

ANNEX I

PARIS DECLARATION

We, Heads of Delegation of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, meeting in Paris, France, on 10 February, 2012

Recalling the regional cooperation framework established through the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) since 1975; taking into due consideration the new political context and *determined* to reinforce effective regional cooperation for the protection of the marine environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean through strong political commitment, and the active participation of civil society;

Acknowledging the value and significance of MAP, and the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, their contribution to the definition of a shared legal, regulatory and innovative framework, and their forerunning role at the global level in the definition and implementation of protection and sustainable development measures and policies for the Mediterranean marine environment and its coastal zone;

Recognizing the valuable contribution of representatives of international and regional organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders and major groups to the work of 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention;

Deeply concerned by the threats which continue to menace the coastal and marine environment in the Mediterranean, including pollution from land-based sources, from offshore exploration and exploitation activities, waste, the over-use of natural resources and potentially dangerous exploitation of vulnerable habitats and ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, soil and coastal degradation, the impacts of climate change, and *recalling* that if the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zone ecosystems are protected and managed with a view to sustainable development, this will allow goods and services they provide to be used sustainably over the long term;

Recognizing that the consequences of the global economic crisis may affect the environment and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, but also provide opportunities to illustrate the irreplaceable role of MAP as a framework for dialogue and operational cooperation on environment and sustainable development;

Encouraging Parties that have not yet done so to sign or ratify the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention - and *recognizing* the need for the Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations in relation to the Convention, its Protocols and relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and their commitments under the Action Plans and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;

Reaffirming the political commitments made at previous Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and particularly the outcome of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Almería in 2008 on, among others, the ecosystem approach, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and governance;

Also reaffirming the commitments made at the Meeting of Contracting Parties held in Marrakech in 2009 on actions related to climate change and the promotion of better governance within MAP;

Noting the progress made in reinforcing MAP, and particularly the entry into force in 2011, following ratification by 6 countries, of the “Offshore” Protocol and of the ICZM Protocol, the first legally binding instrument of its type in the world, and *seeking* to ensure their effective, collective and responsible implementation and aware of the necessity to ensure their timely implementation through action plans;

Convinced of the need to enhance governance in the MAP system, taking into account contemporary institutional developments and the plurality of political, civil, environmental and financing actors, and *aware* of the need for sound budgetary management, financial sustainability and the effective use of resources;

Aware that the effectiveness of future structural reforms and the implementation of programmes of work require prompt implementation of the adopted resource mobilization strategy, involving the regional and global actors concerned;

Reaffirming the value and importance of the overall system of the Convention and its Protocols as a legal and regulatory platform for policy decisions for advancing cross-sectoral cooperation to progress on internationally agreed conservation and sustainable use goals in marine and coastal areas, and their commitment to implement the related action plans;

Recalling the framework for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation offered, amongst others, by the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Neighbourhood Policy and their calling to promote sustainable development and in particular depollution of the Mediterranean, notably through the EU-Horizon 2020 Initiative *inter alia*;

Welcoming the results of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya in 2010, which achieved a global agreement for the protection and development of world biodiversity and the adoption of a new strategy aimed at halting biodiversity loss, with a programme for the preservation of the marine environment;

Emphasizing the need to implement the recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding marine habitats and species, and particularly on the use of marine protected areas as an instrument for protecting the marine environment and on the designation of marine ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs);

Emphasizing the need to further reinforced cooperation between all actors in the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean and *welcoming* the on going efforts to enhance cooperation with the Secretariats of the Union for the Mediterranean, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Maritime Organization, IUCN and the other regional seas conventions and programmes, and future cooperation with all other relevant organizations;

Committed to working together to preserve the wealth and sustainability of Mediterranean ecosystems, goods and services to serve as an example for other regions of the world and thus contribute to the adoption at the worldwide level of global measures for the protection and sustainable development and management of the marine and coastal environment;

Conscious of the opportunity represented by the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in 2012, known as Rio+20, and *determined* to address marine and coastal environment concerns among the major challenges to be tackled at the Conference;

Taking note with appreciation of the inter-institutional report opening the way to the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development, the “Blueprint for Oceans and Coastal Sustainability”, presented at the 36th General Conference of UNESCO and of the recent presentation of the “Green Economy in a Blue World” synthesis report;

