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#### QUESTIONS:

- Brief background information on the Union for the Mediterranean – Structure , objectives, actual projects
  - What are the main economic, social and cultural challenges of the Mediterranean in terms of sustainable tourism development and management? How can the Mediterranean destinations establish a common position to cope with the current and potential challenges?
  - Potential investments in the Mediterranean compatible with the “Green Economy” principles.
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#### **Background information:**

· 1995, **Barcelona Process** aimed at turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of peace, stability and prosperity, thus culminating the efforts undertaken towards a Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

· **2008, Paris summit: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** established by 43 Heads of State and Government as an inter-governmental, multilateral partnership, building on the Barcelona Declaration with a view to increasing co-ownership and the potential for regional integration and cohesion.

· **2010, Marseille declaration, UfM Secretariat (UFMS)** established in Barcelona with technical mandate. Following an initial focus on mega projects, the scope expanded towards accompanying regional socio-economic developments.

#### ***2015 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Barcelona Process***

#### **Structure**

· **Member States:** Forty-three member States, comprising the 28 EU members, in addition to 15\* Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

· **Governance:** Embodies the principle of co-ownership. Since 2012, the EU and Jordan assume the Northern and Southern Co-presidency respectively. The political steering body of the UfM is the Senior Officials, who meet regularly to oversee and coordinate UfM work & take decisions by consensus.

#### **Strategic objectives**

Enhance regional cooperation and integration in the Euro-Med region through the implementation of concrete regional and sub-regional projects with tangible impact on the region’s citizens, with a focus on sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

### **Mandate and priority areas**

6 Divisions on the Secretariat:

Business Development/Social and Civil Affairs/Higher Education and Research/Water and Environment/Sustainable Urban Development and Transport/Energy and Climate Change

30 UfM labelled projects so far.

### **Some flagships initiatives and projects.**

30 UfM labelled projects so far. Some flagship initiatives:

#### **Med4Jobs:**

Cross-sectorial initiative promoting and replicating job creation practices and actions projects. The 3 pillars are: Employability, Job intermediation services and Business enabling infrastructure.

#### **H2020:**

De-pollution of the Mediterranean by the year 2020: municipal waste, urban waste, water and industrial pollution. The 3 pillars are: Investments for Pollution Reduction; Capacity Building for achieving H2020 objectives; Review, Monitoring and Research.

#### **Urban Projects Financing Initiative (UPFI):**

Regional platform promoting integrated sustainable urban development projects – close partnerships with IFIs.

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Role of tourism in the UfM Secretariat priority areas:

Horizontal approach:

- Job creation and business development
- Tourism in blue economy,
- High-level Conference on Fostering Women's participation in Economic life.
- UfM NAMA Initiative within the UfM Climate Change Expert Group.

Tourism as a key driver for enhancing regional integration and sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

It represents a sector which can allow Member States to face several challenges and seize opportunities in the region: -employment, investment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, gender equality...- and foster transition to more sustainable models of development.

Complementarity among both rims of the Mediterranean: green tourism as a big opportunity for the region.

### **Approach**

Two interlinked pillars structure the work of the UfM Secretariat:

**-Regional dialogue** (Ministerial conferences, high-level conferences, expert groups, platforms, ad hoc meetings...). Inclusiveness (Member States, but also stakeholders, IFIs, private sector, civil society, academia...).

**-Project promotion:** identification of initiatives and projects according to priorities of Member States. Upraising criteria established by consensus: political support and co-ownership: labelling process. Principle of variable geometry. UfM Secretariat as a third trusted party between promoter-financer-Member States. Network of partnerships.

Regional dialogue essential to identify projects (common gaps, priorities, needs); projects needed to feed regional dialogue (removal of barriers).

### **3.- Tourism and green economy:**

-UfM NAMA Initiative, including tourism among its priority areas: 2<sup>nd</sup> UfM Climate Change Expert Group meeting (Skhirat, 6-7<sup>th</sup> May 2015).

- Framework: climate change efforts and vulnerability of the Mediterranean and close connection with other challenges: employment, disaster risk, energy poverty, water scarcity...
- Climate action cannot only be a burden, but an opportunity for enhancing transition.
- Potential for mitigation-adaptation combined action and focus on water-energy nexus.
- Country driven process: Egypt example (tourism in NAMA mapping)
- Consistency with national, regional and international momentum: CoP 22 Paris. Important efforts already undertaken in the region, particularly on renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Available funds and possibilities of leverage for private investment
- Rationale of the UfM NAMA Initiative: building synergies among institutions to articulate a project preparation initiative to allow access to available climate instruments (initial support from European Commission, in coordination with European Investment Bank): building bankable projects.

Current work of the UfM Secretariat with other ongoing and regional initiatives, with huge potential in this sector and that should be at the core of climate action in the tourism sector:

- LED Lighting
- Solar Water heating
- PV for power generation