

Joint Statement

TouMaLi 3rd International Conference

“Project Insights and Forward Paths on Sustainable Tourism, Waste Solutions and Litter Prevention “

26-27 November 2025

Hammam Sousse, Tunisia

Participating Countries and Organizations:

Representatives of the TouMaLi Project in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Germany; representatives of the TouMaLi supporting partners, including the Government of Germany through the Federal Ministry of Environment; and participants, guests, and panellists from: the Ministry of Environment (Egypt), the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Egypt), the Governorate of Alexandria (Egypt), the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (Morocco), the Ministry of Tourism (Tunisia), the Ministry of the Environment (Tunisia), the Ministry of Interior (Tunisia), the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Marine Transport in Alexandria (Egypt), the Waste Management Regulatory Authority (Egypt), the Regional Association of the Hotel Industry Marrakech–Safi (Morocco), the Egyptian Hotel Association (Egypt), the National Waste Management Agency (Tunisia), the International Center for Environmental Technologies (Tunisia), the Tunisian Coastal Protection Agency (Tunisia), the Tunisian Hotel Federation (Tunisia); representatives from international and regional organizations and programs; the University of Rostock (Germany), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Water and Environment Support – Biodiversity and Climate Action (WES-BCA) of the European Union, the World Bank, Green Forward of the European Union, MedWaves, the UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for SCP, the Wuppertal Institute for

Climate, Environment and Energy (Germany), the Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW), Landbell Group, Adelphi, Econnexions, BlackForest Solutions, and Nahdet Misr; as well as participants from Egypt, Germany, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Syria, Jordan and Spain.

We, the above-mentioned participants in the Third TouMaLi 2025 International Conference, held in Tunisia under the title “TouMaLi 2025: Project Insights and Forward Paths on Sustainable Tourism, Waste Solutions and Litter Prevention,” agree on the following joint statement:

We extend our sincere gratitude to those who contributed to the success of the 2025 Third TouMaLi International Conference held in Tunisia. Your support and expertise have been instrumental in advancing our collective mission to promote sustainable practices in tourism and marine ecosystem protection.

Acknowledgments:

- **International Center for Environmental Technologies of Tunisia:** Thank you for effectively coordinating and providing technical assistance throughout the TouMaLi project, and for successfully hosting this conference.
- **Government of Tunisia:** We appreciate the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism for their generous hospitality and unwavering support.
- **Federal Republic of Germany:** Your ongoing commitment to the TouMaLi project has greatly enhanced our efforts.
- **University of Rostock and Cadi Ayyad University:** Your technical assistance has been invaluable in driving the project forward in your respective countries.
- **Arab Republic of Egypt:** We acknowledge the contributions of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Marine Transport for their dedicated efforts in Egypt.

- **TouMaLi Project Consortium Partners:** Our collective vision for marine litter reduction and circular economy promotion in tourism has been made possible by your collaboration and dedication.
- **Steering Committee Members:** Thank you for your renewed commitment to coordinating the project within your nations.
- **International Organizations:** We appreciate the EU, UfM, UNEP, and the World Bank for their strategic guidance and support in this crucial endeavor.
- **Conference Participants:** We value the insights and contributions from all attendees representing national and local administrations, civil society, academia, and the private sector, which have enriched our discussions and recommendations.

Recommendations:

The challenges faced by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in waste management underscore the need for robust governance and legal frameworks. We advocate the following:

- **Strengthening Institutional Frameworks:** Nations should enhance their governance structures to support effective waste management policies.
- **Innovating Waste Management Practices:** Transition the waste sector towards a model that prioritizes environmental protection while creating economic value through resource optimization.
- **Sustainable Tourism Operations:** The tourism sector must adopt circular economy principles, including reduce, reuse, and redesign strategies.
- **Educational Initiatives:** Reinforce training in the HoReCa sector, promoting sustainable practices and collaborations to tackle single-use plastics.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Facilitate the exchange of best practices through toolkits and digital platforms to foster effective waste management across partner countries.
- **Monitoring Systems:** Establish measurable goals and a robust framework to track progress in reducing marine litter and plastics.

- **Engaging the Informal Sector:** Develop strategic approaches to integrate informal waste handlers into formal systems, recognizing their contributions to sustainability.

We commend the successful establishment of the “Arab Renaissance Company for Environmental Solutions and Innovation” in Egypt, exemplifying effective public-private collaboration within the scope of the TouMaLi project.

In reaffirming our commitment to the TouMaLi initiative, we call upon our partners to consolidate the remarkable achievements to date, ensuring the sustainable operation of pilot projects across Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt. We encourage continued cooperation with research centers and universities to mitigate marine litter impacts and promote sustainable tourism practices.

We thank our partners for their ongoing support and encouragement regarding the objectives of this conference. We look forward to collaborative efforts in navigating challenges and celebrating accomplishments as we advance sustainable waste management and circular economy initiatives across the Mediterranean region.

We, as TouMaLi team, take this opportunity to thank all participants in this third and hopefully not the last TouMaLi International Conference 2025 and for supporting its objectives and recommendations as well as engaging the project in providing necessary policy advice for decision-making in matters related to Solid waste management, circular economy and marine litter mitigation within the hotel and tourism sectors.

Hammam Sousse, on 27 November, 2025