issues covered by the MD are highly relevant to the Mediterranean region, although some were not fully aware about the exact content of the MD. While most of the issues were not new to the region, the nature of a high level declaration such as the MD gives significant political weight to the issues covered. Particularly, the prioritization of the three key thematic areas - De-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, Sustainable Consumption and Production, and Climate Change – gives very high relevance to a set of issues which are key for the sustainable development of the region. Stakeholders also confirmed the high relevance of the “other environmental issues” covered by the MD – coastal and marine biodiversity, integrated maritime policy (IMP), marine spatial planning (MSP), integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), and sustainable urban development – some of which did spin off into other UfM Ministerial Declarations.

Overall, the stakeholders consulted agree that the future MD should give continuation to the issues included in the MD of 2014. Specifically, the issues discussed at the most recent UfM Task Force on Environment meeting are considered relevant for the region, although there are different views on whether the MD should cover a very broad set of issues, or rather focus on a few selected main priorities. There is wide consensus that the future MD should address the transition towards a circular economy, SCP, pollution reduction and prevention and climate change in a more integrated manner, including addressing sea-land-air interactions.

All stakeholders acknowledge the relevance of the MD as a political declaration, though different perceptions exist with regards to the modalities of its implementation.

On H2020

The Horizon 2020 Initiative (H2020) addresses the sources of pollution that account for approximately 80% of the overall pollution of the Mediterranean Sea: municipal waste, urban wastewater and industrial pollution. According to all consulted sources, the relevance of the Horizon 2020 Initiative has been and remains very high for the Mediterranean region. Particularly relevant has been the broadening of the thematic scope of the H2020 Initiative in Phase 2 to more strongly focus on (i) pollution prevention, (ii) acknowledging the crucial role of green economy principles and SCP for pollution control and prevention, and (iii) to address emerging issues such as marine litter and hazardous waste. This broadened scope has also been reflected in the H2020 Initiative name affix “for a Cleaner Mediterranean” in Phase 2, compared to “for the De-Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea” in Phase 1. This also implied that the scope of the H2020 Initiative encompasses environmental pollution in a wider sense, beyond strictly the major sources of marine pollution.

The MD was key in promoting this broadened scope, and thus for ensuring the enhanced and continued relevance of the H2020 Initiative, building on the Mid-term Review and the Horizon 2020 Mediterranean report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and UNEP/MAP in 2014. No particular thematic aspects seem to have been missing in the design of the Horizon 2020 Initiative and its work programme. The upcoming Horizon 2020

Mediterranean report – currently under production by EEA and UNEP/MAP – is expected to provide further empirical evidence for the continued relevance of the issues addressed.

All components of the H2020 Initiative – Capacity Building, Review & Monitoring, Investment Preparation and Research – are considered highly relevant by stakeholders. They particularly highlight the relevance of the two components on Capacity Building (supported by the SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism Project) and on Review & Monitoring (supported by the SEIS II Project). The fact that the investment component (supported by the MeHSIP II Project) is less prominently highlighted by stakeholders may be due to the respective results rather than the relevance of the interventions themselves (see section on Effectiveness); and the fact that the Phase II research component was re-structured into a cross-cutting component without a dedicated support project reduced its impact.

On Sustainable Consumption and Production

SCP is perceived as a key component of the MD and there is consensus on the fact that shifting towards SCP patterns is essential to reduce pollution and waste, as well as to increase resource and energy efficiency and hence the prevention of climate change impacts. Therefore, all components of the two flagships programmes SwitchMed and Mediterranean RESCP with their wide coverage of topics are considered highly relevant in order to ensure the shift towards SCP. Highlighted projects and programmes include the policy component, with the adoption of the Mediterranean Regional Plan on SCP, and the work done to build increased awareness on SCP through demonstration projects, the promotion of green entrepreneurship or the transfer of technology. Enabling access to finance for the private sector and green entrepreneurs is considered a priority topic to reinforce the successful shift towards SCP patterns in the future.

On Climate Change

Overall, having climate change as a topic in the MD has mostly been relevant to establish the UfM CCEG and work programme, incorporating both, mitigation and adaptation objectives.

Ministers, with the support of the UfM Secretariat, have responded well to the mandate from the MD.

The UfM CCEG has been responsive to developing the first work programme (i.e.: Sharing of experiences on national climate change measures, cooperation among financial institution, reaching science-based consensus on climate impacts, addressing regional concerns on international climate fora). Consulted stakeholders have shown a high level of satisfaction with the identified key areas of work and they appreciate the CCEG's groundwork that is considered very relevant and is in line with the mandate given in the MD to enhance regional cooperation on climate action.

Upon the climate agenda set in the Paris Agreement, the UfM further formalized the mandate received through the MD to support countries in the preparation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The relevance of the UfM CCEG work program to the region is strongly supported both by documentary evidence and the feedback received in interviews. In this context, the cooperation with MedECC network (Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change) which will result in an assessment report of the climate related impacts in the Mediterranean as well as the work towards enhanced climate finance have been highlighted.

Box: Ministerial Declaration related to MedECC¹¹

The initiative Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) has evolved as a direct request of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. MedECC's aim is to assess the vulnerability of the region regarding climate change. To this end, it gathers around 400 scientists from all over the Mediterranean region and is currently preparing a scientific report to assess the impacts of environmental change in the region. The latest joint effort of the UfM Secretariat together with MedECC and other partners

¹¹ Information provided by UfMS

resulted in the organization of a high-level (with the presence of the Secretary General of UNWMO and the Secretary of IPCC) side event during the COP24 in Katowice, Poland, conceived as a science-policy interface on risks of climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean region. The objective was to gather scientists and other stakeholders to discuss the main vulnerabilities of the Mediterranean region and its resilience to change. Also, the MedECC booklet on climate and environmental change issues for the Mediterranean region was presented and distributed. The publication of the first MedECC assessment report is planned for 2020.

4.2. Effectiveness

Key questions:

- ❖ *To what extent have the objectives of the different thematic areas been achieved?*
- ❖ *To what extent were the initiatives and operational modalities of the different thematic areas instrumental in contributing towards the achievement of priorities set in the Ministerial Declaration?*
- ❖ *To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration resulted in the mobilization of additional funding for the priority areas of action?*

Overall

The MD does not formulate an overall goal, objectives and specific targets, and is non-binding in nature with a voluntary reporting mechanism. Therefore, no aggregate assessment of the MD's overall achievement of results as compared to established targets is possible. The overall mechanism for following up on the implementation of the MD is the establishment of the UfM WG on ENV and CC, the Task Force on Environment and the UfM CCEG. In terms of implementation, the three key thematic priorities are addressed in different ways:

- Municipal waste, industrial pollution, waste water as well as marine litter and hazardous waste are addressed through the H2020 flagship initiative with direct involvement of UfM and its partners and directly supported through three EU funded projects, complemented by other activities.
- Resource Efficiency and SCP are addressed mainly through programmes implemented by partners; and
- CC is addressed through establishing the UfM structures and programmatic orientation, i.e. setting up the UfM CCEG, the preparation and approval of its work programme (2017-2022), and starting with the implementation of activities.

Other environmental issues included in the MD have not been addressed through dedicated work plans or specific implementation structures, but in several other ways:

- In the area of marine and coastal biodiversity, the issue of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) was mainstreamed in programme and project activities such as the UfM-labelled Project "Plastic Busters MPAs".
- Issues of Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) became part of a Ministerial Declaration in itself, namely the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy of 2015.
- The issue of sustainable urban development/eco-cities was addressed by a different Ministerial Declaration, namely the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development/ UfM Urban Agenda of 2017.

While the approach based on different structures and levels for implementation combined with the voluntary character of reporting on the implementation has enabled an open and cooperative process, it also represents a significant challenge in order to present an assessment of the MD's overall achievement of results.

With regards to resource mobilization, the evaluators did not have access to any documents that give aggregated information about the amount of resources mobilized over the past four years under the MD. It is considered unclear or below expectations by a significant number of stakeholders, especially considering the pressing nature of the issues addressed by the MD. Although the efforts undertaken by the UfM Secretariat to mobilize resources

are acknowledged by stakeholders and significant achievements have been reported from different partners, there is a general perception that the MD has not yet reached its full potential for channelling international funds and mobilizing the resources needed for tackling the immense challenges of the region.

On the other hand, resource mobilization implies continuous engagement, networking and advocacy – often “behind the scenes” – the largest part of these efforts is not being monitored as such and remains mostly invisible – hence stakeholders might not perceive it to be directly linked to activities under the framework of the MD, which may partly explain the above mentioned perception.

Box: UfM labelled project: Plastic Busters

The Mediterranean basin with its high level of biodiversity is characterized as one of the areas most affected by marine litter globally. The Plastic Busters project aims at addressing emerging gaps in defining the impact of marine litter on Mediterranean biodiversity. The project was given the UfM label by the 43 member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016; and in 2018 it obtained financial support from the EU-funded Interreg Med Programme, with 5 million EUR for the Plastic Busters MPAs Project, devoted to preserving biodiversity from marine litter in Mediterranean MPAs. The project directly supports the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, linking and contributing also to the global Honolulu Strategy framework for prevention and management of Marine Debris.

In line with the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, the overall goal of the project is to effectively tackle the issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean. The labelling by the UfM countries is the recognition of the urgency to join forces towards a shared and coordinated regional approach to provide regional actions and solutions to this common problem.

As of 2019, another “Plastic Busters” project under the name “COMMON” has received funding from the ENI CBC, to tackle in the Southern Mediterranean countries.¹²

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/project/plastic-busters-for-a-mediterranean-free-from-litter/>

On H2020

Currently, the consolidation of the results of the H2020 Initiative has just started and is ongoing. Hence, there is no recent comprehensive report on the implementation progress and the aggregate results. The information included in the *Review of the Progress in the Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change* (UfM, 2018) and the *Evaluation of the EU support provided at regional and bilateral level in the field of environment in the Neighbourhood South countries (2010-2017)* (DAI, 2018) does not provide a recent account.¹³

Publicly available sources and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the H2020 Initiative that were consulted suggest that the implementation is mostly on track across the three components, and that the objectives of the work programme can be achieved by the end of the respective project period. Key selected (anticipated) results include:

- The revision of NAPs as a policy tool for addressing land-based pollution of the Mediterranean was finalised by countries in 2015, with strong support from H2020 and led by UNEP/MAP MED POL Programme,
- Capacities for pollution reductions and prevention were strengthened at country level, with at least 2400 trainees and 160 capacity building events (regional and national) under SWIM-H2020 SM and in partnership with SWITCH-Med by January 2018
- Most countries of the region have a SCP National Action Plan or similar policy document in place

¹² Information provided by the UfMS.

¹³ Although the UfM Review document was updated in January 2018, the H2020 implementation progress dates back to late 2016/early 2017. In the EU Evaluation Report (DAI, 2018), conclusive findings are only presented for finalized or nearly finalized projects at the time of the evaluation, i.e. those supporting H2020 Phase 1 and predating the Ministerial Declaration.

- The Mediterranean Status Report is under development (to be published in 2019), including a set of common indicators on waste, on water and on industrial emissions, with reporting from countries.
- MeHSIP's project pipeline was developed for investments in six countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Morocco and Tunisia (an aggregate sum of prepared investment value is currently not available).

