

CHAPTER IV: Africa

▪ General introduction

Greece's long-standing cooperation with countries of the African region is channelled through a number of different processes and is especially characterized by the social, economic, commercial, cultural and environmental links induced by sharing the Mediterranean sea. The different levels of cooperation between Greece and the African countries can be summarized as cooperation at international level, cooperation at regional level, with emphasis on the Mediterranean region, and cooperation at bilateral level. It should be noted that there also exists cooperation between the European Union (EU) and African countries, especially at the international level but also at the regional level, where Greece, as a Member State of the EU, is also actively involved. In the following text emphasis on political, economic and technical cooperation will be provided at the bilateral level, while environmental cooperation will be examined at all levels.

▪ Cooperation on political, economic and technical level

Introduction

Greece has political, economic and technical cooperation with most countries at the African region, at bilateral level as well as through international organisations. Greece is assisting efforts for the promotion of peace and stability at the region at all levels (bilateral, regional and international). Stability in the African countries is a prerequisite for the improvement of economic development and the effective promotion of bilateral economic and commercial development.

Especially in relation to African countries bordering the Mediterranean, and therefore being in the same geographical region with Greece, it has consistently been the policy of Greece to maintain and develop relations of friendship and good neighbourliness on both the bilateral and multilateral levels. These relations are now governed by a comprehensive framework of treaties and agreements, which facilitate close cooperation in areas of common interest. Furthermore, as a member of the EU, Greece attaches particular importance to the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", with its common goals of peace, security and prosperity for the Mediterranean region.

Specific areas of co-operation

(a) Political relations

As noted above, Greece holds good political relations with countries in the African region and especially with countries in North Africa, due to their proximity and the increased collaboration, commercial relations and cultural links. Good political relations between Greece and countries in the region are expressed both through bilateral cooperation as well as through cooperation in international fora, especially the United Nations as well as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Francophonie etc. Furthermore, in many cases there is mutual support between Greece and African countries for candidacies in various international organisations.

(b) Institutional framework

Regarding the Institutional framework and bilateral Treaties, Greece has established inter-governmental Agreements with a number of African countries on several sectors, such as:

- economic / scientific / technical cooperation (e.g. Ethiopia, D.R. Kongo, Kenya, Nigeria, Mauritius, Burundi, Nigeria, S. Africa, Uganda, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt);
- cooperation on tourism (e.g. Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, S. Africa, Uganda, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt),
- cooperation on health issues (e.g. Ethiopia, S. Africa, Seychelles);
- commercial / trade cooperation (e.g. D.R. Kongo, Nigeria, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Burundi, Tunisia, Morocco);
- education / cultural cooperation (e.g. Ethiopia, Burundi, Nigeria, S. Africa, Seychelles, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt);
- air transport cooperation (e.g. Ethiopia, D.R. Kongo, S. Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Morocco, Libya, Egypt);
- agricultural cooperation (e.g. Mauritius);

- maritime cooperation (e.g. Nigeria, Madagascar, S. Africa, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt);
- cooperation on legal issues (e.g. Kenya, S. Africa);
- cooperation on promotion / mutual protection of investments (e.g. S. Africa, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt);
- cooperation on taxation issues (e.g. S. Africa, Morocco, Egypt);
- sports cooperation (e.g. Tunisia) etc.

(c) Economic / commercial relations and Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Greece has developed bilateral economic and commercial relations with a number of African countries. Greek exports to African and Middle East countries for 2007 (latest data available) were of the order of EURO 1,112 million. Furthermore Greece has provided development assistance to many countries in the region. The total Greek ODA granted to African countries for 2007 was EURO 22.84 million. The main sectors at which development assistance aimed, include environment and climate change, education and training, health, culture, water, employment and food/humanitarian aid.

