



## **Operational Modalities of the Union for the Mediterranean Climate Change Expert Group (UfMCCEG)**

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

### **1. Background**

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) was launched on 13 July 2008 at the Paris Summit as a continuation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), also known as the Barcelona Process, established in 1995. The UfM constitutes a framework for political, economic and social relations between the European Union and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean partners. It draws on the goals set out in the Barcelona Declaration, namely the creation of an area of peace, stability, security and shared economic prosperity, as well as full respect of democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and cultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Paris declaration explicitly cites climate change as a considerable challenge to be addressed within the UfM. Nevertheless, climate change has been covered only marginally so far, and namely within initiatives and projects targeting other relevant sectors in the region (e.g. energy or water). Consequently, and considering the mounting urgency of addressing this global challenge, and the need to intensify cooperation including in support of the domestic preparations for the 2015 Agreement, a regional climate change expert group for cooperation and project development in the Mediterranean was established at the UfM ministerial meeting on environment and climate change (May 2014).

The Expert Group has concretely been mandated to provide a multilateral and multi-stakeholder platform for exchange of information, best practices, opportunities for cross-border cooperation, in particular on low emission and climate resilient development; and more concretely to foster identification and support development of projects and initiatives such as Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Plans and adaptation policies and other relevant activities. The Ministerial declaration of 13 May 2014, including the detailed mandate, can be found in Annex I.

### **2. Long-term Objective and the Work Plan**

The long-term objective of the UfMCCEG is to enhance national and regional capacities for strategic planning and implementation resulting in concrete projects, which materialise in significant GHG emissions reductions and increased adaptation capacity and building resilience in the region. The UfMCCEG will reflect on the ways to assess progress towards this objective, as appropriate, in view of providing recommendations to the SOM as mandated by the Ministerial declaration.

As concerns the operationalisation of the UfMCCEG, the national contact points will agree on the concrete areas of focus within the UfMCCEG as well as on the Work Plan for 2014-2015 at the first meeting of the UfMCCEG. At the third meeting of the UfMCCEG, national contact points will





take stock of the established cooperation and the progress, in order to report to the SOM as mandated by the Ministerial declaration. Subsequently, the Work Plan will be developed further beyond 2015. The operational modalities may also be revised and amended as appropriate.

### 3. Structure

#### 3.1 Co-Presidency, the Secretariat and Members

The UfM co-Presidencies co-chair the UfMCCEG. The UfM Secretariat acts as a secretariat to the group. The EU co-Presidency is represented by the European Commission, and the Jordan co-Presidency is represented by the Ministry for Environment of Jordan.

The individual UfM countries nominate their members.

#### 3.2 UfMCCEG National Contact Point

**UfM CCEG national contact point** is a technical senior official with comprehensive overview of national climate change policy; the contact point would ideally be associated with chairing national climate change committees (where applicable) or able to coordinate across sectors with various stakeholders in climate change policy at national level. The national contact point will act as the focal point for all communication concerning the UfMCCEG.

#### 3.3 UfMCCEG National Climate Change Experts Networks

Each national contact point is supported by a **national climate change experts network**.

The **national climate change experts networks** represent pools of experts from various sectors/areas relevant for climate change policy who would alternate in the meetings of the UfMCCEG depending on the issues on the agenda (and subject to decision of the UfMCCEG national contact point). Considerations should be given to the involvement of existing cross-sectoral committees/dialogues on climate change issues (where applicable).

The profiles shall cover in particular sustainable development and economy, sustainable energy, transport, industry, agriculture and irrigation, but also water, waste, GHG emissions modelling, climate vulnerability and modelling, climate research and technology. The expert nominations should reflect the need to develop synergies between adaptation, disaster risk reduction, mitigation and environment protection (water management in particular, but not limited to).

The communication channels and the way of working within such national experts' network are determined by the national contact points. However, the existing regional projects (namely CLIMA South/ECRAN as appropriate) may be able to assist the national contact point to operationalize such network (e.g. via organisation of specific events) as it is expected from the national contact point to engage in cross-sectoral exchanges in preparation for the individual UfMCCEG meetings. Such coordination would ideally result in increasing mainstreaming of climate change at national level, as mandated by the declaration.

#### 3.4 Observers

At the first meeting of the UfMCCEG, a list of observers and their possible roles in the UfMCCEG will be submitted for discussion and approval. The UfM Secretariat will be responsible for contact with variety of stakeholders, including a development of a comprehensive communication channel.



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#### **4. Organisation of UfMCCEG meetings**

The UfMCCEG meets at least once a year.

The co-Presidencies set the dates and the agenda. Topics for discussion will be set by the co-Presidencies in consultation with the UfM Secretariat. National contact points might be additionally invited to submit proposals for projects or initiatives (of regional relevance) for consideration prior to the meetings. The deadline for proposals should allow sufficient time for possible background research, feasibility study or other background work to be performed before the actual discussion.

The UfM Secretariat supports the organisation of such meetings in terms of communication and logistics.

#### **5. Communication**

The UfMCCEG will use the established UfM communication channels, including its website. Two specific mailboxes have been created for the purpose of communication with the expert group: [climate@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:climate@ufmsecretariat.org), [CLIMA-UFM-GROUP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CLIMA-UFM-GROUP@ec.europa.eu).

Communication among individual UfMCCEG members (including the national climate change networks) is encouraged in addition to the official communication with the Expert Group, as appropriate.



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