



The Union for the Mediterranean

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2. Embody their assigned country's/character's position, not their mannerisms (e.g., no accents, no props)
3. Opt for diplomatic, respectful, and tactful speech and phrasing of ideas, including notes (e.g., no foul language, suggestive remarks, or obscene body language)
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If you have any equity concerns (e.g., concerns about barriers to participation) or accessibility needs now or during the conference, please do not hesitate to contact your committees' dais and/or our Director of Academics at academics@utmun.org.

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Dear Delegates,

The dais and I are pleased to welcome you to the Union for the Mediterranean at UTMUN 2021! This committee will explore important questions and topics nations around the Mediterranean are currently tackling.

My name is Émilie Beaudoin, and I will be your director of the UfM for this iteration of UTMUN. I am currently a third-year History Specialist and International Relations Major focusing on International Law and Human Rights with a minor in Political Science. I grew up all over Canada as a child but consider Vancouver home, where I started my Model United Nations journey in high school. When not preparing for Model UN conferences, I can be found reading a fantasy book, doing my best surviving Chloe Ting workouts and spending too much time on TikTok. Your vice-president is Hanna Derouin, another third-year who double specializes in History and International Relations with a focus on International Law and Human Rights with a minor in Political Science. Outside her internship in which Hanna researches economic and environmental development in Ghana, she enjoys playing Animal Crossing and Sims4 with Emilie over Discord as they discuss various historical inaccuracies in movies. And last but not least Ciara will be your moderator. Ciara is in her first year, hoping to double major in International Relations and Public Policy. She has been doing MUN for the past seven years, but when she's not delegating or staffing conferences, she enjoys making pasta, taking naps, and correcting people on how to pronounce her name.

The UfM will address three topics this year. First, this background guide will discuss the current Eastern Mediterranean Crisis. The Eastern Mediterranean Crisis deals with the tensions with territorial and resource claims such as undersea gas reserves and the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus. Second, this background guide explains the Libyan Crisis. Delegates will be tasked with understanding the current situation in Libya and providing both short and long-lasting solutions. Third, this background guide examines the Barcelona Declaration and the future of the UfM. Delegates will have to discuss what they want the future of the Mediterranean to look like, considering the role of Britain and the shift to a Green Blue-based economy.

I strongly suggest that you use this background guide as a preliminary source and continue to do your own research, checking the sources used for this background guide might provide some aid. Furthermore, for Position Papers, refer to the UTMUN website for deadlines and please note that ideally, you will write approximately ½ to 1 page double-sided per topic. I recommend the following format: paragraph A in which you outline the topic in general, paragraph B which identifies and describes your country, and how your state has been affected? Then paragraph C should encompass your country's policies and proposed solutions. Paragraph D, should be a conclusion which ties loose ends. I have a preferred way of heading the papers, please refer to below for an example of the format:

School: UA High

Delegate: John Smith

Country: Canada

Topic: Mediterrean Crisis

Best of luck and please contact me with any concerns or questions,

Emilie J. Beaudoin,
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Introduction to The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Since the 1990s multiple conferences have been hosted in attempts to ensure security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, the region across the last decades has faced numerous conflicts due to clashes between states. As colonialism still ripples down international relations, the sea which is crucial to most countries' economies has yet to remain peaceful for an extended period. The main aspects which continuously bring conflict are the boundaries of the marine area, and thus the regulated use of the sea including natural resources such as gas and fisheries¹ There has been a lack of properly set regulations which the Mediterranean community collectively agrees to follow.

The Union for the Mediterranean was established in 2008, thanks to the efforts of French President Sarkozy, the UfM is meant to bring upon the future in efforts of cooperation between European and Arab states to ensure equal representation of the two sides. The Arab league participates in the UfM meetings. While some current nations in the UfM were under colonial rule in the past, they are now independent members. None-the-less tensions and relations between states and their previous colonizers have sparked controversies.

There is currently no American presence within the organization as the United States does not consider the Mediterranean a single region. However, it is to be noted the United States does hold influence upon the region mainly through Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Turkey. In addition, they are one of the main military users of the Mediterranean.² The European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) could become important players in the future of the UfM as discussion of a transatlantic policy to strengthen relations have been hosted. However, a common regulatory framework seems far away, as focus is geared toward single issues as these appear to be more feasible.³



Image: <https://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/medsea.htm>

¹ "Who We Are - Union for the Mediterranean," UfM, accessed November 11, 2020, <https://ufmsecretariat.org/who-we-are/>.

² Natalino Ronzitti, "Law Of The Sea," *The Italian Yearbook of International Law Online* 26, no. 1 (2017): doi:10.1163/22116133-90000191)

³ Ibid.

Topic A: Eastern Mediterranean Crisis

Important Themes and Concepts

The Mediterranean Sea is a region which has been utilized by individuals for millennia. The sea is not only vital to many countries' economies for its resources but also for its importance for transportation as a route for goods to be exported and imported at little cost. The area also has strategic importance with naval bases established by bordering and non-bordering States alike.⁴ According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) established in 1982, legally each of the world seas have their own regime.⁵ It is vital to understand the international laws and sea codes which this committee and countries are expected to follow. It is expected to understand these regulations detailed below:

1. Territorial sea and straits

Most Mediterranean states have a 12-mile territorial sea from the baseline or low-water line along the coast with the exception of the following; United Kingdom (3 nautical miles), Greece (6 nautical miles) and Turkey (6 nautical miles in the Aegean Sea, but 12 elsewhere), Syria (35 nautical miles).⁶

2. Contiguous zone

Contiguous zones are defined by Section 4 Article 33 of UNCLOS;

"I. In a zone contiguous to its territorial sea, described as the contiguous zone, the coastal State may exercise the control necessary to:

(a) prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea;

(b) punish infringement of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

II. The contiguous zone may not extend beyond 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured."⁷

Fishing Zones

There are cases in which countries go beyond their 12 nautical mile limit for fishing such as Malta which claimed a 25-mile exclusive fishing zone since 1978, and Tunisia according some a 1951 decree which was re-confirmed in 1963 claims "a fishing zone that is delimited for about half of its length according to the criterion of the 50-m isobath."⁸

These examples are unique in the practice of international law and are majority caused by the shallowness of the regions water. The "external limit of this fishing zone is a line whose points are located, in certain cases, as far as about 75 nautical miles from the Tunisian coast and only 15 nautical miles from the Italian island of Lampedusa. The Tunisian fishing zone encompasses the rich bank called I1 Mammellone (The Big

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Convention on the Law of the Sea, Dec. 10, 1982, 1833 U.N.T.S. 397. Enacted as: entered into force as the "United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea"

8 Natalino Ronzitti, "Law Of The Sea," *The Italian Yearbook of International Law Online* 26, no. 1 (2017): doi:10.1163/22116133-90000191).

Breast), which has traditionally been exploited by Italian fishermen.”⁹

Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)

Mediterranean states are reluctant to “proclaim an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) or, at least, to give effect to an EEZ claim in Mediterranean waters” due to difficulty of “delimitation in a relatively narrow sea.”¹⁰ Most UfM states prefer preserving freedom of “commercial navigation, naval mobility and access to fisheries.” Thus compared to other seas, the Mediterranean functions as an old-fashioned sea, as the high seas are much closer to the coasts than they are elsewhere.¹¹

In addition, here are some terms, that will be relevant to this topic:

1. CSCM: Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean
2. EMP: EuroMediterranean Partnership
3. EU: European Union
4. NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
5. Nautical Mile: a unit for measuring distance at sea; 1 852 meters
6. Mediterranean Sea: “The Mediterranean is a semi-enclosed sea surrounded by 22 countries, 27 if the States bordering the Black Sea are included. It is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by the Strait of Gibraltar and to the Red Sea by the Suez Canal.”¹²
7. OSCE: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Current Territorial and Resource Conflict

There are currently three main conflicts in the Mediterranean region. First, there has been a conflict in Northern Cyprus since 1974 when the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was created as a result of Turkish intervention. Internationally, it is an unrecognized state however, they (Turkey) “claim the sea area close to its coasts including parts of the continental shelf and EEZ,”¹³ which is continued grounds for conflict.