Some indicative, more specific, information on the economic and commercial relations between Greece and African countries, as well as ODA provided by Greece, follows:

i. North Africa / Mediterranean

- **Tunisia:** Tunisia holds the 10th place among Greece's trade partners in the Middle East and N. Africa on the basis of the volume of trade and imported products, and it holds the 9th place in terms of exported products. For 2007, imports from Tunisia were of the order of EURO 26.2 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 35.1 million. Exports from Greece concern mainly iron pipes/tubes, cotton and cotton fabrics, gas hydrocarbons and chemicals. Imports from Tunisia concern mainly fertilisers, fish and seafood. A number of Greek companies – especially small enterprises – are active in Tunisia, especially in the food, clothing and mineral sectors.
- **Morocco:** The volume of bilateral trade has followed an upward trend in the past five years, with the exception of 2005. For 2007, imports from Morocco were of the order of EURO 63.0 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 46.5 million. Exports from Greece concern mainly cotton fabrics, refrigerators, pesticides, gas hydrocarbons and electricity cables. Imports from Morocco concern mainly mineral oils, fish, seafood, chemical pulp, marble and limestone.
- **Algeria:** Greek imports from Algeria were of the order of EURO 187.2 million in 2006 and EURO 208.87 million in 2007, while exports were of the order of EURO 222.9 million in 2006 and EURO 111.5 million in 2007. Exports from Greece concern mainly copper, iron and tobacco. Imports from Algeria concern mainly natural gas (87.7% of total imports in 2007) and, to a smaller extent, oils from petrol and minerals.
- **Libya:** For 2007, imports from Libya were of the order of EURO 1,000.16 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 113.39 million. Exports from Greece concern mainly fossil fuels but also chemicals, vegetables, fruit, medicine, plastic etc. Imports from Libya concern mainly petrol products (91.9% of total imports in 2007). A number of Greek companies are currently active in Libya, especially in the construction, hydrocarbon and telecommunications sectors.
- **Egypt:** For 2007, imports from Egypt were of the order of EURO 307.90 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 104.73 million. Exports from Greece concern mainly cotton, tobacco, electrical and mechanical equipment, plastics, fuels, iron, paints, vehicles/vehicle parts, chemicals and aluminum. Imports from Egypt concern mainly fossil fuels, mineral oils, industrial fertilisers, steel, vegetables/potatoes, plastics, textiles and construction material. Greek investments in Egypt have a total value of approximately USD 700 million and concern mainly the following sectors: paper industry, cement, petrol, construction, food, paint and construction material, banking, transport, education etc.

ii. Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Ethiopia:** Commercial relations/trade include exports mainly of food, medicine and construction / furniture materials and imports of coffee, sesame seeds, leather and wax. There is a number of Greek companies active in Ethiopia. Latest available information suggests that, for 2007, imports from Ethiopia were of the order of EURO 4.6 million, while exports to Ethiopia were of the order of EURO 6.072 million. Development assistance is mainly focused on health (e.g. construction of a model Medical Centre in the town of Nazareth), water (e.g. construction of reservoirs for drinking and irrigation purposes in Damot Gale area, construction of irrigation systems) and education (e.g. construction of school buildings in Amhara region and elsewhere). Development assistance of Greece to Ethiopia for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 9.59 million. In Ethiopia, as in some other countries of the region, the Greek Orthodox church is very active, with a large number of believers and important humanitarian work.

