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The Hashemite  
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# 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water

5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Banqueting Hall, Palau de Pedralbes, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat  
Barcelona, Spain

## Concept Note

### Background

#### The UfM Water Agenda

The [UfM Ministerial Declaration on Water](#) (Malta, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017), called for “a Union for the Mediterranean Water Agenda to enhance regional cooperation towards sustainable and integrated water management in the UfM region” and mandated the UfM Regional Platform on Water (previously known as the Water Expert Group, WEG), under the guidance of the UfM Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM), and in consultation with regional institutions, donors and non-governmental actors of the UfM region, to “elaborate and implement the UfM Water Agenda”.

The UfM Senior Officials’ Meeting endorsed the UfM Water Agenda on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The UfM Water Agenda includes:

- the [UfM Water Policy Framework for Actions 2030](#), a strategic framework to guide the work of the WEG up to 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) horizon, and
- the [UfM Financial Strategy for Water](#), a strategic document that aims to facilitate increased financing of investments that contribute to water security in the Mediterranean region while enhancing the financial sustainability of the water sector.

#### Recall of main conclusions of the 14th Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water took place in Lisbon (Portugal) on 5-6 June 2024. Meeting participants:

- reviewed efforts by UfM member states, technical and financial partners, and the UfM Secretariat to implement the UfM Water Agenda;
- discussed the conclusions of the workshop on climate resilience in Mediterranean countries organized under the Protocol on Water and Health and welcomed further cooperation with the Protocol;
- discussed the draft regional strategy for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem nexus;
- approved the Terms of Reference of the UfM Working Group on Water Finance and Investment;
- welcomed the UfM Study on the Digital Transformation of the Water System in the Mediterranean;
- supported the organization of the second UfM ministerial meeting on water in autumn 2025;
- provided guidance for more effective working arrangements of the Regional Platform on Water and its working groups.

## Second UfM Ministerial Meeting

In the second semester of 2024, the UfM Secretariat in consultation with the co-Presidency (Jordan and EU) developed a concept note for the organization of the Second UfM Ministerial Meeting, and the SOM approved the organisation of the Second UfM Ministerial Meeting. In February 2025, the UfM Secretariat organised an Ad Hoc Meeting of the Regional Platform on Water to discuss the preparations for the Ministerial Meeting and the Ministerial Declaration. The Ad Hoc Meeting welcomed Italy's proposal to host the meeting in Rome. In the following months, the UfM Secretariat and Italy identified 24-25 March 2026 as the best dates for the Ministerial Meeting. A zero-draft of the Ministerial Declaration was discussed at the Ad Hoc Meeting. A full draft was shared in May, and UfM member states provided comments over the following 6 weeks. A revised draft will be shared in advance of the RPWater-15 meeting.

## Kick-Off Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum: Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum

In 2023, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water (RPWater-13) was organized back-to-back with the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Roundtable on the WEFE Nexus. This model worked well, allowing access of RPWater members to in-depth discussions on a relevant topic, and generating efficiency gains in the organization of international events. In 2024, RPWater-14 followed the same model and it was organized back-to-back with a workshop hosted by the Government of Portugal on the UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health in Mediterranean countries. In 2025, RPWater-15 will be organised back-to-back with the Kick-Off Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum: Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum (hosted by the UfM and organised by IME) which will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> November (afternoon) and 7<sup>th</sup> November (morning). Participants in RPWater-15 are welcome to join the Kick-Off Meeting.

## Aim and objectives

The overall aim of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water is to continue supporting efforts by UfM member states to increase water security in the Mediterranean region through the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda and the UfM Financial Strategy for Water.

The specific objectives of the Meeting are:

1. To review progress at national level in the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda, including the UfM Financial Strategy for Water, since the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water.
2. To review efforts to support the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda, including the work of the UfM Secretariat and technical and financial partners.
3. To approve the inclusion of three strategic guidance documents in the Ministerial Package.
4. To discuss, and eventually approve, the draft Ministerial Declaration on Water in the Mediterranean.
5. To review the preparations of the Second UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water.
6. To share information about the key global water events taking place in the next 18 months and discuss how the Regional Platform on Water could contribute to those events.

