

03.12.2021

RECOMMENDATION

on Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change in the Euro-Mediterranean
Region

Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education

Recommendation by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean on Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

We, the UfM Parliaments, note with concern that,

1. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) first part of Six Assessment Report clearly depicts widespread and rapid changes in Earth's oceans, ice and land surface because of human influence.
2. The rates of climate change observed in the Mediterranean Basin exceed the global trends for most variables.
3. Climate change also affects and destroys crops and food production; droughts, in particular, often cause fires leading to an inevitable destruction of crops.
4. The phenomenon of acidification, a direct effect of increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂), leads to the extinction of all local coral species.

We, the UfM Parliaments, warn that,

5. The impact of climate change has further exacerbated the existing environmental problems caused by land use changes such as urbanization and agricultural intensification, increasing pollution and declining biodiversity.
6. The phenomenon of the increase in Mediterranean's sea temperature could lead to the disappearance of numerous animal and marine flora species due to lack of oxygen.
7. Ongoing climate, environmental and socioeconomic changes pose threats to food security in Mediterranean Basin and the pressures are not homogeneous across the region and sectors of production.
8. Factors affecting agriculture and livestock production around the Mediterranean Basin include water scarcity, soil degradation and erosion.
9. Extreme events, such as droughts, floods and heat waves cause unexpected production losses and may increase crop yield variability.
10. Although these impacts are not projected to be large for overall production across the region, local and regional disparities will emerge.
11. ***Climate change has also a strong social impact, contributing to increased poverty and exasperating inequalities between and within countries.***

We, the UfM Parliaments,

12. Acknowledge that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the main instrument in the global climate change regime.

13. Underline that achieving the objectives of the UNFCCC, *the European Green Deal* and Paris Agreement will serve a *corner* stone for global climate change efforts.
14. *Urge that, due to the seriousness of the situation and the delay in raising awareness of climate change, political choices aimed at small steps forward are not sufficient, but concrete and more ambitious commitments towards a new model of production and consumption are needed. Consider that cooperation in the Mediterranean region is a decisive element in pushing for greater commitment at global level.*
15. Call upon all Parties to exert efforts towards finalizing the Work Programme of the Paris Agreement at the COP 26.
16. Are fully aware that as parliaments, we have a crucial role for raising awareness on adverse effects of climate change.
17. Affirm that *one of* the guiding principles of the climate regime is “equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities”, which is clearly and accurately recognized under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.
18. Acknowledge that combating climate change should be realized by taking into account this principle, *while ensuring equal and fair burden sharing among all parties.*
19. Recognize that a fair burden sharing between developed and developing countries, close regional and international collaborations between all countries are necessary to ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against climate change.
20. Emphasize the complementary role of Parliaments that contribute to provide a fair ground for all countries and to create an environment for partnership and cooperation between countries.
21. *Stresses the urgent need to mobilize and scale up climate financing by making it adequate and predictable at COP26, particularly in light of the recent report of the Secretary General on ‘Our Common Agenda’, which highlighted the vital need for credible support to developing countries, which includes meeting the goal of providing \$100 Billion annually, allocating 50 percent of climate financing for adaptation and resilience, as well as the provision of technical support and capacity building, as well as the need for a transparent political process to achieve a new climate finance goal by the year 2025, a goal that should be higher in ambition, based on science and to be delivered in an inclusive process with a clear timeline and tangible deliverables.*
22. *Consider it essential that necessary and deep changes to production and consumption model are linked to adequate attention and measures to respond to the social consequences, growing inequalities and the emergence of new poverties.*
23. Urge countries, *international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and other donors* to support developing countries with financial and technical support for their climate action.
24. Strongly emphasize the *importance* that all developing countries *have access to* climate-related finance, *capacity building* and technology *development and* transfer.

25. ***Stress that internal and external displacements and migrations are becoming increasingly unavoidable as part of the impacts of climate change. Consider important to achieve an international legal recognition of this phenomenon and to cooperate in order to anticipate and manage climate-induced migration, closing protection gaps by recognizing climate-induced migration as a legal basis for granting asylum and providing safe and legal migration routes or humanitarian corridors for people forced to flee a sudden or slow-onset disaster.***
26. Appreciate the UfM Parliaments' legislative efforts on waste management, forestation and renewables and urge them to increase and diversify their efforts on combating climate change in accordance with their development priorities.
27. Underline the importance of encouraging sustainable solutions for the transport sector and ensuring the establishment of infrastructure to enable the digitalization of transport.
28. Highlight the importance of energy efficiency and deployment of renewable energy in energy transitions.
29. Emphasize cooperation ***potential***, activities and exchange of best practices ***for a climate friendly future energy system*** should be enhanced on the development of renewable energy and ***its integration***, energy efficiency, ***sector coupling, hydrogen, battery and storage, their relevant policies, legislation, technologies, Projects and financing mechanisms. This should include further interconnectors, enabling of pipelines and other transport mechanisms.***
30. Recognize that there is an urgent need to increase our regional efforts to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, invasive alien species, pollution, land degradation and desertification.
31. Recognize the benefits of cooperation and collaboration among UfM Member States on the fields of encouraging adequate actions, preventing unsustainable consumption, reversing loss of biodiversity, mitigating negative impacts of climate change on water resources in order to build back better in ways aligned with the 2030 Agenda and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.
32. Work towards promoting a strategy to combat climate change that involves investment in applied research to improve technology aimed at reducing emissions and finding innovative solutions to encourage energy transition.
33. ***Emphasises that all efforts to fight climate change must go hand in hand with supporting the business and industrial sector. Only with a strong economy we can tackle the most pressing issues. We must realise the potential of SMEs as drivers of innovation & growth and support them in their efforts by cutting red tape, enabling easier access to financing including alternative financing instruments and building a strong digital infrastructure.***
34. ***Emphasises that research and innovation are driving transformative change. The fight against climate change can therefore only be successful if we put emphasis on research, innovation and digitalisation. This includes boosting investments, easier access to funds, strengthening capacities and a strong focus on education & skill development.***

35. *Notes that in order to effectively tackle climate change focus has to be put on increasing the share of renewable energy sources worldwide. Warns that nuclear energy can never be considered carbon neutral and is a danger for generations to come. It can therefore not play a role in the fight against climate change.*
36. *Acknowledges that the fight against climate change will need innovative technological solutions which can only happen if the principle of technology neutrality is safeguarded in the legislative framework.*

(1) Reservation by Turkish delegation – Parag 25, Parag 35.