

## **AOM Nafplion Declaration**

*5 October 2021, Nafplion – Greece*

We, the Ombudsman and Mediator Institutions, gathered on the occasion of the 11th meeting of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM), on 4-5 October 2021 in Nafplion, the Hellenic Republic;

Reaffirming that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and that social, cultural and environmental rights are a prerequisite for human dignity as noted in the AOM Skopje declaration of 31 May 2018;

Recalling the AOM Valletta declaration of 10 March 2016 whereby we noted our concern about the migration crisis in the larger Mediterranean area, linked to gross violations of human rights in regions plagued by armed conflicts and poverty as well as the AOM Tirana declaration of 27 June 2014 on migration and asylum in the Mediterranean region;

Observing that the people of our region have become increasingly aware of the urgent need to effectively address climate change, energy dependency and sustainability, and the consequences of forced movement or displacement of people;

Acknowledging that a comprehensive response to those issues needs to be based on a thorough, open and honest discussion of the possible causes and potential consequences for our respective societies and collectively for our region;

Committed to promote cross-border, regional and international cooperation in order to effectively protect human rights and freedoms, and further advance social, cultural and environmental rights;

Determined to redefine the Mediterranean from a sea that separates us to the sea that unites us;

Having dedicated the 11th meeting of our Association to the discussion of the said three issues, namely:

- People on the move and human rights,
- The Mediterranean energy sources: sustainability and fair use, meeting our needs,
- Climate change and natural disasters;

### **Hereby declare as follows:**

1. AOM asks all the countries in the Mediterranean region and neighboring areas to promote regional cooperation, implement policies and engage in integrated approaches to address the effects of forced migration and displacement.
2. AOM encourages its members to develop the necessary synergies and tools in order to effectively monitor possible violations of human rights and the application of the principle of non refoulement in their respective territories.
3. AOM asks its members to develop the capacity and tools to guarantee full access to their respective services to all persons concerned, irrespective of nationality, legal status, language, colour, sex, beliefs, religion, age, disabilities and other characteristics.
4. AOM considers the Mediterranean energy sources as an area of peaceful cooperation where the actions of the countries of the region shall be in full compliance with international law,

ensure maximum protection of the environment and the diversity of the region and take into account the best interest of the future generations.

5. AOM asks all the countries in the Mediterranean region and neighboring areas to urgently reduce their respective greenhouse emissions, invest in clean energy research, promote sustainable energy sources and enhance cross border cooperation to maximize renewable energy efficiency.
6. AOM encourages its members to request their respective parliaments and/or governments to adopt legislation to make the right to a healthy environment an effective human right.
7. AOM recognises that continuing education of the Ombudsman and Mediator technical staff on issues of migration and climate change are of paramount importance to the implementation of our mandate due to the complexity that both these matters present.
8. AOM encourages its members to exchange best practices in reducing their greenhouse emissions in their daily work and become themselves examples of energy sustainability in their respective countries.
9. AOM encourages all the countries in the Mediterranean region and neighboring areas to coordinate their civil protection policies and develop comprehensive and, where possible, integrated capacities to offer operational assistance and relief in the case of natural disasters.