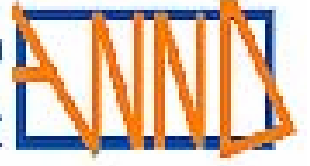


شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية
Arab NGO Network for Development



Annual Report

2003

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Our Vision

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) envisions democratic, active, and effective civil societies in the Arab Region. These societies would be able to affect public policies, and would be open and interactive with other cultures and societies. These societies respects and protects the dignity and freedom of the individual and their political, social, economic, civic, and cultural rights, within a state of law and institutions, where peace, security, and stability are prosperous.

ANND's internal vision is based on responding to the challenges and changes on the regional and global levels, whereby it aims at establishing a special presence and effective and active positions regarding the decision-making locally, regionally, and globally. ANND works to preserve a democratic, flexible, growing, and developing body that encompasses Arab non-governmental organizations working in the fields of social and human development, democracy, human rights, and environment. ANND is committed towards implementing the values of good governance and the development of best-practices models for capacity building and institutional structuring.

Our Mission

ANND is an independent, democratic, and civic organization that aims at strengthening civil society and enhancing the values of democracy and respect of Human Rights and sustainable development in the Arab region. It works towards its aim through programs of advocacy and lobbying on regional and national policy-making in three main areas; development, trade, and democracy, while being committed to the international convention on Human Rights, freedom, respect of the individual, respect of diversity, equality of resource division, and the protection of cultural heritage in the Region and the implementing the developmental priorities of the local societies.



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Introduction

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) has been working on the principles of democracy, human rights and sustainable development since its establishment. It aims at building the capacities, raising the awareness of Arab civil society organizations and providing them with the more necessary tools for their work. Consequently, it seeks to initiate effective Arab civil society participation at the local, regional and international levels.

ANND set a strategy plan for the period between 2001 and 2004, focusing on promoting the role of the Network as an effective body for mobilizing Arab civil society organizations and increasing their awareness. ANND has also been expanding its involvement in the global social movement and this has shaped its role and programs. Consequently, the activities of ANND have witnessed significant turning points throughout its short history. This established a more definitive role of ANND as a regional and global actor.

Through the past five years, ANND evolved from being a member in the global social movement, to an active participant, and further to an effective and creative contributor. ANND has been building on its regional and international activities to expand its role as an effective capacity building, follow-up, and networking body. ANND continued its programs in 2003, focusing on six main program areas:

1. Networking
2. Social Development
3. Globalization and Trade in the Arab region
4. EUROMED
5. Solidarity campaigns
6. IDEA democracy project

Throughout the past year, ANND continued its active participation in the global movement facing the challenges of globalization and global trade. ANND maintained its participation in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, where its participation had progressively evolved from a passive one in 2002, to the organization of two workshops in 2003. One of the workshops was on the future of the Arab Social Movement, and the other was on the impact of Globalization on democracy. ANND was also nominated as a member of the International Council of the WSF since 2002. This helped ANND to elaborate more on its vision, mission and objectives. Also, ANND took part in the NGO forum, held in parallel to the 5th Ministerial Meeting in Cancun. ANND was outstanding for the denunciation of the expansion of the WTO to include the New Issues (the 4 Singapore issues), and its members voiced out their concerns on global trade in all the press conferences and meetings with the ministers and decision makers and other delegates.

ANND concentrated on strengthening its relations with international organizations, and it proceeded to implement the partnerships it initiated with various international networks, including Social Watch, Third World Network, OWINFS (Our World Is Not For Sale Network), APRN (Asia-Pacific Research Network), and IDEA (The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance). ANND hosted the working days of Social Watch general assembly in Beirut, in the presence of 80 Social Watch members and 20 guests of international researchers and activists. The assembly served as an occasion to launch the Arab version of the Social Watch

Annual Report 2003; "The Poor and the Market". Moreover, ANND hosted the fifth Annual Meeting of APRN in Beirut. The meeting was organized around the topic of "War on Terrorism: Militarization of Globalization and People's Rights". It was attended by 45 international organizations, research centers, academics, and activists in the fields of globalization and militarization, from 23 Arab and Asian countries. ANND also maintained its partnership and collaboration with several networks and international organizations, like the Our World is not for Sale Network, the Third World Network, and the International Federation for Human Rights.

Furthermore, ANND embarked on elaborating on its partnerships, through its project with IDEA, which was launched in February 2003. The project focuses on political parties, electoral systems, and women participation, and had taken Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan as pilot countries. This project was significant for ANND as it introduced it to a new kind of relations with international organizations, built on partnership rather than mere cooperation. It also established a new mechanism in ANND programs, based on research, analysis, and dialogue. These are new tools in ANND work, which in turn would expand ANND activity to include cooperation with research centers and academic organizations. Furthermore, it enlarged the scope of ANND's activity to include non-member organizations in the implementation of its programs, such as independent researchers and academics from various Arab countries.

The Network was equally active in following up on all the international forums it participated in, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Euro-Med forum. Accordingly, it maintained its Solidarity program, organizing activities in solidarity with both the Palestinian and Iraqi people. The concerns of the Iraqi and the Palestinian people were major issues presented by the Arab participation, which was organized by ANND in the WSF, the WSSD, and other international meetings. Furthermore, ANND quickly mobilized regarding the Iraqi situation, through introducing e-newsletters covering the war on Iraq. The Network is also permanently updating its website; it hired an IT officer to manage organizing and developing the contents of the website. In general, the Network has maintained enhancing the level of communications and networking among its members, through regular dissemination of information and reports, and meetings of its Coordinating Committee and General Assembly. A survey was prepared to analyze the structural and organizational status of the Network, in order to introduce the necessary adjustments for more efficiency and effectiveness in ANND's work.

The following report introduces all the activities of ANND in 2003. It covers the period from January 2003 till December 2003. In general, ANND was relatively less active during March, April, and May due to the war on Iraq. Activities regained momentum in June with the preparations for the WTO meeting.

I. Networking and Information Exchange

1. ANND Website

ANND had set up a website organized to establish better means of communication and exchange of information among its members, and between member and non-member organizations. ANND aims at creating a forum for discussion of the challenges facing development in the Arab World. For the time being, the website is meant for information dispersion and exchange, and it is one of the few websites posting materials in Arabic. .

ANND issued six e-newsletters posted on its website, starting on the 8th of April 2003. The newsletters covered perspectives on the war on Iraq, and presented articles and various updates from local and international media.

ANND also hired an IT officer, starting from the beginning of October 2003, to manage organizing and developing the website. The IT officer is responsible for continuously updating the information posted on the website. He will also act as an editor of the e-newsletter to be prepared periodically. ANND's e-bulletin will serve as a tool to improve networking and exchange of experiences and information.

ANND's partnership project with the Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) for the year 2003 includes a website related activity. The partnership project on democracy in the Arab World requires expanding the capacity of ANND's website and establishing links with IDEA's website, in order to post all reports and outcomes resulting from the project. This activity is still pending, and the IT officer would be responsible for introducing all the resulting documents from the project as they come about, and publishing online the ongoing debates on democracy and electoral systems in the Arab World.

2. Coordination committee (CC) meeting

The coordination committee officially met in Cairo on the 10th of July, 2003. Ten participants from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Iraq, Palestine, Bahrain, Jordan, and Tunis, in addition to the Executive Director of the network, participated in the meeting. The issues on the working agenda included:

- The financial status of the network and organizational issues.
- Future projects and plans, including the WTO forthcoming Ministerial Meeting, in addition to the Social Watch Assembly and the Asia Pacific Research Network conference on War on Terror.
- Preparation for the general assembly meeting.
- The Arab situation with a special focus on Palestine and Iraq.

The participants adopted the financial report presented by the Executive Director, covering the year 2002. When it came to the organizational issues, the CC members were briefed by the subcommittee in charge of the revision of the organization and structure of ANND. The participants adopted the report presented by the subcommittee and agreed on preparing a survey for evaluating membership

in the Network. For this purpose, they decided to circulate a questionnaire among ANND members. They delegated the Executive Director to prepare and analyze the survey, upon which there would be suggestions of structural and organizational adjustments, aiming at increasing the efficiency of the network.

Accordingly, the CC agreed to organize a strategic planning workshop for the Network in order to evaluate the previous activities of the last three years and to set a strategic plan for the coming three years. In addition to the survey results, the strategic planning workshop would discuss the main documents of the General Assembly, to be held during the first months of 2004.

It is worth mentioning that many CC members met informally several times this year; In Porto Alegre during the World Social Forum in January, in Athens during the Workshop on the Euro Med partnership in May, and in Beirut during the Social Watch Assembly in October.

3. ANND Strategic Planning Meeting

The second strategic planning meeting for the Network took place in Broumana, Lebanon, between the 11th and 13th of December 2003. The meeting aimed at identifying the efficient and effective strategies that the Network will be adopting in its future programs, towards achieving the interests of civil society organizations that it serves.

The meeting was attended by 21 participant, including 15 of ANND members and representatives from ANND coordination committee (7 from Lebanon and 8 from other Arab countries), as well as staff of the executive office. The sessions were moderated by an expert facilitator, whereby participants worked in two focus groups throughout the 3 day meeting. There was a revisiting of the vision and mission of ANND. The participants discussed as well an evaluation document of ANND work between 2001 and 2004, which was prepared by ANND executive office. The schedule of the meeting included discussion and analysis of various issues; challenges in the Arab region, evaluation of the internal and external environment that ANND operates within, and ANND future strategy.

A strategic paper, covering ANND work plan between 2004 and 2007, was prepared based on the outcomes of the meeting. The draft copy of the paper is discussed among ANND members before being finalized.

4. Coordination with Social Watch (See annex 1)

Social Watch is an international network formed by national citizen groups, present in 85 countries around the world. Stemming from its role as a watchdog, the objectives of Social Watch are to follow up on the fulfillment of internationally agreed on commitments, dealing with poverty eradication, social integration, employment and equality. The Annual Social Watch report includes sections on the progress, or regression, towards these commitments and goals, prepared by national Social

Watch groups. Furthermore, Social Watch is involved in the follow up of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

ANND members, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine, participated in the workshop organized by Social Watch in Porto Alegre, where the participants decided that the General assembly will take place in Beirut, during October 2003. ANND, as a member of the Social Watch coordination committee, was invited to attend the meeting of the CC in Brussels, during May 2003, which was held in preparation for the meeting of the General Assembly.

ANND hosted the working days of the General Assembly in Beirut, between the 1st and 5th of October 2003, in the presence of 80 Social Watch members and 20 guests of international researchers and activists. The assembly served as an occasion to launch the Arab version of the Social Watch Annual Report 2003; "The Poor and the Market". The Annual Report discusses critical issues facing the world including the impact of privatization on the poor and women, services and human rights, challenges of globalization and free trade, GATS, the United Nations development goals, and transfer of resources from the South to the North.

ANND participated in the report with seven national reports from Morocco, Lebanon, Sudan, Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, and Bahrain and a thematic report on the challenges in the Arab region. These national reports were the result of the partnership between ANND and the Social Watch Network in Uruguay, building on its pursuit to expand the activities of Social Watch in the Arab World.

5. Coordination with "Our World is not for Sale" (OWINFS)

Three members of ANND participated in the strategic meeting organized by OWINFS, in Oslo. ANND participants were from Morocco, presenting the experience of the Moroccan Social Forum, from Palestine, presenting the experience of the Palestinian Social Forum, in addition to the Executive Director of ANND. The event was held in preparation for the Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Cancun, Mexico, during September 2003.

The participants asked ANND to organize a series of events aiming at mobilizing Arab civil society, mainly focusing on Egypt and Morocco as active members of the WTO. ANND closely coordinated with OWISNFS coalition, particularly with the Third World Network, in the preparatory process towards Cancun, and held a regional meeting in Cairo on "Globalization and Trade: Towards the Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting". ANND also participated in Cancun and was part of the activities organized by the Third World Network, and OWISNFS.

