



WORLD REGIONS FORUM

Milan - 19, 20, 21 November 2009

Forum Mondiale delle Regioni

1st World Regions Forum (WRF)

Final Declaration

“Carta di Milano”

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Milan, November 21st 2009

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Preamble

We, the participants:

- ✓ recognizing the importance of subnational governments in addressing the most important challenges that the world faces today;
- ✓ with a view that sustainable development encompass both economic, social and environmental dimensions, for the present and future generations;
- ✓ understanding that global governance depends on cooperation among different communities

are strongly committed to confronting global challenges by assuming key roles that support and improve the environmental, social and economic development of our territories.

Objectives

The participants, hereinafter referred to as “Regions” or “Regional Governments”, met in Milan to share and integrate their expertise, experiences and best practices, in order to propose innovative models of international cooperation, which shall be put at the disposal of their own communities and the entire world to help face the current economic crisis, as well as the present and future challenges, promoting worldwide growth and well-being in the post-crisis context.

Motivations

As global players, Regions and Regional Governments are uniquely positioned due to their capacity to leverage their sub-national role to act as a strong, flexible link between local actors and the national and international communities. Such opportunities and responsibilities can be supported by the creation of international networks on a global scale and the establishment of relationships, partnerships and agreements, including public-private collaboration, in order to improve our deployment of resources for the benefit of all humankind and the preservation of the planet.

Areas of collaboration

At a global level, the post-crisis governance system shall acknowledge the increasing importance of sub-national governments as a link between local, national and global interests. The role of Regional Governments shall therefore be strengthened, as a critical factor for guaranteeing the best interaction possible among different levels of government, the civil society and the private sector.

We, the participants, acknowledge and accept this responsibility, and are interested in creating a network for strategic cooperation.

Establishing a fruitful collaboration among the Regions requires the individuation of priority spheres of common interest, expertise, know-how and experience. Such priorities should focus on areas that normally fall under the direct competence of Regional Governments, and/or areas where Regional Governments can exert influence in the interest of their citizens and communities, their environment, their social and economic development.

We agree to launch this cooperative effort in the following areas, *inter alia*:

- I. Knowledge-based economy, focusing on: human capital, education, R&D, innovation and resource efficiency, innovative financing and technology transfer.
- II. Sustainable development, focusing on: climate change, local pollution control, biodiversity protection, sustainable energy (renewable sources and energy efficiency), urban and rural environment.
- III. Welfare, focusing on: healthcare, development of e-health linked applications, development of an international network related to main pathologies.

Joint Projects

We are interested in developing a political exchange in these areas through jointly-identified projects.

Public and private entrepreneurial ventures, research institutes, universities, associations of various kinds, NGOs, NPOs, etc., are welcome to become partners in these joint projects. Partners must reside in the signatory Regions and must have relevant experience in internationally-recognized activities in the identified areas.

Conclusions

We, the participants, in order to achieve the Objectives set forth in this Declaration, envisage the constitution of a Joint Working Team (JWT) to coordinate the start-up of projects to be defined.

Furthermore, the JWT can:

- identify additional areas of common interest,
- study the possibility of creating an organized network (World Regions Forum), define proposals for its operating structure, rules, instruments (including a dedicated website) and costs, as well as its meeting schedule,
- propose ways to strengthen relations and improve activities (also from a commercial viewpoint) among the relevant economic systems (enterprises, financial systems, universities) in the framework of the Forum,
- analyze the possibilities to share the benefits of the network with other Regions and make proposals about related procedures.
- coordinate efforts with other networks of Regions and development agencies.

The Team will be composed of one member from each Region, appointed by the Governor; each member may be supported by additional staff persons. The member nominated by the Governor of the Region of Lombardy shall serve as the JWT Coordinator. The team will work mainly using electronic communications and meetings, if and when necessary. The Regional Governments will bear the costs for the activity and expenses of their staff.

In order to facilitate the JWT activities, a Secretariat shall be established at the Regional Government of Lombardy offices, which shall provide for operational and logistical support, website development and maintenance and any additional needs.

Lombardy Region - Italy

Roberto Jany

Baden-Württemberg - Germany

Beck

Bavaria - Germany

JM W

California - USA

Gauteng - South Africa

Re

Ile-de-France - France

Illinois - USA

W. R. G.

Massachusetts - USA

Madrid - Spain

Nuevo Leon - Mexico

New South Wales - Australia

Quebec - Canada

Saint Petersburg - Russian Federation

Sao Paulo - Brazil

Shanghai - China

Singapore