FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 
FOR A TERRITORIAL APPROACH 
TO DEVELOPMENT

5, 6 and 7 March 2007, Marseille (F)

MINUTES

Région

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

CRPM CPMR

United Nations Development Programme

With the backing of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
EDITORIAL

Why this Convention?

The First International Convention for a Territorial Approach to Development held in Marseille on 5 to 7 March 2007 brought together almost 1200 delegates (representatives from national, regional and local level, the United Nations, associations of regional and local authorities, NGOs and civil society, international bodies and the European Commission). It was held subsequent to a series of considerations and events initiated from 2005 onwards by the CPMR and UNDP, who over the course of time have established a working partnership on this issue.

On the one hand, the CPMR sensed that as territories have opened up to economic activity, new communications technologies and the movement of people, “protective” national borders have gradually disintegrated. The whole of society once enclosed within these borders now finds itself questioned by the phenomenon of globalisation. In the present day and age, no central administration whatsoever seems capable of orchestrating the response to such a huge challenge any more. In such an open world, power needs to be shared and disseminated by all levels of public authorities to permeate society as a whole, so that each individual can form part of the exchange.

On the other hand, the UNDP was receiving an increasing number of requests from its member states to assist them in their democratisation and decentralisation processes. At the same time regional and local authorities from transition countries and developing countries felt the need to be supported locally in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Moreover, within the context of their new international responsibilities, regional and local governments in industrialised countries have been expressing the desire to base their activities in multilateralism by means of decentralised cooperation. It is in this context that the UNDP created a new hub for innovative partnerships with the two-fold intention of working together strategically with Regions and local authorities so as to harness all available forces in the spirit of the United Nations reform process and the Paris Declaration.

It is in this context that the CPMR and UNDP embarked on discussions that brought them closer together. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two organisations at the first discussion seminar on “Regions and Globalisation” held in Punta Delgada in the Azores in June 2006, in order to increase the effectiveness of the contribution of the CPMR’s member Regions to the regional development strategies upheld by the United Nations. Regional leaders from five continents who were gathered there on this occasion agreed that the time was right to lay the foundations for a world expression of Regions to voice the need for sub-national authorities to be given a useful role in a new world governance system that had to be organised. These two lines of action served as a basis for preparing the Marseille Convention with the active support of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region. One of the focal points of the Convention was the Regions’ contribution towards delivering more effective sustainable and fair development policies led within the framework of the MDGs.

Outcome

The Marseille Convention was a success, and more than achieved the objectives it had set out to achieve.

The number of participants and the quality of the speakers demonstrated the pertinence and widespread interest of an effective recognition of the Regions as an appropriate tier of government whose integration into global governance should be supported. The debates and presentations highlighted the need, in addition to the efforts made by city networks, to support regional bodies to enable them to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable globalisation. They know the needs of their territories and their populations, and have the capacity to coordinate and harmonise strategic and grass-roots approaches.

Throughout the three days of the Convention, the debates with representatives of national governments, with the European Union, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and with United Nations agencies, as well as the discussions in topic-based workshops which brought together a wide range of partners from all the continents, underlined and demonstrated by means of numerous concrete examples — relating to issues including the Millennium Development Goals, the environment, energy, education and training, and economic development — the importance of the role and the place of regional and local authorities in ensuring an equitable territorial development. This was also the framework for a presentation, with numerous concrete examples, of the ART GOLD initiative (Appui aux Réseaux Thématiques et Territoriaux – Gouvernance Locale et Développement – support to territorial and thematic networks of human development cooperation) developed by the UNDP in conjunction with several other United Nations agencies and various national governments and regional and local authorities.

The Convention also provided an opportunity for the European Union and the United Nations, via the participation of the highest level of Commission authorities in charge of regional affairs and external relations and of the Committee of the Regions, via also the participation of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, of the UNDP, the FAO, the UNCDF, the ILO, the UNHCR, UNESCO and UNOPS, to gauge the importance of a territorial approach to development, and the desire and willingness of the Regions to work together with intergovernmental organisations including the European Union and the United Nations “system”.

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Reference was made to the dynamic roles played by the European Regions, which between 1970 and 1990 made a particularly important contribution to the “catching-up” of the new members of the European Union (Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain) thanks to the massive efforts deployed by the European Union through its cohesion policy. This has been followed by an important debate on the possibility of extrapolating and adapting this model for the developing countries, with the support of all their development partners.

