SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON A REGIONAL AND LOCAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT
Tangiers, 12, 13, 14 May 2008

FINAL DECLARATION

The organisers of the Second International Convention for a Regional and Local Approach to Development - the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR), the Region of Tangiers-Tetouan and the Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur - wish to convey their most sincere and respectful thanks to His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco, for granting us the honour of allowing us to hold this meeting in Tangiers, a place that holds symbolic importance for globalisation, and in Morocco currently engaged in a bold modernisation process.

They convey their most grateful thanks to the Moroccan authorities, the national government and more especially to Mr Abdelhadi Benallal, President of the Regional Council of Tangiers-Tetouan, together with his services and the people of his Region, for giving such a heartfelt welcome to the 1200 delegates attending the Convention and providing such excellent conditions for their work and stay.

Fifteen months ago in Marseille, where they were hosted by President Michel Vauzelle, the UNDP and CPMR launched a bold initiative:

- to increase the level of participation of the Regions in delivering and achieving the Millennium Goals;
- to promote the regional and local dimension of development strategies;
- to create a mouthpiece for the Regions as one of the spheres of territorial government, in the quest for a new governance of globalisation.

The proceedings of this Second Convention have allowed us to establish with satisfaction the progress made since that time, opening up the opportunity to move on to a new and more ambitious stage. The organisers feel bound by the intensity of the expectations and debates held over these three days, which must now be reflected in plan of action.
1. An increasing number of partnerships have been set up on the basis of a regional and local approach to development, especially through the ART-GOLD programmes in some fifteen countries on the five continents. The north of Morocco is one of the most significant and advanced experiences of this. With the backing of national States and the support of international organisations, greater synergy has been achieved in cooperation actions between Regions to combat the needless dispersion of individual projects. The experience acquired allows us to envisage making these good practices more widespread:

- by disseminating the right methods and strengthening the institutions designed to implement them;
- by promoting a multi-level system of governance;
- by supporting the processes of devolution and decentralisation of public government. The example of measures taken in Morocco can significantly contribute towards this necessary change.

2. Thanks to the work carried out so far, we are in a position to start building proposals for world-scale territorial cohesion policies with a view to giving all territories a fair chance to make the most of the opportunities offered by globalisation:

- The European Commission and the West African Economic and Monetary Union Commission have announced their intention to work together, and in association with the FOGAR, to promote the role of the Regions in the economic development strategy of West Africa. The UNDP will be supporting this initiative;
- The President of the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission has set out the Mediterranean Regions’ proposals for a territorial cohesion policy shared by both sides of this sea in the framework of the outlined Euro-Mediterranean Union;
- The Secretary for Federative Affairs of the Republic of Brazil has indicated the emergence of a territorial cohesion policy within MERCOSUR;
- This regional and local dimension to development in the context of globalisation is also shared by major States such as Russia, China, India and Brazil, which have initiated cooperation actions with the European Commission in this area, based on the experience of regional policy led in Europe over the past 20 years;
- These efforts deployed over vast national and transnational areas should be given direction through the United Nations as to how to be extended and fully developed.

3. The Regions have also stepped up their capacity to dialogue with the States and international organisations in order to meet the challenges related to globalisation:

- on the occasion of the Convention, the FOGAR Executive Committee has adopted its statutes and is taking the necessary procedures for it to be recognised within the world institutions;
- in the wake of the Convention, the world’s Regions will be meeting again in Saint-Malo (F) on 29 and 30 October 2008, at the invitation of nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) and Brittany Regional Council, with a view to contributing at their level to the fight against climate change. They will be doing this in partnership with the United Nations agencies as part of a specific programme;
- the CPMR and FOGAR will be taking the initiative of organising a world forum of Regions in 2009 on the vital issue of food.
4. In hosting this Second Convention, the Region of Tangiers-Tetouan has demonstrated the maturity of the Moroccan regional authorities and their ability to boost Morocco’s presence on the world stage.

The organisers invite the participants to hold the Third International Convention on a Regional and Local Approach to Development in 2010 in one of the three continents in which the event has not yet taken place.

Tangiers, 14 May 2008

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Director of the UNDP, Geneva

Claudio Martini
President of Tuscany Region
President of CPMR
President of FOGAR

Michel Vauzelle
President of the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur,
President of the CPMR
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