

<p>In</p> <p>PA-UfM</p>  <p>AP-UpM</p>	<p>PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY– UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN</p> <p>ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE – UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE</p> <p>الجمعية البرلمانية للاتحاد من اجل المتوسط</p>
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**Speakers' Summit of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the
Mediterranean (PA-UfM)**

Brussels, 3 December 2021

JOINT DECLARATION

**Of the Speakers of the Parliaments of the Union for the Mediterranean
(UfM)**

- *Whereas the observed climate changes are already having wide-ranging impacts on ecosystems, social and economic sectors, and human health;*
- *Whereas the effects of climate change are being increasingly felt globally and especially in the Mediterranean;*
- *Whereas there is further evidence that the Mediterranean region is one of the main climate change hotspots in the world and is warming 20% faster than the global average;*
- *Whereas in the last months, a series of dramatic events have highlighted that coastal zones face heightened disaster risks, including flooding and erosion, and the salinization of river deltas and aquifers that sustain food security and livelihoods;*
- *Whereas the Mediterranean is now facing more frequent and extreme weather events, including intense heat waves, heavy rainfall, floods and forest fires;*

- *Whereas extreme heat is the greatest threat to the Mediterranean as temperatures are expected to rise faster in the coming decades;*
- *Having regard to the conclusions of the commitments reiterated by the Contracting Parties on the occasion of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow;*

- *Having regard to the Declaration adopted on 4 October 2021 in Cairo by the 42 Member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) at the 2nd UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate action.*

The Speakers of the UfM Parliaments:

1. Agree that avoiding a dangerous future for the Region requires ambitious, urgent and coordinated decision-making in the field of the fight against global warming;

2. Recognise that in view of the global nature of climate change, no country can face this challenge by itself and that only a coordinated effort by all partners of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean and an increased international cooperation based on honoured commitments, can bring tangible results and improvements;

3. Stress the importance that all UfM Member States and partners firmly reiterate their commitment to the goals defined in the Paris Agreement and in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Stress the importance to take concrete, tangible and measurable actions to that end and in a spirit of solidarity taking into account the differences between states in terms of capacities and socio-economic needs linked to disparities in their development levels;

4. Emphasise that climate change and its impact can be substantially reduced through an ambitious global mitigation policy compatible with the mitigation goal of the Paris Agreement and with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals;

5. Stress that coastal settlements, cultural heritage sites, and terrestrial and marine ecosystems will be maintained in a sustainable state in most areas of the Mediterranean basin only if global warming is kept well below two degrees;

6. Agree to pursue an ambitious strategy of ecological transition, notably through innovative and ambitious techniques. It is urgent to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt energy policies and economic models in order to mitigate climate changes. It is important to assist Member States in their energy transitions;

7. Call on all UfM Member States and partners to step up adaptation actions, in order to minimise the negative effects of climate change and achieve climate resilience and sustainable development, and to engage local authorities to fully honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement;

8. Acknowledge that the strengthening of overall Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in that field is necessary in order to save our common Sea, and commit to increase their common efforts to that end;

9. Recognise the need to work together to progressively phase-out fossil fuels, develop energy savings programmes and low-carbon energy production, and increase production of clean energy from renewable sources, especially solar, wind, hydro and geothermal

10. Call on the international community to step up the efforts and fully implement the commitments reiterated on the occasion of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow;

11. Call on all UfM Member States to implement the “Cairo Declaration”, in a coordinated way, accelerating the transition towards fair, resilient, climate-neutral and resource-efficient economies in an attempt to significantly limit average global temperature rise and halt and reverse biodiversity loss and reduce air pollution;

12. Highlight the key role of culture and education in raising awareness about the impact of climate change in the life of all citizens, and the need to develop sustainable resources;

13. Welcome the designation of Egypt to host COP27 in Sharm El sheikh and express our willingness to work together to complement the agendas of COP26 and COP27 to ensure a successful outcome.