According to the report *Update Priority Investment Projects for Protecting The Mediterranean Sea from Pollution* (UfM, 2013)¹⁴, “significant achievements” have been made since 2006, with “nearly half of the 127 pollution Hot Spots defined by UNEP/MAP in 2003 considered ‘cleaned’ thanks to those investment projects which are operational or under construction.” A similar assessment is not yet available for the period since 2014. In this respect, the upcoming Mediterranean Status Report by EEA and UNEP/MAP is expected to provide a comprehensive picture.

While the direct results of the different H2020 components and supporting projects under the H2020 Road Map and Action Plan can be monitored and measured, the expected impacts of the H2020 Initiative on the state of the marine environment will only be measurable in the long term. In that regard, it can be affirmed that despite the progress made in implementing the H2020 Initiative's work programme, there are no indications yet whether the Mediterranean Sea will actually be cleaner by 2020. Strengthening monitoring capacities is part of the H2020 Initiative, and the results are expected to provide a more accurate picture on the pollution levels of the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁵

Regarding the operational aspects, the implementation of the Horizon 2020 Initiative mainly through a set of three EU-funded projects is generally considered an effective modality for implementation. However, there is the constraint that the scope of the EU funded projects is limited to the Southern Mediterranean countries as far as national activities are concerned –Western Balkan countries and Turkey were included in regional events – and that the timeframes for project implementation were not all continuous between Phase 1 and 2 of H2020 (causing some delay in the beginning of Phase 2 implementation), and could not be fully synchronized across the three H2020 components. A focus on specific country interests, an ‘Expert Facility’ tool and the possibility for peer-to-peer exchange under the Capacity Building component are highlighted in the EU Evaluation Report as particularly effective modalities for implementation.

The fact that even partner countries that are not parties to the Barcelona Convention have developed National Action Plans and will start their revision process demonstrated the effectiveness of the Horizon 2020 Initiative as an inclusive initiative. On the other hand, a concern regarding the operational modalities is the rather low involvement of EU countries in the initiative's projects, which according to the UfM Review Report “hampered the regional dimension of the discussions, its integration and opportunities for exchange of experiences” (UfM, 2018).

The joint efforts under the Ministerial Declaration and particularly the H2020 Initiative's de-pollution and investment work has also had a leverage effect for attracting further programme funding in the region, such as a new GEF financed MedProgramme, implemented by UNEP/MAP, UNESCO, WWF and IUCN, among others.¹⁶

Box: UfM labelled project ‘Integrated Programme for Protection of the Lake Bizerte against Pollution’

With a view to contributing to the sustainable protection of the Mediterranean Sea, the ‘*Integrated Programme for Protection of the Lake Bizerte against Pollution*’ allows to implement sustainable methods of protection and prevention of all sources of pollution “hot spots” that could affect the environmental quality of marine and coastal ecosystems and the quality of life in the region of Bizerte in the North of Tunisia. Connected to the Mediterranean Sea it is also closely situated to natural reserves on land (Ichkeul Park) and in the sea (marine

¹⁴ UfM (2013). Update Priority Investments Projects for Protecting the Mediterranean Sea from Pollution. Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/med/pdf/horizon2020/ufm-priority-investment-portfolio-status_en.pdf

¹⁶ Information provided by UfMS.

protected areas of Cap Blanc and Cap Serrat) and has been widely accepted for over a decade to be a hotspot of marine pollution of regional impact and has been placed at the top of the depollution priorities of the Tunisian government and within the framework of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. Hence, the project is a direct contribution to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change.

With a total budget of over 90 million EUR over a 5-year period (starting in 2014), the project, which is promoted and commissioned by the Ministry of Equipment and Environment of Tunisia, aims to eliminate the main sources of all kinds of pollution which are contaminating the lake or the bordering populations in order to guarantee a healthy environmental state, to secure a level of quality of life and sustainable urban and economic activities such as agriculture, industry, tourism, aquaculture or fisheries.

<https://ufmsecretariat.org/two-new-regional-projects-labeled-by-ufm-member-countries/>

On Sustainable Consumption and Production

The analysis of the implementation progress and the overall results of the SwitchMed Initiative and Med ReSCP has been based on SwitchMed annual reports (up to April 2018), the Review of the Progress in the Implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change (UfM, 2018) and the Evaluation of the EU support provided at regional and bilateral level in the field of environment in the Neighbourhood South countries (2010-2017) (DAI, 2018), complemented with stakeholder interviews and publicly available information.

Based on this information, the implementation of the key thematic priority related to SCP is considered to be successful with regards to the achievement of the defined objectives. Most aspects included in the MD have been translated into concrete implementation with activities and programmes covering a broad range of topics in the whole Mediterranean region, including Western Balkan countries - Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkey.

At policy level, main achievements include:

- The adoption of the *Mediterranean Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production* in February 2016 by the CoP 19th of the Barcelona Convention (SwitchMed Policy component- UNEP/MAP SCP/RAC);
- The development of eight SCP NAPs¹⁷ in the MENA region (SwitchMed National Policy component - UNEP DTIE), and
- The drafting of a set of policy instruments for mainstreaming RESCP into the national business environment along with a scaling up strategy to sustain MED TEST II (SwitchMed Demo component MED TEST II – UNIDO).

A number of programmes and initiatives have also been implemented to support green economy and the required innovations, technology transfer and new sustainable business models in a broad range of areas:

- *Technology transfer*: SwitchMed programme MED TEST II - Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST) (SwitchMed Demo component - UNIDO) played an important role in i) building the capacity of national service providers to offer qualified RESCP services to industries (682 professionals from the local industries and 44 local service providers have received MED TEST II training in eight countries¹⁸); and ii) stimulating the industry market-based demand for resource efficiency services through 125 demonstration projects.
- *Identification of innovative projects* to incentivise and inspire new entrepreneurs (SwitchMed Demo): 7 pilot projects were selected with 5 demonstrating concrete results with the support of SwitchMed.
- *Promotion of green entrepreneurship* in the MENA region, through the SwitchMed Green Entrepreneurship Programme (SwitchMed Demo component, implemented by UNEP/MAP

¹⁷ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

¹⁸ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

SCP/RAC): 1162 green entrepreneurs were trained, among which 166 received additional coaching and 29 were selected for an incubation programme.

- *Promotion of the development of green industries and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans and Turkey* through technical assistance and pilot projects (Component 2 - MED RESCP, implemented jointly by SCP/RAC, UNIDO and UfMS) in partnership with the EBRD through the Austrian DRIVE¹⁹ Fund (EUR 5 Million).
- *Fostering networking among practitioners*: creation of the Switchers (www.theswitchers.eu), a platform for green entrepreneurs in the region and organization of two regional events (SwitchMed Connect 2015, 2016 and one planned for November 2018 (SwitchMed Network facility).
- *Engaging investment networks and creating platforms* with local financiers for enhancing access to finance for Green Entrepreneurs (GEs) in the Mediterranean and developing a Green Impact Investing Network (GIIN) (MED RESCP - SCPRAC & FEBEA)
- *Capacity-building activities based on SCP and pollution prevention and control* to increase the knowledge of representatives from the public sector, business and civil society across the Mediterranean region (workshops on green finance, sustainable olive oil, sustainable industrial areas, etc.) (SCPRAC as a member of H2020 SWIM)

Other environmental issues such as integrated maritime policies, marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management have been integrated in and are covered by the ministerial declaration on Blue Economy (November 2015).

Lastly, with regards to the impact of the implementation of the MD, it is not possible to determine whether it has contributed to shifting towards SCP patterns as no initial baseline and monitoring framework was set in order to measure progress. The roadmap for implementation of the Regional Action Plan on SCP in the Mediterranean²⁰ adopted by the COP of the Barcelona Convention in 2016 provides a valuable set of indicators to monitor progress for four key sectors²¹. Yet, it is limited to the countries of the Barcelona Convention and runs until 2021.

On Climate Change

The UfM CCEG's work programme for 2017 – 2022 has been prepared in respect of the MD and is aligned with the mandate of the MD. The operational modality is also aligned with the mandate as well as with the successive Ministers decision affecting the CCEG operation. The CCEG has responded to members' decisions as follows:

- Following the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the CCEG has integrated topics such as NDCs, research, development and demonstration of endogenous capacities in its work programme.
- To enhance cooperation and collaboration with financial institutions and identify additional financial resources to support a regional Mediterranean climate agenda, a Climate Finance study has been prepared. The study has been published in November 2017 and first presented during COP23. The updated study has been presented at COP 24.²²
- To promote exchange of information and best practices on national climate measures related to mitigation and adaptation, UfM has launched two separate studies. The first sectors covered under these studies are agriculture and tourism.²³
- Given the focus of the work programme on the assessment of climate-related environmental changes of the Mediterranean basin, there is a need for enhanced understanding how the macro-ecosystems of the region will react to climate change. Fostering the participation of the environment and climate change representatives in UfM as well as the MedECC project contribute to this technical understanding.
- All of the activities described in the work programme for 2017-2022 have been launched.

¹⁹ DRIVE: Delivering Resource Efficiency Investments in the Western Balkans and Turkey

²⁰ <https://www.switchmed.eu/en/documents/policy/scp.pdf>

²¹ SCP Action Plan sectors: 1) food, fisheries & aquaculture, 2) good manufacturing, 3) tourism, 4) housing & construction.

²² Information provided by UfMS

²³ Sectors considered under this activity are: Energy, Transport, Buildings, Industrial activities, Tourism, Agriculture and Fisheries, Coastal and blue economy, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry, Waste, and Water.

- The work programme incorporates both, mitigation and adaptation objectives. Mitigation is mostly tackled in cooperation with Energy, Transport, Urban Development, while Adaptation is mostly tackled jointly with the ENV group and the Water Task Force.²⁴

The prioritization of activities provided by the UfM CCEG was consistent with its mandate as defined in the MD: efforts were initially concentrated in operationalization, and these functions now support the deployment of technical and networking activities.

The UfM CCEG provided appropriate guidance on the implementation of its mandate and on strategic matters. The involvement of UfM regional dialogue platforms proved to be worthwhile for further investigating issues such as working towards enhanced climate finance and supporting the emergence of regional actions.

The partnership between the UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee - RCFC (new name for Regional Finance Cooperation Committee for Climate Action (RFCCCA)) and the UfM CCEG is deemed to be effective in delivering the mandate from the MD. A UfM climate finance study has been published and is currently being deepened. Also, the design of a regional instrument addressing key climate challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean region is being explored.

4.3. Efficiency

Key questions:

- ❖ To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration been instrumental in increasing synergies between UfM and other relevant regional organisations and initiatives, and other key stakeholders?
- ❖ To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration been instrumental in enhancing the uptake of measures at both regional and national level?

Overall

The MD provided an overall useful framework for cooperation in the Mediterranean region contributing to clarifying the delineation and the identification of complementarities of roles of the different organizations. Synergies have increased generally, but there are still some open questions and doubts regarding the roles of partners, and a better articulation among programmes and initiatives. It is also evident that while regional cooperation has been strengthened over the past years and key thematic priorities and other environmental issues are relevant, the uptake of measures and actions on the country level often takes considerable time.

The proper and efficient functioning of the focal point structure, especially with regards to the high number of focal points related to different partners, initiatives and thematic areas (e.g. UfM, UNEP/MAP, SCPRAC, H2020 focal points), remains a major challenge for the implementation and follow up of initiatives under the MD.

