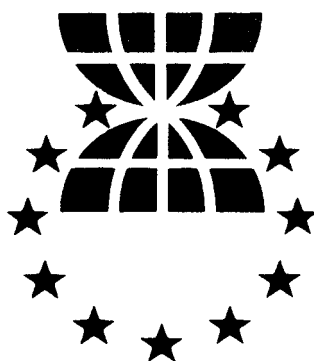


# **NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE**

**EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL  
INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

NS/A.rep-98/eng



**Annual Report 1998**

## **INDEX**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Statutory Activities, Partnership Relations and Programme Orientations.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1.	Statutory Activities.....	4
1.1.1.	Executive Council meetings .....	4
1.1.2.	Bureau meetings .....	4
1.1.3.	Meetings of the Committee of Representatives of the Member States .....	4
1.1.4.	Meetings of the Programme Advisory Groups .....	4
1.2.	Programme Orientations and Partnership Relations .....	4
1.2.1.	Programme Orientations.....	4
1.2.2.3.1.	Quadrilogue meeting – Japan (27 may 1998, Tokyo) .....	4
<b>2.</b>	<b>Common Programmes and Services for Raising Public Awareness .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1.	Tutorship and Placement of Trainees.....	5
2.2	Preparations for the 1998 Public Awareness Campaign of the Council of Europe .....	5
2.3.	The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre at EXPO ‘98 – The Ocean of Ideas.....	6
2.5.	Publications .....	6
2.5.1.	The Interdependent .....	6
2.5.2.	Terra Viva Monthly.....	7
2.5.5.	Brochures, Programme Sheets and Advertising .....	7
2.5.5.1.	North-South Centre Brochure: non-official language versions – Supplementary project depending on voluntary contributions .....	7
2.5.5.2.	Leaflet on the North-South Centre .....	7
2.5.5.3.	Programme Sheets .....	8
2.5.5.4.	Publicity material : Greetings card, postcard, North-South Diary .....	8
2.5.6	Activities Reports, Conference Reports and Follow-up to Activities.....	8
2.7.4.	Press Service.....	8

<b>3.</b>	<b>Information and Communication for Global Partnership</b> .....	9
3.3.	Transmediterranean Co-operation.....	9
3.3.1.	Co-operation with COPEAM .....	9
3.3.3.	North-South Media Encounters.....	9
3.4.	Other Media-Related Campaigns and Activities.....	9
3.4.1.	Information Activities to Fight Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance.....	9
3.5.	Participation in initiatives of other organisations .....	10
<b>4.</b>	<b>Global Education and Youth</b> .....	11
4.1.	Global Education.....	11
4.1.1.2.	“Africa-Europe: Dialogue on Education for Change” .....	11
4.1.2.	The Legal and Political Frameworks of Global Education .....	12
4.1.2.1.	“Euro-African Inter-Continental Roundtable on Global Education” .....	12
4.1.5.	Preparation, Follow-up and Participation in Initiatives of other Organisations.....	13
4.2.	Youth Programme.....	13
4.2.1.1	Intergovernmental Round Table on the Global Dimension of Youth Policies .....	13
4.2.1.2	International Workshop on the Role of Young People and Confidence Building .....	13
4.2.2.4.	Youth Programme Committee .....	14
4.2.2.5.	Programme Development, Evaluation, Follow-up, Research and participation in other activities.....	14
<b>5.</b>	<b>Human rights, civil society and governance</b> .....	15
5.3	The North-South Prize .....	15
5.7	Constructive Engagement and Human Rights Protection in the ASEAN: North South Dialogue	15
5.9.	International Roundtable on Reconciliation and Co-operation in the Middle East.....	16
5.10.1.	Eco-Partnerships – Tokyo: World Conference on International Co-operation of Cities and Citizens (26-28 May, Tokyo) .....	17
Annex I (Final report on the participation of the Council of Europe at Expo'98)		

## **1. Statutory Activities, Partnership Relations and Programme Orientations**

### **1.1. Statutory Activities**

#### **1.1.1. Executive Council Meetings**

**Timing and place:** Executive Council Spring meeting, Lisbon, 12-13 June 1998  
Executive Council Autumn meeting, Lisbon, 23-24 October 1998

