

The Bureau of the Congress

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## Candidates for the North-South Prize 2020

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<sup>1</sup> This document is classified confidential until it has been examined by the Bureau of the Congress.

## **North-South Prize 2020**

The North-South Prize is awarded every year to two personalities (preferably one from the North and the other from the South, keeping, when possible, the gender balance). The Prize rewards their commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as to the development of intercultural dialogue and the reinforcement of the North-South partnership and solidarity, in conformity with the principles and priorities of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. As institutional stakeholder of the North-South Centre, the Congress is invited to propose two candidates for the North South Prize 2020.

### **List of possible nominations**

#### **1. Yvonne AKI-SAWYERR, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone**

Yvonne AKI-SAWYERR became the second woman mayor of Freetown on 7 March 2018. In 1999, she co-founded the Sierra Leone War Trust (SLWT), which supports disadvantaged youth in Sierra Leone, and remains a member of the Board of Trustees still today. She became involved in the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone as a planning officer at the National Ebola Response Center (NERC). For this commitment, she was awarded the Ebola Gold Medal in December 2015 by the President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma, and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 2016.

This experience enabled her to react quickly to the Coronavirus crisis. She remained confined 14 days after a trip to the United Kingdom to set an example, then went to the markets to distribute masks and sanitary products to "give the means" of prevention to her citizens, half of whom had no access to running water. The city has also set up special handwashing facilities in public places. Yvonne AKI-SAWYERR is also trying to reduce the financial burden on the poorest through tax breaks and a number of food security measures. She is a member of the Mayors Migration Council, where she advocates and works for the creation of resilient cities that offer opportunities for all, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, under her mandate, the City of Freetown is committed to tackle global warming by targeting two sectors that emit greenhouse gases: sanitation and transport.

#### **2. Mohamed BOUDRA, Mayor of Al Hoceima, Morocco**

Doctor of Medicine, Mohamed BOUDRA became mayor of Al Hoceima in 2003 and was successively re-elected in 2009 and 2015. He is president of the Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate region from 2009 to 2015 and member of the House of Representatives between 2011 and 2016. He was also co-president of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM). Since 2013, he has been President of the Moroccan Association of Mayors (AMPCC) and Vice-President of the Moroccan delegation of the Partner for Local Democracy to the Congress. During his various mandates, Mohamed BOUDRA has endeavoured to work for strong Mediterranean co-operation in favour of gender equality, democracy and solidarity.

During the Coronavirus crisis and in the framework of his mandate as President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Mohamed BOUDRA addressed a message of solidarity and support to all local actors underlining the need for dialogue and close co-operation between all local authorities to learn from each other's experience. Furthermore, he declared that "the mayors of the world are trying to adapt to the situation and meet the needs of their citizens in this period of health crisis, [...] Tomorrow, we will no longer talk about migrants but about citizens of cities. Distressed tourists, migrant workers and undocumented migrants are experiencing the pandemic in host communities and are being treated equally in the face of the pandemic".

#### **3. Soham EL WARDINI, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal**

Soham EL WARDINI has been Mayor of the city of Dakar since 2018, and Vice-President for the West Africa region of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments). She implemented a municipal response strategy to support the efforts undertaken by Senegal in the fight against coronavirus infection. To this end, she has released a sum of 100 million CFA francs, which was handed over to the Minister of Health and Social Action on 17 March 2020. She also decided to disinfect markets, high schools and colleges

and other public places, to support the State in mass communication and to make the former Dialysis Centre available to the State. She launched an appeal to all the mayors of the communes that make up the city of Dakar to join the collective effort, and invited advertising agencies to get involved in the deployment of communication aimed at all citizens of the city.

She is also committed to transform Dakar into an ecological city. With this in mind, she would like her project to be a means of "raising awareness and mobilizing local actors around climate issues with the identification of innovative initiatives at community level for the sharing and promotion of good practices at national and sub-regional level. ». In April 2019, she launched the "zero waste" operation and announced that local security agents would be involved in monitoring the operation. At the same time, with the help of the Senegalese government, she also began decluttering Dakar's city centre.

#### 4. **Fatna LKHIYEL**, President of the Municipal Council of Arbaoua, Morocco

Fatna LKHIYEL is Secretary of State to the Minister of National Land Management, Urban Planning, Housing and Urban Policy, in charge of Housing specifically. She is a doctor specialised in public health. She was a member of the political bureau of the Popular Movement party and worked as an advisor to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Morocco from 2000 to 2002. She also served as a Member of Parliament for three terms : 2002-2007 / 2007-2011 / 2011-2016. She was Vice-President of the House of Representatives from 2003 to 2008, and Chair of the Social Sectors Committee of the House of Representatives from 2011 to 2016.

