



## UfM Water Agenda & Financial Strategy for Water

### Consultation Meeting with Regional Institutions and Stakeholders

9 December 2020

On line, 10:00-14:00 CET

#### Concept Note and Agenda

DRAFT

### 1. Background

Advancing planning and implementation of the UfM Water Agenda and Financial Strategy for Water in 2020, under the COVID-19 restrictions, a number of consultation events have been organised, including an informal Water Expert Group (WEG) Meeting (9-10 June 2020) as well as a Joint Meeting (23 July 2020) of the Task Forces on Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus and Water-Employment-Migration (WEM). Among others, the Work Plan 2020-2022 of the WEFE and WEM thematic areas were elaborated and received feedback by UfM Member States and regional stakeholders. Thematic knowledge sharing webinars have also taken place, engaging a range of stakeholders and experts who exchanged experiences on challenges and solutions, including with a post-pandemic outlook.

Currently, a number of regional policy and action planning processes are in the making or are already advancing, holding interconnections with the UfM Water Agenda, with which it is suggested to explore establishing operational linkages. Among these, we can mention:

- the [25th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process](#), part of which will be the EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting, the [5th UfM Regional Forum](#) including a Civil Society Conference (26 November), a [High Level Conference on Accelerating Gender Equality in the COVID-19 Context](#) (16-20 November 2020), etc.
- the advancement of the [European Green Deal](#).
- the launching (October 2020) of the [EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans](#).
- the future revision of the [Southern European Neighbourhood Policy \(ENP\)](#) instrument.

Such processes come at a time of great disruption for the region, compounded by the COVID-19 crisis, with severe economic and social impacts, making even more obvious the need for tangible and coordinated cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. These processes are expected to establish an updated and far-reaching vision and action plan for sustainable growth in the Mediterranean. Collective responses will determine how fast the region would recover by properly handling pressing challenges while building back better: from the economic crisis to the climate change emergency, inequalities and rapid changes in living patterns, technology, etc.

Water and climate resilience objectives, with all their multi-faceted interlinkages within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) context, have a central role in making these real in the Mediterranean. Further to recognised integrated approaches, like the WEFE Nexus, Source-to-Sea, adaptation/mitigation co-benefits, etc, new/updated processes would be further strengthening fields in which water and climate adaptation are central, like circular economy, blue economy, from-farm-to-fork, digitalisation, innovation and technology transfer, etc. The UfM Water Agenda, through its four Thematic Areas (WEFE Nexus, WEM, WASH, Climate Change Adaptation) and its Financial Strategy for Water, provides a central policy and technical vehicle for promoting understanding, assisting prioritisation, fostering action, and sharing knowledge towards achieving related common objectives in the UfM region.



While the UfM Member States are driving related developments and are the key beneficiaries of the UfM Water Agenda, the role of regional institutions and stakeholder organisations in designing and materialising the UfM Water Agenda, throughout its trajectory, is strongly recognised and highly appreciated. Within these, a meeting of regional institutions and stakeholders is invited to consult and further commit contributions to on-going and possibly emerging action lines of the UfM Water Agenda Thematic Areas and the Financial Strategy for Water.

## 2. Purpose and modalities of the Consultation Meeting

The purpose of the Consultation Meeting of Regional Institutions and Stakeholders on the UfM Water Agenda, is to:

- Share information on key regional policy and action planning processes that are relevant to the UfM Water Agenda objectives and work lines, suggesting priorities and identifying entry points for promoting synergies. Among others, the revision of the Barcelona Process will be in the focus.
- Elaborate on how the UfM Water Agenda could further operationalise its regional work agenda as well as further advance action at national level, through synergies with on-going and emerging work lines of regional institutions and stakeholders. Specific proposals, including commitments of regional partners, would be in the focus.