Inter-sectoral coordination at country level needs to be strengthened in some countries in order to engage a wider range of relevant stakeholders. Besides the focal point structure, synergies at the ministerial level could be enhanced, with the UfM Ministerial Forum on Environment and Climate Change and the Barcelona Convention/UNEP/MAP System both involving the Ministries of Environment.

Some stakeholders also mention the lack of a clear communication strategy on the MD and its implementation; which would be needed to raise awareness and engagement of a wider set of stakeholders on the national and regional level.

On H2020

The design of the Horizon 2020 Initiative under the MD, acting as a framework for the engagement of a wide spectrum of relevant regional and international organizations with a stake in the environmental quality of the

²⁴ Information provided by UfMS

Mediterranean Sea has been instrumental in enhancing synergies among those organizations. In that way, the H2020 Initiative has contributed significantly to clarifying the delineation and the identification of complementarities of roles of the different organizations in the Mediterranean, particularly the UfM, UNEP/MAP, the European Environment Agency (EEA), the European Investment Bank (EIB) as part of the H2020 Steering Group, and with other implementing partners and stakeholders. Based on the MD, the H2020 Steering Group chaired by the UfM co-presidencies had been mandated to develop the Work Programme 2015-2020 for the H2020 Initiative. Below the H2020 Steering Group, the work of the three main components is coordinated by specific groups:

- Pollution Reduction and Prevention Investments (PRPI) Group, chaired by the UfM Secretariat and the European Investment Bank (EIB);
- Capacity Building (CB) Group chaired by the UfM co-presidency (Jordan and the EU represented by the European Commission) and UN Environment Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP); and
- Review and Monitoring (RM) Group, chaired by the EEA and UNEP/MAP.

Yet, the UfM Review Report states that while during Phase 1 of H2020, coordination among the components and implementing organizations was ensured by the ENPI Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme (H2020 CB/MEP), no similar arrangement had initially been put in place for Phase 2. In order to tackle this gap, a new coordination mechanism was financed by the EC.

The UfM Review Report also states that for the Monitoring and Review component “in order to maximize coordination and synergies with the Barcelona Convention, the reference Focal Points in countries are now the UN Environment MAP-MED POL and the SEIS Focal Points” (UfM, 2018). However, the analysis suggests that the potential synergies in the focal point structure for the H2020 Initiative and the Barcelona Convention/UNEP/MAP System have not fully been exploited and should be enhanced, e.g. by further aligning focal point structures, and by organizing back-to-back meetings.

Also, some stakeholders mention a lack of communication efforts on the activities and results of the Horizon 2020 Initiative as a flagship initiative. This has resulted in limited awareness and knowledge of those stakeholders that are not directly involved in the initiative.

On Sustainable Consumption and Production

The MD has played an important role in setting the stage for increasing synergies among actors of SCP in the region and delineating roles and responsibilities. It specifically highlights its strong support to the complementary efforts of the European Union and of the UfM Secretariat on SCP with a specific focus on the SwitchMed programme and the Mediterranean RESCP and a specific mention to the Barcelona Convention. This effort has been materialized through the renewal of the MoU between the UFM and UNEP MAP.

The complementarity was particularly noticeable in the Western Balkans and Turkey where the labelled programme Med RESCP, implemented in partnership by EBRD, UNIDO and SCP/RAC (Austrian DRIVE²⁵ Fund) allowed the countries to benefit from a technical support they would not have received otherwise.

Although synergies have increased at implementation level, efforts remain to be done in order to harmonize the focal points of different partners and initiatives working on SCP (UfM, UNEP MAP, SCP/RAC focal points) in order to avoid gaps, overlaps, and promote a more efficient repartition of their time.

Box: UfM labelled project “Mediterranean RESCP post Rio+20”

The *Mediterranean RESCP post Rio+20* (MED RESCP) project overall objective is to support the adoption of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and Resource Efficiency (RE) models in the Mediterranean Region. It adopted a two-pronged approach aiming at providing access to financing for companies adopting Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) / Resource Efficiency (RE) models in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia while stimulating the development of green industries and

²⁵ DRIVE: Delivering Resource Efficiency Investments in the Western Balkans and Turkey

entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans and Turkey through the implementation of technical assistance and pilot projects.

Some highlights of the project so far include the funding of specific actions on plastic in Western Balkans, the launch of value chain projects for West Med countries matchmaking other Italian funds channelled to UNEP/MAP, or technical assistance at regional level building on projects inputs and results funded by SIDA²⁶.

With a total budget of 8.9 million EUR over a 4-year period (starting in 2015), this UfM labelled project, supported by the DRIVE fund (5 millions facilitated by the UfMS, Austria funded and implemented by EBRD²⁷) and jointly implemented by UNIDO, UNEP/ MAP – SCP/RAC and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an illustration of how, under the umbrella of the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, efforts have been made to foster collaborations and create synergies among organisations and initiatives for an increased and extended impact in the Mediterranean, especially in the Western Balkans.

On Climate Change

The UfM CCEG has continued to enhance its collaboration with other UfM platforms such as the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency platform through meetings and reports, but during the assessment, consulted stakeholders indicated collaboration could be further strengthened through better coordination and harmonization.

Until 2016, the UfM CCEG has focused on its operationalization while beginning exchanges between experts, this latter action helping the former action. According to the information collected through the interviews, interactions among UfM member countries and the engagement of local stakeholders have been limited. It has been mentioned that the private sector should also be more engaged.

To enhance cooperation and collaboration with the operating entities of climate finance, the UfM RCFC includes representatives of entities such as the European Investment Bank, EBRD, World Bank and AFD. Such collaboration is providing significant information on how climate finance can be channelled in a more efficient way to support a regional Mediterranean climate agenda and national priorities.

In executing its mandate in the field of climate action, the UfM Secretariat participated at COP22 in Marrakech, in COP23 in Bonn and in COP 24 in Katowice organizing side events and launching regional initiatives to support the successful achievement of the Paris Agreement targets in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

4.4. Coherence

Key questions:

- ❖ How coherent, complementary and coordinated are the priorities and initiatives of the different thematic areas from the Ministerial Declaration? How coherent are they with other regional and international policies and initiatives?

Overall

As regards to coherence among the thematic areas it is observed that while listing the key thematic priorities of Pollution Reduction and Prevention, SCP, CC and other environmental issues, the text of the Ministerial Declaration itself does not make the inherit linkages across those thematic areas very explicit. However, strong

²⁶ Information provided by UfMS

²⁷ Information provided by UfMS

synergies and complementarities exist at operational level between the H2020 Initiative and SCP initiatives (especially SwitchMed).

The links and complementarities have been developed with the CC agenda notably thanks to the UfM CCEG Work Program (2017-2022), notably:

- On the scientific dimension: the Activity “Science-based consensus on climate impacts” include other environmental changes in the work being implemented by the MedECC network
- On the financial dimension: the Climate finance studies (prepared in respect of the Paris Agreement) include a large part of the “green finance”.

The UfM now being an observer to all three Rio Conventions – on Biodiversity (CBD), on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and on Desertification (UNCCD) can be considered as an opportunity for further strengthening crucial thematic linkages. In that respect, studies and approaches highlighting links between NDCs and SDGs are very relevant.

Regarding coherence with other key initiatives, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UfM and UNEP/MAP exists, under which a variety of joint activities have been agreed and are being implemented. Yet, there is still the need for a more precise delineation of roles, and improved coordination between UfM and UNEP/MAP to enhance synergies and complementarity.

Further, coherence with the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) as a cross-sectoral strategy may still be further strengthened, and the respective roles of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) and the UfM clarified and delineated. The UfM contributed to the six discussion groups set up by UNEP/MAP to revise the MSSD in 2015, and has become a member of the MCSDD. The MSSD was developed after the MD and intends to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional, sub regional and national levels (however with a 2025 time horizon). The MSSD names the UfM programmes among the “essential tools” for implementing the MSSD, and highlights the high level commitment received through the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, and the significance of the Horizon 2020 Initiative.

Internally the MD is coherent with other Ministerial Declarations of the UfM. The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy, the Ministerial Declaration of UfM Water Ministers on the UfM Water Agenda, Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy and the Second Ministerial Conference of the UfM on Sustainable Urban Development Declaration all refer to the MD on Environment and Climate Change.

The Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy even emerged from the MD on Environment and Climate Change, as the Ministerial Meeting in 2014 identified Marine Litter as an emerging priority and from a preventive point of view, strong commitments to Sustainable Consumption and Production are pivotal to address the problem. For further information on the linkages between the different MDs, see [Annex E](#).

Not least, there is need for stronger integration of the identified priority issues especially beyond the environment and CC spheres, and stakeholders agree that the priority issues can only be effectively addressed when considered in the broader sustainable development agenda, particularly economic development policies, and private sector strategies.

On H2020

By design, the H2020 Initiative “builds on existing institutions, initiatives and results, and filling gaps where it can add value”²⁸ (ENI SEIS II, 2016). Thus, as a joint initiative with the participation of all key international and regional organizations, the H2020 Initiative has contributed to enhanced coherence, complementarity and coordination in the Mediterranean region on pollution control and prevention. Stakeholders confirm that the H2020 initiative has played an important role in clarifying roles and responsibilities among the international and regional organizations in the region that work to reduce and prevent marine pollution.

²⁸ ENI SEIS II (2016). H2020: A Cleaner Mediterranean by 2020. Retrieved from: <https://eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/south/related-initiatives/h2020-initiative>

The H2020 Initiative is in line with the Barcelona Convention as the major regional agreement on marine pollution, and the H2020 component on Review & Monitoring is directly linked to National Action Plans. The UNEP/MAP Mediterranean Quality Report of 2017 does refer to the upcoming assessment report under the Horizon 2020 R&M component, albeit very briefly and without any elaboration – suggesting that there is further room for strengthening synergies and coherence, and making the linkages more explicit.

The H2020 Capacity Building component is highly complementary to the work of UNEP/MAP, and coherent and complementary to water sector priorities, as activities are implemented under the same project (H2020-SWIM support mechanism).

The H2020 Initiative, particularly through the Capacity Building component provided significant support to the development and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), which was endorsed through the MD. In Phase 1 of H2020, consultations for strategy development were organised. In Phase 2 of H2020, the MSESD Action Plan co-organised by the Government of Cyprus and the EU-funded SWIM-H2020 project was adopted by the Conference of Ministers of Education (December 2016). The 1st meeting of the UfM WG on ENV and CC (March 2017) agreed to “Stress the importance of working to increase awareness and education on environmental and Climate Change issues, including by supporting the implementation of the Action Plan of the MSESD” (UfM, 2017) and the SWIM-H2020 project supported capacity building activities related to the promotion of the Action Plan in 2017.²⁹

On Sustainable Consumption and Production

The coherence of the SCP component of the MD with the international agenda has been ensured through the endorsement of the 10 Years Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. As the MD is previous to the SDG framework, no mention was made to SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The coherence and complementarity with the Barcelona Convention is also clearly emphasized through the specific reference to the UNEP/MAP Regional Action Plan on SCP in the Mediterranean. While clear linkages have been made with H2020 the linkage to climate change, although mentioned in the foreword, is still a remaining aspect to develop.

