



Union for the Mediterranean  
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الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



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***Annual reporting by Ministerial priority:  
Progress on the Roadmap for the implementation of the 2021 UfM Ministerial  
Declaration on SBE – LEBANON***

# Integrated Maritime Strategy for Lebanon

**Objective 1** – Ensure Port Security and Maritime Sector Safety

**Objective 2** – Expand legislative and Legal Framework for the Maritime Sector

**Objective 3** – Ensure Maritime Border Security

**Objective 4** – Activating the Partnership between the Public and Private Sectors in the Maritime Domain

**Objective 5** – Achieving Sustainable development

**Objective 6** - Regulating the Lebanese Coast (ICZM) and Developing a Maritime Spatial Plan

**Objective 7** – Raising the Health Level in the Maritime Domain

**Objective 8** - Activating Marine Tourism



# Integrated Maritime Strategy for Lebanon

- For each of the objectives, Measures were identified as follows:

**Action** : Identifying the actions to be taken to achieve each of these activities

**Duration** : Short, medium or long

**The initiating Party**: The Ministry/or Ministries that should initiate each of these actions

**Primary Partners** : Partners, whether governmental authorities or private sector agencies

- The *current status* for each objective is described, **Lines of Efforts** for each have been listed and when implemented and completed, what

# Marine research and innovation, skills, careers and employment

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of socioeconomic observatories		
Clusters development		
Training activities		
Other	<b>Objective 2 of the (IMS)</b> : “Modernize Legislative and Legal Framework for the Maritime Sector.	To be prepared and implemented by the different agencies and governmental authorities.



# Sustainable food from the sea: fisheries and aquaculture

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries Restricted Areas		
Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU)	Draft law on fisheries is under revision, taking into consideration the <b>IUU</b> (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing).	
Support to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)	<b>Objective no. 4 of (IMS)</b> : “Activating the Partnership between the Public and Private Sectors in the Maritime Domain”, takes into consideration the support of Small-Scale fisheries.	Action Plans are to be initiated by the concerned agencies and governmental authorities.
Other	Lebanon is on the fringe of the fishing industry, where around 90 % of fish consumed are imported despite that around 45,000 families live from this industry.  Artisanal fishing practices is dominated.	Aquaculture project is supposed to be launched next month with the assistance of the <b>Egyptian government</b> utilizing the Egyptian expertise in this domain. This is supported by <b>FAO</b> .

# Sustainable, climate-neutral and zero-pollution maritime transport and ports

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Setting up an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides in the Mediterranean Sea	<p>Lebanon supported the MEPC-78<sup>th</sup> decisions for the reduction of GHG emissions from shipping in the Mediterranean Sea as SECA Area.</p> <p>Lebanese flagged ships are fully compliant with MARPOL Annex VI requirements</p>	<p>Circulars and ministerial decisions are under preparation to allow the implementation of the necessary steps for compliance .</p>
Development of alternative and transitional fuels	<p>Accession to <b>MARPOL</b> Annex VI was approved by the Lebanese Parliament under Law no. 116 dated on 29 of March 2019.</p> <p>A draft decree ( depositary instrument) is prepared awaiting the approval of the Council of Ministers which is expected soon.</p> <p>Once the above decree is published, this decree will be deposited to the IMO's Secretary General in order for Lebanon to be Officially party of this <b>MARPOL</b> Annex VI Convention.</p>	<p>A draft law to transpose MARPOL Convention into National Law is prepared by <b>WMU</b> ( World Maritime University) in cooperation with MoPWT, supported financially by EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency).</p> <p>Still under revision.</p>
Digitalisation of the sector	<p>A draft Ports Sector Law for Lebanon has already been completed in collaboration between World Bank experts and MoPWT . This law sets the way forward with the digitalisation of ports. This draft law was submitted by the Council of Ministers to the Lebanese Parliament and is currently under discussion for endorsement.</p>	
Other		