Results and outputs of the Consultation Meeting will be utilised to:

- update and enrich the Work Plans 2020-2022 of the thematic areas and the Financial Strategy for Water, in view of the WEG11 Meeting
- provide operational grounds for strengthening scheduled and building new activities
- inform the WEG 11 Meeting, scheduled for Q1 2021.

Participants of the Consultation Meeting would include:

- regional institutions and stakeholder organisation with action in the UfM Water Agenda fields
- UfM Member States that are leading UfM Water Agenda thematic areas
- UfM Co-Presidency (EC and Jordan)

The Meeting will be co-chaired by the UfM Co-Presidency and will be facilitated by the UfM Secretariat with technical inputs and assistance by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean. It will be conducted on-line, in English. The Meeting is supported by Sida.

Reflections on main contents of the Meeting would be collected before the event. Such material will also be available for updates in the Meeting's follow ups.



### 3. Draft Agenda (some speakers to be confirmed)

9 December 2020, 10:00-14:00 CET

#### Session 1. Introduction and updates

10.00-10.12 Welcome remarks

*Representatives of the UfM Co-Presidencies (3 min each)*

- *Mr. Mohamad Dwairi*, Assistant to the Secretary General, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- *Mr. Stefano Dotto*, Head of Sector, Climate Change, Energy, Environment, Transport, European Commission, DG NEAR
- *Mr. Patrick Wegerdt*, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission
- *Ms. Yosra Albakkar*, Regional Program Manager, MENA Unit, Sida (tbc)
- *Mr. Isidro González Afonso*, Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfMS

10.12-10.15 Purpose of the Meeting (3min)

*Mr. Almotaz Abadi*, Managing Director, UfMS

10.15-10.30 Updates on the UfM Water Agenda (15min)

*Ms. Anthi Brouma*, UfM TA Team Leader  
Clarification Q/A

#### Session 2. Key on-going and upcoming regional processes related to the UfM Water Agenda

*Moderator:* *Ms. Nuria Hernandez Mora*, Consultant to the European Commission, DG Environment

10.30-10.40 Keynote presentation on the 25th Anniversary and revision of the European south neighbourhood policy instrument links and synergies (10 min)

*Mr. Diego Escalona*, Head of Partnerships, UfM Secretariat and DG NEAR

10.40-11.20 Interactive panel exchanges on key regional processes

Including on the European Green Deal, EU instruments and the EU Green Agenda in the Western Balkans, the ENP Instrument-South revision

11.20-12.00 *Tour de table: Interventions (max 4 min each) by regional institutions and stakeholders as well as UfM Member States (World Water Council, 5+5, Blue Plan, MIO ECSDE, RAED, CEDARE, KAS-REMENA, WES, MedCities, Women for Water Partnership, World Youth Parliament for Water, +++), focusing on:*

*(i) what additional regional processes the UfM Water Agenda should consider for alignment?*

*(ii) how could the UfM Water Agenda best influence and benefit from emerging priorities and funding opportunities of regional processes?*

12.00-12.30 Break



### **Session 3. Advancing synergies for the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda & Financial Strategy for Water**

*Tour de table: Interventions (max 4 min each) by regional institutions and stakeholders as well as UfM Member States with concrete suggestions and commitments on operational synergies between their established and upcoming work lines with the UfM Water Agenda (max 4 min per intervention)*

- 12.30-12.50 WEFE Nexus & WEM  
*Moderator: Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med*
- 12.50-13.10 WASH  
*Moderator: Mr. Alain Meysonnier, President, IME*
- 13.10-13.30 Climate Change Adaptation  
*Moderator: Mr. Khalid Tamsamani, UfM TA Advisor on WCCA*
- 13.30-13.50 Financial Strategy for Water  
*Moderator: Mr. Roberto Martin Hurtado, UfM TA Advisor on Water Economics*
- 13.50-14.00 Summary of conclusions  
*Ms. Anthi Brouma, UfM TA Team Leader*

#### **Next Steps**

*Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, GWP-Med*

*Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, UfMS*