- **Zambia:** Assistance to Zambia is provided mainly through government support and the activities of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), such as the Greek branches of the International NGOs "Medecins sans Frontiers" and "World Pharmacists". It is focused mainly to health related issues, with emphasis to HIV/AIDS. Development assistance of Greece to Zambia for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.7 million.
- **Zimbabwe:** Economic and commercial relations have been limited so far. Development assistance to Zimbabwe has increased only recently and is focused on health issues and especially HIV/AIDS. Greece has also provided funds to the World Food Programme (EURO 130,000 for the period 2005-7) for food support to Zimbabwe. Development assistance of Greece to Zimbabwe for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 1.64 million.
- **Kenya:** Commercial relations / trade include exports mainly of food, medicine and cosmetics. For 2007, imports from Kenya were of the order of EURO 3.89 million, while exports to Kenya were of the order of EURO 7.9 million. Tourism cooperation has been increasing recently. Development assistance from Greece is mainly occurring through the EU. Development assistance of Greece to Kenya for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 2.1 million.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** Commercial relations and trade so far remain to relatively low levels. Exports from Greece concern mainly food, medicine and vehicle parts and imports concern mainly timber and wood artifacts. Development assistance from Greece is mainly channelled through the EU. Development assistance of Greece to D.R. Congo for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 4.76 million.
- **Madagascar:** Economic and commercial relations have been limited so far. For 2006, imports from Madagascar were of the order of EURO 1.02 million, while exports to Madagascar were of the order of EURO 2.35 million. Development assistance of Greece to Madagascar for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.73 million.
- **Malawi:** Greece supports the activities of NGOs regarding health related issues, with emphasis to HIV/AIDS. Greece has also provided funds to the World Food Programme (EURO 150,000 since 2007) for food support to Malawi. Development assistance of Greece to Malawi for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 1.27 million.
- **Mauritius:** Economic and commercial relations have been limited so far. Visits of Greek tourists to Mauritius have also increased recently. For 2007, imports from Mauritius were of the order of EURO 2.249 million, while exports to Mauritius were of the order of EURO 0.828 million. Development assistance of Greece to Mauritius for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 1.83 million.
- **Mozambique:** Exports from Greece concern mainly telecommunication equipment, electrical appliances, clothing and food. Imports concern mainly tobacco, metal (aluminum), wood, home equipment. For 2007, imports from Mozambique were of the order of USD 0.35 million, while exports were of the order of USD 0.03 million. Development assistance of Greece to Mozambique for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.02 million.
- **Botswana:** Exports from Greece concern mainly hot water tanks, electric appliances and textiles. Imports concern mainly beef. For 2007, imports from Botswana were of the order of USD 1.393 million, while exports were of the order of USD 0.118 million. Development assistance of Greece to Botswana for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.03 million.
- **Burundi:** Economic, commercial and tourist relations have been limited so far. Development assistance of Greece to Burundi for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.76 million.
- **Namibia:** Exports from Greece concern mainly heating and cooling equipment, telecommunication equipment and medicine. Imports concern mainly beef, fish and internal combustion engines. For 2007, imports from Namibia were of the order of USD 0.798 million, while exports were of the order of USD 0.035 million. Development assistance of Greece to Namibia for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.10 million.
- **Nigeria:** For 2007, imports from Nigeria were of the order of EURO 37.08 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 44.01 million. Exports from Greece concern mainly fertilisers, oil, cement, medicine, chemicals and electric appliances. Imports from Nigeria concern mainly oil, seafood and charcoal. Several Greek companies are active in Nigeria, while a very close cooperation exists between the two countries at the maritime sector. Development assistance of Greece to Nigeria for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 3.95 million.
- **other West African countries:** The Greek Embassy in Abuja has under its responsibility economic and commercial relations with other countries in West Africa. These include **Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo**. For 2007, imports from these countries were of the order of EURO 62.123 million, while exports from Greece to these countries were of the order of EURO 63.2 million. Development assistance of Greece to the above countries for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 5.46 million. In the framework of international efforts aiming at assisting African countries to move towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Greece is financially assisting development projects by Greek NGOs in collaboration with partners from the recipient countries, in countries such as Liberia, Ivory Coast,

- Benin and Nigeria. Furthermore, regarding the food / humanitarian sector, Greece is assisting countries in West Africa both through NGOs (e.g. in Niger) and the World Food Programme.
- **South Africa:** For 2007, imports from South Africa were of the order of USD 89.92 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 79.36 million. Exports from Greece concern mainly tobacco, medicine, food, plastic, cotton textiles, refrigerators, chemicals, telecommunication equipment etc. Several Greek companies are active in South Africa. There is also a considerable cooperation on tourism. Development assistance is mainly focused on health (e.g. construction hospitals, HIV/AIDS information centres), education (e.g. construction of school buildings) and sport infrastructure. Development assistance of Greece to South Africa for 2006 was of the order of USD 0.6 million and for 2007 of the order of USD 0.9 million.
 - **Uganda:** Economic, commercial and tourist relations have been limited so far. Development assistance of Greece to Uganda for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.90 million.
 - **Rwanda:** Economic, commercial and tourist relations have also been limited so far. Development assistance of Greece to Rwanda for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.15 million.
 - **Seychelles:** Economic, commercial and tourist relations have also been limited so far. Development assistance of Greece to Seychelles for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.23 million.
 - **Swaziland:** For 2007, imports from Swaziland were of the order of USD 0.193 million. Development assistance of Greece to Swaziland for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.04 million. Furthermore, Greece assisted financially the work of UNICEF Swaziland for the support of children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS.
 - **Sudan:** Greece has assisted mainly by supporting the work of several Greek NGOs active in the area, especially during periods of drought, floods, conflicts etc. Development assistance of Greece to Sudan for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 6.45 million.
 - **Djibouti:** Exports to Djibouti include plastic products while imports include mainly leather. There is a limited number of Greek companies active in Djibouti. Latest available information suggest that, for the first half of 2007, imports from Djibouti were of the order of EURO 0.101 million, while exports were of the order of EURO 0.064 million. Development assistance to Djibouti is focused on health issues, in collaboration with Greek NGOs, and on food support - through the World Food Programme - especially in periods of drought (2005). Greece has also provided funds to the World Food Programme (EURO 130,000 for the period 2005-7) for food support to Djibouti. Development assistance of Greece to Djibouti for the period 1997-2007 was of the order of USD 0.16 million.

