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الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط

## 2nd Standing Committee on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation

Special Task Force on Environment

“Climate Change: perspectives for the Mediterranean after Doha and Warsaw”

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### I. Introduction

1. The issue of climate change emerged in the international debate over the 70s, as a result of a progressive and increasingly more accurate collection of scientific information that allowed reading with new knowledge the evolution of the climate system and its interaction with ecological, social and economic systems. During these years, environmental issues began to be perceived as a direct result of the increasing pollution and degradation of environmental primary assets such as water, air and soil. The recognition of a negative ecological interdependence shows in particular that the effects of pollution and the consumption of natural resources are not only within a specific area or territory, but come to become global issues.
2. Many initiatives were launched to address problems and find common solutions and agreements. **Policy responses**, at the international level, **have been implemented through the adoption of different strategies**.
3. **The first strategy is the mitigation** (reduction), which addresses the problem of climate change fielding actions aimed, on the one hand, to reduce current and future emissions in the atmosphere and, second, to increase the absorption capacity of the greenhouse gases by the natural environment.
4. **The second strategy is adaptation**, which acts through the implementation of appropriate economic, environmental, social, health, and educational policies, necessary to guard against climate change.
5. With the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992, a series of structural remedies were set by the international

community, most notably the annual meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP), with the task of assessing the actions taken and to be taken, as well as their effects.

6. In this contest, countries decided to take concrete measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and started working on the definition of an additional protocol to the Convention indicating commitments, methods and precise timing of implementation.
7. The Protocol of Kyoto was signed in 1997 but entered into force only in February 2005 when it was adopted by the countries representing the 55% of global emissions of greenhouse gases.
8. In accordance with the principle of common (but differentiated) responsibility, the Protocol provides only commitments for industrialized countries (the U.S., Western Europe, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia) and for those in transition in Central and Eastern Europe; it doesn't include commitments for developing countries.
9. The Protocol aimed to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2% compared to 1990. This was supposed to be achieved by 2012, and from there, further reduction quotas were to be negotiated. Reduction targets are differentiated according to the contribution of individual countries to climate change. For Europe, the share of the reduction was 8% compared to 1990, but distributed differently from country to country: for Italy 6.5%, for Germany and Denmark 25%.
10. The Protocol of Kyoto focused on three main routes: Improving energy efficiency in different economic sectors; Developing research and the use of renewable energy sources; Supporting reforestation to increase the capacity of absorption of greenhouse gases

## **II. Consequences of Climate Change**

### *a) Human Health*

11. Water and Climate play a significant role in people's health. Warmer weather will lead to the increase of diseases and deaths, and more frequent and longer heat waves. Moreover, these factors increase the frequency of extreme weather events such as: flooding, storms, high winds. Warmer temperatures could also increase the concentrations of unhealthy air and water pollutants, which leads to the spread of illnesses, such as malaria.

### *b) Heat waves*

12. Heat waves can lead to heat stroke and dehydration, and are the most common cause of weather-related deaths. The Mediterranean region can be considered as one of the most significant example of this. Young children, the elderly, people with medical conditions and the poor are more vulnerable than others to heat-related illness. These conditions are more likely to happen in urban areas, since they are typically warmer than

the regions surroundings. Climate change could lead even to warmer temperatures, which means more consume of energy to run air conditioning which would increase air pollution and greenhouses gases emissions from power plants. The impacts of future heat waves could be severe especially in large metropolitan areas.

*c) Extreme weather events*

13. The frequency and intensity of precipitation events is projected to increase in some locations, as in the severity (wind speeds and rain) of tropical storms. These extreme weather events could cause injuries and, in some cases, death. As with heat waves, the people most at risk include again young children, the elderly, people with medical conditions, and the poor. Extreme events can also indirectly threaten human health in a number of ways, for example: less availability of fresh food and water; interruption of communication, utility and health care services; contribution to carbon monoxide poisoning from portable electric generators used during and after storms; increase in stomach and intestinal illness among evacuees. Even in this case, our region is very exposed to a similar scenario.

