

**European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity**  
**The North-South Centre:**  
**A Council of Europe's window to the world**



*10 December 2019 - Strasbourg*  
*Palais de l'Europe (Room 1)*  
*16:00-18:00*



Thirty years ago - on 16 November 1989 - in an inspiring moment of the World History where walls were falling down, the Lisbon Declaration<sup>1</sup> and the Madrid Appeal<sup>2</sup>, that followed the European Public Campaign on North-South Interdependence and Global Survival under the slogan “North-South: One future – a Common task”, paved the way for the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers to decide on the creation of a European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity as a response to the urgent need for solidarity on a global scale, and with the aim to spread the universal values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law beyond Europe. Few months later – in May 1990 – the enlarged partial agreement – also known as the North-South Centre - opened its doors in Lisbon as a Council of Europe’s window to the world.

Since then, the North-South Centre has been an instrument for multilateral cooperation of the Council of Europe beyond Europe, fostering cooperation between governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society from diverse nationalities and backgrounds, always working towards more peaceful and inclusive societies, privileging a bottom-up approach and the partnership with relevant multipliers in civil society, in particular with the young generations and women agents, fostering critical awareness on global challenges and contributing to an active global citizenship for a sustainable world and a better future for all.

### **But how effective were all these years of work? How far did we go in the path a global citizenship and solidarity?**

Three decades after, it seems that we are back to a similar climate in which the Centre was originally established. Our present world still faces difficult and dangerous global challenges that are testing the stability and peaceful development of our societies, different but not less frightening walls dividing and threatening us all, such as the growth of inequalities or the rising of extremism, radicalism, populism, racism, xenophobia, harassment and hate speech, that jeopardise human dignity and the respect for justice.

This global order and its consequences remind us that the standards and values that underpin the existence of a North-South Centre back then are today even more relevant than thirty years ago. Yet, in a similar climate but in different times, a reflection process was carried out to define the Centre’s strategic axes and forthcoming orientations which resulted in the approval of a Vision Paper<sup>3</sup> that, in the framework of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, provides a future vision for the Centre.

To mark this anniversary, relying on the experience of personalities closely related to its work, the North-South Centre recalls its main achievements while reflecting on the vision in which its mission - – more relevant than ever - could be achieved more effectively in the challenging years to come.

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<sup>1</sup> PACE Recommendation 992 (1984) on the Conference “North-South: Europe’s role (Lisbon, 9-11 April 1983) including in appendix The Lisbon Declaration of the Conference. Accessible at: <http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=15026&lang=en>

<sup>2</sup> The Madrid Appeal of the European Conference of Parliamentarians and Non-Governmental Organisations on North-South Interdependency and Solidarity is accessible here: <https://rm.coe.int/the-madrid-appeal-of-the-european-conference-of-parliamentarians-and-n/1680717877>

<sup>3</sup> The Vision Paper is accessible at the NSC website in this link: <https://rm.coe.int/nsc-ec-2019-5-vision-paper/1680990234>

## Programme

- 15:30** Welcome of participants
- 16:00-16:10** Address by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ
- 16:10-16:20** Address by the Chair of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre, Ambassador Manuel MONTOBBIO, on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 16:20-16:45** The perspective of a Quadrilogue's based Centre
- Ms Liliane MAURY PASQUIER, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
  - Ambassador Irakli GIVIASHVILI, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Committee of Ministers
  - Mr Anders KNAPE, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (*tbc*)
  - Ms Anna RURKA, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe
- 16:45-17:50** Roundtable: a long path to solidarity in an interdependent globalised world. How far have we gone? Where are we heading to?  
*Roundtable moderated by Ms Rocio Cervera, Deputy Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe*
- Ms Vera DUARTE, Chief Judge in Cape Verde, first laureate of the North-South Prize 1995 of the Council of Europe
  - Ms Lora PAPPA, founder of METAdrasi – Action for Migration and Development, 2015 laureate of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe
  - Ms Sara AMARAL, Secretary General of the Portuguese National Youth Council, former trainee of the North-South Centre
  - Mr Jos LEMMERS, first Executive Director of the North-South Centre
  - Ms Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- 17:50-18:00** Video projection and closing words
- Mr José CAROÇO, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

*The ceremony will be followed by an exhibition on the 30 years of work of the North-South Centre and a reception at the Foyer of the Committee of Ministers*