This common desire on the part of international bodies and the Regions to work together took a more concrete form during the Convention. A territorial approach to development including the United Nations was formalised through the signing of partnership agreements between various United Nations agencies, and between some of these agencies and regional representatives for the implementation of concrete development projects to be developed under the ART programme.

Organised with the backing of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Convention also provided an opportunity for representatives (ministers or senior officials) of donor governments such as Belgium, Italy and Spain, and developing countries such as Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, Serbia and Uruguay, as well as the European Commission, to demonstrate their support for these initiatives.

Lastly, in parallel to the Convention itself, at the end of the Wednesday morning, more than a dozen networks of Regions representing all continents and more than 500 Regions, signed a “Declaration of the Regions on their participation in the governance of globalisation” proposing the creation of a Forum of Networks of World Regions to be the mouthpiece of the Regions at world level and work towards a more equitable globalisation.

Next steps

We now need to strengthen the dynamic that has been created, pursue the multi-level reflections and cooperation actions that have been initiated, and implement them at grass-roots level.

A number of ART GOLD programmes, the launch of which was discussed on this occasion or which existed already but which have been enhanced as a result of discussions between the various partners present, are now under way in a variety of fields. These include the prevention of natural disasters, capacity-building of democratic regional administrations, economic development, and the coordination of international aid. They could be implemented rapidly, in particular with support from European development aid programmes.

The member Regions of the Networks have made a commitment to:

- **Ensure that the voice of the Regions is heard in globalisation**: to become the correspondent of the new international bodies in charge of global governance, and more particularly to ultimately obtain the status of a United Nations approved Intergovernmental Organisation to voice the views of the Regions.

- **Organise new rules for strategic governance including sub-State tiers of government**: to decentralise globalisation so that in the areas they live in, citizens, supported by their regional authorities, can become stakeholders in equity-based globalisation. Global integration with persistent or increasing levels of inequality between the different territories within each State as well as at continent and world levels is unacceptable. Only a territorial development approach will make it possible to achieve sustainable peace and global development.

- **Work together among Regions**: to accompany and promote working together among the various Regions of the world, whether they do so on cooperation for development, to exchange best practices or on tangible, joint projects that are of interest at territorial level.

The partners have agreed to meet again in May 2008 in Tangiers-Tetouan, Morocco, for a 2\textsuperscript{nd} Convention for a territorial approach to development which will provide an opportunity to pursue the debates launched in Marseille, take stock of the progress made by the Forum of Networks of Regions, the work accomplished and contacts made with international partners, and lastly to look at how, on a practical level, the collaboration between Regions, national governments and international partners is bearing fruit.

We look forward to seeing you in Tangiers from 12 to 14 May 2008. Until then, carry on the good work!
The major challenges related to globalisation can be addressed by the territories, through a territorial approach to development and through the ability of the Regions – on account of their competences in economic and social development, spatial planning and training, their relevant dimension and their closeness to the people - to mobilise territorial actors to work on integrated innovative projects in the framework of grassroots initiatives. The Regions are best placed to bring together actors on the ground and to provide feedback on their expectations, initiatives and demands to national governments, European and international organisations [...]. Michel Vauzelle, President of Provence-Alpes-Côtes d’Azur.

I believe that we are doing something very important today. The networks of Regions gathered here represent just over 500 Regions worldwide and I believe that we can carry out some innovative work together [...]. The Regions are the right size institutionally and territorially to address issues of major importance. The moment has come for recognition to be shown on two sides. On the part of international organisations and central governments, which need to recognise that without the mobilisation of territories and Regions, it is impossible to put projects into practice. Without the citizens, without the territories, mobilisation is not possible. On the part of the Regions, that need to recognise that our cooperation projects, our relations (often the result of our history) will not have the required effectiveness if they are not led in a broader general framework: national, European and global. Claudio Martini, President of Tuscany and of the CPMR.

On account of their potential, in an increasingly globalised world, it is important that the Regions of the whole world establish a dialogue among themselves and work together as States do in the framework of the United Nations. But it is also important that this dialogue and this cooperation be established between the Regions and the United Nations system, through innovative partnerships. That is what we are strongly calling for, and would like to see established here in Marseille. [...]. The UNDP, but also the United Nations system as a whole, with the European Union, would like to make the most of this experience and transpose it, adapting it where necessary, to the transition and developing countries, so that the Regions in these countries where we are working can in turn become driving forces in development. Bruce Jenks, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator.

