



**Description:** This document is the Draft Joint Statement by the participants of the first Regional Planning Committee meeting highlighting the agreement of the delegates upon the cooperation in the field of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb and as a first step to establish the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Maghreb (NECEMA).

### **Joint Statement by the Participants**

On the First Regional Planning Committee meeting to Discuss the Establishment of the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA). The high officials from the Ministries of Environment and the Environmental Enforcement Agencies in the Maghreb region; observers from The European Commission, Maghreb Arab Union (UMA), Islamic Development Bank, African Development Bank, VROM (Netherlands), ECENA; and representatives of NGOs in the Maghreb region met in Rabat, Morocco to discuss and agree upon the cooperation in the field of Environmental Governance in the Maghreb and the establishment of the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA).

The participants acknowledge and underline that:

- environmental good governance is key to achieve sustainable development;
- laws are ineffective without proper implementation and enforcement;
- weak institutional and legal framework with the limited financial and human resources of the environmental enforcement agencies in the Maghreb countries is a major cause for ineffectiveness in environmental compliance and enforcement;
- experience of other networks and countries provides a good strategic framework for the future cooperation and exchange of information; and
- Maghreb countries are ready to cooperate and collaborate in the area of Environmental Governance.

The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) initiative to establish the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Maghreb (NECEMA) provides an important impetus to the Maghreb countries to improve environmental governance.

The long-term objective of the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Maghreb (NECEMA) is to increase the effectiveness of the enforcement agencies and to promote compliance with environmental requirements.

The participants renew their support to INECE Marrakech statement.

The participants agree to establish and support the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA) under the terms of reference agreed at this meeting.

In this launch phase, the participants agree to Morocco to host the secretariat of NECEMA and seek the financial assistance of INECE, the European Commission, the government of the Netherlands, US government, World Bank, African Development bank, etc.

The participants chose Mr. Brahim Zyani as a chairman of NECEMA; Mr. Samir Kaabi as a co-chair; and Mr. Mohamed Rida Derder as INECE coordinator to NECEMA.

Participants of the First Regional Planning Committee of the Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement in the Maghreb (NECEMA)

Rabat, Morocco  
21 February 2006