#### **1.1.2. Bureau meetings**

**Timing and place:**

Bureau meeting 98-1: Lisbon, 9 January 1998

Bureau meeting 98-2: Sintra, 12 June 1998 (informal, in combination with Executive Council meeting)

Bureau meeting 98-3: Strasbourg, 23 September 1998

Bureau meeting 98-4: Lisbon, 23 October 1998 (just prior to the Executive Council's Autumn meeting)

#### **1.1.3. Meetings of the Committee of Representatives of the Member States**

**Timing and place:**

Committee of Representatives of the member States 98-1, Sintra, 12 June 1998

Committee of Representatives of the member States 98-2, Strasbourg, 12 October 1998

#### **1.1.4. Meetings of the Programme Advisory Groups**

see under each programme

## **1.2. Programme Orientations and Partnership Relations**

### **1.2.1. Programme Orientations**

Please consult the 1998 Programme of Activities

#### **1.2.2.3.1. Quadrilogue meeting – Japan (27 May 1998, Tokyo)**

This meeting was hosted and convened by the Foundation for Advanced Studies in International Development (FASID) which works closely with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education as well as the development research sector within and outside Japan. The Director of FASID's research wing, Dr. Kazuo Takahashi is a member of the Executive Council of the North South Centre.

The meeting was represented by all the four sectors including: JANIC, the main development **NGO** network in Japan; Council of **Local Authorities** for International Relations (CLAIR); high level **parliamentarians** including the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and the former Minister for the Environment; as well as high level **government** representatives of the major divisions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Executive Director of the Association for the Promotion of International Co-operation (APIC) was also present.

The substance of the meeting focussed on concrete ways to mobilize public opinion in support of international development, and how stakeholders in Japan working in this area, and the Council of Europe's North South Centre could work together. The participants were also briefed on the Council of Europe's Global Solidarity Campaign. A series of follow-up recommendations were made including co-operation with the Council of Europe's Global Solidarity Campaign. A full report is available.

## ***2. Common Programmes and Services for Raising Public Awareness***

### ***2.1. Tutorship and Placement of Trainees***

David Gakunzi (Rwanda)	Tutor - Human Rights Programme – 26 March 98 – 15 June 98
Ana Pereira (Portugal)	Trainee – Documentation – 1 January 98 – 31 March 1998
Sylvia Fontao (Portugal)	Trainee – Youth – (voluntary basis) 9 March - 31 August 98
Jesus Martin (Spain)	Young Ambassador – EXPO – 4 May 98 – 4 October 98
Maria Delgado (Spain)	Young Ambassador – EXPO 4 May 98 – 4 October 98
Pauline Stasi (France)	Young Ambassador – EXPO – 15 May 98 – 31 July 98
Kerii Tjitendero (Namibia)	Young Ambassador – EXPO - 18 May 98 – 4 October 98
Marcos Vazirna (Portugal)	Trainee – Global Education – 8 November – 31 December 1998

### ***2.2 Preparations for the 1998 Public Awareness Campaign of the Council of Europe***

#### **Temporary Campaign Secretariat**

In the absence of a Campaign secretariat, the North South Centre served as the Campaign secretariat until the formal appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Campaign in June 1998. The Centre worked closely with the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe in preparing briefing papers, organising the Steering and International Organising Committee meetings, as well as preparing reports from those meetings.

#### **Campaign Launch (10 September 1998)**

The Commissioner General of the Council of Europe to the World Expo, and Deputy to the Executive Director of the North South Centre, Ms. Isabel Martinho and the Centre staff worked together with the Campaign Secretariat to prepare for the various activities related to the launch of the Global Solidarity Campaign at the World Expo.

The two following activities were organised with the support of the Centre both on substance and organisational aspects.

**“Visions from the Sahel” Workshop, 10 September 1998**

This was organised together with the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Sahel Club of the OECD and in collaboration with the National Organising Committee of Portugal. This workshop constituted a ‘listening to the south’ element of the Campaign process where the civil society representatives of the Sahel region were articulating their visions and ideas to eliminate poverty and social exclusion. A summary report is available.

