









**Mediterranean Civil Society Meeting  
on the occasion of the  
Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water**

Tuesday, 28 October 2008  
King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center  
Dead Sea, Jordan

			
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)	Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)	Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD)	The Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
			
		وزارة البيئة المملكة العربية السعودية	
			

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

The *Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water* will take place in Jordan on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2008, under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the co-presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt and France. The Ministerial Conference will work towards formulating and adopting guidelines for a long term strategy for water in the Mediterranean.

The following key themes will be addressed by the strategy:

- (i) promoting effective governance for IWRM and WSS, as a cross-cutting theme to promote all related issues including addressing public participation, awareness raising, capacity building and coordination within administrative units and among stakeholders;
- (ii) addressing water and climate change through adaptation measures together with mitigation, with emphasis, *inter alia*, on management of droughts and floods and combating desertification;
- (iii) optimizing water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms;
- (iv) water demand management and efficiency and non-conventional water resources.

The Conference provides an opportunity for all partners of the *Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean* to cooperate in exploring new ways and means to address water related issues in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The Ministers will be called upon to define the Long Term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean, as decided by the Heads of State and Government, during the Paris Summit, 13 July 2008. The renewed strategy will address the main challenges posed by the increasing water demand in the region and the impact of climate change, within the overall context of sustainable development and taking into account the Millennium Development Goals and the WSSD targets on water. This renewed strategy is expected to include quantitative and qualitative targets and objectives.

### Introduction

Civil society has a crucial role to play in ensuring that future generations in the Mediterranean countries have access to sufficient and clean water. Water, being the most precious natural resource in Mediterranean countries and the foundation of life itself, poses a veritable challenge to manage sustainably. Under the unpredictable conditions of climate change and an ever increasing population this is a challenge that requires the helping hand and commitment of all concerned parties. Civil society organisations are government's

partners in their effort toward sustainable water use in their countries. Hence, in a long-term strategy for water in the Mediterranean, Civil Society needs to be included as one of the main actors in development.

To give civil society a voice and ensure that its role is discussed in the Ministerial meeting and reflected in the strategy paper, a Civil Society Meeting is organised by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) on the eve of the Ministerial Meeting. The meeting is supported by the French Presidency of the European Union, the Government of Jordan, the European Commission-DGENV, the EU Water Initiative-Mediterranean Component, GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean and UNEP/MAP.

## **The objectives of the Civil Society Meeting**

*The meeting aims to:*

- 1. Clarify the crucial role Civil Society organisations play in ensuring the resource water is available for future generations;*
- 2. To identify Civil societies role as intermediary between the government and its people in the development and implementation of water policies;*
- 3. Based on the conclusions of the prior analysis, to formulate proposal points to be presented as Civil Society Statement to the Ministers at the Ministerial conference on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October;*
- 4. Use the opportunity this meeting presents to foster networking, joint learning and strategizing.*

*The "Civil Society statement" is the key output of the meeting. A preparatory consultative period to develop a draft version that will be presented and discussed during the meeting precedes the event itself.*

## **The structure of the meeting**

The agenda makes use of plenary sessions and group work. In three parallel working groups the role of Civil Society in addressing the four core themes of the Water strategy will be elaborated in details. Recommendations will be developed for inclusion into the Civil Society statement. Key themes are civil society's role in:

- public participation and effective stakeholder involvement in IWRM and WSS
- awareness-raising, advocacy and building synergies for sustainable water financing
- Research, transfer of technology and know-how and pilot demonstrations on water efficiency measures

The role of civil society in addressing climate change adaptation (e.g. management of droughts and floods, combating desertification, etc) will also be a cross-cutting theme of the parallel workshops. In parallel to the meeting *poster presentations* will also be exhibited. Further details on poster specifications will be provided in due time.

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### **For further information please contact:**

**For JOHUD:** Mohammad Omar Al-Nuaimi, [civilsociety@johud.org.jo](mailto:civilsociety@johud.org.jo) , tel.: +962 6 5560741 ,

**For MIO-ECSDE:** Anastasia Roniotes, [info@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:info@mio-ecsde.org), [roniotes@mio-ecsde.org](mailto:roniotes@mio-ecsde.org), tel.: +30 2103247490