



RESOLUTION ON

Euro-Arab Youth Cooperation “Building bridges for development, solidarity and peace”

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS/ EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 8-9 MAY 2009

Recalling the mission of the European Youth Forum to empower young people to participate actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live, and in improving the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today's world;

Mindful that the realisation of an interdependent and peaceful world based on mutual respect, human rights and solidarity, knowledge, health, social and economic justice and environmental sustainability requires active participation of young people in both in Europe and the Arab region;

Concerned about the polarisation between different regions and cultures of the world that provide a favourable environment to promote prejudice, intolerance and discrimination;

Convinced that in today's world there is a need for the young generation to join their efforts in building bridges of understanding and to empower young women and men to act in partnership for a world "without borders" in the name of justice, solidarity and peace;

Inspired by the organisation and outcomes of the 1st Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (EACMYO) in Amman, Jordan 22-23 November 2008;

The Council of Members of the European Youth Forum (YFJ)

1. *Endorses* the Framework of the Euro-Arab Cooperation amongst Youth Organisations
2. *Calls upon* the Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum to promote this Framework in their activities and towards their membership as well as institutional partners and decision-makers
3. *Calls upon* the Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum to develop and strengthen joint activities and partnerships with youth organisations in the Arab region based on the principles outlined in this Framework
4. *Calls upon* European and Arab Governments, the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States to support and to resource the work of youth organisations in line with the aims set in this Framework
5. *Underlines* the need and importance regular organisation of further Euro-Arab Coordination Meetings of Youth Organisations as unique fora a dialogue and cooperation

Annex

FRAMEWORK FOR EURO-ARAB COOPERATION AMONGST YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Outcome document of the Euro-Arab Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations

Amman, Jordan, 22-23 November 2008

On the 22nd and 23rd November 2008, youth organisations from the Arab region and Europe met at the 1st Euro-Arab coordination meeting which was held prior to the 2nd Arab Youth Forum of the League of Arab States. The aim was to develop a framework that would work to promote a sustainable and permanent cooperation between European and Arab Non-Governmental Youth Organisations. This is the outcome document of the meeting which sets the basis for the future engagement.

1. Vision

European and Arab young people face common challenges such as sustainable development, in its environmental, economic and social dimension, and the achievement of human rights, including access to education, decent employment, migration and gender equality. In this context the aim for this cooperation is to promote peace and social justice, through stronger cooperation at bi-regional level by fostering intercultural dialogue and enhancing the exchange of experiences.

In view of the ongoing implementation of the Arab Declaration on Youth Empowerment, adopted by the Members of the League of the Arab States (2006), of the Agenda 2020 approved at the 8th Youth Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe (2008), and of the Euro-Mediterranean youth dialogue, this Euro-Arab co-operation has a specific objective to strengthen youth participation in order to reduce the existing gaps between decision-makers and youth organisations.

2. Principles for Euro-Arab partnerships among youth organisations

Partnerships should:

- Be based on and meet the needs of young people by involving them in all stages of action
- Be built between democratic, independent and membership-based organisations
- Respect the principles of equality, autonomy and reciprocity
- Recognise that each partner bears the responsibility for its own development
- Respect the culture, values and beliefs of the partner
- Recognise each partner's contribution and endeavour to ensure an appropriate exchange which avoids harming the other partner and its credibility
- Acknowledge that the implementation process is based on transparency and co-management
- Agree to take joint decisions at all stages of the co-operation

3. Contributions and demands

- Map existing youth initiatives and organisations in the Arab Region
- Foster bilateral cooperation projects among youth organisations by facilitating networking and information sharing, especially using new technologies and non-formal education methodologies
- Promote bi-regional short and long term youth exchanges (such as an EAVS- Euro-Arab Voluntary Service)
- Develop bi-regional projects on the topics of migration in order to promote cooperation, empathy and respect
- Create opportunities for capacity building and training in the areas of organisational management, leadership, democratic governance, communication, lobby and advocacy, youth research
- Advocate for the granting of legal status to youth organisations in the Arab region;
- Support the Arab youth organisations' initiative of establishing a representative and democratic pan-Arab youth platform
- Improve the information sharing on available resources for cooperation projects and joint advocacy at bi-regional level
- Increase the access and reliability of funding resources for Euro-Arab youth projects both from the European and Arab institutions and organisations side

To monitor and evaluate the implementation of this framework for cooperation, principally by organising regular Euro-Arab Coordination Meetings of Youth Organisations.