Determined to positively contribute to the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in 2012, with a view to achieving global commitments on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and the institutional framework of sustainable development, in particular those related to marine and coastal issues;

Hereby declare that we are resolved to:

- **Take all the necessary measures to make the Mediterranean a clean, healthy and productive sea with conserved biodiversity and ecosystems**
 - o by reaffirming our political commitments to protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal zones through an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities, to be implemented by stages in regular cycles;
 - o by developing, a coherent, well-managed network of coastal and marine protected areas in the Mediterranean, including on the high seas, in accordance with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and implementing the Aichi Plan of Action adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular to meet the target of 10 per cent of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean by 2020;
 - o by reinforcing regional cooperation for the scientific evaluation of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, in relation to the global work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and by the United Nations General Assembly;
 - o by intensifying efforts to curb pollution from land-based sources, such as marine litter, through the adoption and implementation of legally-binding measures, and pollution from offshore activities and sea based activities, through regional action plans.
 - o By ensuring, in view of the predicted increase in maritime traffic, the continuous strengthening of capacities and resources to prevent and respond to marine pollution caused by shipping, in particular through judicial and operational cooperation.

- **Strengthen the integrated management of Mediterranean coastal zones**, as a unique instrument at the service of Mediterranean States, an integrated vision of coastal areas and the basis for their sustainable development
 - o [by implementing the Action Plan and roadmap approved by the Parties as rapidly as possible;]
 - o by recognizing the need to improve coherence between the different levels of coastal governance, supplemented by optimal national frameworks for integrated coastal zone management;
 - o by encouraging the ratification of the ICZM Protocol by the Barcelona Convention Parties.

- **Address major concerns on the marine and coastal environment and provide a Mediterranean input into the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012**
 - o by supporting and undertaking strong commitments, in our capacity as United Nations Member States, regarding the sustainable management of marine resources and preservation of marine biodiversity;
 - o by continuing to support, at Mediterranean level, capacity building and other activities associated with green economy as means to achieve sustainable development, such as the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns, sustainable chemical management and ecoinnovation, all of which have been shown to have also direct or indirect effect on the Mediterranean marine environment;
 - o by calling on the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development to propose policies to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the implementation of a “blue economy” for the Mediterranean, as a version of the “green economy” applied to the seas and oceans, having the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as appropriate strategic policy framework;
 - o by supporting consideration of the theme of oceans and the initiation of negotiations for a process initiated by the United Nations General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction effectively addresses those issues by identifying gaps and ways forward, through the development of a multilateral agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This agreement would include a series of regimes covering marine protected areas, access to genetic resources and the sharing of the benefits of their use, and impact assessments of human activities;
 - o by promoting achievement in the Mediterranean of the objectives of Agenda 21, in particular through the implementation of the commitments made under Agenda MED 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

- by supporting the preparation by 2014, of the report on the state of the marine environment, including the socioeconomic aspects, through the related regular process mandated by the United Nations General Assembly.

Establish the conditions for transparent, effective and enhanced institutional governance of MAP

- by consolidating synergies with regional and global partners, with a view to optimizing financing of MAP activities and the allocation of resources;
- By actively involving civil society representatives and in particular NGOs, local and regional governments and the private sector, to elaborate better informed decisions and provide for efficient implementation at all levels;
- by encouraging the Secretariat in its efforts to conclude, as soon as possible, cooperation agreements with the secretariats of the Union for the Mediterranean, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Maritime Organization, other regional seas conventions and all other relevant organizations;
- by pursuing reflection on an institutional reform of the MAP system, in the light of recent developments, involving all marine and coastal environmental stakeholders, with a view to strengthening the governance of MAP;
- by calling for the consideration, at the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, of a proposal for the institutional reform of MAP, taking into account *inter alia*, the results of the functional review, formulated in close cooperation with the Contracting Parties.

Invites the Presidency to forward this declaration and the outcomes of the 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, for the attention of the other regional seas conventions and programmes, as well as other relevant organizations.

Invites the Presidency to forward this declaration to the attention of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and to take, in cooperation with the representatives of the Contracting Parties, all initiatives necessary to promote it and its conclusions.