**Global Forum of the Poor – Planning Meeting, 11 September 1998**

In the preparatory process for the Campaign the need to listen to, and to work in partnership with the poor and the marginalised emerged as one of the most important areas of the Campaign. The purpose of this meeting was to find out concrete ways of working in partnership with the poor and marginalised communities around the world in the context of the Global Solidarity Campaign. The title of the meeting was inspired by the ‘Forum of the Poor’ in Thailand where poor communities around the country worked over the years on a process of self empowerment, with admirable degree of success to take the development and reform processes in their own hands in the fight against poverty and marginalisation.

NGO networks working closely with the poor and marginalised communities from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America with an effective outreach of thousands of NGOs were present. A series of recommendations under the working title of ‘**Global Synergies Initiatives**’ were made. A full report is available.

**2.3. *The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre at EXPO ‘98 – The Ocean of Ideas***

See Annex I – Internal Document only.

**2.5. *Publications***

**2.5.1. *The Interdependent***

**Activity:** Publication of a newsletter on the North-South Centre's activities.

**Date and place:** Monthly publication.

**Implementation:** In January 1998, a special issue on anti-racism was published. Following the results of an evaluation questionnaire sent in 1997 to the readership, the design of the Interdependent was improved in March 1998. The publication came out on a monthly basis throughout 1998 according to workplan.

## **2.5.2. *Terra Viva Monthly***

**Activity:** Monthly publication produced in partnership with the Inter Press Service News agency.

**Date and place:** Every month; the journal is designed in Lisbon and printed in Spain.

**Implementation:** This monthly is intended as a forum for free expression and debate on North-South relations and for dialogue between the quadrilogue partners while giving priority to the views of civil society, particularly in southern countries. Terra Viva's publication started in January 1997 and it has been published on a monthly basis according to the workplan throughout 1998. An evaluation meeting took place between the two partners and concluded to the continuation of the project in 1999.

## **2.5.5. *Brochures, Programme Sheets and Advertising***

### **2.5.5.1. *North-South Centre Brochure: non-official language versions – Supplementary project depending on voluntary contributions***

**Activity:** Publication in Portuguese of the booklet presenting the North-South Centre which is currently available in English and in French.

**Date and place:** Early 1998

**Implementation:** The text of this publication has been translated into Portuguese.

### **2.5.5.2. *Leaflet on the North-South Centre***

**Activity:** Publication of an abridged booklet presenting the North-South Centre in French, English, and Portuguese, for wide distribution during the 1998 campaign and Expo '98. As it is cheaper to produce than the booklet designed in 1997, it can be more widely distributed and more fully geared to the general public. This will allow the North-South Centre to have two external information publications of a general nature.

**Date and place:** Early 1998.

**Implementation:** These leaflets are now available in French, English, Portuguese and Japanese. Five thousand were printed in each language.

### ***2.5.5.3. –Programme Sheets***

**Activity:** Publication of two information sheets on the programmes on "Global Education and Youth" and "Human Rights, Civil Society and Governance", along the lines of the sheet already published on "Transmed".

**Date and place:** 1998.

**Implementation:** This project was converted. The funds have been allocated for the re-printing of the North-South Centre's brochure in French and English (See PoA 1997 1.2.1.2)

### ***2.5.5.4. Publicity material : Greetings card, postcard, North-South Diary***

**Activity:** Publication of a greetings card and of a multi-purpose post card. These cards would serve to help heighten recipients' awareness to the aims pursued by the North-South Centre. The North-South Diary would contribute to the Centre's awareness-raising work.

**Date and place:** End 1997 (greetings card), Beginning 1998 (post card) and September 1998 (diary)

**Implementation:** The greeting cards were produced. The other items were not considered appropriate in view of the financial situation.

## ***2.5.6. Activities Reports, Conference Reports and Follow-up to Activities***

**Activity:** Publication of the Soesterberg meeting report "Partnerships in Global Education in Secondary Schools" Lisbon, Summer 1998.

**Activity:** Co-publication with the OECD Development Centre of "Civil Society and International Development" and Public Attitudes and International Development Co-operation". Paris – Lisbon Summer 1998.

## ***2.7.4. Press Service***

**Activity:** Promoting the North-South Centre's activities in the press. Informing journalists on global interdependence and solidarity issues.