Further cooperation with African countries includes grants provided to students from Africa to study in Greek Universities and Higher Education Institutions.

Greece is also a host country for immigrants from African countries. As a member of the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", Greece has signed the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit (Paris, 13 July 2008) which underlines the commitment to facilitate legal movement of individuals and also stresses that promoting orderly managed legal migration is in the interest of all parties concerned and that fighting illegal migration and fostering links between migration and development are issues of common interest which should be addressed through a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach. Furthermore, by hosting the third Global Forum on Migration in the fall of 2009, Greece aims to provide a platform to explore solutions and initiatives for the benefit of all countries and especially for the immigrants themselves.

■ Cooperation on environmental issues

Introduction

Africa is a region particularly vulnerable to environmental changes. A fundamental issue related to environmental changes is currently climate change and its related consequences in terms of water scarcity, land degradation and desertification. The capacity of Africa to deal with the consequences of environmental changes is to a large extent limited. Within a globalised world, international cooperation should put emphasis in assisting African countries to meet their special needs and emerging global challenges, particularly within the context of achieving the MDGs.

Collaboration with Africa is of increased importance in relation to the issues of climate change and water. Especially regarding climate change, it is necessary for the developed states to provide sufficient support to Africa in order to prevent further damage, which can lead to human and environmental crises with far reaching consequences. Africa is expected to be substantially affected by climate change, but its own ability to adapt to climate change consequences is insufficient. It is imperative that appropriate tools for Africa's adaptation to climate change are set up and put into operation.

Mediterranean sea: linking Greece with North Africa

Greece is linked to the North African region through the Mediterranean sea. Due to this link, a long-standing collaboration exists between Greece and the North African countries on environmental and sustainable development issues, both bilaterally and through multilateral processes, such as the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP), the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSDD) and the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean".

In the Mediterranean region, the consequences of climate change are forecasted to be particularly severe, increasing the already existing water stress in most parts of the region, including North Africa, and affecting negatively the biodiversity. Phenomena such as recurrent and persistent droughts, high variability in precipitation, serious decrease of soil moisture, river flow decrease, extreme weather events, desertification, etc. are expected to increase significantly in the region and will impact on freshwater availability in terms of quantity and quality. Other serious effects of warming in the Mediterranean could be sea level rise resulting inter alia in land erosion and salt water intrusion in coastal areas, thus in the loss of inhabitable and arable land as well as serious alterations of natural habitats and damages in important ecosystems.

Water resources being already scarce throughout the whole region, in combination with increased water demand due to demographic pressure and urbanisation, tourism and development needs in general, climate change is likely to lead to further environmental degradation jeopardising directly or indirectly social cohesion, well being and quality of life as well as food and overall security in the immediate future.

Climate change and water challenges in Africa

In Africa, vulnerability over water and climate change is very high. Climate change impacts on water are projected to intensify challenges that populations are already facing in overcoming poverty and ensuring their livelihoods and development. The situation is expected to increase competition over water resources for agriculture, domestic use, tourism, etc. and to aggravate health issues, thus likely to exacerbate migrations and creating important risks of conflicts over water in the region and outside.

The consequences of climate change that especially North Africa is likely to suffer are: more and more severe droughts, significant reductions (of the order of 50%) in run-off and stream flow and less soil moisture, due to decreases in rainfall and higher temperatures leading to higher evaporation, aridity and desertification. More specifically, in the Maghreb, non-irrigated, small-scale farms the modernisation of which is not fast enough to feed growing populations dominate agriculture. Thus, increasingly frequent droughts in North Africa may force governments to import more food, placing their economies under severe strain unless global warming is checked. North Africa is particularly exposed to water shortages.