*d) Agriculture and Food Security*

14. Agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors, due to its dependence on climatic. Climate variability from year to year is one of the main causes of the variability of agricultural production and the risks involved in the cultivation. Agriculture also releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, although to a lesser extent than other economic sectors. Agriculture emits hardly CO<sub>2</sub>, the most prevalent greenhouse gas. Agricultural lands have large reserves of carbon that contribute to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. According to an estimate of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission, agriculture, emissions from the agricultural sector in EU-27 account for approximately 9% of total EU greenhouse gas. However, the influence of agriculture on emissions is declining due to changes in farming techniques. Further decrease emissions are expected to by 30% (EU 27) compared to 1990 and 15% (EU15).<sup>1</sup>
15. In connection with **food security**, climate change affects food production directly through the changes in agro-ecological conditions and indirectly by affecting growth and distribution of incomes, and thus demands for agricultural produce. Changes in temperature and precipitation, associated with continued emissions of greenhouse gases, cause changes in land suitability and crop yields. Climate change will also affect the ability of individuals to use food effectively by altering the conditions for food safety and changing the disease pressure from vector, water, and food-borne diseases. The major concern about climate change and food security is that changing climate conditions can initiate a vicious circle where infectious disease causes or compounds hunger, which, in turn, makes the affected populations more susceptible to infectious disease.

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, EU agriculture-taking on the climate change challenge, Ref KF-30-08-150-EN-C

*e) Economy*

16. Vulnerability to climate change will mainly depend on economic position and infrastructure capacity of nations. Climate change effects will impose significant additional stress on ecological and socioeconomic systems, but currently these systems are burdened by pollution, natural resource scarcities and other unsustainable practices. Technologically advanced countries are well prepared to respond to climate change, particularly by developing and establishing suitable policies and capable to deal with the consequences. On the other hand, poor and developing countries are mostly affected by climate change, because they do not have enough and sound technologies or scientific development to deal with this impact.

*f) Sea-level rise*

17. The rise in global sea level is the major impact of global warming after the temperature changes due to climate change, and the Mediterranean region would be highly affected by such event. An increase in the average global temperature will result in a rise in sea level, due to the thermal expansion of the oceans and the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. The global average sea level has already increased by 10 to 25 cm during the past century. Based on the model calculation, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates a mean value of sea level rise by 46 cm at the time of 2100. This rise is 2 to 5 times greater than the rise experienced over the past 100 years.<sup>2</sup>

*g) Drinking Water*

18. Water is essential for life on our planet. Our ecosystems, our society and our economy need clean fresh water in sufficient quantities in order to thrive. However, water resources are subject to increasing pressures in many parts of the world, no exception for the Mediterranean region. If we want to continue to use the essential services that the life of our aquatic ecosystems offers us, we must improve the way we use and manage our water resources. The natural cycle of water availability is continually subjected to a range of threats, which may result in drought, flooding or pollution caused by humans, a situation known as 'vulnerability'. The use of land, water extraction and climate change are human-induced changes that alter the flow and the regime of water bodies. Aquatic ecosystems perform several functions: filter, dilute and store fresh water, prevent flooding, maintain the balance microclimate; safeguard biodiversity. To protect these benefits, a wide-ranging perspective is required. It is necessary to integrate policies on adaptation to climate change and biodiversity sector policies such as those relating to agriculture, energy and transport. To address the water problem, in 2012 the European Commission published its plan for the safeguarding of

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<sup>2</sup> Center of Excellence in Environmental Economics-“Climate Change and Adaptation”-Madras School of Economics, India

European water resources.<sup>3</sup> It focuses on policy actions in support of the implementation of the water legislation and the integration of policy objectives in the field of water into other policies.<sup>4</sup> The PAM – non EU members might benefit of the adoption of such policies.

### **III. The UN Climate Change Conference, COP18 in Doha 2012**

19. The United Nations Climate Change Conference took place in Doha, Qatar, from 26 November to 8 December 2012. It included the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8).
20. Marking the first time that UN climate change negotiations took place in the Middle East, the conference gathered approximately 9,000 participants, including 4,356 government officials, 3,956 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, and 683 members of the media.
21. The 18th Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP-18), ended with a more detailed roadmap to a 2015 global agreement.
22. While tensions once again persisted between developed and developing countries throughout the negotiations, a final agreement was accepted by all major parties , although the US, EU and China each had varying reservations to the final text.

