

## **ANNEX IV**

### **REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX FOR THE NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**

#### **Article 1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean region in the light of its particular conditions.

#### **Article 2. Particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean region**

The particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean region referred to in article 1 include:

- (a) semi-arid climatic conditions affecting large areas, seasonal droughts, very high rainfall variability and sudden and high-intensity rainfall;
- (b) poor and highly erodible soils, prone to develop surface crusts;
- (c) uneven relief with steep slopes and very diversified landscapes;
- (d) extensive forest coverage losses due to frequent wildfires;
- (e) crisis conditions in traditional agriculture with associated land abandonment and deterioration of soil and water conservation structures;
- (f) unsustainable exploitation of water resources leading to serious environmental damage, including chemical pollution, salinization and exhaustion of aquifers; and
- (g) concentration of economic activity in coastal areas as a result of urban growth, industrial activities, tourism and irrigated agriculture.

#### **Article 3. Strategic planning framework for sustainable development**

1. National action programmes shall be a central and integral part of the strategic planning framework for sustainable development of the affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean.
2. A consultative and participatory process, involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations, shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation, pursuant to article 10, paragraph 2 (f) of the Convention.

#### **Article 4. Obligation to prepare national action programmes and timetable**

Affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean region shall prepare national action programmes and, as appropriate, subregional, regional or joint action programmes. The preparation of such programmes shall be finalized as soon as practicable.