The experience of countries where local governance works shows that, in order to produce their effects, decentralisation policies must be part of a long-term strategy. With regard to local governance, alongside the political support which we must continue to provide, especially at continental level, it is essential that we combine our efforts to help this policy progress tangibly. In this phase of the process, the key areas for intervention are capacity-building of municipal officers and elected members, the increase of local finances, and the improvement of basic services provided to the local population.

Jérôme Pasquier, Minister plenipotentiary, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, French Foreign Ministry.

Developing intra-regional trade and improving Africa’s integration in globalisation require its regional integration to be reinforced. To this end, its production structure, the level of education of its human capital, the availability of basic infrastructure, and high production costs are all challenges to be met. We need to count on the mobilisation of all players, including those at the regional and local level. [...] It is not enough just to have a vision of territorial development. The most important thing is to make it a concrete reality. The African regional and local authorities therefore need to establish links and partnerships with those of the North, in particular to exchange experience in the area of local and regional practice.

Hamza Ahmadou Cissé, Director of the Cabinet of the President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

Today’s world is one that is opening up. With the incessant growth and development of economic globalisation, boosting trade and external cooperation has become a necessary choice for the different countries and Regions, in order to speed up development and enhance synergies.

Zhong Yangsheng, Executive Vice-Governor of Guangdong Province, China.

Decentralisation appears as a factor in the democratisation and modernisation of the State. The redistribution of competences in favour of local bodies that accompanies it permits a more efficient response to the needs of the population. In this respect, decentralisation is the ally of economic health and improved social cohesion, since decisions are taken more quickly and are tailored more closely to the situation at local level. This does not only apply to European countries. Economic and social development in developing and transition countries also implies the recognition of the competences and specific contributions that local and regional authorities can make. It is clear that the Millennium Development Goals will never be attained without the active participation and contribution of local and regional authorities.

Michel Delebarre, President of the Committee of the Regions.
We will face difficulties; some people will not want to change anything. Unemployment will persist and migratory flows will continue to affect the most developed countries. It is by means of sustainable development that we will be successful in reversing this trend. In the context of globalisation, I am convinced that the global regional networks will help in finding a solution for us to succeed in changing the course of history.

Roy Abelardo Nikisch, Governor of Chaco Province, Argentina, Member of ZICOSUR.

To do this, it will be necessary not only to take into account the strengths and weaknesses of the territories, but also to adopt the right position in relation to the new rules of the game that have resulted from the process of globalisation. The territories therefore can and must become active agents of their own development. They can do this by taking a proactive approach that permits them to analyse their constraints and their opportunities, to draw up integrated development strategies supported by a wide partnership, and to apply these in a coherent and flexible manner with the participation of all the agents concerned.

Eneko Landaburu, Director General, External Relations Directorate-General, European Commission.

In a complicated context, the ART GOLD programme for the Lebanon has the potential to be a serious tool for partnership, helping the local level coordinate its activities with the international level while taking national policies and strategies into account. The structure of ART GOLD Lebanon plans to set up a number of local working groups, which will function on a participative basis and will include the local authorities, representatives of the government and of civil society, NGOs, chambers of commerce and industry, etc.

Ibrahim Chahrour, Director, Planning and Programming Division, Council for Development and Reconstruction, Lebanon.

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**Signing of UNDP ART GOLD Agreements**

In the spirit of the United Nations’ reform aiming to improve coordination between the various initiatives carried out by different Agencies in the same territory, letters of cooperation intention were signed between the UNDP and the International Labour Office, and between the UNDP and the UN High Commission for Refugees. These agreements make reference to the ART GOLD programme which provides a harmonised framework for the different partners working in the same territory.

More specifically, the following were signed:

- Between the Regions of Brittany, Guadeloupe, Aquitaine, the CPMR and the UNDP, a letter of intention on cooperation in the Caribbean in the area of prevention and management of disasters by regional and local authorities;
- Between Provence-Alpes-Côtes d’Azur as a Region but also as President of the CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission, a cooperation agreement relating to ART GOLD in the Mediterranean, with particular reference to ART GOLD Lebanon and Morocco.

A letter of intention was also signed between the UNDP and the GLOCAL Forum city network.

