



# **VII RENCONTRE DE LA FONDATION ASSEMBLÉE DES CITOYENS ET CITOYENNES DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE (FACM)**

Casablanca, 9-12 novembre 2017

## **VII MEETING OF THE FACM**

### **STATEMENT BY THE ADVISORY BOARD**

#### **A MEETING IN FAVOR OF PROGRESS AND PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

From 9 to 12 November 2017, members of the FACM network gathered for their 7th annual meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, on the theme "NECESSARY CONDITIONS AND MEANS OF CITIZEN ACTION FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN".

In this context, here is the final declaration of the Advisory Council:

#### **1. On the persistence of the economic crisis and inequalities in the Mediterranean**

The global economic crisis since 2008 has significantly affected the European Union and the riparian countries in particular. From Portugal to Greece, from Morocco to Egypt, unemployment, inequality and social exclusion have increased, producing negative effects on democratic systems. The economic and social situation in the Maghreb countries and more generally in the South of the Mediterranean remains deplorable and some "revolutions" have not changed anything. Migration flows in all directions have increased with the appearance of walls everywhere and turning the sea again cemetery. We are facing a humanitarian tragedy off the coast of our sea. In this context, the role and rights of citizenship are weakening and human dignity is being flouted. The FACM emphasizes the urgency of proposing tools and projects to both find a Mediterranean in peace but also to ensure sustainable development that benefits everyone. Development must therefore involve democratization and resolution of the problems of mobility, unemployment and corruption.

The FACM calls for restoring an inclusive identity of existing diversities. It is not only the crisis of politics, nations or peoples, but also individuals, citizens as such who have lost their points of reference either at the national level or the regional and institutional one.

#### **2. On the deep political transformations underway in the Mediterranean**

The FACM has made an alarming diagnosis of a very agitated Mediterranean area since 2010. New wars have emerged in Libya, Syria, Mali, Yemen, and so on. A coup d'etat took place in Egypt in 2013 and another failed in Turkey in 2016. New territorial tensions have emerged in Spain and Morocco. New conflicts have been added to existing ones: Cyprus, Western Sahara, Kurdish people, Israel-Palestine. ISIS, or Daesh, is magnifying terrorism while the rivalry

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between Saudi Arabia and Iran is becoming more pronounced as it becomes increasingly involved in regional conflicts. The Tunisian revolution is fighting to remain as a model of democratic transition in the Arab world. Authoritarianism resurfaces and sometimes even strengthens. Indeed, countries do not come out of chaos like Syria or Libya, or Yemen, while others like Egypt have hardened. Pending, the Israeli-Palestinian issue has not yet seen a favorable outcome. The situation is all the more complicated as the major powers, the European Union, Russia, the United States and China, are interfering in the internal affairs of several of these countries. Even in the European Union, radicalization and the extreme right are growing.

The FACM calls, first and foremost, for the respect of human rights in these tormented political contexts, to achieve democratization, the cessation of wars, and mass massacres committed even sometimes by states.

3. About education and knowledge for the benefit of understanding, acceptance of diversity and for the eradication of terrorism

In this period of all dangers, the FACM calls for securing the Mediterranean and eradicating terrorism throughout the basin without jeopardizing human rights and freedoms. But this return to peace does not only go through the whole security. Each state must implement the means to prevent the radicalization of young people who turn against their own societies for multiple reasons: poverty, exclusion, fanaticism, geopolitics, manipulation and ideological indoctrination, etc.

The FACM therefore calls on all public institutions and governments around the Mediterranean to:

- launch big plans for the youth
- ensure a high level education accessible to all
- reduce tensions until the elimination of conflicts throughout the Mediterranean
- fight against unemployment and inequalities
- ensure the mobility of people starting with the youth to promote their training
- encourage educational and cultural exchanges throughout the Mediterranean
- favorize objective information in the media

The FACM also calls on every citizen from the Mediterranean to contribute with his or her will and abilities to the development of a community of Mediterranean people who are solidary and sustainable.

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## 4. About climate problems and the Mediterranean ecological transition

The Mediterranean region is increasingly exposed to global warming, the disappearance of traditional and peasant agriculture and a diet characterized by consumerism to the detriment of quality and health. Macroeconomic growth is too often accompanied by the lack of social and environmental progress. The necessary ecological transition must allow a growth with distribution of wealth capable of improving the living conditions of the population. The FACM calls for responsible and sustainable economic cooperation.

The FACM supports an agricultural and food system that drives sustainable and inclusive development in our countries. Agricultural and alimentation knowledge and practices that promote job creation, the fight against poverty, the sustainable management of natural resources and the fight against climate change must be rediscovered and enhanced, together with the preservation of a cultural heritage such as the Mediterranean Diet.

The FACM supports the declaration on the agricultural and food transition presented in MedCop22 (Tangier, July 2016) and signed by more than fifty civilian and academic organizations.

## 5. About a new governance: participatory democracy

The FACM stresses the need for a new governance with the active participation of citizenship, which is capable of renewing the traditional mechanisms of representative democracy, beyond elections and the usual channels of formation of the will of the people. This overtaking implies, naturally, the insistence in the renovation of traditional political formations.

The growing challenges of our societies demand a fundamental place and role for citizenship and its organizations as an active civil society. Effective equality of women with men, attention to youth unemployment, care for the elderly and dependent, protection of minorities, are essential objectives of participatory democracy.

Casablanca, November 11, 2017