

10 years



MEDITERRANEAN
CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY
FOUNDATION (MCAF)

FOUNDING CHARTER

TOWARDS A MEDITERRANEAN
COMMUNITY OF PEOPLES



FUNDACIÓ ASSEMBLEA DE CIUTADANS I CIUTADANES DEL MEDITERRANI (FACM)
FUNDACIÓN ASAMBLEA DE CIUDADANOS Y CIUDADANAS DEL MEDITERRÁNEO (FACM)
FONDATION ASSEMBLÉE DES CITOYENS ET CITOYENNES DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE (FACM)
MEDITERRANEAN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOUNDATION (MCAF)
مؤسسة مجلس مواطني و مواطنات المتوسط

MEDITERRANEAN CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOUNDATION

TOWARDS A MEDITERRANEAN COMMUNITY OF PEOPLES

Valencia, June 1, 2019
FOUNDING CHARTER



1. Preamble. *

Since 2008, a group of Mediterranean citizens have committed to work towards the emergence of a Mediterranean community of peoples. Hence, they launched the development of a Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly. In this first step, they elaborated a founding text, basis of this Founding Charter that embraces the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations on December 8 1948, and also on the 2849 resolution on December 20 1971 about "Development and environment" adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly. The MCA has created a network of circles around the Mediterranean that favours dialogue, proposition and the citizen action.

In 2016, the MCA adopted a legal personality under the status of a Foundation (MCAF) in order to integrate a big variety of persons capable of bringing a wider and shared vision of the Mediterranean basin.

* This file is the update of the first constitutive Charter, which was prepared at the Casablanca meeting held on May 31 2009.

Common observations.

Despite the complexity and the diversity of the Mediterranean reality, The MCA Foundation has highlighted the existence of a set of constants (commonality):

- Geographical, historic, human, economical, cultural, social and environmental factors that are shared by the region base the Mediterranean personality. This evidence is not to be underestimated, on the contrary, it must be remindend and highlighted. This unitary matrix has crumbled in the past, especially after WWII with the transatlantic axis elaboration and the European Union construction progression. This matrix crumbles in front of the eurocentric vision of the area.
- The supranational insititutions such as the Arab Magreb Union (AMU) failed to construct a Mediterranean basin in the Southern and Eastern part.
- There is a substantial contradiction between the flow of goods capital and information that are accelerated with the development of internet and the movement of persons that have faced with restrictions.



- The emergence of tensions and increasing difficulties for the interfaith coexistence.
- The ethnic conflicts and antagonism between minorities were exacerbated by the wars that have become chronic over the last decade in the Mediterranean.
- Jointly with old rooted conflicts, new violent confrontations have emerged.
- Economical and social inequalities between the northern and southern countries of the Mediterranean, even inside the country, have risen.

The conflicts and inequalities in the Mediterranean are behind root causes of the migratory flow and number of refugees augmentation, with their consequences that has a great impact on the general stability of the region.

- There is a lack of women representation on the public space of the Mediterranean.

As citizens, we accept the observation that the future vision construction, in this context, is complex. Nevertheless, it remains absolutely essential and vital to reach peace, stability and a shared prosperity by the Mediterranean peoples.

Main challenge and strategic orientations:

The main challenge is to build up a community of Mediterranean peoples. To reach this objective, we must first define the main strategic orientations to follow.

- Create realistic models of concerted management, shared and adapted to the Mediterranean area that enable citizens to participate at their direction. It is not about imposing any pre-existing model, it is about making an institutional framework who considers the Mediterranean peoples particularly, their aptitude on the common reflection and their ability on the collective action.
- Raise awareness among the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean citizens in order to create relations and accrued communication between them to allow a collective commitment, in consequence of particular economical and political situations.
- Contribute to the elimination of mutual fears in order to give the Mediterranean a human, political, cultural, environmental and economic sense. Facing these challenges requires a conscious and permanent action by the Mediterranean citizens, but it is also a common action which should complement and boost the public institutions' actions on every level, with the common objective of peace, development, solidarity, and social justice.



2. OBJECTIVES

The Mediterranean Citizens' Assembly Foundation to work towards the following objectives:

- Contribute to building a sustainable Mediterranean area of peace, development, solidarity and shared prosperity between its peoples. The MCAF aims to promote the involvement of citizens within a new political, economic and social structure for the Mediterranean basin.
- Take part in the emergence of a new governance, truly based on dialogue and sharing, in the Mediterranean area.
- Act in favour of economic and political integration at the regional level, thus enabling certain populations to break away from their confinement.
- Work towards overcoming mutual fears to give a sense of human, political, cultural, environmental and economic unity to a community of Mediterranean peoples once again.
- Help communities to communicate with each other.

