

Commitments for a new ambition in the Mediterranean

1. We, Foreign Ministers of the ten 5+5 Dialogue States in the Western Mediterranean the French Republic, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Italy, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Kingdom of Spain, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Tunisia and the State of Libya, having involved in our discussions the senior leaders of the European Union, the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures, met in Marseille for the "Summit of the Two Shores, Mediterranean Forum".

2. We are fully aware of what has been achieved in the last quarter-century to further cooperation and integration in the Mediterranean region, especially in the 5+5 Dialogue framework, which continues to become deeper and more effective, and the other institutions and forums we participate in, including the Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean. However, we also feel that the time has come to give new momentum and impetus to our relations in the Western Mediterranean, bolstering other initiatives and creating genuine added value. With this in mind, we have initiated an innovative process which we believe should be sustained, based on a three-party approach involving civil society alongside governments and development partners, giving it a driving role in producing proposals.

We would like to thank the delegation of the 100 representatives of Mediterranean civil society, led by a Steering Committee chaired by Ms Ouided Bouchamaoui, which compiled in the "Declaration of the 100" adopted in Tunis on 11 June the work of the five thematic preparatory forums, held in: Algiers (8 April 2019) on the theme of "Energy"; Valletta (24-25 April 2019) on the theme of "Youth, Education and Mobility"; Rabat (29 April 2019) on "Economy and Competitiveness"; Montpellier (2-3 May 2019) on "Culture, Media and Tourism"; and Palermo (15-16 May 2019) on "Environment and Sustainable Development". We are convinced that this work has already produced encouraging results, including the selection of projects of joint interest. We thank the Steering Committee for the work it has done in launching innovative debates and supporting meaningful reflections. We will monitor the progress of the many projects and initiatives it has selected, none of which will be overlooked. We commend the commitment of the countries that organized the five thematic forums, which cover just a few of the priorities for the Western Mediterranean, as well as the organization by the Union for the

Mediterranean of the Regional Dialogue on “Shared views on key issues in the Mediterranean” with representatives from across the region. The long-term nature of the process initiated by the Summit of the Two Shores will, in the coming years, allow it to address other subjects of interest for the region.

3. As the heirs to a shared history, with a wealth of diversity and exceptional heritage, we are fully aware that the Mediterranean has been a melting pot of civilizations over the centuries and a great crossroads between its peoples. We underline the role played by the Mediterranean as a global interface at the maritime crossroads of the African, Asian and European continents, as a genuine bridge between its two shores, and as a road open to the world.

4. We are convinced that what unites our two shores is greater than what divides them. We wish to propose a positive agenda for the Mediterranean and promote it as a sea of all opportunities. Faced with today’s multiple transitions, including in the political, climate, economic and digital fields, we are urgently driven to help inspire a generation united in response to transnational challenges. We are committed to the same values, including tolerance and gender equality. We wish to share our best practices in governance, community and good-neighbourly relations.

5. We are aware that joint responses are needed to address the growing global challenges our region faces and that they must embody the needs of co-development, sustainable development and respect for human rights in particular. We wish to contribute to identifying practical solutions through our support for several structural projects for the future, as well as smaller-scale projects, which share an overall vision. We propose to set out our joint ambition in five major series of actions to be implemented jointly.

1. Commitments for a Mediterranean of knowledge and mobility

Our common priority in this positive agenda for the Western Mediterranean is the human dimension. Our young people call on us by taking up subjects of importance for the future and using all modern instruments. We believe that integration between our two shores, a goal we all aspire to, must be even more youth-driven.

A new discourse needs to emerge on education, employability and mobility, creating a tangible impact to allow young people to become the drivers of change in the region. Only through an ascendant approach, driven by young people and civil society, can we look to the future and address the joint challenges our region faces on a long-term basis.

In light of the challenges of employability, decent jobs and unemployment for young people, we need to invest more in their education and initial and basic training and in life-long learning, with a focus on trades of the future, such as in the blue economy, so as to foster genuine equality of opportunity and ensure social integration in working life. We want to give a second chance to those who have dropped out of the school system, and develop “Mediterranean” learning pathways in our schools. We encourage our universities and vocational training institutions to develop their cooperation even further.

We recognize that cultural intelligence, developed through education in diversity, sustainability and inclusiveness, is essential to overcome the cultural obstacles that exist. Through mutual knowledge of the languages and cultures of neighbouring countries, we wish to strengthen mutual respect and understanding, solidarity, and the feeling of belonging to a shared region marked by close ties between peoples and a culture of peace.