**Date and place:** North-South Centre, all year round.

**Implementation:** Many articles and radio programmes interviews were produced in local, national and international media, mainly related to the EXPO '98 Pavilion. A promotion of the Committee of Wise Persons conference in Lisbon was also done. Continuity has been assured between the Portuguese media and the Council of Europe. Work is still carried out on creating a data base of journalists working in the NSC field of activities.



### **3 Information and Communication for Global Partnership**

#### **3.3 Transmediterranean Co-operation**

##### **3.3.1 Co-operation with COPEAM (*Conférence permanente de l'audio-visuel en Méditerranée*)**

**Activity:** Participation in the activities of COPEAM

**Place and date:** 18-21 April 1998, Tunis, Tunisia

**Implementation:** The North-South Centre was elected as one of the vice-presidents of the Executive Bureau of the COPEAM. Large implication of the North-South Centre in the media and audio-visual information in the Euro-Mediterranean space.

**Activity:** Participation in the Executive Committee of the COPEAM

**Place and date:** Paris, 9 June and 20-21 September, Rome, Italy.

**Implementation:** The Centre participated for the first time as a vice-president of the COPEAM.

##### **3.3.3 North-South Media Encounters**

**Activity:** Annual encounter

**Place and date:** Geneva, 4-9 May 1998

**Implementation:** The NSC has awarded the South-North Prize for a film production on Women's conditions and their implication in development in Madagascar. The Centre has also organised in collaboration with the UNDP, a workshop on Poverty and democracy south of the Mediterranean which gathered renowned experts.

#### **3.4 Other Media-Related Campaigns and Activities**

##### **3.4.1 Information Activities to Fight Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance**

**Activity:** To encourage media participation in various initiatives for global interdependence, solidarity and multi-cultural society, and to strengthen co-operation between the media and civil society organisations in these fields.

**Place and date:** Decentralised activities during the year including, around March 21, the "World anti-racist day of action."

**Implementation:** Around 1000 letters were sent well in advance to journalists, NGO's and media organisations, to encourage them to organise activities - either on national or local levels – around March 21. As a follow up, the NSC has published some of the most interesting activities in its regular publications.

### **3.5. *Participation in initiatives of other organisations***

**Activity:** Creation meeting of the Mediterranean Youth Forum

**Date and place:** 5-7 February 1998, New York

**Implementation:** Meeting organised by the European Youth Forum and the European Commission.

**Activity:** Dialogue between cultures and civilisations in the Mediterranean area

**Date and place:** 24, 25 April, Stockholm

**Implementation:** Presentation of the NSC's and Council of Europe's work.

**Activity:** Annual Euromesco Conference (Network of Institutes and Research Centres on foreign policy and security in the Mediterranean)

**Date and place:** 16-17 May, London

**Implementation:** The NSC was present to speak on "Xenophobia, migrations and mutual perception: Education's role"

**Activity:** Preparatory meeting of the Colloquy on Citizenship in the Mediterranean

**Place and date:** Paris, 6,7 June

**Implementation:** To prepare for the colloquy to be held in Madrid on 28, 29, 30 November.

**Activity:** Seminar: "USA, Europe, and the Mediterranean"

**Place and date:** Porto, 22,23 June

**Implementation:** Experience sharing seminar and discussion related to the Centre's expertise in the Mediterranean region.

**Activity:** Executive Council meeting of the COPEAM

**Place and date:** Rome, 20-21 September

**Implementation:** Presentation of the 1998 Council of Europe campaign and exploratory discussions on how various audiovisual media could contribute.

**Activity:** "Palestine and the European Union: Partnership for Peace and Economic Development in the Middle East"

**Place and date:** Ramallah, Palestine, 2 October 1998

**Implementation:** The Executive Director represented the Council of Europe's Secretary General.

**Activity:** Second International conference on African Development

**Place and date:** Tokyo, 19-31 October 1998

**Implementation:** The Centre was represented by Dr Kazuo Takahashi, Executive Council member, and David Gakunzi of the Martin Luther King Centre.

