

REPORT
OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
2006 CIVIL FORUM'S STEERING COMMITTEE

Paris, 12 & 13 July 2006

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ziad ABDUL SAMAD
Aïcha AÏT M'HAND
Mourad ALLAL
Souhayr BALHASSEN
Jean-François COURBE
Mourad ERRARHIB
Driss EL YAZAMI
Kamel JENDOUBI
Martin JOSE MOISES
Rilli LAPPALAINEN
Ameer MAKHOUL
Mike MATHIAS
Solanilla Franco PAU
Abdelmaksoud RACHDI
Anastasia RONIOTES
Yacine SAADI
Florent SEBBAN
Riitta SWAN
Manal TIBE
Michel TUBIANA
Gerarda VENTURA
Mohammad ZEIDAN

Excused

Rafael DOCHAO-MORENO
Ghislaine GLASSON DESCHAUMES
Kamal LAHBIB

Absent

Naïm ABU TAIR
Sama AWEIDAH



STATEMENT OF DECISION

A. OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES, AND ORGANIZATION METHODS OF THE CIVIL FORUM

The Steering Committee has confirmed the venue (Marrakech – Morocco) and dates (from 3 to 5 November 2006) of the 2006 Civil Forum under Finnish Presidency.

The first part of the discussions was consecrated to the:

- ✓ **Definition of the Civil Forum's objectives and priorities**
- ✓ **Definition of the role and tasks of the Steering Committee**

The participants agreed on the need to recall the originality of the approach of the Platform and its partners in the preparation and organization of Civil Forums.

This approach relies on the will of associating the biggest number of independent civil society stakeholders from both shores of the Mediterranean, in all the phases leading to the Civil Forum.

In order to overcome new stages on this path, the Steering Committee decided to deepen this approach through the enlargement of the preparatory process to include:

- ✓ **Local consultations**
- ✓ **Thematic meetings**
- ✓ **Asserting a better linkage with works and initiatives of the Platform's networks and members.**

The pursued objective is to make out of the Civil Forum a strong moment in the process of consultation and dialog between civil society stakeholders ; based on a lecture and advancement of the concerns and expectations of all those who are committed to act in order to influence the present and future of the Euromed Partnership.

In this respect, it is essential to recall that the Civil Forum (perceived as a whole that starts from preparatory meetings and consultations, until reaching recommendations resulting from the Civil Forum itself) should take into account the following:

- a. The institutional configuration on which it is meant to act :** Euromed framework, Barcelona Process, Neighborhood Policy, European Union's enlargement, emergence of new initiatives targeting the region in matters of reform and democratization...
- b. The political context and evolution of the situation in the region**
- c. The lessons drawn from the experience of civil society stakeholders, especially, the advancement and obstacles to citizens' participation, and the establishment of real consultation and dialog mechanisms with public authorities in the entire region.**

A.1 Objectives and priorities of the Civil Forum

- **Definition process:** the Steering Committee proposes a discussed, amended, etc. framework document, for all the phases of the preparatory process, especially local consultations. The synthesis of debates (held by the Steering Committee or under its authority) is then considered as the basis of exchanges and debates in the Civil Forum.



- **Forum's objectives:** first and above all to try to influence states' agenda from our specific characteristics (independent civil society stakeholders) and existing realities.

This should be reflected in the enhancement of:

- *Issues and key concerns advanced by civil society networks and that we decide to bear together*
- *New problems and issues or the emergence of new stakeholders*
- *The human dimension (in the large sense) of all partnership constructions*
- *The symbolic dimension of our actions and initiatives*

- **Specific objectives of the 2006 Civil Forum:** given that this is the first time the Civil forum will be held in a Southern country and in regards of the difficulty of current events, it was emphasized that the Forum should :
 - ✓ **Take into account the context**
 - ✓ **Set up a guiding line for all the discussions and debates**
 - ✓ **Advance two or three priorities that constitute the focal points to which the Forum should make a significant contribution and concrete propositions.**

It was decided that the Steering Committee prepares a framework document that will serve as a basis to the whole process. (*See in annex the document's summary*)

A.2 Role and tasks of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the body that supervises and approves all that concerns the preparation, implementation, and follows up the Civil Forum.

The Platform, as the contracting body, will give its logistic and organizational support.

The discussion concluded on the need of the participation of all the members of the Steering Committee and the involvement of each one.

To reach this, the Committee's works will be organized in FOUR WORKING GROUPS:

- « **Logistic group** » in charge of following the financial and contractual aspects and all the questions regarding the organization of consultations and the Civil Forum. This group will include: Ziad Abdul Samad, Mike Mathias, Mourad Errarhib, and Kamal Lahbib.
- « **Content group** » in charge of working documents and workshops' contents, etc. **this group includes:** José Martin Moises, Mohammad Zeidan, Rilli Lappalainen, Michel Tubiana, and Abdelmaksoud Rachdi.
- « **Local consultation and thematic** » group. **Includes:** Ghislaine Glasson Deschaumes, Kamel Jendoubi, Manal Tibe, Florent Sebban.