Image: <https://www.economist.com/international/2020/08/20/a-row-between-turkey-and-greece-over-gas-is-raising-tension-in-the-eastern-mediterranean>

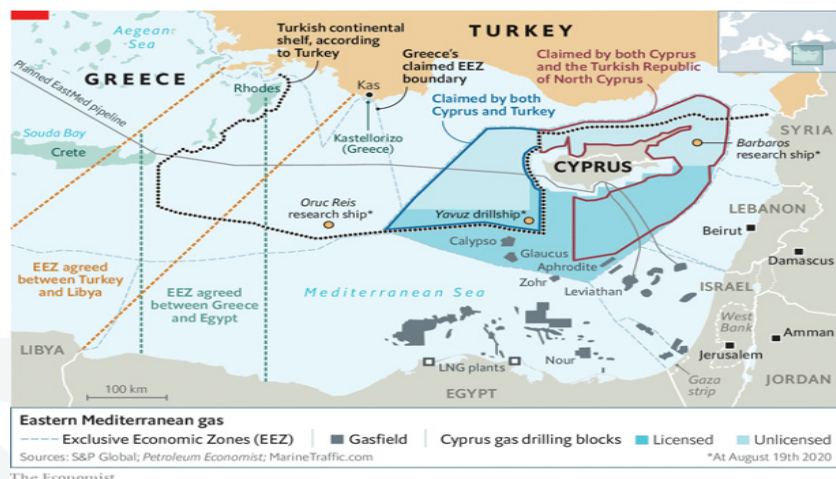
⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² “Nautical Mile,” Nautical-mile Noun - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com, accessed November 11, 2020, <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/nautical-mile#:~:text=nautical mile-,noun,the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary>

¹³ Natalino Ronzitti, “Law Of The Sea,” *The Italian Yearbook of International Law Online* 26, no. 1 (2017): doi:10.1163/22116133-90000191).



Second, there is a conflict over natural resources and land disputes. In recent years the situation has escalated as natural gas fields have been found in the disputed sea-regions and islands, thus bringing tension between the states of Greece, Turkey, the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus and Cyprus all claiming certain regions which overlap with each other.

Image: <http://natoassociation.ca/energy-conflicts-threaten-the-east-mediterranean/>



Third, there is the Israel-Palestinian conflict regarding access to the Gaza Strip which has been impeded by Israel who set up a blockade.¹⁴ The UfM in 2016 had the Secretary General Sijlmassi reaffirm “the UfM Secretariat’s commitment to support the Palestinian Government in its socio-economic initiatives and stressed the importance of Palestine in the Euro-Mediterranean agenda.”¹⁵ However, it is important to note that this committee will be focusing upon the Cyprus and Natural Resource conflicts rather than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For equity reasons please do not mention or refer to this conflict in committee. UTMUN acknowledges its existence as a pressing conflict in global affairs but is making a conscious decision to omit it from the committee as a whole. This information is provided purely for context.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ “UfM Secretary General and Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hold Talks on the State of Play of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation and Regional Challenges - Union for the Mediterranean,” UfM, December 13, 2016, accessed November 11, 2020.

Focus A: Gas Fields and Current Involvement

Timeline 1960-2019

1960: The Republic of Cyprus was established. This state has a Greek majority and a Turkish minority and in 2004 they joined the European Union as a member state.

2009: The Tamar gas field in Israel's EEZ was found by a range of companies including: Noble Energy (US), Delek Drilling (Israel), Isramco (US/Israel), Tamar Petroleum (Israel), and Dor Gas (Israel). Two years later in 2011 during the beginning of the Arab Spring there was the discovery of the Aphrodite gas field in Cyprus's EEZ by Noble Energy. The discovery of these fields in the Mediterranean opened an opportunity for conflict as gas is a coveted natural resource commodity among the international community.

January 2016: Cyprus, Greece and Israel held in Nicosia (Cyprus) the first trilateral summit during which they discussed regional issues relating to security. Later that year in July Turkey experienced a military coup.¹⁶ This coup heightened anxiety towards regional security issues.

2018: Gas fields were discovered by Eni (an Italian company) most notably the Calypso gas field in Cyprus's EEZ. Soon after the discovery in February Turkish naval forces blocked a drillship belonging to Eni before it could arrive at its intended location resulting in the company withdrawing the vessel.¹⁷ This was a serious incident known popularly as the 2018 Cyprus Gas Dispute. Turkey claims their actions were justified through rights they claim to have through to Cyprus' EEZ. The dispute stalled when Exxon-Mobile an American Company with permission from Cyprus took over for Eni.

January 2019: The Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) was created with its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt with the following founding members: Italy, Egypt, Greece, Cyprus, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Jordan. The goal of the EMGF is to provide a "platform aimed at developing a regional gas market."¹⁸ Two months later the Trilateral Greece-Cyprus-Israel summit hosted its sixth edition in which the United States participated. The summit resulted in the US secretary of State and the leaders of the three countries signing an agreement on the EastMed pipeline.¹⁹ The EastMed pipeline also known as the Eastern Mediterranean (EastMed) would be a "1,900km natural gas pipeline project to connect the gas reserves of the eastern Mediterranean to Greece."²⁰ The gas would be coming from fields near Cyprus and Israel. Once completed the pipeline's initial capacity of transportation will be ten billion cubic meters per year (bcm/y) of gas to south-east European countries mainly Greece and Italy.²¹ The project is expected to be completed in 2025. The pipeline has benefits for the European continent as it diversifies their energy routes and sources, and the project will provide much needed economic development for Greece and Cyprus allowing them to emerge as energy trading hubs. Turkey strongly opposed

¹⁶ "Deep Sea Rivals: Europe, Turkey, and New Eastern Mediterranean Conflict Lines," ECFR, accessed November 11, 2020.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "Deep Sea Rivals: Europe, Turkey, and New Eastern Mediterranean Conflict Lines," ECFR, accessed November 11, 2020.

²¹ Ibid.

the EastMed pipeline as they believe it infringes upon what they think should be neutral access to the gas fields. Turkey and Libya in December 2019 Turkey and Libya signed an agreement, known as the Ankara-Tripoli Agreement, to connect their Exclusive Economic Zone as a barrier to the proposed route of the pipeline.²²



Image: https://d32r1sh890xpil.cloudfront.net/tinymce/2020-09/1600198932-o_1ei9kjpji1b3f1la512p1d7m68u8.jpg

May 2019: Turkey sent out “exploration and drill ships into Cypriot waters each escorted by Turkish warships.”²³ In the same month France and Cyprus signed an agreement which provides Cyprus service to French warships in the Cypriot naval base of Mari, in response Turkey sends its first drill ship, Fatih, to Cyprus. This action resulted in Turkey being condemned for its intervention in EU territorial waters at the annual Me7 summit in June. Where Turkey was called upon to “show restraint, respect the sovereign rights of Cyprus, and refrain from any such actions”.²⁴ However, this condemnation had little effect. Turkey received in July a first shipment of Russian S-400s, defensive missiles. Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz Al-Assaf the Saudi foreign minister visited Cyprus in September and declared Saudi support for Cypriot sovereignty.²⁵

October 2019: The United States and Greece signed a new “strategic partnership and defence agreement which provides the United States an opportunity to expand their naval presence in the Mediterranean. This agreement included a US navy fleet to Cyprus. It is to be noted for future reference that Cyprus does not have control over the territory of the two bases Akrotiri and Dhekelia which belong to the United Kingdom.”²⁶

November 2019: the European Council imposes a framework to restrict Turkey’s “unauthorised” drilling in the Mediterranean Sea as the council concluded that “the framework will make it possible to sanction individuals or entities responsible for, or involved in, unauthorized drilling activities of hydrocarbons in the Eastern

22 Ibid.

23 Ibid.

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid.