**Activity:** OSCE Mediterranean Seminar on the Human Dimension of Security, Promoting Democracy and the rule of Law.

**Place and Date:** Malta, 19-20 October 1998

**Implementation:** Speech by the NSC Transmed programme Coordinator on “The Role of Information and Education with regard to the Rule of Law” as well as on “ The Role of International Organizations in the Human Dimension of Security in the Mediterranean.”

**Activity:** Meeting with the Moroccan Education Minister and the Under-Secretary of State for Education of Portugal.

**Place and date:** Lisbon, 6 November 1998

**Implementation:** Discussions on the development of pilot project: “Education as a tool against racism and xenophobia.”

**Activity:** Round Table on North-South Relations and International Cooperation.

**Place and date:** Luxembourg, 4-5 November 1998

**Implementation:** The Centre was represented by the Executive Director. Contacts with various politicians.

**Activity:** Lome 2000 and Beyond

**Place and Date:** 12-13 November 1998, Vienna.

**Implementation:** In relations with the Council of Europe campaign against poverty.

**Activity:** International Lisbon Conference: Lessons from Bosnia

**Place and date:** Lisbon, 17 November 1998

**Implementation:** Speech by the NSC Transmed programme coordinator on “The International Dimension of European Crises”.

**Activity:** EU Enlargement and the roles of NGDOs.

**Place and date:** Vienna, 18-20 November

**Implementation:** The NSC represented by the Deputy Director. Liaison with NGDOs.

## **4. *Global Education and Youth***

### **4.1. *Global Education***

#### **4.1.1.2. *“Africa-Europe: Dialogue on Education for Change”***

**Activity:**

Programme 1 : Dialogue on educational policy – 1 Roundtable (see item 4.1.2.1.)

Programme 2 : Commercial Communication – 1 Publisher’s workshop

Programme 3 : Workshop/Seminars – 4 seminars

Programme 4 : Exhibit at WORLDDIDAC 1998 - Basel

Programme 5 : European Visit Programme

**Date and Place:** Basel, 11 – 15 May 1998

**Implementation:** A collection of 300 books originating from various European and African countries (Germany, South Africa, Austria, France, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, The Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Senegal, Switzerland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) have been exposed on a 350 square meter exhibition stand during the exhibition of pedagogical material at Worlddidac 1998, in Basel. The environment, peace and human rights were the main themes of the pedagogical publications. In parallel to the exposition, a series of workshops was put together in the exhibition area itself, gathering many exhibition visitors. The topics discussed (images of Africa and Europe in school books, exchange of experience between teachers and students, co-edition possibilities) have allowed an open debate between the invited participants Africa-Europe: Dialogue on Education for Change and the visitors. The stand's easy access and the activities taking place have allowed the African and European professionals of education, edition, and co-operation and development to meet and create contacts. About 10 African participants followed the five day visit programme in The Netherlands and United Kingdom, allowing them to better know other European institutions linked to teaching, edition, and co-operation and development. A spin-off effect was created by Japan which organised a follow-up exhibition of the educational material from Africa on the occasion of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa on 17-20 October 1998.

## **4.1.2. *The Legal and Political Frameworks of Global Education***

### **4.1.2.1. *“Euro-African Inter-Continental Roundtable on Global Education”***

**– joint activity of the Global Education and the Human Rights programme**

**Activity:** 1 meeting (50 participants)

**Date and Place:** 11 May 1998, Basel

**Implementation:** In replacement of the Inter-governmental Round-table, the Inter-continental Round-Table on Global Education and International Solidarity's objective was to obtain comments to the submitted third version of the Global Education Charter to the participants of Africa-Europe: Dialogue on Education for Change. This event created the possibilities for the development of a specific Global Education Charter for Africa, drawing on the experience of the Global Education Charter process in Europe.

