

# ONE WORLD, OUR WORLD

“21 YEARS OF COMMITMENT, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES”



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY

(NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE) OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE





# One World, Our World

“20 years of commitment, achievements and challenges”

THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY  
(NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE) OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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- **ELIANA CARVALHO**, co-ordinator of the North-South Centre's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, who has shouldered the main responsibility of writing, preparation and research,
- My gratitude also goes to **HANS DE JONGE**, direct contribution to the parts devoted to the Centre's origin and first years and for his overall support and invaluable advice,
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## Preface

### *Joint Declaration on the Council of Europe and the “quadrilogue” on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North-South Centre*

The creation of the Council of Europe, in 1949, introduced a major innovation in the sphere of international relations, as it was the first time that a Parliamentary Assembly, representing the people, sat alongside the Committee of Ministers, representing the governments, to lead the work of a new organisation.

This innovation responded to the will of the political leaders of that time to ensure that European construction, from the start, could count not only on the support but also the contribution of its citizens. It was completed very quickly by two other advances:

- » the involvement of civil society in the work of the Council of Europe, through its consultative status created in 1952 (today close to 400 INGOs enjoying participatory status are regrouped at the heart of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe) ;
- » and that of the local and regional authorities, through the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities created in 1957 (whose role has progressively been reinforced until the birth, in 1994, of the actual Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe).

The combined action of these different pillars is commonly known as the “quadrilogue”. It inspires many sectors of activity of the Council of Europe, and constitutes the basis on which the Forum for the Future of Democracy or the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level function. It is at the heart of the decision making process of the North-South Centre, where the four pillars (governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, civil society) sit on an equal footing in the Executive Council.



On this day, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the North-South Centre, at the same time as the International Day of Tolerance. We wish to seize this occasion to reaffirm the importance that we attach to the “quadrilogue” concept, and our engagement for joint action between governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, and civil society, to the ideals and values promoted by the Council of Europe.

16 November 2009

***Samuel Žbogar***

***Chairman, Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe***

***Lluís Maria de Puig***

***President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe***

***Jan Micallef***

***President a.i., Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe***

***Jean-Marie Heydt***

***President, Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe***

## Introduction

Writing this history of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe was a gratifying exercise though it also posed a number of challenges.

It was **gratifying** because it looked back on the Centre's work and helped us understand how it fitted into the international and regional context in the last 20 years. It also highlighted the pertinence of its actions, its ground-breaking nature and its flexibility as a channel for what have been, are and will always be its priorities.

Each chapter addresses a particular phase in the Centre's life: its early years (1984-1989), its implementation (1990-1993), its consolidation (1994-2003), the challenging years it faced (2004-2007) and its revival (2008-2011).

These chronological phases are linked to the international scene and the particular context of the Council of Europe. The idea was not an exhaustive study of the international scene or the activities of the Council of Europe. This history looks at the North-South Centre from the angle of its remit, i.e. global interdependence and solidarity.

The main **challenge** posed by this retrospective process was the whole exercise of remembering. Although many people and records were consulted, there was always the risk of leaving out some event or other that certain people might consider of particular interest. Covering 20 years in the limited framework of a publication means not being able to mention absolutely all activities, all the partners and participants in these projects and all the support received.

This is why, in addition to the elements described in these pages, we must salute all the partners and participants involved and all the political, conceptual, moral and financial support. It is to them that we owe the fact that the Centre's has been able to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.

Our particular thanks must go to:

- » the **member States of the North-South Centre**, particularly Portugal, which was behind the Centre's creation and, as its host country, has given its unwavering support over the last 20 years;
- » the **members of its Executive Council**, particularly its successive Chairs - Harry Aarts (Netherlands), Victor Crespo (Portugal), Miguel Angel



Martinez (Spain), Claude Frey (Switzerland) and Deborah Bergamini (Italy), who have moulded and developed its work;

- » the **Council of Europe**, the North-South Centre's parent organisation and the players in the quadrilogue on which the Centre's work is based (the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations), successive Secretaries General and the bodies responsible for the Centre's tutelage (the Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs from 1990 to 2006 and Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, as of 2006);
- » the **European Union**, the other key institution for the North-South Centre's sphere of influence, which not only participates in its statutory functioning (through the European Commission and European Parliament), but also provides it with irreplaceable political and financial support;
- » the North-South Centre's other **international partners**, and especially the United Nations (UNESCO, UNPD, Alliance of Civilizations) and key regional organisations such as the Arab League, the African Union, the Anna Lindh Foundation, as well as OECD;
- » all those who have participated in the **activities** organised by the centre, who have contributed their expertise, knowledge, know-how and time to furthering the cause of global interdependence and solidarity, and consultants, tutors and interns who have accompanied its work;
- » the Centre's **personnel**, whose enthusiasm, dedication and motivation have sustained its action all over its 21 years of existence.

A provisional version of this publication has been issued at the end of 2009, when the Centre was celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The final version is integrating developments until May 2011, when the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a new Statutory Resolution for the North-South Centre. Its entering into force, on 1 June 2011, will open a new era for the Centre, at a time when the Arab countries - our neighbours - are facing historical changes. Let's hope for the best!

Happy reading!

*Denis Huber*  
*Executive Director*

31 May 2011



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C H A P T E R

## THE ORIGINS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE (1984-1989)

*“North-South relations:  
a political challenge for Europe and the world”*

### I » The need for concerted international action for North-South co-operation



The 1980s witnessed an awareness of the need for concerted political action to establish real north-south dialogue in order to deal with the many challenges facing societies in the post-Glorious Thirty years.

At an economic level, the global crisis was characterised by insufficient growth, high unemployment, rising interest rates and deteriorating terms of trade for most developing countries. Protectionist tensions reappeared, levels of development aid stagnated and the indebtedness crisis exploded. The financial crisis, which hit Latin America hard, along with the second oil crisis in the early 1980s, increased international tension and aggravated the deterioration in economic relations. At the same time, demographic growth exploded, famine and sub-nutrition increased<sup>1</sup> and the gap between the revenue in north and south countries widened. It was a time of large-scale environmental disasters<sup>2</sup> that demonstrated the interaction between the economy and ecology.

Since 1980, the Brandt Commission<sup>3</sup> had been appealing for large-scale restructuring of the world economy and a new approach to treat development problems, including an urgent programme for ending poverty. One of the achievements of the Brandt Report was that it mobilised public opinion

<sup>1</sup> In 1984, the Anglo-Saxon initiative Band Aid was launched by Bob Geldof (2005 Council of Europe North-South Prize winner) and Midge Ure to aid the victims of famine in Ethiopia.

<sup>2</sup> Bhopal, 1984; Chernobyl, 1986.

<sup>3</sup> Set up in 1977 by the World Bank, the Brandt Commission was made up of experts from North and South and its purpose was to make recommendations to end the international political impasse in the north-south negotiations on global development. The commission submitted two reports, *North-South* in 1981 and *Common Crisis* in 1983.



on the issue. From the concept of development, so far limited exclusively to economic growth, after 1986, we moved on to the concept of sustainable development set out in the Brundtland Report<sup>4</sup> and ratified by the United Nations General Assembly in 1987. The promotion of a constructive, exhaustive dialogue aimed at action between developing and industrialised countries was also at the heart of the UNCTAD VII discussions in July 1987.

In 1980, the European Commission was also talking about the “reactivation of north-south dialogue”. It recalled the political importance that it attached to the resumption of the north-south dialogue and advocated direct participation of political leaders in the discussions between industrialised and developing countries<sup>5</sup>. The co-operation agreements with the APC countries were reinforced and [Lomé III](#), signed in 1984, was aimed at promoting sustainable, independent development by building the capacities of the ACP countries.



However, the 1980s also witnessed a progressive reduction in bipolarisation in the world: the end of East-West antagonism, symbolised by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, was a result of a number of previous social uprisings, the reinforcement of dissident movements and the first attempts at reforms in some communist countries, in which a decisive role was played by perestroika and glasnost in the Soviet Union.

During this decade, public-awareness raising was often limited to appeals for emergency aid. Problems were presented without really showing the need for long-term constructive measures. Pictures of developing countries in the European media helped to create images of a dependant South. There was a growing need to reflect on public awareness based on recognition of real interdependence that would be beneficial to all.

<sup>4</sup> Set up by the UN General Assembly in 1983, the World Commission on Environment and Development, presided over by Gro Harlem Brundtland, submitted its report, *Our Common Future*, in 1986, which defined the policy necessary for ensuring “sustainable development”.

<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Council, reactivation of north-south dialogue, 29 May 1980.

## II » The Council of Europe commits to North-South dialogue

From the first years of its existence, the Council of Europe's agenda included questions related to north-south dialogue. In the 1952 [Strasbourg Plan](#)<sup>6</sup>, the Parliamentary Assembly set out guidelines for structural co-operation between Europe and African countries. In subsequent years, the plan inspired countless activities and positions of the Assembly.

Hence, in 1967<sup>7</sup>, the Parliamentary Assembly noted with regret that the goals of the United Nations Development Decade were “*farther from being achieved today than in 1961*”. In 1976, it committed to “*contribute through its public debates to a better understanding of the mutual problems of North-South relations*”<sup>8</sup>.

### [Resolution 747 on “Global prospects: human needs and the earth's resources”](#)

(1981) called for specific European initiatives in order to enhance public awareness of the global prospects so far as human needs and the earth's resources were concerned. The resolution called for the organisation of a Conference on “Europe's contribution towards improvement of North-South relations and better preservation of the Earth's resources on global prospects: human needs and the earth's resources” with the objective of debating Europe's contribution towards a fairer sharing and better preservation of the earth's physical resources.<sup>9</sup>



PACE, 1980

The underlying philosophy was that the Council of Europe member States had their proper role to play in international efforts to create the essential conditions for a more balanced relationship between population growth and the availability of food and other physical scarce resources, so as to eradicate hunger and poverty in the world. The Assembly was especially concerned at the imbalance between human needs and those resources and called for a more equitable relationship between the rich and poor

<sup>6</sup> Recommendation 26, 25 November 1952.

<sup>7</sup> [Recommendation 500 \(1967\)](#) on relations between Europe and developing countries within the UNCTAD.

<sup>8</sup> [Resolution 621 \(1976\)](#) on the political impact of the North-South dialogue.

<sup>9</sup> In April 1981, [Order 407](#) instructed Assembly's Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, together with the Committees on Agriculture, on Science and Technology, and on Migration, Refugees and Demography, to organise this event. The reports, on which both Resolution 747 and this Order 407 were based, were presented by Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, the current President of Iceland.



countries. It formulated a series of policy proposals on the subject and underlined the interdependence of all nations and populations in tackling the interlinked problems of population growth and the depletion of scarce resources.

The Committee of Ministers, in a Ministerial Statement dated 28 April 1983, reaffirmed its intention to pursue the European debate on North-South relations in the Council of Europe context.

### III » **The Lisbon Conference on “North-South: Europe’s role”**



Against this background, the Conference on “North-South: Europe’s role” took place on 9 - 11 April 1984 at the Assembly of the Republic (Parliament) in Lisbon at the invitation of the Portuguese authorities and under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It was the first major one of its kind ever held on Europe’s responsibility vis-à-vis the developing world in which all the democratic countries of Europe participated.

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It was attended by some 400 members of government and parliament, experts, representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The Conference was addressed by the President of Portugal, António Ramalho Eanes, the Prime Minister, Mário Soares, the Minister of Development Co-operation of the Netherlands, Eegje Schoo, the Minister of Development Co-operation of Norway, Reidun Brusletten, the Foreign Minister of Portugal, Jaime Gama, the Minister of European Affairs of France, Roland Dumas, the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Bruno Corti, and the State Secretary for Foreign Trade of Sweden, Carl-Johann Aberg.

The Heads of OECD, the Commonwealth, UNCTAD, UNDP and the Heads from other major international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental took an active part in the conference. The views of the developing countries were expressed by the then Chairman of the Group of 77, the Ambassador of Mexico to the UN, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India, P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Prime Minister of Cape Verde, Pedro Pires, on behalf of the Portuguese speaking African nations. The independent Commission on International Development Issues was represented by its Chairman, Willy Brandt and the World Commission on Environment and Development by Gro Harlem Brundtland.

The Conference noted that *“in international trade, in the preservation of the environment, in energy supplies, through global communications and through transnational corporations, every European nation is constantly influenced by events in the South”* The message that emerged from the Conference was that our collective and individual future in the North is linked with that of the South.

The conference ended with the adoption of the [“Lisbon Declaration”](#), formulating a series of proposals for action:

*“We call on the peoples, the parliaments and the governments in Europe to spare no efforts in building a new international system which, through stronger global institutions, helps to create a world where every citizen is free from hunger and oppression and where children are offered the opportunity to master their own destiny”.*

The Conference called for a Europe-wide public campaign to raise public awareness of the many issues on the North-South agenda and how they affected the future of Europe itself.

In [recommendation \(992\)](#)1984 and [resolution \(843\)](#) 1985<sup>10</sup> on the Conference on “North-South : Europe’s role” and its follow-up, the Assembly proposed the organisation of a “European Public Campaign on North-South Interdependence and Global Survival”.

At its 75<sup>th</sup> ministerial session in November 1984, the Committee of Ministers expressed its conviction that the Council of Europe had a duty to make its specific contribution to promoting North-South relations and took the view that European public should be made more aware of North-South interdependence. In September 1985, the Ministers’ Deputies agreed to the organisation of a European Campaign in



Willy Brandt, Lisbon Conference



Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, , PACE Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Lisbon Conference

<sup>10</sup> Based on reports presented in September 1984 and 1985 by Harry Aarts (Netherlands) and Uwe Holtz (Germany) on the follow-up to the Conference on “North-South: Europe’s role”.



close co-operation with the European community and the non-governmental organisations concerned.

The Assembly<sup>11</sup> welcomed the support expressed for this initiative by the Committee of Ministers, as well as by the Committee on Development and Co-operation of the European Parliament.

#### IV » **The European public campaign on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity**

The main objectives of the Campaign were to raise public awareness of the complex structural relationship which affected European and Southern countries in their day to day life, and to prepare for recognition and acceptance by the public and its elected representatives of forthcoming policy requirements regarding North-South relations.

A European Organising Committee was set up by the Committee of Ministers in the same year to prepare the Campaign. This committee was chaired by Ambassador Walther Lichem, Deputy Director General for Development Co-operation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria. It was composed of representatives from governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and non-governmental organisations from the Council of Europe member States<sup>12</sup>.

The announcement ceremony of the Campaign took place in the Senate, in Madrid, on 16 November 1987, at which H.M King Juan Carlos I of Spain, the Chairman of the Campaign's Honorary Committee, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marcelino Oreja, were present.

Under the slogan "North-South : One Future - a Common Task", the Campaign was launched officially in Strasbourg on 26 January 1988 by H.M King Juan Carlos<sup>13</sup>.

*"If thanks to the Campaign, we Europeans become more aware of the interdependence that characterises our world, and we make more room for individual and collective solidarity, we shall indeed be laying the foundations for a world that is freer and more just".*

<sup>11</sup> [Recommendation 1062 \(1987\)](#) on political co-operation between Europe and Africa.

<sup>12</sup> PACE Doc. 5753 and [Resolution 878 \(July 1987\)](#) set out the details as to how the Campaign should be organised.

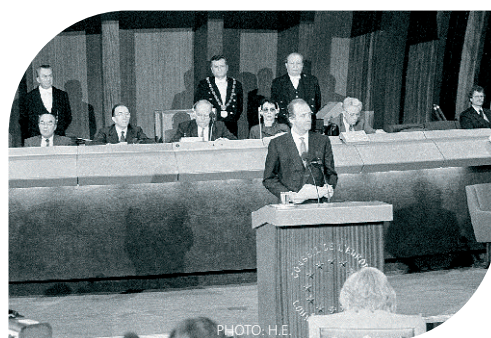
<sup>13</sup> During a special debate devoted to the seven main themes of the Campaign: debt, trade, aid, employment, agriculture, environment and socio-cultural relations.





[Link video King Juan Carlos](#)

During the same ceremony, a message was read by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal. The British rock musician Sting and Jamaican Singer Ziggy Marley produced a special clip for the Campaign with a song entitled “One World is enough for all of us”.



King Juan Carlos, Council of Europe, 26 January 1988

[Link video Sting - Ziggy Marley](#)

In the period from February through June 1988 and beyond, numerous activities took place under the auspices of the Campaign. At European level, a series of round tables, colloquies and other events were organised on the themes of the Campaign and their interlinkages: trade, debt, agriculture, environment, employment, development assistance, socio-cultural relations, as well as on the least developed countries. National campaigns were launched in nearly all of the then 22 Council of Europe member States. National activities were estimated to number about 1500. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe organised a Colloquy on “Interdependence and Cultural Development”, in Lisbon, Portugal, on 7-8 April 1988, in the framework of the World Decade for Cultural Development. In this colloquy, Wole Soyinka, Nobel Literature Laureate, talked about “the interdependence of cultures”.

