



International Coalition
of Inclusive and
Sustainable Cities – ICCAR



THE TUNIS DECLARATION

THE ARAB COALITION OF CITIES AGAINST RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND INTOLERANCE

Preamble

1. We, the members of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance (hereinafter referred to as “Arab Coalition”), and other participating cities, have gathered for the planning workshop on the theme “Inclusive and sustainable cities in the face of social transformations” (6-7 April 2017, Tunis-Tunisia). We thank UNESCO for organizing this landmark meeting, the first gathering of member cities since the Arab Coalition was established in 2008. We are equally grateful to the Arab Institute for Human Rights for their support in the organization of this meeting. We are thankful to the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR), represented by the City of Nancy (France), for their participation in this workshop.
2. We congratulate UNESCO and the Secretariat of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR, notably for the establishment of the ICCAR Global Steering Committee (April 2016) which paved the way for the reinforcement of interregional cooperation and global solidarity among its members in the seven regional and national coalitions.

We adopt and solemnly proclaim the present Declaration:

3. We recognize the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially SDG 11 “*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*” and SDG 16: “*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*”, including specific target 16.b: “*Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development*”. We also recognize the adoption of the *New Urban Agenda* that emphasizes inclusion as a fundamental aspect in contributing to sustainable urban development. Therefore, we affirm our commitment to meet these global aspirations that seek to build, manage and live in cities that “leave no one behind”.
4. We attach importance to the Bologna Declaration (April 2016) adopted at the first meeting of the ICCAR Global Steering Committee, which highlights the centrality of inclusion and diversity in urban spaces in achieving sustainable urban development. We recognize its key messages such as the importance of “*addressing challenges posed by a culture of racism and discrimination*”. We also acknowledge that “*(t)ranslating human rights into concrete actions and mechanisms fostering gender equality is a key factor for development, democracy and inclusion*”. We likewise acknowledge that “*the potential contribution of migration in economic social and cultural life promotes peaceful, just and inclusive societies*”.

5. We appreciate the actions that have been implemented by UNESCO to revitalize ICCAR as a global platform to promote inclusion and diversity in urban spaces. We recognize the advocacy and networking efforts conducted by the ICCAR Secretariat through a series of global and regional events that raised the profile of, and provided visibility for, ICCAR and its coalitions. We commend the engagement of ICCAR champions from various coalitions who have continually strived to support its cause and its mission.
6. We are cognizant of the challenges that cities face in regard to acts of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance in the contemporary world. These challenges have further increased and diversified, and have become a permanent fixture in our societies. We recognize that almost a decade since the establishment of the Arab Coalition, the struggle against these scourges has never been more relevant.
7. We recognize the key role that cities play in helping to empower their populations towards enhancement of inclusion and diversity, in collaboration with all key stakeholders in society, including citizens themselves. We acknowledge the importance of inclusive city-level policies, programmes and services that will promote the meaningful participation of citizens.
8. We refer to the Casablanca Declaration, adopted by the Arab Coalition in 2008, which stipulates that the fight against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance in cities is a responsibility of municipal authorities in order to ensure mutual respect and promote equality among city-dwellers and to foster citizenship that is respectful of diversities that enrich modern societies.
9. We acknowledge the need for the Arab Coalition to revitalize through a workable Roadmap that would lead to the next region meeting of the Coalition in April 2018. We do consider that the Coalition 2008 Ten-Point Plan of Action is a global orientation document towards building an anti-racist culture in our cities, improving social inclusion and integration of all populations, and promoting inclusion and diversity, in order to reverse the growing trends of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. We commit to review our Ten-Point Plan of Action, in order to align it with the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, by addressing the priorities and commitments of the global agreements and safeguarding the transversal themes of human rights, gender equality and the eradication of poverty as prerequisites for sustainable urban development.
10. As a short-term plan towards revitalization, we are committed to work and collaborate on the following priority areas: (i) Conducting territorial diagnosis and data collection on racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance issues in our cities, (ii) Undertaking awareness-raising and sensitization initiatives related to the mandate of the Coalition, to the benefit of our constituency and administration, and (iii) Enhancing collaboration with the civil society actors for joint initiatives. This is our one-year revitalization plan, which will be jointly assessed at the next regional meeting in April 2018.
11. We commit to uphold the vision of ICCAR by promoting international cooperation between cities to strengthen advocacy for global solidarity and collaboration, and promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination, by sharing good practices, knowledge and expertise, and by advancing joint action through the development of participatory city-level policies and initiatives. At the regional level, we recommend the Arab Institute for Human Rights, UCLG-Africa, among others, to collaborate with member cities, and National Human Rights Institutions in the implementation of the one-year revitalization plan.

Tunis, 7 April 2017