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**1ST STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE FOGAR
(FORUM OF GLOBAL ASSOCIATIONS OF REGIONS)
24-25 AUGUST 2007 – CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

- MINUTES -

Participants:

See attached list of participants

INTRODUCTION: Opening address and preliminary debates

After welcoming the participants and giving a presentation of Cape Town city and province, Ms Tasneem Essop opened the debates. She stated once again the importance of a Network of Associations of Regions at global level, especially with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She emphasised the need to ensure that the network was a political tool, but that it should also support practical actions carried out by member networks and member regions. It was essential to work towards multilateralism on the international scene and to gain recognition for the role played by the Regions in this context. This had been achieved in part for the cities, but not enough had been done for the strategic regional level.

Mr Martini reminded participants that the most important task for these two days of meetings was to pursue the debates that had been launched in Marseille on 5/7 March 2007. Discussions would focus on four key points:

- Is the creation of a new network useful?

Globalisation is an issue that concerns us all and in which we are all involved on a day-to-day basis. Being concerned about our world is not something to be taken lightly, it is about recognising the global dimension that now exists in all the activities and reflections carried out by the Regions. Doing nothing is not a possible option if we want to move towards a more balanced and equitable globalisation.

- What should the network's priorities be?

Public authorities must have an active role and establish priorities for implementing and reinforcing a multi-cultural, multi-religious dialogue and a culture of peace. They must be active in combating climate change and its effects, poverty, disease and exclusion. It is essential to ensure that each and every territory is given its chance, and to offset the polarisation and concentration of activities, by including citizens in reflections and actions.

- Major public policies can only be delivered if the regional level works alongside the national and international levels.

A balance needs to be found between top-down and bottom-up approaches. Thinking, power, democracy, all need to be decentralised. Projects that are not anchored in the territories do not work.

- Our initial efforts are starting to find an echo at international levels in multilateral bodies. The United Nations, in particular via the UNDP, have confidence in us and are encouraging us to work together, reminding us that we have their support. In the absence of real progress on the ground, at territorial level, the MDGs will remain generous and general objectives that will fail to become effective.

These reflections lead directly into the second phase that we need to look at together: how should the Forum be organised and structured so that it can respond to these demands.

Debate

Participants emphasised the need to address without delay the question of the Forum's statutes, and the practical aspects of setting up the organisation: objectives, statutes, commissions, communication plan vis-à-vis national external partners and the United Nations organisations. It was important to have an action plan and operating rules that were clear for everyone. Participants shared Ms Essop's view that the Forum should focus on strategic action, while also undergoing an "apprenticeship" on cooperation. Ms Wohl emphasised the need for a clear definition of the notion of globalisation. Mr Romero informed participants of the initiatives undertaken vis-à-vis the Argentinean national authorities and the MERCOSUR to make the Forum known.

Participants wanted the Forum to contribute to finding positive responses to globalisation. Mr Intxaurreaga said that it should take account of the disparities between developed and developing countries. Everyone recognised that the powers and competences of the Regions were very different, but agreed that they must be used.

Mr Maïtia raised the question of what each organisation could contribute to the network, and not only what the network could provide for its members. He also raised the question of the role of national associations of regions and the Forum's relationship with them. Mr Peñagaricano evoked the need to work in harmony also with city networks so as to avoid creating competition between the cities and the regions. Both should have the possibility of expressing themselves.

Mr Olmedo emphasised the identity of the Forum as an organisation representing regional authorities, and the importance of regional development in Latin America. Mr Chiaverini and Mr Oumarou stressed the need to move towards greater solidarity in the context of decentralised cooperation. Effective instruments to combat poverty had to be introduced, and the Forum should take part in debates at the global level. It was a question of building an international community based on solidarity which did not ignore the consequences of globalisation and which provided support for those regions whose situation was most difficult, said Mr Pajor.

Mr Martini and Mr Gizard proposed that this debate be continued, but that the Forum adopt without delay the bases of a structure and organisation enabling it to function. They proposed as a closing date for the discussions the 2nd International Convention for a regional approach to governance and development, to be held in Tangiers in May 2008. There would also be further opportunities for discussions before then, in particular during the meetings to be held in New York and Lisbon, as well as in Brussels in February 2008.

1ST SESSION: Presentation of the signatories of the Marseille Declaration

The following session was devoted to the presentation of the different networks that had signed the Marseille Declaration and that were present in Cape Town: Northern Forum, ZICOSUR, Norte Grande Argentino, nrg4SD, CPMR, AEBR, AIRF, IT4ALL, CRECENEA, OLAGI.