#### **4.1.5. *Preparation, Follow-up and Participation in Initiatives of Other Organisations***

##### **Research work on the Global Education Charter and National Action Plans**

See 4.1.2.1. and 4.1.1.1. (See Programme of Activities 1998)

#### **4.2. *Youth Programme***

##### **4.2.1.1 *Intergovernmental Roundtable on the Global Dimension of Youth Policies***

**Activity:** Intergovernmental Round-Table

**Date and Place:** 15 and 16 November 1998, Ljubljana

**Implementation:** This meeting was organised in co-operation with the Youth Directorate and the department of youth and sports of the Ministry of Education of Slovenia. In total 17 governments participated as well as representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the European youth structures. The participants agreed on the importance for youth policy to make globalisation one of their priority areas of work. However in order to achieve this, research on methodology and impact is necessary. It was agreed that such work should be conducted in a European context and in co-operation between Ministries of youth and development co-operation. The campaign on globalisation without poverty was discussed as a well placed instrument to achieve these aims.

##### **4.2.1.2 *International Workshop on the Role of Young People and Confidence Building***

**Activity:** Preparation Meeting and International Workshop

**Place and Date:** Preparation Meeting: Sarajevo, November/ December 1998  
International Workshop: Sarajevo, Spring 1999

**Implementation:** In the June 1998 Executive Council Meeting the green light for this project was given. The preparation meeting will take place early 1999. It was decided to organise the workshop itself in the summer of 1999.

#### **4.2.2.4 Youth Programme Committee**

**Activity:** Two programme committee meetings

**Place and date:** YPCI: Lisbon, 2 May 1998  
YPCII: Lisbon or Brussels, Autumn 1998

**Implementation:** This activity, with a strong input from the South, was meant to prepare the Youth programme for 1999 in order to present it to the Spring Executive Council meeting. The autumn YPC was cancelled due to the general financial situation of the Centre.

#### **4.2.2.5 Programme Development, Evaluation, Follow-up, Research and participation in other activities.**

**Activity:** UN inter-agency coordination meeting

**Date and Place:** 2-4 February, New York

**Implementation:** UN inter-agency coordination meeting between the UN and Inter Governmental Organisations in the field of Youth, as well as preparatory meeting for the world conference of ministers.

**Activity:** Preparation meeting for the European Youth Parliament's conference on drugs and development.

**Date and Place:** 25 March, Strasbourg

**Implementation:** Preparation well under way.

**Activity:** European Conference of ministers of Youth

**Date and Place:** 27-29 April, Bucharest, Romania

**Implementation:** The Centre was represented at this conference, stressing the important link between Global Interdependence and Youth Policy.

**Activity:** Preparatory meeting for World Youth Forum organised by the UN

**Date and Place:** 5-7 May, Braga, Portugal

**Implementation:** The North-South Centre is part of the preparatory team for this conference, jointly with the EU, the UN agencies, and representatives of youth organisations. This last meeting finalised the programme and participants list.

**Activity:** Convocation meeting for the Mediterranean Youth Forum

**Date and Place:** 14-17 May, Malta

**Implementation:** As a follow up to the EuroMed Summit in Malta (April 1997), as well as a result of the Euro-Arab Dialogue, it was decided that a EuroMed Youth Forum would be established. This Forum will consist of youth representatives from Europe, the Maghreb and the Mashrek. It was stressed that it should aim at obtaining a coherent and

integrated work relationship between the Council of Europe and the European Union.

**Activity:** Third United Nations World Youth Forum

**Date and Place:** Braga, 1 to 8 August 1998

**Implementation:** The meeting brought together approximately 600 youth representatives from about 130 different countries. The aim of the meeting was to facilitate the creation of concrete co-operation programmes among youth organisations from all parts of the planet as well as to provide for a youth input in the World Conference of Ministers of Youth that was organised from 8 to 12 August 1998 in Lisbon.

**Activity:** Ibero American Conference of Ministers of Youth

**Date and Place:** Lisbon, 5 to 7 August 1998

**Implementation:** The Centre participated as an observer in this meeting.

**Activity:** World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

**Date and Place:** Lisbon, 8 to 12 August 1998

**Implementation:** The Centre was part of the Council of Europe delegation to this conference.

## **5. *Human rights, civil society and governance***

### **5.3 *The North-South Prize***

**Activity:** Prize ceremony and publicity.

**Place and date:** Lisbon, 16 May 1997.

**Implementation:** The Prize has been awarded to Mrs Graça Machel and Mr. Lloyd Axworthy at the Senate Room of the Portuguese Parliament on 23 October 1998. This ceremony has been organised in conjunction with the Executive Council and the Lisbon Forum. A publication with the speakers' interventions will be published by the DAP in the Spring of 1999.

