

Marking the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process and welcoming the adoption of the new European Union Pact for the Mediterranean, the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, in cooperation with partner organizations from Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, Portugal, Spain and Malta, on the occasion of the International Mediterranean Day 2025, presents the

Zadar Declaration on the Mediterranean “Act4the Mediterranean”

which recalls the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, and underscores the necessity of joint action by public institutions, the profit sector and civil society to ensure long-term sustainable development, socio-economic progress and the preservation of Mediterranean ecosystems.

PREAMBLE

With this Declaration, we affirm our commitment to building a sustainable, peaceful and just Mediterranean.
It is essential to unite and connect Mediterranean societies, public institutions, the profit sector and civil society to secure the long-term well-being of all coastal communities.
The Mediterranean is a space of peace, stability and mutual understanding.
Act4the Mediterranean signifies partnership and dialogue grounded in human rights, inclusiveness, democratic participation and the rule of law.

DECLARATION POINTS

1. Humane and Fair Approach to Migration

It is important to:

- promote a humane, sustainable and fair approach to mobility, grounded in respect for human dignity, international protection and the needs of Mediterranean societies;
- support joint action against human trafficking and strengthen cooperation with countries of origin and transit;
- contribute to the development of integration, educational and cultural programs that foster mutual understanding and inclusion.

2. Reducing Inequalities and Sustainable Economic Development

It is important to:

- support the development of inclusive and sustainable economies across all Mediterranean shores;
- advocate and promote decent working conditions, poverty and inequality reduction, and the strengthening of innovation and green technologies;
- promote sustainable food production, the preservation of natural resources and equal access to resources needed for development.

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3. Environmental Protection, Water and Biodiversity

It is essential to:

- protect the Mediterranean ecosystem and promote sustainable management of water resources;
- support measures for biodiversity protection, pollution prevention and waste reduction, especially plastics.

4. Climate Resilience and a Just Energy Transition

It is important to:

- support cooperation in achieving carbon neutrality in line with the Paris Agreement;
- advocate for fair access to clean and affordable energy for all, and for the exchange of knowledge and innovative technologies;
- promote measures to reduce community vulnerability to climate change.

5. Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality

It is necessary to:

- promote equal participation of women in social, economic and political life throughout the Mediterranean;
- support initiatives against gender-based violence and discrimination;
- foster conditions for the economic, educational and political empowerment of women and girls.

6. Combating Racism, Xenophobia and All Forms of Discrimination

It is essential to:

- promote societies founded on equality, respect for diversity and mutual appreciation;
- oppose racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance that undermine social cohesion and stability in the Mediterranean;
- support programs and initiatives that strengthen intercultural dialogue, solidarity and understanding among all communities.

7. Youth, Community Participation and Social Inclusion

It is important to:

- create environments that enable young people to actively participate in society and democracy;
- support efforts to address youth unemployment and promote affordable housing;
- promote and support the development of civic competencies, media literacy and intergenerational solidarity.

8. Education, Science and Innovation

It is essential to:

- advocate for accessible, high-quality and inclusive education for all;
- support international scientific cooperation and the responsible application of innovative technologies, including artificial intelligence;
- invest in knowledge that strengthens a shared Mediterranean identity.

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9. Development of Sustainable and Smart Communities

It is important to:

- support sustainable mobility, smart energy solutions and inclusive public services;
- advocate for urban planning solutions that are citizen-centered and environmentally responsible;
- contribute to the development of green, accessible and interconnected communities.

FINAL STATEMENT

With this Declaration, we aim—through joint action and in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation—over the next five years, until 2030, to contribute to inclusive Mediterranean societies and to a sustainable, peaceful and just Mediterranean under the motto: Let us Act4the Mediterranean: Blue, Clean and Forever.

#togetherthroughTime

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