All these networks are involved in exchanges of experience and good practice, and all demand a greater recognition of the regional tier of government. Training and themes related to North-South trade were also significant. All recognised the need to speak with one voice at the global level, and wanted to promote territorial cohesion – to which the Regions should contribute – at global level.

2ND SESSION: The regions in the global world: existing cooperation to date

The first session of the afternoon was devoted to presentations, followed by debates, on existing world-wide inter-regional cooperation initiatives and the possible role of the Forum in this context.

Ms Orihuela first of all described the various different cooperation programmes that existed or that would come into force, initiated by the European Union (neighbourhood policy, development policy, policy of decentralised cooperation with Latin America) and by a number of United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Various members of the Forum then described the framework agreements on cooperation they had established with international institutional partners (United Nations agencies, development banks) as well as cooperation projects between networks of regions. These included technical support for projects, exchange of good practice, provision of training, communication policy.

The need for an information system providing everyone with information about what everyone else was doing was evoked. It was also noted that the vast majority of projects were co-financed by the European Union, and that not all Regions had access to them – hence the importance of diversifying sources of funding, in particular from regional development banks.

Following the debate, participants considered that for the time being the Forum should concentrate on political objectives, and leave the member networks to continue to develop concrete projects. It was important nonetheless that the Forum should support cooperation between its members and an exchange of information on what everyone was doing, and ultimately that it should support the search for new sources of funding for cooperation between regions.

3RD SESSION: Regional development in the global world – towards territorial cohesion on a global scale

Opening the debate, Mr Gizard said it was essential that the Regions should contribute to the definition and the governance of transnational policies that had an impact on the development of regional territories. Neither the MDGs, nor the Kyoto protocol, nor the effective establishment of a global market could be successfully achieved without the Regions. They had to be accepted into the new global governance and they had to take part in setting the common global rules.

It was also important, Mr Gizard continued, to draw attention to the need for territorial instruments to offset the asymmetrical shocks of globalisation. The success of the European Union's enlargement over the last 20 years was largely due to the introduction of policies to help conversion Regions and Regions lagging furthest behind to catch up. Without these support policies, "the ambition for Europe would have exploded"; it was these policies that had made European integration possible. It was important for the Forum to reflect on and propose instruments that would enable other continents, countries and regions to deliver effective territorial cohesion policies. Russia, China and Brazil were interested in Europe's experience. What mechanisms, what resources could be made available to the Regions in these areas? This would be one of the main themes at the meeting to be held in Tangiers (2nd International Convention for a Regional approach to governance and development) under the heading of "Cohesion policies at transnational level."

The question of the relationship with national governments was also raised during the debates. The network must work with the United Nations and with continental groupings such as the European Union, but it must also work with States in order to influence the transnational policies in which the latter are involved. The Forum should focus on developing strategic proposals and on lobbying actions, but should it also provide support for certain Regions, helping them to implement tangible projects, in particular defining development policies for developing areas?

The issue of training was also mentioned, but this was not adopted as a priority in the short term for the network since it was already being successfully addressed by members.

Brussels, end January/beginning February 2008, Preparation of the Tangiers meeting - Presentation of the FOGAR to representatives of the European Union

FOGAR members will need to meet again before the Tangiers Convention in order to finalise its preparation. This meeting should take place in Brussels, so that presentations can be made of the FOGAR to key people and institutions within the Commission, Parliament and Committee of the Regions.

Tangiers, 12-14 May 2008, 2nd International Convention for a Regional approach to governance and development

The preparation of this meeting is under way. The CPMR, on behalf of the FOGAR, is working with the Moroccan authorities, the UNDP in Geneva, and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, which organised the meeting in Marseille. A first draft agenda will be presented to members in New-York.

The member networks of FOGAR are asked to send to the CPMR **by 15 September 2007**, full lists of the members (*in electronic format, Excel file*) so that the invitations to the Tangiers meeting can be prepared as soon as possible.

Statutes

Participants discussed different points to be taken into account in drafting the statutes of the organisation.

The statutes should be kept simple, with a minimum of formality. They should include definitions of:

- the aims and missions of the Forum (as defined in Marseille)
- the bodies that will take and validate decisions (General Assembly, Steering Committee, commissions, geographical groups, possibility of a dual "North-South" presidency, voting, etc.)
- the rules and criteria governing membership of the Forum (full membership, observer status, possibility for national associations to become members, etc.) as well as the rules governing the Forum's membership of other bodies;
- the financial resources of the organisation.

The CPMR will study different national legislations in order to determine which is the most appropriate and practical for registering the FOGAR's statutes, in the light of legal and fiscal considerations.

