



A look back at the 4th Mediterranean Water Forum and the 9th World Water Forum

Water-meeting for the Swedish Dialogue Institute

June 8th

Dear Colleagues, friends of Water

Freshwater resources in the Near East and North Africa region are among the lowest in the world. Their availability has declined by two-thirds over the past 40 years and continues to decline. With future water scarcity worsening in the context of climate change and increasing demand, this region is expected to suffer the greatest economic losses, estimated at 6-14% of GDP by 2050. By that time, an additional 60% of freshwater resources would be needed to meet the growing global food demand.

In this context, IME and its partners continue to help the countries of the region address their most pressing challenges: **Food security** is the prerequisite for sustainable economic and social development. To prevent severe water shortages, the safe reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural development is a priority option for most countries.

The 9th World Water Forum ended on 25 March 2022. IME was present through its General Secretariat and its members.

Two special sessions and a side event were held with an average of 80 participants.

The contents and recordings of these IME events concerning both the Mediterranean and Worldwide one, are available on our [YouTube Channel](#). And the report about the Mediterranean Water Forum responses is at your disposal by UfM.

9th World Water Forum resulted in a declaration entitled "A BLUE DEAL FOR WATER AND SANITATION SECURITY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT" from the stakeholders present in Dakar guided by the principles and ideals of the United Nations Charter.

IME orientations and actions are fully consistent with the Dakar conclusions. The priority issues discussed in Malta during the 4th Mediterranean Water Forum, whose solutions were presented during IME events dedicated to them.

IME organizes its activities through the reflections and work of thematic groups that address in a very pragmatic way the Mediterranean priorities that are widely found at the global level as stated by the Dakar stakeholders in their commitments, namely:

A- Guarantee the right to water and sanitation for all

- Speed up the implementation of the right to drinking water and sanitation for all through appropriate legislative frameworks and mobilize all actors through integrated and inclusive strategies;
- Promote the effective implementation of international humanitarian law, in particular the additional protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, providing for the protection of water and sanitation systems that are vital in times of conflict.

➤ *Priority addressed by IME Working Group on « Water Law and Right to Water »*

I invite everyone to participate in our next zoom conference held on June 16th.
I will send the link to Johan.

B- Ensure availability of the resources and Resilience

- Adopt sustainable and integrated management plans to preserve water resources and ecosystems and ensure resilience to climate change and demographic pressures;
- Further protect wetlands, promote conservation of traditional water systems, recycling and reuse of treated wastewater.

➤ *Priority addressed by IME Working Group on « The International Observatory of non-conventional water resources and associated renewable energies »*

C- Ensure adequate funding

- Mobilize adequate public financial resources, as well as those of development partnerships, to invest in water and sanitation infrastructure;
- Encourage the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms, and change international financing models.

➤ *Priority addressed by the IME Working Group on « Water Sector Finance »*

D- Enhance cooperation

- Pay particular attention to water issues in bilateral and multilateral cooperation ;
- To strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership in the management of transboundary basins ;
- Make dialogue, coordination, and cooperation the core of dispute resolution, in the true spirit of hydro-diplomacy.

➤ *Priority addressed by IME Working Group on « International cooperation »*

E - Ensure inclusive water governance

- Promote, at the appropriate level, transparent, efficient and inclusive management of water and sanitation services,
- Implement integrated management plans for sound, equitable and sustainable use of water resources,
- Promote greater coherence between policies of water and those of other sectors (agriculture, rural development, health, biodiversity, energy and industry);
- Design water-related public policies based on knowledge, support innovations, create and build the capacities of all categories of stakeholders, for a more sustainable management of water resources and environments.

➤ *Priority addressed by IME Working Group on « Integrated Water Resources Management »*

Already, IME is launching the organization of the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum in Tunisia at the end of 2023 beginning of 2024, on the way to the 10th World Water Forum to be held in Indonesia in 2024.

In the meantime, IME working groups are continuing their work in line with the priorities identified in Malta and Dakar with the support of all members and partners.

Thank you very much for your attention!