6. Meeting with Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) in Manila-Philippines (February 2003) (See annex 2)

Two ANND members, the Executive Director of ANND and Mr. Izzat Abdul Hadi representing Bisan Center, were invited to participate in the meeting of the executive board of APRN in Manila.

The meeting was held in preparation for organizing the 5th annual conference of the APRN. The meeting suggested the agenda of the conference and decided to hold it in the Middle East, choosing Lebanon as the host country.

7. Participation in international meetings:

a. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH):

FIDH organized a meeting in Amman on Human Rights and the need to create a partnership between human rights organizations and organizations working on development. ANND was asked to moderate and to address the conference with key notes on the possibilities of organizing an Arab Social Forum. (17-20 October, 2003).

b. Council of Europe in Amman:

ANND was invited and attended the meeting on the Intercultural Dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean organized by the Council of Europe in Amman. (6-7 December, 2003).

c. Bahraini Association of Sociologist:

ANND was invited to the conference of the Bahraini Association of Sociologist, held in December 2003. ANND addressed the conference with a paper on the future of the Arab Social Movement.

II. Social Development

1. Follow-up on the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD)

ANND co-organized a workshop on the World Summit on Sustainable Development with the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF), in Beirut, on the 19th and 20th of May, 2003. The workshop aimed at discussing the Jo'burg memos prepared by the HBF to the WSSD. The workshop also highlighted the Lebanese NGO report on Sustainable Development and the proceedings of the Summit. It finally discussed Lebanese national reports on solid waste management, water management, urban management, biodiversity, as well as coastal management.

The workshop included participation from various Lebanese civil society activists and organizations, and representatives from the Middle East office of the HBF. ANND published an Arabic/English publication of the workshop's outcomes.

2. MDG consultation meeting/ UNDP, South Africa

ANND Executive Director was invited by the UN campaign on the MDGs to attend the consultations, which were held in collaboration with CIVICUS in South Africa, in December 2003. The meeting aimed at drawing a strategy to involve civil society in monitoring the implementation of the MDGs at the local and international levels.

III. Globalization and Trade in the Arab Region

1. Founding meeting in preparation for the Arab Social Forum

ANND participated during January 2003, in a preparatory meeting held in Cairo, prior to the gathering of World Social Forum (WSF). The meeting aimed at discussing the Arab participation in the WSF, and the possibility of organizing the Arab Social Forum. In addition to ANND, many umbrella groups took part in this meeting, including the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, the Arab Research Center, the Arab Lawyers Union, the Arab Human Rights Organization, the Arab Organization of Sociologists, the Arab Organization of Economists, and Habitat International Coalition in the MENA region.

During the meeting, participants were briefed on the Moroccan Social Forum, the Palestinian Social Forum, the African Forum, and the Asian Social Forum. ANND

representative presented the activities planned at the World Social Forum 2003. ANND was nominated to coordinate the consultation process of the Arab Social Forum.

The attendees agreed that the meeting will be considered a preparatory one. They also agreed to widen the consultations in order to include more civil society groups in Arab countries.

2. World Social Forum (WSF), Porto Alegre- (January 23- 28 2003)

(See annex 3)

The WSF III in Porto Alegre created a significant space for the participating Arab organizations to share their main challenging concerns with the international social movements, particularly on the Palestinian and Iraqi crises.

Other major issues were discussed including Human Rights, democracy, sustainable development, globalization and trade, etc. Moreover, the WSF was an opportunity for them to meet and to discuss the future of the Arab Social Movement, with a perspective on organizing the Arab Social Forum.

ANND facilitated the participation of ten of its members in WSF III, from Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Iraq. ANND also organized two seminars during the Forum. The first focused on the future of the Arab social movement, where it was recommended to organize the Arab Social Forum. The organizations participating in this seminar issued a declaration reflecting their firm position against the war and called for a global mobilization against war on Iraq. They called for increasing solidarity with Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination and the creation of their independent state according to the UN resolutions and Universal declaration of Human Rights. The second seminar discussed the impact of Globalization on democracy and human rights, focusing on Arab women.

ANND organized a coordination meeting with other global networks to share with them concerns of solidarity with the Palestinian and the Iraqi people. The meeting was attended by representatives from Social Watch, Third World Network, Friends of the Earth, Women Global Network, and OWISNFS.

It is worth mentioning that ANND is a member of the international council of the World Social Forum, and it participated in several meetings of the council in Porto Alegre, Italy and Thailand.

3. Cairo workshop, "Towards Cancun's World Trade Organization Meeting: Preparations of The Arab Civil Society"

ANND organized a regional capacity building workshop for two days in Cairo, between the 12th and 13th of June, 2003. The workshop took place in collaboration with the Center for Arab Researches, Afro-Asian Solidarity Organisation, HBF, the Third World Network and Social Watch. The workshop convened 60 civil society representatives from different Arab countries that are currently facing the challenges of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It focused on the issues on the agenda of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO in Cancun, including agriculture, TRIPS (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights) and GATS (the General Agreement for Trade in Services) agreements.

Participants, including experts, activists, and researchers came from various Arab and Third World countries. The workshop was organized into seven sessions. The main goal was to initiate a broad debate between Arab countries in order to formulate more-appropriate positions regarding the New issues (the 4 Singapore issues), Implementation issues and trade agreements, like the TRIPS, GATS, and GATT (General Agreement for Tariff and Trade).

The workshop provided participants with practical tools to effectively address their governments and the WTO before the Cancun meeting, held in September. It also provided NGOs with adequate tools to advocate practical and treaty-based policy alternatives to development challenges arising from the WTO requirements. A bilingual summary of the workshop proceedings, containing recommendations and a plan of action was published.

4. Participation in the World Bank/IMF 2003 meeting

ANND was invited to participate in the 2003 Annual Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which was organized between the 20th and 24th of September 2003, in Dubai. The event brought together official country delegations, World Bank and IMF senior management, civil society organizations, and media groups. A good number of civil society groups from the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) were attending.

The WB/IMF meeting was an opportunity for the civil society representative to focus on their concerns regarding the social and economic impact of the WB/IMF policies on the developing countries. It was also an occasion to participate in many round tables and seminars on specific issues such as governance, education, health, development, poverty eradication, millennium development goals, and other important issues.

In the same context, ANND was invited to the launching of the World Bank report on the state of governance in the Middle East and North Africa region, which took place on September 8th, 2003. The report was prepared on the occasion of the WB and IMF annual meeting held in Dubai, and it came as part of a series of MENA development reports, which include major work on trade and investment, employment and gender.

5. Cancun WTO meeting (See annex 4)

ANND, as part of the global WTO campaign, and a member of the “Our World is Not for Sale” global network, participated in the parallel NGO forum organized in Cancun during the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO. The forum was an important event where the various groups representing the global social movement expressed their firm stand supporting the position of the developing countries of the G-20 group in their struggle for a fair trade. ANND representatives actively participated in Cancun; they took part in several press conferences and many meetings with the official delegations.

ANND was outstanding for the denunciation of the expansion of the WTO to include the New Issues (the 4 Singapore issues), including investment, competition, transparency in government procurements, and trade facilitation. It demanded addressing implementation issues and other agreements, such as agriculture, TRIPS (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights) and GATS (the General Agreement for Trade in Services).

6. Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) 5th Annual meeting

The Asia Pacific Research Network was established in 1999 to develop cooperation among alternative research centers, NGOs, and social movements in Asia and the Pacific, in order to strengthen advocacy from the community level up to the global level. APRN includes 33 leading research organizations in 15 countries in the Asia Pacific.

ANND hosted the fifth Annual Meeting of APRN in Beirut, between the 3rd and the 5th of November 2003. The meeting was organized around the topic of “War on Terrorism: Militarization of Globalization and Human Rights”. It was attended by 45 international organizations, research centers, academics, and activists in the fields of globalization and militarization, from 23 Arab and Asian countries. Hundreds of representatives from Lebanese NGOs were attending.

The meeting aimed at establishing a clearer understanding of the challenges of globalization and militarization facing the whole of Asia, east and west. It created a space for finding the common issues between civil society organizations of the Middle East region and those of South and West Asia. The participants discussed papers on terrorism and globalization, the role of the United States in the new militarization policies, human rights and resistance, the world economic downturns, the oil policies, and the rise of the fundamentalism and the extreme right wings. Several workshops discussed war and terrorism in the Middle East, South Asia, and West Asia, the impact of militarization and war policies on peasants, women, labor, and youth, and the social movements and their role in presenting alternatives.

The workshop resulted in two sets of recommendations specific to each of the Middle East and South Asia, which helped identify a better understanding of the challenges and commonalities that face the two regions. Based on the recommendations, APRN is preparing a set of researches on the impact of war on democracy, human rights, and resources, on terrorism and the role of the United Nations in this issue, as well as the role of social movements in challenging war and militarization.

7. Participation in activities related to globalization and trade:

a. **Conference in Manila, Philippines in the University of Manila, during February 2003;** The conference was organized by IBON, and was held in the occasion of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO.

b. **Conference in the University of Palermo, during July 2003;** The conference took place in parallel with the Ministerial Meeting of the trade ministers of the Mediterranean in preparation for the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO.

c. **Workshop on the WTO in Cairo, during May 2003;** The workshop was organized by the research and statistics center in Cairo University. It aimed at discussing the issues on the agenda of the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO.

d. **Workshop on the WTO in Berlin, during June 2003;** The workshop was organized by the Frederish Eibirt Foundation on the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO in Cancun.

e. **Civil Society consultation with the European Union on trade related issues;** ANND was invited to the EU civil consultations to participate on the debate around Investment, Agriculture and GATS

f. **Participation in the European Social Forum;** Members from ANND actively participated in the ESF where they shared concerns about the situation in the Middle East and discussed the necessity of learning from the European experiences to organize the Arab Social Forum.

IV. EUROMED

1. National consultations and launch of the Lebanese Euro-Med platform (See annex 5)

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership was established around concepts of social justice, equality, and the respect of human rights. It supports initiatives of political, economic, cultural, and environmental nature. The success and efficiency of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership depends on stability and peace in the region, and there is a clear recognition of the necessity of real and effective participation of civil society in the workings of this partnership.

ANND was invited to participate in a series of consultation meetings held with initiative from the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, in order to discuss the Euro-Med Civil Forum. It is worth mentioning that the civil forum, in its former structure, is facing many challenges; the relation of the Forum with the EU, the constraints faced by the partnership project itself, the financial and structural difficulties, etc.

The meetings resulted in the creation of a permanent platform for the Civil Forum. Moreover, national consultations were recommended to be organized in order to involve more NGOs and civil society groups in the debate.

It is worth mentioning that ANND members in Morocco (Espace Associative), Tunisia (League Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme), Palestine (PNGO), an associate organization in Jordan (Sisterhood is Global) and Lebanon (ANND) were asked to organize the national consultations. The meetings gathered civil society and youth organizations, research centers, experts, activists, and media groups. The consultations discussed the formalization of the Platform, its background, the current situation of the overall partnership project, future perspectives on the Mediterranean, and a strategy paper concerning the platform.

Each consultation was asked to nominate seven representatives to attend the Civil Forum to be held in Naples. The selection had to consider a balance between men and women, and representation of all the sectors; youth, development, human rights, environment, immigration, governance, women, people with disabilities, refugees, etc.

ANND was also invited to participate in the conference, organized by the International Institute of the Athens University, on the Euro Mediterranean Partnership (Athens, May 2003). Ten ANND members were invited to the conference. ANND was also invited to attend the meeting of the Greek NGO platform to discuss the Future of the EU in a Globalizing world (Thessalonica, June 2003).

In this regards, ANND organized, on the 9th of October 2003, a Lebanese national consultation to launch the Lebanese Euro-Med platform. The meeting covered the current state of the Barcelona process and the role of civil society, taking its point of departure in the strategy paper, and the proposal for the organization of a Civil Forum. It further covered the proposed modalities for

organizing and running a Euro-Med Civil Society Platform. This included: the criteria for adopting new members for the Platform, the criteria for electing a Steering Committee/Follow-up Committee in-between the large Platform meetings, the role and status of the national meetings, and the role and status of the regional networks and initiatives.