26 Natalino Ronzitti, “Law Of The Sea,” *The Italian Yearbook of International Law Online* 26, no. 1 (2017): doi:10.1163/22116133-90000191)

Mediterranean.”²⁷

December 2019: the European council declares that the Ankara-Tripoli agreement “infringes on the sovereign rights of third States,” the EU “unequivocally reaffirms its solidarity with Greece and Cyprus regarding these actions by Turkey.”²⁸ The United States congress quickly passes the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act with Cyprus and Greece which provides them more security, lifts the US embargo on Cyprus and approves of the creation of a US-Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center. While the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis travels to the UAE to visit the royal Emirati family, France, Italy and Cyprus conduct a three-day naval exercise off the southern coast of Cyprus which was a show of their presence and power.²⁹

January 2020: Egypt hosts a “ministerial-level meeting” between Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy to denounce Turkey’s agreement with Libya. At the same time France requests formal membership in the EMGF. Turkey soon after the meeting sends exploration vessels to Libya’s new maritime border.

April 2020: due to COVID-19 ExxonMobil postpones drilling in Cyprus until 2021. Which shows that currently because of the pandemic many of the drilling sites, at the center of this conflict, have had their operations paused postponing further escalation and solutions. In May, the foreign minister of Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece and the UAE declare they are denouncing “the ongoing Turkish illegal activities in the Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone and its territorial waters, as they represent a clear violation of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.”³⁰ Later that month the European Council calls again upon Turkey to respect the law of the sea and “the sovereignty of all EU member states over their territorial sea as well as all their sovereign rights in their maritime zones.”³¹



Image: <https://ahvalnews.com/aegean-dispute/turkey-greece-standoff-over-disputed-islets-imiakardak>

27 Ibid.

28 Ibid.

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

31 Ibid.

Focus B: Cyprus and Turkish Republic of North Cyprus

In addition to the disputed gas fields and EEZs, islands surrounding the gas fields are being disputed by Greece and Turkey, as the islands provide strategic places for military vessels to secure one's sovereignty and better access to the gas fields. The disputed gas fields and islands are deeply intertwined with each other as one cannot be resolved without the other however these islands have often been disputed for decades further complicating the issue.

What has happened?

As stated previously, Cyprus gained independence in 1960, with its price being the two UK naval bases of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, additionally Cyprus is under a "power-sharing constitution" between the Turkish and Greek populations in the country.³² In 1964 power sharing crumbled amid fighting between paramilitary factions. The United Nations sends a peacekeeping force to help British troops patrolling the "Green Line" set up to divide the Turkish and Greek Cypriot sectors in Nicosia, the capital.

In 1974 the military government in Greece backed a coup against Makarios, seeking to unify Cyprus with Greece. Makarios flees and five days later Turkish troops land in the north to protect the Turkish Cypriot community. The coup quickly ends and Greece's military government collapses. Turkish forces occupy one third of the island and it effectively becomes partitioned. The following year, Turkish Cypriots established an independent administration with Rauf Denktash becoming president.

In 1980, UN-sponsored peace talks resumed. However, the talks had little success leading Turkish Cypriots to proclaim independence as Turkish republic of Northern Cyprus three years later in 1983. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as previously mentioned is only recognized by Turkey.

In 2002, Kofi Annan, the UN secretary general, presented a comprehensive peace plan involving a federation of two parts, with a rotating presidency. This was relatively successful, and the following year Turkish and Greek Cypriots cross the "Green Line" for the first time in 30 years after the Turkish side eases border restrictions. After a referendum in 2004, Turkish Cypriots accepted the UN power-sharing plan, but the Greek Cypriots rejected it. During the same year Cyprus joined the European Union however it remained partitioned. Due to the Cyprus dispute in 2006 Turkey's EU entry negotiations broke down. Turkey's continued resistance to opening its ports to traffic from Cyprus was found to be problematic.

In February 2008, Communist party leader Demetris Christofias wins Cyprus' presidential election and agrees to immediately revive reunification efforts. The following month, Christofias and Mehmet Ali Talat, the Turkish Cypriot leader, agreed to reopen the symbolic Ledra Street crossing in Nicosia. In April of that year Ledra Street was opened for the first time since 1964. Christofias and Talat agreed to enter direct peace negotiations on September 3, with a solution to be put to simultaneous referendums.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the root causes of the current crisis regarding the management and allocation of natural resources and how can we address the issues?
2. Is the sourcing of natural resources a long-term investment in the region?
3. Considering the role of UNCLOS within the UfM, how is your country impacted by it?
4. There are many territorial issues within the Mediterranean region, how can the UfM address the issues while acknowledging the impact of culture and societies?

³² Ibid.

5. These border conflicts are often on-going for decades, look at the historical breakdown in this guide and reflect upon how previous solutions could be improved



Topic B: Libyan Crisis

Disclaimer: this background guide does take a position on the legitimacy claims of either government, however both groups, and forces supporting them, have a responsibility to protect civilians

Historical Background

The Libyan Crisis is an on-going conflict that re-surfed in April of 2019, however one must understand the history of the nation and its region to comprehend the long-term impacts and current situation. In 1951, Libya became a unified independent nation under a federal monarchy initially with three distinct regions: Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Fezzan which had their own regional government and legislative body alongside the central government and parliament.³³ In 1963, the federal system was abolished in favour of a totally unified country with central political and sovereign institutions. The following 42 years power and wealth were largely controlled by one man, Muammar Gaddafi.³⁴

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, rose to power in 1966 at aged 27, and held onto his dictatorship until passing away in 2011, thus marking him Africa's and the Arab world's longest-ruling leader.³⁵ He gained his power through a bloodless coup which overthrew King Idris. His policies were at the time focused upon pan-Arabism, anti-imperialism philosophy which he meddled with aspects of Islam. Muammar permitted control over small private companies, but the government controlled the larger ones, especially the rich oil fields the country hosts.³⁶ His goals of a pan-Arab world were met with bitter responses as he tried to merge Libya, Egypt and Syria into a federation and another time tried joining Libya with Tunisia, all resulting in tension between the states instead of unity. Two years into his dictatorship, in 1968 a German nightclub was bombed which resulted in the death of two American soldiers. Libya was blamed by Germany and the international community which prompted the United States to launch an air attack on Tripoli and Benghazi. Gaddafi's adopted daughter alongside 34 other Libyans were killed during the air strike and during the incident Ronald Reagan, the then US president, referred to Gaddafi as a "mad dog."³⁷

In 1977, he re-named the country, the Great Socialist Popular Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (State of the Masses), which supposedly allowed people to air their views at people's congresses.³⁸ However, international groups, such as Amnesty International and other human rights critics had already begun questioning the reality of freedom under his regime. Mohammed al-Abdalla, the former President of the National Front Party, described living in the 70s as an era in which the government was highly suspicious of students. And stated "he [Muammar] publicly hung students who were marching, demonstrating, demanding rights in Benghazi and in Tripoli and many other squares" such events were why his father and himself lived in exile for decades.³⁹ Around the same time Gaddafi was a major player in organizing an Arab opposition to the 1978 Camp David Accords, a peace

33 Guma El-Gamaty, "Libya: The Story of the Conflict Explained," Middle East | Al Jazeera, April 27, 2016, accessed November 12, 2020.

34 Ibid.

35 Al Jazeera. "Profile: Muammar Gaddafi." Middle East | Al Jazeera. August 22, 2011. Accessed November 12, 2020.

36 Ibid.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid.

39 Ibid.

agreement, between Egypt and Israel, however it resulting in him getting later shunned by multiple Arab states for his extremist views upon the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Human Rights Watch investigated upon violations in Libya however, the international community, and largely the Western world, only truly started paying attention to Libya after the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. The crash which killed 270 people and prior to the event there was already a rather negative perception of Libya and terrorism from Western nations mainly European states and the United States. The tensions were already high due to the 1968 bombing incident and the Western belief of Gaddafi supporting 'terrorist' armed groups such as the FARC in Colombia and IRA in Northern Ireland. Lockerbie simply amplified tensions and served them to the global stage as the United Nations imposed general sanctions resulting in Libya being in a pariah state. The sanctions would be lifted if Libya stopped denying the involvement of Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, a Libyan intelligence agent, who was already convicted for planting the bomb. Finally, Gaddafi accepted formal responsibility in 2003, paid compensations to the families and was able to re-enter the global stage when Gaddafi relinquished Libya's weapons of mass destruction. The United States, in 2004 would formally end their trade-embargo with Libya and in the following years relations with the Western powers grew as did the economy with the oil industry booming. In 2009, Gaddafi was invited for the first time to the US for his first appearance at the UN General Assembly however, he had recently provided a hero's welcome to al-Megrahi which was condemned by the US and the UK. Gaddafi was provided a slot for a 15-minute speech, however he spoke for roughly an hour and a half. The international community watched and listened as "he tore a copy of the UN charter, accused the Security Council of being a "terrorist" body similar to al-Qaeda and demanded 7.7 trillion USD in compensation to Africa by its past colonial rules."⁴⁰ Nevertheless to say, his speech and eccentricity truly shaped many international players perception upon Libya and their leader.



