

**The Tirana Declaration**  
**on the cooperation between**  
**Réseau Méditerranéen des Écoles d'Ingénieurs**  
**Black Sea Universities Network**  
**and**  
**Community of Mediterranean Universities**  
**for supporting the**  
***“Commitment to Sustainable Practices of Higher Education  
Institutions on the Occasion of the United Nations Conference  
on Sustainable Development 20-22 June 2012, Rio de  
Janeiro”***

Taking into account the results of the Forum on “Academic Cooperation for Peace & Welfare in the Mediterranean & Black Sea Region”, that has been organized on the premises of Polytechnic University of Tirana on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the participants representing the Réseau Méditerranéen des Écoles d'Ingénieurs, Black Sea Universities Network and Community of Mediterranean Universities, have analyzed the text of the document entitled “Commitment to Sustainable Practices of Higher Education Institutions on the Occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 20-22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro”, and have expressed their commitment for the text of the Declaration, supporting the proposed actions.

Réseau Méditerranéen des Écoles d'Ingénieurs, represented by Prof. Emeritus Leo Vincent, RMEI President, Black Sea Universities Network represented by Acad. Jorgaq Kacani, BSUN President and Community of Mediterranean Universities represented by Prof. Carlo Di Benedetto, having discussed the issues of mutual

cooperation, underlined the necessity of much closer cooperation in supporting the involvement of universities for the promotion of sustainable development and “green economy” by strengthening the international cooperation of universities, harmonizing the mutual levels on perspective fields of science, enhancing the mobility of students and professors and raising the role of the universities in the partnership with different other stakeholders.

The forms of cooperation between the signatory organizations will be developed on bases of equal and mutual benefit, facilitating the involvement the interested member universities on project bases.

Within this aim of the signatory parties have agreed on the following principles:

1. Initiation of actions for raising the role, quality and prestige of higher education in society within the framework of the charters of each signatory parties;
2. Facilitation of the establishment of regulatory contacts between the signatory parties and the member universities in the field of education, fundamental and applied research, university management and other activities based on mutual interest;
3. Development of a system of regularly exchange of experience and good practices within the framework of this declaration;
4. Exchange of information and collaboration on the organization of conferences, workshops, meetings, and other events;
5. Implementation of various joint projects based on separate agreement;
6. Promotion of mobility of students and professors among the member universities;
7. Cooperation under the frame of United Nations Academic Impact Initiative.

Prof. Emeritus Leo Vincent, President  
Réseau Méditerranéen des Écoles d'Ingénieurs, ,

Acad. Jorgaq Kacani, President  
Black Sea Universities Network

Prof. Carlo Di Benedetto, Coordinator of the Head Office  
Community of Mediterranean Universities

This Declaration has been signed in Tirana, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.



**Black Sea Universities Network** is the cooperation framework for Academic institutions from the Black Sea Region, encouraging inter-university cooperation and the generation of synergies. Since its establishment in 1998, BSUN has organized different events in order to facilitate debates, the exchange of good practices and the initiation of joint projects.

**Réseau Méditerranéen des Écoles d'Ingénieurs** has sought, since its foundation, to valorise the specific assets of the Mediterranean with the aim of enhancing its impact, by reinforcing the links between engineering schools, universities and other partners in the Mediterranean region.

Aiming to promote the civil and social development of peoples which, despite their wide geographical divergence, have always been united by thin but enduring threads of both geographical and ethical and religious nature, the **Community of Mediterranean Universities** was set up in 1983 and recognized in 1989 as NGO by UNESCO. Its aim is to generate a process of renewal and modernization which would help its adhering members to overcome many serious problems.

**UN Academic Impact** is a global initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution. The Academic Impact also requires each participating college or university to actively demonstrate support of at least one of those principles each year.