The consultations covered as well the preparation and discussion of priority issues for the next Civil Forum, including the problems faced by local NGOs operating in the current climate. Two main themes were highlighted:

- 1) The reinforcement of civil society, human rights, democracy and good governance.
- 2) Sustainable development and the socio-economic situation.

Two horizontal themes were laid out as well, the consequences of the war in Iraq, notably on the Palestinian situation, and the consequences of EU enlargement.

2. Civil Forum for the Euro-Mediterranean, Naples (28-30 November, 2003) (See annex 6)

The Euro-Med Civil Forum met in Naples, in the presence of 300 participants from the Euro-Mediterranean region, to discuss the promotion of sustainable development and strengthening civil society in the context of Euro-Med Partnership. The Forum was held in parallel to the Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Euro-Med partnership.

The Forum was organized and supported by the "Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo" in collaboration with a Steering Committee and the NGO Platform for the Euro-Med Civil Forum, and with collaboration from the EU Commission.

There was a significant presence of Arab NGOs in the Forum, which was reflected in the noteworthy final declarations taken in denunciation of the occupation in Iraq, the deteriorating conditions in Palestine due to the continuous Israeli occupation, and the division wall being built by the Israeli forces.

ANND attended the Civil Forum, and it took an active part in formalizing the final declaration of the Forum. ANND was also nominated during this meeting to coordinate the preparations for the Arab Social Forum.

V. Solidarity Campaigns

1. Solidarity with the Iraqi people

ANND actively participated in the global campaign against the war in Iraq and called the global community to act in prevention of the war. ANND and Social Watch issued a declaration denouncing the war, which was distributed worldwide, including in the UN headquarters in New York.

ANND actively participated in the formulation of contingency plans prior to the war, with participation from the Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO) in Palestine, NGOs Collective in Lebanon, and the Al-Amal foundation in Iraq. The plans were distributed and posted on ANND website

ANND also launched its e-newsletter to cover the developments in Iraq, watching the violations of Human Rights and containing analytical articles and reports, of which six issues were distributed. ANND is in direct contact with many Iraqi civil society organizations, and is planning to organize a needs assessment seminar and a capacity building workshop for Iraqi civil society organizations.

2. Week of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

ANND, in collaboration with the Coordination Forum for the NGOs working among the Palestinian communities in Lebanon, organized the annual commemoration of the Sabra and Shatila Massacre. This yearly event coordinated with the Lebanese newspaper As- Safir and the Italian El Manifesto, takes place during September of each year. ANND aims through this activity at exposing the deterioration of the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees to foreign delegations.

In 2003, ANND hosted more than 60 delegates from Italy and other European countries and organized their visits to the Palestinian camps. This activity was organized during the week of solidarity with the Palestinian people, between the 13th and 19th of September.

VI. Democracy

1- IDEA project (See annex 7)

ANND signed a partnership agreement with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) in 2003, concerning the implementation of an Arab World Project. The project, which tackles democracy in the Arab World, contains three main components:

- Dialogue track, which consists of launching debate on elections: electoral laws, finances and elections, media and elections, human rights and elections, civil observatory bodies and elections, women and elections, trade unions and elections, political parties and elections, etc.
- Elaboration of studies on political parties, political participation of women, and electoral systems in three Arab countries, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen.
- Publishing relevant papers.

The project was launched during February 2003, in each of Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan, yet it is supposed to widen to other Arab countries in the coming years, including Morocco, Algeria, and Bahrain. Regarding the first component of the project, ANND organized two workshops, one in each of Jordan and Cairo, to launch the proposed debates. Various organizations, academics, researchers, and activists on the issues of elections were invited and participated in the activities of the workshops. Regarding the second component of the project, ANND and IDEA selected three researchers in each of the three pilot countries; Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. In each country, one researcher was responsible for one of the three topics proposed, which were political parties, political participation of women, and electoral systems. To secure consistent implementation and efficient follow-up of the project, a coordinator was assigned to each of the working groups in the three countries. ANND organized a regional workshop in Beirut to follow up on the research being done in Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen.

Jordan: Workshop on Democracy and Elections, 28-30 July 2003 (See annex 8)

ANND along with IDEA, and in association with the Human Security Regional Center (HSRC) in the Jordan Diplomatic Institute, organized a regional workshop on "The Elective and Democratic Issues" in Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. Participants discussed several issues including women quota, publicity and elections, and the effect of tribalism on the course of the election. Also, issues of civil communities and political parties were covered, where there was a demonstration for experiences of participating countries like Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

The opening session was attended by around 60 people. Besides civil society organizations and activists, participants included Jordanian journalists, the Swiss ambassador, an EU representative, and Konrad Adenaur Foundation representative. The remaining sessions were attended by 30 to 40 participants throughout, including two security officers from the Ministry of the Interior. The participants stressed the importance of a new distribution of political and social work on the basis of ability

and qualifications, and the importance of political sharing between civil society and governments as well as governments and individuals. The participants also presented papers on women and elections in Jordan, the relation between publicity and elections in Jordan, civil society in supervising the elections, women quota, and the effect of tribalism on the course of the elections.

Cairo: Workshop on Elections and Democracy, 2-4 August 2003 (See annex 8)

ANND and IDEA, in association with the Public Administration Consultations and Studies Institute at Cairo University (Faculty of Economics and Political Science), organized a workshop on the "Issues of Democracy and Elections". This activity was the second in a dialogue project, whose application is being monitored by ANND, in coordination with the IDEA.

The opening session was attended by around 30 people, and the participation was between 20 and 30 people for the remaining workshops. Topics discussed included real democracy through natural and self motivated development, parliament elections and unions, the role of civil society in observing the elections, including Morocco as a case study, and national reconciliations and Bahrain's elections. The participants also covered the financial effect in elections given the Lebanese experience, the relation between publicity and elections, elections and minorities, and Muslims and elections.

Beirut: Arab World Project Regional Workshop, October 24, 2003 (See annex 9)

ANND organized the Arab World Project Regional workshop in Beirut. The workshop was attended by IDEA's regional coordinator, project manager and the programme officers. The aim of the meeting was to present first drafts of the Egypt, Jordan and Yemen national reports, to discuss these drafts, and to propose necessary modifications. Participants in the meeting included the authors of the reports, the national coordinators, researchers from the Arab World, UNDP, the Arab League, and representatives from regional human rights groups. Also among the participants were German Foundations, and Diplomats from IDEA's member states embassies in the region.

The workshop was divided into three sessions, where the assigned researchers presented their work on women's participation, political parties, and electoral systems in each of Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen.

2- EPIC

The **E**lectoral **P**rocess **I**nformation **C**ollection (EPIC) offers the information necessary to compare and contrast electoral approaches, assisting analysts in enacting reforms that meet particular national requirements and reflecting international norms for good election management practices.

The purpose of the project is to compile a database of election-related data and information available via a website, and possibly a hardcopy publication and/or a CD-ROM. The data and information was collected in a consistent manner, on a

country-by-country basis. The database served as a reliable resource for election administrators, electoral assistance providers, academics, and members of the media.

The Election Process Information Collection (EPIC) Project is a joint effort of:

- IDEA (The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance)
- IFES (The International Foundation for Election Systems)
- UNDP (The United Nations Development Program)

The EPIC partners secure data on electoral processes covering at least 9 different topic areas.

- Electoral systems
- Electoral management
- Voter education
- Parties and candidates
- Vote counting
- Legislative framework
- Boundary delimitation
- Voter registration

The site produced by this project is expected to meet the following broad objectives:

- to provide a resource which will assist those involved in administering and evaluating the electoral process
- to offer consistent data which can be compared on a country-by-country basis
- to provide the information necessary to compare and contrast electoral approaches, assisting analysts in enacting reforms that meet their particular national requirements and reflect international norms for good election management practices
- to provide information on electoral systems, laws, regulations, management, and administration.

The EPIC project target is to complement sites that are currently collecting data on election results, participation indicators, and more analytical electoral guidance sites such as the ACE (Administration and Cost of Elections site www.aceproject.org).

Target Audience

The principle users of the EPIC Project Database would include:

- Election administrators and policymakers; individuals tasked with proposing and implementing electoral system reform will be a primary audience for EPIC data
- Electoral assistance providers

- Academia, which plays a principal role in analysing electoral processes, often providing policymakers and implementers with the innovative ideas they require to improve or reform their electoral systems
- Professionals in multilateral organisations, international NGOs, Think Tanks and other election-related institutions
- Members at Donor Agencies and Foundations
- The media, which plays an important role in generating and transmitting views related to electoral reform.

Under the supervision of a senior electoral expert, professor in political sciences (Dr. Hassan Krayem), three junior researchers (with a background in political science and law) conducted research on 10 Arab Countries including Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Yemen, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon.

Annex 1

Social Watch General Assembly A Summary Report of the Proceedings

1st – 5th of October, 2003

Organized by
The Arab NGO Network for Development

Beirut – Lebanon

Social Watch General Assembly A Summary Report of the Proceedings

Beirut, 1- 5 October 2003

Preface

Sixty Social Watch members from all over the world gathered in Beirut to discuss how the network should move forward, in the light of the outcomes of its eight years history. For five days, participants discussed issues of substance and process, and took a series of decisions affecting the work program of Social Watch and its governance structure.

The following report provides a brief overview of the proceedings, highlighting in particular the areas of discussion, points of contention and decisions taken.

The opening session of the General Assembly that took place on the 1st of October was moderated by the Executive director of the Arab NGO Network for Development Mr. Ziad Abel Samad. Each of the executive manager of the Social Watch, Mr. Roberto Bissio, the representative of the Collectif des ONG au Liban, Mr. Kamel Mohanna, the representative of the Arab NGO Network for Development, Mr. Izzat Abdul Hadi, the representative of the Development Research Center Mr. Adib Nehme, and the Ministry of Social Affairs Mr. Asaad Diab, gave presentations on various related issues.

Mr. Roberto Bissio started by comparing the message that the head of states in Copenhagen in 1995, and then in New York at the millennium Assembly in the year 2000 talk about eradicating poverty, to the message taken by civil society organizations in the nineteenth century.

Bissio considers that the message of eradicating poverty was a political decision, taken by the governments, who decided to give international institutions the task of accomplishing it. In this regards he stressed on the citizens groups' rights, which are characterized by monitoring, putting in practice, and reporting on the states' responsibilities.

On the other hand, Bissio spoke about the Social Watch Report 2003, which concentrates on the provision of public services that were mentioned in the MDGs.

The report also introduces a study of the privatization of public services, which did not prove to be the magic formula. He added that the real role of Social Watch is to carry the message to the governments, try to push and open up the space between civil society's organization and the government, and remind and inspire people of the commitments made by the authorities they have elected.

The first session tackled social and economic impact of the policies of the international institutions, and was moderated by Dr. Samir Makdissi. During the session, Mr. Yao Graham discussed the collapse of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and its implications. He said that the WTO has failed to deliver the expected economic benefits to the weaker member countries because of the unequal distribution of the wealth and the political character of the organization.

In this regard, Graham described the collapse of Cancun's Ministerial Meeting, which represented a major political victory for developing countries who were able, for the first time, to hold the line in the face of the intransigence duplicity and failure of the most powerful countries in fulfilling the undertakings.

According to his point of view, there are certain challenges that should be addressed concerning the work at the national level, including:

- Pressures local governments will face from big powers.
- Weaker developing countries decision making process
- Government's responsibilities in terms of their credibility with their citizen.
- Challenge of maintaining social vigilance mobilization and intervention in the dispersed arena.

Then the *university professor and former minister of the finance in Philippine, Leonor Briones*, said that the World Bank and IMF policies have serious social, economic and global consequences that threaten peace and security in the world.

There are 3 issues concerning these two institutions:

- Development strategies: in which the World Bank is very influential in shaping developing countries strategies based on free market, globalization and domination of the powerful countries.
- Structural adjustments: Developing countries have to take conceptualized structural adjustments as a condition of structuring their loans.
- Debt crises: Globalization and privatization led many developing countries to the brink of debt crises which will make them vulnerable to Cancun's and developed countries impositions.