Picture: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2011/08/22/profile-muammar-gaddafi/>

Arab Spring

In the year 2011, multiple events occurred across the globe which would forever change the future of millions. An earthquake of 9.0 magnitude triggers a tsunami which kills thousands of Japanese civilians and provokes the second worst nuclear incident in history. Fidel Castro resigns from the central committee of the Communist Party in Cuba after holding his position for 45 years, the world's population officially reaches 7 billion people and protests across countries in the Middle East would start being referred to as the Arab Spring. These protests began spreading across the Arab world from civilians demonstrating for more political freedom

⁴⁰ Ibid.

[illegible]

First Civil War (2011)

In Libya, having heard and seen through media the protests happening in their neighboring countries during the Arab Spring, Libyans began demanding political reforms, mainly free elections and power-sharing, through protests. Most protesters were actively against Gaddafi and a many joined forces to create the National Transitional Council (NTC) on February 27th, 2011. The NTC was anti-Gaddafi and meant to act as the temporary authority over the rebel-controlled areas. The government would quickly begin opposing the rebels resulting in both sides committing atrocities until NATO led a multinational coalition of forces to intervene on 21 March 2011 to protect civilians from Gaddafi's government and in June the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a warrant for arrest against Gaddafi. The rebel forces on August 20, 2011 were able to dispose of Gaddafi from power during the fall of Tripoli. While resistance efforts that backed Gaddafi's government still persisted across the country, the regime came to an end on October 20th, 2011 with the capture of Sirte and NATO's airstrikes against Gaddafi's forces only for him to be captured and killed by rebel fighters.

The civil war in Libya, not only dismantled society through the killing of civilians caught in the heat of a bloody conflict but would also negatively impact the Libyan economy which relied heavily upon the exportation of oil further lowering the standard of living. The graph underneath showcases the crude oil production in Libya in recent years. The oil reserves of the country are one of the main reasons international players, such as the UAE, benefit from the civil unrest, as oil is less produced and more expensive thus making them unable to compete with the global market. Thus, other oil nations, such as the UAE whose economy relies up to 85% on oil and gas production, have greater control of oil production and ensure less competition on the global stage with a weak Libya. Having an economically weak Libya, prevents stability for Libyans and if they became an oil production powerhouse it would threaten a lot of nearby nations.⁴¹ However, while oil is not sustainable, it would be a great method so rebuild Libya's economy as it would profit very quickly from resuming normal production, but the committee should also ensure that adequate green solutions are found the rebuild the economy or setting up a system in which Libya will begin with heavy oil production before slowly shifting to another

Second Civil War

Life after the 2011 Civil War in Libya was still unstable as during the conflict multiple armed groups had been formed from an array of individuals, from ex-military members to students to sometimes tribal allegiance. These armed groups took over the vacuum of power that was left from the fall of Gaddafi's military dictatorship while the NTC, still only interim, focused on setting up elections, prosecuting ex-Gaddafi's close personnel and getting daily life back on track. As elections were held in July 2012, hosted by the General National Congress (GNC) which also organized the assembly for constituting and authorizing a new constitution. Thus, the NTC dissolved and Ali Zeidan was sworn as Prime Minister in November 2012 after the elections. While the economy was still in shambles, oil production again lowering, and the growing number of weapons worried international groups, there was hope for Libya to re-stabilize herself after the Civil War.

However, in 2014 there would be political tensions and violent conflicts spreading across the country, the easy availability and high number of weapons from the Civil War left many groups to be armed and discontent with the current political system and lack of better standard of living. In March 2014 Zeidan was ousted by the GNC. In August of that year, the new elected House of Representatives (CoD) replaced the GNC. However, on August 25th members of the former GNC declared that they had elected Omar al-Hasi as Prime Minister. Thus, the country had two conflicting governments, one proclaimed by the CoD in Tobruk, backed by the UAE and

⁴¹ "Homepage - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)." Homepage - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Accessed November 12, 2020.

Russia and one proclaimed by the GNC in Tripoli, previously approved by the UN, the tensions between the two would escalate and result in the beginning of the Second Civil War on-going to this day.

It is to be noted, that since then, various events and groups have joined in and impacted the situation, and as the situation is going delegates will be required to keep up to media for any major events. In addition, while the conflict is mainly the dispute between two governments, there are various other factors and groups at play, such as anti-government forces, rebels, international groups and more. When preparing for this topic ensure you sufficiently learn about your country's view regarding the main players of the conflict. Please note the map below is from 2014 and the second from 2020 to understand the shift in power and influence.

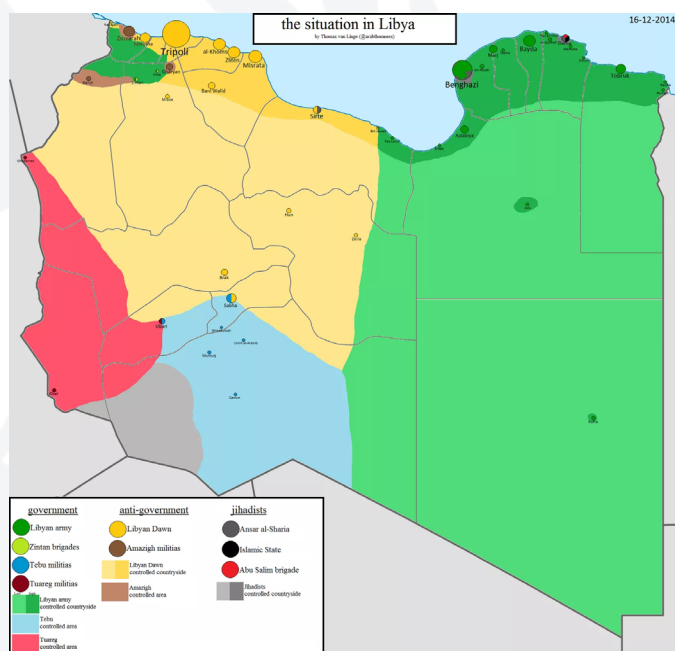


Image: <https://www.vox.com/2014/12/25/7447099/libya-conflict-map>

Map of the current major players from May 2020.

Focus A: immediate consequences

The most recent conflict which is currently impacting Libya began in April of 2019, when the Libyan National Army (LNA), which is an armed group based largely in Eastern Libya led by Khalifa Hifter (former general to Gaddafi) and backed by the UAE and Russia, launched an offensive against Tripoli, where the GNA, approved by the UN in 2016 is located. It should be noted that the LNA allies itself with the CoD thus the siege upon Tripoli can be interpreted as a direct attack on the GNA government from the LNA. The violent conflict is wreaking havoc upon civilians who are getting caught in the crossfire of the various groups trying to gain control over cities, regions and the valuable oil-fields, estimates are 519 dead, 3,980 wounded and over 1,500 currently missing.