## Logistical information

The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Platform on Water will take place in Barcelona (Spain) at the Banqueting Hall of the Palau of Pedralbes. The meeting will run from 9h00 on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November to 14h00 on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

The UfM Secretariat will cover insurance, visa, flight, transfer and accommodation costs for sponsored participants according to standard UfM rules. Lunch will be provided to all participants at the meeting venue on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

# 15th Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water (RPWater-15)

## Agenda

The following document presents the draft agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Platform for Water.

### ACTION REQUIRED

For adoption during Session 1 of the meeting.

### CONTACT PERSONS

- Frederic de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, UfM [frederic.dedinechin@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:frederic.dedinechin@ufmsecretariat.org)
- Roberto Martin Hurtado, Senior Water Economics Advisor (TA), UfM [roberto\\_martin@hotmail.com](mailto:roberto_martin@hotmail.com)
- Dario Quadri Ilkhani, Project Analyst, UfM, [dario.quadri@ufmsecretariat.org](mailto:dario.quadri@ufmsecretariat.org)



## 15th Meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water

### Agenda

5th-6th November 2025

Banqueting Hall, Palau de Pedralbes, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat  
Barcelona (Spain)

Day 1 – Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	
8:30-9:00	<b>Registration of participants</b>
9:00-9:30	<p><b>Session 1. Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Dolores Pascual, Director General for Water, Spain tbc</i></li> <li>○ <i>Patrick Wegerdt and/or Youssef Tadros (EU co-presidency)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Mohammed Al-Dwairi (Jordan co-presidency)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Grammenos Mastrojeni, Senior Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Meeting objectives and agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, UfM</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9:30-11:00	<p><b>Session 2. Progress in the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Patrick Wegerdt (EU co-presidency, DG ENV)</i></p> <p><i>Session objective: To review progress in the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda since the 2024 meeting of the UfM Regional Platform on Water.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keynote presentation:</b> <i>Dolores Pascual, Director General for Water, Spain</i> Implementation of the objectives of the UfM Water Agenda in Spain, (20 min, plus 10 min Q&amp;A). TBC</li> <li>• <b>Roundtable</b> (60 minutes). UfM Member States will reflect on achievements, challenges, and lessons learned at national level, and their priorities for the year ahead.</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-13:00	<p><b>Session 3. Activities facilitated by the UfM Secretariat</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Mohammed Al-Dwairi (Jordan co-presidency)</i></p> <p><i>Session objective: To review efforts to support the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda facilitated by the UfM Secretariat and approve three strategic documents to be included as part of the Ministerial Package.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Frédéric de Dinechin (Senior Policy Advisor, UfM) and Michael Scoullou, (Chairperson, MIO-ECSCE and GWP-Med). Overview of WEF-E-related activities and presentation of the Strategy for the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus in the Mediterranean Source to Sea Continuum.</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Huriye Incek Ceylan</i> (Chair of the WG-WATFIN) and <i>Roberto Martín Hurtado</i> (Senior Water Economics Advisor TA, UfM). Report on the activities of the WG-WATFIN and presentation of the <i>UfM Recommendations on Water Finance</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Frédéric de Dinechin</i> (Senior Policy Advisor, UfM) and <i>Georg Petersen</i> (UfM consultant). Overview of digitalisation-related activities and presentation of the <i>UfM Regional Strategic Framework for the Digitalization of the Water Sector</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Frédéric de Dinechin</i> (Senior Policy Advisor, UfM) and <i>Vangelis Constantianos</i> (Executive Secretary, GWP-Med). Formulation of the Rome Initiative.</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:00	<p><b>Session 4. Contributions of technical and financial partners to the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Patrick Wegerdt</i> (EU co-presidency, DG ENV)</p> <p><i>Session objective:</i> To review efforts by technical and financial partners to support the implementation of the UfM Water Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roundtable</b> (60 min). <i>UfM partners will be invited to present their related work carried out since RPWater-14 and their plans for the year ahead.</i></li> </ul>
