

RIGHTS, CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY

Declaration of Intent of CISP

Rights, Change, Sustainability

Declaration of Intent of CISP – International Committee for the Development of Peoples

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THIS DECLARATION OF INTENT, APPROVED DURING THE CISP CONFERENCE HELD IN ROME ON JANUARY 17-19, 2018, WAS THE JOIN EFFORT OF FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE: DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, MANAGERS, EXPERTS, AND CISP COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS OPERATING IN ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, SAHARAWI REFUGEE CAMPS, COLOMBIA, CUBA, ECUADOR, ETHIOPIA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, ITALY, KENYA, LEBANON, MALAWI, MALI, MAURITANIA, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGER, NIGERIA, PALESTINE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, SOMALIA, VENEZUELA

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Declaration of Intent **Rights, Change, Sustainability** was adopted by CISP during its Conference held in Rome, January 17-19, 2018, which brought together managers of Rome Headquarters and ISP Offices located in each country where the organization operates in. The text is the result of a consultation process which actively involved at least 500 people from across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. .

This declaration is based on the previous document “**For Rights and Against Poverty**” adopted by CISP in 2008, and is in line with the strategic priorities of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, officially approved by the United Nations in September 2015.

The 17 Objectives highlighted in the 2030 Agenda are reflected in CISP’s actions; hence our commitment is to emphasize, develop, and extend our design and strategic assets.

The fight against poverty and social exclusion, and the strengthening of inclusive and sustainable growth patterns, cannot make significant progress if we act by ourselves. The 2030 Agenda suggests the importance of strengthening alliances with public institutions, universities, national and international non-governmental organizations, and the corporate world, so as to increase employment, inclusion, and income opportunities, to foster the development of infrastructures, to extend access to safe and sustainable energy sources, and to reduce inequalities.

Our Declaration of Intent: “**Rights, Change, Sustainability**” endorses two key messages of the 2030 Agenda. One: the need to enhance sustainability in different directions (environment, society, economy, institutions), and the need to conceive the fight against poverty and social exclusion as two interdependent objectives, since in many countries we detect both a global economic growth and the impoverishment of large population layers.

The Declaration identifies 13 priority strategic and operational areas, within which projects, advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives will be positioned. Each of these strategic and operational areas is an attempt to put into effect one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives.

The areas identified are: To build bridges and promote dialogue and integration; Social justice and inclusion; Access to quality services; To guarantee equal opportunities; To ensure the right to humanitarian protection; To support vulnerable and marginalized groups; To develop innovation and to find new solutions; Gender equality; Migration and the rights of migrants; To promote peace; To support the development of inclusive policies; Environment and climate change; and To safeguard and promote cultural heritage.

B. INTRODUCTION: CISP'S MISSION AND THE AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

B.1 OUR MISSION

CISP was officially founded in Rome on January 10, 1983, and it has since operated in over 30 countries in all continents. Its mission, as recorded in its Statute, is the following: **“CISP intends to contribute, in the spirit of the international associations for solidarity and cooperation, to the achievement of concrete conditions for the development and self-determination of peoples, for the respect for human rights, for the fulfillment of the basic needs of the person, and to contrast social exclusion.”**

B.2 OUR ENDORSEMENT OF THE AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On September 25, 2015, in New York, the United Nations approved the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related 17 Objectives, articulated into 169 targets to be achieved before 2030 (the 2030 Agenda). This Declaration of Intent, called **“Rights, Change, Sustainability”**, integrally embraces the strategic indications of the 2030 Agenda and each one of its objectives and targets.

In Italy, CISP's commitment for the application of the 2030 Agenda also results in its involvement, through the “Link 2007” network, in the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, whose operational aim is to make the country translate the 17 Objectives into public policies and governmental actions consistent with them.

In the world at large, to adhere to the 2030 Agenda means for CISP to contribute to putting its objectives into effect, to promote a change of mentality, and to contribute to the identification of inclusive and sustainable public policies.

B.3 THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING THE NEW DECLARATION OF INTENT: FOCUSING ON PEOPLE

The Declaration of Intent was officially approved during the CISP Conference held in Rome (January 17-19, 2018). The draft of the Declaration is the result of a consultation process involving all the Offices located in the countries where CISP operates, in order to integrate the ambitions, ideas, and points of view of hundreds of operators, daily working to affirm denied rights, to ensure humanitarian protection, to support development routes, and to enable peace processes. CISP is all the people working for it- speaking, thinking and dreaming in at least 30 different languages, practicing different religions, and inspired by different cultures and worldviews. It is a small segment of humanity, united by shared values and objectives. This Declaration of Intent is the work of all of them.

