

Official Statement

Mr. Nasser Kamel,
Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

**25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change**

11 December 2019, Madrid

*Your Excellency the President of the
COP [Carolina Schmidt Zaldivar]*

*Secretary-General of the UNFCCC
[Patricia Espinosa]*

Ladies and gentlemen,

A few weeks ago, the MedECC, a network of more than 600 Mediterranean Experts revealed the preliminary results of the first-ever study on environmental and climate change impacts in the Mediterranean Basin.

They clearly show that the Mediterranean region has already reached the threshold of 1.5° in temperature rise, warming up 20% faster than the global average.

Climate Action is therefore no longer an option if we want to preserve life around the region.

Fully in line with the Paris Agreement, the Union for the Mediterranean plays an important role in enhancing regional cooperation towards effective adaptation and mitigation efforts.

- We mobilize all actors around structured regional dialogue platforms to enhance joint and concerted action;

- We promote research and data collection to enhance evidence-based policies;
- Furthermore, we endeavour to address technical capacities by supporting a growing number of projects, such as with the European Commission as well as the UNDP to assist in the implementation of NDCs in our member states.

We have also partnered with R20, a private foundation, to set up, in the long run, a specialized impact investment fund for the Mediterranean.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Union for the Mediterranean is strongly committed to the maxim of COP25.

We are present with three side-events:

- 1.with Cyprus, to enhance a science-policy interface on risks of climate and environmental change in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East;

2.with the UNDP, to discuss the update of the revised NDC landscape in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

3.and with ClimaMed, to demonstrate to the international community the evident role of Southern Mediterranean cities in climate action, and more particularly climate finance.

We look forward to pave the way, together with you, towards our 2nd Ministerial meeting on Environment and Climate Change in 2020, to bring

climate ambition in the Mediterranean
to new heights.

Thank you very much.