



FORUM OF GLOBAL ASSOCIATIONS OF REGIONS
FORUM GLOBAL D'ASSOCIATIONS DE REGIONS
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**3RD MEETING OF THE FOGAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(FORUM OF GLOBAL ASSOCIATIONS OF REGIONS)
14 MAY 2008 - TANGIERS (MOROCCO)**

- MINUTES -

Participants:

See attached list of participants

1 - Welcome Address

Mr Martini welcomed the participants and in particular the representatives of five new associations of Regions which had signed the Marseille Declaration.

2- Assessment of the 2nd International Convention on a Regional and Local Approach to Development (Tangiers, 12-14 May 2008)

The members of the FOGAR gave a positive appraisal of the results of the Second Convention for a Regional and Local Approach to Development. They expressed their most sincere thanks to Mr Abdelhadi Benallal, President of the Regional Council of Tanger-Tétouan, for the warm welcome and excellent working conditions that were offered to all the delegates.

This second Convention provided the opportunity to extend the mobilisation for a regional and local approach to development to a large number of local and regional authorities in Africa, America and Asia.

Given the time constraints, it was not possible to involve the founder associations of the FOGAR as much as it had been wished in the preparation of the Tangiers Final Declaration, which was co-signed by the President on behalf of the FOGAR. While acknowledging the specific constraints related to this particular occasion, the representative of the Northern Forum stressed the need for maximum transparency when preparing FOGAR's commitments. This was a view shared by the Executive Committee as a whole.

It was decided to include a reference to nrg4SD and Brittany Region in the Final Declaration in their capacity as organisers of the Saint-Malo Summit.

The representative of the Latin American Organisation of Intermediate Governments (OLAGI) renewed the latter's offer to host the Third Convention for a Regional and Local Approach to Development, to be organised jointly by the UNDP and FOGAR in 2010.

3- Work Prospects for the FOGAR and its Members

3-1: Regional Summit on Climate Change in Saint-Malo

Sabin Intxaurreaga, Co-ordinator of nrg4SD, presented the Summit of world regions for sustainable development, which was to focus on the Regions' role in tackling climate change. The event was to be held from 28 to 30 October 2008 in Saint-Malo (France), at the invitation of Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany Region.

The CPMR was providing assistance in preparing this event at the request of Brittany Region.

Meetings were planned on 28 October for the nrg4SD Steering Committee and General Assembly and also a meeting of the FOGAR Executive Committee starting at 4pm.

It was recalled that in all the documents presenting the Summit, it would be mentioned that nrg4SD is a member of the FOGAR.

3-2: Negotiations on regional integration processes (CAN-Andean Community of Nations, MERCOSUR, etc.)

Xavier Gizard informed members of the initiatives that had been undertaken with the European Commission to involve European and Latin American Regions in the civil society consultative process throughout the duration of the negotiations between the European Union on the one hand, and MERCOSUR, CAN and Central America on the other.

3-3: Reaction to the communication on development aid published by the European Commission

Xavier Gizard informed the participants on the preparation of the CPMR's reaction to the European Commission's Communication on development aid (*cf. attached document*).

3-4: Towards a strategic presentation document for the FOGAR

This item on the agenda was postponed until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

3-5: Development of a web site

This item on the agenda was postponed until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

3-6: FOGAR's relations with inter-state organisations

Mrs Priscilla Wohl indicated that she was making arrangements for a presentation of the FOGAR to the Arctic Council.

4- Adoption of the FOGAR's statutes

Further to the consultations with the founder members that had been on-going since August 2007, the President of the FOGAR, Mr Claudio Martini, put the adoption of the FOGAR's statutes to the vote. Mrs Wohl congratulated the President for managing to carry out such a delicate task which today had resulted in an overall consensus. The President once again specified that the statutes would be revised in 2010 if necessary, depending on how the FOGAR developed.

The statutes were adopted by a unanimous vote.

5- Location of the head office of the FOGAR network

Xavier Gizard notified members of two proposals for the location of the head office: one from the Canton of Geneva and the other from the City of Lisbon with the backing of the Portuguese national authorities.

So far it had been possible to visit the premises proposed by Lisbon. A similar visit was to take place in Geneva in the coming weeks.

In favour of Lisbon was the fact that Portugal is a member of the European Union with which the FOGAR was expecting to secure support and establish a close partnership given the EU's role in development aid. Furthermore, the city of Lisbon is a symbolic place in the history of globalisation.

In favour of Geneva was its proximity with the United Nations Agencies.

Mrs Wohl asked for clarification of the political and financial criteria on which the choice of the final location would be made. A proposal to this effect would be presented by the FOGAR Secretariat at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Saint-Malo.

Mr Muhammad suggested that the FOGAR should have one organisation per continent. The participants considered that it was the founding geographical associations of the FOGAR that should serve as a support for this kind of organisation.

6- Budget Aspects

Xavier Gizard gave his diagnosis on the viability of the FOGAR's budget.

He recalled that for the moment, the FOGAR Secretariat was run by the CPMR with financial backing from some of the latter's member Regions. This situation could only be a temporary one. It did not guarantee the FOGAR's independence.

