

***The International Commission against the Death Penalty and  
the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and  
Environmental Change (MedECC) of the Union for the  
Mediterranean,  
have been awarded the North South Prize 2020  
of the North South Centre of the Council of Europe***

At its meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Committee of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity / North South Centre of the Council of Europe approved the decision of its Bureau, as Jury of the North South Prize, to award the North South Prize 2020 to the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) and to the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) of the Union for the Mediterranean.

In its decision, the Jury acknowledged “the unique contribution of the International Commission against the Death Penalty to the global trend against the death penalty and its key role in the international movement working for the abolition of the death penalty, therefore contributing, on substance, to the promotion of the most fundamental human right – the right to life -, which affects all others as well as rule of Law and democracy; and, on form, to international solidarity and partnership for the achievement of this common goal inherent to our common human condition”. It appreciated the convergence in its conception, composition and work of the twenty two personalities and the twenty three states from all over the World that conform it with the purpose to act together universally for the promotion of the universal cause of the abolition of the death penalty, and recognized the relevant fruits of its effort throughout its ten years of existence.

On the other side, the Jury considered that the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) of the Union for the Mediterranean, constituted by more than six hundred scientists from 35 states from the Mediterranean and Europe who have elaborated the first-ever scientific assessment on climate and environmental changes’ impact in the Mediterranean basin, “constitutes both a leading and inspirational example of the potentiality of collaboration between states and societies to face the challenges of climate change and environmental sustainability, as well as of the need and potentiality of scientific and expert cooperation to produce knowledge and analysis which can provide a sound basis to policy planning and making to face them, providing decision-makers, advocacy promoters and public opinion key support to promote for the region the 1.5 Global Goal of the Paris Agreement”. The Jury also considered that “the MedECC constitutes an excellent concretion and example of how to implement and carry out the vision of the Mediterranean as a shared space of peace, development and human rights which led to the creation, twenty five years ago, of the Barcelona Process, whose evolution gave place to the Union for the Mediterranean”; and wanted to

acknowledge with the Prize the partnership between the North and the South of the Mediterranean to face common and global challenges it promotes, as is the case of the MedECC network in relation to Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability”.

With its decision, the Jury wants to single out the promotion of the abolition and non-application of the Death Penalty and of fight against Climate Change and for Environmental Sustainability as universal causes inextricably linked to the principles of human rights, the rule of Law and democracy which constitute the aim of the Council of Europe; and to acknowledge the cooperation for the achievement of this goals which converge in the ICDP and in the MedECC network of the UfM and their relevant contribution to them, while recognizing the task of the ICDP on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and of the Union for the Mediterranean on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Process.