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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)  
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

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Second Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean  
Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response  
to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

REMPEC/WG.58/8  
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Lija, Malta, 21 November 2024

**Agenda Item 8: Gender and Youth Mainstreaming**

**Development of a Regional Policy Framework on Gender and Youth Mainstreaming within the Context of the  
Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031**

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Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

### **Note by the Secretariat**

The Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031 aims to foster sustainable development, social inclusion and economic growth across the Mediterranean region. Given the significant role that gender and youth play in achieving these goals, it is crucial to develop a policy framework that ensures their full and active participation in the implementation of the Strategy.

This document seeks to lay the groundwork for such a framework, drawing on global and regional best practices and tailoring them to the unique needs and challenges of the Mediterranean region. The primary objective of this document is to present and discuss the development of a policy framework within the context of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031. This framework should aim to ensure that gender and youth considerations are integrated into all aspects of the Strategy, promoting equality, inclusivity and empowerment throughout the Mediterranean region.

## **Introduction**

1. This document proposes the development of a policy framework for mainstreaming gender and youth within the Mediterranean region, as part of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031. The framework should support the promotion of gender equality and youth empowerment, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development in the maritime and environmental sectors across the Mediterranean region.
2. Despite progress, gender disparities and under representation of youth persist in maritime and environmental sectors. Integrating gender and youth considerations into policies and initiatives under the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) is crucial for achieving equitable and sustainable outcomes. The framework should aim to achieve a Mediterranean region where gender equality and youth empowerment are fundamental elements for all regional development efforts, contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth.

## **Establishing the need for change**

3. The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) is working towards a vision of: "A clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations".
4. In order to achieve this goal and maximize our efforts towards this desired future, we will need to utilize the best possible talent and resources available to us, as well as build a future that works for all demographics.
5. Approximately 50% of the world's population is female, and yet this ratio is not replicated in our sector. If we do not examine and consider obstructions in place for women in their access to the sector we are not maximizing our resources and hindering the goals of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). Gender equality is established within the core guiding principles of the United Nations, and this has led to positive long-lasting change<sup>1</sup>. The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) can follow this example to drive positive change in our industry and reach our goal more effectively.
6. Furthermore, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has identified a general lack of awareness about the maritime sector among young people and the potential careers it offers<sup>2</sup>. This lack of awareness is a compounding problem that must be addressed to ensure the future of our sector.
7. This youth apathy has been identified as part of the IMO's efforts to address maritime climate change, under the [GreenVoyage2050](https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/ERO/Pages/IMO-Goodwill-Maritime-Ambassador.aspx) Programme<sup>3</sup>. The IMO has implemented policies and strategies to gain insights from younger people, which have had valuable outcomes, and informed future strategies and decisions, making their efforts more effective and highlighting the need for getting younger people involved, as well as the value of the different perspectives they can bring to the ongoing conversation. One such example of this is the IMO Goodwill Maritime Ambassador Scheme<sup>4</sup>.
8. Younger people are an area of unused potential for the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and a demographic that we must start to consider and include in our course of action if we want to reach our Common Strategic Objectives. The Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) can take inspiration from the efforts underway in the IMO on youth inclusion and gender equality, which can inform future targeted policies to ensure that we build a healthy Mediterranean for future generations.

## **Aim and Objectives**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/gender-equality>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/Pages/WhatsNew-2112.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> <https://greenvoyage2050.imo.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/ERO/Pages/IMO-Goodwill-Maritime-Ambassador.aspx>

9. The aim of this proposal is to achieve a Mediterranean region where gender equality and youth empowerment are fundamental elements of all regional development efforts, contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth. The following general objectives for the policy framework may be considered:
- .1 To promote gender equality and youth empowerment, by integrating gender perspectives in all policies and initiatives within the operations and programs as part of the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031;
  - .2 To enable the active participation of youth in the decision-making process and implementation of regional policies;
  - .3 To foster a supportive environment and inclusive approach that addresses the unique needs and participation of women, men and youth in the region's decision-making processes;
  - .4 To develop and implement gender-sensitive and youth-focused policies within the Mediterranean region, with a focus on pollution prevention and pollution preparedness, response and contingency;
  - .5 To strengthen institutional capacities at Mediterranean level for gender and youth mainstreaming;
  - .6 To increase the representation of women and youth in leadership positions within the Mediterranean region; and
  - .7 To enhance access to education, training, and professional opportunities for women and youth in the maritime and environmental sectors.

### **Policy and Legal Framework**

10. The initial phase leading to the preparation of the regional policy could, inter alia, take into consideration the following:
11. Review and Reform: Assess existing regional policies and regulations to identify gaps and opportunities for integrating gender and youth perspectives;
- .1 Policy Development: Develop new regional policies that explicitly address gender and youth issues;
  - .2 Institutional Strengthening/Capacity Building: Provide training and resources to Contracting Governments to enhance their ability to mainstream gender and youth considerations;
  - .3 Leadership Programs: Develop programs within the region to develop leadership skills among women and youth; and
  - .4 Public Awareness Campaigns: Conduct campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and youth participation within the Mediterranean region sphere of influence.

### **Involvement of Stakeholders/Partners**

12. The involvement of all Mediterranean stakeholders and partners is essential to ensure the success of the Framework, especially those representing women and youth. This will also ensure the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and make sure of an inclusive approach.

**Action Requested**

13. The Second Coordination Meeting is invited to:
  - .1 Consider and approve in principle the development of a Framework on Gender and Youth Mainstreaming which should aim at ensuring that gender and youth considerations are integrated into all aspects of the Strategy, promoting equality, inclusivity and empowerment throughout the Mediterranean region;
  - .2 Recommend to the 16th Focal Point Meeting to instruct REMEPC to develop such a framework for consideration by the 3rd Coordination Meeting; and
  - .3 Incorporate this work in the Mid-term Review of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), due to be completed in 2026.