



Union for the Mediterranean  
Union pour la Méditerranée  
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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.

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## Agenda

### 10:00 – 10:25 | Opening remarks

- H. E. Jasem Muhammad Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- H. E. Nasser Kamel, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean
- H. E. Ahmed Ekzayez, Deputy Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, Government of Syria
- Mr. Stefano Sannino, Director General DG Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, European Commission

*Introduction to session 1 and presentation of EuroMeSCo Joint Policy Study on “Fostering Regional Cooperation on Natural Disasters and Crisis Management in the Mediterranean” by Major Laurent Alfonso, Advisor on civil defence for Jordan and Palestinian Territories, Embassy of France in Jordan*

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

- Mr. Valetin Forand, Expert in Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management, Union for the Mediterranean
- Mr. Mustafa Al-Saadi Al-Jubouri, Head, Arab Coordination Mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction, League of Arab States
- Mr. Giovanni Di Girolamo, Head of Unit for MENA countries at DG ECHO
- Ms. Sonia Chabane, Université Libre de Bruxelles

### 11:30 | FAMILY PICTURE

### 11:30 – 12:00 | COFFEE BREAK

*Introduction to Session 2 by Ms. Agnieszka Maj, Economist, Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Change at the Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE)*

### 12:05 – 13:00 | Session 2: Exploring practical approaches to strengthen Mediterranean resilience through dialogue, coordination and partnerships including with partners from the Gulf region

- H. E. Jasem Muhammad Al-Budaiwi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- H. E. Ahmed Ekzayez, Deputy Minister of Emergency and Disaster Management, Government of Syria
- Ms. Emma Haziza, Founder of Mayane
- Mr. Rade Rajkovchevski, Secretary General, Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE)

*Conclusion of the morning by Ms. Sonia Chabane, PhD Candidate, Political science department, Université Libre de Bruxelles and Global Fellow, Brown University Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies*



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### **13:05 – 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 – 17:00 | Session 3: Bridging Knowledge in Crisis: Regional Cooperation for Higher Education and Research Recovery**

- Prof. Dr. Moustafa Sayem El Daher, President, University of Damascus
- Dr. Amir Khalil, Director, National Erasmus+ Office Palestine
- Dr. Rashad Brydan, Director of the International Cooperation Office, University of Derna
- Prof. Dr. Mostapha Bousmina, President, Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez (UEMF)
- Prof. Dr. Rado Bohinc, President, Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)
- Mr. Marcello Scalisi, Director, UNIMED
- Ms. Emna Memmi, Liaison Officer for Africa and Middle East, Erasmus Student Network
- Dr. Christian Hülshörster, Higher Education Expert, Focus on Crisis Areas in Middle East, DAAD, Germany
- Ms. Marilena Rossano, Head of Multilateral Cooperation, National Research Council, Italy
- Dr. Maria Maia, Senior Officer, Dpt. Cooperation and International Affairs, General-Secretariat for Education & Science, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Portugal

### **15:00 – 16:30 | Session 4: Supporting state-building, reconstruction and resilience in the Mediterranean**

- Prof. Dr. Michael Koehler, Ambassador and co-leader of Grand Bargain agreement
- Mr. Gidon Bromberg, Israeli Director, EcoPeace Middle East
- Mr. Marwan Bardawil, General Director, Institutional Support Program, Palestinian Water Authority
- Ms Veronica Maria Casartelli, Senior Associate Scientist, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC)

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