#### **The key decisions included:**

##### *a) Extension of the KYOTO PROTOCOL*

23. It was decided to extend the Kyoto Protocol with a second commitment period of 8 years, from January 2013 to December 2020. The first Kyoto Protocol expired on 31 December 2012 and it was necessary to maintain continuity in the Kyoto-based markets from 1 January 2013. In Doha, CMP decided to adopt amendments to the Kyoto Protocol to allow the commencement of an 8 year second commitment period from 1 January 2013. The duration of this period was a contentious issue but a compromise was reached, allowing parties to revisit and increase their QELRO (Quantified Emissions Limitation and Reduction) up until 2014.

##### *b) New Market Mechanism*

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<sup>3</sup> COM (2012) 673

<sup>4</sup> EEA, European Environment Agency, "Climate Change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2012", Report No 12/2012

24. Agreement was reached on the framework elements of a New Market Mechanism (NMM). Credits generated through the NMM would be used to satisfy pre-2020 Kyoto compliance obligations.

The EU put forward draft modalities and procedures that would provide a framework for a NMM, notably: requirements for accurate measurement, reporting and verification of emission reductions, emission removals and avoided emissions; promotion of sustainable development; facilitation of the effective participation of private and public entities

*c) Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)*

25. The renewal of the Kyoto Protocol into a second commitment period ensured the future of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). In this context, it was agreed to: further simplify modalities for the demonstration of additionality, including positive lists, to a wide scope of small-scale project activities; streamline the registration process and the issuance of CERs (certified emission reduction units) , to ensure that the average time between the receipt of a submission and the commencement of the completeness check is fewer than 15 calendar days; submit recommendations on possible changes to the modalities and procedures for the CDM in preparation for the review of modalities and procedures at CMP 9; continue enhancing support for Parties underrepresented in the CDM;

*d) Green Finance*

26. In Doha it was decided to implement the Climate Finance commitments. Progression on this point was considered by developing countries as a pre-condition for approval of other decisions throughout the negotiations. It was clear intention of developing Parties to gain firm commitments on short term and midterm climate financing leading up to 2020. However, only limited additional funding was pledged by developed countries. The COP called upon Parties from developed countries to provide resources of at least the average annual level of the fast-state finance period for 2013-2015. In addition, the decision called upon developed countries to announce climate finance pledges and to diversify the sources of climate finance to include public and private, bilateral and multilateral, and including alternative sources to reach the USD 100 billion goal. While no binding agreements were reached, COP did agree to extend the work programme on long-term finance for one further year and initiate an assesment of climate finance flows.

*e) Green Climate Fund (GCF)*

27. The COP officially approved the city of Songdo in Republic of Korea as the location for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It clarified that the GFC would be accountable to, and function under, the COP. The COP also reiterated that the GFC should be the primary conduit for all new climates financing for adaptation activities.

*f) REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation).*

28. The REDD+ Programme has 2 main objectives: first, it was necessary to reach an agreement on the basic principles of REDD+, such as guidelines on Monitoring, Review and Verification (MRV). The second was to ensure that REDD+ remained on the COP agenda with the wind up of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). The debate on the first issue reached a rapid impasse with Norway and Brazil unable to agree on the verification of emissions saving from avoided deforestation in the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBTSA) negotiations. The second issue of continuing the development of REDD+ under the COP process was successfully resolved.

*g) Loss and Damage*

29. A significant development reached at Doha's conference was the agreement to investigate institutional arrangements, including a possible mechanism, to address loss and damage suffered by developing countries as a result of climate change.

*h) Technology Transfer*

30. It was decided to extend the Work Programme on Long-Term Finance for a further year, in order to focus on assessing developing country parties' needs for financial and technological resources and how to mobilize those resources and ensure their sustainability. Progress was made in a procedural sense on the issue of technology development and transfer. The Climate Technology Centre was engaged in: providing advice and support to developing countries in relation to capacity-building and conducting assessments of new and emerging technologies; identifying currently available climate-friendly technologies for mitigation and adaptation that meet the key low-carbon and climate-resilient development needs of Parties.

31. Agreement was not reached on 2 main issues:

- Attempts to include agriculture – responsible for 14% of global emissions- into the process failed, with disagreement over whether its role should be in reducing or mitigating carbon emissions.
- No decision on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of emissions reductions from REDD+ were adopted. Attempts to integrate forestry into the 2015 agreement will continue in 2013.

#### **IV. What should Mediterranean countries do?**

32. As a result of the decisions of Doha, countries agreed to introduce new rules and laws to improve the reduction of emissions.

