

Report on UNFCCC COP 22 by Prof. Michael SCULLOS

TL of the SWIM-H2020 SM project

- A. A SWIM relevant Side Event, on **Climate change adaptation by addressing mega-droughts**, was organized by GWP, Morocco, South Korea, etc., (held on 12 November 2016).

A panel discussion among High-level Leaders on Water and Disasters, chaired by Dr. Han (Special envoy on UN SG and former PM of South Korea, moderated by Jerry Dellipriscoli, was followed by a presentation on drought prognosis/predictions of the University of Tokyo. Examples were also presented on strategies based on historical considerations of ~ 1000 years (!) by Morocco, and in combining 150 years of observation and water valuing approaches, by Australia, etc.

The TL was given the floor where he presented briefly the SWIM-H2020 Project, with special reference to the relevant activities on Drought Management. He also announced the capacity building/ regional training on Drought Risk Management scheduled for December 2016. The literature collected and contacts made were very useful and became available for the better preparation of the SWIM-H2020 SM capacity building.

- B. **Participation in the Ocean Action Day**, (held on 13 November 2016).

It is evident that many of the plenary and side-sessions/activities of this day were, more or less, directly linked with the SWIM-H2020 Project and were followed by the TL. Apart from the useful contacts made in some of them, he had the opportunity to take the floor and make known the relevant activities of the project.

Noteworthy are the following:

1. **The Official Opening/Launching of the Ocean Day/Plenary** made by HRH Princess Lalla Hasna and HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, H.E. Minister Ségolène Royal and Commissioner Karmenu Vella, in the presence of many Ministers, etc. Major initiatives were announced including:

- Designation of considerable marine areas as “protected” for the regeneration of fish stocks;
- Banning of use of plastic bags in supermarkets, etc., and other measures to reduce their presence as they are major contributors to marine littering and the creation of the “6th continent” of plastic litter.

Mr. Karmenu Vella mentioned a series of initiatives strengthening the International Ocean governance and other activities. However, he did not include any specific reference to SWIM-H2020 SM; France, Morocco and Monaco announced joint efforts on the protection of the oceans, while the USA Delegate referred to the important measures taken by the Obama

Administration for the Protection of the Oceans including the designation as “protected” of marine area of the size of Africa.

After the meeting, the TL met with HSH Prince Albert, informing him about the SWIM-H2020 Project and the activities on ESD, on which HSH has expressed interest.

2. **A particular side event, on the Mediterranean**, at the French Pavilion, where H.E. Minister Segolene Royal made significant announcements (held on 13 November 2016).

Prince Albert referred to the importance of the Mediterranean, he repeated some of the activities mentioned under 1, he emphasized cultural, etc., including the aspects of public participation, awareness and education, referred to regional projects, on capacity building, supported by various actors. H.E. Minister Ségolène Royal, announced French initiatives in bringing the Mediterranean Cities together, to clean their waste waters, etc., etc., (apparently ignoring the existing initiatives under the Barcelona Convention and UfM, SWIM-H2020 SM); while Morocco announced a Blue Belt Initiative, several aspects of which are directly relevant to SWIM-H2020 SM programme.

In the Panel that followed, Mr. Gaetano Leone of UNEP-MAP referred to the achievement of the Barcelona Convention and particularly on the newly obtained project by GEF, which will directly combine to Adaptation and he said that the activities agreed under the MCSD by the COP 19 of the Barcelona Convention could contribute substantially to the activity proposed by Ms. Royal.

The Deputy Secretary General of the UfM on Energy and Climate Action, Mr. Jorge Borrego explicitly referred to the SWIM-H2020 project.

The TL had the opportunity to intervene and also meet with the aforementioned and many representatives of Mediterranean countries when he informed on the progress of the project.

3. **Plenary on the African Continent (including the southern coast of the Mediterranean)**, (held on 13 November 2016), coorganised by FAO, UNEP, and several other UN bodies, with many prominent speakers, among which Commissioner Karmenu Vella and the Vice Chairman of the EIB, Mr. Taylor. Mr. Vella made significant announcements but he did not mention SWIM-H2020 SM. The same was the case with Mr. Taylor, whom the TL contacted immediately after and reminded him about the H2020 Lake Bizerte, etc., as well as our synergies under SWIM-H2020 SM. He thanked very much and asked the TL to keep and enhance cooperation as he was, apparently, not fully informed about the project.