



1st MEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM
Marrakech, December 19-20, 2011

**Mediterranean cross-continental process
For the 6th World Water Forum**

Framework note

October 2011

Introduction

The Mediterranean region has always been subject to a large number of challenges, often related to its geographical, geo-political and geo-climatic location. One of the main challenges concerns water issues, which represent a true social, economic and environmental issue.

Consequently, the representatives of the Mediterranean water community wish to actively take part in regional and global debates, in order to raise and advance the water cause in the region.

Under the aegis of the World Water Council, since the organization of the 1st World Water Forum in Marrakech in 1997, a large number of regional and continental initiatives have been established through a specific platform, bringing together all stakeholders in the water community, as has been the case for Japan, Mexico, South Korea and the Asia-Pacific and Americas continents.

The Mediterranean water community has mobilized determinedly to be present at each World Water Forum, in order to ensure its regional recognition.

It was agreed in Murcia in April 2011 to launch a Mediterranean process, supported by a first regional event which would be held in December 2011 in Marrakech.

This Mediterranean initiative would be articulated around two components, namely:

- The preparation of a **Mediterranean cross-continental process** for the 6th World Water Forum;
- The effective setting up of the **Mediterranean Water Forum** which, beyond its first edition, should be established in a permanent manner so as to carry the voice of the Mediterranean water community.

Mediterranean cross-continental process

In conformity with the terms of reference provided by the International Forum Committee for the 6th World Water Forum (IFC), four thematic priorities have been identified for the Mediterranean, in harmony with the targets of the thematic and regional processes in question.

The priorities defined are as follows:

- **Improve water demand management**
- **Make use of non-conventional water resources**
- **Improve water governance**
- **Collect and treat urban and industrial wastewater**

Two targets have been established for each of priority.

In reference to the terms of reference and the road map drawn up by the IFC, the state of progress under each priority will be presented in Marrakech and roundtable debates will be organized in four specific rooms with an audience of around thirty key actors, aiming to propose existing solutions which respond to the targets as defined.

As regards the provisional programme proposed, these roundtables will be held on December 19 afternoon and 20 in the morning. After, a synthesis of the work of the groups will be presented.

Mediterranean Water Forum

Taking into account the time devoted to the plenary debate for the effective setting up of a platform for the Mediterranean water community and above all to make its activities more enduring, it is expected to establish some basic principles accepted by all stakeholders, such as:

- ❖ The setting up of a Mediterranean Water Forum does not imply a new structure competing with existing initiatives, programmes and networks.
- ❖ The Forum is the spokes-organization for the Mediterranean water community with both international and regional bodies.
- ❖ The Forum is an all-encompassing platform in which all stakeholder groups in the Mediterranean water community are represented, leaving aside any geo-political, geo-economic or social leadership.
- ❖ The Forum should debate on all issues which could help advance water issues in the region.

To achieve this, during the first event in Marrakech, and in order to give all representatives of stakeholder groups enough speaking time in which to exchange their perspectives, it is proposed to:

1. Designate a representative for each initiative, programme and network:
 - Parliamentarians
 - Local authorities
 - Companies and professionals
 - Donors
 - Ministerial decision-making bodies
 - International organizations (UN, EU, etc.)
 - Civil Society
 - Regional networks

A first session to be held on December 19 will be conducted in two parts: Presentations and a moderated debate

2. Hold this Forum's constitutive assembly as a plenary session

The second session on December 20 will allow an ad-hoc committee to be designated in order to oversee the definition of the roadmap for the finalization of the Forum.

Organization of side events

Side events will be organized alongside this Forum, at the end of the second day, and will be highlighted in the final programme. These events will be proposed by interested stakeholders, and will be examined for their validation by the Steering Committee.

The choice of side events will be made based on criteria such as:

- The pertinence of the theme proposed according to the Forum's targets
- The complementarity between the themes debated during the Forum, in terms of the subject matter, regions, stakeholders involved, etc.
- The opportunity to disseminate and develop partnerships on shared problems and solutions
- The sharing of innovative ideas on relevant subjects
- Open debates on relevant themes on which the speakers have contrasting viewpoints.