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At its 80<sup>th</sup> ministerial session, in May 1988, to mark its political support for the Campaign, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe held its first ever North-South debate with the participation of eminent political figures from the South:

*“The essence of dialogue is equality. There can be no equality if there is condescension and there will be condescension unless we forever excise from historical interpretation the motion that it was the North that taught the South democracy, that only the North produced the culture of individual dignity and that it was the North that invented the quality of social justice”, Raul Manglapus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.*



Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal, Council of Europe, 26 January 1988



Raul Manglapus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Council of Europe, May 1988

The Campaign was unique in that it established co-operation between governments, parliamentarians, NGOs and local and regional authorities on issues of North-South interdependence and solidarity. It was characterised by the direct involvement of many national parliaments and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, the involvement of local and regional structures<sup>14</sup> and of civil society. The Campaign also promoted the role of women in development at all levels<sup>15</sup>.

One could say that the Campaign had brought the discussion on the North-South relationship to a higher level. Evidence has shown that it is not a mere charity or our economic and technological superiority that should dictate or guide our attitudes and actions towards the South, but the conviction that the fate of the world depends on our ability to understand the crucial issues of interdependence and to take the consequential action to solve the world's common problems.

<sup>14</sup> The Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe adopted in March 1988 the [resolution 196](#) (1988) on “North-South interdependence and solidarity: the role of towns and regions in Europe” and decided to work on the development of awareness amongst cities and regions in Europe about the reciprocal nature of North-South co-operation.

<sup>15</sup> At the Symposium on “Women’s voice in the North-South dialogue: strategies for interdependence and solidarity” (Barcelona, May 1988), participants adopted recommendations for the Madrid Conference.

## V » The Madrid Appeal for action on North-South interdependence and solidarity

A culminating event in political terms of the North-South Campaign was “the European Conference of Parliamentarians and Non-Governmental Organisations on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity” which took place in Madrid on 1 - 3 June 1988. This conference was opened by H.M King Juan Carlos I and attended by some 400 parliamentarians and representatives from non-governmental organisations, as well as high-level representatives from governments and international organisations.

The conference based its discussions on the conclusions and results of the round tables, colloquies and other special events all around Europe which had focused on the issue areas of the North-South Campaign.



Madrid Conference



At the close of conference, [the Madrid Appeal for action on North-South interdependence and solidarity](#) was

adopted, with the aim to achieve the goal of a fairer sharing of the earth’s resources, to promote more just social and economic policies and to make a much more sustained effort to give all persons a real chance for an acceptable and dignified existence.

*“Europe has the possibility, the unique opportunity, the specific responsibility and the distinctive interest to change the face of the North-South relations and to join with the South in a true partnership against poverty and the abuse of human rights”.*

In addition to a series of policy measures and proposals for specific action, the Madrid Appeal proposed that the Council of Europe member States “strengthen triangular cooperation between parliamentarians, NGOs and governments in the elaboration of development strategies and set up for this purpose organisational structures, bearing in mind the constructive proposal made by the Prime Minister of Portugal<sup>16</sup> that his country host a centre for global interdependence and solidarity, which should serve the purpose of continuing the process of co-operation between NGOs, parliamentarians, governments and international institutions and following up the ideas and structures built up during the North-South Campaign”.

<sup>16</sup>Aníbal Cavaco Silva, the current President of Portugal.



## VI » The creation of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)

On the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe (5 May 1989), the Committee of Ministers adopted a [declaration on the future role of the Council of Europe in European construction](#):

*“The priority objective of the Council of Europe’s action is to promote co-operation in Europe. However, the Organisation must remain open to the world on account both of the growing interdependence of international relations and of the universality of its values and principles”.*

On this occasion, the Committee of Ministers, in replying to PACE [recommendation 1095](#) (1989)<sup>17</sup>, reported that it had assessed the results of the campaign and had noted its success. With regard to the proposal to establish a European Centre for global interdependence and solidarity, noting that the proposal could be realised by means of a Partial Agreement of interested member States, the Ministers instructed their Deputies to consider and determine arrangements for putting the proposal into effect.

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At their 430<sup>th</sup> meeting (7 November 1989), the Ministers’ Deputies took a decision regarding the establishment of the Centre. At the 85<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Ministers, held on 16 November 1989, the representatives of the 10 founding States – Cyprus, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino and Spain – adopted [Resolution \(89\) 14 establishing a European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity](#), to which the Centre’s statute was appended. The Centre would become operational as from 1990. Any member State of the Council of Europe and any other Contracting Party to the European Cultural Convention could join the Centre at any time. The European Community was also invited to join.

The aims of the Centre were to provide a framework for European co-operation for the purpose of increasing public awareness of global interdependence issues and to promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe. The Committee of Ministers drew the Assembly’s special attention to the “quadripartite” character of the Centre.

<sup>17</sup> Based on a report on the results of the Campaign, presented by Harry Aarts and Uwe Holtz in January 1989 to the Parliamentary Assembly, in which they proposed that the setting up of the Lisbon Centre should be actively pursued. “This Centre”, they wrote, “should assume new tasks, which hitherto, had not been taken up elsewhere. It should promote the “trilogue” or “quadrilogue” between parliamentarians, governments, and NGOs as well as with local and regional authorities, strengthen co-operation and dialogue between NGOs from the North and the South, and improve development education on the fundamental issues of global interdependence and solidarity”.

Representatives of governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and non-governmental organisations as well as personalities from the South should be represented on its Executive Council and its Bureau.

Resolution (89)14 set up the Centre as a pilot project for an initial period of 3 years (1990-1993) at the end of which the Committee of Ministers should decide on its future.





## C H A P T E R

## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A VISIONARY PROCESS (1990-1993)

*“The North-South Centre in Lisbon: a bridge between Europe and the South”*



### I » The 1990s, a decade for change?

The creation of the North-South Centre was an important political sign. The end of east-west antagonism led to fears of greater attention from the international community to Central and Eastern European countries instead of the developing countries.

Paradoxically, the end of this antagonism brought a new turn to relations between industrialised and developing countries. The real issues affecting development were made clear to everyone and could no longer hide behind rivalries and ideological opposition between the great powers.

After the Central and Eastern European countries, in the 1990s the “third wave of democratisation”<sup>18</sup> extended to African countries, with the starting point of the Sovereign National Conference in Benin in 1990, followed by the independence of Namibia that same year and the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1991. The focus was on the development of democratic structures and there was growing awareness of the force that democratic institutions can wield in the promotion of sustainable development.

The South Commission<sup>19</sup>, chaired by Julius K. Nyerere, delivered its report in 1990. In “Challenges of the South”, the Commission argued that growing global interdependence makes it beneficial to all peoples that the developing

<sup>18</sup> A term used by Samuel Huntington, American political scientist.

<sup>19</sup> The South Commission was established at the end of the Non Aligned Summit Meeting held in Harare (September 1986). The Commission was an independent body and consisted of distinguished individuals from the South who had different backgrounds and political persuasions.



countries have a fairer chance to escape poverty and attain sustainable development.

International conferences and structures continued to address the problem of development and spoke more and more of “development with a human face”. The first UNDP [Human Development Report](#) (1990) focused that same year on the correlation between high levels of human development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and said, on launching its Human Development Index<sup>20</sup> “*Women and men should be at the heart of development. The development goal is to enlarge people choices*”. The World Bank’s report on Sub-Saharan Africa appealed for good governance in 1990.



K. Nyerere visiting the NSC, 1992

Moreover, in the 1990s, a series of conferences organised by the United Nations on the environment, population, human rights, social development, women and food set new standards. The first Earth Summit on the environment and development was held in Rio in June 1992. The UNCED urged countries to achieve the goal set by the United Nations of bringing public development aid to 0.7% of the GNP. [Agenda 21](#) and [Rio Declaration](#) on environment and development described the sectors where sustainable development should be applied by local communities.

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The [final declaration of the World Conference on Human Rights](#) (1993) said, “*the least developed countries committed to the process of democratization and economic reforms, many of which are in Africa, should be supported by the international community in order to succeed in their transition to democracy and economic development*”.



The NSC in Rio

“*The promotion and protection of human rights is no longer considered by some as an unacceptable interference by others in their internal affairs but by all as an essential instrument of access to democracy and consequently to development,*” excerpt from an article by Ambassador Stéphane Hessel (2004

<sup>20</sup> In 1990, Amartya Sen and Mahbub ul Haq created the Human Development Index, which included health and education, in addition to income per inhabitant.



*North-South Prize winner), published in the NSC newsletter on the occasion of the World Conference on Human Rights, 1993.*

Making aid depend on respect for human rights and democracy was also a central issue in discussions on development, and the question cultural relativism was raised by certain countries.



Stéphane Hessel, 2004 North-South Prize winner

In the European Community, the [Maastricht Treaty](#) of 1992 redefined European development priorities - promotion of democracy, fight against poverty and improvement in the competitiveness and efficacy of aid. [Lomé IV](#) was the first development agreement to include a clause on human rights, qualified as a 'fundamental' aspect of co-operation (Article 5).

Nonetheless, some events overshadowed the euphoria of the late 1980s. The Gulf War (1990-1991) and the implosion of USSR and Yugoslavia dealt a blow to the idea of peaceful reorganisation of the world, ethnic and nationalist confrontations came one after another, democratic progress was slow and economic reforms proved difficult to implement.

## II » A reinforced role for the Council of Europe in European construction

In 1986, the report by the Colombo Commission<sup>21</sup> on the future role of the Council of Europe in the process of European construction stressed that “*evolution towards greater respect for human rights — and even moves in the direction of political pluralism — in certain Central and East European countries (...) sets a new challenge for the Council of Europe*”. This report would serve as a basis for [Recommendation 1103 \(1989\)](#) of the Parliamentary Assembly and [Declaration \(89\)40](#) of the Committee of Ministers on the future role of the Council of Europe in European construction preparing the organisation for the unanticipated upheavals it faced between the years 1989-1991.

<sup>21</sup> Commission of eminent European personalities (Colombo Commission, named after Emilio Colombo, former Italian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister), set up by the Parliamentary Assembly in 1985.

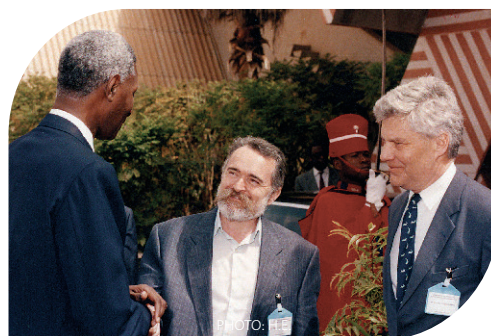
As they adopted democratic institutions, the countries of the former eastern bloc joined the Council of Europe, with Hungary leading the way in November 1990. The Council of Europe thus found a new “raison d’être” by becoming a special framework for the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

The first Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government met in Vienna on 8 - 9 October 1993 and solemnly asserted the role of the organisation in the consolidation of a democratic Europe after the collapse of the communist regimes. It was decided that the Council would work for the protection of minorities and their cultural rights and fight against all forms of intolerance. An action plan for the fight against racism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and intolerance was adopted and gave birth to the “All Different, All Equal” European youth campaign.

The [Vienna](#) Declaration stated, “*the deepening of co-operation in order to take account of the new European situation should in no way divert us from our responsibilities regarding North-South interdependence and solidarity*”.

The Council of Europe, particularly the PACE, thus continued to address issues related to north-south interdependence and solidarity. Its [Resolution 981 \(1992\)](#)<sup>22</sup> on new north-south relations identified the five criteria of future development co-operation: degree of poverty in the recipient countries, respect for human rights and democracy, efforts towards economic and social reform, reduction of military expenditure and protection of the environment.

The Strasbourg Conferences on Parliamentary Democracy were launched by the PACE, the European Parliament and the parliaments of five OECD countries not belonging to the Council of Europe (Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the USA). A conference on “Democracy and development in Africa, the experience of the African countries of the ACP Group” was held in Dakar in March 1991, under the chairmanship of Miguel-Angel Martinez, PACE’s President.



Adbou Diouf, President of Senegal, Miguel Angel Martinez, PACE President and Gerhardt Stauffenberg, Representative of the European Parliament, Conference in Dakar, 1991.



<sup>22</sup> Rapporteur: Uwe Holtz (Germany).



### III » The North-South Centre in Lisbon: a bridge between Europe and the South

On 1 May 1990 (two years after the proposal made by the Portuguese Prime Minister and six months after the adoption of Resolution (89) 14 by the Committee of Ministers), João de Deus Pinheiro, Portugal's Foreign Minister and President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, officially opened the North-South Centre in Lisbon. During this initial period, the Centre set up its statutory bodies, identified its working subjects on the basis of indications from these bodies and engaged in a substantial number of activities. Thanks to its "quadrilogue" structure, it began to develop its network of partners and, in 1990, launched the concepts that would open the door to issues that are nowadays more topical than ever (e.g. trans-Mediterranean co-operation, intercultural dialogue, global education...).



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The NSC in Lisbon

#### 3.1.» Precursor programmes

At a time when everyone's attention was focusing on the Central and Eastern European countries, the Centre made north-south relations its main goal and embraced the idea of the Foreign Ministers of the Council of Europe, who said, in 1990, "*north-south co-operation is a complementary and parallel dimension of east-west co-operation*".

Right from their first meetings, the NSC's statutory bodies spoke of the importance of devoting themselves to human rights and democracy, the need to find innovative conceptions of development and encourage the active participation of young people from Europe and the south in the Centre's issues. The North-South Centre was called on to develop its relations with the Central and Eastern European countries and to involve the south in defining pan-European north-south co-operation (the East-West-South Programme).



Three themes were identified:

- » Public information and media relations;
- » Global interdependence education and training;
- » Dialogue for a global partnership.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS

In a crucial context of low public awareness of development issues, the statutory bodies made raising public awareness and collaboration with the media the North-South Centre's priority.

Very quickly in the wake of the Campaign, the North-South Centre stepped up its collaboration with the One World Group of Broadcasters. The Centre's special relationship with public television channels demonstrated its wish to foster and intensify co-operation between the media and governmental and non-governmental experts in the field of information and global interdependence education and to make the voice of the south heard in the European media.

The Centre also developed a programme of relations with national and international media, released its newsletter *The Interdependent*<sup>23</sup>, gradually improved its production of publications and audiovisual material and set up its documentation centre with a reference system in the field of human rights education, the environment and development (in collaboration with the OECD Development Centre).

### THE ONE WORLD GROUP OF BROADCASTERS

The One World Group of Broadcasters is a consortium of some 70 national public networks who decided to have joint broadcasts on the environment, development and peace. The idea was to raise public awareness of issues of global interdependence and solidarity. The group had action weeks on waves and the land, some of them coinciding with international events (such as the Earth Summit). Documentaries and educational material (*Making One World*) and films like *The March* were produced, high-level debates were held and innovative advertising was aired.



Movie "The March", 1990

PHOTO: ONE WORLD



1<sup>st</sup> issue of the Interdependent

<sup>23</sup> The first issue of *The Interdependent* came out in May 1992. The e-newsletter *One World, Our World* launched in September 2009 is its distant successor.





## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The second crucial aspect of the Centre's programme and its trademark was education and training.

Where **education** was concerned, the idea was to play a central role in the recognition of global education all over Europe and to achieve as wide a consensus as possible in Europe on solidarity policies in an increasingly inter-dependent world. The Centre first devoted itself to identifying local partners, raising regional awareness and analysing the legal and political framework for the promotion of global education at national level. Three major projects were born - regional and international seminars, the East-West-South Programme and the Going Green project.

On the subjects of development, the environment, human rights and intercultural co-operation, the Centre organised a series of regional European workshops (Cartigny, Uppsala, Bruges and Barcelona), which led to the creation of an advisory group of experts from all over Europe. The first Intergovernmental Consultation on Global education was organised in Vienna in 1993, in collaboration with the Austrian government and with United Nations sponsorships. It brought together government experts working in the field of global interdependence education and offered an opportunity to share good practices.

*"Global education should be aimed at helping as many people as possible to understand the complexity of global interdependence, which determines the fate of humanity,"* said Ambassador Wolfgang Schallenberg, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, Austria, Vienna consultation.





It was also in this period that, following the UNCED and in cooperation with Portuguese partners, the Centre started up a national environmental protection project, Going Green, which involved awareness-raising activities at Portuguese schools and the production of an educational kit and was a long-term success. The initiative reached more than 1200 children and some 580 teachers participated.

In terms of **training**, the Centre had always identified young people as an important audience and was supported by solid collaboration with recognised European youth structures aimed at training and exchanges between young people from the north and south. This led to the formation of a consultative group for the youth programme.

This collaboration made it possible to launch major projects such as workshops for young leaders, training courses on north-south interdependence and the Youth Link project. This project was organised by the North-South Centre, the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth, UNESCO and the Portuguese government and allowed young Europeans and Africans to visit and meet their counterparts, with the idea of fostering north-south youth co-operation and learning about each other's youth structures and young people's situation.