At an initial glance it seemed that, with the exception of the European organisations, the founder organisations did not have the resources available to enable them to contribute towards the FOGAR's operating budget, a situation that would have guaranteed its autonomy. Contacts had been made with the UNDP and European Commission to seek funding.

Some members expressed their conviction that the FOGAR's autonomy would not be ensured unless the founding associations made the necessary financial effort.

A presentation of the result of these initiatives would be made at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

7- New Memberships

Mrs Wohl gave notification of the contacts she had established with:

- the association of Regions of east and north Asia;
- associations from the east and west of North America.

8- Next Meetings

It was decided that at its forthcoming meeting in Saint-Malo, the Executive Committee would look at a medium-term agenda (2009-2010) for the FOGAR. President Martini invited the Associations that were to be attending Saint-Malo to submit their timetables of internal meetings and their proposals for action to the FOGAR Secretariat (Rennes) by the beginning of September 2008, in order to establish a medium-term programme.

This programme would set out the individual activities of each of the founding networks and the specific activities of the FOGAR as such, with a labelling system for the different types of events.

Xavier Gizard gave notification of the CPMR's intention to organise a global meeting of Regional Leaders in 2009 on the issue of food. This meeting would aim in Europe to clarify the debate on the future of the common agricultural policy. The FOGAR would be most welcome to join this initiative if it so wished. Some members, in particular those from Asia and Africa, expressed their interest in this initiative.

Mr Muhammad indicated that the Indonesian Regions were willing to host FOGAR events.

With all the items on the agenda having been addressed, the President of the FOGAR, Mr Claudio Martini, closed the meeting.

MEETING OF THE FOGAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tangiers (Morocco) - 14 May 2008

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

FOGAR:

Claudio Martini, President of the FOGAR, President of Tuscany Region (It), President of the CPMR
Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the FOGAR, Secretary General of the CPMR

Tanger-Tétouan Region

Mr Abdelhadi Benallal, President of Tanger-Tétouan Regional Council

AEBR (Association of European Border Regions)

Mr François Maïtia, Vice-President of AEBR, Vice-President of Aquitaine Regional Council

AIRF (Association Internationale de Régions Francophones)

Mr Abdelkébir Berkia, Secretary General of AIRF, President of the Region of Rabat, Senator of Morocco

Association for Provincial Government of Indonesia

Mr Fadal Muhammad, Vice Chairman of Association for Provincial Government of Indonesia, Governor of Gorontalo Province

CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe)

Mr Claudio Martini, President - President of Tuscany Region (Italy)
Mr Xavier Gizard, Secretary General
Mr Enrico Mayrhofer, Director of Communications

CPMR Intermediterranean Commission

Mr Gérard Bodinier, Adviser to President Vauzelle, PACA Region

IT4ALL

Mr Ramon Peñagaricano, Secretary General
Mr Javier del Pozo Moro, Technical Secretariat

Norte Grande Argentino

- *Salta Province*

CPN Hernan Cornejo, Representante del Poder Ejecutivo ante ZICOSUR y Organismos Internacionales del Gobierno de Salta Argentina

Northern Forum

Mrs Priscilla Wohl, Executive Director

Nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development)

Mr Sabin Intxaurreaga, Coordinator, nrg4SD Secretariat
Mrs Lohitzune Charoca Gurruchaga, Councillor, Basque Government

OLAGI (Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios)

Ing Montgómery Sanchez Reyes, Vicepresidente de OLAGI, Prefecto del Gobierno Provincial de El Oro, Ecuador

ZICOSUR

Mrs Patricia Mujica Silva, Secretaria Pro Tempore de ZICOSUR
Mr Hernan Ortega, Gobierno Regional Antofagasta

OBSERVERS

Mrs Theodora Avgoulidou, Expert Adviser, Central Macedonia Region, Greece
Mr George Cannelos, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission, Alaska
Mr Abdoulayé Sène, President of the Regional Council of Fatick, Senegal
Mrs Nfaly Badji, Member of the Delegation, Diourbal Region, Senegal
Mr Amadi Diallo, President of the Regional Council of Kaolact, Senegal
Mr Laurent Mezui M'Assoumou, National Director of the Art-Gold Gabon Programme, General Coordinator of the Association of Provinces of Gabon
Mr Patrice Nikiema, President of the Regional Council of Centre, Burkina Faso
Mr R. Aboubacar Savadogo, President of the Regional Council of Nord, Burkina Faso
Mr Klaus Zorbach, Senior Political Adviser, Assembly of European Regions

Apologies:

Mr Thierry Cornillet, President of AIRF
Mr Christian Guyonvarc'h, Vice-President of Brittany Regional Council, France
Mrs Tasneem Essop, Co-Chair nrg4SD, Minister of Environment, Planning and Economic Development, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Mrs Esther Larrañaga, Co-Chair of nrg4SD and Basque Minister for the Environment and Land Use Planning
Mr Michel Vauzelle, President of the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission, President of the Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij, AEBR President, Member of the European Parliament