



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Years 20 Ans



CENTRE NORD-SUD
NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE CONFERENCE OF INGOs AND

THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

**Co-operation agreement between
the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and the European Centre for Global
Interdependence and Solidarity
(North-South Centre)**

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, hereinafter “the Conference of INGOs” and the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, hereinafter “the North-South Centre”,

Considering that, with a view to broadening co-operation with Europe’s neighbouring countries by maintaining partnerships and dialogue and sharing universal fundamental values and rights with these countries and with the rest of the world, it is important to develop co-operation and to continue encouraging the North-South debate among the various Council bodies;

Considering that promoting the strengthening of and co-operation with civil society at a global level is an essential part of the Council of Europe’s remit: to defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law and to promote awareness of a European identity based on shared universal values and rights, cutting across different cultures;

Considering that the Conference of INGOs and the North-South Centre have common priority aims, namely to provide a framework for European co-operation to raise public awareness of global interdependence on the one hand, and to promote policies of solidarity complying with the Council of Europe’s aims and principles, on the other hand;

Agreed on the following :

I. Aim of the agreement

1. The aim of this agreement is to enhance co-operation between the Conference of INGOs and the North-South Centre based on mutual support and full respect for their respective competences, as stated in the rules of procedure of the Conference of INGOs and in Resolution (93) 51 on the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, as well as on full respect of universal fundamental values and rights which are essential to the existence of independent civil society, as guaranteed by international and European treaties.

II. Institutional links

2. As one of the bodies in the quadripartite structure of the Council of Europe, which was a founding principle of the North-South Centre, the Conference of INGOs is institutionally represented in the organs of the North-South Centre. Two of the 27 members of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre are members of the Conference of INGOs and the Conference of INGOs has a seat on the Bureau of the North-South Centre.

3. The Conference of INGOs representatives who have a specific mandate concerning the North-South Centre follow the activities of the North-South Centre and regularly report to the Bureau and the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs.

III. General co-operation

4. Within the Council of Europe, the Conference of INGOs, its committees and transversal groups and the North-South Centre, in the exercise of their respective responsibilities, will make increased use of their specific expertise and know-how, so as to mutually benefit from the role played by the Conference as a body representing civil society at European level and that played by the Centre, thus generating new ideas and proposals for constructive relations.

5. The Conference of INGOs will support the North-South Centre's position as a catalyst and facilitator of North-South dialogue, as a centre of competence and a valuable source of information and expertise on issues of global interdependence and solidarity.

The North-South Centre will support civil society, as represented within the Conference of INGOs.

IV. Co-operation at civil society level within the framework of the North-South Centre

6. The Conference of INGOs and the North-South Centre undertake to work together to promote, inter alia, active partnership with independent civil society in the North and South and its effective participation in the main lines of action of the North-South Centre and its programme of activities, not least in key areas of mutual interest such as global education, gender equality, combating poverty and social exclusion, youth, intercultural dialogue, Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African co-operation, etc.

7. Where appropriate, the Conference of INGOs will involve the North-South in its co-operation with civil society in Europe and neighbouring regions. It will encourage co-operation between the Centre, the bodies that represent independent civil society in its regions and itself.

V. Practical co-operation

8. The Conference of INGOs, its committees and transversal groups and the North-South Centre will benefit from each other's ability to provide firsthand information and analyses on issues falling within their competence.

9. Convinced of their respective experience and expertise in the field of North-South co-operation, the Conference of INGOs will encourage its bodies to make use of the Centre when organising its activities and preparing reports in this area; the Centre will make use of the Conference and its bodies when organising its various activities.

10. The Conference of INGOs and its committees and transversal groups will, when examining new terms of reference concerning the areas covered by the North-South Centre's mandate, recommend consulting the North-South Centre and will encourage co-operation with it. The Centre will consult and co-operate with the Conference and its bodies when organising new activities.

11. The Executive Council of the North-South Centre may submit proposals to the Bureau and to the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs concerning possible guest speakers from the South at the sessions of the Conference of INGOs when North-South issues are to be dealt with on the agenda.

12. The Conference of INGOs will, through its representatives on the Executive Council, propose candidates for the annual North-South Prize. It will also continue to be associated with the annual World Aware Education Award given by the North-South Centre.

VI. Final provision

13. This co-operation agreement enters into force on the day of signature. It may be amended by mutual consent. Each party may suspend its implementation or terminate it by notification to the other party.

Done in Strasbourg on 27 January 2010 in two copies in French and in English.

Jean-Marie Heydt
President of the Conference of INGOs



Deborah Bergamini
President of the Executive Council
of the North-South Centre