### THE EAST-WEST-SOUTH PROGRAMME

The East-West-South Encounter, held in Budapest in December 1990, debated the need to develop a public awareness programme in Central and Eastern Europe. The project had two phases, the first devoted to national meetings (Prague, Budapest and Warsaw) and the second involving the compilation of directories of NGOs working in the field of global interdependence.

It is interesting to note that this issue was at the heart of the Awareness Global Education Programme organised by the NSC, with the sponsorship of the Netherlands government in 2004-2005, in the so-called Visegrad countries and resumed and extended to the 12 new EU member States in 2009-2011 under the Joint Management Agreement between the European Commission and the North-South Centre.

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East-West-South Encounter, Budapest, 1990



Going Green exhibition



[Link video “Youth Links”](#)

*“I feel both optimistic and worried about developments in Europe today. Optimistic because after the end of the Cold War Europe had a unique possibility to build a continent of peace, democracy and respect for human rights. Worried because rising nationalism, xenophobia and intolerance appeared to cast a shadow on the new Europe which has emerged. I consider of the greatest importance to give young people hope and to get them to fight for a positive cause. The North-South Centre represents such a cause”, Victor Crespo, Chair of the Executive Council, 8th meeting of the Executive Council, Strasbourg, November 1992.*



### TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

The first training course for youth organisations was held at the “Centro Eurolatinamericano de Juventud” (CEULAJ) in Molina (Spain) on 24 - 30 October 1993. Its aim was to provide 40 participants from 23 countries with basic knowledge and tools to enable them to prepare, implement and develop north-south programmes based on the concrete needs of their organisations.



It was from these training courses that the annual Youth and Development University was born in 2000, also in Molina, followed by the Participation and Citizenship (Latin America) University in 2004 and the African Youth and Development University in 2009.

From 1993 to 2009, more than **3,000** youth organisations leaders are estimated to have received training in north-south interdependence at courses and universities in Molina and acted as multipliers in their organisations and countries.

### DIALOGUE FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

In the first years of its existence, the Dialogue for Global Partnership programme focused on three geographical areas – Africa, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe.

The first direct contacts with the south included the Africa-Europe Encounter in Porto Novo in 1989 and the Latin American Encounter in Santiago de Chile in 1991.

From the start, the NSC also focused on relations with Central and Eastern Europe, including an East-West-South component. The East-West-South Encounter held in Budapest in December 1990 paved the way for the East-West-South Programme mentioned above.

These different geographical priorities came together in Lisbon in 1992 at the International Colloquy on “Democracy and Human Rights”.

*“The world is characterised by growing interdependence and inter-action between the continents in the fields of politics, security, the economy and the environment. The political culture, democratic stability and respect for human rights in Europe are today inseparable from events and exchanges on a world scale”, Catherine Lalumière, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Lisbon Colloquy.*

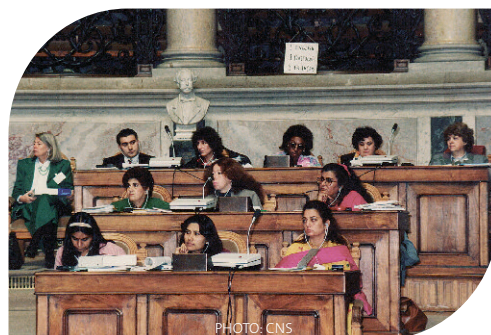
Following the colloquy, the NSC organised a Conference on “The role of women in an interdependent world” (Lisbon, 1993), a theme that would last throughout its existence, in preparation for the [United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women](#) (Beijing, 1995).

*“Where Africa is concerned, they told us, ‘You’d better accept all the conditions imposed by the IMF and World Bank, otherwise we will go and see what’s happening in the eastern countries.’ There’s a market there now (...) Austerity measures have resulted in African women entering the informal work sector and a drastic reduction in basic expenditure on health and education,” said Fatma Alloo, President of the Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA), Lisbon Conference, 1993.*

## PORTO NOVO MEETING

Organised by the Council of Europe, the Organisation of African Unity and the World Social Prospects Association from 31 August to 3 September 1989, the Porto Novo Encounter and Declaration for a solidarity contract were regarded as an attempt to address the question of Africa-Europe relations with a “new way of being and thinking, a new ethic”. On the fringes of the encounter, a public forum on human rights, democracy and development was held. It was the first of its kind to be held in Benin. During the Forum, an appeal was launched for future forums to monitor the human rights situation in Africa and Europe. Five years later, the NSC started up the Lisbon Forum for the same purpose (see Chapter III). In addition to the conference, the Benin government decided, on the eve of the meeting, to proclaim an amnesty and invite Benin nationals living abroad to return to their country to foster development. The first national conference in Africa paving the way for democracy was held in Benin a few months later (in February 1990).

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Conference on the role of women, 1993



In the final phase of this period, following recommendations by the NSC statutory bodies and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the growing idea was to give priority to the Mediterranean region.

The Centre provided active representation at international meetings organised during the period. It was present at the 1992 Earth Summit and the World Human Rights Conference in 1993 and, in December 1993, it organised an important meeting of NGOs, “Between the Summits: Down to Earth”.

### 3.2.»

#### A unique decision-making process

The Centre’s fruitful productivity lies mainly in its unique decision-making structure. Unlike the other partial agreements, (and the Council of Europe itself), decisions, including those on the programme and budget, are not taken just by its member States. The Centre’s four components (governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society) participate on an equal footing in its activities and decision process. This “quadrilogue<sup>24</sup>” process, born during the European Campaign, not only makes the NSC original but also lends it real credibility in a field of action where participation by non-state players is very important.

From the outset, the Centre’s structure consisted of a Consultative Committee<sup>25</sup> which, with its one hundred or so members, was its first and largest body, representing the will to examine the role of Europe in the global society from all possible angles. There was also an Executive Council<sup>26</sup> and its Bureau, also built on a quadripartite basis<sup>27</sup>. The Member States’ governments met periodically in the Committee of Representatives of the members of the Centre<sup>28</sup>.

In this pilot phase, the Centre focused its efforts on consolidating the quadrilogue functioning:

- » The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (through its Committee on Economic Affairs and Development and especially the

<sup>24</sup> The basic concept behind the “quadrilogue” is that joint efforts by these four social categories have the potential for creating a stronger synergy. This four-way alliance was meant to add vigour to the Centre’s capacity for reaching out to the European public and contributing to a greater awareness of global interdependence and solidarity.

<sup>25</sup> The Consultative Committee was set up in September 1989 to follow up on the Campaign. It was converted into a statutory body of the Centre in Resolution (89)14 and ceased officially with the adoption of Resolution (93)51.

<sup>26</sup> The first meeting of the Executive Council was held in Lisbon on 23 and 24 April 1990.

<sup>27</sup> See appendix 2: chairs of the Executive Council. Harry Aarts is the first chair (The Netherlands).

<sup>28</sup> The first meeting of representatives of the members of the NSC took place in Strasbourg on 23 February 1990.



Sub-committee “North-South: the role of Europe)” continued to closely monitor and participate actively in the NSC’s activities. The European Parliament’s Committee on Development and Co-operation also provided its support. The Centre also sought to develop a working relationship with national **parliaments**<sup>29</sup>:

» **Government** representatives constantly monitored the Centre’s activities and mission. Finland, Liechtenstein, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey soon joined the North-South Centre bringing the number of member States up to 15<sup>30</sup>.

» **NGOs** were at the heart of planning and implementing its activities. Most of these NGOs were associated with the environment, development and human rights. The Centre also worked with the INGO Liaison Committee of the Council of Europe, and with organisations representing youth, women, trade unions, teachers, religions and media representatives.

» The role of **local and regional authorities** was considered crucial for the Centre’s activities. By adopting the Berlin Charter at the end of the North-South Conference on Local Initiatives and Sustainable Development (Berlin, October 1992), the participants focused on participation in drafting and implementing policies. Collaboration with the Permanent Conference of Local and Regional Authorities<sup>31</sup> of the Council of Europe was reinforced by it.

### Chairs of the NSC’s Executive Council »



Harry Aarts, the Netherlands



Victor Crespo, Portugal



Miguel-Angel Martinez, Spain



Claude Frey, Switzerland



Deborah Bergamini, Italy

<sup>29</sup> A meeting of the chairpersons of the national parliamentary committees of the European Union on north-south questions, The Hague, 26 September 1991; a meeting of the chairpersons of the parliamentary committees of 12 European countries on the new role of Europe, Lisbon, 24 September 1992; a debate on North-South Relations: a new role for Europe, with the members of the PACE North-South Sub-committee: the role of Europe and members of the Portuguese quadrilogue, 14 January 1993, Lisbon.

<sup>30</sup> See appendix 1: North-South Centre member States.

<sup>31</sup> Following the Vienna Summit in 1993, the Conference’s role and status were considerably strengthened. It became a Council of Europe consultative body in 1994 under the name of “Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe”.





### THE BERLIN CHARTER

The Berlin Charter and Action Agenda were the result of a series of working groups organised during the international north-south conference on Local Initiatives for Sustainable Development. The event brought together representatives of local authorities, NGOs and community groups from 53 countries. It was organised by Towns and Development in co-operation with the North-South Centre in Berlin on 14-17 October 1992.

*“The transition symbolised by the fall of the Berlin Wall also opened the way for other necessary change at global level—the demolition of the economic wall dividing humanity between North and South”, Conference report.*



North-South Conference

### 3.3.»

## Confirmed continuation of the North-South Centre

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As the three-year pilot phase came to an end, the Council of Europe conducted an evaluation of the Centre, which led to the adoption, on 21 October 1993, of Resolution (93)51 of the Committee of Ministers confirming the NSC’s continued existence.

Each statutory body of the Centre was involved in the evaluation procedure, which was described at the time as an open, participative process. The open nature of the exercise was reinforced by the decision to ask each quadrilogue representative to appoint a personality to take part in the process and give a second opinion<sup>32</sup>.

The Centre’s new statutory resolution was based on the following positions:

In its [Resolution 982 \(1992\)](#)<sup>33</sup> on the follow-up to the 1988 European Public Campaign on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity, the Assembly reminded the Centre that it “*should focus on its central and unique mission of*

<sup>32</sup> **Jorge Sampaio** (Portugal), Mayor of Lisbon, invited as personality representing local and regional authorities/**Mats Hellström** (Sweden), Chairman of the PACE’s Sub-Committee on “North-South Europe’s role”, invited as the Parliamentary personality/**Ambassador Walther Lichem** (Austria), Austrian Ambassador to Canada, former Chairperson of the European Organising Committee of the European Campaign, invited as the Governmental personality/**Catherine Mig-Schaller** (France), President of the Liaison Committee of NGO in consultative status with the Council of Europe, as the personality representing the NGOs.

<sup>33</sup> Rapporteurs: Harry Aarts (The Netherlands) and Uwe Holtz (Germany).

*promoting public awareness in Europe of North-South issues and of counteracting ‘Euro-egoism’” (...). It should build on human rights and democracy, the pillars of the Council of Europe”.*

In its [Resolution 998 \(1993\)](#)<sup>34</sup> on the Council of Europe's North-South Centre: role and achievements, the Assembly said that the NSC “*has made and continues to make a positive contribution to North-South understanding in Europe*”. It recommended a revision of its decision-making structure and an improvement to the quadrilogue’s structure. Activities in the field of trans-Mediterranean co-operation and the fight against intolerance and xenophobia were considered a priority.

[Resolution 247\(93\)](#)<sup>35</sup> on North-South interdependence and solidarity adopted by the Permanent Conference of Local and Regional Authorities also supported the continuation of the NSC.

[Resolution \(93\) 51](#) of the Committee of Ministers confirmed the continued existence of the North-South Centre. The revised statutes rationalised its decision-making structures and administrative procedures. Focus went to its remit of raising public awareness in Europe.



PHOTO: H.E.  
Mats Hellström



<sup>34</sup> Rapporteur: Mats Hellström (Sweden).

<sup>35</sup> Based on a report by Paul Bongers (United Kingdom).





## C H A P T E R

## A DECADE OF CONSOLIDATION (1994-2003)

*“The North-South Centre: the Council of Europe’s window to the world”*

During this decade, which marked the end of one century and the beginning of another, strengthened by the political approval bestowed by Resolution (93)51, the North-South Centre continued its efforts to closely monitor important advances made in meeting the challenges posed by the international scenario. Its expertise and role as a facilitator of contacts were put to good use and recognised by external partners and its parent organisation. The idea grew that the NSC was a useful instrument for the Council of Europe, especially in the dialogue with neighbouring countries and regions, and that it was the Council of Europe’s window to the world.

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### I » The challenges of the new millennium

When asked by a journalist about the most important achievement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Amartya Sen, winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998, said, *“Democracy has become a universal value”*. With the end of the bipolarisation of the world, millions of people were given the opportunity to enjoy and develop pluralistic democracy, the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

*“After the fall of the Berlin Wall, democratisation, people’s rights and good governance have finally been recognised as priorities. The North-South Centre both reflects and stimulates these changes”, Evelien Herfkens, Dutch Minister for Development Co-operation, Executive Council meeting, North-South Centre, May 2000.*

The agendas of the main UN Summits in the 1990s and 2000s focused, among others, on population and development ([Cairo](#), 1994), women ([Beijing](#), 1995), social development ([Copenhagen](#), 1995) racism ([Durban](#),



2001) and sustainable development ([Johannesburg](#), 2002). Following its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 1997 the UN adopted its [Development Agenda](#) which gave a common vision of development on a global scale.

From 1994 to 2003, the concept of globalisation became generalised. According to the [Millennium Declaration](#) adopted by the United Nations in 2000, the main challenge is to ensure that this “globalisation becomes a positive force for all the world’s people”.

*“In view of the obvious risk of seeing globalisation aimed at ever-increasing concentration of wealth and what is called the “globalisation of poverty”, it would be irresponsible and suicidal not to start to look for ways to prevent and correct these negative effects”, Patricio Aylwin, former President of Chile, 1997 North-South Prize Winner.*

The other challenge identified at the end of the century was the fight against poverty and underdevelopment. The eight [Millennium Development Goals](#) established a roadmap for the international community until 2015. One of the priorities established was public development aid, which was estimated to have fallen after the collapse of communism from 14.7 billion in 1990 to 10 billion dollars in 2000.

In the European Union, we witnessed the signing of the [Treaty of Amsterdam](#) (1997), which was where the expression “sustainable development” appeared for the first time, and the preparation of the enlargement of the European Union to the Central and Eastern European countries, with the signing of the [Treaty of Nice](#) (2001). As of 2000, the [Cotonou Agreement](#) governed the ACP-EU partnership and focused on the goal of reduction and eventual eradication of poverty, while contributing to sustainable development. The [First Summit of EU-Africa Heads of State](#) (Cairo, April 2000) marked the EU’s will to forge a more specific relationship with Africa, beyond the ACP countries. The launch of the [NEPAD](#) in 2001 and the founding of the [African Union](#) in 2002 created a new pan-African dynamic that allowed Africa to play a more substantial role in the international scene. In the Mediterranean, the [Barcelona Process](#), launched in 1995, raised great hopes that would prove hard to fulfil, in view of the political, economic and cultural realities in the region.

*“All these years, the gap has become considerably deeper between the countries of the European Union and the so-called partners from the South and East of the Mediterranean. Therefore, we have not made any progress*



P. Aylwin, North-South Prize winner.





*towards a more equal Euro-Mediterranean setup. On the contrary, the inequality is today considerably bigger than ever before, in spite of the main goal proclaimed in Barcelona of tangibly reducing this gap". Miguel-Angel Martinez, Chair of the NSC Executive Council, International Conference "Strategies for social development and social cohesion in the Euro-Mediterranean region", Alexandria, 2002.*

It was in March 2003 that a communication from the Commission to the Council "[Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours](#)"<sup>36</sup> laid the foundations for the European Union's neighbourhood policy. The Commission expressed its firm intention to use the Council of Europe's standards as its main criteria of reference, among others, to assess progress on the road to achieving the right conditions for a growing rapprochement between the Union and its neighbours.

In spite of advances in terms of development of democracy and recognition of human rights, the decade was marked by bloody national and regional conflicts, in Europe with nationalist and ethnic clashes ravaging former Yugoslavia, in Africa with the genocide in Rwanda and the civil war in Sierra Leone and in the southern Mediterranean countries with the rise of islamism. The settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made some major progress with the Oslo I and II Agreements and met with some substantial setbacks with the second intifada. International terrorism reached its height with the tragic events of 11 September 2001. The development of the "war on terror" served as justification for the war in Iraq in 2003.



## II » **The Council of Europe encourages understanding between people from the North and South**

Following its first Summit of Heads of State and Government (Vienna, 1993), the Council of Europe launched its European Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance, under the slogan "All Different, All Equal". Following the recommendations of its partners during the 1993 evaluation, the North-South Centre embraced the campaign's priorities. It organised media activities with the One World Group of Broadcasters, such as the launch of the Europe Prize, and joined a number of campaign projects, including the On Track for Tolerance Youth Trains.

