



International Conference “Climate Change in the Middle East: Challenges and Solutions”

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Address by Mr Arnault Graves

Climate Adviser

Seul le prononcé fait foi

The Union for the Mediterranean main Climate Actions

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Union for the Mediterranean is an intergovernmental institution bringing together 43 countries to promote dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

1. Context

1.1.UfM Roadmap

UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted a Roadmap in Barcelona on 24 January 2017, shaping the overall objectives of the UfM. This Roadmap is making a clear commitment to use the UfM framework “*to better highlight the Euro-Mediterranean region’s contributions to the global agenda and interlink Mediterranean regional action with the Global Sustainable Development Goals, taking fully into account as well the contribution that this work can make in addressing the current global challenges facing the region. The*



transversality of global issues such as climate change, environment and water and urban development will continue to be addressed by the UFM, based on a cross sectoral inclusive approach.”

1.2. International climate agenda

The Paris Agreement is now setting the pace of the international climate agenda. In line with the commitments made under the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, adopted in Athens in March 2014, UfM Member States have been actively involved in the adoption of the Paris Agreement. All UfM Member States have signed the Paris Agreement and all have ratified or are engaged in the process of ratification of this Agreement

The decision related to the Paris Agreement clearly calls to support countries in the preparation of their nationally determined contribution. It is stressed that this should be done by developed countries and *“any other organisations in a position to do so”*. The UfM, bringing together developed and developing countries, has received the mandate to do so, through the 2014 UfM Ministerial Declaration on Environment and Climate Change.

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1. General objective



In that context, the general objective of the work program (2017-2022) of the UfM in Climate Action is to support all UfM Member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the preparation of their nationally determined contributions by providing an accurate understanding of the UfM regional context and of possible synergies and complementarities among the national policies and measures in the region.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of this work program are:

1. To establish a systematic exchange on respective national climate policies in order to identify best practices and possible synergies and complementarities in the preparation of their respective national mitigation actions and adaptation measures.
2. To develop cooperation among international financial institutions and other donors active to enhance the coordination and delivery of financial resources to support country-driven strategies
3. To promote regional science-based consensus on climate impacts in the UfM region, especially on the Mediterranean basin.
4. To exchange views around the specific concerns of the Euro-Mediterranean region regarding climate change in international fora, especially in the UNFCCC.

2. Activities

Activity 1: Science-based consensus on climate impacts



The activity aims to provide a sound and comprehensive scientific basis for the development of nationally determined contribution of at least one macro-ecosystem of the UfM region.

The UfM region (which includes 43 countries from the Polar Circle to the Sahara and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Caucasus) is composed of several macro-ecosystems. In order to develop proper climate policies, it is key to understand how these macro-ecosystems will react to climate change.

The Mediterranean basin, gathering 22 out of the 43 UfM Member States, is playing a central role for the UfM Region. Therefore, the UfM work program focuses its work on the assessment of climate-related environmental changes of the Mediterranean basin.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the assessment report, this activity is expected to rely mainly on the work that will be produced by MedECC, a network of scientists of the region.

Given the cross-sectoral nature of the MedECC project and its strong environmental dimension, the UfM contribution to the MedECC activities is elaborated in an inclusive way, by involving jointly the environment and climate change representatives in UfM members.



UfMS support the MedECC network by financing its secretariat: the relevant contract has been signed in April 2018, for a period of more than two years.

A first draft assessment should be ready for a presentation at COP24, in Katowice in December this year.

The Expected result is an assessment report of the climate related impacts in the Mediterranean, to be considered by the scientific community and policy makers.

Activity 2: Sharing of experience on national measures

This activity aims to provide exchange of information and best practices on national climate measures related to mitigation and adaptation.

The following sectors are considered under this activity:

- Energy
- Transport
- Buildings
- Industrial activities
- Tourism
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Coastal and blue economy
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
- Waste
- Water

The role of local authorities and the private sector are considered in a transversal manner under these topics.



The first two sectors for which UfM has launched studies are Tourism and Agriculture, much in lines with priorities underlined on this conference. UfMS will organise a dedicated workshop in these issues in October this year.

Activity 3: Cooperation among financial institutions

This activity aims at:

- Providing an overview on the amount of climate financing delivered in the UfM region, in the view to contribute to identifying the remaining gaps and needs.
- Assessing the current areas of actions of Institutional and Financial Institutions and donors, especially by providing a clear overview of the current financial instruments available and by identifying flagship projects from which best practices can be showcased, in order to enhance synergies among financial instruments.

A first UfM Climate Finance study has been published in November 2017, and presented during COP23. These first results are now being updated. The global results show that the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries received an overall amount of 8 bns USD in 2016, which represent 13% of the total amount of internal public climate finance.

Activity 4: Addressing regional concerns in international fora



This activity aims to support the exchange of views around the specific concerns of the Euro-Mediterranean region regarding climate change in international fora, especially in the UNFCCC. This activity is very important to bring the voice of the Mediterranean notably in the COPs: this is even more the case since the UfMS is an observer since 2016.

UfMS has in that context organized several side-events in COP 22 and 23.

3. Projects and initiatives related to the work program

Finally, I also wanted to highlight that the UfM mandate relies on project promotion.

The UfM Secretariat continue in particular to support the development of projects related to capacity building. It also remains open to support any project of regional interest aiming at enhancing climate education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, as well as supporting the strengthening of cooperative action on technology development and transfer.

Some climate-dedicated projects are under the process of UfM labelling, but a total amount of 12 projects, representing 2.6 blns USD are already labelled by the UfM.

Thanks a lot for your attention