



ANND Statement on ENP review document

Brussels, 17 November 2015

On 18/11/2015, The European commission issued the “European Neighborhood Policy review” document in parallel with ANND delegation visit to Brussels to hold discussions with European institutions on Euro-Mediterranean policies. In our capacity as members of this delegation and representatives of Arab networks and organizations involved with following up on this partnership, we deemed it necessary to react to this document issued by the commission. In this context, we welcome the partnership review and the launch of a consultative and participatory ENP review process; and given the importance of this partnership and its major repercussions on our countries, we need to restate and reconfirm the following:

- In general, the document did not provide an essential review of the strategic and political choices made by the former ENP on the political and socio-economic levels. In fact, approaches prioritize security approaches and economic growth without assessing and reviewing their impacts and repercussions in the last decade that can be summarized as follows: aggravation of the violence and terrorism phenomena and increased socio-economic and cultural inequalities.
- The document’s approach focuses on promoting societies’ resilience and stability, which constitutes a regression and constraints on the previous ENP objectives of achieving prosperity, development and peace. It also constitutes a regression from international agreements and documents upheld by the European Union, such as the development agenda 2030 which includes broader and more comprehensive objectives than the EU document.
- The document continues to adopt a security-based approach in dealing with terrorism, facing irregular migration, and prioritizes this approach and considers it an important entry point to the neighborhood policy. In this context, we must reaffirm that this approach has been adopted in the former ENP and proved not only its failure to achieve security, but its role in deepening the crisis and the social gaps among citizens, shrinking public freedoms space and civil society enabling environment.
- Providing development assistance and loans cannot be tied with Southern governments taking measures to counter irregular migration or resettling refugees and immigrants in countries of the South. The question of migration for example should be addressed on the basis of respecting international agreements and covenants that guarantee freedom of movement, and protection of refugees escaping conflict and war zones.
- The adoption of the GDP-based economic approach proved unsuccessful in the region and did not achieve the development goals set prior to the Arab spring. The document fails to mention the adoption of a comprehensive sustainable development approach that leads to the creation of job opportunities and fair distribution of wealth. The

- document considers trade liberalization and foreign investments attraction an entry-point to achieving economic growth, but does not include any review or assessment of the results achieved by these policies over the last years especially their negative implications on productive sectors stimulating job creation and social inclusion.
- The ENP calls for a greater development role by Businesses given their contribution in promoting development that creates job opportunities. It also calls for financing development, ensuring basic public services through Public-Private Partnerships and blending public and private financing. Relevant experience proves these partnerships failed to guarantee citizens' rights to receive public services in the absence of legislative and institutional frameworks, a transparency and accountability mechanism that guarantees citizens access to services according to human rights standards. In this context, and given the increased role played by Businesses in development, achieving an international treaty that imposes binding human rights standards on Businesses becomes a necessary step to ensure policies compliance with human rights principles and standards.
 - The new ENP fails to mention that one of the important instability reasons in the region is the occupation of Palestine and the violation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, right of return, freedom from apartheid and all forms of discrimination. Ostracizing this cause and its solutions renders all resilience and stability approaches incomplete and unattainable.