# Interactions between marine litter and the blue economy

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Prevention measures and circular approaches	<p>Lebanon Blue Economy Dialogue 2024, a conference held in Beirut on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 aimed at enhancing the topic of the Blue Economy nationally.</p> <p>This event was part of the SwitchMed II activities, which are funded by the European Union (<a href="#">UNEP - UN Environment Programme</a>) in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and the Lebanese Harriri Foundation.</p>	<p>Key recommendations were established in relation to this topic such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy and Regulatory frameworks</li> <li>- Waste Management Reduction</li> <li>- Community Engagement and Education</li> <li>- Regional and International I Cooperation.</li> </ul>
Raising awareness and addressing marine litter including microplastics		
Other	<p><b>Objective no. 5 of (IMS):</b> “Achieving Sustainable Development” as a result of random dumps and sewage and industrial water.</p>	<p>Action Plans are to be initiated by the concerned agencies and governmental authorities.</p>



# Coastal and maritime tourism

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Eco-tourism, slow tourism and reduction of carbon emissions of the industry	<p>Lebanon is committed to the IMO strategies in relation to this topic and also to the UNWTO scenarios for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p> <p>The Lebanese government particularly through the Ministry of Environment has set up several policies and initiatives to address carbon emissions from the maritime tourism sector.</p>	
Promotion of the digitalisation of the sector		
Other	<p><b><u>Objective no. 8 of (IMS):</u></b> Revitalizing marine tourism</p>	<p>Action plans are to be initiated by the concerned agencies and governmental authorities..</p>



# Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Stakeholder engagement, consultations or establishment of MSP plans	<p>Draft Law on ICZM was prepared by the MoE in 2017 and in need for revision and update.</p> <p>Under the support of Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), open workshops were conducted and will continue with various ministries aiming to draft the National ICZM Strategy of Lebanon .</p>	
Other	<p><b><i>Objective no. 6 of (IMS):</i></b> Regulating the Lebanese Coast (Integrated Coastal Zone Management ICZM) and Developing a Maritime Spatial plan (MSP)</p>	<p>Action Plans are to be initiated by the concerned agencies and governmental authorities.</p>

# Marine Renewable Energies

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Research and innovation on MRE technologies	<p>The Lebanese government, through its Ministry of Energy and Water and in collaboration with the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC), has been actively involved in advancing marine renewable energy technologies. Some of the key initiatives and policies include:</p> <p>“Renewable Energy outlook for Lebanon in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).”</p> <p>A Decentralized Renewable Energy Law (DRE passed in Dec. 2023)</p>	
Specification of licensing procedures		
Other	<p><b><u>Objective no. 5 of (IMS):</u></b> “Achieving Sustainable Development”</p>	<p>Action Plans are to be initiated by the concerned agencies and governmental authorities.</p>



# Maritime safety and security of blue economy activities

Ministerial Declaration related progress	Policies and strategies at national/regional level	Projects and initiatives at national/regional level
Development of training activities	<p>Cooperation with EMSA for regular training and capacity building on topics related to Safety and Security .</p> <p>Compliance of Ports and Ships with the safety and security related conventions (SOLAS 74 requirements and particularly Chapter XI-2 of the convention).</p>	SAFEMED V Project funded and executed by EMSA .
Exchange of information, expertise, technical assistance and best practices	Active participation at IMO and EMSA activities.	IMO Meetings and EMSA SAFEMED projects.
Other	<p><b><u>Objective No 1 of (IMS)</u></b>: Ensure Port Security and Maritime Sector Safety.</p> <p><b><u>Objective NO 3 of the (IMS)</u></b>: Ensure Maritime Border Security</p> <p><b><u>Objective No. 5 of (IMS)</u></b>: Achieving Sustainable Development</p>	Action Plans are to be initiated by the concerned agencies and governmental authorities..



# Open questions

1 – Related to the priority on Governance and the future of sea basin strategies in the Mediterranean region: **Is there any overarching blue economy strategy in your country? Or any process initiated leading to the elaboration of such a strategy?**

Integrated Maritime Strategy (IMS) endorsed by the Council of Ministries on 28 of May 2024. It is supposed to be an overarching Strategy encompasses all activities related to Maritime Domain. Action Plans are to be initiated by the concerned administration and various agencies.

2 – Related to the priority on Sustainable investments in the blue economy: **is there any national funding/financing scheme related to the blue economy (or any of its sectors) promoted by your country? If yes, please specify.**

**None**

3 - **What are the main challenges, issues or bottlenecks for the implementation of the SBE Ministerial Declaration in your country?**

Political instability, Awareness, Funding, Lack of expertise. Plans and KPIs have to be prepared to implement and monitor the objectives set by the IMS.