We wish to develop sustainable spatial and social mobility of talented people in the Mediterranean, by encouraging exchange and cooperation programmes and the creation of networks of universities and of civil society organizations, focused in particular on women, young people and artists.

We wish to offer the conditions required for young people of both shores to recognize, understand, meet and enrich each other mutually, within a shared region of knowledge and understanding.

Given this context, we have noted with interest the following projects and initiatives suggested by the Assembly of the 100 in particular: the creation of a mobility programme for all young civil society members from 5+5 Dialogue countries; the expansion of the New Chance Mediterranean (MedNC) programme to all countries in the Western Mediterranean; and the creation of a network of maritime vocational schools on both shores of the Mediterranean.

2. Commitments for a sustainable Mediterranean

We commit to a thriving, zero-waste and low-carbon Mediterranean.

We are making all efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and affirm our commitment to the principles set down in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. We commit to protecting the environment and biodiversity, as well as terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

Alarmed by the devastating effects of climate change visible in the Mediterranean region, we commit to the sustainable and intelligent use of water and natural resources, with a view to providing sustainable, quality food for all.

We commit to combating the release of poisonous chemical and plastic waste that heightens inequality. We support all relevant ongoing initiatives to collect, prevent and recycle plastic waste in the Mediterranean, in order to achieve the “zero plastic waste in the Mediterranean” and “zero waste in the Mediterranean” goals.

Aware of the importance of energy for our peoples and economies, we commit to supporting the development of an energy transition which is consistent with geo-climatic considerations and which reconciles the use of natural potential, renewable energy, interconnections, energy efficiency – particularly through the circular economy approach – and the technological capacities we have on both shores, as part of a sustainable development compact.

Given dense and increasing maritime traffic, both of passengers and freight, we affirm that the polluting emissions of ships need to be controlled.

Echoing the French G7 Presidency in 2019, which has made preservation of the oceans one of its priorities, we commit to promoting the blue economy, including through existing regional cooperation frameworks (WestMED) and wish to make our shared sea a “model ocean” for the rest of the world. In this context, we believe it is essential to preserve fish stocks. We support the idea of “maritime clusters” to foster innovation and finance sustainability.

We wish to continue supporting the development of green finance to ensure optimal utilization of financial resources and promote the development of criteria for Mediterranean Social and Environmental Responsibility.

Lastly, we commit to sharing all efforts the countries on the southern shore make to preserve the environment which could serve as models for the countries on the northern shore.

We are especially aware of the following projects and initiatives suggested by the Assembly of the 100 in particular: the creation of a digital platform to share best practices and provide training with a view to developing green energy in the Mediterranean; the development of an energy efficiency programme for sustainable agriculture in the Mediterranean; a waste recycling initiative at the 5+5 Dialogue level; and a pilot plastic clean-up project in 10 Mediterranean countries (A Healthy, Plastic-Free Mediterranean).

3. Commitments for a multicultural Mediterranean

Our heritage is a driver for dialogue and ties between peoples that needs to be preserved and promoted, to serve as a laboratory for regional dynamism, and to be showcased through responsible, inclusive tourism that is respectful of local people and the environment.

We commit to promoting all bodies that work to fuel continuous dialogue and ties between our two shores, including the many associations and virtual networking and discussion platforms.

To overcome existing mental barriers, we support the idea of joint cultural and sporting events, such as the creation of film, theatre and music festivals on both shores. We suggest establishing a World Mediterranean Day. We reaffirm our support for the cultural industries of the Mediterranean region, which foster ties between the two shores by promoting artistic creation and transnational events. We are aware of the crucial role of the media, particularly television, in promoting a positive image of our region, and wish to support the creation of a pan-Mediterranean media outlet for jointly produced cultural and entertainment content. We commit to promoting multi-stakeholder and multinational coalitions and to ensuring that each of the projects we support is led by stakeholders of different types, including local government bodies, non-governmental organizations, universities and businesses.

With this in mind, we wish to highlight the following projects and initiatives suggested by the Assembly of the 100 in particular: the creation of a Mediterranean publishing house to translate and pool publications in Mediterranean languages, and the creation of an inclusive, multi-lingual Mediterranean media outlet (Mediterranea).