<sup>36</sup> COM 2003-104, 11 March 2003.

[Link video Wole Soyinka, Prize of Europe, December 1994, Tampere](#)

In spite of massive accession by new countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the new priorities arising for the Organisation, the Council of Europe paid attention to its neighbouring regions and reiterated at its [Second Summit of Heads of State and Government](#) (Strasbourg, 1997):

*“We encourage understanding between the citizens of the North and the South, in particular through information and civic education for young people, as well as initiatives aimed at promoting mutual respect and solidarity among peoples”.*

During this period, the PACE continued to take a stand on issues of development, adopting a series of recommendations<sup>37</sup> and organising hearings or debates such as “The new challenges of development co-operation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century” (Strasbourg, January 1999), which took place in the year it celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe. In its political message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), the Committee of Ministers, recognising the essential role of Europe in the promotion of its principles, declared that it was determined to participate actively in international efforts to further the sustainable development programme.

*“By establishing its North-South Centre, by choosing to associate the celebrations of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with actions for global solidarity and poverty eradication (...), the Council of Europe is a sign of Europe’s mobilisation, which helps to realize our common vision of a better world”, Graça Machel, President of the National Children’s Organisation of Mozambique, 1998 North-South Prize Winner, speaker in the debate on “The new challenges of development co-operation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century”.*



Graça Machel, North-South Prize winner

The main concern regarding Europe’s neighbouring regions was the south side of the Mediterranean<sup>38</sup>. Great importance is attached to the issue of

<sup>37</sup> Such as [Recommendation 1243 \(1994\)](#) on democratic change and sustainable development, in which the Assembly recommended that the Committee of Ministers “*build up the resources of the North-South Centre so that it is better able to impress on public opinion (...) the need for the industrialised countries to cut back or eliminate patterns of consumption and production which are incompatible with sustainable development*”, Rapporteur: Leni Robert (Switzerland).

<sup>38</sup> In Recommendation 1359 (1998) “Sustainable development in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins”, the PACE asked for “*strengthening the Mediterranean dimension of the dialogue under way within the framework of the Lisbon North-South Centre, particularly by opening, in Limassol (Cyprus), an office responsible for liaison with the countries of the southern shore of the Mediterranean and of the Middle East*”. Rapporteur: Luis Recoder (Spain).



migratory flows in the Mediterranean Basin. The Mediterranean Conference on “Population, Migration and Development” (Palma, October 1996) marked the end of a cycle of Council of Europe studies on demographic growth, economic development and migratory flows in the Mediterranean (1991-1996)<sup>39</sup>. The Parliamentary Assembly also recognised the NSC’s role in the debates on migration when it adopted [Recommendation 1449 \(2000\)](#) on clandestine migration from the south of the Mediterranean into Europe<sup>40</sup>, which recommended the Committee of Ministers to “*support the Trans-Med programme of the North-South Centre*”. [Recommendation 1590 \(2003\)](#) on cultural co-operation between Europe and the south Mediterranean countries<sup>41</sup> called the Committee of Ministers to make this co-operation one of the organisation’s priorities and involve the south Mediterranean countries as far as possible in the Council of Europe’s work.

The other priority was the political support to the peace process in the Middle East. The Parliamentary Assembly made countless visits in the field, organised high-level debates<sup>42</sup> and made a series of recommendations<sup>43</sup>. In 1995, it organised the Rhodes Conference and established a co-operation programme between the Israelis and Palestinians, aided by Europe, in fields such as economic development and reconstruction, local democracy, youth, education and culture, human rights and democratic institutions. Five PACE committees devoted their efforts to instilling a climate of trust between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and in 1996 set up task forces in which the NSC was called upon to play an active role.

In December 1996, a Euro-Arab symposium for mutual understanding and co-operation, organised by the Council of Europe’s Youth Directorate, North-South Centre and European and Arab Youth Platforms, brought together around 100 partners from different youth organisations and different European and Arab countries. In 1998, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the North-South Centre and Shimon Peres Center for Peace organised an important international round table on the reconciliation and co-operation process in the Middle East. At the end, there was a consensus on the setting up of an informal, open contact group at the North-South Centre for regular meetings designed to facilitate the peace



<sup>39</sup> Fruit of cooperation between the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

<sup>40</sup> Rapporteur: Ana Guirado (Spain).

<sup>41</sup> Rapporteur Luís Maria de Puig (Spain).

<sup>42</sup> Interventions from Yitzhak Rabin (26 January 1994) and Yasser Arafat (13 April 1994) at the PACE.

<sup>43</sup> The Assembly resolved “*to press for action through the appropriate structures of the Council of Europe on proposals which are developed through these meetings -the intergovernmental programme of the Committee of Ministers, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (Lisbon), the European Commission for Democracy through Law and the European Youth Centres (Strasbourg and Budapest)*” [Resolution 1103](#) (1996) on the situation in the Middle East.

process and mobilise economic, cultural and political forces. In 2001, the Secretary General paid a visit to Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

On the eve of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pan-European Campaign on Global Interdependence and Solidarity, the Parliamentary Assembly issued [Recommendation 1319](#) (1997)<sup>44</sup> on the organisation of a second European campaign in 1998. At Portugal's suggestion, the idea was to call it the [Campaign on Global Interdependence and Solidarity: Europe against Poverty and Social Exclusion](#). The Council of Europe was thus at the cutting edge of the international debate of these issues. Under the NSC's coordination, the Campaign was launched in Lisbon, on 10 September 1998, at a ceremony during the Expo'98. The

Centre accompanied the Campaign and organised activities associated with its programmes<sup>45</sup>. The Council of Europe also entrusted the North-South Centre with the coordination of the Council of Europe Pavilion during the Expo'98<sup>46</sup>. From May to September 1998, the Centre organised theme weeks in Lisbon on the priorities of the Council of Europe and its NSC, in collaboration with its quadrilogue partners. Among others, it launched the Ocean of Ideas project with a view to collecting messages from world citizens on the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Round Table Strasbourg, 1998

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Also during this period, following the attacks of 11 September, the Committee of Ministers expressed its commitment to the contribution of the Council of Europe to international cooperation in the [fight against terrorism](#). [The report of the Secretary General](#), on 5 November 2001, proposed involving the organisation in an ambitious policy for promoting intercultural dialogue and opening the North-South Centre to south Mediterranean countries.



Kofi Annan visiting the Council of Europe pavilion at the EXPO'98

<sup>44</sup> Rapporteur Terry Davis (United Kingdom).

<sup>45</sup> Intergovernmental round table on "New challenges for youth policy in the era of globalisation" (Ljubljana, 15-16 October 1998), training seminar on education from a global perspective (Budapest, 3-5 June 1999), Global Forum for Poverty Eradication (Strasbourg, 14-16 October 1999), NGO Forum on Social Rights - Human Rights - People's Priorities for the Social Summit Review (Dublin, 15 January 2000).

<sup>46</sup> [Recommendation 1318](#) (1997) on the Council of Europe and Expo'98. Rapporteur: José Niza (Portugal).





### III » **Recognition of the North-South Centre's role in fostering North-South dialogue and co-operation**

During this decade, the North-South Centre fulfilled its mission of raising public awareness, for example on the events of Rwanda, played an active role in the dialogue for peace in the Middle-East and reinforced its contribution to intercultural dialogue with Europe's neighbours. It placed the relationship between globalisation and development at the centre of its actions and made poverty eradication and social cohesion the priority theme of its meetings. It contributed to European and African governments' efforts to find a joint partnership strategy by focusing on civil society and especially young people and bolstered the concept and implementation of global education at European level. It developed its quadrilogue structure in order to achieve a true balance in the co-operation between its different branches.

The North-South Centre launched a series of projects that became its trademark and are still on its agenda. Its expertise and its role as facilitator of contacts were stressed by the Council of Europe and its outside partners. It was thanks to this that in 1994 it received the *Prix du Civisme* from the French National NGO Committee, at the French Senate.

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#### 3.1.»

#### **The launch of the North-South Centre's flagship activities**

The Centre's central issues remained the same as those in the initial period of its existence: education and training, dialogue for a global partnership and public information.

#### 3.1.1» **Education and training**

##### **A. Education**

The North-South Centre continued its programme of raising public awareness of global education in Council of Europe member States by developing its action in Central and Eastern European countries as they joined the Organisation.

In this decade, it focused its efforts on the definition and recognition of the concept of global education.

*“Education is the basis of everything and the more global it is the more it is worth (...). Global education covers all the essential problems of the world today (...), it exposes us to people and points of view from other cultures”, Helmut Hartmeyer, Director of KommEnt, Member of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, Austria.*

Focusing initially on the challenges of global education for the formal sector in primary and secondary education, the NSC opened the discussion to civil society<sup>47</sup> and local and regional authorities before launching proactive strategies involving partners from all over Europe and from Africa<sup>48</sup>. The inter-governmental round tables organised during the period, such as the second Intergovernmental Consultation on Global Education and issues related to the World Summit on Social Development (The Hague, 1994), accompanied international themes.

Thanks to all this reflection and concertation between different quadrilogue partners, supported by a solid network of experts, the NSC was able to launch instruments for implementing this education, most of which still exist today:

- » The **World Aware Education Award** rewards best practices in global education at secondary schools in Council of Europe countries. 2009 marked its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- » The first European School Global Education Week was launched in 1999 devoted to “Linking and Learning for Global Change”. A year later came **Global Education Week**, the first attempt at creating a pan-European network of existing initiatives including schools and the non-formal sector of youth movements. In 2009, the Week has 36 participating countries;

*“I loved meeting people from all over the world on an equal footing. This workshop helps to promote world peace. It will help us to realise that the north and south are truly connected”, Wilma Mantiziba, geography teacher from Zimbabwe, participant in the kick-off workshop of European School Week, Budapest, 3-5 June 1999 .*

- » The **Global Education Network in Europe** (GENE) was set up in 1999. It organised meetings and studies on global education in Europe and started up a peer review process.

<sup>47</sup> Support for the launch in 1995 of the [Sons da Lusofonia](#) association fostering a link between global education and music.

<sup>48</sup> Collaboration in the International Exhibition of Teaching Material, Worlddidac, Basel, May 1998, Publication *Global Education in Portuguese-Speaking Countries*, 1999.







The Europe-wide Global Education Congress was a decisive moment for the programme as a [declaration](#) was adopted in Maastricht on 17 November 2002 by 220 delegates from some 50 countries approving the concept of global education and giving the NSC not only political recognition of its work but also a long-term framework of action.

*“Education means provision of information but it also means more: changing behaviour, changing of opinion. The public all-over the world needs to be educated about why we are aiming at least at a 0.7% of GNP contribution to development co-operation”, Charles Goerens, Minister for Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid of Luxembourg, speaker at the Maastricht Congress, November 2002.*

The concept is also found in [Resolution 1318 \(2003\)](#)<sup>49</sup> on globalisation and sustainable development, in which the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recommended that the member States promote global education to strengthen public awareness of sustainable development. The NSC’s work in the field of education was also acknowledged by the EU Ministers of Co-operation and Development in their [resolution of November 2001](#)<sup>50</sup>.

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## B. Training

Building the capacities of young people and youth organisations and encouraging young people and their organisations to be agents of development and international solidarity were the NSC’s main goals in terms of

training. In addition to a global dimension, the Youth Programme focused geographically on the Mediterranean region, Near East and Sub-Saharan Africa.



Charles Goerens, Maastricht Congress

**Global training** included north-south interdependence training courses that led to the first University on Youth and Development in September 2000 in Molina (Spain). With the sponsorship of the Spanish government, the Spanish Youth Council and the European Youth Forum, the

<sup>49</sup> Rapporteur: Bill Etherington (United Kingdom).

<sup>50</sup> Resolution 13323/01 of the Council of the European Union, 8 November 2001 “welcomes (...) the Council of Europe’s development education work carried out by its North-South Centre which enables all Council of Europe Member States to be involved, including candidate countries for accession to the EU”.

North-South Centre and Youth for Development Co-operation brought together 70 participants in Mollina to show that young people were vital agents of society's development. In September 2009, the University celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the participation of 300 young people from 85 different countries.

*“We are working with such a will and desire to learn that the results of our group work have sometimes amazed our trainers. I have to say that we spare no efforts to make ourselves understood in a mixture of English, Spanish, French and Portuguese but the desire to develop intercultural relations is the strongest”, Marguerite Badji, Senegal National Youth Council, at the fourth training course, Mollina, September 1997.*

The Centre also contributed to youth events at global level and organised among others an international colloquy on “Young people's role in global interdependence” (Faro, June 1995).

Regarding the **Mediterranean region and the Middle East**, the North-South Centre worked with the Parliamentary Assembly in setting up a task force on young people and education (Tunis, 1996), organised study visits in the field and participated in the Peace Cruise, which took 100 young mediators / negotiators from Alexandria to Piraeus in summer 1999. During this period, in collaboration with the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Budapest, it launched training in Mediterranean intercultural dialogue and solidarity in order to raise young people's awareness of intercultural education (Budapest, September 2002). This training opened the way for the inclusion of a Euro-Mediterranean dimension in the youth partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for an initial period of two years (May 2003 - May 2005), but which still exists today.

Where **Sub-Saharan Africa** was concerned, the Euro-African youth dialogue gained particular momentum in 2000 with the participation of youth organisations in the Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum<sup>51</sup> and the first training course for youth organisations from Europe and Africa in Tarrafal, Cape Verde in 2002. It was during this course that the idea came up of organising an Africa-Europe Youth Summit on the fringe of the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit. The Summit was held in Lisbon in December 2007 under the aegis of the North-South Centre.



<sup>51</sup> Organised by the NSC in the context of the 1st EU-Africa Heads of State Summit, April 2000.



### 3.1.2» Dialogue for a global partnership

The dialogue was aimed at two geographical areas: Euro-African dialogue with its “Human Rights in North-South Dialogue programme” and dialogue with the Euro-Mediterranean region and middle East in its “Trans-Med programme”.

#### A. Programme “Human Rights in the North-South Dialogue”



Africa-Europe training course

In March 1994, the North-South launched the Lisbon Forum, which was originally designed to be a warning mechanism on situations affecting human rights, especially in Africa. From then onwards, the Forum has taken place each year to address issues associated with the international scenario<sup>52</sup>.

*“In the view of the Centre’s mandate to raise public awareness, it is essential that the Centre should respond to North-South related news and to signals of early warning emerging from civil society in the South. The creation of the Lisbon Forum filled a gap in the activities of the North-South Centre and had created a space for knowledgeable people in the field of democracy and human rights issues”, Hans-Peter Furrer, Director of Political Affairs, 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council, Strasbourg, November 1994.*

Soon after its creation, the Forum issued a warning on the imminent genocide in Rwanda. In view of the humanitarian disaster which hit the country, in September 1994, the Centre, with the support of the Dutch government and the approval of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, organised an international conference on Rwanda, thereby contributing to international recognition of the tragic situation in the country and the region. It was also the Forum that, following the conference, organised visits by Rwandan and Burundian parliamentarians to the Council of Europe and by PACE members to the Great Lakes region. In this context, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted [Resolution 1050 \(1994\)](#)<sup>53</sup> on Rwanda and the prevention of humanitarian crises in which the Council of Europe, particularly

<sup>52</sup> See appendix 4: Lisbon Forum’s themes.

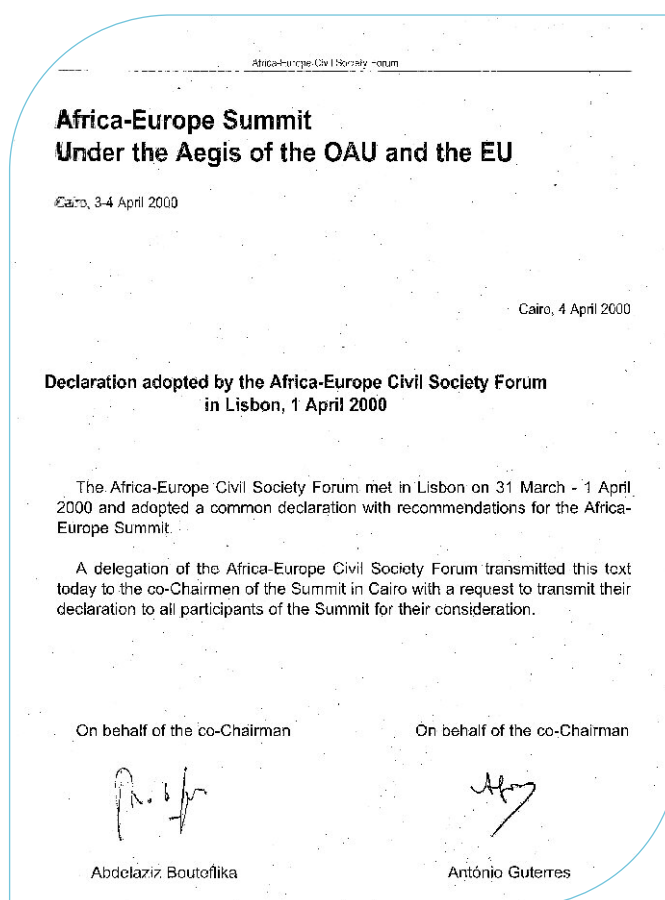
<sup>53</sup> Rapporteur Michel Flückiger (Switzerland).

through its North-South Centre in Lisbon, was called upon to “*step up its links with the countries of Africa in order to strengthen its partnership with Africa and help to ensure respect for human rights in that continent*”.