3. NATURE AND PRINCIPLES

The MCA Foundation brings a legal framework that offers the ability of a transparent and organized action and also a collective intelligence capable of producing elements of consensus and propositions. The Mediterranean Citizen's Assembly Foundation is conceived as a place of permanent communication between communities of the Mediterranean basin. This is a long-term process that gathers different actors of society – citizens' movements, public or private institutions, firms, associations, trade unions, experts, universities, research centers, etc.

The Mediterranean Citizen's Assembly Foundation aims to help recreate a renewed citizenship, based on responsibility, communication and sharing. The foundation is simultaneously:

- A common project.
- A vision: of a Mediterranean citizenship under construction.
- A desire: overcome powerlessness in order to understand and influence, through common efforts, realities that individuals alone cannot tackle because of the scale and complexity of these reali-



ties thanks to the efforts pooling.

- A place to share initiatives, analyses, propositions, to reflect and learn together.

4. COMMON VALUES

The MCAF is part of a progressivist and humanist vision of the historical evolution of the Mediterranean as a whole. This vision is based on values of democracy, freedom, solidarity, peace, respect of cultural diversity and environmental responsibility. This area cannot welcome people bringing ideas that contradict these common values and principles.

- The MCAF is pluralist through the identity and nature of the actors invited to participate in the dialogue, as well as through the philosophical, political or religious views they represent
- The MCAF favours an ethics of diversity. Identity is understood as a construction, which means that the citizenship condition relies on the particularity recognition, equality acceptance, respect for others and on the common challenges' shared management.

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- The MCAF does not replace or clash the various cooperation structures that already exist. They are all necessary. The Foundation is intended to be a dialogue space that favours the emergence of new partnerships.
- Inside the MCAF, the participants take part in a personal capacity.

The Mediterranean citizens commit to:

- Making a an open, tolerant and welcoming structure.
- Boost and promote their action and their visibility.
- Sharing experience and developing close bonds with the other participants.
- Respecting the working and dialogue methods adopted jointly.

MCAF ORGANIZATION

Governing Board.

In accordance with the approved status of 2016, the Governing Board is the Foundation's management and representative body,



with a presidency elected by its members. The Governing Board develops the following competences:

- Fulfil the constituent objectives and manage diligently the goods and rights that constitute the Foundation patrimony. The 'Governing Board' is composed of 10 persons coming from many countries of the Mediterranean.
- Make the circles' promotion easier in every country of the Mediterranean region.
- Help the circles' activities development promoting all the ones destined to the Foundation's principles and values strengthening.
- Collaborate in the circles' development and financing, according to their needs and available resources, based on the equity principle, insofar as their activities agree with the Foundation's objectives.

The Advisory Council.

The Governing Board leans on the advisory council's assistance and collaboration from volunteers coming from the Mediterranean area, who share the Foundation's principles and objectives. The number of the advisory council's member is not limited. The new

members are identified by the Governing Board or by the Advisory Council according to:

- Their convening power at the local and regional levels.
- Their experience and skills.
- Their public visibility.
- Their ability to make the relationship easier between citizens and public institutions

The Advisory Council members' role is:

- Energize the Foundation's work process.
- Answer the consultations launched by the Governing Board.
- Support the Foundation in order to define their strategic elections.
- Contribute to the text composition about reflections on the political, social, economic and environmental spheres.
- Help on the local circles creation.



- Contribute to identify financial resources in order to support the Foundation's projects.

The Advisory Council is often summoned by the Governing Board, in its entirety or with a part of its members, depending on the points to approach.

Local Circles.

The citizen participation and the support of the MCAF's objectives become real with the creation and promotion of citizens' local circles all over the Mediterranean basin's different countries, according to the following principles:

- Conceived as open and permanent places for dialogue between citizens, they exchange ideas (through workshops, round table discussions), and collectively elaborate and assess proposals aiming to contribute to the emergence of new economic, social, cultural and environmental policies.
- All citizens can take part in these Circles on the condition that they agree with the principles of the Founding Charter and commit to abide by them.

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- The existence of a circle is subject to formal recognition by the Governing Board.
- Each circle designates a person of reference responsible for the relationship with the Governing Board .
- Each year, the circles will present their activity report and proposals for the future to the Governing Board.



● In constitution



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