

**Euro-Mediterranean Youth Workshop for the Simulation of the  
Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs “The  
Role of Women in Society: How to Fight Against Social Stereotypes”  
(Naples, Italy, 17 – 20 December 2005)**

- *Having no country mandate, yet empowered with the spirit, faith and energy of youth, and*
  - *Gathered in the framework of the EuroMed Youth Workshop organised by the Fondazione Mediterraneo and the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures,*
  - *The participants in the workshop, 70 young citizens, men and women, coming from all 35 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership,*
  - *Express their gratitude to Fondazione Mediterraneo and Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures for organising and hosting this workshop in Napoli.*
  - *Aiming to deliver results that will have a positive impact for all citizens in the region;*
  - *Supporting the creation of a peaceful, stable and secure region;*
  - *Having studied the Five Years Work Programme adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Summit in Barcelona on 28 November 2005;*
  - *Invite the Euro-Mediterranean countries’ leaders to conceive and implement a roadmap for youth; and*
  - *Present the following proposals to the Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership member countries (EuroMed Committee) for concrete and rapid actions which:*
- a) *Extend political pluralism and participation by citizens, particularly women and youth, through the active promotion of a fair and competitive political environment, including fair and free elections;*
  - b) *Enable citizens to participate in decision-making at all levels including by increasing the decentralisation of governance and the management of public affairs and delivery of public services;*
  - c) *Increase the participation in quantity and quality of women in decision-making including in political, social, cultural and economic positions;*
  - d) *Ensure freedom of expression and association, including participation by facilitating the work of independent information providers and increasing access to information for all citizens;*
  - e) *Foster the role of civil society in accordance with national legislation as appropriate and enhance its capability through improved interaction with governments and parliaments;*
  - f) *Enable the further implementation of UN and Regional Charters and Conventions on civil, political, social and economic rights, particularly of women, to which they are party and promote the ratification and application of other instruments in this area.*

- g) Work towards employment and employability for the increasing numbers of young people and for women across the region, reducing regional poverty rates and closing the prosperity and gender gap;
- h) Work towards achieving universal literacy by ensuring quality of access to, participation in, and completion of education by all people at all levels by 2015,
- i) Ensure that by 2015 all children complete at least primary education;
- j) Increase awareness and understanding of the different cultures and civilisations of the region, including through conservation and restoration of cultural heritage;
- k) Promote inclusive and development-oriented information society paying attention to rural areas, encouraging the safe, constructive and responsible use of the Internet and IT, acknowledging the present gender gap and closing it;
- l) Co-operate to combat discrimination, racism and xenophobia and to increase tolerance, understanding and respect of all religions and cultures;
- m) Enhance the role of the media for the development of intercultural dialogue, through supporting the establishment of independent, multicultural and multilingual channels and portals;
- n) Strengthen youth dialogue through the EuroMed Youth Platform and other Euro-Med initiatives and promote youth exchanges;
- o) Support the work of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures as a network of national networks, to improve intercultural understanding through regular dialogue, promotion and facilitation of exchanges and mobility and interaction between people at all levels;
- p) Also support other organisations that work with youth and gender issues in the Euro-Med area;
- q) Further develop the initiative by Fondazione Mediterraneo and the Anna Lindh Foundation to convene this first EuroMed Youth Workshop which should be continued as part of the new Five Years EuroMed Work Programme.

*In light of the above-mentioned objectives, they recommend the following 5 clusters of actions:*

### ***I. For socio-economic integration of women***

In order to combat stereotyping and promote the socio-economic status and integration of women we propose to set up national agencies within signatory states of the CEDAW, which would operate under the auspices of the U.N in order to:

- Promote self empowerment among women in social, economic and employment fields through the use of media campaigns and NGO publications,
- Nominate an Ombudsman Representative from which information could be sought and complaints of discrimination could be sent,
- Monitor compliance with the directives of the CEDAW.

## ***II. For women's accesses to knowledge and education***

- Eliminate any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods.
- Establish centres and social programmes targeting the problem of illiteracy. Make the education easy and accessible.
- Make primary and secondary school obligatory and give financial support to the secondary school students. Reduce the number of female drop-outs and organise programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely. Create scholarships-fund for university students. Combat sexual harassment and discrimination in schools.
- Ensure an equal access to education and specially reaching out to rural areas and to people with disabilities. Improve the personal and educational infrastructure.
- Make women's rights and intercultural learning subjects in school.

## ***III. For political integration of women***

- Promoting civil society measures by strengthening non-governmental organizations that support gender equality.
- Assigning a coordinator to promote gender equality and combat social stereotypes in the national media.
- Enforcing the presence of a minimum of 30% female candidates in local, parliamentary and presidential elections.

## ***IV. For combating discrimination, violence and sexual exploitation***

3-level-method to fight against discrimination, violence and sexual abuse:

Research:

- Assign to non-governmental organizations and academic institutions the task of research about the presence and forms of discrimination, violence and sexual abuse in each country.
- Cooperation and networking with other governments to share the information on these issues
- Make researches on how to reduce prostitution.

#### Prevention:

- It is necessary to give more importance to sexual education and it should be applied in different areas specially the rural areas, parents and children.
- Campaigning against all forms of domestic violence (psychological, physical, virtual) using different methods (eg. Media, etc.)
- Non-formal empowerment measures for women (eg. physical, moral, etc.)
- Avoid distorted image of genders in media (especially the use of the body)
- End gender-stereotyping through campaigns and non-formal education directed to different groups like men, women, children, etc. in different regions.
- Encourage the establishment and work of special NGOs working for the protection of prostitute women and for reducing prostitution (support of women, access to medical care, etc.)

#### Palliative Measures:

- To apply international conventions as soon as possible and integrate them into national law and bring regular reports to an international community.
- Protect Women from sexual exploitation and fight trafficking and sex slavery.
- Creation of an independent Ombuds-Person or institution.
- Cooperation between the governments and the civil society to support the NGOs by creating hotlines, physical protection, facilities to legal action.

#### ***V. For promotion and implementation of legislation regarding women's status***

1. State parties shall accord to women equality with men.
2. Appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women shall be taken.
3. Men and women should have the same rights and possibilities as parents, as well as the same right to decide the number and spacing of children.
  - a. Every woman should have the right to use contraception and receive education regarding this issue.
  - b. Every woman should be entitled to appropriate access to information and professional advice on deciding crucial issues of maternity without feeling pressured, forced or threatened, so as to freely make a decision.
  - c. Every woman should have the right to divorce.
4. State parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices and customary based on the idea of inequality between the sexes or on gender based stereotypes.
5. Promote the socialization of youth towards recognizing parenthood and child raising as a social and community-oriented process of contribution, growth and development for men, women and the society at large.
6. State parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of women, and inform the population of the consequences of purchasing sex.