It was in the Forum, thanks to its reflection on the universality of human rights, that the innovative project of workshops for comparing regional human rights protection systems<sup>54</sup> or debates on the prevention of conflicts in Africa, with the participation of the European Union and African personalities, were launched.

The organisation of the Euro-Africa Civil Society Forum<sup>55</sup> in 2000, thanks to support from the European Commission, was the high point in its strategy for stepping up Euro-African dialogue. The final declaration was transmitted to the EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State and Government and highlighted civil society’s expectations and proposals on co-operation.

The Centre’s participation in the Johannesburg World Summit in 2002<sup>56</sup>, where it spoke in favour of the inclusion of respect for human rights in sustainable development policies, was highlighted in the political message of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe at the World



Letter from A. Bouteflika and A. Guterres to the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit



<sup>54</sup> After the three workshops (1995-1997-2000) of experts on the subject, the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights was invited to join the working group to set up the African Court of Human and People’s Rights.

<sup>55</sup> The Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum is held in Lisbon, from 30 March to 1st April 2000. Regional meetings in Europe (Portugal) and Africa (Praia, Algiers, Johannesburg) led to the Forum with more than 250 NGOs involved.

<sup>56</sup> Meeting on “Participative Democracy and Good Governance: fundamental tools for an approach to sustainable development based on human rights”.



Summit<sup>57</sup> and in the conclusions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council<sup>58</sup>.

Following this Forum, the Centre focused on political and structural developments in Africa, particularly the creation of the African Union in 2002 and discussions on the NEPAD and the birth of the Pan-African Parliament, forging a reputation of expertise with which it benefited its member States, the Council of Europe and other partners. In this context, as of 2003, it organised a series of Africa-Europe meetings (Cape Town, Nairobi, Lisbon) to create spaces for dialogue between the two continents on matters of common interest. These meetings highlighted the role of civil society and parliamentarians in these issues.



*“Our dialogue aims to establish a relation between Europe and Africa, founded on mutual knowledge, understanding and respect, on partnership and fairness and with a strong and innovative political dimension Our dialogue is based on the solid grounds of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. We share these values but also know they are constantly challenged, day by day, in Africa and in Europe” Peter Schieder, PACE President, Encounter “Europe-Africa Dialogue on Human Rights, Democratic Governance and the African Union”, Cap Town, March 2003.*

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## B. Trans-Med Programme

The Trans-Med Programme was born after the International Symposium on Trans-Mediterranean Interdependence and Partnership (Rome, January 1994), which set up an ad-hoc committee of quadrilogue partners from the two sides of the Mediterranean. The unique nature of this committee and its innovative ideas provided the Trans-Med Programme with great vitality. It represented the main contribution of the Council of Europe to the Barcelona process.

*“The first task awaiting us and the North-South Centre today is to call on the representative forces of our countries to devote themselves even further to major issues such as international co-operation, the search for peace, construction of a safer, fairer world (...) The North-South Centre is one of the most significant expressions of the Council of Europe”, Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian House of Deputies, official opening of the Rome Symposium.*

<sup>57</sup> United Nations General Assembly, 31 August 2002, 57<sup>th</sup> session “Co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe”.

<sup>58</sup> Pertinent conclusions of the World Summit, 18 October 2002, report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



Within this programme, the NSC organised debates in partnership with other institutions and contributed to countless projects in the construction of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership based on the following guidelines:

- » Intercultural and inter-religious dialogue aimed at the development of knowledge, understanding and links between the different players in Mediterranean societies, such as the Seminar on “Religion and Globalisation: Perspectives for the New Millennium” (Lisbon, April 2001);

*“I only see a future for Europe if it preserves its Mediterranean face. Otherwise it will no longer be Europe. Or a Europe so disfigured that it would be unrecognisable”, Salah Statié, writer, Honorary Ambassador of Lebanon, Seminar on “Intercultural Dialogue, Foundation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership”, Malta, April 1997.*



Nancy Bakir, member of the Jordanian Government and Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg Seminar, 2003

- » Migration: with the colloquy on “Decentralised Co-operation and Migration: the case of the Western Mediterranean” (Nice, May 1995) which gave birth to the Guide to Decentralised Cooperation in 1998;

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- » Human rights: with the organisation of a seminar on “Women’s Rights in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Laws, Religions and Traditions” (Strasbourg, October 2003), the NSC fostered reflection on women’s rights and their role in Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and built a network of experts for its partners. It also examined the issue of globalisation and strategies for development and social cohesion by organising the international seminar on “Globalisation and Human Rights” (Porto Alegre, February 2000) or the international conference “From Poverty to Dignity: strategies for social development and social cohesion in the Mediterranean” (Alexandria, June 2002). It participated also in the Council of Europe Campaign on “Global Interdependence and Solidarity: Europe against Poverty and Social Exclusion”. One of the priorities was also accompanying the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on its Euro-Arab dialogue process. Against this background, the NSC organised the international Seminar on “Europe and the Middle-East: interdependence and partnership” (Nicosia, March 1995) (see point 2);
- » Education and youth (see point 3.1.1);
- » The media (see point 3.1.3).



Conference, Alexandria



### 3.1.3» Public Information

The NSC continued its awareness-raising activities, especially on development issues. It cemented its partnership with the OECD and UNDP by disseminating directories of development NGOs and publications such as *Remaking the Case for Development Cooperation* and organising debates on the subject<sup>58</sup>. It continued its collaboration with One World and joined the [Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators](#) (COPEAM) and [Inter Press Service](#) (IPS). It also took part in the [International Media North-South Forum](#) where it annually awarded the South-North Prize to southern directors. The NSC also organised Euro-Mediterranean seminars on freedom and management of the press in the Mediterranean. It introduced programme communication instruments such as Medgate<sup>60</sup>, the Mediterra newsletter and Trans-Med Info Chain. In the context of its fifth anniversary in 1995, the NSC organised two special events – a European conference on “Drugs: dependence and interdependence” and the “Europe Is Not a Planet” project, which launched the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe. This prize is still awarded every year to two personalities who have excelled in their commitment to human rights, north-south solidarity and intercultural dialogue<sup>61</sup>. It was also in 1995, following its involvement in the Lisbon, European Capital of Culture project (1994), that it launched the “Your City in the World” campaign with Towns and Development.

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*“My election to this commission is thanks to my participation in a meeting of the North-South Centre, which was noted by the Chair of the African Commission, who nominated me for this Commission”, Vera Duarte, first woman elected to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, first winner of the North-South Prize, 1995. “I once spoke with an astronaut who told me that the turning point in his life came when he looked out of the spaceship and saw a big blue ball. Instantly it became clear to him that that was his home and that any other division we made was ridiculous”, Peter Gabriel, Musician and activist, first winner of the North-South Prize, 1995.*

Link video [Peter Gabriel](#)

### 3.2.» The North-South Centre evaluation process

The Council of Europe, and especially its Parliamentary Assembly, constantly monitored the North-South Centre in its efforts at consolidation. In 1997,

<sup>59</sup> Working session of the Portuguese Parliament in collaboration with the UNPD and OECD on “Raising Public Support for International Co-operation”, November 1997.

<sup>60</sup> Launched during the 1995 Barcelona Conference to create an information network and foster cooperation between Mediterranean institutions.

<sup>61</sup> See appendix 5: list of North-South Prize winners.



[Resolution 1137 \(1997\) on the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe: internal reforms, role and achievements](#)<sup>62</sup> of the Parliamentary Assembly reiterated its support for the Centre and congratulated it on its recent efforts to focus on activities more in line with its remit, revise its organisational structure and work methods, improve the functioning of its quadrilogue structure, avoid redundancies and balance its fields of activity.

« After only 10 years of existence, there is an even greater necessity for the work of the NSC. There is a need to increased debate about global issues and Europe's role in the future”, *Final report of the 1999 evaluation*. Recommendations were made for improving the positioning of the Centre in its European context (call for a clear focus on the issues of human rights and democracy in their global context, continuity of the Mediterranean programme, clear focus on the Centre's catalyst function between the Council of Europe and the EU, clear focus on a European visibility – as the North-South Centre) for improving the programmes and its execution (clear focus on global education as a didactic principle, clear focus on long-term planning, quality (as opposed to quantity) and on processes (as opposed to products), on communication and for improving the structural framework (clear focus on an increase in governmental support, on well defined roles for the steering and managing structures, on a sound financial basis). Following this recommendation, on the eve of the NSC's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 1999, the member States<sup>63</sup> asked KommEnt<sup>64</sup> to conduct an evaluation of the North-South Centre. The aims of the evaluation were to review the Centre's initial situation, functions, aims, strategies and structures.



Following this evaluation, the PACE adopted [Recommendation 1616 \(2003\)](#) on the Council de Europe's North-South Centre and its contribution to development co-operation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>65</sup>. This contribution reiterated the added urgency, after the events of 11 September 2001, of the Centre's unique mission of fostering European awareness of development issues and of the root causes of world poverty, as well as the need for a genuine North-South dialogue on these issues. The PACE invited the NSC to continue its efforts to determine a geographical area of activities limited to nearby regions of the Mediterranean and Africa. The Committee of Ministers report on cooperation in the Mediterranean basin<sup>66</sup> supported this recommendation and considered that the Centre was at a decisive turning point and should take advantage of this by rationalising its activities and boosting its global image.

<sup>62</sup> Rapporteur: Josette Durieu (France).

<sup>63</sup> With funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (DEZA).

<sup>64</sup> Austrian Society for Communication and Development.

<sup>65</sup> Rapporteur: Claude Frey (Switzerland).

<sup>66</sup> RAP-MED (2003) CB1 4 November 2003.



## IV

## CHAPTER

## CHALLENGES FACED BY THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE (2004-2007)

*How can the North-South Centre contribute to development co-operation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?*

### I » An international environment stunned by the shockwave of 11 September

50

In spite of strong consensus on the Millennium Development Goals, it was the security scenario after the 11 September terrorist attacks and the American reaction to them, based on force rather than law, that were the essential factors of the new paradigm of international relations. The growing effects of globalisation caused mitigated reactions, which largely fuelled the debates in Europe about the draft EU constitutional treaty, while dark clouds loomed on the horizon born from the exuberance of the property and financial markets.

In March 2005, before the World Summit, Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General, urged political leaders all over the world to recognise three fundamental rights – the rights to live in dignity, in freedom from want and freedom from fear<sup>67</sup>. This appeal followed a report from the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, *A More Secure World, Our Shared Responsibility*<sup>68</sup>, which identified six categories of threats against humanity today and in upcoming decades. They were economic and social threats, conflicts between states, internal conflicts, nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons, terrorism and transnational organised crime.

*“In this globalised world, a threat to one is a threat to all (...) I therefore applaud your efforts to hold the North and South together. After all, we are in*

<sup>67</sup> Report *In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all*, March 2005.

<sup>68</sup> Report: *A more secure world, our shared responsibility*, drafted at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General by a group of high-level personalities chaired by Anand Panyarachun, former Prime Minister of Thailand, and published in December 2004.

*the same boat. And solutions to these problems will only come if we work together – across borders, across boundaries of race, religion, language and culture”. Excerpt, Kofi Annan’s speech at the Award Ceremony of the North-South Prize, March 2008.*

### [Link video](#)

At the [United Nations World Summit](#) in September 2005, the main leaders committed to take up the challenges of development, terrorism, peace and the responsibility to protect human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the environment, among others. The international community sought a stable environment favourable to achieving the Millennium Development Goals<sup>69</sup> and gave increasing priority to intercultural dialogue (as a response to the diagnosis of a “conflict of civilisations” made in 1993 by the American political scientist Samuel Huntington). The [Alliance of Civilizations](#), set up in 2005, by the UN Secretary General on the initiative of Spain and Turkey, responded to this priority. Its goal was to promote “good governance of cultural diversity”, an emerging concern on the political agendas of the whole world.



It is also interesting to note the new impetus of south-south co-operation and increased support that it received from industrialised countries and the international community as a whole during this period.

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*“The North-South Centre (...) has always been a defender of triangular co-operation. This Centre always ensures a south-south facet in its Europe-Africa or Trans-Med dialogue”, Report of the U.N. Secretary General on South-South cooperation, 16 August 2005, 60<sup>th</sup> session (A/60/257).*

It was this international scenario that led the European Union to also rethink its policy on the developing world. The new accessions to the European Union, in May 2004, and January 2007, awoke even greater interest in stepping up its relations with neighbouring countries<sup>70</sup>. Back in 2003, the European Parliament stated, *“in parallel to its current enlargement in the eastern part of the European continent, the EU must also revive and reaffirm its links with its Mediterranean neighbours and the Middle East. (...) It should be the task of the European Union to develop with these countries and regions a comprehensive and effective neighbourhood concept, capable of furthering the search for more effective solutions to the problems posed by interdependence*

<sup>69</sup> [Report Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals](#), published in January 2005, described how to achieve the goals. It was drafted at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General by an independent body headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs.

<sup>70</sup> [Communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament: Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours, 11.03.2003.](#)



and globalisation.”<sup>71</sup>. The Wider Europe - Neighbourhood strategy thus took off and witnessed the introduction, in 2007, of a new [European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument](#) (ENPI). With the ACP countries, the revision of the Cotonou Agreement meant that political dialogue could be used faster and more effectively in almost all circumstances by the European Commission and Africa. In 2005, the Commission reasserted the reinforcement of the strategic partnership between a wider Europe and an emerging Africa and proclaimed that the 2005-2015 decade would mark a turning point in relations between Europe and Africa<sup>72</sup>. In fact, the [Second Summit of EU-Africa Heads of State](#) in Lisbon, in December 2007, resulted in the formal adoption of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (joint strategy and action plan). On 13 December 2007, the European Union signed the [Treaty of Lisbon](#), one of the goals of which was improving the EU’s effectiveness and capacity in managing current global challenges, such as climate change, security and sustainable development.

## II » **The Warsaw Summit : a strategic partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union**

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With regard to this period, it is interesting to consider the Council of Europe’s position in the international and pan-European context<sup>73</sup>. The results of the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, which was held in Warsaw, on 16-17 May 2005, some of the texts adopted on issues of interest to the North-South Centre and the organisation’s relations with Europe’s neighbouring countries, especially south of the Mediterranean, should be examined.

With the successive accession to the European Union of countries from Central and Eastern Europe, the expertise acquired by the Council of Europe in the consolidation of democratic processes and the implementation of the rule of law was increasingly in demand by the EU, especially for candidate countries and countries affected by the European neighbourhood policy<sup>74</sup>.

<sup>71</sup> [European Parliament Resolution Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours \(P5\\_TA\(2003\)0520\)](#).

<sup>72</sup> [Communication from the Commission to the Council, European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee, EU Strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa’s development \(12-10-2005\) COM \(2005\) 489 final](#).

<sup>73</sup> See [report](#) by the Secretary General to the Committee of Ministers on “External Relations of the Council of Europe in 2007”.

<sup>74</sup> [European Parliament Resolution Wider Europe – Neighbourhood: A New Framework for Relations with our Eastern and Southern Neighbours \(P5\\_TA\(2003\)0520\)](#) para. 50. This role was also highlighted by the Commissioner for External Relations at the Third Summit of Heads of State of the Council of Europe. Benita Ferrero Waldner also referred in her speech to the support that the European Commission wishes from the Council of Europe for the success of the European neighbourhood policy.

The development of a working relationship with the European Union was therefore particularly important in this period. The Juncker report [A sole ambition for the European continent](#)<sup>75</sup> drew a roadmap for renewed collaboration between the two European institutions and led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding in May 2007. It was also during the Warsaw Summit that the Council of Europe gave new impetus to its collaboration with the OSCE (adopting a declaration on co-operation between the two organisations) and with the United Nations (encouraging co-operation with the organisation and its special agencies)<sup>76</sup>.

The Warsaw Action Plan confirmed the leading role of the Council of Europe in the development of democracy, the defence of human rights, assertion of the primacy of law in Europe and the promotion of its values in the broadest sense, be it democratic culture, tolerance, justice or social cohesion. One of the essential conclusions was the need to make a political priority of intercultural dialogue in European societies and between Europe and its neighbours. Following the summit, the Council adopted a strategy for developing intercultural dialogue (at the [Faro conference](#) in October 2005), set up a common platform with UNESCO, concluded co-operation agreements with [ALECSO](#) (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation) and the [Anna Lindh Foundation](#), and developed an ambitious process aimed at the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. It also started a new Europe-wide Youth Campaign to promote diversity, integration and participation in society.