15:00-15:30	Break
15:30-18:00	<p><b>Session 5. Ministerial Declaration on Water (closed session)</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Mohammed Al-Dwairi</i> (Jordan co-presidency)</p> <p><i>Session objective:</i> To review the draft Ministerial Declaration on Water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation.</b> <i>Grammenos Mastrojeni</i> (Senior Deputy Secretary General, UfM) and <i>Roberto Martin Hurtado</i> (Senior Water Economics Advisor TA, UfM).</li> <li>• <b>Roundtable discussion.</b> Meeting participants will provide and discuss their views regarding the current draft of the Ministerial Declaration on Water in the Mediterranean.</li> </ul>
<b>Day 2 – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November (morning only)</b>	
9:00-10:00	<p><b>Session 6. Ministerial Declaration on Water (open session)</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Mohammed Al-Dwairi</i> (Jordan co-presidency)</p> <p><i>Session objective:</i> To present the draft Ministerial Declaration on Water to stakeholders and gather their views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Presentation.</b> <i>Grammenos Mastrojeni</i> (Senior Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, UfM) and <i>Roberto Martin Hurtado</i> (Senior Water Economics Advisor TA, UfM.)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roundtable discussion.</b> Meeting participants will provide and discuss their views regarding the current draft of the Ministerial Declaration on Water in the Mediterranean.</li> </ul>
10:00-10:45	<p><b>Session 7. Second UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Youssef Tadros (EU co-presidency, DG MENA)</i></p> <p><i>Session objective:</i> To review the preparations for the organization of the new UfM Ministerial Meeting on Water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Frederic de Dinechin (Senior Policy Advisor, UfM).</i> Revised concept note and agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting.</li> <li>• <i>Marco Rago (Vice-President of One Water Committee Italy and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy).</i> Information on ministerial meeting organization.</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
10:45-11:15	Break
11:15-12:45	<p><b>Session 8. Recent and upcoming international water events</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Youssef Tadros (EU co-presidency, DG MENA)</i></p> <p><i>Session objective:</i> To share information about the key global water events taking place in the next 18 months and discuss how the Regional Platform on Water could contribute to those events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Cairo Water Week 2025 (Cairo, Egypt 12-16 October 2025) and CWW 2026 by Mohammed Badr (UfM RPWater member, Egypt)</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Ministers Meeting (Madrid, Spain, 22-23 October 2025) by Conchita Marcuello (UfM RPWater member, Spain)</li> <li>• UNEP/MAP 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Cairo, Egypt 2-5 December 2025) by Ilias Mavroeidis, Programme Management Officer, Governance, UNEP-MAP (<a href="#">online</a>)</li> <li>• XIX World Water Congress (Marrakech, Morocco, 1-5 December 2025) by Siham Laraichi (UfM RPWater member, Morocco).</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Istanbul International Water Forum (Istanbul, Türkiye, 5-6 May 2026) by a representative of Türkiye</li> <li>• Euro-Mediterranean water forum-6th MWF (Rome, Italy, 29 Sept- 2 October, 2026) by Marco Rago, Vice-President of One Water Committee Italy and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy.</li> <li>• 2026 UN Water Conference (UAE, 2-6 December 2026) by Henriette Faergemann, International Relations Office, DG ENV, European Commission (<a href="#">online</a>)</li> <li>• 11<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 22-28 March 2027) tbc</li> </ul>
12:45-13:00	<p><b>Session 9. Concluding session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conclusions of the meeting</b> <i>Mohammed Al-Dwairi (Jordan co-presidency)</i></li> </ul>



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	<p><i>Patrick Wegerdt and/or Youssef Tadros (EU co-presidency)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next steps</b> <i>Grammenos Mastrojeni, (Senior Deputy Secretary General for Water Environment and Blue Economy, UfM)</i></li> <li>• <b>Closing remarks</b> <i>Conchita Marcuello (UfM RPWater member, Spain) tbc</i></li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	Transfer to the venue of the Kick off Meeting of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Euro Mediterranean Water Forum and Lunch break