



2nd League of Arab States Youth Forum

Arab-Euro Declaration of activating the role of youth in the intercultural dialogue

Amman, November 2008

For a Better World through Intercultural Dialogue

Youth from the Euro-Arab Region, have met from 24 to 27 November 2008 in Amman, Jordan at the 2nd Arab Youth Forum.

We have gathered to join together in a partnership for intercultural Dialogue. We firmly believe that the young generation are the present and future positive agents for change in strengthening the dialogue and working towards a progressive agenda of cooperation and partnership.

We firmly believe that the participation and co-operation of youth from our respective regions is crucial for the intercultural dialogue. With this opportunity to come together, we call on behalf of the European and Arab Youth, the governments, private sector and civil society to work together with the youth to carry out these commitments and make our vision of a Euro-Arab Dialogue and a real partnership.

In reference to the Universal and Arab Youth and Human Rights documents and initiatives, memorandum of Understandings and papers concerning Intercultural Dialogues and the framework for Euro-Arab cooperation amongst youth organizations. We agreed on this "Euro-Arab statement of activating the role of the youth in the intercultural dialogue".

In this regard, we agreed on the following principles as a basis for the dialogue:

- Diversity of cultures "is a fact that is realized" and thus the coexistence of the cultures and their interaction is essential.
- This interaction is significant through active and dynamic intercultural dialogue.
- Dialogue is a continuous process based on common visions of aims and principles of dialogue focusing on common areas for exchange between cultures.
- Partners of the dialogue share equal rights, dignity and responsibility.
- Review of previous experiences on the intercultural dialogue and draw lessons to develop elements of approaching transnational cultures.
- Intercultural dialogue is effective through the mobilization, participation and acknowledgment of the capacities of youth.
- Ensure the participation of all social sectors in the Dialogue including minorities & vulnerable groups

Recommendations:

i) Framework for Intercultural Dialogue should:

- Take into account the outcomes of the EACMYO (annexed)
- Involve establishing platforms for cooperation (e.g. Long-term strategies, related Projects, sustainable actions)
- Involve detecting current initiatives and sharing experiences
- Identify appropriate adaptable methods
- Activate alternative media
- Monitoring and Evaluation should be ensured

ii) Tools for Framework implementation:

- Establishment of a representative Pan-Arab Youth Platform
- Support the establishment of Arab national youth associations networks
- Support legal establishment of youth associations
- Establishment of Youth Think Tank (for youth-related researches, studies, resources and publications)
 - Continuing to define our needs and challenges and identify solutions
 - Lobbying for youth work & youth rights
- Raising awareness about stereotypes and controversial issues and common heritage
 - Promote for the dialogue to become part of each cultures
 - Tools: youth education (formal, in-formal and non-formal), Awareness workshops, study tours and other tools
- Building capacities
 - languages, skills for dialogue, respect for diversity
- Implement concrete projects based on Euro-Arab cooperation
 - Increase dialogue opportunities (Youth Exchange)
 - Support youth national, regional and international initiatives (e.g. Projects, Festivals, fairs, ...)
 - Using of Alternative media (eg. Documentary films, Drama, Public service announcement, ..)
 - Seminars, conferences ... etc. (Less formal meetings)
- Support and establish partnership with Arab Diaspora in Europe
- Provide support in getting funding opportunities
- keep Sustainable and permanent way of communication and networking
 - Building transnational networks
 - Online Social networking tools
 - Blogs (eg. Blogs for Intercultural Dialogue)
 - Video Conferences
- Encourage Media to motivate participation, raising awareness and support cultural dialogue
 - Marketing of best practice examples (Youth Achievements, role models)

To monitor and evaluate the implementation of this statement for activating intercultural dialogue, principally by organizing regular Euro-Arab Youth Forums.

We urge all actors to ensure a society in which young people can reach their full potential and become active partners, by providing supportive environment spaces for Youth initiatives and youth empowerment.

We look for easing youth mobility and simplifying visa facilitation procedures with respect to students, participants to youth exchanges, education and other related programmers, to facilitate intercultural dialogue.