Ever since the spring of 2019 various events and ceasefires have been imposed but failed as both sides return to violence for defense. After the offensive attack on Tripoli GNA head Fayez al-Sarraj declared the following on TV on April 6th 2019; "we have extended our hands towards peace but after the aggression that

has taken place on the part of forces belonging to Haftar and his declaration of war against our cities and our capital ... he will find nothing but strength and firmness," al-Sarraj says, warning of "a war without winners."⁴² The next day GNA forces announced a counter-offensive against Haftar's LNA forces. The day after on April 8th the LNA attacked using fighter jets Libya's only international airport, Tripoli's Mitiga. The United Nations which had been condemning the violence began evacuating refugees on April 9th as the violence continued and discussions for a peace conference were put on pause. April 12th the Wall Street Journal reports that Saudi Arabia had offered to pay tens of millions of dollars for LNA's operation on Tripoli. The article also reports that Haftar, "intended to buy the loyalty of tribal leaders, recruit and pay fighters, and for other military purposes."⁴³

The White House on April 19th makes a statement in which detailed President Trump as "recognizes Haftar's significant role in fighting terrorism and securing Libya's oil resources," the statement quickly became controversial as Libyans heard one of the most powerful worlds leaders stance regarding their on-going conflict.⁴⁴ Al Jazeera's Mahmoud Abdelwahed, reporting from Tripoli said the following "People are very angry, thousands of people have come out here on the main streets and squares especially in Tripoli and they are calling on the international community to stop the military aggression by Haftar's forces."⁴⁵ The main issue which reoccurs heavily across Libya's internal conflict is that the nation's vast natural resources, largely oil, ensure a high interest from various foreign states who want to exploit it or gain power within the country to ensure favorable business. Libya is plagued by the natural resources curse, in which the international community, and the UN have not yet been able to cure. However, the fighting continued from both sides for months, killing and injuring hundreds of citizens.



"The tail unit of an RBK-250 PTAB-2.5M cluster bomb found in residential area near Alasfah road, Tripoli outskirts, Libya, December 18, 2019, © 2019 Human Rights Watch"

⁴² "Interview: Libya's Chaos Explained." Human Rights Watch. October 28, 2020. Accessed November 12, 2020.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

The Haftar declares a ban on commercial flights to Turkey, a supporter of the GNA and his forces are ordered to begin attacks upon Turkish ships of both military or commercial interest on June 29th 2019. As Turkish civilians are captured by the LNA and then returned after threats of real military actions from Turkey they are returned however Libyans do not receive such luxury as the death roll continues to rise especially as a refugee camp is bombed on July 2nd according to the GNA it was an attack from Haftar's forces, who denies the claims.

A temporary truce occurs on August 10th which was proposed by the United Nations during Eid al-Adha, a Muslim holiday. They impose the UN mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to monitor violations according to the GNA. No huge conflicts occur until November 11, 2019 in which Al Jazeera obtains and publishes a draft copy of a UN report exposing member states having violated the arms embargo in Libya. The states on the report were; United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Turkey and Jordan.

The GNA representing Libya on November 27 signs "two agreements on security and military cooperation and restriction of marine jurisdictions" with Turkey, alarming other Mediterranean countries.⁴⁶ The GNA also cites evidence of Russian mercenaries backing Haftar's forces in December which the United States had suspected previously. Thus, the GNA looks for Turkey and both agree that more military support will be sent from Turkey if necessary. Before the new year, the Arab League passes a resolution on December 31st, which calls for efforts to "prevent foreign interference" in Libya in the context of the recent military and maritime agreements signed between Turkey and the GNA and stress the "necessity to prevent interference that could contribute to facilitating the arrival of foreign extremists in Libya."⁴⁷

However, on January 2, 2020 as Turkey announces they are authorizing a year long deployment of troops to support the GNA, Haftar declares two days later that military actions will be undertaken as he said on television "We accept the challenge and declare jihad and a call to arms." Conflicts continue recurring mainly over the city of Sirte, but Russia and Turkey call for a ceasefire on January 11, which is accepted from both sides. Soon after the rival leaders of Libya's are invited to Moscow which hosts discussion for a formal ceasefire. Haftar does not sign the agreement.

The role of host then moved upon to German Chancellor Angela Merkel who invited the leaders to a conference in Berlin on January 19th. While Haftar and Al-Sarraj were briefed about the contents of discussion both refused to meet face to face or attend. The conference also hosted Turkey, Russia, the UAE and Egypt, and included representatives from the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Congo, Algeria, United Nations, and African Union. Overall it resulted in all participating parties signing a 55-point communique and "pledged to respect a UN imposed arms embargo" which was sent for UNSC approval and adoption.⁴⁸

Algeria then hosted the ministers of Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan, Chad, Mali and Niger on January 23 for a meeting discussing a new ceasefire, however 3 days later heavy fighting broke out between the GNA and Haftar's LNA forces resulting in a dozen deaths and a hundred wounded. Then in February "the 10-member Libya Joint Military Commission (also known as the 5+5 military commission) met in Geneva to begin UN-led

46 Ibid.

47 Ibid.

48 Ibid.

talks," however no breakthroughs occurred.⁴⁹ So then, the African Union summit discussed Libya on February 9 again stating peace should be restored and to bring an end to regional violence. The UNSC on February 12th passed the resolution demanding the "warring parties commit to a "lasting ceasefire...without pre-conditions" as well as endorsing a 55-point plan for ending the war in Libya."⁵⁰ The drafted resolution discussed and provided solutions for the repeatedly broken arms embargo previously imposed by the UN and "called for in the plan approved by leaders of 12 world powers and other key countries that met on January 19 in Berlin."⁵¹ Only for the GNA, Libya's internationally recognized government to suspend their participation in negotiations after an attack from Haftar's forces on the capital port, whatever ceasefire was tried to be imposed with the help of Russia and Turkey as mediator is now completely broken.

Focus B: Belarus & the future

Former American President Barack Obama was reflected upon the Libyan Crisis in an interview in which he admitted that it was his "worst mistake" was "probably failing to plan for the day after what I think was the right thing to do in intervening in Libya."⁵² As discussed previously the issue with finding a lasting solution for Libya's crisis is the overbearing international interest to control the nation's enormous natural resources wealth. As international organizations and countries try to interfere in a regional conflict, solutions cannot be found as proven by the numerous failed attempts of a ceasefire or face-to-face discussions between the two major group leaders. The goal for this committee should to explore ways in which the internal issues are dealt with first, while focusing on fixing Libya's economy and refining their oil sector would help the country, it cannot do so until peace is restored within cities, travel routes, ports and for citizens to return to their daily lives without fear of airstrikes.

A case study worth exploring is Belarus, the European state that has had President Lukashenko ever since 1994 making him Europe's longest-serving ruler and in 2020, protests sparked after citizen's outrage regarding Lukashenko winning with 80% of the votes and Tikhonovskaya 10%. Previously on polls Tikhonovskaya held between 60-70% of the votes and her popularity brought large crowds prior to the elections creating suspicions of electoral fraud. Peaceful protests were quickly met with violence mainly teargas and rubber bullets which only made the people angrier over not having adequate governmental reforms.⁵³ Belarus now sits in a very similar bed as Libya, however whether or not foreign powers and international institutions decide to involve themselves like they did in Libya will determine their fate.

While international institutions like the United Nations and the UFM can provide the ability to host neutral conventions between conflicting parties, it often overlooks the intricacies and needs of internal conflicts. The Libyan Crisis much like the Belarus one, is a civil conflict which does not require the play of foreign states as it only complicates and elongates the issue. Civilians and restoring peace and government for the people should be the priority, as then international institutions can work alongside elected officials with an official government upon rebuilding the economy and other sectors.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

Questions to Consider

1. How should the international community mitigate Libya
2. What is the role of independent international players (such as countries) in the conflict and how can we prevent their involvement in what is considered an internal conflict?
3. Considering the current state of the Libyan economy, how can we ensure it is rebuilt while also providing sustainable improvements?
4. How can we ensure the protection of human rights in civil conflicts?
5. How should the UN ensure human rights and sanctions are followed in the future in Libya?

Topic C: Barcelona Declaration

Disclaimer: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is discussed within this background guide; however, it is to educate about the on-going situation of the region. This guide does not take a position on the claims of any parties and due to the nature of the conflict, it shall not be brought up in or outside committee sessions within the entirety of UTMUN 2021.

