



Convenzione dei diritti nel Mediterraneo
Convention des droits en Méditerranée
اتفاقية الحقوق في البحر الأبيض المتوسط

Declaration of Youth for Peace in the Mediterranean

We are boys and girls who live, work, and study on the four shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and we are concerned because the region, which has historically been a cradle of civilization and cultural exchange, is now marred by conflicts and instability.

Our concern deepens as we witness the ongoing strife, violence, and political turmoil that plague the Mediterranean region. We see communities torn apart, lives lost, and futures shattered by the relentless cycle of conflict.

We are troubled by the displacement of families, fear of ethnic groups, the destruction of infrastructure, and the erosion of basic human rights that accompany these conflicts throughout history and today. Day by day, the situation is worsening due to escalating differences that are leading to increased conflicts, violence, and posing a serious threat to security and peace in the Mediterranean region.

We met, within the framework of the Convention for Rights in the Mediterranean, to discuss among ourselves about these problems, responding to the invitation of United Nations Resolution 2250 "Youth, Peace and Security" to increase youth participation in promoting peace. We have considered that the dangers to peace in the Mediterranean derive from a multitude of factors:

1. **Occupation, Political Instability and Corruption:** The region suffers from ongoing political instability, fueled by internal conflicts, authoritarian regimes, and external interventions. This instability undermines efforts for peace and hinders the establishment of democratic governance.

Points :

- a) The competition among nations for territorial control.

- b) As governance weakens in countries, other powers grow and threaten human life.
- c) Geopolitical rivalries among the states in the region, exacerbated by divergent economic and strategic interests.
- d) Political tensions between countries that result in conflicts over territory , resources and / or geopolitical influence . This issue is harnessed by weak governance and lack of effective institutions , resulting in increased challenges regarding democracy and political stability .
- e) Having multiple schemes such as social benefits awarded to people that are not entitled to these benefits just to acquire votes.

2. Resource Scarcity: Competition over scarce resources such as water, energy, and arable land exacerbates tensions among Mediterranean nations. Climate change intensifies these challenges, leading to environmental degradation and food insecurity.

3. Ethnic and Religious Divisions: Deep-seated ethnic and religious divisions contribute to sectarian violence and societal fragmentation. These divisions are often exploited by extremist groups seeking to sow discord and perpetuate conflict.

Points :

- f) The quest for ethnic groups to attain territorial control.
- g) Discrimination against religious minority groups in certain countries in the mediterranean region.

4. Violence, Terrorism and Arms Proliferation: The proliferation of weapons and arms trafficking in the region fuels violence and prolongs conflicts. The unchecked flow of arms exacerbates existing tensions and undermines efforts for disarmament and peacebuilding.

Points :

- h) Threats from terrorism and extremism, fueled by the proliferation of arms which ultimately result in an increased number of crimes and violence.

- i) The proliferation of arms and the lack of effective mechanisms for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of combatants.
- j) Violent extremism and terrorism, which exploit divisions and frustrations to recruit supporters and spread terror.

5. Lack of Dialogue and Cooperation: A lack of meaningful dialogue and cooperation among Mediterranean nations perpetuates mistrust and animosity. Diplomatic channels remain underutilized, hindering opportunities for conflict resolution and reconciliation.

6. Economic Challenges: Economic disparities between Mediterranean countries, leading to uneven development and potential for economic crises. A serious challenge that is increasing by the rise of unemployment percentages. Resulting in socio-economic inequalities, which fuel resentment and social instability in many communities.

7. Refugee Problems: Increase of refugee problems caused conflicts between different countries.

8. Child Labour:

Its unfair exploitation. It's a violation of the human right to not be abused and enslaved.

9. Child recruitment:

As the Mediterranean region is witnessing the largest process of recruiting children and using them in armed conflicts, this constitutes a blatant violation of the rights of children to protection, education, health and participation.

10. “Freedom” of speech:

Everyone should be able to voice their concerns and opinions without fear and consequences.

We are unfortunately concerned about the journalists who are facing life death situations while trying to inform masses of people with the best of truths. This is

a clear representation of breach of the right to freedom of expression and thought.

11. Sex trafficking:

Sex trafficking is still a reality to young women and men who are being exploited for the sex industry.

We are deeply involved in these problems and will seek to engage in our countries to address these issues, but at the same time, we appeal to the nations of the world to urgently adopt the following measures:

1. Immediate Ceasefire: We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in conflict-affected areas of the Mediterranean, allowing for humanitarian access and the delivery of aid to those in need.

2. Political Dialogue and Mediation: We urge all parties involved in conflicts to engage in inclusive political dialogue and mediation efforts aimed at resolving grievances and addressing the root causes of conflict.

3. Promotion of Youth Involvement: We advocate for the meaningful participation of youth in peace building processes, decision-making forums, and conflict-resolution initiatives. Youth are not just the future but also integral agents of change in building a peaceful Mediterranean.

4. Investment in Sustainable Development: We emphasize the importance of investing in sustainable development initiatives that address socio-economic inequalities, promote inclusive growth, and mitigate environmental risks.

Sustainable development is essential for fostering stability and resilience in the region.

5. Enhanced Regional Cooperation: We call for strengthened regional cooperation mechanisms that foster trust, dialogue and collaboration among Mediterranean nations.

Through joint efforts, we can address common challenges and promote peace and prosperity for all. Programs should be organized to enhance intercultural interaction with the Mediterranean region and the world.

6. Disarmament and Arms Control: We urge enhanced efforts towards disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation measures in the Mediterranean region. Curtailing the flow of arms will reduce violence and create an environment conducive to peacebuilding.

Other solutions as : Implement police reform measures, including training on de-escalation tactics and implicit bias, along with promoting community policing initiatives to build trust between law enforcement and marginalised communities.

7. Economic development :

Encourage investment in infrastructure, education and healthcare to foster inclusive economic growth .

8.Promotion of human rights :

Call for the protection of human rights, including the rights of minorities and children.

Strengthening laws and enforcement mechanisms to combat forced labour. This can be accompanied by providing support for survivors and raising awareness to prevent this type of exploitation.

Teaching social integration both to migrants/refugees and citizens of the country to combat discrimination and promote social cohesion.

Strengthening legal frameworks to protect press freedom.

In conclusion, we, the youth of the Mediterranean, stand united in our commitment to peace, solidarity, and cooperation.

We refuse to accept the status quo of conflict and division, and instead, we pledge to work tirelessly toward a future where the Mediterranean is a region of peace, prosperity, and mutual understanding. Promote transparency and accountability in the arm trade

