



Ideas for a Sustainable Mediterranean



## CONFERENCE SERIES

4<sup>th</sup> EDITION SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

# PalauMacaya

UNESCO International Centre for Human and Social Sciences  
Passeig de Sant Joan, 108 – Barcelona

Co-organized by



With the collaboration of





## IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

The Med Dialogues +2030 is an annual conference series organised and promoted by the **European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)**, the **Barcelona Office of the Club of Rome**, with the collaboration of "**la Caixa**" **Foundation**, which fosters debate on the sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean region.

By giving voice to renowned experts and actors from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea and a variety of backgrounds, the **Med Dialogues +2030** seek to raise greater awareness and understanding about the critical sustainability challenges faced by Mediterranean countries.

Launched in 2021 as the region was entering the "Decade of Action", the **Med Dialogues +2030** adopt each year a different approach to the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), putting forward analyses and recommendations to contribute to building a more resilient, sustainable, prosperous, inclusive, and safer Mediterranean region by 2030.

### 2024 EDITION: Celebrating Agents of Change in the Mediterranean

In recent editions, Med Dialogues +2030 has extensively explored the sustainability challenges facing the Mediterranean region, focusing on the current and future realities of climate change and human security. These discussions have outlined various avenues for action, emphasizing the need for **sustainable transformation**. As these challenges continue to intensify, it is imperative to accelerate this transformative process towards a more sustainable Mediterranean region.

In face of the often-discouraging regional panorama, it appears more necessary than ever to promote and share **positive narratives** that can instil the belief in the possibility of change and progress in the Mediterranean. Many remarkable efforts and pioneering initiatives are taking place in our region and putting them in the spotlight invites us to look at the Mediterranean region from another perspective, highlighting **the existence of solutions** for a sustainable future.

The 2024 edition of the Med Dialogues +2030 will invite individuals and organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean region, that are actively working to improve future prospects, to share their journey as **changemakers** and their **groundbreaking initiatives** making a tangible difference on the ground.

Mediterranean people are changing our region for good, and it is time to recognise, champion and amplify their efforts.



## FORMAT

Conference Series

Venue: CaixaForum Macaya

Pg. de Sant Joan, 108, Barcelona

Duration: 1h15

English / French with simultaneous translation to Spanish / Catalan

Free entrance – Registration: [www.iemed.org/meddialogues2030](http://www.iemed.org/meddialogues2030)

## PROGRAMME

### Dialogue 1

#### OMAR ITANI: Clothing a Better Tomorrow

17 September  
18:00

Sala Macaya

*Omar Itani is the founder and general manager of FabricAID, a social enterprise working to establish a socially and environmentally conscious value chain for the apparel industry. FabricAID reuses and recycles unwanted clothes. Clothes are graded, sorted into over 46 categories, cleaned and redistributed to disadvantaged communities. Thanks to FabricAID, more than one million items have been sold to 200,000 marginalised individuals, and 600,000 kg of clothing have been recycled. This has resulted in environmental, social, and financial benefits, creating more than 100 jobs and investing around \$5 million USD in Lebanon. Omar is the 2019 UN Young Champion of the Earth.*

**Introductory remarks:** **Jaume Lanaspa**, President of the Barcelona Office, Club of Rome; **Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

**Moderator:** **Daniel de Torres**, director, RECI

**Guest:** **Omar Itani**, Founder of FabricAID - LEBANON

### Dialogue 2

#### TERESA VICENTE: Recognizing and Upholding Nature's Rights

9 October  
18:00

Sala Macaya

*Considered to be the most important saltwater coastal lagoon in the western Mediterranean, the once pristine waters of the Mar Menor had become polluted due to mining, rampant development of urban and tourist infrastructure, and, in recent years, intensive agriculture and livestock farming. Teresa Vicente led a historic, grassroots campaign to save the Mar Menor ecosystem—Europe's largest saltwater lagoon—from collapse, resulting in the passage of a new law in September 2022 granting the lagoon unique legal rights. Teresa Vicente is the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner.*



