

# **Elaboration of the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean**



## **Draft Terms of Reference**

**Presented by  
Greece and Spain**

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# MANDATE

- The Conclusions of the **Summit for the Mediterranean (13 July 2008, Paris)** included references to Water, to the need for a new Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM) and to a related Ministerial Conference.
- The decision to prepare a SWM was among the key outcomes of the **Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (22 December 2008, Dead Sea, Jordan)**
- Decision the Water Expert Group to convene immediately after the **de-blocking of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): de-blocked in July 2009.**
- Announcement for the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the WEG in Athens was made by Greece at the **UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Development Projects (25 June 2009, Paris)**
- The SWM is expected to be adopted at the next UfM Ministerial on Water organised by Spain **(12-14 April 2010, Barcelona)**

## KEY THEMES OF THE SWM: Jordan's declaration

- a. Advancing on **effective water governance** for integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation; awareness, technical and capacity building and coordination within administrative units and among stakeholders;
- b. Addressing **water and climate change**, through adaptation measures together with mitigation with emphasis, *inter alia*, on management of droughts and floods, mitigation of water scarcity effects and combat desertification;
- c. Optimizing **water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments**, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms
- d. **Water demand management** and efficiency and non-conventional water resources.

# ELABORATING THE SWM: Political Dialogue and Synergies

- The SWM should **facilitate and formalize** a political dialogue on water resources management, related policies, **and sector performance**.
- The SWM **should promote synergies and transfer of experiences**.

Reference to and alignment with existing **strategic documents** and initiatives should be secured e.g.

- MDGs, WSSD Targets
- Roadmap of the Horizon 2020 Initiative to De-pollute the Mediterranean,
- UNEP MAP Barcelona Convention and Protocols,
- Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
- EU Water Framework Directive, EU Marine Directive, EU Neighborhood Policy etc.

Coordination with the **wider water sector, partners and civil society** should be promoted throughout the process.

# ELABORATING THE SWM: Projects' general criteria

- The SWM should include **general criteria** for the identification of **sustainable water projects**, subject to the functions to be agreed for the UfM Secretariat in relation to projects.
- Criteria with **operational links with the UfM Projects under development as well as other processes.**
- Criteria **should reflect already existing** sector strategies, action plans and milestone concepts etc.
- Projects **should not replace ongoing engagements or planned commitments** (technical assistance and investments).
- Partners should **align** their ongoing projects to the agreed SWM.

# ELABORATING THE SWM: A complementary Action Plan

- An Action Plan to complement the SWM is suggested, to be drafted in parallel to the SWM and serve as a roadmap.
- To match **policy choices** with major on-going and future operational **plans** and framework **programmes**.
- **Not necessarily to be agreed at the Ministerial Conference**. Instead, its outline may be presented as a background document at the Ministerial 2010 **to be further elaborated at the level of the WEG**.

# HOW TO DO IT

## - **Technical Drafting Group**

It will consist of WEG Members and should be of restricted size. It will elaborate the draft SWM text under the WEG political guidance. Support for technical expertise could be sought by regional organisations and IFIs.

## - **WEG Meetings and other events**

Three main WEG Meetings are suggested for the delivery of the SWM.

## - **Administration**

The MED EUWI mechanism, competent governmental and stakeholder partners will provide technical and administrative assistance to the WEG and the process

# Suggested TIMEFRAME

<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
1. WEG 1	7-8/9/09, Athens
2. Drafting of SWM	Sep 09 – Feb 10
3. Drafting of Action Plan	Nov 09 – Feb 10
4. Joint Egypt / Dutch Conference, Multi-stakeholder - WEG 2 (?)	3-4/11/09, Cairo
5. Conference of Local Authorities - WEG 2 (?)	23-24/11/09, Lyon
6. Civil Society Conference & Water Financing Session - WEG 3	Feb 2010
UfM Ministerial Conference on Water	12-14/04/10, Spain