In relation to water issues, it is also expected that the already massive extraction of "fossil" water from non-renewable aquifers (notably the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer and the North Sahara Aquifer) will continue giving rise to a wide series of secondary problems. Furthermore, according to four models of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), groundwater recharge will decrease dramatically – by more than 70 percent – between now and 2050 along the southern rim of the Mediterranean. Algeria and Tunisia are also vulnerable to natural hazards such as floods and, together with Morocco, could also be partly affected by sea level rise.

Specific sectors of cooperation

(a) Cooperation at the international level

i. UN System

Greece is a member to several international organisations through which engages in cooperation and mutual support with African countries in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. In the UN system, such organisations mainly include the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNDP cooperates with a wide range of partners in order to achieve the MDGs. A significant percentage

of UNDP's core – budget is given in African Programmes. Until 2006, Greece contributed yearly to the core budget of UNDP the amount of EURO 293,470. In 2007, the Greek Ministry of Economy and Finance (<http://www.mnec.gr>) has expressed Greece's commitment to raise its yearly contribution up to EURO 350,000.

UNEP assists governments to respond adequately to national and regional environmental problems and co-ordinates United Nations environmental priority setting and activities in the regions. Africa is a special priority for UNEP. Until 2005, Greece contributed yearly to the core budget of UNEP the amount of EURO 175,000. In 2006 and 2007, the yearly contribution of Greece was raised up to EURO 200,000 and in 2008 up to EURO 250,000.

ii. Human Security Network

Greece, having the chairmanship of the Human Security Network during the period 2007-2008, has chosen to focus its activities on the human security implications of climate change with emphasis on its impact on the vulnerable population groups of children, women and persons fleeing their homes due to climate change as well as to the adaptation opportunities. A main consideration of the Hellenic Chairmanship of the Human Security Network was that adaptation programs to climate change in developing countries will greatly contribute to limiting the threats against human security, while increasing the chances for achieving the MDGs. Emphasis in European development assistance should therefore be given to addressing climate change impacts on vulnerable regions. In this respect, Greece has already started setting, in cooperation with international and regional organisations, special trust funds for adaptation programs to climate change in Africa and Small Island States. More related information is provided in a following section dedicated to bilateral cooperation.

iii. EU-Africa cooperation

Greece, as a Member State of the EU actively participates in the EU-Africa cooperation. In the framework of implementing the Cairo Declaration as a follow-up of the 2000 EU-Africa Conference, Greece (through the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works / YPEHODE- <http://www.minenv.gr>) and Finland (through the Ministry of Environment) undertook the role of "Chef de file" for the subject "Environmental protection, including drought and desertification". In this framework, YPEHODE developed four documents that were used as a basis for the bilateral discussions between EU and Africa on this issue.

iv. Global Environment Facility (GEF):

GEF is an independent financial mechanism, which provides developing countries with grants for programs aiming at the improvement of the environment globally and promotes sustainability to local communities. The vast majority of GEF's projects concern African countries. GEF's programs deal with 6 complicate environmental subjects: Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Land Degradation, Ozone Depletion and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Greece participates to the GEF's budget since its First Replenishment. For the Fourth Replenishment, Greek contribution for the time period 2007-2010 amounts up to EURO 5.73 millions. Contributions to GEF are voluntary and the Greek contribution is paid in four equal yearly instalments.

v. EU - Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund

Greece participates as a Donor country in the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund with the amount of EURO 1 million. The purpose of the Fund is to co-finance infrastructural projects in the sector of transportation, energy, water and information technology. Criteria for assessing the environmental impact of the eligible projects are not only included in the selection criteria, but are also integrated into the main feasibility studies. Financing mainly aims to secure the viability of the projects from the environmental aspect. For example, in the energy sector this principle is translated into financing hydropower factories that are expensive (vis-à-vis coal factories) but environmentally cleaner.

(b) Cooperation at the regional level - Mediterranean region

i. Barcelona Convention and UNEP/MAP

Greece has assigned especially high priority to the 1976 Barcelona Convention concerning the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its implementing programme. The Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP, the first-ever plan adopted as a Regional Seas Programme under UNEP's umbrella, involves 21 countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea (as well as the EU), including the five North African Mediterranean Countries. Seven Protocols addressing specific aspects of Mediterranean environmental conservation complete the legal framework of the Barcelona Convention. Through MAP, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols are joining efforts to meet the challenges of protecting the marine and coastal environment while boosting regional and

national plans to achieve sustainable development. Greece is very active within the UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention system, especially as UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit is based in Athens since 1981. Greece contributes yearly to the UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit the amount of USD 400,000 and to the UNEP Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea the amount of EURO 155,653.