History

In 1995, the Barcelona Process was launched to strengthen relations between both sides of the Mediterranean, Europe as well as the south. In the era of change that was the late 90s, good relations were maintained for years providing stability for the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in 2008. 2020 marked the 25-year celebration of the Barcelona Process. Prior to the UfM many initiatives were undertaken, for example on their website they describe “large-scale international projects to local initiatives, a consolidated network of cooperation has gradually developed and directly impacted the lives of millions of citizens.” The UfM since 2008 has helped introduce a more structured way of proposing and implementing projects which tackle current crises and prevention of others. The on-going projects are for example 1st Scientific Report of Climate Change in the Mediterranean, Euromed University of Fes, Tafila Wind Farm, Plastic Busters for a Mediterranean free from litter, Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip and more.

In 2012, Co-Presidency was imposed within the UfM, to ensure proper representation of both European states and Middle Eastern states. All decisions are meant to represent and consider both sides of the Mediterranean, and the co-presidency “applies to all levels: summits, ministerial meetings, and officials’ level meetings.” Currently, the European Union (EU) represents the Northern Side with a “close link with the European Neighbourhood Policy” while Jordan represents the Southern side.⁵⁴

The 25-year anniversary of the Barcelona Process comes at a time in which many countries in the region experience instability rooted for different reasons, but many have been negatively impacted by Covid-19. However, as mentioned previously, the crisis regarding the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, natural resources management in the Mediterranean, and the Libyan Civil War complicate further relations and stability in the region.

54 “Who We Are - Union for the Mediterranean.” UfM. Accessed November 12, 2020.

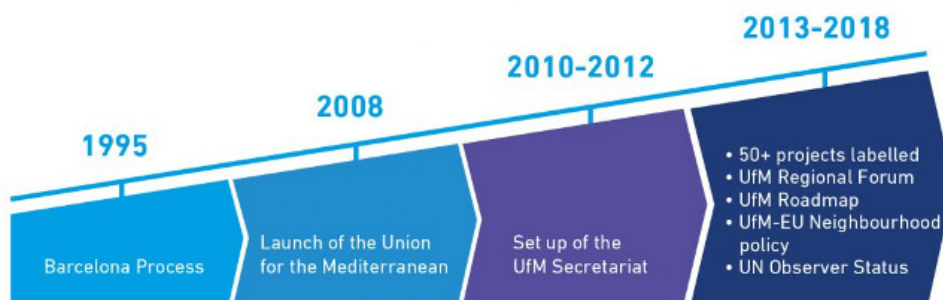


Image: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/who-we-are/>

Expectations and Goals of the Barcelona Declaration

As noted previously, the UfM has many on-going projects and initiatives however, it is important to reflect upon the goals listed in the 2008 Marseille Declaration which marked their first Summit. While reading below the extracts chosen, reflect upon your country's stance regarding these goals, as we will be discussing why these goals have been achieved or not. Also, do not forget that only certain goals are being discussed within this background guide as they were deemed to be most relevant, however delegates are in no way expected to read or discuss every goal listed in the Barcelona Declaration.

Apart from the projects the UfM now takes on, which will be discussed later, within the Barcelona Declaration, of 1995 the Ministers reaffirmed many of their commitments for the region and for the future UfM to help resolve tensions and conflicts. It is important to discuss these affirmations and examine if they have been resolved and if so why or why not?

As previously noted, this committee will not discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict which is heavily discussed within the Barcelona Declaration as the on-going conflict proved to be a major component of discussion within the creation of the UfM. In 1995, their goal was to continue the achievement of "a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict" which would be consistent with the Madrid Conference, the UNSC resolutions and the Road Map that had been approved in recently, in addition to the stressing of the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative and the progress of the Middle East Peace Process.⁵⁵

Again, while this was highly important during the constitution of the UfM and is still an on-going conflict, you are not expected to read or learn more about the subject. However, it is to be noted that since the beginning the UfM has wanted peace within the region, which is why both Palestine and Israel are voting members. The goal of the UfM has always been to continue prosperity and resolving issues through neutral platforms rather than violence. And as "Ministers stress that the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean is not intended to replace the other initiatives undertaken in the interests of the peace, stability and development of the region, but that it will contribute to their success," it reminds us that the UfM is but a single body of the UN and just one of the international organizations which impact the region.⁵⁶

The Declaration also discussed the promotion of reducing and eliminating the usage of "nuclear, chemical and biological non-proliferation through adherence to and compliance with a combination of international and

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

regional non-proliferation regimes and arms control and disarmament agreements.”⁵⁷ However, the owning of such weapons has been a point of many discussions in the recent decades. The ownership of such weapons or the illusion of ownership has provided some states to use it as an excuse for enforcing military troops in the region especially with the United States trying to establish power within the Southern Mediterranean.

Yet, security for the people of the Mediterranean is the goal of the UfM aspires to, however as countries try to gain power and respect within the international community they often resort to military as a method of strength. While every country wants security with its people and its neighbours, if they feel threatened by their neighbour who has a strong presence (military weapons, troops etc.) they will in return grow their own defence which will result in a paradox as their neighbours feel more threatened as they increase their military. These paradoxes are common in the field of political science and are used to examine how weapons can bring peace through the stability–instability paradox. The paradox is an international relations theory regarding the effect of nuclear weapons and mutually assured destruction (MAD), meaning because country A has the power to bomb Country B, they still will not do it because Country B has the power to create the same level of destruction even after having been attacked. These paradoxes result in many countries refusing to give up their weapons or at least holding on to them secretly. Military power still plays a huge importance in international relations and depicts the outcome of many conflicts which is why the UfM is committed to instead resolve issues through diplomacy and reducing the number of weapons in the region.

Expectations of Barcelona declaration: are they held up?

Thus, are the expectations of the Barcelona Declaration held up? The answer is not direct but rather a complex web of results. As stated previously, many of the conflicts addressed in the Declaration are still on going, such as territorial disputes between Turkey and Greece, which are in greater detail in Topic A. However, regarding establishing a more peaceful Mediterranean the UfM has faced difficulties helping resolve complex international and regional conflicts, but it is to be noted these deep-rooted issues were not expected to be solved solely through the UfM.

The Syrian Civil War for example, has resulted in high numbers of refugees to pass through the Mediterranean Sea, and has impacted a number of UfM committee members as the refugees came upon their shores.⁵⁸ The UNHCR has assumed that in 2015, over a million refugees had used the Mediterranean Sea to go seek asylum. The refugee crisis is something which involves the entirety of the international community and is not meant to be solved within this committee, as the focus will rather be upon the past and on-going projects the UfM is now focusing its resources upon.

Current and future UfM involvement and projects

Since 2012, when the secretariat in Barcelona was formally established, the UFM has been set up to have 59 regional cooperation projects with a budget of more than €5 billion. These projects have been accorded the UfM label. The UfM label is defined by them as a label “attributed to a regional cooperation project by unanimous decision of the 42 member states.”⁵⁹ The label acts as leverage for funding and associating new

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ “Greening the Blue Economy,” Union for the Mediterranean. <https://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Greening-the-Blue-Economy-UfM-Report.pdf>

partners and as of 2020, 10 have been completed. Furthermore, the UfM projects and plans have three strategic objectives: Human Development, Stability and Integration. Please look at the graph below to understand the allocation of projects.