She has been working as a city councillor since 1997 and has been a member of the provincial council of Kenitra since 2003. She has been vice-president and then president of the Arbaoua municipal council since 2009, as well as Vice-President of the Euro-Mediterranean regional and local assembly (ARLEM). She is currently a member of the Moroccan Delegation of Partner for Local Democracy to the Congress and a member of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She was elected first vice-president of the Network of Local Elected African Women (REFELA) in November 2018, a position that will enable her to work to strengthen women's rights in Morocco and in Africa more generally (sustainable development objective 5). In this capacity, she has led several seminars for women elected officials on the themes of gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### 5. **Éric PIOLLE**, Mayor of Grenoble, France

Éric PIOLLE has been the mayor of Grenoble since 2014, and is as such the first Green mayor of a major French city. He is an engineer by training and has been a member of Amnesty International since high school. He has notably been active in associations for school support and the defence of children from undocumented families. He was dismissed from Hewlett-Packard in 2011 for refusing to implement a relocation plan. He is the co-founder of "Roosevelt 2012", a citizens' collective whose aim is to build a new society, fight unemployment and create a Democratic Europe. He was Regional Councillor of Rhône-Alpes from March 2010 to April 2014. In 2015, he took part in the refugee reception movement by opening a coordination platform to collect proposals and help from inhabitants, associations and charities. In 2017, the Commune of Grenoble experimented with the free and temporary occupation of empty housing promised for demolition by homeless people. In 2018, it awarded the medal of the city of Grenoble to Cédric Herrou, a farmer convicted of a crime of solidarity for helping migrants. He led by 46.67% in the polls at this year's municipal elections.

In April 2020, he participated in a UCLG learning session on the relevance of inclusive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that "The city of Grenoble is a land of refuge and security, and despite the crisis, we want to bring this openness of mind to everyone." He is a member of ANVITA (Association Nationale des Villes et Territoires Accueillants), and signed an open letter dated April 25 addressed to the President of the French Republic, calling for the regularisation of undocumented migrants blocked in France during the confinement.

#### 6. **Raphaël PITTI**, Metz City Councillor, France

Born in 1950, Raphaël PITTI is an anaesthesiologist and Associate Professor of emergency medicine. In 1996, he became a NATO expert. In 2007, he set up an intensive care unit at the Gentilly polyclinic in Nancy. In 1990, he carried out a series of missions in Chad, the Balkans and during the Gulf War before joining the Legouest military hospital in Metz. Since 2012, he has led more than 20 emergency

medical missions in Syria, where he trained medical staff for the French and international NGO Union des Organisations de Secours et Soins Médicaux (UOSSM). This NGO aims to guarantee war-affected populations in Syria and neighbouring countries as well as Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh permanent access to free quality healthcare. In 2018, he recounted his experience in the book *Va où l'humanité te porte* (Go where humanity leads you) (published by Tallandier). In 2014, he was elected Metz city councillor, delegate for social, humanitarian and health emergencies on the list of the socialist mayor Dominique Gros. In December 2017, in response to the treatment he considers unworthy of migrants in France, he returned his promotion to Officer of the Legion of Honour. He is a candidate in the 2020 municipal elections (on Xavier Bouvet's EELV list) and supports climate and social justice during this campaign in particular.

A member of ANVITA (Association Nationale des Villes et Territoires Accueillants), he signed and shared on April 26 an open letter addressed to the President of the French Republic, calling for the regularisation of undocumented migrants blocked in France during the confinement. He campaigns on social networks and in the media to alert on the situation of abandoned camps in Syria amidst the COVID-19 crisis. He has been active since the beginning of the health crisis and has worked on the front line in hospitals in the Grand Est region.

### **7. Fatma SAHIN, mayor of Gaziantep, Turkey**

Fatma SAHIN was first elected mayor of Gaziantep metropolis in 2014 and re-elected in 2019. In 2002, she became the first Turkish woman member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey from Gaziantep and South-Eastern Anatolia. In 2011, she became Minister of Family and Social Policies. Since 2018, she has been the first woman president of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey. At the international level, Fatma SAHIN was Vice-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), President of United Cities and Local Governments - Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) as well as of the Asian Mayors Forum, and served as Vice-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). She was the first Turkish politician to participate in the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Fatma SAHIN is actively involved in many policy areas, including the protection and social and economic integration of more than 400 000 Syrian refugees present in Gaziantep – through the Peace and Art Centre of Gaziantep and the prevention of child marriages. She has prevented the early marriages of 42 girls by allowing them to continue their education through the project "Don't Marry Her Off, Send Her to School" in collaboration with UNICEF. She is committed to promoting the social inclusion of children, young people, women and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes through informal municipal councils and assemblies. She is also engaged in fighting violence against women and domestic violence by facilitating the ratification by Turkey of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention.