Briones also stressed that the United States policies regarding terrorism, are not supported by civil society but they do impact civil societies significantly.

From his side, *Christian Declerc* discussed *"The Millennium Development Goals and their relation to the social impact of the international financial and trade institutions policies"*, and stressed on the UN approach to the implementation of the millennium declaration. He focused on the MDGs as a framework that involves different stakeholders.

The MDGs which are extracted from the millennium declaration provide a mechanism for results based on statistical measures of development management progress. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have an essential role in securing the MDGs success.

The main guiding principles for the UN's strategy for the MDGs are based on broad national ownership, participation, and partnerships between CSOs, governments, and private sector.

Declerc mentioned four main components of this global and national strategy, including:

- Measuring and monitoring progress in terms of annual reports and millennium development goals reports.
- Assessing policies, interventions, and assistance to propose the best strategies for the MDGS.
- Advocacy and awareness raising campaigns.
- Focusing on development programs and projects.

Miloon Kothary, the special rapporteur in the UN, discussed in the "Role of the United Nations and the social impact of not applying the international conventions", including a discussion of human rights principles, instruments and interventions.

There is an important objective of structuring interventions with respect to human need, especially after intervention have been closely linked to the new liberal model which focuses on microeconomic policy that favors rapid privatization over sustainable development.

The importance of human rights obligations is measured through studying their contrast with conflicting obligation that favor economic globalization, militarization, market domination and the impact of transnational corporations all over the world. These conflicting obligations have a very bad impact on developing countries ability to pursue human rights based on cooperation of solidarity and non-discrimination.

Kothary proposed that challenging these threats requires strengthening institutions that give legal expressions to human rights principles and advocate human rights message.

The second day included a workshop about the indicators for public advocacy. Patricia Garce, from Social Watch, discussed the challenges that Social Watch should reflects on in its agenda, in terms of research, theory and methodological decisions in order to move forward in measuring social development in regards to poverty eradication.

Due to the 1\$ per day measure for absolute poverty, that the World Bank has been pushing for years, social watch face several measurement problems. These are represented by studying the conceptual approach to poverty, the poor identity and number, the elasticity or inelasticity of poverty line, and possibility of poverty being transient.

According to the World Bank, there are 1.2 billion people that live absolute poverty. However, there is no hard evidence and a lot of controversy around how are these numbers reached and how are they composed. A vicious circle is created, because the World Bank is both, the source of this information and the institution that carries out policies which address poverty.

If poverty is considered as a multidimensional problem, it can't be represented by an income based measure, such as a 1\$ per day. Referring to the PPP (purchase power parity), she explains that it considers the amount purchased in a food basket in a certain country. But this PPP does not consider the differences in consumption in all quintile of the population. Unlike the richest quintile, the lowest quintile tends to use a more important proportion of its income for food or nutrition related goods. However, a country can't be measured using this 1\$ per day, because it does not reflect the real poverty situation, and the impact of the prices changes on those who are living in poverty.

Poverty is a relative concept that is related to the prosperity of the world being and the services of goods that any society can provide. Furthermore, because, of the changes in the microeconomic environment, there are certain measures related to growth.

So, if there is an increase in the general well being in a certain society, and the poverty line remains at 1\$, then the analysis of having a success in poverty reduction will be statistically correct, but wrong in reality. However, if the issue of equality is over viewed, then that will necessarily uplift the poor. On the other hand, poverty is inelastic for certain groups of countries, while it is not for others. Thus, similar measures should be challenged in order to build new trends on national poverty lines which are contextualized.

Moreover, new measures that are adequate to the cultural situation and related to the real consumptions of people, taking into consideration the differences of consumptions within households, should be used.

Ms. Garce added that Social Watch has a critical role in holding governments accountable for the promises they make, and in continuing to put questions on the table concerning poverty measurements.

The third day of the assembly, discussed the Millennium Development Goals through a workshop, where the director of the global MDGs campaign Salil Shetty raised four issues necessary for the success of the MDG's campaign:

First, because of the great skepticism among the general public and CSOs about the UN'S conferences goals and targets, the campaign within the frame work of human rights should be a means for supporting ongoing struggles in poor southern countries and expanding the space for CSOs to act at the local and national level.

Second, the campaign should make a rebalance to the current emphasis on the first seven goals of the MDGs' structure in order to make goal eight very explicit, precise and obligatory.

Third, the campaign should have support from the UN system, never the less, it's work should be mainly with civil society's organizations.

Fourth, the campaign should substantially support CSOs' work on budget monitoring, strengthening parliamentary oversight, and increasing media involvement.

Shetty also implied that for the global MDGs campaign to be constructed, several points should be emphasized at the national campaigning level.

These points include:

- Importance of support and legitimacy at the national level.
- Sharing of information about other countries' experiences.
- UN tie ups and links with media and other celebrities.

From her side, Ms. *Leonor Briones* focused on the national campaign that social watch in the Philippines is conducting on the MDGs. Social Watch in the Philippines recognized the FFD conference as an opportunity to pursue its advocacies of social development, and to urge for using the appropriate resources in fulfilling the MDGs' process by the year 2015.

After several meetings with the business sector, government, multilaterals and their agreement on the reflection of all society's views in the Philippine's government official paper, Social Watch Philippine volunteered to hold a national consultation.

In this national consultation, civil society agreed on all social watch's Philippine's demands that need to be put in the national government position. Social watch's Philippine was able to put forward its position, and insure the presence of civil society's representative carrying its demands in each of the MDG'S budget set by the government.

After analyzing the data, social watch's Philippine uses the results to pressure on governments and multilateral to use the appropriate resources

From his side, *Gaith Fariz* stated that achieving the MDGs is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders. Therefore, CSOs must have a critical role in the MDGs' processes, nevertheless, CSOS must not be only supportive and passive, but a partner in planning, executing and monitoring the MDGS in a proactive partnership and participatory manner.

Moreover, the Millennium Development Goals' reports supported by UNDP are important as advocacy papers stressing on the kind, direction and magnitude of change desired.

Then on the fifth day of the assembly, there was a forum on the social and economic impacts of globalization, under the title of "Changing Perception of the Role of Women in the Arab region". The panel was moderated by Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, and Ms. Maggie Schmitz talked about the global feminist movements.

These challenges include:

- The role of women in society and the states responsibility to interfere in what is still considered a private domain.
- Linking the local actual situation to global policies.
- The need to redistribute power and control due to gender relations.

She also focused on 3 factors that play critical role in advancing women's situations at the global level:

- The convention of elimination of all forms of discrimination or the CEDAW, which acts as a prosecutor in favor of women.
- The international women's conferences that have lead to different commitments and plans of action.

- The change of perception on the women's role. That implies the change from women in development to gender and development, which signifies the power dynamics existing between men and women.

She further mentioned how the concept of gender is still misinterpreted and misused. More over, she addressed issues of gender politics and the real misery taking place in our communities.

She emphasized her point by giving an example on how western countries think that they have accomplished on women's rights, while in reality they have a very high statistics of domestic violence.

Finally, she called on all the women at the national, local, and global level to empower themselves by supporting each other, being aware and fighting for their rights.

In the second session tackled the "Military globalization impact upon people's right/ social and economic rights" and was moderated by Mr. Ghassan Makarem.

Mr. John Foster said that Canada is bound up with the United States in many ways:

- Economically: The free trade agreements between Canada and the United States, constitute a new Canadian constitution which governs and limits rights in other fields.
- Strategically: Canada is linked with the United States in the North American Air defense agreement "No Red", and in the extension of Natal intervention into east New York and non European countries.
- Politically: The literal governing party is slightly a nationalist current, but essentially a business party and state management organization.
- Culturally: Although the United States culture does not influence Canada to a high extent, it has effects on the objectification of particular ethnic, national or religious groups.

This has dangerous effects on Canada which is an emigrant society. Due to September eleventh events, certain priorities were set on the United States administration. These priorities that effected many countries including Canada are represented by:

- Changes in legal guarantees and processes, these effected authorities power to pressure on people particularly in emigrations.
- Use of security certificates and information's that effect the United States treatments.
- Increase of supervision and intervention issues regarding international funding transfer, these has implications on ethnic, religious groups and NGO's in Canada.
- Increase and intrusive information about citizens, emigrants and refugees, sharing with the United States agencies.
- Defense, Canada is under constant pressure from the United States to increase investments in the Canadian defense budget, and engage in the United States wars.

This has significant regional implications because Canada has been a refuge to many people which might have alliances with parties or movements viewed as enemies by

the United States. Because Canada has brought its policies largely into line with the United States, it has lost its function in the hemisphere as an emigrant society.

The third session, moderated by Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, discussed the "Renovation of Developments", where *Roberto Bissio* saw that development's definition is inadequate, so there is no definition to start with in the first place.

Eventually, the concept of development is explained by what the development institutions do. He gave a practical example of this concept by explaining how the countries became independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He had also discussed the restrictions of the multilateral agreements on investments which have been imposed on developing countries. He also highlighted that he believes that there is no free market because of the restrictions imposed on people's movement and labor force.

Bissio considers that although the World Bank's language keeps is considered the language of development, the voting system in this institution does not allow for the perspectives of the developing countries' majority to be voiced, but for a kind of a shareholder system where the richer countries have a majority. However the World Bank is becoming a scholar institution that produces development business.

According to Bissio, the emergence of developing countries stating their demands and sticking to them in the Cancun ministerial meeting had brought challenges against the international scenario.

As for *Yao Graham*, he stressed that the main question that activists should focus on is how to deal with a challenge of a global economic mono culture. He explained that the media's news about the "market's activity" hides the links of this powerful and ideological statement towards a global mono culture. Specific regional challenges should be stressed on, in order to face the situation of an exorable drive to flatten the world, and create a uniform identify for all people simply as consumers and subjects in commodity relations. It is be worthwhile also to concentrate on the challenges of organization and advocacy work. In this regard, it is an illusion to seek a single global alternative under so called demand specific analysis and viewpoints, anti globalization is unbearable.

He also added that in Cancun the main reason behind the failure of the meting was the Singapore issues. These issues of investment, competition policy, government procurement, and trade facilitation, represent a key example of this drive towards a global economic mono culture.

Annex 2

APRN 5th Annual Meeting; “War on Terrorism: Militarization of Globalization and Human Rights”

Beirut, November 5, 2003

The war, having no clear or rational reason behind it, has led to the increase of violence and the misuse of technological and scientific innovations. It also resulted in the immigration and dislocation of millions of people. This war initiated strong worldwide opposition against the concepts and principles it is built on.

Since the eruption of war after September 11th, the definitions and conceptions of terrorism have been mixed up. Any opposition movement or disagreement position, including legitimate civil resistance and social movements aiming at freedom, and independence, as well as movements refusing the dominance of the financial and international trade institutions, has been added to the terrorism definition.

Within all this misrepresentation of concepts and principles, due to the economic control of the markets and natural resources, and the “Global War on Terrorism”, the people’s needs and demands of social movements came to introduce a more definite and clear understanding of the mechanisms of globalization. They revealed the gaps and problems in its policies, and introduced the need to develop a working program to face the challenges of globalization, and establish long term alternatives based on global equality and peace.

War on terrorism has changed the political nature of the international system and the economic and trade relations. It led to the marginalization of the UN system and its institutions. It also weakened the developing countries and increased the pressure imposed on them by the industrial groups of the developed countries, which primarily represent the policies of the multinational corporations.

This war led to the weakening of the political and social human achievements, as it marginalized the International Declaration of Human Rights and overcame the democratic processes. It denied the right to self-determination, the freedom of speech, diversity, work, development, movement, as well as the cultural and intellectual freedoms. It also blocked the implementation of the decisions and recommendations resulting from the international summits.