In this context, relations with Europe's neighbouring regions took on special importance for the Parliamentary Assembly which, in its [Resolution 1506 \(2006\)](#) and [Recommendation 1753 \(2006\)](#)<sup>77</sup> on the Council of Europe's external relations, recommended the promotion of the Council of Europe's values with its neighbours, especially in the Mediterranean Basin, Middle East and Central Asia and appealed to the countries concerned, especially those participating in the European Neighbourhood Policy, to commit to (or continue) on the road to democracy. It welcomed "*the steps already taken by the different bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, in particular (...) the North-South Centre*". In its [Recommendation 1724 \(2005\)](#)<sup>78</sup> it urged the Council of Europe and the European Union Neighbourhood Policy to step up their action in non-member states covered by the ENP.

<sup>75</sup> Entrusted to the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Juncker, by his peers at the Warsaw Summit and published in April 2006.

<sup>76</sup> Resolution 60/1 para. 170, included in the conclusions of the 2005 World Summit, appealed for stepping up relations between the United Nations and regional organisations like the Council of Europe.

<sup>77</sup> Rapporteur: Adrian Severin (Romania).

<sup>78</sup> "The Council of Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union", Rapporteur: Luc Van den Brande (Belgium).





Following its 1998 Campaign against poverty, the Parliamentary Assembly continued to warn about the disturbing situation of poverty in the world. In its [Recommendation 1646 \(2004\)](#)<sup>79</sup> “Improving the prospects of developing countries: a moral imperative for the world”, it drew attention to persisting problems of poverty and confronted rich countries with the moral imperative of working for better division of wealth. Security arguments were also highlighted. It was also at this time that the Parliamentary Assembly stepped up relations with its African counterparts through their participation in North-South Centre activities (see point 3.2).

### III » The North-South Centre at a defining moment in its life

This international context, resolutely aimed at increasing recognition of global interdependence and a new approach to relations with the countries of the south, Europe’s neighbours, should have opened the way for the North-South Centre, with its achievements in the areas of education, youth and intercultural dialogue and its position as a key instrument enabling the Council of Europe to project its expertise, experience and values beyond the boundaries of the European continent.

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Paradoxically, at a time when its terms of reference were becoming increasingly relevant in the light of international developments, the Centre was plunged into crisis from the end of 2003:

- » a **financial** crisis with the ceasing, in 2003, of the annual grant paid by the European Commission for the operating expenses of the North-South Centre, following a change in internal regulations;
- » a **management** crisis, with a number of failings revealed by audits<sup>80</sup> and successive reports, including that by Claude Frey presented to the Parliamentary Assembly in November 2003;
- » a **political** crisis, with the gap opened, in 2006, by the departure of Italy<sup>81</sup> (and left gaping by the withdrawal of France in 2007) and an overall weakening of member States backing for the Centre.

In view of these difficulties, which actually called into question its very existence, the NSC pursued its activities and laid the foundations for a revival with:

<sup>79</sup> Rapporteur: Klaus Werner Jonas (Germany).

<sup>80</sup> Internal audit of the Council of Europe and audit of the European Commission of financial and administrative procedures, 2003.

<sup>81</sup> Italy returns to the Centre in March 2009.

### 3.1.»

## A progressive refocusing on the Council of Europe's political priorities:

*“The Committee of Ministers welcomes the recent reorientation of the Centre’s main activities which focus on spreading the Council of Europe’s basic values of respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and on promoting intercultural and inter-religious understanding, as well as global education”, [reply from the Committee of Ministers](#) to Recommendation 1616 (2003) “The North-South Centre and its contribution to development co-operation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”.*

In November 2004, on the subject of the Council de Europe’s contribution to the fight against terrorism, the Ministers’ Deputies invited the Executive Council of the North-South Centre to look into how the Centre could make a full contribution to promoting intercultural dialogue, including its inter-religious dimension<sup>82</sup>.

The Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Council of Europe, adopted in Warsaw, in May 2005, recognised that the North-South Centre had an important role to play in the promotion of intercultural dialogue. The plan reasserted the Centre’s mission of fostering European awareness of issues of interculturality and development. This role and mission were revisited in the [Faro Declaration on the Council of Europe’s strategy for the development of intercultural dialogue](#)<sup>83</sup>. The Ministers of Culture of the states parties to the European Cultural Convention invited “*states that do not yet take part in the Centre’s activities to consider doing so*”.

This role was also mentioned in Resolution 61/13 of the United Nations General Assembly on “Co-operation between the United Nations Organisation and the Council of Europe” which, in 2006, encouraged “*the continuation of such co-operation, in particular through the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe*”<sup>84</sup>.

Aware of the issues and its role, in November 2005, the Centre organised the 12<sup>th</sup> Lisbon Forum on “Democratic Governance in the Multicultural Societies of North and South”. In May 2006, the (Romanian) Chair of the Committee of Ministers asked the Centre to contribute to the Council of Europe White



<sup>82</sup> [902<sup>nd</sup> meeting, follow-up of 114<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Ministers \(Strasbourg, 12-13 May 2004\)](#) – Contribution of the Council of Europe to the fight against terrorism, Strasbourg, 3 November 2004.

<sup>83</sup> Declaration adopted at the end of the closing conference of the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention (Faro, 27-28 October 2005).

<sup>84</sup> Adopted at the 61<sup>st</sup> plenary session of the General Assembly on 8 December 2006.





Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. In the first half of 2007, the NSC, in collaboration with DGIV, focused on organising several consultation meetings on intercultural dialogue and women, the media and migration and a closing seminar attended by Jorge Sampaio, recently appointed United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations<sup>85</sup>. That same year, the informal regional meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for cultural affairs on the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the White Paper of the Council of Europe (Belgrade, 7-8 November 2007) devoted part of its programme and discussions to the possibilities of the countries in south-east Europe strengthening their co-operation with the North-South Centre. In particular, Serbia<sup>86</sup>, Montenegro<sup>87</sup> and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia expressed their interest in working more closely with the Centre.

*“In recent years, the issue of interculturality has become extremely important, with the growth of interdependence between societies and constant, rapid developments in our lives. In our fast-changing world, diversity has become a characteristic of our everyday lives. And one of the greatest challenges of our age, is to convert this diversity into active plurality”, Gabriella Battaini-Draconi, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Co-ordinator for Intercultural Dialogue, Council of Europe, speaker at the Lisbon Forum 2006 “Constitutionalism – The Key to Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law”.*



During this period, the Centre was also asked to step up its action in non-member states covered by the **European Neighbourhood Policy**<sup>88</sup>. In fact, within the framework of its Trans-Med programme, the NSC continued dialogue with southern Mediterranean countries and, in collaboration with partners in the region, addressed the following priority issues: the role of women as agents of change<sup>89</sup>, reinforcement of the democratic process in the Mediterranean region<sup>90</sup> and the media and vectors of dialogue in the Mediterranean<sup>91</sup>. It also continued to take an active part in the Youth Euro-Med Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission by collaborating in the organisation of inter-regional meetings, training courses on intercultural education, trainer training seminars and

<sup>85</sup> Jorge Sampaio was appointed UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations in April 2007.

<sup>86</sup> Joined the NSC in March 2009.

<sup>87</sup> Joined the NSC in March 2008.

<sup>88</sup> [Recommendation 1724 \(2005\) 4 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the Council of Europe and the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union](#) adopted on 6 October 2005

<sup>89</sup> Parliamentary seminar on “Respect for equality between women and men in the family code” (October 2006, Strasbourg) in collaboration with the PACE Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the seminar “Women’s Rights in the Euro-Med Region: women as agents of change”, Lisbon, 30 June, 1 July 2006.

<sup>90</sup> With the conference “Democracy and Citizenship in the Mediterranean”, Marrakech, 2005.

<sup>91</sup> Permanent conferences of [COPEAM](#), of which the North-South Centre was Vice-President.

the preparation of a Euro-Med training kit. The NSC and EuroMesco conducted a survey on the role of youth as actors of political development and reforms in the southern Mediterranean.

In the same spirit, in [reply to Recommendation 1646 \(2004\)](#) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe “Improving the prospects of developing countries: a moral imperative for the world”, the Committee of Ministers reasserted, “*the Council of Europe, through its own means of action, including through its North-South Centre, contributes to raising public awareness of the need for solidarity with other parts of the world and improve information and education to that end*”. Within this framework, the Centre continued **to raise European public awareness of the issues of education and youth**. In terms of global education, thanks to funding from the Netherlands, it was able to launch a project for supporting and development GE in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, where it organised national and regional seminars. Through its Global Education Network Europe (GENE)<sup>92</sup>, it launched the European GE peer-review process and published evaluation reports on Austria, Cyprus, Finland and the Netherlands<sup>93</sup>. The Centre also continued to organise Global Education Weeks and World Aware Education Awards. The Week’s network produced an online GE manual, which has published in 2009. The NSC’s role in education was recognised by the European Ministers of Education who, in their [Istanbul Declaration \(May 2007\)](#) invited the Committee of Ministers to “*instruct the Steering Committee for Education to (...) develop or strengthen co-operation in the education field with other sectors in the Council of Europe, in particular (...) the North-South Centre*”.

*“I must admit that the way in which we helped each other to fashion our own conception of global education convinced me that, as young people, we have the power to change things and that has given me a lot of hope for our world today and for the future”, Yvonne Zimba, young leader from Zambia and a participant in the Global Education seminar, Mollina, September 2007.*

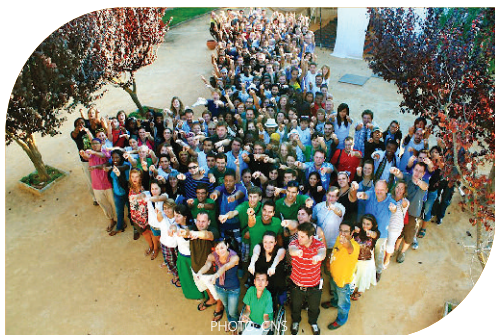
Where youth was concerned, in addition to the Euro-Med activities mentioned above, the NSC continued its global and regional training courses. Every year it organised the Youth and Development University, Euro-African



Youth Euro-Med Partnership

<sup>92</sup> A network of national and European global education support, finance and coordination structures.

<sup>93</sup> Collaboration with GENE then went through a troubled phase that contributed to the general crisis affecting the NSC in that period. In 2008, the GENE became a foundation and resumed his collaboration with the Centre.



University on Youth and Development

training courses (Mollina in 2004, Coimbra in 2005 and Almada in 2006) leading to the first Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007 (see point 3.3). The North-South Centre was also co-organiser with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the “Youth, Europe and Globalisation: How Big is Your World?” event in Strasbourg, in May 2004.

### 3.2.»

## Stepping up relations with stakeholders in the Council of Europe

This strengthening was particularly evident with the Parliamentary Assembly through a co-operation agreement signed on 16 January 2005. The agreement stipulated, *“the Parliamentary Assembly and its committees will make greater use of the expertise and know-how of the North-South Centre in order to take advantage of its status as a unit of reflection on north-south issues and an interface between the Council of Europe and the south to generate new ideas and proposals with a view to constructive relations”*.

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In fact, the NSC’s Europe-Africa Dialogue Programme concentrated on developing inter-parliamentary relations by constantly involving PACE representatives in round tables and meetings<sup>94</sup> on governance and human rights, parliamentary democracy, the implementation of NEPAD and the rights of children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS (Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Dar Es Salaam and Cape Town). It also developed an informal platform for European and African parliamentarians to engage in dialogue on matters of common interest. The Centre also facilitated an official visit by a delegation of newly elected members of the Pan-African Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in June 2005.

The Lisbon Forum, first held in 1994 (see Chapter III, 1.1.2) gained new impetus thanks to partnerships with important institutions like the **Venice Commission** in 2006,<sup>95</sup> and the Council of Europe **Human Rights Commissioner** in 2007<sup>96</sup>. Over the past few years the Forum has become an indispensable

<sup>94</sup> Particularly with AWEPA and the UNPD.

<sup>95</sup> The Lisbon Forum on “Constitutionalism – The Key to Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law” was jointly organised in 2006 by the North-South Centre and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe under the patronage of the San Marino Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

<sup>96</sup> The Forum 2007, entitled ‘National Human Rights Commissions: the Cornerstone for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights’ was devoted to the role of national commissions for the protection and promotion of human rights in drawing up rules and implementing human rights protection mechanisms at local, national, regional and global level.

dialogue platform for personalities and experts who play a key role in the defence of human rights.

It was also in this period that the NSC co-operation with the Council of Europe on the theme of migration developed, in particular with the **European Committee on Migration**. In 2002, the European Ministers of the Council of Europe Member States in



Inter-parliamentary Encounter, Nairobi

charge of migration issues recommended to the Committee of Ministers the implementation of an action plan providing, among others, for initiating regular co-operation and dialogue on migration between countries of origin, transit and destination. The Committee of Ministers set up the Council of Europe political platform on migration. In order to give their support, from 2004 to 2007, the Directorate General of Social Cohesion (DGIII) and the North-South Centre organised a series of workshops on the general theme of Migration and Co-development. This co-operation also resulted in the tripartite organisation (NSC, DGIII and PACE) in Strasbourg, in November 2006, of the sixth session of the political platform on migration devoted to stepping up co-operation between countries of origin and destination. The Centre also set up a case study (Portugal and the Netherlands) of social transfers of the African diaspora in Europe. The work done by the NSC in this field was praised by the Parliamentary Assembly in Recommendations 1718 (2005)<sup>97</sup> and 1737 (2006)<sup>98</sup> and by the Committee of Ministers in replies drafted on that occasion. Reference was also made to the Centre's expertise by the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Migrant Workers, Gabriella Rodriguez Bizarro, in her [Report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission](#)<sup>99</sup>, following her participation in the 2003 Lisbon Forum on "Migration and Human Rights, North-South Dialogue".

Collaboration with the Council of Europe's **Conference of INGOs** was stepped up by the joint organisation of a symposium "Integration of Migrants in Europe: what role for NGOs?" in Messina (Italy) in November 2005, following the Tlemcen Forum on "North-South Dialogue and Partnership" (2002).



<sup>97</sup> "Co-development policy as positive measure to regulate migratory flows", Rapporteur: Rudy Salles (France)/ CM reply adopted at the 961<sup>st</sup> meeting of Ministers' Deputies (5 April 2006).

<sup>98</sup> "New trends and challenges for Euro-Mediterranean migration policies", Rapporteur: Franco Danieli (Italy)/ Reply from the Committee of Ministers adopted at the 973<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (13 September 2006).

<sup>99</sup> (E/CN.4/2004/76) 12 January 2004.



In March 2006, the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** adopted [Recommendation 183 \(2006\)](#)<sup>100</sup> on “The North-South Centre: contribution of local and regional authorities to promote the efficiency of the work of the Centre”. This recommendation intervened especially following the 2004 Lisbon Forum on “Social Cohesion: the role of local and regional authorities and civil society” organised in collaboration with Towns and Development and the German organisation InWEnt. The Forum discussed the importance of social cohesion, sustainable development and the promotion of good local governance in international cooperation. In its [reply](#)<sup>101</sup> to this recommendation, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe drew attention to the importance that it attached to the work of the North-South Centre, the local and regional dimension of its activities and its efforts in the field of inter-cultural dialogue.

### 3.3.»

#### Renewed ties with the European Commission

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These ties were renewed in 2007 through the joint organisation of the First Africa-Europe Youth Summit upstream of the Second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007. The event was born from the Euro-African training courses organised by the NSC since 2002. The Youth Summit, held in December, was preceded by a year of regional workshops in Africa and Europe. It was attended by distinguished speakers such as the President of Portugal, Mr Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese Prime Minister and the then President of the EU Council, Mr José Socrates, the Commissioner of the African Union, Prof. Nagia Essayed, the President of the European Commission, Mr Durão Barroso, and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mrs Maud de Boer Buquicchio. It had a direct political impact on the Summit of Heads of State and Government and enjoyed high visibility. Before the state summit, the NSC also participated in organising a Europe-Africa civil society meeting and organised an inter-parliamentary forum on “Europe-Africa dialogue and democratic governance: the role of parliamentarians”.

With some 1,500 young people involved in the whole process, the Youth Summit was a crucial moment for strengthening ties between young people in Africa and Europe and increasing their knowledge about the European Union and African Union and their policies on the living conditions of young people on the two continents. The Youth Summit received strong political

<sup>100</sup> Rapporteur: Helen Lund (Denmark).

<sup>101</sup> Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 29 November 2006 at the 981st meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies.



support from European and African authorities and funding from several European and African governments. Of vital importance was the support given by the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union and European Commission. It constituted the base on which the future joint programme of action between the North-South Centre and the European Commission was built (2009-2011).



Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portugal, Youth Summit, 2007

### 3.4.»

## Rise in importance of the Council of Europe North-South Prize

The North-South Prize was created in 1995 on the fifth anniversary of the North-South Centre. Over the years it has gained undeniable fame and has become the most important communication and public relations tool not only for the Centre but also for the Council of Europe in general. To a list of personalities recognised on the international scene for their action in favour of the north-south dialogue, the NSC adds less known personalities whose work is still fundamental in the defence of human rights. The media high spot of the event came in 2006 when the prize was awarded to Bob Geldof, the Irish musician and activist, and Bogaletch Gebre, the Ethiopian head of the Kembatta Women's Self Help Centre. The complementarity of these two personalities, their moving speeches and Geldof's popularity put the prize in the media spotlight. The unwavering support of the Portuguese authorities, the ongoing participation of the President of Portugal, the unfailing hospitality of the Portuguese Parliament, a new jury and rules on awarding the prize have contributed to its consolidation.

[Link video Bob Geldof/Bogaletch Gebre.](#)

*“You will agree with me when I say that merely invoking human rights is not enough to guarantee that they become a reality. Demanding rights lies in action and a rejection of fatalism. It also lies in shared solidarity. It is this will to take action in the face of oppression and the rifts opened by poverty that guides the lives of our two prize winners, Bogaletch Gebre and Bob Geldof”, Claude Frey, Chair of the NSC Executive Council, Award Ceremony of the North-South Prize 2005.*







### 3.5.»

## Changes in the Centre administrative environment

The serious difficulties that the North-South Centre faced between 2004 and 2007 brought important changes to its administrative environment. The most significant affected its budget and personnel, though crucial decisions were also made about the NSC's management and its administrative tutelage in the Council of Europe. The progressive and sometimes painful implementation of these changes coupled with the choice of continuity at the level of the presidency of the Executive Council helped create the right conditions for a revival.

Having peaked in 2002–2004, when it had a budget of some 2 million Euros and a secretariat of up to 25, the North-South Centre underwent a drastic slimming cure down to rock bottom in late 2007<sup>102</sup>. This was the result of the Secretary General's decision – confirmed by the Committee of Member States of the NSC – that the remaining Member States should not bear the cost of the changes that had occurred since 2004 (particularly the withdrawal of Italy and France). In fact, there has been considerable continuity in member States' compulsory contributions. In 2008, they ranged from 9,882 Euros for the smallest contributors to 205,875 Euros for the largest (Germany). The corresponding figures in 2003 were 9,848 Euros and 191,185 Euros respectively.

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This austerity drive had a high price and most of it was paid by the temporary staff whose contracts were not renewed as the years passed, and by some of the permanent staff (four posts were abolished and two of the staff concerned were redeployed to Strasbourg). It also had some positive effects, since it forced the NSC to define its targets and priorities more clearly, which made for better financial management<sup>103</sup>, and encouraged the secretariat and the NSC stakeholders to develop synergies and seek partnerships.

In fact, considerable progress has been made in certain areas, and particularly the last. In spite (or because?) of the crisis, the NSC **showed its ability to secure the logistical, financial and material support needed to maintain the continuity and credibility of its work**. Having lost half its budget and staff in the space of a few years, it nonetheless launched a programme of activities which stood comparison with previous years. The 2007 figures speak for themselves. The initial stake of 330,000 Euros (the part of the budget earmarked for the programme of activities) provided by the member States

<sup>102</sup> The 2008 NSC budget adopted in late 2007 by the Executive Council totalled 1 million Euros and its secretariat staff was reduced to eight that year, six of whom were permanent agents.

<sup>103</sup> Progress recognised in two reports by audit missions in 2007.

was used to generate a programme with a total amount in excess of 1 million Euros. Even though 2007 was somewhat exceptional, with the Africa-Europe Youth Summit and the 400,000 Euros provided by the Commission to fund it, this:

- » largely corrects the first impression that the budget serves mainly to cover staffing and operational expenditure;
- » is a sign of the **ongoing credibility** of the NSC, which managed to treble the funding provided by its Member States for its programme of activities.

Finally, the decisions of the Secretary General on the administrative tutelage and management of the NSC have progressively borne fruit, in particular:

- » The transfer in 2006 of the administrative tutelage of the North-South Centre to the Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (DG IV)<sup>104</sup> created growing synergies between the NSC's activities and Council of Europe programmes in the fields of education, youth and intercultural dialogue;
- » The arrival, in late 2007, of a new Executive Director following a period of considerable instability<sup>105</sup> helped put the centre back on the road to recovery.



<sup>104</sup> From 1990 to 2006, the NSC answered to the Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs (DGDPA).

<sup>105</sup> The NSC had no fewer than three executive directors (two of whom were interim) in a little over three years after its “historical” director, Jos Lemmers, went to Strasbourg in September 2004 and until the current director, Denis Huber, took office in December 2007.



# V

## C H A P T E R

### A NEW ERA FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE (2008-2011)

#### *“The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity”*

During this period, there were various major events which marked history and the relations between states and peoples.

First of all, the 2008 global financial crisis had serious repercussions in the North and the South, in both economic and social terms. Europe was particularly hard hit.

At the same time, efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were deadlocked and the issue remains a major source of international tension.

Lastly, from early 2011, democratic uprisings affected all the Arab countries to varying degrees, taking the international community by surprise. They brought hope of historic changes which, if backed up and supported, will make for improved co-operation between the South and the North. They could be a major step towards the achievement of universal human rights.

#### I » **Reforming global governance to create a new development model**

##### 1.1.»

#### **An international context dominated by the economic crisis and its consequences at European and global level.**

The economic crisis has had serious repercussions in Europe, where it struck in two ways, both institutionally and financially, and revealed the weaknesses of the economic governance of the European Union.

The Lisbon Treaty, which came into force on 1 December 2009 after the failure to ratify the European Constitutional Treaty in 2005, closed the institutional debate within the European Union. Against a background of crisis,



however, this major stage in the process of European construction did not bring the political impetus hoped for by its authors.

At global level, the countries of the South have also been affected by the economic crisis and North-South co-operation has suffered the consequences. For instance, the developed countries have indicated the difficulties they face in honouring their commitments for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The Summit held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010 provided an opportunity to assess the progress made since 2000 and that still to be achieved by 2015, while analysing the factors in the success and failure of the policies conducted to meet the MDG. It reasserted the collective commitment to this project which is more necessary than ever, building on the solidarity between the regions of the world and co-operation between nations under the aegis of the UN.



119<sup>e</sup> session du Comité des Ministres

## 1.2.»

### Attempts to renew dialogue between the West, the Arab world and Africa

Alongside the economic crisis, the period from 2008 to 2011 saw some key developments in terms of renewal of dialogue between the West, the Arab world and Africa.

In response to the deadlock seen in the Middle East until early 2011, there was strong reaffirmation at international level of the importance of dialogue between peoples. This was illustrated by the speech given by President Obama in Cairo in June 2009<sup>106</sup> and the institutional strengthening of the Alliance of Civilisations. Moreover, on 20 May 2011, the American president came out strongly in favour of a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, at the risk of a head-on clash with his Israeli allies on the eve of a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

With more particular regard to relations between Europe and Africa, the second Africa-Europe Summit held in Lisbon in December 2007 renewed co-operation at the highest political level. The joint strategy approved by the summit established a genuine partnership, with Africa regarded as a special

<sup>106</sup> Speech by President Obama (“A new beginning”) in Cairo, in which he reached out to the Muslim world and called for lasting efforts in terms of listening to other people, learning from them, ensuring mutual respect and finding areas of agreement.



discussion partner. The partnership was consolidated at the third summit on the subject of investment, economic growth and job creation held in Tripoli on 29 and 30 November 2010. The discussions between the heads of states there focused on key issues such as peace, migration, employment, climate change, regional integration and development of the private sector, infrastructure and energy, agriculture and food security.

Elsewhere, a new stage in Euro-Mediterranean partnership was achieved with the establishment of the Union for the Mediterranean, which was launched at the Paris Summit in July 2008. This 43-member union seeks to give new impetus to the Barcelona process by focusing on practical energy and environmental projects. Following a long period of paralysis, mainly caused by the deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, the Union for the Mediterranean elected a new Secretary General, Mr Youssef Amrani, on 25 May 2011.

### 1.3.»

## The “Arab Spring”, a surprise and a challenge for the international community and European organisations

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The “Arab Spring”, which began with the Jasmine Revolution in January 2011, radically transformed all the Arab countries and also the prospects for co-operation between them and the rest of the world, in particular Europe. The wind of democracy and the calls for dignity which swept irresistibly throughout the region paved the way for a paradigm shift in international relations.

The international community in general and European organisations in particular voiced both their support for the democratic aspirations of the peoples in the countries concerned and also their commitment to provide assistance to the authorities that resulted from the processes of change.

During March 2011, when the Libyan army was preparing to launch its final assault against the opponents to the regime who were holed up in Benghazi, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1973,<sup>107</sup> in which it decided to establish a no-fly zone to protect civilians against widespread systematic attacks. The resolution – which was supported by the Arab League – allowed UN member states “to take all necessary measures to protect civilians” and authorised international military intervention under the mandate of the UN in support of the Libyan rebels.

<sup>107</sup> Resolution of 17 March 2011.

At European level, the Council of the European Union undertook to offer more effective support to Arab countries in the process of democratic transition and to review and adapt the EU's support programmes for the region, in particular for Egypt and Tunisia.<sup>108</sup>

In early March 2011, the European Commission presented a communication entitled "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean"<sup>109</sup> to support the crucial changes taking place in the region and revisit the tasks of the Union for the Mediterranean so that the promotion of democracy and human rights became central to the Euro-Mediterranean process. This was followed in May 2011 by a communication entitled "A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood", which involved a far-reaching review of the neighbourhood policy.

The Council of Europe did not just stand by and watch this changing international environment, which opens up new avenues for action for the organisation and its North-South Centre. Ensuring that the work of the Council of Europe and the European Union was complementary was the cornerstone of the discussions on establishing a Council of Europe neighbourhood policy.



## II » New prospects for a 60-year-old organisation

The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre responded to the dramatic changes in the international context by launching a reform process and identifying new prospects for action. In particular, co-operation between the Council of Europe and other international organisations has been stepped up. The organisation's original remits have been reasserted and the role of the North-South Centre consolidated and clarified..

In Madrid on 12 May 2009, on the occasion of the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers reaffirmed the desire of the 47 member states to "intensify [the Council of Europe's] co-operation with other international organisations (...)." Their statement continued: "We welcome the progress already made to this end since the Warsaw Summit, particularly with respect to the European Union. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations gave new impetus to the partnership and political dialogue with the European Union,

<sup>108</sup> Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council on developments in the Arab region (21 February 2011).

<sup>109</sup> Among the three elements mentioned, the first two are particularly relevant to the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre in that they involve "democratic transformation and institution-building, with a particular focus on fundamental freedoms, constitutional reforms, reform of the judiciary and the fight against corruption" and "a stronger partnership with the people, with specific emphasis on support to civil society and on enhanced opportunities for exchanges and people-to-people contacts with a particular focus on the young".





Thorbjørn Jagland, Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe et José Manuel Barroso, Président de la Commission européenne, octobre 2009

and its implementation must be pursued. This search for synergies with other international actors has also led to closer co-operation with the OSCE and the United Nations. We can only encourage these efforts.”

In the same spirit, the United Nations defined human rights and intercultural dialogue as two priority areas for co-operation in the resolution on “Co-operation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe” adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2008. At the same time, co-operation with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) continued in the areas of combating terrorism, protecting the rights of national minorities and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. Lastly, co-operation agreements were signed with other key partners such as the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (23 May 2008) and the Alliance of Civilisations (29 September 2008).

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In the case of the “Arab Spring”, the Council of Europe also confirmed its support for the peoples of the countries in the midst of democratic transition. The Secretary General, Thorbjørn Jagland, visited Tunisia in February and offered practical co-operation on the part of the Council of Europe. Various initiatives were launched in several sectors of the organisation, from the Parliamentary Assembly and the Venice Commission to the Pompidou Group and the North-South Centre.

These followed on from other major initiatives already taken by the Parliamentary Assembly. In particular, recognising that stepping up existing relations with parliaments of neighbouring states would contribute to further promoting Council of Europe values in these countries, it established a new Partner for Democracy status on 26 June 2009. This provides a new framework for co-operation with the parliaments of the countries of the southern Mediterranean and the Middle East, as well as Central Asia. It should allow for closer integration of the countries of the southern Mediterranean into the Council of Europe, along the lines of the special guest status established in 1989 for Central and East European countries.

On 30 April 2010, the Parliamentary Assembly then proposed a Euro-Mediterranean strategy for the Council of Europe based on the report by Mr Denis BADRE, rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, of 7 January 2010 entitled “Euro-Mediterranean region: call for a Council of Europe strategy”, underlining

the importance of stability in the Mediterranean to Europe and stressing that it can only be achieved on the basis of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

At the Committee of Ministers, the ministerial session in Istanbul on 10 and 11 May 2011, which coincided with the end of the Turkish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, saw a major advance in the development of a Council of Europe neighbourhood policy based on the following conclusions:



Campagne anti-discrimination



“» Today’s meeting also took place at a time of momentous changes in Europe’s immediate neighbourhood. In North Africa and the Middle East, popular movements are voicing a legitimate demand for democracy and social justice. We express our hope that these events will give birth to peaceful, stable and democratic societies.

» intercultural dialogue, education, mutual respect and understanding – within and beyond our borders – are key responses to intolerance and effective tools for building sustainable peace. We take note with thanks of the contribution of the report “Living together – Combining diversity and freedom in 21<sup>st</sup> century Europe”, prepared by the Group of Eminent Persons,<sup>110</sup> towards strengthening our societies through shared values and the active participation of all individuals, without discrimination;

» Europe’s stability and security will benefit from sharing our values with neighbouring regions. We invite the Deputies, on the basis of the Secretary General’s proposals and through the bodies of the Council of Europe, to actively develop co-operation with third countries seeking our support for the transition to democracy. We also call to reinforce synergies with the other international organisations, including the partnership with the European Union, in areas of common interest.”

The North-South Centre, which celebrated its 20th anniversary during this period, regards these new prospects as a great opportunity to be seized both for reviving its activity and also for its reform and future strategy.

<sup>110</sup> Set up by the Council of Europe in September 2010, the Group was headed by the former German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, and had eight other members: Emma Bonino (Italy), Timothy Garton Ash (United Kingdom), Martin Hirsch (France), Danuta Hübner (Poland), Ayşe Kadioğlu (Turkey), Sonja Licht (Serbia), Vladimir Lukin (Russian Federation) and Javier Solana Madariaga (Spain). The rapporteur was Edward Mortimer (United Kingdom).



### III » The re-launch of the North-South Centre

#### 3.1.»

#### A strategic document for the future of the North-South Centre (2008-2010)

Drafted between December 2007 and March 2008, after in-depth consultations with the member States and other stakeholders of the North-South Centre, the *Strategic Document for the Future of the North-South Centre* proposed a series of priority directions leading to the **renewal** of the Centre.

The document underlined that the Centre should place emphasis above all on its strengths and fields of recognized expertise, i.e. education and youth, and on the fruitful political thrust of intercultural dialogue. It should also step up the political dimension of its work and make more capital from being a Council of Europe institution, which was its main comparative advantage in the Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African spheres, where a multitude of players are involved.



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On this basis, the strategy paper proposed a number of adaptations to the North-South Centre's programme, to its functioning and working methods and to its budget and secretariat, in particular through the diversification of its financial resources and the establishment of partnerships with other institutions.

Finally, the strategy proposed significant changes to the Centre's structures and mandate by initiating a process leading to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a new statutory resolution on the North-South Centre, in the framework of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### 3.2.»

#### Mobilisation of Member States and other North-South Centre stakeholders within the Council of Europe

The adoption of a strategy by the statutory bodies, in spring 2008, provided the North-South Centre with a roadmap for its future. It motivated the member States, other North-South Centre stakeholders and the Secretariat to achieve the goals set.

A first result was achieved when Montenegro joined the Centre on 1 March 2008. In the Autumn, the confirmed participation of its member States paved the way for its consolidation, first, and then its enlargement. March 2009 was historic, as it witnessed the accession of Serbia (1 March), the

return of Italy (15 March) and the request for accession by Morocco (which entered into force on 1 July). Two additional States joined in 2010: Cape Verde (1 March) and Azerbaijan (1 August), representing two new regions in the membership of the Centre. Malta also decided to return to the Centre on 1 January 2011<sup>111</sup>.



Danilo Türk

In addition a new chair, Deborah Bergamini (Italy), was elected for the Executive Council in April 2009. *“As I take up my duties as Chair, I would like to underline my satisfaction at having been able to contribute to the return of my country, Italy, to the Centre and my feelings of recognition and responsibility at the trust that has been placed in me. (...) Let me also express my pride at being the first woman to take on this responsibility”*, Statement by Deborah Bergamini on her election as new Chair of the North-South Centre Executive Council.