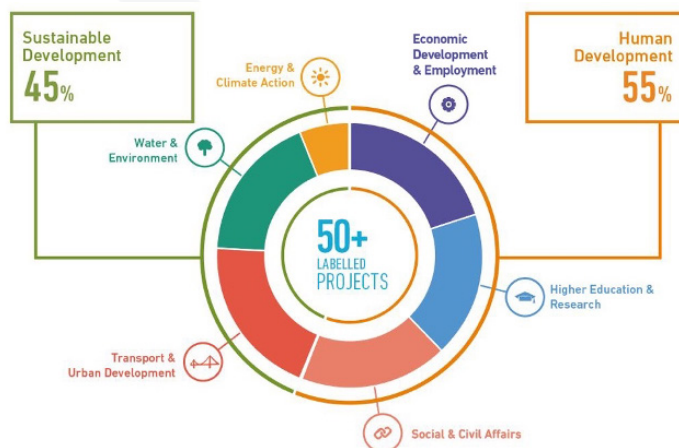


Image: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/projects>

The list of completed projects are the following, please do note it is not necessary to research every project, but is it important to understand the current allocation of projects and how they impact the region;

1. Economic development and employment
 - a. EMIPO – EUROMED Invest Promotion & Observatory
 - b. EDILE – Economic Development through Inclusive and Local Empowerment
 - c. Mediterranean Entrepreneurship Network – Réseau Entreprendre en Méditerranée
 - d. Promoting Financial Inclusion via Mobile Financial Services in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries
 - e. Establishment of a regional platform for the Development of Cultural and Creative Industries and Clusters in the Southern Mediterranean
 - f. Euro-Mediterranean Development Center for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
2. Higher education and Research
 - a. EMUNI University
3. Transport and Urban development
 - a. LOGISMED Training Activities
 - b. Multi-Site Urban Regeneration Project in Jericho
4. Water and Environment
 - a. Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector
 - b. MED RESCP – POST RIO+20
 - c. BlueGreen Med-CS
5. Social and Civil Affairs
 - a. WOMED: the “next generation of leaders”⁶⁰

⁶⁰ 60 UfM Projects.

As it appears, most of the current completed projects fall under economic development and employment or water and environment. It is encouraged to familiarize yourself with the current on-going projects however here listed below are some handpicked for their current relevance;

1. Interreg MED Green Growth community (Water and Environment)
2. Clima-Med: Acting for Climate in South Mediterranean (Energy and Climate Action)
3. Euro-Mediterranean Smart City Innovation Centres (Transport and Urban development)
4. Scaling up forest and landscape restoration to restore biodiversity and promote joint mitigation and adaptation approaches (Water and Environment)
5. MedCoast4BG – Med Coasts for Blue Growth (Water and Environment)
6. PLASTIC-BUSTERS for a Mediterranean free from litter (Water and Environment)
7. Motorway of the Sea (MoS) Turkey-Italy-Tunisia Project (Transport and Urban development)⁶¹

As seen above, while these were handpicked for this background guide, the UfM is focusing upon many projects which involve a better greener future for the Mediterranean.

Climate Change in the Mediterranean

Climate change is driving a lot of the UfM's projects and decisions because the Mediterranean region warms 20% faster than the rest of the world. With the current policies and projects imposed; temperatures are still expected to rise by 2.2 °C by 2040. Thus, climate change is an alarming issue the UfM has to continue to address, and so far apart from the on-going projects, the UfM Regional Forum on 10 October 2019 in Barcelona publishes the first-ever scientific report on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean area.⁶²

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² "Greening the Blue Economy," Union for the Mediterranean.

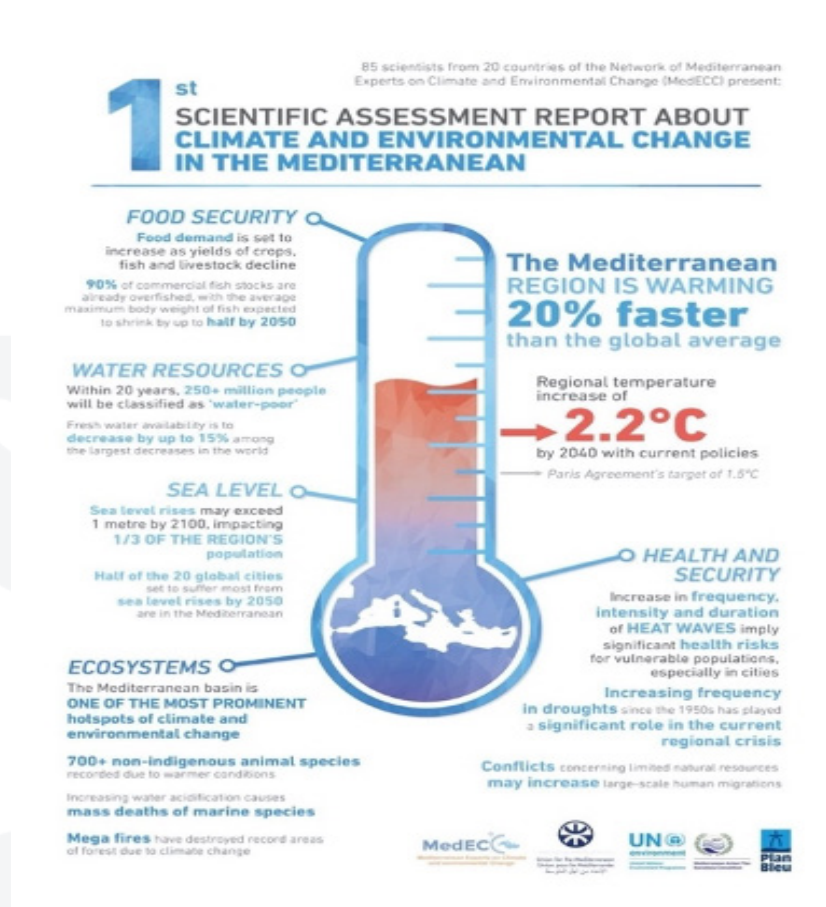


Image: <https://ufmsecretariat.org/climate/>

Because so many of the countries rely upon the Mediterranean Sea not only for commerce but also for fishing and obtaining other natural resources it is instrumental to keep a healthy sea for the future of the region. However, while most states agree about the existence and causes of climate change, the shift to green economies especially lower GDP countries comes with a heavy price many are unable to pay.⁶³ Gas and oil production are highly lucrative and sustain many of the UfM's member economies.

Solutions have to be found on the basis of understanding the state's needs regarding the easy cheap solution of natural resources exploitation versus the more expensive alternatives and switching to green economies which rely less on gas and oil. With many nation's economies currently being weak, Libya and Greece for example have been faced with many financial crises which have devastated the local population. In these scenarios, governments which have little financial support turn to natural resources exploitation so how can the UfM encourage countries of various economic status to impose or migrate to green economies and alternatives to their current methods? The UfM will have to come up with ways in which obtaining and producing clean energy and not relying on one's economy upon fleeting natural resources which tarnish the environment

63 Ibid.

but provide short term solutions.⁶⁴ The Mediterranean Sea and climate change will define the outcome of the Mediterranean nations in the decades to come.

Focus A: Britain's Role

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is the intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean organisation which brings together all countries of the European Union and 15 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The UfM provides a forum to enhance regional cooperation and dialogue, as well as the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact on the citizens of its Member States.

On top, is the explanation of the member state system of the UfM, which has already been discussed, however what is to be noted here is the inclusion of the "European Union countries." As Great Britain has approved Brexit (Britain exiting the European Union), the UfM now needs to discuss and decide how Britain's exit of the EU will impact their status within the UfM.⁶⁵

The committee will have to decide if Britain should remain a member of the UfM or not. It is to be noted that Britain plays a large role in the Mediterranean regardless, it has naval bases spread around notably in Cyprus, and as a historical naval force, they have played a large part in the security of the region.⁶⁶ Britain plays a significant role in the economy and well-being of the region, and even with the exit from the EU it does not mean they are automatically removed or a less significant player within the UfM.

In 2018, there was already a British petition advocating for the removal of Britain from the Barcelona Declaration, to the UK parliament which failed due to the UK deeming it as unclear in what it wanted the UK Government or Parliament.⁶⁷ The petition was not worried significantly about the economic or political aspects of the UK's role in the Mediterranean but rather the social impact of such liaison.