Alternatives:

Lately, social movements have proven their abilities to organize various forms of civil resistance aiming at refocusing the globalization trends towards a more human approach. The World Social Forum, which was organized over three years in Porto Alegre in Brazil, and is planned to take place in India in 2004, is one of the forms of social resistance against the status quo in globalization. In addition, there is the success of the lobbying movements against the policies of the financial institutions and international trade agreements. Most noticeably, there was the opposition against the World Trade Organization in Seattle and Cancun, which proved the people’s ability to refuse unfair policies. We can recall as well the rallies organized in most capitals of the world, where millions gathered to refuse the war mentality and insist on the citizens’ rights to self-determination. They call for the application of

international law regarding conflict resolution and maintaining the role of the UN, as well as refusing double standards in the implementation of international declarations.

Resistance of occupation should not be included under the definition of terrorism. It is one of the rights of all people to self-determination. Accordingly, facing the challenges introduced by globalization needs mobilizing on three dimensions:

1. Facing militarization and occupation, by introducing a clear political project as an alternative to occupation. This would establish the structure of social and civil work, which would include a substitute democratic project.
2. Limiting economic supremacy and facing neo-liberal policies, which demand opening markets and removing barriers that protect national production. This would also reevaluate the policies that support investments which compete with national financial assets.
3. Stopping cultural dominance by preserving cultural roots, and introducing cultural exchange and diversity as means for richness, development, and prosperity not conflict, division, and tension.

These goals would be maintained through democratic structures which respect human rights and allow citizens to affectively participate in creating national options and policies. From here stems the relationship between national policies, including the quest for democracy and social equality, and the international progress towards limiting economic, cultural, political, and militaristic dominance.

Here, we should stress the importance of involvement in the growing global movement in opposition to the neo-liberal policies, dominance, and war. It is necessary to expand the social movement towards human globalization built on social equality, human rights, and democracy.

At the end, participants confirmed three main issues:

1. End of occupation in Iraq and reestablishing national sovereignty and independence. Insisting on the human right to decide one's own fate in Iraq and the right to manage the Iraqi natural resources by the Iraqi people.
2. End of occupation in Palestine, and confirming the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, based on international agreements. Insisting on the right of the Palestinians to have their own independent state, stopping the racial wall being built by Israeli forces, and refusing the daily violence of the occupation.
3. Thanking the host country, and supporting the Lebanese people in ending Israeli occupation. Freeing all the detainees in the Israeli prisons, as well as ending all the daily harassments against the Lebanese sovereignty.

Annex 3**Activities Organized by the Arab NGO Network for Development
WORLD SOCIAL FORUM III
PORTO ALEGRE 2003****I. WORKSHOPS****1. FUTURE OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES**

What are the perspectives to build a strong social movement in the region?

This Session discussed the Developmental Challenges that Arab Countries are facing. It also assessed the role of popular and social movements in facing the challenge of designing clear strategies to identify obstacles towards guaranteeing political, social, economic, and cultural rights and struggling for their implementation and respect.

Moderator: Joseph Sheckla- Habitat International Coalition; ME Bureau

Rapporteur: Medahat El Zaher, AHED, Egypt

Speakers:

1. Mohamed Hassan Khalil (Association for Health and Environmental Development-Egypt)
2. Issam Moussawi (Espace Associative- Morocco)
3. Izzat Abdul Hadi (Bisan Center for Research and Development- Palestine)

2. DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON ARAB WOMEN

The Last Arab Human Development Report issued by the UNDP (2002) stated that democratic and human rights situation in the Arab countries is the worst in the world. The speakers critically assessed the situation and debated the alternatives to the ongoing social and economic systems. The debate introduced new frame works towards achieving real sustainable development in the Arab countries with the participation of civil societies and social movements.

Despite the active participation of Arab women in the daily struggle, the weak participation of women in the policy design and the decision-making process, particularly at the political and economic levels is becoming a challenge towards achieving sustainable development.

Gathering representatives from dynamic women movements, this session aims at addressing the question of gender in the Arab countries within the context of globalisation and its implications on women rights, democracy, and access to resources.

Moderator: Alaa Shoukrallah (Association for Health and Environmental development- Egypt)

Rapporteur: Tamam Mroue: Mouvement Social- Lebanon

1. Nawal Saadawi (Egypt)
2. Randa Seniora (AlHaq- Palestine)
3. Qassem Aina (Coordination Forum For the NGOs Working among the Palestinian Communities in Lebanon-Palestine/Lebanon)
4. Rahma Rifaat (Center of Workers Trade union services- Egypt)
5. Rima Awad (Palestinian agricultural relief committees- Palestine)
6. Suhayr Bel Hassan (Tunisian League for Human Rights- Tunisia)
7. Boushara Belhajhamida (Association Rassemblement des Femmes Démocrates- Tunisie)
8. Nadia Issawi (ANND- Algeria)

II. MEETING

GLOBALIZATION AND MILITARISATION: OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING

COUNTRIES WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE ARAB REGION

The meeting highlighted the challenges that Arab Countries are facing in the context of neo-liberal globalisation and its apparent hegemonic tendencies. The Arab region is increasingly facing the consequences of the Palestinian Conflict and the threats of War against Iraq.

It exposed the current situation and delivered a clear appeal to end the occupation in Palestine and to stop the war against the Iraqi People. It also called for the mobilization of the civil societies to provide protection for the Civilians in both targeted countries.

Attendees

1. Martin Kohr (Third World Network- Malaysia)
2. Roberto Bissio (Social Watch)
3. Taoufic Ben Abdallah (African Social Forum)
4. Izzat Abdul Hadi (Palestine)
5. Ziad Majed (Lebanon)
6. Yao Graham (Third World Network- Africa Secretariat)

As a result of the above mentioned debated, The Arab NGOs participating in the WSF III issued a statement about the situation in the region and the future tasks and challenges.

Annex 4

Cancun Report

14th – 17th September 2003

Prepared By Ziad Abdel Samad

Soon after finishing the fifth ministerial conference for WTO and the failure to reach an agreement, Robert Zolig, the commercial representative for the United States, declared that sooner or later the markets will be opened if not through multi-end negotiations then through bilateral or regional negotiations. On the other hand, the commercial representative for the European Union, Pascal Lami, said that this organization belongs to the medieval era whose working mechanisms should be reconsidered.

By that the first has shown the unwillingness of the United States to commit to the multi-end negotiations, which is the same direction that it took exactly one year ago during the Johannesburg World Summit for Continual Development, where the United States refused to commit to the international agreements regarding ecological changes, dissertation, and biological variety.

So it was either the association works for the best of the United States or not work at all. That's what he loudly announced shortly after finishing the preparatory ministerial meeting in Japan in the presence of almost 20 countries three months prior to the fifth ministerial conference.

However the second (Pascal Lami), handled the necessity of changing working mechanisms of the WTO after realizing that Developing Countries now have both the capability and knowledge for using the multi-end negotiations mechanisms by which they can impose their conditions. While shortly after the third ministerial conference in Seattle 1999, the European Union along with the industrial countries have even refused the argument of adjusting these mechanisms at the desire of developing countries thinking that this would help them in preserving their own interests.

The fifth ministerial conference for the WTO was held in the Mexicans known city (Cancun) between the tenth and fourteenth of September in the presence of severe contrasts in positions between the rich and the poor.

The subjects that formed the central knot in the negotiations revolved around the agricultural agreements, and Singapore four cases, which are: Investments, Competition, Transparency in Governmental purchases and Trading Facilitating.

The European Union held on to its stand toward the agricultural agreement which refused the cancellation of the support on agricultural production and exporting of agricultural products to developing countries, but at the same time it held strongly to the necessity of launching the negotiations about Singapore cases or at least two of them. The two related with transparency in governmental purchases and trading facilitating.

In a try to scramble the Developing Countries positions, the EU suggested to renounce the domain of cotton agriculture, which was demanded by four African countries. However, this attempt failed because these countries realized the

background of this suggestion, and in addition to that they weren't satisfied with what they got from it.

On the other hand, the United States position appeared to be more flexible when it came to agriculture, but the fact is that it was more strict for it stipulated that markets in Developing Countries should be opened for both agricultural and un-agricultural products in exchange of renouncing the internal support for agricultural products, this in addition to holding strongly to the necessity of launching the negotiations about trading facilitating. While the truth is that the United States was, just like the EU not ready to renounce the support of agricultural products, especially when it's time to launch the elections for the presidency of the United States, and its well known that farmers and farms owners in the United States, make a good enough elective front which has been useful for the republicans during the last elections.

In return, regional fronts in Developing Countries like the African unity and the group of the Countries of Asia, Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean; aroused to form a main power that was influential in negotiations. So they made an announcement shortly before starting, in which it refused the launching of the negotiations in relation with Singapore's four cases, arguing that they aren't ready for that, and demanded the reconsideration about some present agreements especially those relating to intellectual ownership and services, and that announcement was signed by seventy one countries in the group.

The twenty one group also aroused as a section group that is formed to defend the stand and position toward agriculture, and which had assured the necessity of commitment from industrial countries to start applying the agreement of agriculture before launching the negotiations approaching any other aspects. On top of this group are India, Brazil, China in addition to Egypt from Arab countries.

As for the major reasons that were behind the ministerial conference failure they were:

1. The Disability of the organization as an association to comprehend the various and different needs of the developing countries.
2. The undemocratic practices inside the organization which aim at creating unanimity using various legitimate and illegitimate ways and means.

For instance, when the United States demanded to open new markets in developing countries to agricultural products, service and goods, the European Union was pushed toward admitting four new agreements with its persisting on not abandoning the agriculture support. As for the developing countries, agriculture formed a base for negotiation, and refused the discussion in the new materials.

Developing countries justified its negative position towards the negotiation of Singapore's cases by the following reasons:

1. The expected outcomes to ratify such agreements were not clear, and it needed deeper analysis to evaluate its predicted outcomes before starting the negotiation around it.
2. It didn't have the ability to comprehend the impacts of the current established agreements under the protection of the WTO, thus it didn't think that it can handle the burdens of committing new agreements.
3. there is a belief that dominated the Developing Countries, that's expansion towards these new sects, would only bring little benefit. Moreover, it

demanded more governmental spending to apply these agreements which is hard presently.

During last year's negotiation in Geneva, the hopes were that the fifth ministerial conference would be a station to establish some of what would be agreed about in accordance to what have been mentioned in the ministerial declaration. That was issued from the forth ministerial conference, which was held in Doha, Qatar, which led to what was called "the Developing Activists schedule" "Doha's Declaration".

In addition to the conference that was caused by this enormous amount of issues, the way that these meetings were held was not normal. No records were registered, but they were replaced by expanded jurisdiction given to session's directors, who were appointed by the president of the organization, and were called "President's friends", and responsible for forming records about the discussions. As a result, their reports which ignored the various stands of many different participant countries in the attempt of reaching unanimity by their own means, formed the basis of the ministerial declaration draft, by a script raised to the presidency on their own responsibility.

So, the president, by his term raised the ministerial declaration draft to the ministerial meeting upon his own responsibility after it was hard to reach unanimity around it in the Geneva's negotiations.

Geneva's negotiations concentrated basically on the agricultural sect, and on the agricultural goods entrance to the markets, and on the four Singapore's issues.

It was natural that the proposed ministerial declaration draft would arise aggressive reactions, one month before the date of the ministerial meeting. And since the developing countries rejected it, some of them decided to send alternative scripts and clauses that reflects stands that interest them.

Where as, if the proposed script, which was on the personal president responsibility took in consideration all the proposals that were given by the various countries. Unanimity might have been in reach, instead of betting on his minister's ability to reach a compromise within five days, even with the wide variations that was clear in the stands, interests, and viewpoints. However, the large bet was on the industrial countries abilities to discriminate the developing countries.

After the ministerial meeting' failure:

The twenty one group proved to be a strong and united group. It also represented the ability of developing countries in facing supreme powers and their ways in imposing politics, and agreements even with their supremacy in world leadership. Moreover this group went out from the negotiations much stronger, and it might expand in order to include in its membership extra members who showed interest in joining it.