ii. Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

The MCSD, created in 1996 by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, is made up of 46 members. The UNEP/MAP Coordination Unit, based in Athens, ensures the role of MCSD Secretariat and coordinates the different working groups on a permanent basis. In addition to the recommendations presented to the Contracting Parties on specific Mediterranean challenges (e.g. energy and climate change; information and communication; integrated coastal zone management; management of water demand, marine pollution; sustainable development indicators; sustainable tourism; trade agreements; urban development; etc) the MCSD has provided major inputs to the formulation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) and spearheads its implementation at the country level. Greece is actively involved in the work of the MCSD and the development and implementation of the MSSD.

iii. EU Water Initiative – Mediterranean Component

Since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002), the Greek Government (YPEHODE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - <http://www.mfa.gr>, with the support of a Secretariat undertaken by "Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean") has the responsibility of leading the Mediterranean Component of the EU's Initiative 'Water for Life' (MED EUWI). MED EUWI seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development in the Mediterranean, providing a catalyst for peace and security in the region. In terms of funding, the MED EUWI has managed to coordinate individual donors (bilateral ODA, World Bank, GEF, Development Banks etc) on a demand basis as well as to mobilise considerable additional funding, e.g. from the Commission of the European Union (CEU) that has provided approximately EURO 1.07 million, for 2006-2008, in support of MED EUWI activities. These funds complement MED EUWI's annual core funding provided by the Greek Government.

In the framework of the MED EUWI Country Dialogues are organised in selected Mediterranean countries, involving water stakeholders which include government authorities and agencies, local authorities, water users associations, civil society, academia, the private sector as well as international and national donors. More specifically:

- Egypt: Activities of the running Phase I (until April 2009) support the preparation of the new 30-year Egyptian National Master Plan for Water and Wastewater and the Rural Sanitation Strategy (that is under development), within the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) framework of the Egyptian National Water Resources Plan 2017. Activities include (i) an affordability assessment component, that develops financing scenarios that are socially and politically acceptable and (ii) a financing strategy component that offers different financing scenarios for discussion among stakeholders. Activities in Egypt are led by the Egyptian Holding Company for Water and Wastewater, following an agreement between the Ministers of Housing and of Water Resources and Irrigation. The Dialogue's activities are implemented in close cooperation and under the technical coordination of OECD with the MED EUWI Secretariat. Related assessments and scenaria have been elaborated in 2008 and a set of public, multilateral and bilateral consultation events and meetings with the participation of authorities, stakeholders and donors were organized. A foreseen Phase II of the Dialogue (2009-2010/11) would be based on the results of Phase I. Overall, Phase II will aim to assist with: (i) building consensus in further identifying financially realistic water supply and sanitation and IWRM targets and the policies that will support their achievement, (ii) strengthening the co-ordination of activities taken by different parties involved in the water sector in Egypt, and (iii) further identifying governance and capacity development needs. For Phase II, core resources for dialogue activities have been secured through the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean. Resources for consultants' work are under negotiation with donors at the country level. The EUWI Thematic Budget may also contribute to activities, if so decided.
- Libya: Targeted consultation activities on water governance in Libya were launched in 2007. Activities undertaken facilitated the establishment of an IWRM process in the country, through a structured approach with the collaboration of key national and regional institutions. An agreement with the Libyan General Water Authority and the African Water Facility on the implementation of elements of the Libyan Water Strategy is under discussion while additional technical activities are explored within the MED EUWI framework after request of the General Water Authority. Actions also

contribute to the linked Rabat Declaration on IWRM Planning in North Africa (a sub-regional process launched in 2006 together with the UNEP Collaborating Centre on Water and Environment and the African Development Bank). Envisaged follow-up activities would aim to assist key stakeholders in Libya to develop a common understanding on critical IWRM planning issues with an emphasis on institutional settings. Financial support is discussed with the African Water Facility. The EUWI Thematic Budget (in case Libya is eligible and if so decided) and donors may contribute to activities.

