

Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative (EMME-CCI)

Sharm el Sheikh, 8 November 2022

DECLARATION

We, the undersigned Heads of State of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) countries have gathered today in Sharm El-Sheikh on 8 November 2022,

Recalling

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement;
- The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”), its protocols and decisions, including the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
- The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Reports, UNEP’s report, Making Peace with Nature, and the 5th edition of the UN’s Global Biodiversity Outlook report.

Acknowledging

1. The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report;
2. The serious impacts of climate change in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East region, which is warming faster than the global mean temperature, making it one of the world’s climate hotspots;
3. The three-year preparatory work of the thirteen scientific Task Forces of the EMME Climate Change Initiative, presented at the 2nd International Conference on Climate Change in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East in October 2021, and published in the corresponding Reports describing in scientific depth the dire situation of the Climate Crisis in our region;
4. The EMME Regional Action Plan based on the recommendations of the Task Forces; and the meetings and decisions of the Ministers of Environment of EMME in Cyprus in February and June 2022.

Willing to

1. Act in a coordinated way to launch, support, participate and advance the EMME CC Initiative to achieve a concerted action for the mitigation and adaptation of the Climate Crisis on the region;
2. Exploit selected policies and measures included in the EMME Regional Action Plan;

3. Strengthen regional cooperation through partnerships, communication, collaboration and exchange of good practices;
4. Mainstream environmental, climate mitigation and adaptation policies and services across all sectors;
5. Promote gender equality and the active involvement of the youth;

We express our deep gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its hospitality and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for undertaking this initiative.

We intend to reconvene to discuss the appropriate follow up.

The present instrument is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic law, or to result in binding financial implications.