Promoting Digital Technologies for Climate Mitigation
UfM Panel at COP31 – Antalya, 11 November 2026 (11h30 – 12h30)

Concept Note

Digital technologies are becoming increasingly important in accelerating the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient economies. Artificial intelligence (AI), satellite-based Earth observation, smart electricity grids, digital energy management, and Internet of Things (IoT) solutions can help countries reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable energy, and monitor progress towards their climate commitments.

For the Euro-Mediterranean region, the opportunities are particularly significant. Countries face shared challenges related to rising energy demand, water scarcity, urbanization, and the need to accelerate renewable energy deployment while strengthening regional cooperation. Digitalisation can support this transition by improving the efficiency of energy systems, transport, buildings, industry, and public services.

However, digital technologies also have an environmental footprint, including electricity consumption by data centres and AI systems, the use of critical minerals, and the growing volume of electronic waste. Their climate benefits therefore depend on responsible deployment, clean electricity, appropriate regulation, accessible infrastructure, and robust measurement of emissions reductions.

The panel will explore how digital innovation can become a practical enabler of climate mitigation across the Mediterranean, connecting policy, finance, technology, and regional cooperation. The panel is expected to deliver actionable policy recommendations for integrating digital solutions into national climate mitigation strategies, identify scalable digital climate solutions and potential regional pilot projects.

Guiding questions for the panel:

- ✓ *How can AI and digital technologies accelerate measurable emission reductions across Mediterranean energy systems, cities, transport, and industry?*
- ✓ *What policy frameworks, financing mechanisms, and partnerships are needed to scale successful digital climate solutions across both shores of the Mediterranean?*
- ✓ *How can countries ensure that digitalisation delivers genuine net emission reductions while limiting energy consumption, water use, and e-waste?*
- ✓ *What role can the UfM play in facilitating technology transfer, regional data cooperation, capacity-building, and joint pilot projects?*

Draft Agenda

Moderator: Mohammed Elrazzaz, Head of Sector for Regional Integration, UfM Secretariat
Language: Englissh
Duration: 1 hour (11h30 – 12h30)
Venue: UfM Mediterranean Pavilion – Blue Zone

11h30	Welcome Address *Amb. Meltem Büyükkarakaş* *UfM Deputy Secretary General for Economic Development and Employment*
11h35 – 12h15	Panel discussion - 5 panelists
12h15 – 12h25	Questions and Comments by Audinece
12h25 – 12h30	Wrap-up and Closing *Mr. Mohammed Elrazzaz* *Head of Sector for Regional Integration* *UfM Economic Development and Employment Division*