

## LISBON FORUM 2022

### *“International order: what future and ramifications”*

#### CONCEPT NOTE

The aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is a violation of the UN Charter and has major global implications and represents a turning point in international relations. Not only has it led to a dramatic humanitarian crisis and major movements of population across Europe; it also marks the end of the post-cold war era and of a world order based on the principles of peace, international cooperation, and consensual rules.

The core values and principles of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and other multilateral organizations are being challenged. Multilateralism is giving way to a polarized world, dominated by competing major powers, namely the United States, China, but possibly also the European Union and the Russian Federation, depending on the outcome of the war. National interests are increasingly defined in terms of security and power, rather than in terms of cooperation and growth, while geo-economics is subdued by geo-politics. Will the international rule-based system shift to a power system? From open and interdependent societies to inwards nationalistic views? From a global supply chain system to national production systems, ensuring self-sufficiency?

The war has deeply affected global cooperation in a wide range of critical areas of interdependence, such as the fight against climate change, terrorism, the safeguarding of our oceans, cooperation in outer space, and much more. It is putting an additional strain on North-South relations, on issues of global interdependence and inclusiveness, as many countries are redirecting public spending towards defence and security, rather than on development cooperation and solidarity. The rise in energy prices and the disruption of food supply chains are further adversely affecting national economies, with stronger impacts on weaker economies, especially in the global South. This may trigger more movements of population within the southern hemisphere and from the South to the North. How can we foster dialogue and preserve international cooperation in this context? Can we overcome political antagonisms in view of cooperating on pressing issues of interdependence? What is the role of civil society, NGOs, and the media? Will the refugee crisis a new normal in the international scenario? Where, when, and how can we step in?

The Council of Europe is in a definitory moment in this critical juncture, inwards and outwards, when it has decided to celebrate its Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government and is carrying out a reflection process on its contribution to international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs); and the North South Centre has the vocation and purpose to be instrumental in that regard. Having its Vision Paper, adopted in its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2019, established as one of its strategic priorities to contribute to the Euro-Mediterranean diplomatic architecture and to Council of Europe's Neighbourhood Policy towards the Southern Mediterranean, the Lisbon Forum 2022 intends to focus particular attention on the concretion and consequences of these global challenges in the Mediterranean region and to reflect on the way to face them and the potential contribution on the North South Centre and the Council of Europe to do so.

## **ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

The 28th edition of the Lisbon Forum is dedicated to "International order: what future and ramifications". It aims at raising awareness in northern and southern societies on preserving international cooperation and dialogue on issues of interdependence in the context of war, and hopefully to reaching a set of recommendations that can be useful for the stakeholders concerned.

The Lisbon Forum builds upon the results and the operational recommendations of past editions, such as "Intercultural dialogue in the infodemic era" (2021), "Enhancing solidarity" (2020) and "Interconnecting People: Managing migration, avoiding populism, building inclusive societies and reinforcing the North-South dialogue" (2017). We are also referring to the key priorities of the Council of Europe as presented in the Strategic framework of the Council of Europe (2020), as well as the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 agenda as guidelines to implement our work; and will take into account the issues and results of the ongoing reflection process on the Council of Europe's contribution to international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the SDGs.

## **TARGETED OUTCOMES**

- Encourage governments to further global dialogue and cooperation on issues of global concern, such as climate change, global diseases, digital transition, migration and refugee flows, fight against terrorism, extremism, and organised crime, ensuring energy supply chains.
- Raise awareness on the lesser mediated consequences and side-effects of the war, focusing on the issues of interdependence between the North and the South.
- Develop co-operation with a "neighbourhood of values" relations based on community of values (which would not necessarily be determined by geographical proximity) that would include observer States, relevant States from the geographical neighbourhood and possibly other States and international organizations sharing the same values and with which dialogue could be further enhanced (cf.: «Reflection process on the Council of Europe contribution to international order and governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals», CM(2022)84-final).

- Reinforce the cooperation between the North and the South through the existent instruments, through the quadrilogue institutions (governments, parliaments, regional and local authorities, civil society) and via different approaches in order to advance a common agenda.
- Contribute to the reflection on the consequences of these global challenges for the International Order in the Mediterranean and identify proposals and lines of action to face them, considering the potential role of the Council of Europe and the North South Centre.

## **FORMAT**

The Forum aims at being a distinctive platform for dialogue and reflection:

- Among international and regional organisations,
- Among the four sectors of the “quadrilogue”: governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, and civil society

## **ABOUT THE LISBON FORUM**

The Lisbon Forum is a distinctive platform for dialogue for policymakers and activists on issues related to global interdependence and solidarity. It allows networking, sharing of knowledge and mainstreaming of good practices among actors from different fields and expertise to jointly tackle the global challenges. Themes of the Lisbon Forum are closely related to the core missions of the Council of Europe: to promote and protect democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.