The support of the Centre’s other **stakeholders within the Council of Europe** was also unfailing:

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- » In autumn 2008, the **Parliamentary Assembly** launched the process leading to a report on the future of the North-South Centre, with a view to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a new statutory resolution in the context of the Centre’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary;
- » A co-operation agreement between the North-South Centre and the **Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** was signed in December 2008, following the model of the agreement signed with the Parliamentary Assembly in 2005;
- » A co-operation agreement was also signed with the **Conference of International Non Governmental Organisations** (INGOs) in January 2010.

<sup>111</sup> The same year, however, the Netherlands and Switzerland decided to end their commitment and resigned their membership, showing that Europe’s present political and economic context contains important risks for an institution such as the North-South Centre.



### 3.3.»

## Revitalising relations with the European Union

Unique in the Council of Europe's institutional framework because of its quadrilogue structure, the North-South Centre is also original due to the direct participation of the European Union in its decision-making process. Both the Commission and the European Parliament have representatives in the Centre's Executive Council and bureau.

A key feature of the strategy to re-launch the North-South Centre was the revitalisation of its relations with the European Union. Building on the efforts made in 2007 (see Chapter IV), this revitalisation consisted of:

- » Re-establishing **political** support for the Centre from the EU through effective participation of the European Commission and Parliament in its Executive Council meetings;
- » Re-establishing the European Commission's **financial** support to the Centre 126<sup>112</sup>.

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On 27 November 2008, the North-South Centre and the European Commission signed a joint management agreement by which the Centre, on the basis of its special relationship with non-state players (local authorities and civil society), was entrusted to implement a series of activities aimed at promoting global/development education in the new EU Member States and stepping up Euro-African cooperation in the field of youth. These activities were pursued over a three-year period (2009-2011) at a cost of around 1,300,000 Euros, to which the European Commission contributed some 900,000 Euros.



As a complement, one month before (October 2008), a decision had been taken jointly by the European Commission and the Council of Europe to add a new African dimension to their youth partnership. This dimension was entrusted to the North-South Centre, on the basis of a 200 000 Euros annual envelope.

<sup>112</sup> 126 Until 2003, the European Commission paid an annual subsidy of 400,000 Euros to the Centre. The end of this financial support following a change in the European Union's internal regulations was an important factor in the crisis suffered by the Centre between 2003 and 2007.

financial support following a change in the European Union's internal regulations was an important factor in the crisis suffered by the Centre between 2003 and 2007.

As a consequence of these two decisions, a comprehensive programme aimed at promoting global education in Europe and youth cooperation between Europe and Africa has been implemented by the North-South Centre since January 2009, strengthening its position as a key player in those fields.



Jorge Sampaio, High U.N Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations and Queen Rania of Jordan, Prize Winners of the 2008 North-South Prize.

In addition to the strengthened ties between the European Commission and Parliament, the North-South Centre also developed a working relationship with the **European Union Committee of the Regions**.

### 3.4.»

## Commitment to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

The North-South Centre developed a special relationship with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations due to their coinciding priorities as well as the Centre's intellectual and geographical proximity to the High Representative Jorge Sampaio. This relationship was anchored in the wider co-operation agreement between the Alliance and Council of Europe of September 2008, which made specific mention of the North-South Centre and served as framework for joint activities.

At the 2008 Lisbon Forum, the North-South Centre and the Alliance initiated a new process of dialogue on human rights between Europe and other continents. The Forum was devoted to “the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level”, analysing the situation 60 years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The debates led to the establishment of a work programme on human rights for the following years.

The North South Centre/Alliance of Civilizations partnership was further strengthened with the nomination, on 26 June 2009, of **Jorge Sampaio as President of the Lisbon Forum** from 2009 to 2011. Jorge Sampaio was moreover honored with the award of the 2008 **North-South Prize**, along with Queen Rania of Jordan. By selecting these two prize winners, the jury showed the importance of dialogue between cultures, an important feature of the promotion of peace, democracy and human rights in the world.

[Link video](#)

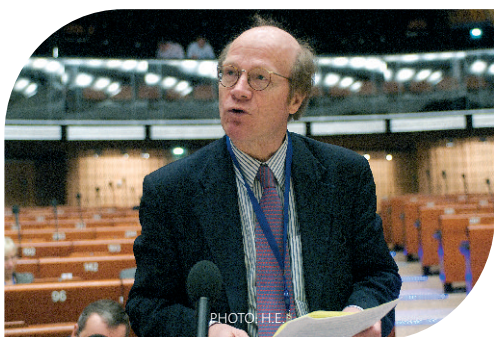






In September 2009, the Alliance of Civilizations invited the North-South Centre to make a contribution to the **regional strategies for the Balkans and Mediterranean** that were being negotiated. Following this, the Centre participated in the process which led to the ministerial conferences in Sarajevo (December 2009) and Malta (November 2010), and is contributing to the implementation of the actions plans which were adopted in the framework of both regional strategies.

#### IV » Adoption of a new Statutory Resolution on the North-South Centre



Kimmo Sasi

The main project for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Centre was the preparation of a new statutory resolution to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The process was initiated in autumn 2009 by a report of the Parliamentary Assembly on the future of the North-South Centre, prepared by Kimmo Sasi

(Finland). The report led to the adoption in November 2009 of PACE Recommendation 1893, which proposed the adoption of a new statutory resolution updating the Centre's mission and strengthening its political role and institutional operation. The Centre's other stakeholders were subsequently involved in the consultation process: the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities issued an opinion at their plenary sessions in April and June 2010, and the European Commission and the European Parliament, together with the EU Committee of the Regions, also expressed their support to the process.

The new statutory resolution was adopted on 5 May 2011, exactly 21 years after the Centre was set up in Lisbon. The main thrust of the Centre's revised statute is:

- » the North-South Centre retains its original legal status and continues to operate as an enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe;
- » the two statutory bodies which governed the Centre since its inception are merged into an "Executive Committee" which will be the sole decision-making body of the North-South Centre: this important structural change ensures that the Centre's "quadrilogue" modus operandi is

preserved, while guaranteeing that all member States will be fully involved in the decision-making process;

- » all member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union are invited to join the North-South Centre at the earliest opportunity;
- » the relationship with the European Union is strengthened by the inclusion of the Committee of the Regions of the EU as a new stakeholder in the North-South Centre, thus ensuring that the European Union institutions are included on all sides and at all levels of the “quadrilogue”;
- » the Centre, while continuing its traditional activities, will act as an interface between the Council of Europe and those countries in neighbouring regions wishing to co-operate with the Council, offering them a platform for structured co-operation on different levels (governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, civil society);
- » the priority areas of the Centre’s activity are confirmed (education, youth, intercultural dialogue), with special emphasis on promoting the principles and values of the Council of Europe beyond the continent of Europe itself.



Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the NSC' Executive Council, Venice Festival





## The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North-South Centre

The North-South Centre celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009/2010, around two key dates: 16 November 2009 – the anniversary of the decision of the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg to create the Centre - and 1 May 2010 – the anniversary of the opening of the Centre in Lisbon.

With the motto “One world, our world”, the Centre successfully celebrated its Anniversary by:

» Receiving messages of support at the highest level and from different backgrounds, in particular from Pope Benedict XVI, the President of the European Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations and the highest authorities of the host country (President of the Republic, President of the Assembly of the Republic);

» Bringing together people who have marked the Centre’s history – including a dozen former winners of the North-South Prize – at a Roundtable on “Interdependence and Solidarity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” (Lisbon, 18 May 2010);

» Launching a series of publications and a short movie on the achievements of the Centre since its creation and the challenges of its work over the years;

» Organising the exhibition “20 bridge builders in the History of Humanity”, which opened in Lisbon in May, before moving to Strasbourg in June and Mollina (Spain) in September;

» Obtaining the support of all the Centre’s stakeholders within the Council of Europe (Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Conference of INGOs) and the European Union (European Commission and Parliament, EU Committee of Regions) to the process that led in 2011 to the adoption of a new Statutory Resolution for the North-South Centre.

## CONCLUSION

This historic retrospective of the North-South Centre sheds light on the challenges and achievements of the Centre over the last 21 years.

The adoption of a new statutory resolution by the Committee of Ministers on 5 May 2011, followed by the adoption of a new strategy providing the Centre with a “roadmap” for 2011-2013, will hopefully give the North-South Centre political momentum and the administrative and financial stability it needs to carry out its mission.

The permanent processes implemented by the Centre during its history (the Lisbon Forum since 1994, the North-South Prize since 1995, the University on Youth and Development since 2000) have been strengthened to constitute the backbone of its programme of activities. In 2011, the relationship with the European Union has been stronger than ever, as shown by the implementation, since 2009 of joint programmes. With regard to the United Nations, the Centre has developed since 2008 privileged co-operation links with the Alliance of Civilizations and is actively contributing to its regional strategies being implemented in the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

All this gives the North-South Centre solid assets to project itself into the future in a radically changing international environment, which makes its role as an interface between Europe and the South – especially the neighbouring regions of our continent – more relevant than ever. The changes that have occurred over the past three years bear witness to this: five new countries – including two non-Europeans countries – have joined the Centre, two countries which had withdrawn have returned and the European Union is again providing its full political and financial support to the Centre’s work. This has enabled the Centre, not only to significantly strengthen its means of action, but also to greatly reduce its dependence regarding the obligatory contributions of member States.

The rapidly changing international environment, including the global economic crisis, the political radicalization of Europe and the emerging democratic processes in North Africa, bring both risks and new opportunities. The North-South Centre stands ready to use its expertise and networks to address the historical challenges that Europe and its neighbourhood is facing today.





## *Abbreviations / Abbreviations*

<b>CNS</b>	Centre Nord-Sud
<b>NSC</b>	North-South Centre
<b>CdE</b>	Conseil de l'Europe
<b>COE</b>	Council of Europe
<b>APCE</b>	Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe
<b>PACE</b>	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
<b>DG-IV</b>	Direction générale de l'Education, de la Culture et du Patrimoine, de la Jeunesse et Sport / Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport
<b>DG-III</b>	Direction Générale de la Cohésion Sociale / Directorate General of Social Cohesion
<b>CDMG</b>	Comité européen sur les migrations / European Committee on Migration
<b>OING</b>	Organisations internationales non gouvernementales
<b>INGOs</b>	International Non Governmental Organisations
<b>OCDE</b>	Organisation de Coopération et Développement Economique
<b>OCDE</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OSCE</b>	Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe / Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>CNUED</b>	Conférence des Nations unies sur l'environnement et le développement
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>CNUCED</b>	Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNESCO</b>	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture / United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>PNUD</b>	Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UE</b>	Union européenne
<b>UA</b>	Union africaine
<b>ACP</b>	Pays d'Afrique, Caraïbes et Pacifique / African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
<b>PEV</b>	Politique Européenne de Voisinage
<b>ENP</b>	The European Neighbourhood Policy
<b>PVD</b>	Pays en voie de développement
<b>CEULAJ</b>	Centro Eurolatinoamericano de Juventud
<b>COPEAM</b>	Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators / Conference Permanente de l'Audiovisuel Méditerranéen
<b>IPS</b>	Inter Press Service
<b>NEPAD</b>	Nouveau Partenariat pour le Développement de l'Afrique / New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>AWEPA</b>	Association des parlementaires européens pour l'Afrique / Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa







# A P P E N D I X

## *Member States of the North-South Centre*



**Azerbaijan**  
01/08/2010



**Cape Verde**  
01/03/2010



**Cyprus**  
16/11/1989



**Finland**  
01/07/1990



**France**  
1989-2007



**Germany**  
1/10/2001



**Greece**  
04/07/1995



**Holy See**  
04/06/1998



**Iceland**  
01/01/2000



**Ireland**  
01/01/2000



**Italy**  
16/11/1989



**Liechtenstein**  
01/01/1991



**Luxembourg**  
16/11/1989



**Malta**  
16/11/1989



**Montenegro**  
01/03/2008



**Morocco**  
01/07/2009



**Netherlands**  
1989-2010



**Norway**  
16/11/1989



**Portugal**  
16/11/1989



**San Marino**  
16/11/1989



**Serbia**  
01/3/2009



**Slovenia**  
01/1/1997



**Spain**  
16/11/1989



**Sweden**  
01/09/1990



**Switzerland**  
1989-2010



**Turkey**  
1992-1994





A P P E N D I X

*Chairs of the Executive Council and  
Executive Directors*

**I. Chairs of the Executive Council**

**Deborah Bergamini**, Italy, 2009-...

**Claude Frey**, Switzerland, 2004-2009

**Miguel-Angel Martínez**, Spain, 1995-2004

**Victor Crespo**, Portugal, 1992-1995

**Harry Aarts**, The Netherlands, 1990-1992

**II. Executive Directors of the North-South Centre**

**Denis Huber**, 2008-...

**Eladio Fernandez Galliano** (a.i), 2007

**José Carlos Correia Nunes**, 2005-2007

**Hans de Jonge** (a.i), 2004-2005

**Jos Lemmers**, 1990-2004



## A P P E N D I X

### *The annual Lisbon Forum Themes*

**Lisbon Forum 2010**

Freedom of expression, conscience and religion

**Lisbon Forum 2009**

Creating a culture of human rights through education

**Lisbon Forum 2008**

The principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level

**Lisbon Forum 2007**

National Human Rights Institutions: the cornerstone for the promotion and protection of human rights

**Lisbon Forum 2006**

Constitutionalism : the key to democracy, human rights and the rule of law

**Lisbon Forum 2005**

Democratic governance in the multicultural societies of the North and the South

**Lisbon Forum 2004**

Social Cohesion and Local and Regional Sustainability Strategies: the role of Civil Society and Local Authorities'

**Lisbon Forum 2003**

Migration and Human Rights: North-South Dialogue

**Lisbon Forum 2002**

Sustainable Development and human rights: beyond Johannesburg

**Lisbon Forum 2001**

Children and Youth in Africa: Actors of their own Development

**Lisbon Forum 2000**

The Regional and International Systems of Human Rights Protection: their contribution to the Universality and Indivisibility of Human Rights

**Lisbon Forum 1999**

Democratic Processes and the Protection of Human Rights in the Mediterranean

**Lisbon Forum 1998**

The Present State of Human Rights in Africa

**Lisbon Forum 1997**

The Great Lakes region: towards new North-South dialogue

**Lisbon Forum 1996**

Human Rights in the North-South dialogue

**Lisbon Forum 1995**

Human Rights in the North-South dialogue

**Lisbon Forum 1994**

Human Rights in the North-South dialogue



# IV

## A P P E N D I X

### *Council of Europe North-South Prize Winners*

- 2010** **Louise Arbour**, President of the Crisis Group (Canada)  
**Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, 35<sup>th</sup> President of Brazil
- 2009** **Gorbachev**, former President of the URSS  
**Rola dashti**, leading activist in Kuwait
- 2008** **Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah**, Jordan  
**Jorge Sampaio**, former President of the Republic of Portugal, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
- 2007** **Simone Veil**, Founder of the “Fondation pour la mémoire de la Shoah”, France  
**Kofi Annan**, former Secretary General of the United Nations, Ghana
- 2006** **Mukhtaran Bibi**, Founder of the “Mukhtar Mai Women Welfare Organisation”, Pakistan  
**Father Francisco Van der Hoff**, Founder of the Max Havelaar Fair Trade Association, The Netherlands
- 2005** **Bogaletch Gebre**, Founder and Director of the Kembatta Women’s Self Help Centre, Ethiopia  
**Bob Geldof**, Musician and Producer, Ireland
- 2004** **Nawal Al Sadawi**, a psychiatrist, researcher, feminist writer, and also a member of the Association “Arab Women Solidarity Organisation”, Egypt  
**Ambassador Stéphane Hessel**, well known figure for his efforts to promote peace and for the protection of the poor, France
- 2003** **Frene Ginwala**, President of the Parliament of South Africa  
**António de Almeida Santos**, Former President of the National Assembly of Portugal
- 2002** **Albina du Boisrouvray**, Founder and President of the François-Xavier Bagnoud Association, France  
**Xanana Gusmão**, President of the Democratic Republic of East Timor
- 2001** **Maria de Nazaré Gadelha Ferreira Fernandes**, legal monitor of the Human Rights Defence Centre, Brazil  
**Cornelio Sommaruga**, former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Switzerland
- 2000** **Marguerite Barankitse** in charge of children’s shelters, Burundi  
**Mário Soares**, former President of the Republic of Portugal

## *Council of Europe North-South Prize Winners*

- 1999** **Emma Bonino**, Member of the European Parliament  
**Abderrahman Youssoufi**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco
- 1998** **Graça Machel**, President of the National Children's Organisation, Mozambique  
**Lloyd Axworthy**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
- 1997** **Mary Robinson**, President of Ireland  
**Patricio Aylwin**, former President of Chile
- 1996** **Danielle Mitterrand**, President of the "France Libertés" Foundation  
**Women of Algeria** (symbolic Prize)
- 1995** **Vera Duarte**, Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights  
**Peter Gabriel**, Musicien, Producer of "World Music, United Kingdom"







A P P E N D I X

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