



***Declaration of Intent on the setting up of
an open platform of inter-institutional cooperation
for intercultural dialogue
("Faro Platform")***

The Secretary General and the Director General of the:

- Council of Europe (CoE),
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

(hereinafter called "the Organisations"),

meeting on 27-28 October 2005 in Faro (Portugal) at the occasion of the Closing Conference of European Ministers of Culture in the framework of the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention,

convinced that intercultural dialogue must be based on universally shared principles of human rights, mutual respect and democratic citizenship to achieve sustainable peace,

agree to sign this Declaration of Intent aiming to set up the "Open Platform of inter-institutional cooperation for intercultural dialogue" (hereinafter called "the Faro Platform").

1. Context

The purpose of the Faro Platform is the promotion of concrete and steady cooperation between the Organisations in the area of intercultural dialogue, given that a series of initiatives have already highlighted the common willingness to increase the effectiveness of sustainable action through inter-institutional synergy.

The Organisations share the political aim of promoting intercultural dialogue based on universal values, universality and indivisibility of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

2. Principles of cooperation

The work of the Faro Platform shall be based on the principles of complementarity, reciprocity and work-sharing, focussing on the main axis of intercultural dialogue.

Under no circumstances can activities of the Faro Platform conflict with other legal obligations, declarations of intent and other types of commitments of the Organisations.

The implementation of specific joint projects shall be subject to approval by the governing bodies of each of the participating Organisations.

The Faro Platform is open to cooperation, as appropriate, with other institutions active in the Euro-Mediterranean and other regions. Other international or regional partners may join the Faro Platform upon request to, and agreement by, the Organisations.

3. Objectives

The overall objectives of the Faro Platform are:

- to exchange information on the activities undertaken by the Organisations in the areas of intercultural dialogue;
- to promote the synergy between the programmes of activities of the Organisations;
- to agree and implement programmes and activities jointly run by the Organisations;
- to include civil society as an essential actor in the intercultural dialogue;
- to monitor the advancement of the dialogue between civilisations and cultures;
- to agree, where appropriate, on joint practical procedures and means in the implementation of these programmes and activities.

The Organisations will use their communication tools to provide information on the work of the Faro Platform.

4. Areas of cooperation

The Faro Platform will undertake programmes and activities in the following areas:

- Education, youth and sport;
- Culture, in its dual role of heritage and creativity;
- Communication, information and media.

5. Working mechanisms

The Faro Platform shall work through a Coordinating Committee, composed of one senior representative of each Organisation. Decisions are taken by consensus. The Coordinating Committee meets at least annually.

Meetings of the Coordinating Committee are prepared by one of the Organisations, which also acts as a clearinghouse for information between meetings. The task of the clearinghouse rotates among the Organisations on an annual basis by mutual agreement.

6. Financial aspects

The Faro Platform has no financial resources of its own. The costs of meetings of the Coordinating Committee are borne by each Organisation for their own representatives.

Joint programmes and initiatives are financed by the ordinary budgets of the Organisations and from other sources (grants and voluntary contributions).

7. Final provisions

The present Declaration of Intent aims to set up the Open Platform of inter-institutional cooperation for intercultural dialogue.

The terms of this Declaration of Intent shall be reviewed before the end of 2007.

Faro (Portugal), 27 October 2005

For the Council of Europe:

Secretary General of the
Council of Europe

Mr Terry Davis

For UNESCO:

Director of the Division of
Cultural Policies and Intercultural
Dialogue

Ms Katerina Stenou

Signature: _____

Signature: _____