As for the social civil organizations, it laid an important role in backing up the developing countries stands through pressuring, counseling, and analyzing. Hence, NGO have accompanied the negotiations in Geneva, and tried to provide as much analysis, counseling, and expertise, as it can to benefit the developing countries in their tours.

And it kept in the same role in Mexico negotiations, through lectures circles negotiations, and counseling sessions with negotiation groups that was organized

ten kilometers far from the conference castle which was built for such situations. This in addition to what NGO's Social Movements, and specially the farmers, have done to express their refusal to the undemocratic styles and their ignorance to the poor. Some of which have taken place outside the conference castle and others were organized inside the same castle, where negotiations were taking place among delegations.

During this foggy and tense atmosphere where countries are exchanging charges among each other for the responsibility of negotiations failure, World Trade Organization is exposed to the same test that was imposed on the United Nations, so either it surrenders to the dominant world will, and loose its leading role in the world, or it overcomes the pressure and impose fair trade rule that would be beneficiary to all countries rich or poor equally.

Annex 5

The Euro-Mediterranean Social Forum National Consultations

Beirut- Lebanon 9/10/2003

Introduction:

A consultative meeting was organized by the preparatory committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Platform, in the Meridian-Commodore Hotel, on the 9th of October 2003. This took place in collaboration with the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) and the Lebanese Organization for Transparency.

Two main points were discussed:

- First: The establishment of the platform, including organizing a follow-up committee in Lebanon. The participants also discussed general characteristics of the platform, its general principles, and its structure.
- Second: Participation in the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum to be held in Naples (Italy) between the 28th and 30th of November.

The first session:

Welcome and introduction to the forum

The executive director of ANND, Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, presented the objectives of the forum, explaining that it aims at discussing the issues of civil society involvement in the Euro-Med partnership, which was launched in Barcelona in 1995.

He added that the meeting would be divided into two parts:

1. The first part covers the partnership and the role of civil society and what they could contribute.
2. The second part covers the mechanisms of the work and organization of civil society in an active way that could impact decision making. It will also discuss means for having a more democratic and participatory civil society.

The partnership aimed at substantial changes in the region after Madrid and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Its goals included:

1. Political project, i.e. Building a region of Peace, security and stability and the respect of Human Rights.
2. The establishment of a free trade zone of prosperity and development.
3. Cultural and social exchange and the development of societies in the Southern Mediterranean region.

However, after eight years, the result is a complicated partnership that faces serious instabilities and obstacles, including:

1. Peace has not been achieved and security, stability, and human rights are being continuously disregarded.
2. The economic section of the partnership is the only one being implemented, though not all the agreements have been signed and its mechanisms are not well set, and there is no involvement of civil society in it.

3. Poverty is increasing and cooperation mechanisms have not been able to face the present obstacles.

In parallel to Barcelona process, there was the launching of the Euro-Mediterranean civil forum. The obstacles it faces are:

1. Unclear relations with the European Union that interferes in the organization of the forum. Also, civil society involvement is weak because of the undemocratic practices of the partners.
2. The obstacles facing civil society itself.

For this reason, there was a meeting in Brussels for many regional and national networks involved in the forum, where a follow-up committee was nominated. It also recommended organizing national consultations to widen the participation of the civil societies in the concerned countries and to comment on the position paper produced by the follow-up committee.

Mr. Samir Farah, the representative of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, discussed the issue of supporting and expanding the role of civil society, and its role in the partnership, especially economic and social issues. He insisted on the need to agree on strategies and creative plans to support what came about during the previous Forum. He added that the Friedrich Ebert Foundation is ready to support the partnership, peace, and civil society till we reach social justice.

Mr. Charles Adwan, representing the Arab Anti-corruption Network, talked about the importance of the partnership and the adjustments it brings about. He stressed the importance of political restructuring, which impacts civil society, especially what is related to human rights and the environment. In addition, he highlighted the advantages of the partnership especially that Barcelona had stressed the involvement of civil society, though this involvement has to be institutionalized.

Mr. Mourad Allal, the coordinator of the follow-up committee of the Euro-Mediterranean platform, talked about the two dynamics related to the meeting. The first aims at organizing a Mediterranean Civil Forum, which should be more representative and diverse, to serve as official speaker for Med civil societies. The second would be to achieve the forum to be organized in Naples, parallel to the ministerial conference.

After presenting an introduction to the history of civil society involvement with the partnership, it was stressed that the forum is in its formalization process, which started through the follow-up committee. This committee aims not to monopolize the voice, but to create a set of dynamics in each country, which would widen the participation of civil society and its positions. In the countries of the South, representation should be independent, and it is a necessity for civil society to be able to think cohesively. On a second level, the question is about the vision for the future. This would be focused upon in the second part of the meeting, so that the future forum would not take the form of previous inactive forums. It should represent civil society views in all the domains.

Second session:**General Discussion (President: Mayla Bakhache – Mouvement Social)**

1. Several questions were introduced:

- How to create a forum without governmental consent?
- The problem of hastiness in preparation for national meetings.
- What issues would the forum concentrate on in light of the "War on Terrorism", which is marginalizing other global problems.
- What is the role of civil society?
- How to concentrate on the culture of rights?
- Probability that the discussed issues in the Forum could be a reaction to the events and problems of the region (Palestine, terror, poverty)
- Civil society players should rely to and build on civil society itself, which is supposed to be a strong basis for them. The discussions around the main issues of the forum should be discussed by the public as well.

1. Regarding organizations, it was proposed that the forum has an institutional mechanism in order to follow up on the issues that would be proposed, and are of common interest. There should be independence from all governments and clear responsibility and accountability, and the institution is supposed to be professional.
2. The establishment of a network or an institution needs research and dedication.
3. For the civil society to play a fruitful role, its institutions have to be well established in order to elevate discussion to one that deals with public policy.
4. What is the potential for formalizing a homogeneous forum that gathers all networks and debates around the partnership issue? This is especially important due to the need for a clear and transparent platform. For example, what would be the decision regarding Israeli civil society. There is a need to clarify such issues. This is the basic element for the work of the platform, and then comes the institutionalization of the work.
5. There should be a discussion of other issues besides the ones introduced in the official meeting.

Then, **Mr. Mourad Allal** clarified some points to answer three main questions:

Where do we start from?

Who are we and what do we want to do?

How do we achieve our goals?

Since three years, there was an agreement that the partnership set-up does not answer to our ambitions, so a strategic document was proposed. Then we shifted from relations which rely solely on the Euro Mediterranean partnership, though there were parties which are not directly involved (Mauritania, Jordan, etc). Today, we see the European Union in an expansion state, and ten new countries are going to join it, which will introduce to it new debates.

Free trade was never one of our goals and it could not satisfy our ambitions. In the last years, the gap between South and North had increased and the relations between them became extremely risky. On one hand, there is a strong European Union, while on the other, there are countries that live social and political

backwardness. The mechanisms adopted were not enough, though they presented a positive step and a new start (laws, democracy, and human rights). There are certain mechanisms which allow us to achieve our goals from the partnership, within a framework, which we are part of and are involved with supporting and re-discussing.

On a second level, who are we?

This is the main question and it is essential here to define civil society and its institutions. We do not need a cartel of NGOs. Instead we want the participation the largest number of groups who represent civil society and work for democracy and human rights.

There are two constructs of civil society:

- 1) Media groups and unions, etc, that are not necessarily opposition but still present within the democratic structure.
- 2) Institutions which arise from national initiatives to defend and empower private groups and interests, such as youth and culture.

The problem in our societies is that independence is hard to define, including in the northern region; there are organization constituting three people only that claim to be representative. At the same time, there are organizations doing fabulous work. From here stems the importance and necessity of having regional and Mediterranean networks which work on human rights, the environment, culture, and workers' rights. One of our goals today is to define the players in this field and how to deal with them. We have to start from the Lebanese experience, so we can have a common road in front of our eyes.

There are three main elements in the work of civil society participants:

- 1) Legality of expression (who organizes)
- 2) Representation (especially that only human rights organizations are representative. What about environment for example?)
- 3) Equality between North and South.

As for the second level, there are no issues more important than others, especially in transparency and good governance. There should be an acceptance of all the activities of civil society, instead of prioritizing. If we have mutual interests, what is important is to deal with and treat all issues. We should be able to think in a common way, we can propose a simple mechanism which leaves the freedom to all the participants to organize themselves.

Mr. Ghassan Mokhaiber (MP-member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network) introduced some adjustments to the structural proposal:

- 1) Identification of goals
- 2) Identification of work mechanisms
- 3) Institutional organization:
 - a) Membership/definition of civil society- individuals versus organizations- the foundations of organizations- the role of research centers.
 - b) Organizations and follow-up
 - c) Funding
- 4) Impact:
 - a) within civil society
 - b) on the level of governmental partnership

The session president then refocused the discussion on the main concerns in the strategic paper:

- 1) Institutionalization
 - a) The shift from a foire to forum
 - b) Israel's participation
 - c) Independence
- 2) Relationship between civil society and religious society
- 3) Introducing the issue of freedom of gathering on the agenda
- 4) Issues placed on the agenda of the official meeting
- 5) Is out impact going to be on civil society or traditional society, or on the partnership, or on both, and what the mechanisms for achieving such an impact?

Ziad Adel Samad:

First: Regarding Israel's participation, it was clarified that the participating organizations should acknowledge of the Palestinian rights to Self Determination and to establish an independent and sovereign state according to the UN resolutions and the Universal declaration of Human Rights.

Second: Two levels were laid out:

1. The forum and its aim at impacting the ministerial meeting
2. The platform, which has additional goals including empowerment, representation, and expanding participation.

The forum should be an open space for everyone. As for the membership in the platform, there are several questions to be considered:

1. How to find a structure capable of mobilizing civil society in a more efficient way?
2. How could seasonal activities be sustained?
3. The availability of other structures in Lebanon, where we do not need a new structure that could present added complexities.

Mourad Allal:

Concerning Israel's participation, our reference would be the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), and all Israeli players should be committed to a real answer about the Palestinian issues and situation.

As for funding and independence, the following idea was introduced; there are networks which launched the process, and the empowerment of civil society is integrated in the "Barcelona Declaration". Also, this cannot be achieved except through a well defined structure. Yet, the forum is funded by the European Union and we aim at finding a forum that is based on programs. We demand general funding and the same time financial resources. The countries and organizations of the South do not have the resources that make them capable of participation.

Discussion:

- 1) There are local organizations which do not work on international issues and others which do. The question is how we expand dialogue and work on spreading awareness among organizations and on different issues.

- 2) The national platform should be an open space with a flexible structure and not a new institution.
- 3) Goals of the Lebanese platform should include several stages:
 - a. Cooperation with unions and representatives of groups that would be positively or negatively impacted by the partnership.
 - b. Identifying the danger of the new European expansion on the partnership.
 - c. Affecting governments on two levels: Immigrants, accountability, democracy, and human rights.
- 4) There was a proposition to have paper that identifies the vision, principles, goals, and mechanisms of work and membership..
- 5) Membership should be based on the agreement of the prospective member on the goals. This applies to religious groups too.
- 6) We should be able to follow-up the partnership on a local level and a need to exchange information. The basic problem is that the citizens are not aware of the partnership. There is also a necessity to empower local civil society to benefit from the partnership (programs, agenda, resources, etc)
- 7) There should be an annual agenda for the platform.

Third sessions:

Preparation for the Civil Euro-Mediterranean Forum

Ziad Abdel Samad:

Mr. Abdel Samad presented a summary of the propositions that were agreed upon in the second session (see annexed document). Then, he presented a summary on the main challenges that face civil society in Lebanon regarding the partnership:

- 1) Severe limitations of information available on the partnership, including the agreement itself.
- 2) Lack of true mechanism for participation in national debates.
- 3) Lack of coordination between the different groups of civil society.