33. The recent report "Climate Action Tracker", a joint project realized by Climate Analytics, Ecofys and the Potsdam Institute (Pik), has predicted that the rise in global

temperature by 2100 will reach the levels between + 2, 6 and +4, 1°C compared to the pre industrial area<sup>5</sup>.

34. This concern is confirmed by the words of Christiana Figueres, executive secretariat of the UNFCCC, who, at the Carbon Forum North America held in the first week of October 2012 in Washington, reiterated the failure of the current global efforts, pointing out that, even in the case statement commitments came into operation, under form of legally binding agreements, these efforts represent only 60% of what is necessary to maintain the temperature rise within a level of 2 degrees.
35. Different commitments and decisions value the countries more or less virtuous. The more virtuous countries are Maldives and Bhutan, which aim to achieve a zero impact on the climate (climate neutral) by 2020. Also Japan, Norway, South Korea proposed significant reductions.
36. In intermediate position there are: Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Israel, Iceland, Switzerland, and South Africa.
37. Are finally considered inadequate countries with commitments under the possibilities or as previously announced, such as the United States, China, Canada and the EU in case it doesn't get up to 30% reduction target and countries that do not have advanced proposals for action to bring emissions below Business as Usual (BAU) levels, such as Russia or Moldova.
38. The European Union, at the Conference of Parties in Bali, December 2007, took a position that provides an objective maximum and a minimum: the EU supports a greenhouse gases 30% reduction of by 2020, provided that other developed countries sign a comparable target. The EU will continue unilaterally a greenhouse emission 20% reduction by 2020.
39. The Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive for the period after 2012 proposes to adopt 3 main measures: Define the rules for the ETS system for the period 2013-2020 and beyond, aiming to reduce the 2020 ETS emissions by 20% compared to 2005; Provide guidance for evaluating and implementing a community commitment to 2020 additional to the overall reduction of 20% compared to 1990, to be applied after approval of an international agreement by the community; Contribute to transforming Europe into an economy based on low Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and create a system of incentives, decisions, investment in low-carbon emissions. This would give a clear, undistorted and strong sign regarding the price of carbon in the long term.
40. The new Directive of the European Parliament and of the European Council on the promotion of energy from renewable sources is to establish a new framework, with the promotion of renewable energy sources in the EU. The Directive sets out the quantitative objective of a share of energy from renewable sources to 20% by 2020 on gross final

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<sup>5</sup> After Durban: Risk of delay in raising ambition lowers chances for 2°C, while heading for 3.5°C, Climate Action Tracker Update, 11 December 2011, Climate Analytics, Ecofys, PIK

energy consumption. For the calculation of the objective, renewable sources recognized by the Directive are: wind, solar, aerothermal (atmospheric heat), geothermal (heat underground), hydrothermal (heat of surface water), tidal, hydropower, biomass (biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues), landfill gas, residual gas from purification processes and biogas.

**Fig 1: Renewable energy share in 2020**

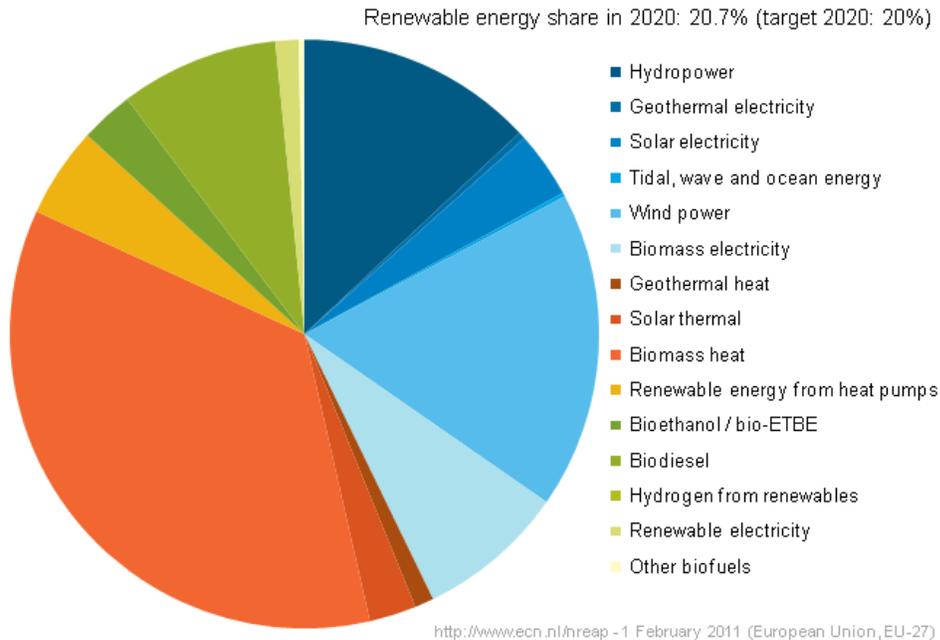


Figure from data report. Projected renewable energy consumption breakdown for all 27 European Member States by the year 2020. The blue, orange and green coloured pies represent the shares of renewable electricity, heating & cooling and transport, respectively.

