

DECLARATION OF THE REGIONS ON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF GLOBALISATION

Marseille, 7 March 2007

We the undersigned, Presidents of regions and geographic, thematic or cultural regional networks from all the continents of the world;

In respect, and the will, for the advancement of human rights and democracy, as well as the values linked to multi-ethnic cultural plurality;

With the desire, as infra-State levels, to actively participate in the delivery of the Millennium Development Goals adopted in the United Nations Organisation reform;

1. WHEREAS:

A globalisation which changes economic, social and environmental data:

- The increasingly more intense interaction of the economic and social infrastructures of the whole planet;
- An unbalanced globalisation with a strong negative impact for the regions excluded from the phenomenon;
- The growing number of public and private decisions taken at continental, intercontinental and global levels, which affect the daily life and the future of our populations;
- The benefits that our Regions can draw from a world currently undergoing unification;
- The risks of all kinds of retreats into national identity, which a globalisation lacking in human and societal requirements would lead to;
- The impact of human activities on ecological balances.

Urgent challenges to be taken up:

- The absence of global governance taking account of technological, economical, environmental and human dynamics;
- The consequences of poverty in the peripheral regions, which hinder local development and result in the social fabric becoming highly vulnerable. It is necessary to modernise and/or set up institutions to provide a coherent boost to sustainable social development
- The lack of involvement of all public levels in this global governance;
- The need to recognize the unique indigenous cultures;
- The demand for equality in development opportunities for all territories;
- The protection of the planet's natural heritage, particularly air quality forests, seas, rivers and oceans;
- The threats represented by current climate change;
- The adoption of a model based on sustainable development principles.

A new governance to establish with infra-State levels:

- The duty of Regional Authorities to accompany their populations and protagonists - economic and social - in trade development;

- Their duty to ensure their voice is heard by the bodies responsible for a peaceful, just and flourishing globalisation for all;
- The increasing role of the Regional Authority tier of Government within each State, as in the trans-national groupings, in order to bring citizens closer to decision making centres;
- The initiatives already launched in support of strengthening dialogue between the Regional Authorities of all the continents.

2. HAVE DECIDED to launch preparatory work for the creation of a FORUM OF NETWORKS OF WORLD REGIONS.

This forum will pursue the following goals:

To ensure the voice of the Regions is heard in globalisation:

- Gather together the World Regions to identify their joint concerns and suggestions with regards to globalisation;
- Express and disseminate these concerns and suggestions to the Parliaments and Governments of States, international institutions and bodies in the construction of a worldwide governance;
- Facilitate the representation of the Regions in all organisations whose decisions have a direct influence on the quality of life of their populations;
- Promote the regional level as a grassroots strategic authority to further development;
- Ensure the cooperation of the Regions with other levels of infra-State authorities, particularly Cities and Local Authorities.

To organise new strategic governance rules, including infra-State tiers of government:

- Facilitate the participation of Regions in the implementation of innovative governance systems, including participation in the formation of regional clusters, uniting all stakeholders in the preparation and delivery of policies where there are prerequisites for a territorial impact;
- Support human development and social capital through public policies to support education, health care, the social infrastructure and housing;
- Involve all regional economic and social infrastructures in a globalisation where everyone can be the winner;
- Recognize and support the unique cultures and the traditional lifestyles of indigenous peoples;
- Encourage trans-national regrouping of Regions;
- Stimulate good neighbourhood relationships between border Regions;
- Support the cooperation of the Regions with continental and global institutions, particularly the United Nations Agencies.

To work together with Regions to:

- Arouse and enhance the competitiveness and sharing of growth in regional policies as factors of social and territorial cohesion;
- Adopt the principle of fully taking on board the effects of development on the environment, by drawing on the principles of sustainable development;
- Encourage national governments to incorporate and integrate the regional project into their agenda;
- Support national policies which reinforce the regional level; in particular by preparing and adopting a Charter on the role of Regions in public governance systems;

- Foster between the regional organisations the practice of para-diplomacy between Regions of the world, through the relations and international cooperation led by sub-national territories with the full support of national governments;
- Ensure solidarity between rich and poor Regions;
- Contribute to the transfer of know-how and good practises between Regions;
- Promote sustainable development in terms of its economic, social and environmental aspects;
- Support the existing networks within the areas of expertise and recognize the nrg4SD will represent the Forum in the area of sustainable development and the network IT4ALL for the Information Society.

Those signatories present constitute the interim Steering Committee of the Forum responsible for proposing the statutes and operating procedures of a future Organisation of World Regions.

The provisional president is the president of CPMR and Tuscany, Mr Claudio Martini until the 1st meeting of the interim Steering Committee endorses this.

CPMR assumes the role of co-ordinating and facilitating this preparatory process and playing the role of the interim Secretariat.

Those founders present look forward to holding, with all World Regions, a new meeting of the forum in Tanger-Tetouan (Morocco) in the spring of 2008 and another meeting on the occasion of the second summit of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development to be held in Saint-Malo (France) in September 2008.

Marseille, 7 March 2007

M. Thierry Cornillet, Député européen, conseiller régional Rhône-Alpes (France), Président de l'AIRF (Association Internationale des Régions Francophones)

M. François Maitia, Vice Président de la Région Aquitaine (France), Vice Président de l'AEBR (Association of European Border Regions)

M. Claudio Martini, Président de la Région Toscane (Italie), Président de la CRPM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe)

M. Juan José Ibarretxe, Lehendakari de Euskadi, Président du Pays Basque (Espagne), Président d'IT4ALL (Network of Local Authorities for the Information Society) represented by José María Muñoa, Delegate of the Lehendakari for External Relations

Mme Tasneem Essop, Minister for Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Provincial Government, Western Cape (Afrique du Sud), Co-president of nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) *subject to ratification*

M. Juan Carlos Romero, Gobernador de la Provincia de Salta (Argentina) and M. Roy Abelardo Nikisch, Gobernador de la Provincia de Chaco (Argentina), Representatives of Morte Grande,

Mme Priscilla Post Wohl, President of Northern Forum and M. Sergey Kuchin, Vice-Gouverneur of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Region, Northern Forum Chairing Region (Russia)

M. Oscar de los Santos, Gobernador del Departamento de Maldonado (Uruguay), Vice-hidente de OLAGI (Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios) represented by Mr. Enrique Pérez Morad, Secretario General, Departamento de Maldonado

M. Juan Carlos Romero, Gobernador de la Provincia de Salta (Argentina), representative of ZICOSUR (Zona de Integración del Centro Oeste de América del Sur) and Mr Luis Alberto Soliz, Departamento de Santa Cruz, (Bolivia), Secretario Pro-Tempore, ZICOSUR

M. Alberto Jardim, Président du Gouvernement Autonome de Madère (Portugal), Président de la Conférence des Présidents de Régions ultrapériphériques de l'Union européenne représenté par M. Victorin Lurel, Président de la Guadeloupe (France)

M. Michel Vauzelle, Président de la Région Provence-Alpes- Côte d'Azur (France), host Region of the first « International Convention for a Regional and Local approach of Development »

M. Abdelhadi Benallal, Président de la Région Tanger Tétouan (Maroc), host Region of the second meeting of the « Forum of Networks of World Regions »

M. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Président de la Région Bretagne (France), host Region of the third meeting of the « Forum of Networks of World Regions »