Mourad Allal:

Mr. Allal clarified that the process did not serve the set goals, so some basic regulations were set:

- 1) There should be the adoption of a clear and consistent format of the forum especially that the European leadership sets the forum's working course throughout its period.
- 2) The forum should be a chance for civil society to express its troubles.
- 3) There should be reorganization of participation to a vertical format (environment, human rights, culture, etc)

Then he identified several goals:

1. Civil forums should be based on identification of agenda and priorities. Until now, the role of participants has been ineffective. It lacks good representation and professionalism especially that in some of the countries of the South there happens the imposition of representatives that do not express civil society's stands. There are also obstacles in the freedom of movement.

2. There should be a step away from the mentality of experts, since the forum should allow for horizontal dialogue, and the exchange of documents and information.
3. There should be an effective presence of media groups.
4. We should organize information exchange and create dialogue around recommendations with the public leadership.

Then he laid out issues that led to the interest of the European Union and current leadership:

- 1) The civil forum should be composed of 100 persons, 50 from the South, 20 from the European Union, 10 from the new countries in the Union, 15 from Italy, and 5 from the periphery (Cyprus, Albania, Montenegro,...) and to include a 50/50 percentage of women and men in each delegation. (It was agreed that representation would include 3 men and 4 women from each country if possible.)
- 2) Supporting and empowering the role of civil society and considering governance.
- 3) Including economic accountability especially with labor.
- 4) Outcomes of war on Iraq and the aftermath of September 11th.

Although there were lots of obstacles, yet the decision was by reached through a participatory process.

Now, there should be the clarification of two issues:

1. Who would participate?
2. The essence and material of participation.

After a quick discussion, the following was decided:

1. Organizing sectoral meetings to launch working papers around the basic issues.
2. Proposing the following focal points and selecting the foundation points
 - a. Youth (The Lebanese Development Forum)
 - b. Women (The Women Network)
 - c. Development and issues of services, education, and health (The Collectif des ONG au Liban)
 - d. Human rights, participation, expression, democracy (The Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections)
 - e. Environment (Green Line)
 - f. Palestinian refugees (The Coordinating Forum for the NGO Working among the Palestinian Communities in Lebanon)
 - g. Migration and Non-Palestinian refugees (Frontiers Center)
 - h. Governance (The Lebanese Organization for Transparency)

The Arab NGO Network for Development will coordinate and provide the secretarial work among the involved parties. Also, the organizations selected above would have the responsibility of coordinating with other organizations to expand and enhance participation.

Vision, general principles, and goals of the Civil Forum

Vision:

The Euro Mediterranean partnership is built on the principles of social justice, equality, and respect of human rights, with emphasis on the need to activate all sectors: political, economic, cultural, and environmental at the same time and with same prominence. The success of the partnership is highly dependent on security and stability in the region. We are aware that the goals of the partnership will not be achieved without a real and active involvement from civil society.

General principles:

- Democracy and human rights and international declarations and agreements.
- Good Governance: participation and accountability.
- Efficient and sustainable use of resources and environmental protection.
- Cultural exchange and respect of diversity and differences.
- Activation of the role of government and partnership with private sector, and adoption of new understandings for sustainable development.
- Expansion of the youth role in the partnership.

Identification of goals:

- Support and mobilization of civil society and improving its role.
- Participation in policy design and directing it towards sustainable development and participatory approaches.

Mechanisms of work:

- Empowering civil society and developing its capabilities, especially the institutions which work in areas of development, human rights, and environment.
- Encouraging civil society and its institutions on issues of the partnership and its work.
- Follow-up on the agreements and programs of the partnership.
- Organizing pressure campaigns that could impact policy making.
- Preparation and participating in the civil forum and other activities of relation to the project.
- Motivating and activating media groups.

Membership:

- Youth organizations and clubs.
- Non-governmental organizations and institutions and national and sectoral networks.
- Labor, agricultural, and Cooperatives
- Research centers that work on issues of the partnership.
- Media groups
(Individuals with experts would be involved as support and consultative members)

Rules for membership:

- Agreement on vision, principles, and goals.
- Being active in achieving goals through the adopted mechanisms.
- Being independent from the government.

Annex 6**BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS****DECLARATION
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CIVIL FORUM****NAPLES 28-30 NOVEMBER 2003**

From 28 to 30 November 2003, 300 participants from the Euro-Mediterranean region met in the Euro-Med Civil Forum in Naples, to discuss the promotion of sustainable development and of strengthening civil society in the context of EU Mediterranean Partnership.

The Forum was organized and supported by the Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo in collaboration with a Steering Committee and the NGO Platform for the Euro-Med Civil Forum, and with the support of the EU Commission.

We adopted the present declaration addressed to the Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, 3-4 December 2003 in Naples:

1. We, representatives of EuroMed Civil Society have a common wish to build bridges of solidarity in a region that needs urgent reforms bringing real changes to people's lives. We met in a common quest to move beyond the superficial changes the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) so far brought to the region and to break out of the constraints and adverse pressures caused by the one-sided pro-liberalization trade policies as well as the increasing political tensions in the region.
2. We believe that peace and security in the region and the respect for UN decisions are the basis for the success of the EMP.
3. We condemn the continued occupation, without a clear UN mandate, of Iraq and the subsequent cycle of violence. We are also deeply concerned about the violation of international law and human rights caused by an otherwise legitimate fight against terrorism.
4. Moreover, the intensified Israeli occupation of the Palestinian land, the continued violation of the Palestinian people's rights and the consequent suicide attacks, has led to an unprecedented cycle of violence and insecurity in Palestine and Israel. The devastating realities produced by the Wall of Separation, that seeks to kill the prospects for a viable Palestinian state, negate all values upon which the Barcelona process is founded.
5. We ask the governments of the EuroMed Partnership to work proactively to immediately establish the respect for international law, international humanitarian law and human rights and bring an end to occupation of Iraq and Palestine, with the help of the UN.

6. In Naples we warmly welcomed participants of civil society from future EU countries. We call the governments of the future EU Member States to fully participate in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and contribute actively to promoting the ideals of democracy and human rights, civil society participation, sustainable development and cultural exchange upon which the Barcelona Declaration is built. We insist that the new neighborhood policy of the EU does not reduce the significance of the Partnership but increases the importance of its regional dimension.

The participants in Naples examined a range of issues related to strengthening civil society, sustainable development and employment. A detailed overview of the Civil Forum debates and recommendations, and of the national consultations preceding the meeting, will be forwarded to the Ministers in a separate report. Here, we wish to highlight the following points in anticipation of the Ministerial meeting:

7. The Mediterranean region is characterized by widespread poverty, with 30% of the population in the southern countries living on less than 2 US\$/day, and economic developments that are aggravating the economic situation for parts of the population. It is threatened by serious and persistent environmental problems, due to the nature of economic activities and the absence of effective government intervention. The human rights situation has in general deteriorated over the past 8 years and there is an urgent need for establishing, strengthening and guaranteeing gender equality, women's dignity and participation.

8. Sustainable development must become a central objective of the EMP. While the concept appears in many political statements, reality goes in a different direction. We urge the European Commission to finally conclude the Sustainability Impact Assessment it promised in Stuttgart 1999, welcomed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Valencia in 2002, who called for its launch by the end of that year.

9. We urge the Ministers to adopt the framework for a Euro-Mediterranean Strategy for Environmental Integration as developed by the EMP Environmental Ministers Conference in Athens, 2002 and take decisions on its practical, immediate, implementation.

10. We are deeply concerned about the prospects for employment in the region in particular for women, young people and people with special needs. We call upon the governments to organize a Euro-Mediterranean meeting of Ministers of Labour to examine the situation and design urgent policies and instruments to redress the situation of unemployment.

11. We ask the member states of EMP to implement economic and financial instruments in order to redress commercial imbalances in the region. We request that the association agreements do not lead to a deterioration of the socio-economic situation in the South. In this regard we recall that no real partnership can operate without sub-regional integration in the South based on empowerment of their productive and competitive capacities and the respect for rule of law as well as an environment conducive to productive investment.

12. We call upon the Ministers to initiate the development, with full civil society participation, of a Mediterranean Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development policy to ensure better rural livelihoods, environmental protection and food security, to be adopted by their next meeting.

13. We urge the governments to consider migration as a resource and a cultural asset for the development of region rather than a persistent security problem.

14. In general we request that social considerations and measures are integrated into all policies of the EMP and to encourage the social dialogue within the countries.

15. We urge the government to require the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the emerging Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment to work on the basis of strict environmental, social and human rights standards for all its activities in the region, developed and reviewed from time to time with meaningful involvement of civil society organisations from the region.

16. We express the need for the Partnership to introduce policies and measures that strengthen civil society and its effective participation in the EMP.

17. In this context we ask the governments of the EMP to end the current visa policies, and other impediments of free movement, that for many years have systematically complicated EuroMed civil society meetings, including the one in Naples, harassing civil society actors, affecting their dignity or simply impeding them to meet.

18. Strengthening of civil society means in the first instance the respect of the rule of law and providing civil society with legal means to act. It means the effective respect of freedom of association, assembly and of expression in all the countries of the EMP – including the right to set-up, and be organized in, trade unions.

19. It further implies the release of all prisoners of conscience and the ending of current attacks on, and harassment of, human rights defenders in several of the EMP countries as well effectively supporting their right to act according to the UN Human Rights Defenders Declaration of December 1998 including their right to unconditionally receive international funds.

20. It implies the guarantee of the rights of minorities and refugees wherever they live as well as the fight against all kinds of racism and xenophobia. It also implies effective plans and strategies for integrating women into all aspects of the Partnership through affirmative action as well as gender mainstreaming of the three baskets of the EMP. A precondition for achieving these latter goals is to remove the reservations to the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW) by all EMP countries and to implement it within the national legislation as a top priority for the political agenda of the Partnership.

21. We welcome the Commission Communication on Reinvigorating Democracy and Human Rights in the Mediterranean and urge the governments of the EMP to give high priority to its effective implementation. We recommend establishing a legal body to monitor the human rights clause of the Association Agreements.

22. We discussed the cultural aspects of the EMP and agreed that its priority task should be to create the necessary conditions for cultural exchange on an equal basis. We insist that, to be credible, the Foundation for dialogue between cultures must benefit from an independent juridical status and receive significant funding. We call upon the Foundation to support and promote the contemporary dimension of cultures, the mobility of all cultural actors and their independence from political and religious powers and to base its activities upon the reality of those who act on the ground.

23. We wish to emphasize the new and participatory approach of the Civil Forum in Naples that introduced qualitative changes of civil society's relation to the EMP. It confirms the existence of a vibrant independent EuroMed civil society that more than ever is willing to forge alliances, strengthen solidarities and build bridges across the Euro-Mediterranean region. We look forward to close contacts and dialogue with a committed and transparent EuroMed Parliamentary Assembly.

24. Finally, we ask the governments of the EMP to adopt a plan of action for civil society in the EuroMed region and for systematically including dialogue with civil society at all levels in its dealings and decision making procedures. We would like to see the opportunity given at the recent Crete EMP Ministerial Meeting, to discuss the outcomes of the Civil Forum debates directly with the Ministers, to become a regular feature.

Annex 7

The Arab World Project Partnership between IDEA and ANND

IDEA, in partnership with the Arab NGOs Network for Development, implemented an Arab World program on issues of democracy in Jordan, Egypt, and Yemen. The project included the preparation of studies on electoral systems, women participation, and political parties in these countries. It aimed at reaching best practices models and setting a reform agenda for the studied societies. It is expected that the project expands in the next two years to reach at least two additional Arab countries; Morocco and Bahrain.

The project was launched with a concept paper written by three researchers; Ziad Majed, the program coordinator, wrote a political introduction and a section on the electoral laws, Nadia Aisaoui wrote on the participation of women, and Shawkat Ashtai wrote on the political parties in the Arab region.

In addition, the project included case studies presented in two workshops; the first one was held in Jordan and the second one was held in Egypt.

