

**POLITICAL COUNCIL**  
**of the Mediterranean Commission of  
United Cities and Local Governments**

**CHARTER**

**IN FAVOUR OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**WE, ELECTED OFFICIALS OF 27 BORDERING MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, GATHERED IN THE POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION OF UCLG**

Maintain that democracy should always aspire to achieve equality between men and women, respect for cultural, ethnic and religious diversity, and in general, all rights as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Are aware the people are disappointed and impatient nearly three years after the civil uprisings that raised great hopes for a democratic renewal.

Are convinced of the importance of responding without delay to the legitimate aspirations of citizens to live in dignity, freedom and equality.

Believe that true democracy requires decentralisation and regionalisation. The organisation of public powers at local and regional levels is a precondition for the implementation of participatory democracy and full citizenship.

Observe that the conflicts that blight our territories lead to suffering, insecurity and poverty for the population.

Reaffirm our commitment in favour of a culture of dialogue, true instrument for peace in the Mediterranean.

Emphasise in this respect that it is urgent to undertake new political actions to pull the Middle East from a crisis that has lasted far too long and to offer Palestinians true prospects for the future.

Are aware that the magnitude of the challenges related to the economic crisis, the political and social changes and continuing conflicts call for a new pact for democratic governance involving all stakeholders.

Are convinced that this strong ambition for the Mediterranean requires militant support and determination and that, far from international political debates, we should pursue one objective: supporting the peoples' aspirations.

**WE, ELECTED OFFICIALS MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION OF UCLG  
HEREBY COMMIT OURSELVES TO:**

Promote democratic governance and to work transparently in our territories to restore the confidence in political actions that serve the general interest, and in favour of social justice, by assuming our responsibilities.

Create awareness among the population with respect to decentralisation and democratisation and, in difficult economic contexts, meet the needs of effective public services delivery.

Support the organisation of civil society aiming to open or consolidate a lasting and constructive dialogue with civil society members in order to carry out public policies and ensure equality by encouraging the involvement of women and the youth in this dialogue.

Meet the aspirations of the youth who wish to fully participate in the economy by promoting their integration, employment and entrepreneurship.

Urge the international community to intensify its actions in favour of peace, stability and development in conflict-affected areas and to give our support to regions that receive war refugees.

Approach our cooperation partnerships as an opportunity to implement innovative approaches, strengthen solidarity among peoples as well as territories, and contribute to peace building.

**Monitor, through the Political Council of the Mediterranean Commission of UCLG, the progress towards local democracy and democratic governance in accordance with the political declaration made by local and regional authorities of the Mediterranean gathered in Marseille on 3 and 4 April 2013.**

ARLEM that has observer status in the Political Council will participate in the Council's work in order to ensure complementarity between their respective actions.

**THIS COMMITMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL REQUIRE THAT AT THE SAME TIME:**

- The States accelerate and deepen decentralisation, granting local and regional authorities the autonomy, powers and financial resources that will allow them to carry out their mission with respect to the population.
- Financial partners significantly increase their support to the States, local and regional authorities and the population and clearly place democratic governance at the heart of their policies.
- Local and regional elected officials take part in all multilateral development initiatives in the region, particularly those related to the concerted implementation of a genuine cohesion strategy in the Mediterranean.
- Our international partners form a network or lobby jointly to encourage governments and policy makers in countries in war to respond to the people's call for liberty and justice.