

Towards a new UfM Water Agenda:

Expected to be guided by the decisions of the
UfM Ministerial Conference on Water
27 April 2017, Malta

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WHAT

The UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water, 27 April 2017, Malta is expected to call for a UfM Water Agenda to enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable and integrated water management in the UfM region

The UfM Water Agenda is expected to provide a regional water policy framework as means for

- substantial and measurable positive impacts towards achieving sustainable livelihoods,
- mainstreaming efforts towards meeting SDGs, in particular SDG 6 on Water,
- contributing to stability, peace and prosperity in the region.

WHAT - The UfM Water Agenda should assist in:

- promoting **sustainable economic and social development** and have significant **employment** benefits;
- tackling **climate change** impacts and increasing climate and **disaster resilience**;
- meeting environmental and water **quality objectives**;
- tackling **migration** challenges, amongst and inside countries;
- ensuring **access to safe drinking** water as a fundamental human right, particularly for the most vulnerable;
- promoting *gender* mainstreaming, focus on **youth, transparency** and improved **accountability** in the water sector;
- engaging in new operational and innovative **partnerships**, including the **private sector**;
- enabling the development of the **circular economy and of green growth**;
- meeting the obligations of Parties to the **Barcelona Convention** and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to which UfM members are the Parties, as well as the objectives of the **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development**

HOW

Key tools, at appropriate levels, to achieving regional objectives
within the UfM Water Agenda:

- good water governance including water planning,
- effective, efficient, and equitable use of water,
- pollution prevention and de-pollution,
- protection and sustainable use of groundwater resources,
- transboundary cooperation,
- sustainable financing, investments and operational partnerships with the private sector,
- reliable data and information,
- research and innovation and technology transfer,
- education and awareness as well as capacity building

HOW

The UfM Water Agenda would:

- **provide a suite of recommendations, proposals and initiatives** helping UfM members to achieve the coordinated and sustainable application of IWRM approaches in a comprehensive manner, and with the participation of stakeholders
- **be accompanied by a financial strategy** designed to support its implementation and prepared by UfM members, in consultation with financial actors and the private sector as well as relevant regional stakeholders

HOW

The UfM Water Agenda is suggested *[some points under negotiation]* to include, inter alia, the following **Thematic Areas**:

- Water-Energy-Food/Agriculture-Ecosystems Nexus;
- Water and climate change adaptation;
- Access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Water and migration;
- Water resources preservation, water quality protection and depollution;
- Water resources and water use efficiency, water demand management, non-conventional water resources management;
- Transboundary cooperation;
- Data management and shared information systems;
- Water governance;
- Water economics.

HOW

It is expected that:

- The Water Expert Group (WEG), in consultation with regional institutions, donors and non-governmental actors, would be called to elaborate and implement the UfM Water Agenda.
- The WEG would exchange information and provide technical recommendations, proposals and initiatives on water-related plans, strategies, programmes and projects of regional interest, aligned with countries' needs and obligations.
- The WEG would do these through a medium/long term WEG Work Programme that will include a Financial Strategy, and through biannual Work Plans.
- The WEG would work according to the rules and procedures of the UfM working mechanisms.
- The UfM Water Agenda will be guided by the UfM Senior Officials.