The case studies highlighted the following core issues:

- Managing elections in Yemen
- Political parties and elections in Egypt
- Women participation in elections in Jordan
- Media and elections in Jordan
- Tribalism and elections in Yemen
- Minorities and elections in Egypt
- Women quota and elections
- Financing elections in Lebanon
- Election monitoring: Moroccan experience
- National reconciliation and elections in Bahrain
- Islamists and elections in Tunisia
- Media and elections in Lebanon

Program activities during the implementation of the first phase of the project (2003)

The project focused on the following three main areas:

- The participation of woman in political, economic, and social activities; the program aimed at clarifying the legal, cultural, and political obstacles facing this participation.
- The political parties: legislations and role.
- The electoral systems: legal aspect, media, and finance.

The program was led by a project coordinator recruited by ANND, and implemented by a group of researchers and experts from the three countries. The outcomes of the researches were presented and discussed in a regional workshop. The researches aimed at analyzing the situation and recommending reform suggestions for the implemented related laws and legislations.

In this regards, it is worth noting that choosing the three subjects, women participation, electoral systems, and political parties, does not imply that they are the only subjects of priority. Yet, studying these subjects implied tackling important aspects of political and social life in the Arab countries. They are also related to concepts of citizenship, participation, equality, and development that are most present among the political conceptions of the Region.

Moreover, the project aimed at launching a constructive dialogue among the concerned groups in each area, in order to achieve a deep understanding of various perspectives on the tackled issues, and thus proposing the most suitable reforms.

Brief evaluation of the implementation

The project was in general successfully implemented, as it enhanced the collaboration between ANND and IDEA, as well as helped in establishing new relations with and among many activists, including academics, researchers, and civil society organizations.

The project resulted in valuable and beneficial studies on important subjects. Accordingly, the work scope of ANND was expanded to include the core issues of democracy.

Finally, one has to mention the following two main constraints that in a way affected the program:

- The implementation of the project was not always an easy process due to the time constraints. There were numerous papers to be written and edited and translated, and three workshops to be organized in a six month period. It is worth mentioning that during the preparatory phase, threats of war were on the rise, and the world was witnessing a divide that included the United Nations and the European Union, as well as various Arab countries. Some groups in the Arab region denounced the war, not in defense of the existent regime, but in protection of the independence and sovereignty of the Iraqi people and out of respect for human rights and international institutions. Others were supportive of the war, while some groups did not oppose it. The war was launched in the second quarter of 2003, leading to stagnation in overall situation in the Region.

- The project was launched while the US administration was introducing its new strategy, which called for the overall change of regimes in the Region, starting with the educational curricula and ending by the governing structures. This situation led to a high level of caution and vigilance in the work process of the project. The US strategy suggested establishing new democratic regimes in the Region, which benefit from external support. However, there is an increasing perception among the Arab civil society that the real aims behind the US call are to expand its dominance and the marginalization of the global system and other and global powers.

That is why the coordination and the partnership with civil society and the local governments is very important and can help in avoiding any local sensibility in the implementation of the project.

Despite the two above mentioned constrains, ANND and Idea managed to usefully implement the program and we really hope that this partnership will be develop and enhanced in the next future.

Annex 8

Workshop on Democracy and Elections

28-30 July 2003

The Arab NGO Network for Development and IDEA, in association with HSRC (Human Security Regional Center) in the Jordan Diplomatic Institute (JDI), organized a regional workshop starting from 28 to 30 of July 2003 in Oman around "The Elective and Democratic Issues in Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen". Many other issues were discussed including women quota, publicity and elections, the issues of civil communities and political parties, whereby there was a demonstration of experiences from participating countries like Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan.

The workshop was launched with a word from Dr. Atef Odeibat, manager of HSRC in JDI, who insisted on the importance of this workshop for it deals with one of the most important issues that the present and the future Arab society depends on. He also assured that Democracy is not only a political system but also a complete system of traditions, mechanisms, and qualities that interfere with all aspects of our lives.

Mr. Izzat Abdel Hadi, member of coordination in ANND, presented the importance of holding the meeting and gathering experts from Arab countries to discuss issues of democracy, which are considered the most important dilemma on the agenda of Arab organizations. He also mentioned the importance of a new distribution of political and social work on the basis of ability and qualifications not on the basis of gender, whereby he stressed that equality and democracy are the basis of social and political progress.

IDEA representative Mr. Martin Angbi talked about the importance of the "Arab World program" in the three countries Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. He insisted on the importance of political sharing between civil society and governments as well as governments and individuals.

The participants in the workshop discussed document of "Women and Elections in Jordan", prepared by Mrs. Asma Khodr, which talked about the historical revolution of women's movement that started in 1954, and demanded full and undiminished rights for women. She also stressed on the necessity of women's participation in several domains, especially politics. She added that women participation is an essential condition for any development, justice or required advancement.

Mrs. Asma concluded her session by talking about women's experiment in parliamentary elections after the admittance of the quota principle. She indicated that the quota system is considered a turning point in women's participation in elections. She talked about women's participation on both the system of the one voice law and the way of distributing the elections' departments and the applied statistics in counting the quota seats winners and the number of the specified seats for women.

Addressing voters and going through the whole elections battle are important changes and challenges for women, and they have a positive influence on them and their participation in political life.

The participants brought up the tribal support for women during the elections. Thus Mrs. Asma assured the necessity of women dwelling in factions and mentioned that the parliament experience confirmed the weakness of factions in supporting their candidates whether women or men.

In the second session Mr. Jamil Nemri treated the relation between media and elections in Jordan and focused on the reflection of the electoral systems that are based on individual and tribal features in the absence of an effective role for political parties. He also assured that media is affected with the level of Democratic improvement and the presence of the political will to push and deepen the democratic operation. He demanded the newspapers to have the will and wish in following up the electoral course, thus, achieving a better journalism covering.

Professor Lama Nabil agreed with Mr. Jamil Al Nimri that electoral law sets limits on journalism and media work and deprives them from many ways that they can use to present their free opinions. On the other hand she assured that the many regulations that were assigned by the Jordanian Copyrights law, which presented a contradiction with the democratic operation, are causing significant limitations of the freedom of publicity. She also denied the presence of qualified journalism covering because local journalism is still being affected by governmental and sub governmental courses and that most newspapers are owned by the government while those that are not are demanded to stick to the set regulations.

At the end of the session, both researchers approved that the 2003 elections were not different from the previous elections; they were traditional and reflected the lack of interest in elections.

The third session included presentations by Dr. Drude Delfort, who talked about women quota and concentrated on the Scandinavian experience. She also indicated that the effectiveness of quota should be measured by the number of participating women in addition to the quality of the women who reach political posts and the level of their awareness of the political situation surrounding them. She mentioned that women quota should be applied in a clear strategy and vision that could assure women an affective participation in political life. The discussion indicated the importance of creating an index to facilitate measuring this effect, and upon which strategies to activate the political participation should be set.

Later, the subject of the role of civil society in supervising the elections was presented through the Lebanese experience, by the researcher Ziad Majed. He highlighted various aspects of the national experience in Lebanon, Jordan, and Yemen.

While talking about civil society's role it is necessary to mention the role of political parties. Dr. Amro Al Shobaky addressed this issue, talking about the present realities and situation of political part in the Arab Region.

In addition to that, the convention exposed the effect of tribalism on the course of the elections through Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Sakkaf's presentation. He talked about the Yemeni situation showing the points of similarity between it and the tribal effect in Jordan and denominationalism in Lebanon. The discussion about the possibility of changing tribalism into an associative process that could support the democratic changes in our communities led the participants to a conclusion that tribes can have

an important social role while their chief political role is left for the civil community like factions, unions, and non-governmental organizations.

Regarding monitoring and managing elections, Dr. Ezzeddine Saeed Al Asbahi represented a suggestion to manage the Yemeni elections that included the secondary and foundry framework for political participation in Yemen. He talked about the Yemeni parliament elections throughout the years and before and after the unity of Yemen, in addition to presidential elections, local authority elections and the referendum for constitutional amendments.

Dr. Ezziddine also highlighted juridical roles in elections and effect of public participation on it. Dr. Asbahi concluded that there is a need for revisiting the role of the high committee of elections, which should be limited to supervision, with no legislative role.

Annex 9

Elections and Democracy Workshop

Cairo 2-4 August 2003

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), along with the Public Administration Consultations and Studies Institute at Cairo University (Faculty of Economics and Political Science) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), organized a workshop in Cairo (2-4 August) about "Democracy and Elections Issues". This activity is listed among a program whose application is being monitored by the Arab Network in coordination with the IDEA. In its first stage it will include Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and it will maybe widen up to include Morocco, Algeria, and Bahrain as a second stage.

In the opening session Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, the Executive Director of ANND, pointed out the organic and strategic relation between development and democracy. In this manner, he presented the essential aspects which are being established through the Net, assuring that the workshop is being held after the massive change in the middle east through the invasion of Iraq, and after seeing that that there are big claims for new Democratic disciplines in the region. To eliminate any ambiguity, he clarified that ANND works less than one slogan that says that real democracy should be through natural and self motivated development. This was a main material for discussion in the agenda of the workshop.

As for Dr. Kamal Al Monoufi (Faculty Dean, and the head of the Institute), he discussed in his speech the different problematic issues that were highlighted in the workshop. Moreover, he stressed that integrity in elections requires juridical supervision and that the administration should stick to positive neutralism and limit the money effect on the election process.

The opening session was distinguished by Morishous ex-president Mr. Kasam Outim (member in the board of directors of the institute). He also pointed out to what is taking place in Iraq and Palestine, and the risks which are threatening a lot of Arab countries, which can interrupt the processes of democratic change in the Region.

After that, a research on "Parliament Elections and Unions" was represented by the general coordinator of "Union Services and Labors Home", Professor Kamal Abbas. He mentioned that the Civil Egyptian Society was known for its energetic features since its rise, has changed the nature of relations between it and the government in a fashion way after 1952, when it was able to swallow it. He also mentioned the standing Union Labors Association in Egypt is going through a structure crisis and suffering from a setup disorder. He also reviewed the Egyptian Unions situations which, to him, are suffering from governmental interference. He finished up by stating that Egyptian Unions and Labor is not capable, presently to affect the Egyptian Parliament Elections. The discussion revealed that this judging applies on other Arab states.

Following, participants listened to Professor Layla al Rahawi presentation, where she lightened the civil society role in observing the elections, taking the Moroccan experience as a case study. She also pointed to the necessity of coordination

between the associations, in their missions and scopes and their interest in the elections monitoring mechanisms that were done in September 2002.

The third session included a review about Professor Abdel Rahman Al Noaimy's presentation, (who was banned from entering Egypt), which talked about National Reconciliation and Bahrain's elections.

After that, the participants discussed Dr. Nawaf Salam's lecture (Lebanese University Professor), who talked about the financial effect on elections, giving the Lebanese experience as an example. He suggested the creation of a special "chapter" for "Elections costs" in the law of elections, all in an attempt to lessen the dangerous effect of financial interference in the mechanisms of electoral procedures.

A noticeable intersection was between the previous lecture and the lecture of the Lebanese journalist Pual Ashkar, who also concentrated on the Lebanese experience, but this time in order to show the relation between publicity and elections. As much as he was precise in assuring the effect of publicity on public opinion during elections despite of the contradictive examples, he still criticized the media in Lebanon and questioned its integrity and its avoiding the necessary neutralism during the elections.

From Lebanon the discussion turned to Egypt, with a courageous presentation from Dr. Nivine MUSAAD, whose lecture "Elections and Minorities" aroused a wide controversy among the attendants. She considered that Christians in Egypt form a minority according to some scales and signs, and noted that they are being belittled during some elections. She also stressed on the importance reforming and strengthening the patriotic spirit which characterized Egypt through ages.

The last lecture handled the issue "Muslims and Elections", which was presented by the vice-president of Tunisian Union for Human Rights, Mr. Salah Al Jorshi. He showed that Muslims divide into refusal and excitement and pointed to the political and ideological factors that encourage participation.

And so the workshop touched various aspects from the present political environment in the Arab region; a region that is distinguished for its movements on one hand and the variety of factors and integrating forces on the other hand. Though raised questions and opinions disagreed about the role of foreign pressure in breaking control and monopolization of power internally, everybody still believed that democracy should be originates from the local society and cannot be imposed from outside.