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**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOPS (6 MARCH 2007)**

What emerges from your debates and the twelve workshops, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the existence of a new force – of which you have become the mouthpiece – made up of the many thousands of anonymous, humble players who at their level, i.e. in any given territory, and firmly embracing the realities of the 21st century, and seeking, at their level, at the regional and local level, the most appropriate responses of the present time to the realities of globalisation. […] Xavier Gizard, Secretary General of the CPMR.

Full reports as well as a summary of the workshops are available on request from the CPMR General Secretariat (secretariat@crpm.org) and on the CPMR web site (www.crpm.org) under the heading “Activities / external cooperation”.

Workshop 1: Water management and food security
Workshop 2: Health structures and social services
Workshop 3: Training and capacity building
Workshop 4: Sustainable energy development
Workshop 5: Local economic development and innovations
Workshop 6: Food, nutrition and poverty
Workshop 7: Education for all
Workshop 8: Co-development and migration
Workshop 9: Natural disasters, risk prevention, rehabilitation
Workshop 10: Natural, cultural and historical heritage
Workshop 11: Environment
Workshop 12: The role of regional and local authorities in territorial conflict resolution
Towards a new approach to the global governance of territorial development
The founding of the Forum of Networks of World Regions

The Wednesday morning was given over to a summary presentation of the conclusions of the workshops that had taken place throughout the previous day. Clear and widespread support for the ART initiative was expressed.

Also on the Wednesday morning, in a parallel meeting to the Convention which took advantage of the presence of a large number of regional networks and of their common desire to establish an organised framework for collaborating that would be coherent with the United Nations system, the “Declaration of the Regions on their participation in the governance of globalisation” was signed by international regional organisations representing more than 500 regional authorities from around the world. They made a commitment to work together to make the voice of the Regions heard on the world stage and to play an active role, as sub-national authorities, in the implementation of the MDGs adopted in the framework of the reform of the United Nations Organisation.

EXTRACTS FROM DAY 3 (7 MARCH 2007)

I have followed your debates and discussions closely and I hope that they will give rise to tangible initiatives. This meeting is an important step forward in the dialogue that must exist between the United Nations, national governments, and regional and local authorities in the countries of the South and the North. This initiative forms part of the wider political debate on the future of development and of aid, which today is too dispersed. Greater coherence in projects and a sustainable approach are needed. This is one of the biggest challenges to the effectiveness of the United Nations system. You can count on my support for this initiative, and I will follow your work with all the interest it deserves.

Jequesa Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the United Nations General Assembly.

A number of countries represented in Marseille during the Convention, including France, Morocco, Senegal, Spain and Uruguay, welcomed the signing of the Declaration and the founding of the Forum of Networks of World Regions, created on this occasion, as well as the pertinence of the ART initiative.

First of all I transmit to you the fraternal greetings of the Uruguayan government, which considers itself heard and recognised in the debates and initiatives launched during this meeting. Local development is indispensable to global development. A new world of opportunities and challenges is opening up before us, and Uruguay intends to play a full part in it. Integration in the ART programmes is part of this opening up. We must now transform these days into reality on the ground.

Carlos Vieira, Director of the Department of Planning, Presidency of the Republic of Uruguay.

I am happy to have taken part in this Convention. The diversity of approaches and experiences presented are very useful in the context of the reflections under way in Senegal on the assessment of the Senegalese system of regionalisation. The ART GOLD programme is also an important source of interest for us. Regional development is a major opportunity for humanity in this new century. Things need to be a bit more organised and a bit better organised than they are today. Those responsible at the United Nations, in government and in the Regions of the North and the South must get together to think about how to improve the effectiveness of the policies to be implemented.

Abdourahim Agne, Minister for Micro Finance and Decentralised International Cooperation, Senegal.
The Moroccan government is satisfied with the proceedings at this meeting. The quality of the exchanges and the nature of the issues that brought so many people together during the workshops will make it a milestone event. Morocco has long been an active, determined and committed player alongside the free world. This is why the reflections conducted in Morocco on the subject of decentralisation, which is a long-standing tradition, all aim to build, to change, to improve on what already exists. New initiatives have been launched by King Mohammed VI concerning an extended regionalisation which will provide more precise economic and political solutions. Regionalisation will allow the Regions to be more active at national and international level. This is why we are keen to host in Tangiers the 2nd Convention for a Territorial Approach to Development and we thank you for the confidence you have shown in Tangiers and Morocco. This is also why we are determined to continue to work within the framework of ART GOLD, to federate the energies and synergies present at grass-roots level. This is a grass-roots experience which has been running for two years and which has proved successful.