4. Commitments for an innovative, digital and enterprising Mediterranean

We want an inclusive and innovative Mediterranean region that fosters the sharing of information, knowledge and technologies between the two shores, the efficient networking of talented young people, led by businesses and SMEs in particular, and social and inclusive economy principles.

We will work to make our public administrations totally digital and transparent.

We commit to promoting a “Mediterranean digital agenda”, drawing on the full potential of digital technologies in multiple sectors, to facilitating interaction between Mediterranean economic stakeholders, and to supporting networking in order to stimulate innovation, joint investment and enterprise. In this respect, we support all initiatives aimed at bringing our businesses closer together, building bridges between businesses and consumers and fostering public-private dialogue, either by

pursuing harmonized trading rules and laws between our States or by establishing modern payment systems using digital technologies.

We are convinced that quality infrastructure, particularly in the energy and transport sectors, and better economic and commercial integration, will foster private sector development.

We want to bring about the emergence of innovative social enterprises, encourage joint industrial production within the region, and revitalize local expertise by building in particular on the vibrancy of our diasporas. On the strength of our potential and synergies, we wish to promote more inclusive production processes between the northern and southern shores and foster joint production wherever possible.

We appreciated the following projects and initiatives suggested by the Assembly of the 100 in this field in particular: a project to make the Mediterranean a sustainable digital economy laboratory (Emerging Mediterranean); the creation of an annual competition for innovative initiatives by young students in 5+5 Dialogue countries (Medoc Prize); and the use of blockchain technology and artificial intelligence to speed up the energy transition in the Mediterranean.

5. Commitments for a Mediterranean community rooted in its cities and territories

We recognize the great vibrancy of Mediterranean cities and wish to make them laboratories for the energy transition and the circular, green and blue economy. Faced with the challenge of coastal urbanization, we would like to see greater cooperation between all stakeholders concerned, including local government and ports.

We also recognize the central importance of local governance in the Mediterranean, which is essential to take into account the views of all our territories. We advocate fair redistribution between our territories, involving agricultural and rural communities. We wish to develop exchanges of best practices through institutes and/or training aimed at Mediterranean local elected officials.

We will also seek to involve local government bodies in the sectoral work of the 5+5 Dialogue so that they can provide their expertise and local knowledge.

We believe that balanced development of our territories will require greater connectivity and better infrastructure, both within and between our countries. We encourage the participation of young people and women in the management of local government bodies and support the development of Mediterranean networks of mayors and local government leaders.

We welcome the following projects and initiatives suggested by the Assembly of the 100 in particular: a collective commitment to the cultural and economic revitalization of our heritage (Smart Medinas), proposals for sustainable coastal city partnerships in the Mediterranean based on the circular economy for food; and the creation of a network of cultural programmes by opening up Mediterranean Pathways.

6. We are convinced that the actions we propose to implement will strengthen peace and development in our region. That is why we attach particular importance to ensuring that our actions are effective and that our commitments are thoroughly followed up on.

At political level, we will review the progress of initiatives during thematic and general ministerial meetings in the 5+5 Dialogue format. At operational level, regular meetings will be organized between the representatives of the ten 5+5 Dialogue countries, representatives of civil society, and partner organizations.

In this framework, we wish to commend the will expressed by the regional and international organizations that are partners of this Summit to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the initiatives it produces, through better coordination, mutual co-financing, and pooling of instruments and expertise.

Moreover, the initiatives proposed during the preparatory forums will be compiled and shared with all stakeholders on a joint platform.

7. As regards the possibility of extending some of the selected initiatives beyond the perimeter of the Western Mediterranean, we reaffirm our political commitment to the Union for the Mediterranean and the Anna Lindh Foundation, which remain key platforms to strengthen the partnership between the European Union and all countries of the Mediterranean.

More generally, we wish to deepen our cooperation and joint work within the international organizations we are members of, and to promote there the need for renewed multilateralism.

8. Lastly, we are convinced that an inclusive, convivial and mutually beneficial Mediterranean community is possible. It will foster mutual contributions. It will support the Mediterranean region's contributions to the world.

Recalling that the initiative we are supporting embodies our new positive and inclusive ambition for the Mediterranean, we hereby launch a call of conscience and a call for dialogue to all.

Signed in Marseille on 23 June 2019.

For the People's Democratic Republic of
Algeria

For the Kingdom of Spain

For the French Republic

For the Republic of Italy

For the State of Libya

For the Republic of Malta

For the Kingdom of Morocco

For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

For the Portuguese Republic

For the Republic of Tunisia