

Mediterranean Youth Statement to the UN Water Conference 2023

We are Future !

The Mediterranean Youth Statement synthesizes the collective demands of youth across the Mediterranean region, represented by MEDYWAT, the Network which lead events and consultations with 200 young people from the 21 countries. It comprises key policy demands, ranging from sustainable water management to climate justice.

Introduction :

Who We Are, background

The Mediterranean region is exposed to physical climate impacts that threaten human life on several fronts and water is one of them. Where the youth are the ones who suffer the lack of cooperation and adequate management of the water bodies.

As an answer to those demands, the Mediterranean Youth for Water Network (MedYWat) with their partners in the region organized several events aiming to foster the development of socio-environmental, and youth public policies at the local level, through the intergenerational pact in favor of the quality of life. Youth deserve to have their voices heard, as they are agents of change.

Opening Message

We believe that our collected and unified demands should be integrated into the water decade agenda. We call for an inclusive approach that acknowledges the urgent need to build a strong coalition of youth voices from the Mediterranean who act as a group of advocates for climate justice and resilience, and to strengthen youth participation in politics, decision-making, and develop quality leadership of young voices to shape future water policies.

Proposed themes

- 1- Youth engagement in decision-making processes regarding sustainable water resources management
- 2- The role of youth in innovation for water governance through entrepreneurial actions and research studies
- 3- The role of youth in promoting water for peace and standing against geopolitical tensions due to water scarcity in the region.

Key Demands/recommendations

- Increase investment in water infrastructure and management systems in the MENA region.
- Encourage regional cooperation and collaboration to address transboundary water issues. Promote the involvement of youth in decision-making processes related to water management, policy development, and implementation.
- Integrate new technologies into water management practices to increase efficiency and sustainability.
- Foster public-private partnerships to drive innovation and investment in water management solutions.
- Support education and awareness campaigns to increase public understanding of the importance of water conservation and management.

- Develop and implement sustainable water policies that prioritize equitable access to water resources.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building among MENA countries to improve water management practice.
- Advocate for the inclusion of water-related goals in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to prioritize global water security.
- Promote gender equality and women's participation in water management and decision-making processes
- Exchanging knowledge and contributing practical and efficient ideas, we can work together to address the urgent water-related challenges facing the Mediterranean region and the world.
- Countries can share their experiences and best practices in water management, which can help improve understanding of water-related challenges and opportunities in the region, and foster closer cooperation between countries. This can help drive change regionally and globally and improve water distribution networks.
- Provides an opportunity for youth to develop skills and leadership in the field of climate change, water management, and act positively in one's community, country, Mediterranean region, and the world.
- Access to clean and safe water is a fundamental right for every individual and society worldwide

Contributors

Establishing Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) is dedicated to the whole issue of water. Its ambitious mission is to guarantee everyone's access to water and sanitation by focusing on the quality, availability, and sustainable management of water resources. To reach universal access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030, the current rates of progress would need to increase fourfold. As known, access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. Yet, billions of people around the world lack access to these basic services. Unless progress quadruples, it is estimated that billions will still lack access to these essential services in 2030. The demand for water is rising rapidly due to factors such as population growth, urbanization, and increasing water needs from agriculture, industry, and energy sectors. Achieving these targets would save 829,000 people annually, who die from diseases directly attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices.

The Regional Dialogue on Water in the Mediterranean is an opportunity for individuals who are passionate about achieving the sustainable development goals and water-related issues to participate in an exchange of knowledge, experiences, and practical ideas, diverse and includes a desire to be part of a supportive environment, increase experience and work to solve issues related to water in Palestine and the Gaza Strip, care about water issues in Morocco and the region, improve water distribution network, raise awareness on water-related issues, contribute to regional development and engage in constructive discussions with others who share similar interests and concerns. Participants from all over the Mediterranean region come

together to discuss the challenges related to water management, climate change, and sustainable development.

Unfortunately, decades of misuse, poor management, over-extraction of groundwater, and contamination of freshwater supplies have exacerbated water stress. Moreover, countries are facing growing challenges linked to degraded water-related ecosystems, water scarcity caused by climate change, underinvestment in water and sanitation, and insufficient cooperation on transboundary waters. At the same time, the need to raise awareness on water-related issues like water scarcity and how this problem is threatening world security by creating conflicts and tensions between countries. For instance, the ongoing conflict in the Mediterranean region is an example of how water scarcity can cause geopolitical tensions.

Water resources often cross political boundaries, and effective management requires cooperation among different stakeholders, including governments, communities, organizations, and youth. Cooperation can help resolve conflicts over water use, promote equitable access to water, and ensure sustainable management of water resources. In addition, Climate change has been a hot topic for many years, and its impact on the environment has been increasing day by day. Among the many challenges we face, water resources are being greatly affected. Therefore, it is crucial to think about solutions and act to tackle this problem.