- Morocco: Morocco has also requested the organisation of a country dialogue. More Country Dialogues are currently implemented in the Middle East, i.e. with Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

On the Regional level, Greece as a leading country of MED EUWI, contributed actively to the preparations and organisation of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (22 December 2008, Dead Sea). More specific contributions of the MED EUWI include:

- Preparation of the Theme Paper on Water Governance in the Mediterranean, with contributions by Greece, Palestine and Lebanon.
- Preparation of the Theme Paper on Water and Climate Change Adaptation, with contributions by Spain, Morocco and Greece.
- Organisation of the Conference of the Euro-Mediterranean and Southeastern European Water Directors, July 08, Athens, to review the background Theme Papers of the Ministerial Conference.
- Assistance to the preparation of the Civil Society Forum in preparation of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference (Dead Sea, 21 December 2008).
- Preparation of the Regional Assessment on Water Supply, Sanitation and Health in the Mediterranean, prepared by World Health Organisation (WHO) with several contributions by other Agencies including from UNEP/MAP.
- Preparation of Mediterranean Country Assessments on IWRM.

iv. "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean"

Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership ("Barcelona Process"), launched in 1995, Greece has been active and remains engaged in cooperation with Mediterranean partners on several environmental issues including on marine pollution control for the Mediterranean Sea. In 2005, "Horizon 2020" was launched, with Greece and the other partners agreeing to co-operate to de-pollute the Mediterranean by 2020, drawing on core EU funding to support the venture. The "Union for the Mediterranean" launched in July 2008, builds on the "Barcelona Process", extends co-operation between the EU countries and Mediterranean countries and includes the de-pollution of the Mediterranean as one of its 6 priority action projects. In this context, Greece has submitted a project proposal officially incorporated in the context of the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", aiming to support a "Multistakeholder Cooperation for the promotion of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean with emphasis on water" with the intention to effectively support the elaboration of a new "Mediterranean Strategy on Water".

(c) Cooperation at the bilateral level

In 1999, YPEHODE began a Bilateral Development Assistance Programme within the framework of the overall national programme. It was built on priorities and obligations associated with OECD DAC, UN institutions, the Rio Conventions of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification, and Greece's bilateral environmental Memoranda of Understanding with neighbouring countries. YPEHODE's efforts focused on capacity building, and promoted the principles of demand-driven projects and local ownership. Thematic priorities included water and natural resources management, wastewater and solid waste management, climate change, and establishment of transboundary networks and monitoring mechanisms.

The targets set at the WSSD, as described in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), together with the MDGs, set an integrated and detailed framework for the promotion of important issues related to the environment and sustainable development regarding the bilateral cooperation of Greece with Mediterranean countries of North Africa as well as with other African countries. Greece, through YPEHODE, financed the initial phase of four Type II Initiative Partnerships, which were launched during WSSD and involved NGOs and other stakeholders as implementation actors. These four Type II Initiative Partnerships are:

i. The "Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility"

This initiative involves cooperation between Mediterranean countries, mainly Greece and Egypt, with Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean acting as implementation actor and EURO 50,000

financing from YPEHODE.

- ii. "Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability with Emphasis on Water and Waste (MEDIES - <http://www.medies.net>)"
This initiative involves cooperation between Mediterranean countries with the Mediterranean Information Office (MIO-ECSDE) acting as implementation actor and EURO 50,000 financing from YPEHODE. This action is being effectively promoted in Mediterranean countries and has been included as a sub-programme in the framework of the National Strategy for Education on Sustainable Development of Greece, which is implemented through the Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs (<http://www.ypepth.gr>).
- iii. "Initiative on the assessment of climate change impacts in African developing countries"
This initiative involves cooperation with Egypt during the first stage of the initiative and with Ghana and Senegal during the second stage of the initiative, with the National Observatory of Athens acting as an implementation actor and EURO 125,000 financing from YPEHODE.
- iv. "Sustainable Water Management in the Balkan and Southeast Mediterranean area"
This initiative involves cooperation with countries of North Africa/Mediterranean, with the Region of Crete acting as an implementation actor and EURO 60,000 financing from YPEHODE.

Greece is currently further intensifying its efforts regarding ODA focusing at climate change adaptation. For example, Greece is currently financing programmes for adaptation to climate change in Least Developed Countries and in regions that, due to their geographical location, are under severe danger from climate change which mainly include Africa and Small Island States. In order to ensure the best possible utilisation of funds and distribution to programmes according to the most significant needs of the threatened regions, the Hellenic development assistance plan is implemented in coordination with regional organisations of the areas under consideration, such as the African Union (EURO 3 million in 2007, EURO 1 million in 2008) and AOSIS (EURO 1 million in 2007).