Declaration of the Advisory Board of the Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly (MCA)
Tunis, December 4th, 2011

ON TUNISIA

We, citizens of the Mediterranean, noting the political changes occurring in Tunisia: we celebrate the remarkable progress made by Tunisian citizens to meet their aspirations for dignity and freedom for the building of a democratic society based on the respect for political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The MCA warmly welcomes the country's political transformation to a participative democracy following the holding of an election universally recognized as free and fair, having established a real and a representative pluralism.

The MCA gives its moral support to the gains acquired by the Tunisian people for a healthy, stable and durable democracy.
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ON SYRIA

We, citizens of the Mediterranean, declare that the serious violations of human rights and the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force against the people constitute crimes against humanity. That's why we unreservedly condemn the crimes committed in Syria by the powers of the state against an unarmed people demanding its freedom.

We call on the Arab societies, European societies and the international community to:

– Assume their responsibility towards the Syrian people.
– Working to stop the massacres through peaceful mechanisms of international law
– Denounce these crimes before the International Criminal Court.
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ON PALESTINE

We, citizens of the Mediterranean:

- Congratulate UNESCO for admitting Palestine as a member state,
- Urge the international community to respect its commitments and to recognize the Palestinian right to independence and membership as a member state of the United Nations.

- Support the development of peace agreements between Israelis and Palestinians favoring the recognition of two states and allowing all countries in the region to live in peace and security.

- We commit to support joint projects of Palestinian and Israeli civil societies based on mutual respect and common interest.
ON THE CHANGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

With the developments of 2011, citizens of the Mediterranean have shown their willingness to change. From Tunisia to Egypt, from Spain to Israel via Greece, the citizens' movements have shown their willingness to struggle for dignity and freedom.

In this context, the MCA:

– pays tribute to the victims who made a personal sacrifice to pay the price of the struggles for their convictions;

– Calls all the citizens' initiatives to be peaceful;

– Calls governments to consider seriously the claims of their citizens, in a spirit of dialogue, openness and respect for human rights, both in terms of freedom of establishment and organization, of freedom expression, or the opportunity for the dissemination of ideas and initiatives;

– Emphasizes the importance of structuring citizens' initiatives in networks capable of pushing the political space of the Mediterranean community of the peoples.

The MCA will continue, for its part, to promote:

– The principles and values contained in its Charter;

– The mission of coordination and joint efforts for the emergence of a Mediterranean citizenship.