## V. The UN Climate Change Conference, COP19, in Warsaw 2013

41. PAM attended the COP19/CMP9, which took place in Warsaw, Poland, under the presidency of H.E. Marcin Korolec, Minister of Environment of Poland, from 11 to 22 November 2013. At the conference many countries indicated the necessity of speed up the negotiations in order to pave the way for a comprehensive, shared and binding agreement to be signed by all parties on the occasion of the COP21 to be held in Paris in 2015.
42. Following long consultations and negotiations, an agreement was finally reached on some issues. Although many countries and NGOs were expecting more results from the COP19, some steps forward were made in Warsaw on the following issues:

- a) In connection with the **REDD+ programme**, this will see developed countries channelling funds towards developing countries in exchange for the preservation of their rainforests;
  - b) On **MRV**, an agreement was reached, on the establishment of an information hub to increase transparency on results-based actions and corresponding payments with reference to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks;
  - c) Regarding **Adaptation Finance**, seven countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden) raised USD 100 million for this Fund, to finance adaptation projects in developing countries. This is clearly not enough (the Green Climate Fund is supposed to raise USD 100 billion by 2020), but it represents a positive start.
  - d) The **2015 deadline for emissions reduction targets** gives sufficient time for the targets to be reviewed before the COP21 scheduled in Paris.
43. In the last days of the COP19, the fact that **the negotiations did not crash** – although some countries considerably reduced their ambitions in term of emissions reduction – represents a positive note, to be viewed as a prove of commitment by all parties. Yet, many concrete results still need to be achieved.

## VI. Climate change in the MENA

44. The climate change affects considerably also the Mediterranean countries, especially the Middle-East and in North Africa, the so-called MENA region. Summer 2013 was the hottest Summer ever, as indicated by Slovenia in the High-Level Segment of the COP19 in Warsaw. According to the latest IPCC assessment, the climate is predicted to become even hotter and drier in most of the MENA countries. Higher temperatures and reduced precipitation will increase the occurrence of droughts, an effect that is already materializing in the Maghreb.<sup>6</sup>
45. As underlined in previous PAM reports on environment, it is estimated that an additional 80–100 million people will be exposed by 2025 to water stress, which is likely to result in increased pressure on groundwater resources, which are currently being extracted in most areas beyond the aquifers' recharge potential. In addition, agriculture yields, especially in rainfed areas, are expected to fluctuate more widely, ultimately falling to a significantly lower long-term average. In urban areas in North Africa, a temperature increase of 1-3 degrees could expose 6–25 million people to coastal flooding.
46. Much of the progress so far achieved by countries in the region (such as tackling high unemployment and supporting integration with the global economy) can be jeopardized by climate change. Income and employment may be lost as a result of more frequent droughts in rural areas, and of floods and sea surges in urban and coastal areas. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns may result in damage to strategic

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<sup>6</sup> World Bank and IPCC estimation

economic sectors such as tourism or others with growth potential such as high-value-added agriculture. The combination of such impacts is likely to slow down the reform process and ultimately offset the growth benefits generated by high oil prices.