On Climate Change

Although the MD was signed in 2014, before the Paris Agreement was reached, the documentary evidence suggests a high degree of coherence of the MD’s thematic areas with the international climate agenda, including the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this regard, the UfM Secretariat became an observer of the UNFCCC in November 2016.

In addition, many of the activities undertaken under the UfM CCEG work programme are explicitly linked to achieving various Sustainable Development Goals and the Barcelona Convention.

Overall, in terms of coherence with other policies, interviewees indicate their satisfaction with the current MD. A possible future MD will have to explicitly include the Paris Agreement and SDGs. Also, the concept of Climate Action in a possible future MD needs to be aligned to the concept from the UNFCCC global level to keep its coherence.

Box: Ministerial Declaration related to the EU-funded ClimaSouth project

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) through its Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change serves as an institutional platform for Mediterranean climate cooperation and relations. In line with the objectives of the MD, the ClimaSouth project promoted dialogue with nine Southern and Eastern Mediterranean states (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) on climate change adaptation and mitigation fostered by financial and technical assistance. The EU-funded ClimaSouth project has been initiated shortly before the MD. However, the efforts under the ClimaSouth project directly contributed to the MD’s objectives in terms of climate action and consequently the impact of the MD. In this context, the UfM Secretariat in collaboration with the ClimaSouth project worked on various projects related among others to

²⁹ https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/25459/mssd_objective6_MSESD.PDF?sequence=1&isAllowed=y%22

issues such as climate finance and reinforcement of regional cooperation on climate change.

4.5. Added Value

Key questions:

- ❖ What has been the additional value resulting from the UfM Ministerial Declaration compared to what could reasonably have been expected from Member States acting at national and/or regional levels?

Overall

As a high level political declaration, the MD has been providing an overall framework for dialogue and joint action among Euro-Mediterranean partners as a major added value. The unique feature of the MD is that it has brought together all Mediterranean and European countries, the EU, and many relevant organizations that work in the region to define joint priorities related to environment and climate change.

The added value of the MD is partly intangible and difficult to measure in absolute terms. This includes the high-level political commitment it generates, the priority setting for funding purposes based on the content of the MD, and the dialogue and exchange that was facilitated at political and technical levels among countries and partners.

While at the regional level, the MD is an important reference for policy and action –especially given that it represents the involvement of Ministers of Foreign Affairs - at the country level, the MD has not been regarded as a strong reference for domestic policy and regulatory action - especially for EU member countries - but rather as a valuable framework to support national efforts and commitments - especially for non-EU member countries.

Countries value the MD as a mechanism under which programmes and projects are established, and potentially funding can be obtained. However, the actual level of resources leveraged is perceived to be behind its potential.

On H2020

A major added value of endorsing the H2020 Initiative (Phase 2) through the MD was to enable broad political buy-in and support to address the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. A particularly important aspect has been to broaden the scope of the H2020 beyond de-pollution, to address issues of circular economy, marine litter and hazardous waste, as well as to link it with issues related to CC. As such, endorsing the H2020 Initiative under the MD has provided a joint framework under which several partners join forces and engage towards a common objective.

Box: Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean

The results achieved by the Horizon 2020 Initiative Phase II are considered to be an important part of the tangible added value of the Ministerial Declaration. While the overall results are still being consolidated, there are some specific examples of what the Horizon 2020 Initiative has achieved on the ground.

One specific example is the sustainable management of waste and wastewater from olive oil production in several Mediterranean countries, through the SWIM H2020 Support Mechanism. Work under the project has been carried out in Cyprus, Greece and Israel, among others, which involved the building of capacity of producers and decision makers through the introduction to state-of-the-art practices and innovative technology, peer-to-peer learning and exchange, and the presentation of regulatory reforms and economic measures, among other. Also, the work has been carried out in close coordination with the SwitchMed Programme, giving evidence to the strong linkages and synergies between the Horizon 2020 and SwitchMed, bringing reduction and prevention together with Sustainable Consumption and Production approaches.

The project was even referred to by the heads of government from Cyprus, Greece and Israel in their recent 4th Trilateral Summit held in Nicosia, Cyprus on 08/05/2018, stating their “ongoing determination to further strengthen and diversify our collaboration, through exploring the potential for collaboration in such areas as satellite monitoring of the coastal and marine environment, *active involvement in the EU funded project*

SWIM HORIZON 2020 for a cleaner Mediterranean, on treatment of wastewater from olive oil mills and common sets of indicators for climate change adaptation³⁰ (highlighted by the authors).

On Sustainable Consumption and Production

The MD contributed to build a momentum around the topic of SCP in the Mediterranean building upon and highlighting the work of UNEP/MAP SCP/RAC and the SwitchMed programme. It contributed to attract new partners, such as the EBRD (through the Austrian DRIVE fund for Med RESCP) and increase the outreach of SCPs programmes to Western Balkans and Turkey.

On Climate Change

Interviewees have acknowledged the value added by the MD, which is mainly due to strengthening commitment at a high political level ensuring that national authorities engage in CC issues.

Also, the Ministerial Declaration fosters regional cooperation, partnerships and joint undertakings between member states and other stakeholders thereby supporting them to scale up and speed up their climate actions and meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

5. Conclusions

Based on the above analysis and the findings elaborated in chapter 4, the evaluation has come to the following conclusions.

5.1. Relevance

Conclusion 1

The thematic priorities of the Ministerial Declaration have been highly relevant to the Mediterranean region and still remain relevant for the post 2020 agenda. However, some adjustments are necessary for a future Ministerial Declaration to ensure its continued relevance. In this sense, emerging issues and stronger inter-linkages among key priorities need to be explored.

The thematic priorities of pollution reduction and prevention, sustainable consumption and production, and climate change mitigation and adaptation all remain highly relevant for the region and should be considered as thematic priorities for the post-2020 agenda. Additional key thematic priorities for the future should be the issue of biodiversity (included among “other environmental” issues in the current MD, particularly related to marine and coastal ecosystems), as well as the issue of land degradation and desertification (mentioned in the current MD under climate change). These issues have already been gaining increased attention in the work of UfM and various other organizations in the region, and should be anchored more prominently on the regional agenda. The Ministerial Declaration should respond to additional and emerging issues under these thematic priorities such as marine litter (including plastics), nature-based solutions, etc., and address the linkages between land, air and sea (e.g. air pollution as a main topic linking these).

On the other hand, some of the “other environmental issues” named under the MD have been adopted by the UfM Ministerial Declarations on Blue Economy and the Ministerial Declaration on the UfM Urban Agenda because of their particular relevance. .

Conclusion 2

The key actions and initiatives under each thematic priority have been highly relevant to the Ministerial Declaration’s priority issues, and to member countries’ needs.

The evaluation finds that the key actions that have been implemented under each thematic priority have been highly relevant to advance the major issues named in the MD:

Regarding pollution, the flagship *H2020 Initiative* – with its components on capacity building, investment preparation, reporting and monitoring, and research – has been in itself stated a main thematic priority of the MD, and is regarded as instrumental by all involved parties and concerned stakeholders. Especially the collaborative and broad nature of the initiative is regarded as highly relevant.

Regarding Sustainable Consumption and Production, the two flagship programmes SwitchMed and Med RESCP – with a broad range of components ranging from policy activities at regional and national level, demonstration activities on SCPs, transfer of technologies, networking or the promotion of green entrepreneurship, preparatory work to investments – has been considered as central to the MD and especially when it regards the attempt to ensure regional balance, linkages, complementarity, mutual benefits with West Balkans and Turkey.

Regarding Climate Action, some results of major relevance have been:

- studies on Climate Finance in the region,
- a first draft regional analysis on NDCs,
- studies on Climate change impacts on the Agriculture and Tourism sectors
- promoting exchange of information and best practices on national climate measures related to mitigation and adaptation,
- and the participation of UfM in international events such as the UNFCCC COPs, including the organization of several side events

In addition, consideration is given to the leverage effect that the Ministerial Declaration had for the evolution of other declarations, such as the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy and the Declaration on Sustainable Urban Development and the Declaration on Energy.

5.2. Effectiveness

Conclusion 3

The Ministerial Declaration in its current formulation states thematic priorities, and related key programmes and actions. However, it does not include specific objectives with related targets that would make the exact determination of the effectiveness of the Ministerial Declaration possible.

The Ministerial Declaration includes three thematic priorities and each one of them is directly linked to programmes and actions. Yet, the Ministerial Declaration itself does not include quantitative nor qualitative objectives, targets or aspirations that can be assessed.

Objectives are set at the level of the specific actions, i.e. programmes and initiatives. These actions are still ongoing (and are not subject of this evaluation as such), and therefore no final conclusions are drawn on whether all of these objectives have been reached. Nevertheless, the available information suggests that implementation of key initiatives, programmes and actions is largely on track and appears to be beneficial for the region.

Conclusion 4

Each of the thematic priorities under the Ministerial Declaration is implemented on different levels and through different initiatives having an own operational modality. However, the link among these different operational modalities can still be enhanced. Also, it is perceived that coordination among UfM focal points and of other initiatives at national level requires better coordination.

The Working Group on Environment and Climate Change is the main overall modality for the follow-up of the MD's implementation. The actions formulated in the Ministerial Declaration under each thematic priority are implemented through different work programmes and initiatives, with each having its own implementation modality. Yet, the findings indicate that the interlinkages among these modalities can still be improved.

Furthermore, the activities under each thematic priority rely on national focal points, supporting in-country activities related to the Ministerial Declaration by managing national requests, facilitating engagement, collaboration, reporting and feedback. The evaluation results suggest that there are a large number of UfM focal points housed at different institutions, and in some cases with overlaps with other initiatives. In several countries this has been observed as a challenge.

Conclusion 5

The Ministerial Declaration has to a certain extent contributed to leveraging resources for the implementation of actions that address priority issues in the region, but stakeholders perceive that it has not yet reached its full potential.

By setting the priority issues for the region on Environment and Climate Change related matters, the Ministerial Declaration can play a critical role in guiding and directing resource allocation for relevant programmes, projects

and investments. The implementation and follow-up of the declaration also involves active and continuous efforts to mobilize financial resources for priority actions that contribute to the MD, e.g. the UfM labelled project “Plastic Busters”, the EBRD managed DRIVE Fund of Med ReSCP, DG MARE Funding for Blue Economy or a study on Climate Finance produced in partnership with IFIs, development agencies... However, it is difficult to estimate the leverage effect of the MD itself, as the fundraising efforts by partner organizations are not being systematically monitored and reported under the MD. Hence, stakeholders may not be aware about the resources that are being leveraged, or they do not attribute them directly to the MD and the partners’ efforts.

5.3. Efficiency

Conclusion 6

The Ministerial Declaration has been instrumental by providing a regional level framework for cooperation in the Mediterranean on jointly identified issues, contributing to clarifying the delineation and the identification of complementarities of roles of the different organizations in the Mediterranean that work on Environment and Climate Change related topics.

The findings of the evaluation suggest that the Ministerial Declaration and the various programmes and initiatives implemented under its framework have certainly contributed to building a common Mediterranean agenda and to enhancing synergies among various partners in the Mediterranean region. However, there is still a need to further clarify roles and responsibilities and expand the scope of the collaborative engagement to more actors, including non-governmental and private sector stakeholders.