- « **Communication** » **group. Includes:** Souhayr Belhassen, Ameer Makhoul, Anastasia Roniotes, Jean-François Courbe, Aicha Aït M'hand, Solanilla Franco Pau.

ALL OF THESE GROUPS WILL WORK IN CLOSE COLABORATION WITH THE GENERAL COORDINATOR AND THE OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PLATFORM.

A.3 Civil Forum's structure

The Civil Forum will include 450 participants and its works will be organized in:

- ✓ **Plenary sessions**
- ✓ **Thematic workshops**
- ✓ **Self conducted workshops**

B. BUDGETARY ASPECTS AND CIVIL FORUM'S FUNDING

The Forum's funding (initially expected) is covered from the following resources:

- ✓ **Finnish (200 000€) and Austrian (100 000€) Presidencies to cover the needs of the preparatory process.**
- ✓ **European Commission (via Cecoforma) to cover the costs of holding the Civil Forum (500 000€) in Morocco.**
- ✓ **Complementary contributions from Foundations and Platform's member networks.**

At this stage, funding agreement was signed only with the Finnish Presidency.

The European Commission's contribution was subject to negotiations with Europaid and an agreement of principles was reached.

In front of the non response of the Austrian Presidency (despite the many interventions of several partners and on many levels), the Steering Committee decided to:

- 1.Re-adapt the initial expected budget. (See the new version – ANNEX 2)**
- 2.Intervene at the Commission to get precisions regarding the implementation methods of the contract with Cecoforma. The Committee insists that the organizers keep full control on the Forum's organization (including the logistics and reception of participants). The Platform's General Coordinator is in charge of the necessary steps for this purpose with the Commission and in relation with the Finnish Presidency.**
- 3.Finding complementary funding to compensate the default of Austrian funding, and in order to balance the budget of which part of the incompressible needs of funding are still not covered. (about 50 000€)**

Out of concern for total transparency regarding the Forum's management, the Steering Committee recommended making all the necessary information regarding all established funding and partnership agreements available on the Platform's website. (See ANNEX 2)

C. LOCAL AND THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS



The Steering Committee's members insisted on the importance of local consultations and the need to establish a strong and transparent linkage between the three categories that will be implemented:

- **Local consultations:** in all the concerned countries (yet, and because of imposed budgetary limitations, the Committee recommended carrying out consultations in each Southern country and in most of European countries, and for want of holding regional meetings)
- **Thematic meetings:** relying on initiatives and partnerships on essential issues such as: migration, gender equality, youth, movement, democratization...
- **Enhancement of networks' initiatives and contributions:** human rights, environment, culture, trade unions, youth, etc.

After reviewing the situation of each country and taking knowledge of the envisaged initiatives (youth, migrations, movement, equality...), the Steering Committee reaffirmed the principles that should govern the organization of these consultations:

- a. **The consultations will be held under its exclusive responsibility ;**
- b. **Each consultation should comply with the same rules such as defined in the Terms of Reference, and should be subject to a clear and transparent agreement; (See Annexes)**
- c. **The « consultations » working group should pay special attention to the list of participants in the consultations, and should approve each consultation on the basis of the quality of this participation.**

D. CIVIL FORUM'S PARTICIPANTS

The Civil Forum will include 450 participants as follows:

- ✓ **300 representatives of independent Euro-Mediterranean organizations and civil societies (out of Morocco)**
- ✓ **50 media resources, invited and representative persons (out of Morocco)**
- ✓ **100 Moroccans (civil society stakeholders, media, invited, ...)**

The Steering Committee keeps full control on the designation of participants in the Civil Forum.

It will establish, in the coming days, a table of repartition by country and which will be sent to all the participants in local consultations.

In addition to criteria already set up in Luxembourg (2005) – gender equality, North – South balance, proper themes representation, independence, significant presence of youth, etc., the Committee will watch over the establishment of a balance system in order that, at the end, the participants in the Civil Forum represent as much as possible the whole preparatory process.

Thus, the adopted procedure consists of:

- ✓ **The Steering Committee establishes a repartition grid by country ;**
- ✓ **Proposes a key repartition for each consultation;**
- ✓ **The consultations designate lists to be examined by the Steering Committee ;**



- ✓ **The Steering Committee approves the lists ;**
- ✓ **Sending individual invitations to the Civil Forum;**
- ✓ **The local operator sends information forms (which are necessary for arranging visas and travel documents).**

Paris, 17 July 2006.

Mourad Allal
General Coordinator