



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

27 NOV 2025—BARCELONA

REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY
**ADVANCING COLLECTIVE RESPONSES
TO CRISIS: BUILDING A RESILIENT
MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

REGIONAL RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

ADVANCING COLLECTIVE RESPONSES TO CRISIS: BUILDING A RESILIENT MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

27 November 2025, Palau Pedralbes, Barcelona

The Mediterranean faces growing, interconnected challenges—from climate-induced disasters to protracted conflicts and resource pressures—that call for a coordinated regional response and stronger partnerships with neighbouring regions. Because these pressures often intersect with socio-economic and governance challenges, many responses fall between institutional remits. A resilience approach therefore needs to be comprehensive—combining prevention, adaptation and mitigation—while improving policy coherence, data sharing and joint planning across sectors. It also calls for wider strategic partnerships that can bring additional capabilities; engagement with partners from the Gulf region will be explored to leverage expertise, finance and technology in support of collective resilience.

The ‘**Regional resilience and recovery: advancing collective responses to crisis**’ side event of the UfM Regional Forum in Barcelona will **examine how the Union for the Mediterranean can advance an integrated resilience agenda, connecting prevention, adaptation, and mitigation**. By engaging partners from the Gulf region, the discussion will help identify shared priorities, strengthen coordination and policy alignment, and promote sustainable post-crises recovery and resource management to build long-term resilience across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Objectives

- Clarify the UfM’s potential role in systemic-risk coordination and resilience promotion, including how strategic partnerships with the Gulf region can support collective efforts.
- Highlight voices from the region to surface priority needs and identify how these can be addressed through regional approaches.
- Identify pathways to operationalise resilience via frameworks, coordination mechanisms and partnership opportunities.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 | Opening remarks

- Jassim Muhammad Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council



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- Nasser Kamel, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
- Stefano Sannino, Director General DG Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf
- Raed al-Saleh, Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, Government of Syria

10:30 – 11:30 | Session 1: Policy, coordination, and collective resilience-building

- Mustafa Al-Saadi Al-Jubouri, Head, Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction, League of Arab States
- Mariam Diallo, Director of Cabinet Union for the Mediterranean
- Giovanni Di Girolamo, Head of Unit for MENA countries at DG ECHO
- Hala Bugaighis, Lawyer

11:30 – 12:00 | COFFE BREAK

12:00 – 13:00 | Session 2: Exploring practical approaches to strengthen Mediterranean resilience through dialogue, coordination and partnerships including with partners from the Gulf region

- Raed al-Saleh, Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, Government of Syria
- Jassim Muhammad Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- Emma Haziza, Founder of Mayane
- Rade Rajkovchevski, Secretary General, DPPI-SEE

13:00 – 13:30 | Open Floor for Attendees

Provide 30 minutes for participants to share perspectives, raise additional points and explore collaboration opportunities

13:30 – 15:00: LUNCH BREAK

15:00 – 16:30 | Session 3: Bridging Knowledge in Crisis: Regional Cooperation for Higher Education and Research Recovery

- Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED
- Emna Memmi, Liaison Officer for Africa and Middle East -, Erasmus Student Network
- Mostapha Bousmina, President, UEMF
- Rado Bohinc, President, EMUNI
- Prof. Dr. Moustafa Sayem El Daher, President, University of Damascus
- Sarah El Attar, Head of Education Unit, UNESCO Ramallah (Online)
- Tala Khalifeh, Education Programme Officer, UNESCO Ramallah (Online)
- Christian Hülshörster, Higher Education Expert, Focus on Crisis Areas in Middle East, DAAD
- Rashad Brydan, Director of the International Cooperation Office, University of Derna
- Prof. Nasar A Said, Rector, University of Derna



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15:00 –
16:30 |

Session 4: Supporting state-building, reconstruction and resilience in the Mediterranean

- Michael Koehler, Ambassador and co-leader of Grand Bargain agreement
- Gidon Bromberg, Israeli Director, EcoPeace Middle East
- Marwan Bardawil, General Director, Institutional Support Program, Palestinian Water Authority
- Veronica Casartelli, Senior Scientific Manager, Euro-mediterranean center on climate change CMCC