On the national level, the Ministerial Declaration is not considered as a major reference for domestic policy making in most countries (especially EU member states), but rather a reflection of existing policy commitments, both domestic and linked to other international frameworks and conventions.

Conclusion 7

The Ministerial Declaration includes the key thematic priority issues for the region, but is not very explicit on the multiple linkages that exist between the thematic priorities and how to address these linkages.

While coherence and complementarity between the issues of Pollution Reduction and Prevention and Sustainable Consumption and Production has been ensured through coordinated implementation of actions (mainly under the Horizon 2020 Initiative and the Switch-Med Programme), the coherence and coordination of those issues with the UfM’s Climate Change Work Programme needs stronger emphasis. Linkages of the three main thematic priorities with the “other environmental issues” mentioned in the MD (marine and coastal biodiversity, IMP, ICZM, MSP, sustainable urban development) are not systematically described in the text of the Ministerial Declaration itself, but rather addressed at the operational level. The fact that UfM is an observer to all three Rio Conventions – on Biological Diversity, on Desertification and on Climate Change – is regarded as an opportunity for further integration of these issues in the Mediterranean region.

Conclusion 8

Overall, the alignment with other regional and international initiatives is addressed by the declaration, and pursued in practice through collaboration agreements and joint initiatives.

The MD recalls the main conventions, protocols and frameworks relevant for its key thematic priorities. Particularly, substantial efforts were made to strengthen the synergies with the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the Barcelona Convention as the historical initiative for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The MoU between UfMS and UNEP/MAP allowed implementing a number of joint activities covering the different thematic areas of the MD. Although a close collaboration has been achieved (especially with regards to the joint implementation of H2020 and SCP programmes) a more precise delineation of roles and improved coordination could be achieved, and synergies could be created at a more strategic level, especially with regards to the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) as a

cross-sectoral strategy for the region. With regards to Climate Change and other environment issues, the MD is considered to be coherent and the position of the UfM as an observer of the three Rio Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification is an opportunity to maintain and strengthen alignment with the international agenda. Finally, as mentioned by the UfM WG on ENV and CC, more could be done in order to integrate the actions in support of the Mediterranean green, circular economy and low emission agenda; considering the broader sustainable development agenda in line with the relevant SDGs, and more particularly socioeconomic aspects with emphasis on job creation dimensions, youth and women.

5.4. Added Value

Conclusion 9

Through providing a strong high-level political commitment on environment and climate change issues, the MD has contributed to strengthen dialogue and promote joint action among Euro-Mediterranean partners.

With the involvement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the MD brings environment and climate change issues beyond the usual environment spheres. This is recognized as a major added value especially considering that the MD can also be a means to engage other ministries (such as planning and finance). On this basis, the MD has become increasingly recognized as a vehicle for dialogue in the region among actors from many different horizons. This represents an opportunity for better transparency and articulation in order to ensuring a more coherent and efficient regional cooperation.

Conclusion 10

The MD has contributed to enhancing the perception and visibility of the Mediterranean as a region with similar characteristics and common challenges on environment and climate change that need joint urgent responses and actions.

Through its unique format gathering all the countries of the Mediterranean as non-Mediterranean EU member countries under a common framework on Environment and Climate Change (some for the first time), the MD contributes to giving visibility to the Mediterranean region as a whole in the international agenda highlighting key challenges to environment and climate change and strategies needed to address them. This is an important contribution in order to establishing an intervention logic for the whole region and therefore being able to channelling international funds and other resources to the Mediterranean.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following recommendations for a future UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change are given. Overall, the large majority of consulted stakeholders expressed a strong support for a 2nd Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, among other referring to the fact that the year 2020 marks the end of a cycle in the implementation of the existing Ministerial Declaration, particularly with the end of the Horizon 2020 Initiative. A new Ministerial Declaration would not only give continuity to the work done, but provide a new momentum and political support for the post 2020 agenda on environment and climate change in the region (including the UfM CCEG Work Program 2017-2022 which is under implementation), building on recent achievements and embracing new developments and priority issues since 2014.

On key thematic priorities to be included in the post-2020 agenda

Recommendation 1

Formulate an overarching goal for the post-2020 agenda for the Mediterranean region, to which all key priorities of the future Ministerial Declaration can be related.

It is recommended that all key thematic priorities included in the future MD be related to an *overarching goal*, such as for example “to pursue a sustainable development model in the Mediterranean region based on green, circular and low/zero carbon economies that are resilient to climate change and safeguard the health of the region’s ecosystems” (on the basis of the alarming information provided by the IPCC special report on the impact of global warming of 1.5°C). Also, the MD should highlight the linkages and interdependencies between all of the different thematic priorities, particularly the close integration of environmental and climate change related aspects, as well as the other linkages with other MDs.

When formulating aspirations and priorities, the future declaration should distinguish between different levels in order to provide coherent orientation and make follow-up more straightforward; this may be for example the level of impact/overarching goal (*What do countries want to achieve by 2030?*), the level of thematic priorities/strategic objectives (*What has to be addressed to pursue the goal?*), the programmatic level/actions (*How can it be done?*), and the operational level/modalities for implementation (*How to ensure effective and efficient follow up and implementation?*). While the MD itself will provide the overall political guidance on these aspects, the details could be worked out through associated work plans.

Recommendation 2

While giving continuity to the key thematic priorities of the current MD, use the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement and other key international conventions and frameworks as major references to align priorities and objectives of the future MD.

Due to continued relevance of the issues addressed in the current MD, it is recommended that the thematic scope for the future MD should include most of those thematic priorities, and be complemented by additional thematic priorities and priority actions agreed through the UfM Task Force on Environment and the UfM Climate Change Expert Group, respectively. The recommended thematic scope for the future MD entails *four key thematic priorities* (or strategic objectives):

1. **Reduce and Prevent Pollution**, specifically addressing municipal waste, industrial pollution, wastewater, hazardous waste and marine litter (including plastics), and other relevant pollution sources and promoting nature-based solutions for pollution control (SDGs 14 and 15).

2. **Increase Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production**, specifically addressing emissions reduction, green industries and green entrepreneurship, and a particular focus on promoting sustainable packaging to reduce plastic waste (SDG 12).
3. **Preserve, Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity (using more clearly the CBD framework and the Aichi targets), taking into account linkages between Sea, Land and Air (including the air quality topic)**, specifically addressing the promotion of ecosystem based management, the creation of a network of Marine Protected Areas, combating plastic pollution in marine protected areas, safeguarding ecological and socio-economic assets, promoting nature-based solutions supporting adaptation and mitigation to climate change, addressing biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, sustainable land management, landscape restoration, combating desertification, and drought management (SDG 14, 15)
4. **Advance Climate Action (Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation)** as a global and cross-cutting priority specifically through supporting the implementation of NDCs, the support to the scientific and financial dimensions, and in relation with all relevant sectors that are not covered in the MD (SDG 13).

The issues named under each thematic priority are not exhaustive and may be complemented throughout the implementation of the MD. And while the thematic priorities constitute the cornerstones for action under the MD, the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change should have the mandate to identify other emerging issues and out them on the regional post-2020 agenda after the MD is adopted, if required necessary to achieve the MD's overall goal.

It is further recommended that the MD formulates the thematic priorities in the context of major international conventions and frameworks, namely the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals – *particularly SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 on Climate Action, SDG 14 on Life Below Water, SDG 15 on Life on Land, and SDG 17 on Partnerships* – the Paris Agreement/UNFCCC, and others such as CBD and UNCCD, as references to which the thematic priorities/strategic objectives (and targets) are aligned. At the minimum level, this can be done by inserting a table relating the thematic priorities to specific objectives and targets committed to under these global conventions and frameworks.

Additionally socio-economic aspects should be taken into account as a cross cutting thematic priority to promote a just transition and protect the livelihoods of rural and disadvantaged communities, who might take advantage of the transition to a green and circular economy, and not only be affected by climate change negative impacts.

Recommendation 3

Ensure coherence and complementarity with the thematic priorities of other relevant UfM declarations and dossiers, such as Blue Economy, Water, Sustainable Urban Development, Energy, Gender and others, as well as with the agendas of other relevant regional processes and initiatives.

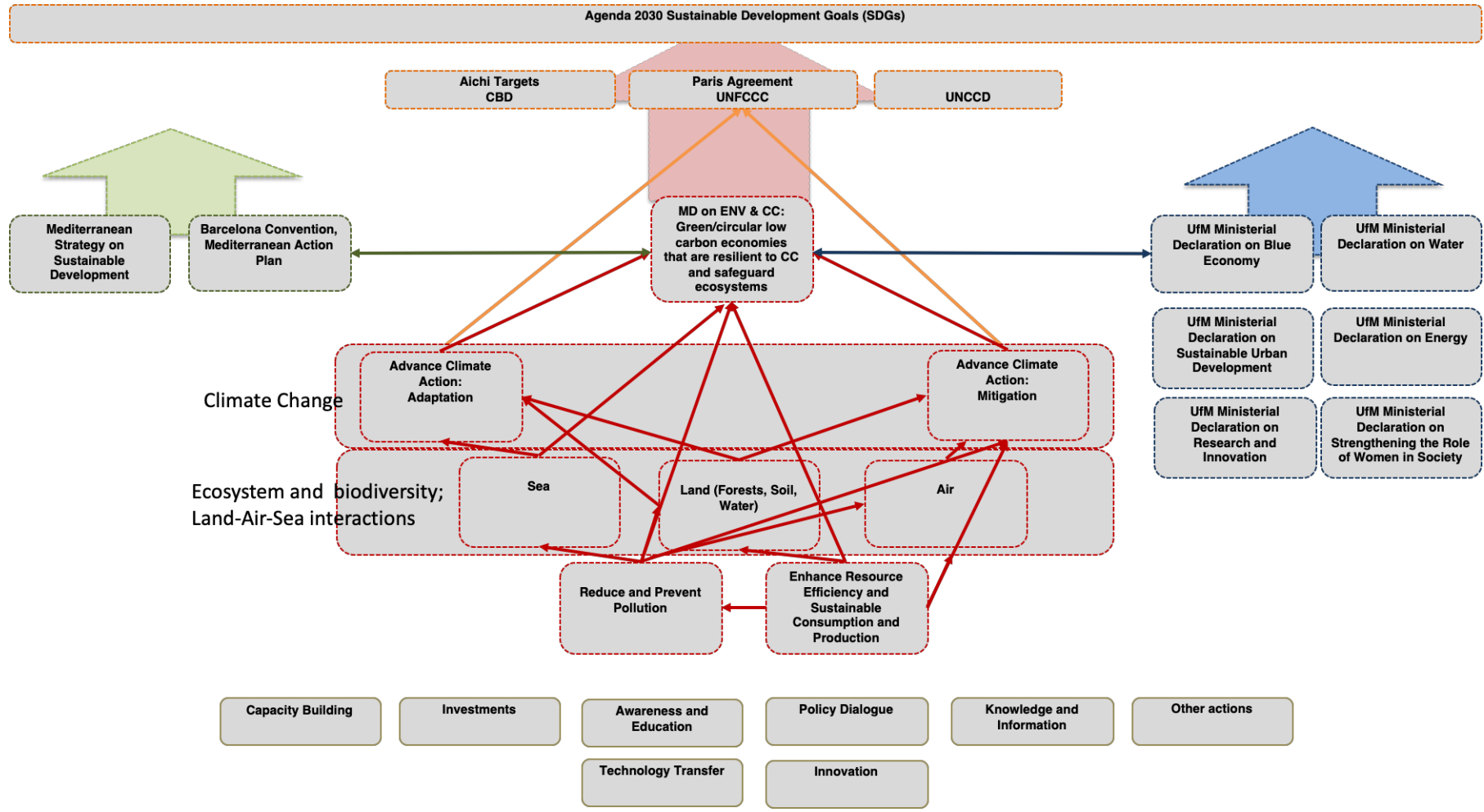
It is recommended that the overall goal and thematic priorities included in the future Ministerial Declaration are coherent and complementary to those priorities included in other relevant UfM declarations and dossiers, particularly those that have adopted and taken forward issues from the present MD on Environment and Climate Change such as the MDs on Blue Economy (2015) and on the UfM Urban Agenda (2017), those with close thematic linkages such as the MDs on the UfM Water Agenda (2017) and on Energy (2016), and those that themselves are transversal in nature such as the MD on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society (2017).