The failed petition advocated a worry regarding the assimilation of British culture from other cultures considering the Barcelona Declaration and UfM could provide more job opportunities in Britain for non-British individuals. However, the UK Government and Parliament declared the following regarding this aspect the "free movement of people, as exists among EU Member States, was not offered, encouraged or implied in the Barcelona Declaration or its successors. Neither, in EU legislation, strategies or action plans linked to the Barcelona Declaration, is there any dispensation or 'guidance' regarding integration."⁶⁸

Thus, while previous worries about Britain's role in the UfM sourced from some British individuals concerned about their loss of culture, there have been other criticisms of Britain's role in the Mediterranean region. Most notably, the military presence it still holds through ships and naval bases. Furthermore, the committee not only needs to consider the military and security aspect of having Britain within the UfM but also if choosing to remove Britain how it will impact British companies within the region.⁶⁹ If the choice of removing Britain is made,

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ "Archived Petition: Remove Britain from the Barcelona Declaration." Petitions - UK Government and Parliament.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

structures to deal with the aftermath have to be imposed, especially ones to protect British business interests abroad which impact key industries, such as fishery, natural resources (wood, gas), tourism and more.

Focus B: Greening the Blue Economy

The UfM published a report titled “Greening the Blue Economy,” the paper was a collection of cases about sustainable consumption and production principles and practices within the region. As stated previously, climate change is a dire crisis in the Mediterranean Sea region and currently the patterns of economic development are resource-intensive and feed into consumption intensive lifestyles (e.g. fishing, gas).⁷⁰ This is resulting in resource scarcity, pollution, waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the majority of pollution the Mediterranean region is experiencing is caused by industrial processes and unsustainable management of waste. While some countries are eco-efficient, the reliance upon the extortion of natural resources still dominates the region.⁷¹

In recent years, the United Nations and its adjacent bodies such as the FAO, and UNEP have pursued and advocated for the importance of a green economy. A green economy is defined by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) as; a green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.⁷²

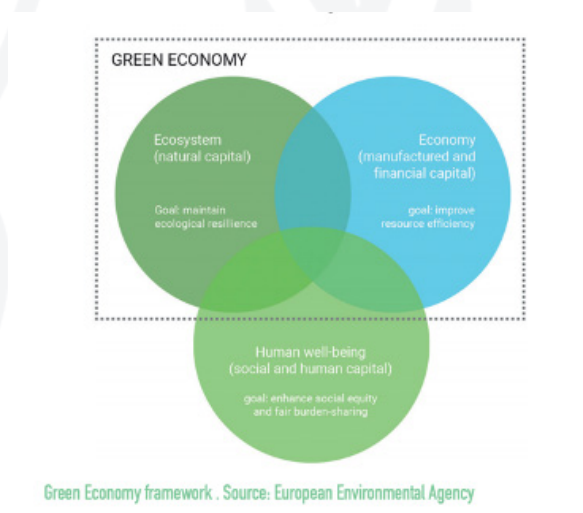


Image: European Environmental Agency

However, the UfM relies upon the Mediterranean for too much of its culture and economy so a solution had to be found to adapt to the region, thus came the Sustainable Blue Economy concept. The Blue Economy is promoted under the UN framework stressing “the vital importance of seas and oceans to food security and livelihoods for people living in coastal areas and incorporating the true value of the natural capital of the seas

⁷⁰ “Greening the Blue Economy,” Union for the Mediterranean.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

and oceans into all aspects of human economic activity.”⁷³ The region should then apply a Green and Blue economy which understands the usage of natural resources but also ensures it is done sustainably and with lower consumption, giving birth to SCP, Sustainable Consumption and Production. For SCP patterns to function properly the following are required; collectively implementing diverse actions, closely involving policy makers, the business community and civil society to reshape the way in which products and services are produced and utilized and to redirect the renewal of manufacturing and socio-economic expansion towards non-pollutant, no-waste, low-carbon and resource efficient economies.⁷⁴

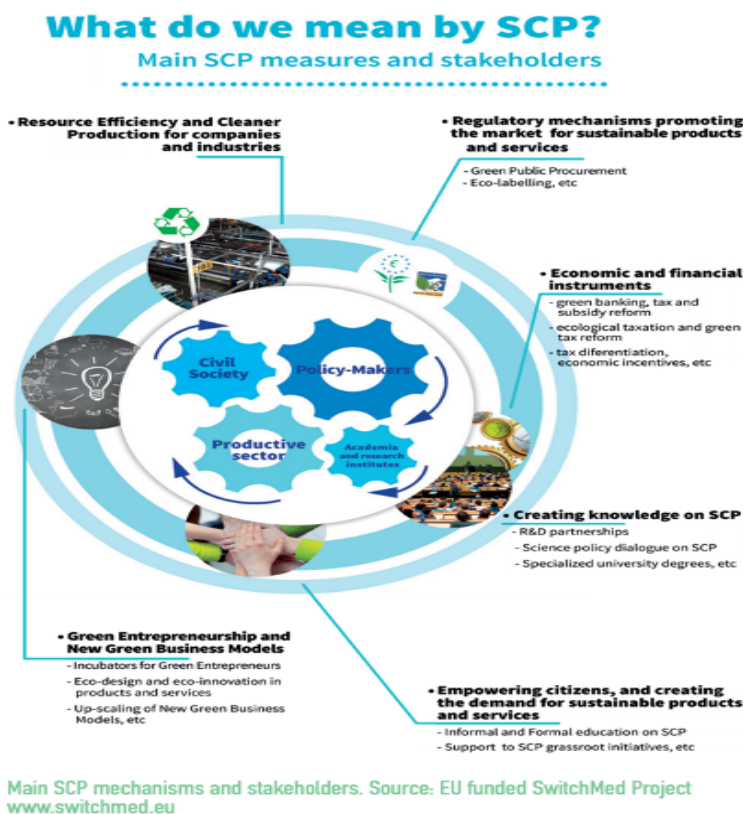


Image: www.switchmed.eu

Considering that in 2015, the UfM adopted a Ministerial Declaration on Blue Economy which highlights “the importance of clean and healthy seas as drivers of sustainable development within national and regional economies,” it is without a doubt that the future of the region relies upon the implementation of more SPCs.⁷⁵ The committee throughout the conference should discuss more methods of clean energy, sustainable agriculture and fishing which would continue the shift towards Blue and Green economies. However, how will the UfM measure progress and ensure that these changes are followed and that all countries have access to the resources required

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

for them? These are concerns which will need to be discussed.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the UfM continue with its on-going projects to ensure a green Mediterranean while still accepting that many countries rely upon oil and gas exportation?
2. How can we help countries struggling economically to switch to green economies?
3. What are the cons and benefits of removing Britain for the UfM?
4. What is the future of admission into the UfM or removal?
5. What are forms of green economies and technologies which could be implemented to help support the region?
6. Understanding that tourism still plays a large role upon the Mediterranean, how can we ensure it is done sustainably?

Advice for Research and Preparation

The backgrounder should be the stepping stone for your research. I highly recommend looking at the various sources we used before focusing on your nation's foreign policies. Don't forget to browse the UfM website to understand past resolutions and actions made regarding the topics we will be discussing.

Read the sources. After reading the backgrounder, check out the links under additional resources. They're a selection of hand-picked short articles related to the topics and act as aids for explanations. Don't forget to also look up any terms you do not know and note down or highlight the causes of the problems. By finding the core, both to the overall issue and your nation's role in it, solutions will be easier to find. The questions at the end of each topic and throughout the background guide are hints to some of these possible solutions, but we want to see your own ideas as well.

Finding your nation's stance. Once you understand the topic and its causes, you can begin investigating past actions taken by your nation, the UfM, or other groups. Using government websites and the UfM's past resolution papers and projects, you can observe not only your nation's stance, but additionally what has failed and worked regarding solutions. Looking for which sanctions and programs your nation has been a signatory or sponsor of can also help. Furthermore, keep an eye out for the position of any major player within the topic. This will help in knowing which countries your nation's actions align with, which will help later on during committee sessions when blocs are being formed. It also helps you to be prepared for possible opposition.

Position papers. Remember the saying 'quality over quantity' when writing your position paper. Respect the rules given regarding word-limit and focus on polishing your writing to clearly showcase your nation's stance. For beginners, I recommend the following format: introduction, country's stance, possible and realistic solutions, and conclusion. I also highly recommend reading your paper out loud, taking a break before editing, and if possible asking a friend to read it. All these techniques are commonly used by university students, as they truly help to improve the quality of your writing. And don't forget you can always contact us with any questions!

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