

**Conference for the Official Launching of the  
UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the  
Mediterranean region  
Athens, 26-27 November 2005**

**Resolution**

We the participants of the Conference for the Official Launching of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region, invited by the Government of Greece, in collaboration with UNESCO, UNEP/MAP, UNECE and MIO-ECSDE, in Athens, 26 and 27 November 2005, Recognizing the crucial importance of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for the promotion of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region;

Considering the UN Resolution 57/254 declaring the Decade of 2005-2014 as the UN Decade of ESD;

Considering the UNESCO Draft International Implementation Scheme for DESD;

Considering the UNECE Strategy for ESD (Vilnius, 18 March 2005) and its scope to encourage also countries outside its region to follow it;

Recalling the Portoroz Declaration (11 November 2005, Slovenia) requesting the commitment of Mediterranean countries in promoting ESD in their Educational Programmes;

Recalling the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) which recognizes the importance and relevance of the UNECE Strategy for ESD to be used as a blueprint for the Mediterranean Region;

Appreciating the considerable work carried out by Governments, NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders in the field of ESD as well as of Environmental Education (EE) and other relevant targeted forms of formal, non-formal and informal education in the Mediterranean region,

We express our firm belief that a **Mediterranean Strategy for ESD** will be of particular importance for the Peoples and Governments of Mediterranean countries to guide and stimulate the initiatives of Governments and relevant stakeholders active in the region in promoting ESD.

To this end:

We urge the Governments of the Mediterranean countries to adopt a Mediterranean Strategy for ESD.

We mandate the Government of Greece to facilitate the establishment and operation of an open ended Task Force to prepare the draft Mediterranean Strategy for ESD, using the UNECE Strategy for ESD as a prototype, considering also other relevant inputs, and submit the final draft to the next

(2007) meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea (in a joint meeting of Ministries for Environment and Education) for adoption, in view of incorporating this Strategy as an integral part of the MSSD.

We invite the Governments of the Mediterranean countries to create the necessary conditions for proper introduction and implementation of ESD in their educational curricula and include it as an integral part of their National Sustainable Development Strategies. To this end they are encouraged to set up National Committees for ESD and launch the UN DESD in their respective countries involving all relevant stakeholders.

We call upon the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) to support ESD Programmes and the implementation of the proposed Mediterranean Strategy for ESD.

We invite UNESCO and other competent bodies to facilitate the establishment and operation of a network of Mediterranean Universities and other Academic Institutions working on ESD .

We invite International Organizations (including IFI's, the WB) and other donors (public and private) to support the implementation of ESD in the region.