



Alexandria Communiqué

16 July 2010

On the outcomes of the final preparatory meeting of the AoC regional Strategy for Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation for the Mediterranean

In response to the initiative of H.E. Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, to prepare a Regional Strategy for intercultural dialogue and cooperation for the Mediterranean, representatives of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) from Europe and the Mediterranean, as well as other members of the Union for the Mediterranean, held three preparatory meetings to draft the aforementioned Strategy, the first of which was held in Bibliotheca Alexandrina on 15 – 16th January 2010, the second in Lisbon on 19 – 20th February 2010, and the third and final meeting was held in Bibliotheca Alexandrina on 15 – 16th July 2010.

The Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean comes within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations, with the aim to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions and, in the process, to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism.

This Regional Strategy provides new avenues for extensive regional cooperation to deal with the complex number of demographic, economic, political, social and cultural challenges in the Mediterranean region, which are often marked by stark contrasts and negative trends inciting extremism and polarization throughout the world and creating tension among societies.

This Regional Strategy takes into account the work carried out in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership such as the Barcelona Process and the Union for the Mediterranean. It recognizes in particular the work carried out by the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures which represents a bridge between cultures, religions and beliefs in cooperation with the UN Alliance of Civilizations in

particular in the framework of the new opportunities opened up by this Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean.

This Strategy also builds on the ongoing initiatives implemented by international and regional organizations such as UNESCO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the League of Arab States, the Council of Europe and its North-South Center, ISESCO, ALECSO and IRCICA.

Furthermore this Regional Strategy is underpinned by the conviction that achieving its goals of improved understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions will favour mutually acceptable solutions to outstanding problems in the Mediterranean.

To this end, the Regional Strategy favours in particular the progress in the negotiations of the Middle East peace process that will lead to a two-state solution with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The Alexandria meeting finalized the AoC Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean to be submitted to the AoC Regional Conference for the Mediterranean, scheduled to be held in Malta during 8-9 November 2010, for ministerial adoption. Participants also initiated the discussions on the 1st Action Plan for 2011-2015 implementing the Regional Strategy, and agreed to submit it upon its finalization to the Malta Conference for adoption.