*The situation of some MENA countries*

47. In **Morocco**, the Oum Er Rbia River basin contains half of the country's public irrigated agriculture and produces 60 % of its sugar beets, 40 % of its olives, and 40 % of its milk. For the past decade, lower-than-predicted rainfall patterns have reduced available irrigation water to about half the designed volume. As a result, farmers are supplementing surface water by pumping groundwater, and aquifers are falling by up to 5 meters per year. Uncertainty about irrigation water supplies is a major factor deterring farmers from switching to higher-value crops, and tensions over access to water resources are rising. The Moroccan government is working to design ways to make irrigation in the basin more sustainable, more profitable, and more resilient to climate change.
48. **Jordan** faces serious climate change and environmental challenges, as a rapidly developing semi-arid country, with only 7 % of its available land considered suitable for agricultural production and with limited and declining natural resources. Climate change is expected to reduce the quantity and quality of the country's water resources. Higher temperatures, together with changing precipitation patterns, will decrease the availability of surface water, with negative repercussions on agriculture. In anticipation of future water scarcity, an IFAD-funded project<sup>7</sup>, now in its second phase, is promoting the development of agro-ecosystem action plans, which include the use of water-harvesting technologies and the construction of off-farm water storage facilities. The project also supports off-farm income-generating activities to build the resilience of rural communities and reduce their vulnerability to climatic change.<sup>8</sup>
49. In **Egypt**<sup>9</sup>, the changes in climatic conditions that are taking place and that are predicted to intensify, constitute a major environmental risk that may jeopardize Egypt's development gains and efforts to reduce poverty. While mitigation is essential, adaptation to the consequences of climate change is also inevitable. A joint programme, involving six United Nations agencies, was designed to help Egypt align its climate risk management and human development efforts in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, in the face of climate change and the serious threats predicted for the country. In this context, the grant activities serve to reduce poverty and mitigate risk by combining mitigation and adaptation under one integrated climate risk management banner with special attention given to the poorest and most vulnerable members of the population.

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<sup>7</sup> Agricultural Resource Management Project, Phase II, duration 2005-2015

<sup>8</sup> "Addressing Climate change in the Near East and North Africa", IFAD, enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

<sup>9</sup> Climate Change and Risk Mitigation Joint Programme, Government of Egypt; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

50. **Palestine** is witnessing rapid demographic growth and restrictions on economic development & water resources from Israel that is adding pressure on already scarce resources. Palestine is predicted to witness increased water stress and climate change, with a decrease in annual precipitation. To assess the vulnerability and predict future climatic changes, a number of models were used, but none of them take into account the socio-economic specificity of Palestine. Climate change will affect various sectors in Palestine to different degrees. The agriculture sector will suffer from extreme weather conditions such as increased droughts or intense rains resulting in floods, affecting both cold and heat sensitive crops. Israeli restrictions to movement and water access coupled with climate change will only exasperate the stress to water resources.
51. Other sectors such as energy, public health, and coastal management will also be heavily affected by climate change. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are said to face health issues related to lack of water, in addition to increased risk to parasitic diseases due to the increase of the annual mean temperature.<sup>10</sup>

## **VII. Conclusions: the contribution of Mediterranean National Parliaments**

52. This report illustrates that the Mediterranean region, due to its geographic position and its weather, is particularly vulnerable by climate change. The consequences of climate change in our region would have a much higher impact than in other regions, due to the specificities of our basin.
53. The Doha conference represents a further step ahead in the process of negotiations on gas emissions reduction, the agreement of a New Market Mechanism, and the implementation of Climate Finance commitments. The greatest success of the Doha Round is definitely the signature of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the treaty that regulates the emissions market and the commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries. The extension of the Kyoto Protocol entered into force de facto the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and it will last until 2020. However, despite the efforts made so far, many measures still need to be taken, in order to achieve the targets set by the Kyoto Protocol and the related agreements.
54. The industrialized countries may be forced to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 15-30% compared to 1990 levels by 2020 and 60-80% by 2050. It is also important that developing countries with strong economies slow the growth of their emissions, by 15-30%, with support from industrialized countries.
55. It is important and necessary to invest funds in order to avoid the possible devastating impact of global warming and extreme weather events, such as those found in many regions of the world in 2012.

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<sup>10</sup> Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptations and Policy Making Process: Palestine as a Case Study, American University of Beirut

56. It would be of interest, for the PAM member countries, to continue monitoring and following the activities of the COP (as PAM has already done in the past), in order to be constantly up-to-date on the initiatives and of the recommendations resulting from the UNFCCC meetings.
57. PAM should also continue its work in support of the UNFCCC and in cooperation with the UN agencies with a mandate on these issues, in order to facilitate the procedures to reach a common position, shared by Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean parliaments, to contribute to the activities of the UNFCCC. This approach has already been adopted by our Assembly in 2009, in Malta, when parliamentarians from across the world unanimously adopted “The Malta Declaration of the Commitment by Parliamentarians to COP 15 and Beyond”, which was presented at the UN Climate Conference, COP15, held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009.