**Moderator:** Gemma Pinyol, coordinator, RECI

**Guest:** Teresa Vicente, Director, Chair of Human Rights and Rights of Nature, University of Murcia – SPAIN

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### Dialogue 3

#### MANAR ELKEBIR: Mobilising the Youth for Environmental Protection

23 October  
18:00

Sala Macaya

*Manar Elkebir is a storyteller, National Geographic Young Explorer, and the founder of EcoWave, a youth-led organisation in Tunisia. Elkebir's mission is to galvanize young people in her community to tackle global environmental issues and develop existing solutions to make change. Growing up in Gabes, along the Mediterranean coast, she led successful campaigns to educate her local community about the climate crisis. She has received recognition from international organisations such as Global Leader of Solutions to Plastic Pollution from Algalita Research and Education, Ocean Hero 2019, and Conrad Innovator. Elkebir has spoken at international events across the world and has used her influence to work with governmental leaders and business executives to make sustainable decisions across her country and beyond.*

**Moderator:** Daniel de Torres, director, RECI

**Guest:** Manar Elkebir, Founder, EcoWave – TUNISIA

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### Dialogue 4

#### ZAFER KIZILKAYA: Championing Marine Conservation in the Eastern Mediterranean

6 November  
18:00

Sala Macaya

*Zafer Kızılkaya is a professional conservation photographer and marine conservationist. In 2012 he founded the Mediterranean Conservation Society which built and oversaw Turkey's first community-managed Marine Protected Area. These MPAs have now expanded along the Turquoise Coast and have seen balance returning to their ecosystems. Zafer also helped to reduce the number of invasive species by encouraging local fishermen to catch lionfish and rabbitfish, and for local fine-dining chefs to include them on the menus in their restaurants. He is the 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize winner.*

**Moderator:** Corona Calero López, environmental journalist, TV3

**Guest:** Zafer Kızılkaya, President and Founder, Mediterranean Conservation Society - TÜRKIYE

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### Dialogue 5

#### ECOPEACE MIDDLE EAST: Nurturing Peace and Sustainability Across Borders

20 November  
18:00

Sala Macaya

*EcoPeace Middle East is a unique organisation that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in the region. The NGO brings together Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis to create shared solutions to the climate crisis and especially water security, taking a bottom-up approach to educate local constituents, as well as a top-down approach to advance vital policies. EcoPeace Middle East, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, recognizing three decades of EcoPeace's environmental peacebuilding efforts.*

**Moderator:** **Sònia Sánchez López**, environmental journalist, Diario ARA

**Guest:** **Gidon Bromberg**, Co-Founder and Israeli Director, EcoPeace Middle East – ISRAEL & **Nada Majdalani**, Palestinian Director, EcoPeace Middle East - PALESTINE

### Dialogue 6

#### LEILA BEN GACEM: Creating Socioeconomic Development through Culture and Heritage

4 December  
18:00

Sala Macaya

*Leila Ben Gacem engages community members in the renovation of old historical sites in Tunisia and then helps to integrate these spaces into the economy by transforming informal artisanal initiatives into sustainable businesses. Using online tools Leila encourages people to be participants and co-creators of the renewal of their own Medinas. Apart from increasing citizen participation and increasing cultural confidence of Tunisians, this initiative is preserving heritage and creating a touristic competitive edge. She received Fatma El Fehria Award in 2017, as well as the Women Entrepreneur in Cultural Sector Award.*

**Moderator:** **Montse Frisach Carmona**, journalist and visual arts critic

**Guest:** **Leila Ben Gacem**, Founder, Blue Fish – TUNISIA

**Closing Remarks:** **Jaume Lanaspà**, President of the Barcelona Office, Club of Rome

**Roger Albinyana**, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed).