In 2016, Fatma SAHIN was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her commitment to helping Syrian refugees. One year later, she was awarded the Minerva Prize in the "Women in the World" section. She is the first Turkish woman to win the prize. In 2019, she received the "Metropolitan Mayor of the Year" award at the 10th Bukhara Media Awards.

### **8. Carlo SOMMARUGA, State Councillor for the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland**

Carlo Sommaruga is an elected State Councillor for the Canton of Geneva in 2019, alongside Lisa Mazzone. Among the commitments he made, the fight for climate and international openness and solidarity are the major axes. Carlo SOMMARUGA is involved in several fields: since the 1980s, he has organised, within the Anti-Apartheid Movement of Switzerland and Trade Union Secretary of the Interprofessional Union of Workers (SIT), the boycott campaign of banks involved in South Africa. He then presided over the NGO Geneva Third World between 2001 and 2006. In 2013, he tabled the parliamentary initiative "For the protection of whistle-blowers with regard to violations of the rule of law, democratic rights and citizens' rights". Carlo SOMMARUGA has also been committed to helping migrants by supporting the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS) humanitarian rescue operation in the Mediterranean and by signing the Appeal for a new solidarity in the Mediterranean and Euro-Arab world alongside other political figures such as Enrico Letta. In 2017, he reaffirmed his commitment to Euro-Mediterranean-Arab solidarity with the proposal for a new "Euro-Mediterranean-Arab Partnership for Cooperation and Security" (PEMACS).

In addition, Carlo SOMMARUGA chaired the Foundation Board of the International Centre for Training in Teaching Human Rights and Peace (CIFEDHOP) and sat on the committee of the Swissaid Foundation Board. In 2020, he chaired the Swiss Tenants' Association (ASLOCA) and in line with this commitment, he called for the protection of commercial and individual tenants during the Coronavirus crisis (by demanding an extension of the payment deadline for rents and a waiver of rent for the month of April).

## APPENDIX

### Previous editions: Candidates submitted by the Congress and laureates of the North-South Prize

#### Edition 2019:

##### Candidates submitted by the Congress:

- **Mrs Nabila HAMZA**, Vice President of La Marsa City Council, Tunisia
- **Mr Leoluca ORLANDO**, Mayor of Palermo, Italy

##### Laureates:

- **Mrs Nabila HAMZA**, Vice President of La Marsa City Council, Tunisia
- **Mr Leoluca ORLANDO**, Mayor of Palermo, Italy

#### Edition 2018:

##### Candidates submitted by the Congress:

- **Mrs Célestine KETCHA COURTES**, Mayor of Bangangté, Cameroun
- **Mr Damien CARÊME**, Mayor of Grande-Synthe, France

##### Laureates:

- **Mrs Jaha DUKUREH**, Founder and CEO of the Non-Governmental organisation "Safe Hands for Girls", Gambia
- **Mr Damien CARÊME**, Mayor of Grande-Synthe, France

#### Edition 2017 :

##### Candidates submitted by the Congress:

- **Ms Abia AL HALAIA**, Municipal councilor of Tafila, Jordan
- **Mr Hans BONTE**, Mayor of Vilvoorde, Belgium

##### Laureates:

- **Ms Kristiina KUMPULA**, Secretary General of the Finnish Red-Cross, Finland
- **Dr Abbas GULLET**, Secretary General of the Society of the Red-Cross in Kenya, Kenya

#### Edition 2016:

##### Candidates submitted by the Congress:

- **Ms Giuseppina Maria NICOLINI**, Mayor of Lampedusa, Italy
- **Mr Giorgios KAMINIS**, Mayor of Athens, Greece

##### Laureates:

- **Ms Giuseppina Maria NICOLINI**, Mayor of Lampedusa, Italy
- **Ms Mbarka BRAHMI**, member of the Tunisian Parliament and founder of the "Brahmi Center for solidarity and peace", Tunisia

#### Edition 2015:

##### Candidates submitted by the Congress:

- **Ms Giuseppina Maria NICOLINI**, Mayor of Lampedusa, Italy
- **Mr Mustapha ABDI**, Mayor of Kobané, Syria

**Laureates:**

- **Ms Lora PAPP**A, founder of METAdrasi, Greece
- **Mr Joaquim Alberto Chissano**, founding member of the liberation front of the FRELIMO, Mozambique