

ASCAME warns that the SDGs of the Agenda are moving away from 2030 and that the Mediterranean is one of the most affected regions

- **By 2030, only 12% of the planned SDGs will be achieved, which will increase the impacts, especially in the Mediterranean, where climate change causes losses of between 5% and 15% of its annual GDP.**
- **ASCAME warns that non-compliance with the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda will affect global growth and prevent progress towards a more sustainable Mediterranean.**
- **To reverse this situation, ASCAME calls on the public and private sectors to promote regional integration, avoid further restrictions on the financing of climate action projects, and move towards greater multilateral cooperation, with a global and comprehensive agreement on progress towards sustainable development.**

Barcelona, 29 February 2024. The failure to comply with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations for 2030 is bad news for the world and, especially, for the Mediterranean region where climate change is the key challenge of our time and the main challenge for its economic development. This is what the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce (ASCAME) warns of data from the UN's 2023 Sustainable Development report, according to which **only 12% of the evaluable goals will be achieved by 2030**. According to the report, 50 per cent of these targets will be unachievable, and **up to 30 per cent of these targets have worsened compared to the 2015 baseline**, when the 17 SDGs were established.

An adverse global context is contributing to slow progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 agenda. The pandemic has had significant social, economic and environmental consequences that are gradually being reflected in the data. Ongoing crises and conflicts have disrupted global supply chains and fueled inflation and uncertainties and contributed to food and commodity price volatility and a constrained financial environment.

ASCAME warns that this situation is particularly serious in the Mediterranean, one of the regions most affected by the consequences of climate change. Not only **it causes losses of between 5% and 15% of its annual GDP**, but it also causes **increasingly frequent natural disasters**, such as floods, earthquakes, rising sea temperatures - it is warming 20% faster than the global average - water scarcity, loss of biodiversity or decreased agricultural productivity. To which should be added **the negative impact that non-compliance with the SDGs will have on the achievement of social challenges** that are increasingly urgent, such as eradicating extreme poverty, guaranteeing gender equality and inclusive education, achieving a higher percentage of sustainable cities, or moving towards a productive model based on the green and blue economy.

According to **Mr. Anwar Zibaoui**, General Coordinator of ASCAME, "our well-being in the medium and long term depends on a healthy environment supported by sustainable economic and social development." In his view, "The 17 SDGs continue to provide a comprehensive

framework for the bold and transformative action needed to build a greener, fairer and more prosperous Mediterranean."

In this context, ASCAME calls on the public and private sectors to work together to achieve several measures that could reverse this situation:

- **More funding:** For the institution, it is essential to avoid restrictions on the financing of development and climate action projects. Create fiscal space to increase finance for climate adaptation.
- **More private sector involvement:** The private sector, which contributes 60% of global GDP and 90% of jobs, needs to be involved.
- **More coherent policies:** The rules for dealing with risks and crises must be framed in policies coherent with specific priorities, not in the short term, not in scattered actions, but in accordance with an integrated approach of progress towards sustainable development.
- **More multilateral cooperation:** There is an urgent need for a reformed multilateral system to face future challenges. In order to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, ASCAME calls for a reflection on new practices in international cooperation and multilateralism. According to Anwar Zibaoui, "some countries want to hinder collaboration in some fields, but they do not have the capacity to solve global problems on their own."

About ASCAME

The Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Mediterranean (ASCAME) is a non-profit international organization representing the private sector in the Mediterranean. It brings together Chambers of Commerce and Industry and similar entities from 23 countries on both shores of the region and advocating for the interests of private sector and millions of businesses.

ASCAME, as an accredited partner of the European Union and international organisations, develops strategic actions aimed at increasing cooperation and economic exchanges between Mediterranean countries, as well as promoting the Mediterranean and its businesses around the world. ASCAME focuses on economic and commercial activities in which companies from Mediterranean countries participate. For more than 35 years, ASCAME has actively worked to provide tools capable of providing effective responses to the challenges and opportunities that both Chambers of Commerce and Mediterranean SMEs must face in a global competitive environment.

For more information

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