Further, the MDs thematic priorities should keep on being aligned to relevant international, regional and sub-regional processes, initiatives and major programmes, including the SDGs and Agenda 2030, the Rio Convention, etc. and the Barcelona Convention/UNEP/MAP process and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). Similarly to the past consultation processes, this is to be achieved through close consultations with the countries and close cooperation with the Rio Conventions Secretariats, UN agencies (UNEP/MAP, UNIDO, FAO, etc), private sector, academia, civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the formulation of issues for the MD.

The complementarity of the thematic priorities (and priority actions) under a future MD on Environment and Climate Change to those agendas should be clearly laid out in the future MD.

The below figure summarizes the set-up of the future MD based on the above recommendations 1 to 3:

Figure 2: Set-up of the future MD based on recommendations 1 to 3



On operational modalities to be adopted for efficient and effective implementation

Recommendation 4

Strengthen the monitoring and reporting framework of the future MD, integrating or relying on other already existing reporting mechanisms (such as SDGs, UNEP/MAP system), and with distributed responsibilities of partners.

Based on a more coherent formulation of the future MD's overarching goal, thematic priorities and key actions (see Recommendation 1), it is recommended that the future MD also includes a framework for monitoring and reporting on these levels. The level for the monitoring and reporting will depend on the degree of specification that the MD will finally entail, and could include a dashboard-type framework with selected existing high-level regional (socio-environmental and policy) indicators aligned with relevant SDGs and targets; milestones for monitoring the progress of implementation of a joint road map or action plan; and/or a more comprehensive log frame/results matrix of a future joint initiative that covers the main thematic priorities of the MD ("H2030") (see scenarios below).

In any case, the reporting and monitoring framework should be closely integrating (and relying on) existing frameworks such as IPCC and IPBES for the scientific dimensions, SDGs, NDCs, other global conventions, and particularly the UNEP/MAP system including the MSSD and the EEA. Also, while not being obligatory in nature, the (voluntary) responsibilities of partners – including UfM countries and partner organizations – in the monitoring and reporting process should be clearly defined in order to avoid confusion and duplications. The objective should be to establish a genuinely joint monitoring and reporting mechanism with distributed responsibilities (with UfMS as coordinating entity), that reflects the co-ownership and collaborative nature of the MD, and at the same time gives credit to those actors responsible for achieving the specific results.

Recommendation 5

Simplify and streamline the structure of working groups, experts groups and focal points, internally in the UfM as well as with other organisations and initiatives.

It is recommended that, on the regional level, the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change should continue to act as the main mechanism for following up on the implementation of the MD. A concrete mechanism is needed for the follow up of decisions and actions taken, to ensure that all participating countries are aware.

In line with what had already been agreed by the Working Group, the creation of a regular UfM Environment Expert Group is recommended, to follow up on the current UfM Environment Task Force. The ToR of the working group and the two experts groups should be clearly defined in terms of their mandate, functions, procedures, membership (country representatives and other partners and observers), and liaison (among the groups as well as with other entities and initiatives). This will also contribute to a stronger alignment of environment and climate change work programmes.

The UfM CCEG, established by the first MD, should continue its work with an updated mandate compatible with the Paris Agreement and its Work Program (previously called "Rulebook") adopted at COP24.

As far as possible, the meeting calendar of the working group and expert groups meetings shall be aligned with other regional and international initiatives to make use of participants' travel. Based on existing experiences, back-to-back meetings with other events and virtual meeting formats should be further explored.

Further, it is recommended that measures be taken to strengthen the intra- and inter-ministerial coordination at the national level, by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of focal point structure at the national level. The designation of the National Focal Points would need to be clarified or at least harmonised. Particularly, enhanced

coordination between environmental and climate change focal points should be strengthened. This should be done as a joint initiative not only by UfM, but also together with other key partners that rely on an effective and efficient focal point structure. This could be done through mapping good practices across the region and exchanging experiences in streamlining national focal point structures and committees for inter-sectoral coordination; through specific technical guidance documents for the set-up and functioning of focal point and coordination structures; through tailored support to countries in setting up adequate structures; through an induction programme for newly appointed focal points (e.g. through an online platform); and/or through regular meetings of all national focal points at the regional level.

Also, communication between the regional initiatives and the focal points should be further strengthened, e.g. through an online platform (intranet/data base) that includes at the minimum the roles and functions of the focal points (ToR), a regularly updated meeting calendar, meeting agendas and reports, and contact lists of all focal points).

Recommendation 6

Strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and promote greater awareness about the MD's priorities and actions of various government sectors and other stakeholders including international partners, the private sector, academia and civil society.

It is recommended that under the future MD, the relevance of the thematic priorities on environment and climate change for other sectors is highlighted, and that the crucial role that they play for attaining the objectives of the post-2020 agenda is strongly emphasized. On the regional level, the UfM provides a unique structure with access to policy makers across most of the governmental sectors in member states that are relevant for the thematic priorities of the MD. On the national level, inter-sectoral coordination structures may need to be set-up or reinforced, or existing structures identified in which the regional issues are discussed.

Further, it is recommended to engage the private sector more strategically in the development, follow-up and implementation of the future MD, considering the high relevance that the private sector plays in attaining the objectives of the post-2020 agenda. The private sector engagement should be done on the national level through the national focal point structure, as well as on the regional level through the work group and expert group structure. Regular engagement beyond the project level of key private sector representatives may be pursued through a framework for voluntary commitments and reporting towards the goal and objectives of the MD, and to the UfM labelling of private sector initiatives that are in line with the post-2020 Agenda.

The engagement of academia should further be promoted to strengthen the science-policy interface in the implementation of the MD. This was envisaged in H2020 and took place through dedicated academia network during Phase 1 of H2020, however, this was not continued in Phase 2 of H2020 due to lack of financial support. Regarding Climate Change, this is done by the support to the MedECC network, and this action needs to be further developed. This can also be done through the (regular and/or ad-hoc) participation of scientific experts in the working group and expert groups, through widening partnerships with universities and research centres, and through specific regional fora for science-policy debate.

Not least, it is recommended to increase the efforts to raise awareness and knowledge on environment and climate change related issues widely throughout the region. This should be done through the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Education Sustainable Development (MSESD), and through the development and implementation of a Communication Strategy that informs about the MD's goal, priorities and actions.

Recommendation 7

Promote the transfer and dissemination of knowledge and experiences within the Mediterranean region and globally.

UfM Member States should take full advantage of their participation in the MD. One way to achieve this is to promote the transfer and dissemination of knowledge and experiences through a platform that should work as a

system to coherently leverage collaboration across Member States and other relevant stakeholders, and thus provide all the relevant information on environment and climate change under the umbrella of the MD. In particular, the platform will serve to:

- forge partnerships among Member States and other stakeholders
- indirectly assess progress on implementation
- share practice and knowledge on policies, programmes and activities related to the thematic priorities
- provide a platform for participants of relevant working groups, expert groups, meetings events etc. to continuously keep up discussions and information and knowledge exchange

The platform can serve not only for internal purposes, but also to communicate the impact or activities in relation to the MD globally.

Recommendation 8

Strengthen the leveraging and allocation of funds for the implementation of the MD's key priorities

The current funding model for the implementation of the MD's key thematic priorities and actions mainly relies on the contributions from the EU as well as on the means dedicated by the Member States, donors and/or IFIs. The MD brings countries together that normally would be approached as different regions (i.e.: West Balkans, MENA, Maghreb, and Southern Europe). This unique constellation puts the UfM in a position to become a preferred vehicle for leveraging and channelling funding and investments on environment and climate change in the Mediterranean region. One way that the UfM Secretariat could operationalize this recommendation is by conducting and regularly updating a thorough mapping of possible additional funding sources, including the private sector, adapted to the MD's key priorities (a work that it has been already undertaken for both environmental issues and climate finance). The mapping would not only serve to identify funding sources but also thematic priorities and those Programmes that have funding gaps. In this sense, the UfM Secretariat together with the Member States could develop a strategy on how to overcome these gaps and serve as a match make.

In addition, the UfM Secretariat is encouraged to continue exploring how to facilitate the provision of sustained funding for the MD's key priorities and enhance operational linkages between Member States, donors and IFIs, in line with their respective mandates. Strengthening the links between UfM Member States, Donors and IFIs will facilitate knowledge sharing and increase potential synergies at the regional level. Furthermore, UfM National Focal Points could be assisted by the Secretariat in its role as facilitator to seek contact with donors' country focal points to identify project concepts that could benefit from joint activities.

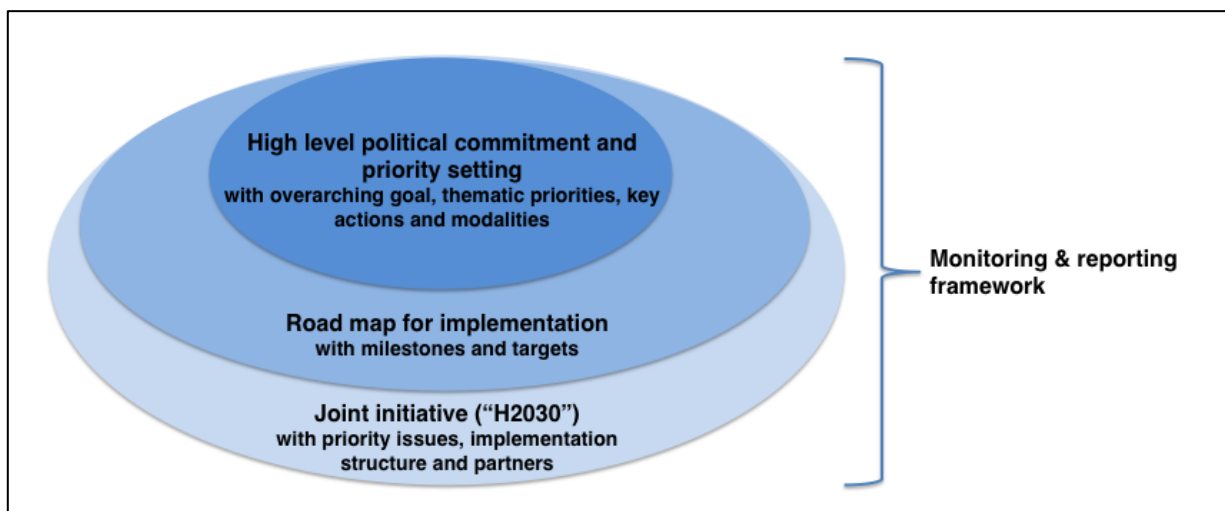
On options/scenarios for actions to achieve post-2020 agenda objectives

Based on the conclusions of the evaluation and the above recommendations, four scenarios have been developed. They do not present alternatives on the overall direction or thematic scope of the Ministerial Declaration itself, but propose different levels of concretion that the MD may take by the time it is adopted by the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change.

