



The International Conference Sister Cities & Municipal Organizations

60th anniversary State of Israel
70th anniversary of ULAI

DECLARATION

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel and the 70th anniversary of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, gathered in Jerusalem, 9-12 March 2008, 800 representatives from 46 countries worldwide.

After intensive discussion in 6 Workshops, the participants express their believe that **Local Government** is:

- One of the most basic tenets of democracy
- Vital for the operational arm of every country
- Platform for the future National Leaders

To this edge they agree that the:

International Meetings of decision makers contribute and promote:

- Understanding of capabilities, advantages benefits in local authorities field
- New tools of knowledge
- Dialogue between different communities
- Diversified prospective programs



In order to cope with the **New Millennium Development Goals** the participants underline the importance of the following actions:

- Set up quality measures for attractive and successful city
- Build a network of cooperation for dialogue, understanding and trust through city diplomacy and peace initiatives and settle disputes by peaceful means
- Empower the role of municipal female leaders
- Give favorable consideration to matters relating to Gender Equality
- Answer the demand of citizens from their leaders in providing answers for sustainable balanced economic field through cooperation with the private sector and international economic initiatives.
- To make the process of Euro-Mediterranean partnership as essential factor for understanding and closeness of people.

The participants acknowledge that **Youth Exchange**:

- In within Sister Cities activities encourage the young generation to respect different groups in society and act against xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism
- Should be a part of school curriculum in proper education of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Is part of a broader concept of participation which allows the young generation to take part in decision making processes and become the owners of their own affairs
- May be supported and enhanced by new communication instruments the world wide web offers
- Needs proper funding by international institutions and national, regional and local governments.

The success of this event is the evidence that International Relations is essential for decentralized cooperation and we call upon all municipalities and Regions to join us to put the international municipal relations as a priority of their municipal agenda.

With a view to achieving these objectives and challenges, the participants call all governments, municipalities, Regions, Organizations to join to the Union of Local Authorities in Israel in their efforts to build understanding, trust and strengthen their cooperation with the Palestinian local authorities.

They reaffirm that dialogue and respect between cultures and religions are a necessary precondition to bring the people closer and achieve better, **successful and attractive cities**.

