



General Assembly of the World Political Forum
"Human Rights and Democracy in a Globalized World"
Bosco Marengo, 7 November 2008

Final Statement

1. Participants at the World Political Forum General Assembly's Meeting in Bosco Marengo, on the subject of "Human Rights and Democracy in a Globalized World", stress the great importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted 60 years ago, which has made an exceptional contribution to the progress of ideas of freedom, promotion of universal democratic values and respect for the equality and dignity of the human person. It also helped to ensure the ending of the world's dangerous ideological division and the Cold War and in this way helped to shape modern civilisation.

2. At the same time reference was made to the existence and of a sometimes ever-widening gap separating the Declaration's principles and its proclamation of human rights from their implementation. The observation of many aspects of human rights in different parts of the world are being ignored. We express our concern over the growing number of victims of international, interethnic and interreligious conflicts affecting the civil population in particular, over the violation of the rights of national minorities and women, the limitation of freedom of expression and other civil rights, persecution of journalists, manifestations of national and racial discrimination and xenophobia.

3. The failure of politicians and of other decision-makers and existing international institutions to reflect the diversity of the modern world as well as to find answers to the challenges of globalization has resulted in multiples crises, which affect the living conditions of millions of people. They also reflect the crisis of democratic values and the lack of that essential ethical dimension that should be part of responsible politics. The combined economic, social, ecological and political crisis developing before our eyes endangers the world's stability, security of peoples and nations and undermines the prospect of sustainable development. In this context, a more correct approach to the use of natural resources must imply an equitable access for all, as well as their preservation for future generations.

4. We consider that in an interdependent world all civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights are interrelated. Yet the situation of dramatic change that the world is experiencing at present highlights a number of urgent priorities, which the participants at the Bosco Marengo World Political Forum's General Assembly particularly wish to address. These priorities include:

-the right to life and security, implying a freedom from fear and the need to ensure for individuals and peoples the conditions and guarantees for living in a peaceful environment;

-the right to health, with guaranteed access to food and water and protection against hunger. We consider the necessity to guarantee the right to drinkable water to be a priority issue for the mobilisation of international action for human rights in the coming months. For this reason we endorse the Green Cross International Initiative to ensure adoption of a Universal Convention on the Right to Water and support other international initiatives put forward namely by Danielle Mitterrand (Water Messengers) and Federico Mayor (Zaragoza Charter on Water). The World Political Forum, in cooperation with the European Parliament and IERPE(European Research Institute on Water Policy), is committed to preparing an international conference in Brussels in February 2009 on the theme "Peace with Water", and intends to propose to the United Nations the setting-up of an International Water Protocol, as a way to place this subject at the centre of the international political agenda;

-the urgent demand for the equality and rights of women. We believe that progress in this field would bring an end to this shameful form of discrimination, and would guarantee a better education for children, economic and social progress, and the promotion of a culture of peace.

5. We also stress the urgency of concerted actions by the representatives of the world of politics, jurists, human rights activists, journalists, NGO's and other members of civil society with the aim of promoting the idea of human rights and monitoring their implementation, with the objective of transforming this

action into an integral part of the political culture of modern civilisation and the necessary prerequisite for building a New World Political Architecture.