Amine Mzouri, Governor in the Central Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Morocco.

Those responsible for cooperation in Spain believe that development aid is more effective when it is based on a strategy that has been drawn up and is managed by the national government in collaboration with civil society and political and social representatives. In our experience, policies imposed by donors and international institutions have a tendency to fail because of the absence of participation and therefore commitment on the part of governments and populations, and the fact that they are based on initiatives that have not taken sufficient account of real needs.

United Nations Agencies

Representatives of the United Nations agencies present in Marseille took note of the initiative launched by the Regions through the Declaration of the Regions. These representatives also welcomed the implementation of the ART initiative, which they saw as pertinent in channeling energies and making them more effective on the ground.

International Labour Office:
The Convention has been very interesting and the topics have been discussed in a very useful way. We now need to pursue our reflections on the basis of the conclusions of the workshops, and translate words into action. The founding of a global regional network is a good thing, which will enable our agency to work with a key correspondent. The ART initiative is also of interest to the ILO. Philippe Mercadant, Technical Programme Coordinator at ILO strategies and tools against social exclusion and poverty programme (STEP).

Food and Agriculture Organisation:
As the United Nations’ specialist agency for food and agricultural issues, we cannot fail to welcome and support the initiative to create an organisation of world Regions. The terms “territory” (country, land, soil) and “territoires” (territories, regions) are very closely linked. The FAO collaborates with Italian-, French-, and Spanish-speaking Regions, with national governments as well as with civil society and local and regional authorities. We are moving in the direction of a more concentrated and complementary way of working between agencies. The FAO supports the Forum of Networks of World Regions and looks forward to working with this organisation in the near future. Thomas Price, Principal Programme Officer, Strategic Planning Unit, Office of the Director-General.

If we want these policies to be successful, the beneficiary countries must “take ownership” of the objectives and strategies for development in the framework of a new cooperation relationship anterior to “aid and development". This is a significant cultural change, involving a new model of cooperation. We need to move away from the notion of aid towards the notion of co-development, from a model of donor and beneficiary to one of partners and colleagues working to meet challenges that are of common interest, such as peace, human development, and the Millennium Development Goals.

Maria Concepción Noguerol, Ministry for Cooperation and International Affairs, Spain.

We leave this meeting-place with an important decision, that of having a Forum of Networks of World Regions. In this Forum, there is Europe and there are other countries represented. This is an important operational opening-up, an opening towards the South, which we are numerous in representing here. In Europe, the notion of convergence has enabled the poorer Regions to catch up with the richer Regions. This notion of convergence can now work in our favour, in the South, and we wish to see the countries of the South taking part in the organisations that are being set up, so as to implement this notion of convergence. The cooperation conducted is not only North-South but also South-South; we must use our talents and our investment capacities.

It has been shown that our fates are linked by globalisation, and this is especially so in the Mediterranean. The Forum is a framework; it is necessary now to put in place the tools that will enable it to function. Hamid Temmar, Minister for Participation and Investment Promotion, Algeria.
United Nations Office for Project Services:
UNOPS has been conducting decentralised cooperation actions for twenty years in the different continents. The experiences have proved satisfactory, but nonetheless sometimes leave an impression of working in a kind of vacuum because of the lack of coordination and cooperation between the different players. I have really had the feeling of finding this atmosphere of cooperation during these past three days in Marseille and I am very optimistic because I am convinced that we will be able to cooperate better from now on. UNOPS is at the service of the Regions and Governments to support the ideas and reflections conducted during the Convention. Bernard Schlachter, Senior Portfolio Manager UNOPS Geneva.

United Nations Capital Development Fund:
The UNCDF welcomes the creation of the Forum of Networks of World Regions, which will provide it with a correspondent. It is not always easy, in a very vast context, to know which is the most useful door to knock on. Having a special correspondent will enable us to establish equitable and sustainable partnerships with all those involved in the different continents. Development is not just aid, it is also partnership with partners who can dialogue on an equal footing. This is an enormous step forward for us. Christian Fournier, Regional Programme Manager UNCDF Dakar.

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