

**Seguridad hídrica y cambio climático
en el Mediterráneo Occidental:**
Fomento del conocimiento para la práctica

**Water security and climate change
in the Western Mediterranean:**
Fostering knowledge for practice



5 حوار غرب المتوسط
5+ Dialogue de la Méditerranée Occidentale
Western Mediterranean Dialogue

PRESIDENCIA ESPAÑOLA



DECLARATION OF VALENCIA

“Water security and Climate Change in the Western Mediterranean: Fostering knowledge for practice”

The representatives of the countries participating in the 3rd High-Level Meeting of the **Western Mediterranean Forum on Water** (5+5 Dialogue on Water), convened in Valencia on 10 March 2022 under the 2021 Spanish Presidency, stress the critical importance of preserving **water security under the new challenges posed by the climate change scenario** in the Western Mediterranean countries.

Water plays a crucial and cross-cutting role in food security, health, energy transition, socio-economic development, and the maintenance of ecosystems and their biodiversity. The current **Covid-19 pandemic** has reaffirmed the importance of access to water and sanitation for human health as a key asset for resilience and development.

Being one of the most water-scarce areas in the world, the **Mediterranean faces very meaningful challenges related to climate change**, such as the lack of stability of the water cycle—including extreme meteorological events and droughts—and the increasing pressure on water systems. This vulnerability to the effects of climate change means that urgent measures must be put in place to ensure the socio-economic stability of the Western Mediterranean. Therefore, we recognize the need to step up **urgent action for water-related climate change adaptation** and to prioritize integrated water and climate action to ensure sustainable access to safe and clean water and sanitation for all in the region.

Furthermore, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity highlights the significance of water-related ecosystems to the **maintenance of global biodiversity**, as stated in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Moreover, enhancing the availability of water resources and their efficient use plays an essential part in combating desertification (UNCCD).

The sustainable management of water in the Western Mediterranean region must be guided by **international cooperation and by decision-making based on scientific evidence and consensus**. Scientific, technical, and technological cooperation, as well as knowledge sharing between the countries, may result in a far better understanding of the available water resources, environmental protection needs, and the impacts of the global climate system on water resources.

We place great value on the lessons learnt in both the preceding **Ministerial Declaration of Algiers** of 31 March 2015, which approved the **Water Strategy for the Western Mediterranean (WSWM)**, and the **Ministerial Declaration of Marrakech** of 16 November 2016, whereupon the 5+5 Dialogue on Water adopted the **WSWM Action Plan**, including the diverse activities and projects carried out thus far in implementation of said Plan.

We also appreciate the **previous technical work** carried out under the aegis of the 5+5 Dialogue on Water at the Technical Working Group meeting held on 18 and 19 September 2019 in Valencia (Spain). This event brought together the experts of the 5+5 participating countries to discuss the conclusions of the 4th Mediterranean Water Forum held in Malta in December 2021, in particular as regards the **importance of sound water governance, the need to fully integrate non-conventional resources (desalination and reuse), and the key role of regional cooperation**.

We recall and acknowledge the important contribution of the Union for the Mediterranean's **Ministerial Declaration on Water (Malta 2017)**, calling for the elaboration of a **Mediterranean Water Agenda** comprising its Policy Framework for Actions 2030 and a financial strategy for implementation.

The Western Mediterranean region, as represented by the 5+5 Dialogue on Water, **strongly commits to increasing its water security through, *inter***

***alia*, implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels** and with its four components in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.5: enabling environment; institutions and participation; management instruments; and financing. This shall be achieved by **fully integrating non-conventional resources and adapting water management to the challenges of climate change**.

In addition, we will strengthen our policy cooperation by sharing innovation and best practices and by establishing a common ground for **joining forces to prevent conflicts by fostering development and contributing to ensure the human right to water and sanitation**, as set forth in Resolution 64/292 of the United Nations General Assembly.

Therefore, **we commit to boosting the implementation of the Action Plan by developing a Western Mediterranean Training and Capacity Building Programme on Water**, to foster knowledge and knowledge sharing for the purpose of finding effective and practicable solutions.

We entrust the Technical Working Group of experts with the task of developing and implementing this Western Mediterranean Training and Capacity Building Programme to boost cooperation and the sharing of experiences at all levels between different countries and stakeholders in the Western Mediterranean.