Finding solutions to the challenges facing sustainable resource management and the impacts of climate change is crucial. since the Water Action Decade encourages innovative and creative solutions to water-related challenges, which is exciting and rewarding for entrepreneurship and startup objectives that focus on technology, water issues, and problem-solving. Moreover, Part of the work in consulting the government on environmental management highlights the need for the younger generation to drive change in the water sector, which is witnessing significant political and social stress.

Youth as Agents of Change in the Water Crisis :

Young people have the energy, creativity, and passion to drive change and bring about social reform in society. They also have the ability to learn and adapt to the environment, making them capable of creating innovative solutions for everyday problems. Therefore, it is crucial to involve youth in water-related initiatives to ensure sustainable water management practices for future generations.

One way to involve young people in water conservation is through education and awareness campaigns. Schools and colleges can play a vital role in creating awareness and promoting sustainable water practices. This can help create a culture of water conservation that will benefit future generations. The youth should also participate in the management of watersheds and be given the opportunity to raise their voices in international events such as the UN Water Conference.

Volunteering and community engagement are also essential ways for youth to get involved in water conservation. Encouraging youth to volunteer for water-related projects in their local communities can help foster a sense of ownership and

responsibility towards water resources. This can include clean-up drives, watershed restoration projects, or other water conservation initiatives.

Young people are often the driving force behind innovative solutions. Encouraging youth to develop their ideas and implement them can lead to new solutions for water-related challenges. This could include new technologies, innovative conservation practices, or even policy changes.

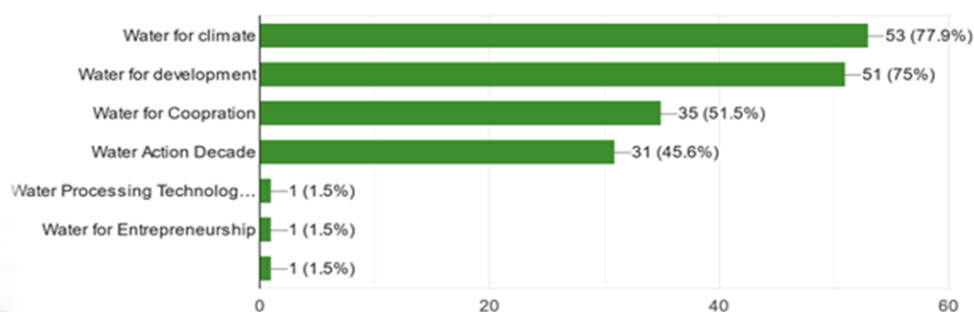
Advocacy is another way for youth to be powerful agents of change. Youth-led campaigns and petitions can be effective ways to mobilize support for water conservation and put pressure on decision-makers to act. By influencing decision-making and putting pressure on governments, youth-led movements can help create a sustainable future for water resources.

Building the capacity of youth to become leaders and decision-makers in the field of water can create a long-term impact. This could include providing training and mentorship opportunities, as well as giving young people opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

In conclusion, young people are the pillars of society and have the potential to play a significant role in driving change in the field of water. By leveraging their energy, creativity, and passion, we can create a sustainable future for our water resources. It is important to involve youth in water-related initiatives, provide them with opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, and support them in their efforts to create innovative solutions for water-related challenges. Let us empower the youth to take the lead in water conservation and management, and ensure a sustainable future for our planet.

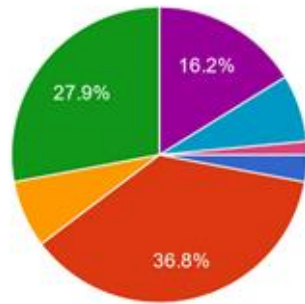
Which of the following topic you may find interest to you

68 responses



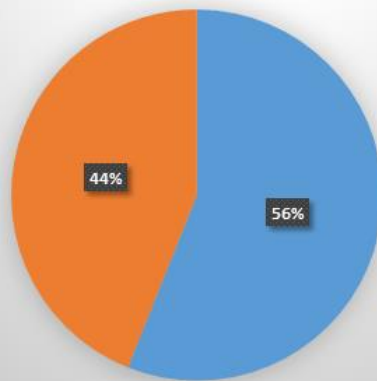
Level of Education

68 responses



- Undergraduet student
- Bachelor degree holder
- Master Student
- MAster degree holder
- Ph.d Student
- Ph.d degree holder
- Assistant Professor

Gender



- Male
- Female

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