### **5.7 *Constructive Engagement and Human Rights Protection in the ASEAN: North South Dialogue***

As indicated in the 1998 programme of activities, a small planning meeting was held in May with the potential partners for this project, Forum Asia, a regional human rights network in Asia and Focus on Global South. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation, a project partner for the human rights programme of the North South Centre was not able to attend this meeting though their views and ideas were sought by telephone exchange.

The original proposal for this project was to organise a **seminar** on this theme with a focus on the ASEAN policy of constructive engagement with a global north-south

dimension, followed by a **publication** on the subject. It was felt by the potential partners that whilst they are interested in pursuing the project it needs to go more into depth than what has hitherto been proposed for the project so that it contributes substantially to the ongoing debate on `constructive engagement`. It was felt that `research` should constitute an important component in this project and investigated from a variety of dimensions (human rights, democracy, security, trade etcetera) if it is to bring any `added value` to the ongoing debate. This comparative research should look into existing policies of `constructive engagement` and whether it has in fact contributed to improving human rights and pluralism in countries where this policy has been exercised.

From the perspective of the North South Centre, this project also has to be seen in light of the existing work and the mandate of the Centre. In this particular example the Centre and the Council of Europe could bring two important comparative advantages – the first concerns the conditions of membership and the activities of the Council of Europe. These include the abolition of the death penalty required for entry, as well as the concrete activities that the Council is actually engaging in (promoting democracy, strengthening electoral processes etcetera) in particular in Eastern European countries. Where the Centre could bring `comparative advantage` to this project is related to the Centre's activities on `Regional Systems of Human Rights and Human Rights Protection`. The North-South Centre works closely with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, the Inter-American as well as the European Court and Commission on Human Rights. Whilst regional human rights mechanisms exist in Europe, Africa and the Americas, no regional mechanism exist in Asia. There are discussions to establish a mechanism for human rights within the ASEAN context and the Centre could contribute to this process in the context of its existing work on regional mechanisms.

The way forward with this project would be to ensure that the project is developed in line with the existing mandate and activities of the Centre and to ensure that comparative advantage. This process will take time to develop.

In the mean time the Centre's newly elected member of the Executive Council, Dr. Carolina Hernandez represented the Centre at the "Alternative Security Systems for the Asia and Pacific" in June 1998 organised by Focus on Global South where there was a panel discussion on `constructive engagement`.

## **5.9. *International Roundtable on Reconciliation and Co-operation in the Middle East***

**Activity:** Euro-Mediterranean roundtable organised by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the North-South Centre and the Shimon Peres Institute for Peace.

**Date and place:** 12-13 February 1998, Council of Europe, Strasbourg

**Implementation:** One of the main recommendations was the creation of a contact group which will pursue the follow-up to the round-table resolution. The Chairman of the



Executive Council of the Centre and the Executive Director used the report and conclusions from the Round Table during an important Euro-Palestinian Encounter in Ramallah on 8-10 October 1998 (financed by the European Union). In the light of progress in the Middle East Peace process, a meeting of the Contact Group may be convened in due course, hopefully in conjunction with the Centre's Conference on Citizenship and Human Rights in the Mediterranean, in Madrid from 27-29 November 1998.

**5.10.1. *Eco-Partnerships – Tokyo: World Conference on International Co-operation of Cities and Citizens (26-28 May, Tokyo)***

Upon invitation of the organisers, the United Nations and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the North South Centre participated in the above Eco-partnership conference. This conference focused on the ways and means to develop an ecological society in the major towns and cities in the world. During one of the sessions the North South Centre was able to present its work and argue for the need to mobilise public opinion in the creation of an eco-society.

Participation in this conference was a good exposure for the North South Centre, and in line with the 'local authorities' dimension of the Centre's work. In following up on the conference, the 'Tokyo declaration' was printed in the Terra Viva. Some other concrete follow up may also be envisaged in the context of the Centre's ongoing relations with the Towns & Development consortium, and the City of Bremen, Germany, in line with the Bremen declaration which also called for closer co-operation with the local business communities in an overall effort to protect the environment.