At the core of the future MD will be a high level political commitment and priority setting that defines an overarching goal, thematic priorities, key actions and modalities for follow-up and implementation. This is to be complemented with a road map for implementation of the MD with major milestones and targets; and a joint initiative ("H2030") that addresses the thematic priorities of the MD, by bringing together policies, initiatives,

programs and projects of various partners in the region.³¹ In that regard, the presented scenarios differ in the sequencing and timing in the development of the future MD, and the choice for one option or another will depend partly on the ability to develop and reach agreement on the main features during the course of 2019. The different features of the future MD are displayed in the below figure:

Figure 3: Scenarios for the future MD



The four scenarios are briefly sketched out in the following as a basis for further discussion among UfM countries and partners. In any of the scenarios, it will be crucial to provide for close participation of key stakeholders in the development of the MD and its features, in order to ensure co-ownership beyond UfM and promote the integration of different initiatives and actions that contribute to the overarching goal of the MD.

Scenario 1: High-level political commitment and priority setting

Scenario 1 is a “minimum option”, under which the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change adopts what can be considered the core of a future Ministerial Declaration, including:

- A high level commitment with an overarching goal, the thematic priorities for the post-2020 agenda, key actions, and the main modalities for implementation
- A tentative calendar for next steps in the implementation

Under this scenario, the thematic priorities and scope of the MD will be defined in 2019, together with a tentative calendar. The framework for monitoring and reporting of the MD implementation would include high level

³¹ As previously mentioned under the recommendations, it is suggested that the joint flagship initiative addresses all priority issues – related to environment and climate change – and thus translates the integrated approach of the Ministerial Declaration to the strategic, programmatic and operational level. This does not mean that in the future, other specific initiatives cannot be developed for certain issues in addition to the joint flagship initiative. Also, it does not suggest a complete integration of UfM work programmes on Environment and Climate Change on the operational level, but rather an umbrella framework (beyond UfM) in which environmental and climate change related issues are supported and monitored in an integrated manner. Should the development of one joint flagship initiative that spans both environment and climate change issues not be feasible in practice for presentation to the Ministerial Conference, it is suggested to develop complementary initiatives so as to cover the full spectrum of priority themes.

impacts and results, based on the overall goal and thematic priorities and that are aligned with key international frameworks such as the SDGs.

Scenario 2: High-level political commitment and priority setting, mandate for a road map and concept for joint initiative

Scenario 2 means that the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change adopts a MD that includes:

- A high level commitment with an overarching goal, the thematic priorities for the post-2020 agenda, key actions, and the main modalities for implementation
- A tentative calendar for next steps in the implementation
- A mandate to the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change to develop a road map that sets the key milestones and targets for the implementation
- A concept note for a joint initiative (“H2030”), including a brief description of priority issues, components, implementation structure and partners, as an annex to the MD

Under this scenario, the thematic priorities and scope of the MD will be defined, and a concept note for the joint initiative will be developed during 2019. The Ministerial Declaration would call upon the UfMS and partners to develop the joint initiative (and its work programme/implementation plan) based on the concept note, after the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration. The framework for monitoring and reporting of the MD implementation would include high level impacts and results, aligned with key international frameworks such as the SDGs.

Scenario 3: High-level political commitment and priority setting, agreed road map and concept for a joint initiative

Scenario 3 means that the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change adopts a MD that includes:

- A high level commitment with an overarching goal, the thematic priorities for the post-2020 agenda, key actions, and the main modalities for implementation
- An agreed road map that sets the key milestones and targets for the implementation
- A concept note for a joint initiative (“H2030”), including a brief description of priority issues, components, implementation structure and partners, as an annex to the MD

Under this scenario, the thematic priorities and scope of the MD will be defined, and a road map for implementation as well as a concept note for the joint initiative will both be developed during 2019. The Ministerial Declaration would call upon UfMS and partners to develop the joint initiative (and its work programme/implementation plan) based on the concept note, after the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, as part of the road map. The framework for monitoring and reporting of the MD implementation would include high level impacts and results that are aligned with key international frameworks such as the SDGs, as well as overall implementation progress based on the road map.

Scenario 4: High-level political commitment and priority setting, road map and fully developed joint initiative

Scenario 4 is the most ambitious and fully-fledged option under which the UfM Ministerial Declaration that will be adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change includes:

- A high level commitment with an overarching goal, the thematic priorities for the post-2020 agenda, key

actions, and the main modalities for implementation

- An agreed road map for implementation
- A fully developed joint initiative (“H2030”), including the priority issues, components, implementation structure and partners

Under this scenario, the thematic priorities and scope of the MD will be defined, and the road map and the joint initiative will both be developed during 2019. The work programme/implementation plan for the joint initiative will be developed after the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, as part of the road map. The framework for monitoring and reporting of the MD implementation would be the most comprehensive, including high level impacts and results that are aligned with key international frameworks such as the SDGs, implementation progress based on the road map as well as concrete results of the joint initiative.

Annexes

A. Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Question no.	Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Means of Verification
Relevance	1	To what extent have the Ministerial Declaration key priorities been and are still relevant in the Mediterranean for the different thematic areas? How relevant are the priority topics for the next Ministerial Declaration indicated by the countries at the January Task Force on ENV? (Circular economy, Plastics/marine litter, Desertification/drought/land rehabilitation, ecosystems, etc.)	Extent to which Ministerial Declaration priorities align with main environmental and climate change related challenges in the Mediterranean as identified by relevant experts Extent to which different stakeholders perceive the Ministerial Declaration priorities to be relevant for the past 4 years and post-2020	Desk review: scientific/technical meeting reports and studies; initiatives, programmes, project reports Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
	2	What have been the most relevant components and actions of each thematic area, and have any relevant components and actions been missing?	Extent to which the different components and actions under each thematic area align with the priorities of the Ministerial Declaration Stakeholders' perceptions of most relevant components and actions, as well as gaps	Desk review: Programme and project documents, UfM documents Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
Effectiveness	3	To what extent have the objectives of the different thematic areas been achieved?	Number of initiatives implemented under each thematic area and key achievements to date Stakeholders' perceptions on the extent of achievement of results	Desk review: Programme and project documents, UfM documents

				Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
	4	To what extent were the initiatives and operational modalities of the different thematic areas instrumental in contributing towards the achievement of priorities set in the Ministerial Declaration?	Stakeholders' perceptions of initiatives and operational modalities and their instrumental role for achieving objectives	Desk review: Programme and project documents, UfM documents Stakeholders' perceptions on the role of initiatives and operational modalities for achieving results
	5	To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration resulted in the mobilization of additional funding for the priority areas of action?	Amount and type of funding leveraged for each thematic area Stakeholders' perceptions on the role of the Ministerial Declaration for mobilizing funding	Desk review Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
Efficiency	6	To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration been instrumental in increasing synergies between UfM and other relevant regional organisations and initiatives, and other key stakeholders?	Number and type of partnerships/ collaborations formally established under each thematic area Stakeholders' perceptions on the role of the Ministerial Declaration for the creation of synergies and partnerships	Desk review Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
	7	To what extent has the Ministerial Declaration been instrumental in enhancing the uptake of measures at both regional and national level?	Stakeholders' perception on the role of the Ministerial Declaration for enhancing national initiatives	Desk review: national reports to the UfMS Qualitative interviews with stakeholders

Coherence	8	How coherent, complementary and coordinated are the priorities and initiatives of the different thematic areas from the Ministerial Declaration? How coherent are they with other regional and international policies and initiatives?	Extent of alignment and complementarity of the different priorities of the Ministerial Declaration across the different thematic areas and with other regional policies and initiatives Stakeholders' perceptions on the alignment and complementarity of the Ministerial Declaration across thematic areas and with other regional policies and initiatives	Desk review Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
Added Value	9	What has been the additional value resulting from the UfM Ministerial Declaration compared to what could reasonably have been expected from Member States acting at national and/or regional levels?	Stakeholders' perceptions on the added value of the Ministerial Declaration	Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
	10	How can the role of the Ministerial Declaration be enhanced/ scaled up post-2020? In particular to reinforce the so called 'green economy package' made of three components: the depollution component (supported by the H2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean); the pollution prevention (supported by SwitchMed and the UfM labelled MedRESCP project), and the newly established CC component?	Stakeholders' perceptions on the future added value of the Ministerial Declaration	Qualitative interviews with stakeholders

	11	<p>What are the main lessons emerging from the Ministerial Declaration in the past that can be built on for the future?</p> <p>What would be the added value of a future joint initiative, such as a 'H2030 Initiative'?</p>	Stakeholders' perceptions on key lessons learned and their potential for upscaling/ replication in the future	Qualitative interviews with stakeholders
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B. List of interviews

	Organisation/ Country	Interviewee 1	Interviewee 2	Interviewee 3	Interviewee 4
Countries					
1	Austria	Mr. Klaus Radunsky			
2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Igor Jevtic			
3	Croatia	Ms. Višnja Grgasović	Dr. Branka Pivčević Novak	Ms. Sandra Trošelj Stanišić	Ms. Marina Prelec
4	France	Ms. Elise Delgoulet	Ms. Flora Boubour		
5	Greece	Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy			
6	Israel	Ms. Ronnie Cohen Ginat	Ms. Tahel Yashfe		
7	Latvia	Ms. Elina Baltroka	Ms. Baiba Zasa		
8	Lebanon	Mr. Vahakn Kabakian	Ms. Olfat Hamdan		
9	Malta	Ms. Josianne Muscat			
10	Montenegro	Ms. Ivana Stojanović			
11	Palestine	Mr. Samer Kalbouneh	Mr. Ahmad Abu Thaner		
12	Portugal	Ms. Bertilia Valadas			
Regional and International Stakeholders					
13	BlueGreen Med CS	Ms. Ghada Ahmadein			
14	Climate-KIC	Mr. Benoit Vercherin			
15	CNRS/CEREGE, MEDECC	Mr. Joel Guiot			
16	CPMR Intermed	Mr. Davide Strangis			
17	EEA	Mr. Ronan Uhel			
18	ENPI CBC Med Programme	Mr. Luca Palazzo			
19	ETC UMA	Ms. Dania Abdul Malak	Ms. Sonsoles San Román		
20	FAO	Mr. Nicolas Picard			
21	GEF	Mr. Chris Severin	Mr. Steffen Hansen		
22	GWP-Med	Mr. Vangelis Constantianos			
23	Interreg MED Programme	Ms. Francesca Marcato	Ms. Patrizia Busolini		
24	LDK Consultants	Mr Stravos Damianidis			
25	MIO-ECSDE	Mr. Michael Scoullas	Ms. Anastasia Roniotes		

26	RAED	Mr. Emad Adly			
27	SCP/RAC	Mr. Enrique Villamore	Ms. Magalie Outters		
28	UN ENV/DTIE	Mr. Luc Reunter			
29	UNCCD	Ms. Louise Baker			
30	UNEP/MAP	Mr. Gaetano Leone	Ms. Tatjana Hema		
31	UNFCCC	Mr. Alejandro Kilpatrick			
32	UNIDO	Ms. Carolina Gonzalez			
UfM Co-presidencies and UfMS					
33	DG CLIMA	Mr. Jorge Antunes	Mr. Matthieu Ballu		
34	DG ENV	Mr. Patrick Wegerdt			
35	DG NEAR	Ms. Sylvie Fontaine			
36	Jordan Co-Presidency	Dr. Jihad Alsawair	Mr. Mohamad Afaneh		
37	UfM Secretariat	Ms. Alessandra Sensi	Mr. Arnault Graves	Mr. Jorge Borrego	

C. Interview Guidelines

Stakeholder type	
UfM staff	
Focal point Environment	Country:
Focal Point Climate	Country:
UfM partner organization regional	
UfM partner organization international	
Other	Specify:

Date & Location of interview	
Name of interviewer	
Name of interviewee	
Position of interviewee	
Name of organization	
Contact information (address, email, phone)	

Note: All collected information will be strictly confidential and the consultants will not disclose any individual information from stakeholders to the UfM or any third parties. Information will only be made available on an aggregated level, in such a way that individual statements cannot be traced back to individual stakeholders.

