

THE MEDITERRANEAN CHARTER

FOR PEACE, COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

PREAMBLE

The Mediterranean is a cornerstone region in the development of human civilization. Along its shores, for millennia, diverse peoples, cultures and religions have met, generating an extraordinary heritage of knowledge, economic exchanges and social relations that have contributed to the development of global civilization.

This sea, a natural bridge between Europe, Africa and Asia, stands today, as in the past, at the center of profound geopolitical and economic transformations. In a time marked by international tensions and regional conflicts, the Mediterranean can and must once again become a space for dialogue among peoples, a crossroads of economic and cultural exchange, and a laboratory of coexistence among civilizations.

The history of Mediterranean regions and territories presents opportunities that civil society has the responsibility to pursue. Through cooperation among local institutions, universities, research centers and other social, cultural and grassroots organizations, we aim to contribute to the development based on solidarity of the entire Mediterranean area and address more effectively the challenges of social and economic integration, through mutual understanding of cultural processes, respect for the environment and sustainable development.

The construction of a Mediterranean of peace requires that this area regain its central role through the strengthening of relations between the entire region and the European Union, the African Union, and the League of Arab States, in order to promote a process of normalization of commercial, cultural and relations of human solidarity.

Parliaments and democratic institutions play a fundamental role in promoting dialogue among peoples, strengthening cooperation among Mediterranean nations and supporting initiatives aimed at peace, stability and sustainable development of the region, in full respect of State sovereignty, territorial integrity and the constitutional choices of each country, including the principles of neutrality and the absence of foreign military bases where provided for by national constitutional systems, as in the case of the Republic of Malta.

The signatories of this Charter therefore affirm their will to promote a shared vision of the Mediterranean as a space of peace, cooperation and human progress, founded on stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean area.

In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, such cooperation contributes to strengthening peace and stability in the Mediterranean region and in the international community.

ARTICLES

Article 1 – The Mediterranean is recognized as a privileged space for dialogue among peoples and nations and as a strategic area for the promotion of international peace.

Article 2 – The signatories promote dialogue and cooperation among the different shores of the Mediterranean, based on mutual respect, solidarity and shared responsibility, in repudiation of war,

Article 3 – The regions of Mediterranean States play an active role in the development of economic, cultural and social cooperation in the area.

Article 4 – The signatories pursue the objective of strengthening the capacity for action on adaptation to climate change through Mediterranean economic cooperation, sustainable development and the enhancement of marine, energy and infrastructure resources.

Article 5 – Dialogue on respect for human rights and human dignity constitutes an essential principle of Mediterranean coexistence. Such dialogue is inspired by universally recognized human rights values.

Article 6 – The cultural and religious diversity of the Mediterranean represents a historical richness to be promoted through intercultural dialogue.

Article 7 – Universities and cultural institutions are key actors in building a Mediterranean consciousness based on knowledge and mutual understanding.

Article 8 – Grassroots organizations contribute to strengthening ties among Mediterranean communities.

Article 9 – Young people represent the primary resource for the future of the region and must be supported, including through mobility and exchange policies aimed at creating a permanent instrument, named “MYEP - Mediterranean Youth Exchange Program”, which promotes youth cultures and sporting well-being.

Article 10 – The signatories promote the strengthening of relations with local, national and international institutions. In this context, institutional dialogue and parliamentary cooperation can contribute to strengthening trust among peoples and stability in the Mediterranean region.

Article 11 – Fair cultural, scientific and economic exchanges among the different shores of the Mediterranean foster cooperation among civilizations.

Article 12 – The signatories commit to promoting permanent networks of cooperation and the establishment of a Permanent Observatory to strengthen the role of the Mediterranean as a bastion of global peace, named “MeCO – Mediterranean Civic Observatory”.