By 15 October 2007 the CPMR will submit a first draft proposal for the statutes, taking account of the points raised during the debates, to members of the Steering Committee.

The following decisions were endorsed at the Cape Town meeting:

- The Forum of Networks of World Regions is renamed the FOGAR.
- The Interim Steering Committee of the Forum is renamed the Steering Committee of the FOGAR for the next two years.
- Its members are the signatories of the Marseille Declaration, plus two representatives remaining to be nominated for Asia and North America.
- Mr Martini, in his capacity as President of the CPMR, is nominated President of the FOGAR for the next two years.
- The CPMR will take responsibility for the General Secretariat of the FOGAR for the next two years, the Secretary General being Mr Gizard.
- The members of the FOGAR who sit on the Steering Committee do not do so in their own name, but as representatives of associations of Regions.
- These decisions will have to be ratified at the Tangiers Convention.

No consensus was reached on the question of possible Vice-Presidencies of the FOGAR. Mr Martini was asked to try to reach agreement on this point by the end of September by contacting the members of the Bureau individually.

A communication policy (website, logo, headed paper, etc.) will be proposed by the General Secretariat and will need to be approved by the Steering Committee.

Funding

To date the costs of launching the FOGAR have been covered by the CPMR. It will be necessary to gradually put in place mechanisms enabling the network to become independent and self-financing. This question will be dealt with in greater detail at the New York meeting.

Location of the General Secretariat of the FOGAR

Contacts have been made with the Portuguese authorities with a view to, in the medium term, basing the General Secretariat of the FOGAR in Lisbon, a capital that evokes an opening-up to the rest of the world in terms of both its situation and its history.

**1ST MEETING OF THE INTERIM STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE FORUM OF NETWORKS OF WORLD REGIONS
Cape Town - 24-25/08/2007**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AEBR (Association of European Border Regions)

Mr François MAÏTIA, Vice-President, Vice-President of Aquitaine Region, France

AIRF (Association Internationale de Régions Francophones)

Mr Ag Mohamed Ibrahim OUMAROU, Président du Haut Conseil des Collectivités Territoriales du Mali et Trésorier général de l'AIRF

Mr Bruno CHIAVERINI, Délégué Général

CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions)

Interim Secretariat of the Forum of Networks of World Regions

Mr Claudio MARTINI, President of CPMR and President of Tuscany Region, Italy

Mr Xavier GIZARD, Secretary General

Mrs Marie-Ange ORIHUELA, Director in charge of Extra-European Relations

CRECENEA (Comisión Regional de Comercio Exterior Noreste Argentino)

Mr Alejandro Luís PAJOR, Secretario de Comercio Exterior y Relaciones Internacionales, Provincia de Chaco - also representing Norte Grande Argentino, member of ZICOSUR

IT4ALL

Mr. Ramon PEÑAGARICANO, Secretary General

NORTE GRANDE ARGENTINO

Dr. Juan Carlos ROMERO, Governor of Salta, Argentina - also representing ZICOSUR

Mr Alejandro Luís PAJOR, Secretario de Comercio Exterior y Relaciones Internacionales, Provincia de Chaco, Argentina - also representing CRECENEA, member of ZICOSUR

NORTHERN FORUM

Mrs Priscilla POST-WOHL, Executive Director

nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development)

Mrs Tasneem ESSOP, Co-Chair of nrg4SD, Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Western Cape Province, South Africa

Mrs Suraya HAMDULAY, Head of Office, Ministry of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Western Cape Province, South Africa

Mr Sabin INTXAURRAGA, Coordinator, nrg4SD Secretariat

OLAGI (Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios)

Mr Jorge Olmedo Loayza, Secretario Ejecutivo OLAGI

ZICOSUR

Dr. Juan Carlos ROMERO, Governor of Salta, Argentina, also representing Norte Grande Argentino

Dr. Julio ARGENTINO SAN MILLÁN, Ministro, Comisionado ante ZICOSUR y Organismos Internacionales, Gobierno de Salta, Argentina

Mr Fernando PALOPOLI, Vocero de la Gobernación de la Provincia de Salta, Argentina

Apologies:

Conference of the Presidents of the Outermost Regions

Christian BAPTISTE, Conseiller Régional, Conseil Régional de la Guadeloupe

André BON, Directeur, Direction de l'Environnement et du cadre de vie, Conseil Régional de la Guadeloupe

TANGER-TETOUAN REGION (Morocco)

Mr Abdelhadi BENALLAL, Président de Région

Norte Grande Argentino

Mr Roy Abelardo NIKISCH, Gobernador, Provincia de Chaco (Argentina) – also representing CRECENEA, member of ZICOSUR