1. Introduction

Q 1.1 Please explain your role related to the UfM Ministerial Declaration.

2. Relevance

Q 2.1 In your opinion, has the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change from 2014 captured well the key priorities/ most pressing issues for the Mediterranean region? (If yes, why? If no, why not?)

Q 2.2 What priority issues should be addressed in a future Ministerial Declaration on ENV and CC post-2020? (Why?)

- In that context, how do you see the priority topics indicated for the next Ministerial Declaration by the countries at the January Task Force on Environment (Circular Economy, Marine litter/plastics, desertification/drought/land rehabilitation, ecosystems, etc.)?

3. Effectiveness

Q 3.1 What would you highlight as key successes achieved and key challenges regarding the implementation of initiatives under the framework of the UfM Ministerial Declaration in the past years? To what extent was the Ministerial Declaration instrumental in achieving the successes?

Q 3.2 How do you think can the key successes be scaled up in the future, and how can the key challenges be overcome?

Q 3.3 What key actions are required to effectively address the priority issues related to environment and climate change in the Mediterranean post-2020?

- In this context, what is your opinion on a future joint initiative, such as a ‘H2030 Initiative’?

Q 3.4 To what extent did the UfM / Ministerial Declaration contribute to the mobilization of relevant partners and financial resources? Under which circumstances do you expect this mobilization to continue, to increase or to be replicable (at different levels or for different topics)

4. Efficiency

Q4.1 What operational modalities are required for an efficient and more integrated implementation of key actions on the regional and national level? (e.g. more involvement of Western Balkans and Turkey)

Q 4.2 How can key stakeholders from different sectors and governance levels (different ministries agencies, local and regional authorities, and the private and public sector) on the national level be best engaged to support a streamlined and coordinated implementation of the priority actions under the future post 2020 agenda? How could the national focal points be strengthened?

5. Coherence

Q5.1 To what extent should the future priority issues and key actions be structured into a Ministerial Declaration (and Work Programmed) that integrates Environment and Climate Change (and other issues)? And how could this happen? Or should there be separate Ministerial Declarations and/or Work Programmes on Environment, and on Climate Change?

Q 5.2 How can the future UfM post 2020 agenda be best aligned and coordinate with key global conventions and initiatives (SDGs, UNFCCC/Paris Agreement, CBD and Aichi targets, UNCCD and the Bonn challenge, and others?)

6. Added Value

Q6.1 What has been the additional value resulting from the UfM Ministerial Declaration compared to what could reasonably have been expected from Member States acting at national and/or regional levels?

Q 6.2 What do you see as the specific role of a future UfM Ministerial Declaration (and Work Programmed) to address the priority issues in a post 2020 agenda, in relation with other policies, policy guidances and programmes on climate change and environment in the region (provided by multilateral organizations, bilateral cooperation, agencies, development, banks, universities and research centres or NGOs)? How can synergies be improved or created in the future?

D. List of Documents Reviewed

<i>Document / Meeting</i>	Title, document number (and link if not included in the annex of files)
Declaration	1. Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change, 13 May 2014, Athens, Declaration
1st Meeting of the UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (15 March 2017)	2. Final Agreed Conclusions on the Way Forward – 1st UfM WG on Environment and Climate Change (WG on ENV and CC) - 15th March 2017
1st Meeting of the UfM Task Force on Environment (30 January 2018)	3. UfM Task Force on Environment Agenda 4. Initial Review of The Progress in the Implementation at Regional Level of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change. 5. Background note to the 1st UFM Task Force on ENVIRONMENT 6. Explanatory note to the 1st UFM Task Force on ENVIRONMENT 7. Final Agreed Conclusions– 1st meeting of the UfM Task Force on Environment - 30 January 2018 8. Tentative timing 9. List of participants
9th Meeting of The Horizon 2020 Steering Group (29 January 2018)	10. Provisional Agenda - available also in French 11. Work Programme for the second phase of the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean (2015-2020) - available also in French and Arabic 12. List of Participants 13. Presentation on the status of Mediterranean Hot Spots, Investment Programme (MeHSIP) activities 14. Presentation on the status Review and Monitoring activities 15. Presentation on the status of Capacity building activities
SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism	16. SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Steering Committee Meeting Agenda - available also in French
<i>Document / Meeting</i>	Title, document number (and link if not included in the annex of files)
Steering Committee Meeting (31 January 2018)	17. Summary of Progress - available also in French 18. List of Participants
5th Meeting of the UfMCCEG (16 March 2017)	19. Work program 2017-2022 of the Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG) 20. Operational Modalities of the Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG) 21. Fifth meeting of the UfMCCEG Minutes
UfM Climate Action Leaflet	22. UfM Climate Action Enhancing climate action through regional cooperation in the Mediterranean
UfM CCEG Ad Hoc sectoral meetings- Tourism-Agriculture (24-25 April 2018)	23. Agenda UfM CCEG Ad hoc sectoral meetings-Tourism-Agriculture 24. Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy/Climate Change: Study on Climate Change and Tourism 25. Facility for Regional Policy Dialogue on Integrated Maritime Policy /Climate Change: Study on Climate Change and Agriculture

	26. UfM Climate Change Expert Group Ad hoc meetings on Tourism and Agriculture Minutes
6 th Meeting of the UfMCCEG (25 April 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Agenda UfMCCEG 6th meeting 28. Presentation on Climate finance flows to the Union for the Mediterranean 29. Presentation on Long-term Climate Finance under the UNFCCC (Mini Workshop) 30. Presentation on the EU Climate Action in the Southern Neighbourhoods: Regional Programmes (DG NEAR) 31. 6th Meeting of the UfMCCEG and Ad hoc Meeting on Tourism and Agriculture Invitation 32. Presentation on the status of the MedECC: Science Update and Work Plan for the First Assessment of Trends 33. Presentation on the Talanoa Dialogue (UNFCCC) 34. Presentation on the Cluster Med Climate Transparency Initiative (CMCTI) 35. Presentation on the SolarImpulse Foundation: The World Alliance for Efficient Solutions 36. Presentation on the Energy Observer Project 37. OSCE Presentation: Environment and Security with a focus on Climate Change 38. Presentation on the UfM Process: Paving the way towards the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on ENV and CC (late 2018-early 2019) 39. UfM Climate Change Expert Group.6th meeting Minutes
UfM Climate Change Scientific Meeting (23 April 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40. Draft agenda UfM CC Scientific Meeting 41. Presentation on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II: assessing research on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability during the 6th assessment cycle 42. Presentation on the Plan Bleu: Observatory on environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean 43. Presentation on Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin 44. Presentation on the MedECC 45. MedECC update (April 2018) 46. UfM Climate Change Scientific Meeting Minutes
5 th Meeting of the UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee (24 April 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47. Draft Agenda 48. Presentation on the status of Climate finance flows to the Union for the Mediterranean (updated results for 2016) 49. Presentation on the status of the Green Finance in the Mediterranean (IEMed) 50. Presentation on the potential for NAMAs in the Mediterranean partner countries (MPCS) 51. Presentation on the Local Climate Adaptative Living Facility (LoCAL-UNCDF) 52. Presentation on the PEFCLI (FMDV) 53. UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee Minutes 54. Roadmap for the UfM RCFC 2018 55. UfM RCFC Draft Conclusions
Other non-UfM key documents and links	
Barcelona Convention	56. NAPs from Land Based Sources
Barcelona Convention COP (2016) Decision IG.22/05	57. Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean

Barcelona Convention COP (2016) Decision IG.22/13	58. Roadmap for a Comprehensive Coherent Network of Well-Managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to Achieve Aichi Target 11 in the Mediterranean
Barcelona Convention COP (2013) IG.21/09	59. Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol
2016-2025 Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD)	60. See http://web.unep.org/unepmap/mediterranean-strategy-sustainable-development-mssd-2016-2025
UN Environment GEF MedProgram (ID 9607)	Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security. See https://www.thegef.org/project/mediterranean-sea-programme-medprogramme-enhancing-environmental-security
Barcelona Convention COP (2016) Decision IG.22/6	Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas
UN Environment GEF Climate Adaptation project (ID 9671)	Enhancing Regional Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas. See https://www.thegef.org/project/enhancing-regional-climate-change-adaptation-mediterranean-marine-and-coastal-areas
EC Communication {SWD(2015) 500 final}	Joint Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy. See https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/151118_joint-communication_review-of-the-enp_en.pdf
EC Strategy for Plastics (2018)	European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/plastic_waste.htm
Circular Economy Action Plan	See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

E. Overview linkages with other Ministerial Declarations

Name of the Ministerial Declaration	Year of the Ministerial Declaration	Links and connection to the Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change
UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recalls the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change, in Athens, on 13 May 2014; as an important basis for the Ministerial Declaration - Thematic links especially with regards to climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy
Ministerial Declaration of UfM Water Ministers on the UfM Water Agenda	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recalls the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change, in Athens, on 13 May 2014; as an important basis for the Ministerial Declaration - Direct linkage to environmental degradation, droughts and climate change as they have implications for water availability and quality, for the provision of ecosystems services, living conditions and affecting migratory flows.
Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recalls the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change, in Athens, on 13 May 2014; as an important basis for the Ministerial Declaration - Is a spin-off of the MD on Environment and Climate Change, as the Ministerial Meeting in 2014 identified Marine Litter as an emerging priority and from a preventive point of view, strong commitments to Sustainable Consumption and Production are pivotal to address the problem. - Stresses the environmental and climate-related challenges for the entire region, which may be exacerbated by rapid population growth and urbanisation together with unsustainable use of marine resources and
Second Ministerial Conference of the UfM on Sustainable Urban Development Declaration	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recalls the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change as an important basis for the Ministerial Declaration - Highlights the vulnerability to Climate Change of the Mediterranean region and its cities. - Highlights environment and climate related topics for urban development, such as sustainable resource management, sustainable use of land and ecosystems, enhanced urban resilience through adaptation between others.
Conclusions UfM Third Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change - No links to the relevant topics of the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change



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