



European Union



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan

9th UfM Regional Forum Barcelona, 28 October 2024

Co-Presidency Joint Statement

- Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Euro-Mediterranean region convened in their Ninth Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on 28 October 2024 in Barcelona, under the Co-Presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Union, to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; in particular the unceasing war in Gaza, the grave situation including the humanitarian crisis, the escalations in the West Bank, the war in Lebanon and the way forward.
- Ministers thanked the host country Spain, the UfM Secretariat and its Co-Presidency for facilitating and organising the Regional Forum.
- The Co-Presidency welcomed the participation of the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee.
- The following points were covered during the discussions:
 - The Co-Presidency denounced that, while this Ninth UfM Regional Forum is taking place, the continued Israeli attacks against North Gaza are creating widespread devastation and deprivation, making life unbearable for the Palestinian population. Grave concern was expressed over the protracted war in Gaza and the grave humanitarian situation. It was stressed the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire, the delivery of sustained and sufficient humanitarian supplies to all parts in Gaza, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2735, and that all hostages and prisoners need to be released.
 - They expressed concern over the escalating situation in the West Bank which has caused alarming civilian casualties. There was rejection of any expulsion or displacement of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank, and concern about the internal displacement of Palestinians inside Gaza.
 - It was emphasised that hospitals, schools, medical facilities, and health workers, as well as UN facilities and humanitarian organisations and their workers must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.
 - There is an urgent need for all parties to end hostilities and their obligation to protect civilians and to respect international humanitarian law at all times. Targeting of civilians is not allowed under international law.
 - The indispensable and irreplaceable role of UNRWA was reiterated and the need to support it politically and financially was reaffirmed to allow it to fulfil its UN



European Union



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan

mandate. There was grave concern about the draft bills on UNRWA currently being discussed in Israel. They strongly supported the UN Secretary General's call on the matter and shared the concern that these draft bills, if adopted, would have disastrous consequences, preventing UNRWA from continuing to provide its services and protection to Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory.

- The collective responsibility was reaffirmed to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue on the basis of the Two-State Solution and in accordance with international law, relevant UN resolutions and agreed terms of reference.
 - There was support to the convening of a peace conference to achieve a just peace and the Two-State Solution. There was reference to the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UNGA in New York, entitled "*The Situation in Gaza and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution as a Path to a Just and Comprehensive Peace*".
 - The urgent need for a cessation of all unilateral Israeli measures that undermine the Two-State Solution was emphasised, including settlement building, expansion, land confiscation, and underlined the need to respect for the historical status quo of holy sites in Jerusalem, including the Hashemite custodianship.
 - The urgency to work together was reiterated for the achievement of an immediate and permanent ceasefire as a top priority in Gaza and in Lebanon. There should be work with all stakeholders to ensure a sustained mechanism for uninterrupted and unhindered delivery of humanitarian supplies to all parts of Gaza, the resumption of all essential services there, and the release of all hostages and innocent detained civilians.
 - Concern was expressed over the increasing militarisation, causing significant disruption to large parts of Lebanese territory, with significant numbers of Lebanese displaced citizens, deeply affected by the Israeli ground operations. An immediate ceasefire was called for as well as the full implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1701 as part of a broader political settlement. Moreover, they emphasized on the importance of providing the humanitarian assistance that Lebanon is in dire need.
 - There was condemnation of attacks against UN missions and particularly grave concern regarding the attacks by the Israeli Army against the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).
- The Co-Presidency noted in this context that the UfM, as a unique platform and as the institutional embodiment of the Barcelona process, can play a role in a rehabilitation process in the Region, by offering its convening power and by providing a useful



European Union



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



The Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan

platform to bring people together to reflect on projects and dialogue. This could be an important contribution to rebuild peace and address the root causes of conflict.

- The Co-Presidency is satisfied of the consensus amongst the UfM Member States that the UfM continues to play a key role in regional integration and cooperation in the Mediterranean Region, to address those challenges which cannot be addressed individually by any Member State, and which cannot be postponed.
- There was agreement to task Senior Officials to use 2025, ahead of the Tenth UfM Regional Forum and the 30th Anniversary of the Barcelona process, to review the 2017 UfM Roadmap for Action, with new priorities to be established in light of the new geopolitical context and the specific situation in the Middle East.
- The participants commended the selection of Matera, Italy, and Tetouan, Morocco, as ‘Mediterranean Capitals of Culture & Dialogue’ for the year 2026.