Our daily commitment is to enact the purposes and the values presented in this declaration within our organization, in our work relationships, and in the practice of cooperation. CISP aspires to be a space where solidarity and collaboration prevail over competition and where each individual, regardless of his/her role, gender, sexual orientation, cultural identity or other factors, enjoys equal rights and opportunities.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE DECLARATION OF INTENT

C.1 FROM “FOR RIGHTS AND AGAINST POVERTY” TO “RIGHTS, CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY”

The Declaration of Intent defines shared strategic perspectives that characterize the actions of CISP in every country of the world. At the same time, CISP adapts its approach to every context, to ensure actions and interventions are consistent with the dynamics, needs, and priorities of the areas in which we operate.

In 2008, a similar collective exercise resulted in the Declaration “**For Rights and Against Poverty**”, which defined priority operational scopes, linking the fight against poverty with the assertion of denied rights. The key messages contained in that Declaration still inspire the work of CISP. Nevertheless, this new version has been created with the understanding that, since 2008, the international context has radically changed. In 2008 we were at the mid-term stage of the Agenda of the Millennium Development Goals. In September 2015, the international community approved the Agenda of the Sustainable Development Objectives.

In the light of this global change we observe the increase, world-wide and within each country, of inequality and social exclusion as social, political, and economic emergencies.

The Declaration of Intent transposes the basic indication of the 2030 Agenda; sustainability must be simultaneously articulated into different and interdependent directions: environmental, social, economic, and institutional. A development pattern that does not take into account the progressive depletion of natural resources and climate changes is just as unsustainable as economic growth producing wealth for a few people and leaving millions of others in poverty, or a system of international governance incapable of upholding international law, or condemning and humiliating communities which are shaken by armed conflicts.

C.2 SIX KEYWORDS

Six keywords help us to better classify the action of CISP and the meaning of this Declaration.

Accountability. CISP has always believed that it is imperative to account for results achieved through its actions, submitting its projects to strict assessments and publishing the related reports. At the same time, we have formulated concrete auditing instruments inspired by the parameters established by the main international agencies and collected in a **Management System** made up of three parts: the Administrative Manual, the Code of Behavior, and the Verification System.

Professional Development. We consider professional development and continued capacity building essential prerequisites to implement effective humanitarian and development actions, and we invest in training activities designed for our collaborators, our managers at the Headquarters in Rome, our colleagues and partners in countries where we operate.

Partnership. All CISP’s projects are implemented through consortia, reflecting a general approach: to reinforce alliances against poverty and in favor of the affirmation of rights everywhere. CISP works closely in partnership with local and international bodies on every project being implemented.

Ownership. The main characters of development projects are local subjects representing the community, institutional, associational, academic, and entrepreneurial fabric. In the praxis of CISP, when a project is identified, it is critically examined to determine its relevance, and alignment with the demands and needs of local subjects. Projects must have the capacity for local ownership, working in conjunction with the aspirations and strategies of local players.

Innovation and good practices. This is not just a simple slogan, but a binding choice. For CISP to identify and formulate a humanitarian or developmental project, there must be an analysis of the existing good practices, of the successes and failures recorded in the same sector and geographic area, and of the possible technical and social innovations to be introduced to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the action.

Resilience. Strengthening resilience means strengthening local communities' capacity to recover, adjust, and adapt in the face of humanitarian emergencies. It also entails fostering transformation processes in situations where the periodical occurrence of such emergencies is due to the fragility and unsustainability of productive, social, and institutional systems.

D. OUR COMMITMENTS

D.1 TO BUILD BRIDGES & PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND INTEGRATION

The 17th objective of the 2030 Agenda (**Partnership for the Objectives**), with its 19 targets, establishes the main prerequisites for the success of the Agenda as a whole. Among these: the mobilization of financial resources and the compliance of States with their undertakings, the promotion of partnerships among public, private, and civil society subjects, the promotion of exportations from poor countries, the development of systems and methodologies to collect and analyze accurate and reliable data, even starting from the strengthening of national statistical systems.

CISP is committed to putting into effect such intentions in every country where it operates, conceiving its own role as a bridge builder, a facilitator of routes to dialogue, and a promoter of strategic alliances.

CISP's alliances are inspired by two basic approaches: the respect and enhancement of differences and identities and the sharing of values and objectives. These objectives and values are: the choice to operate in support of the less protected groups, the respect for every culture and society, gender equality, accountability and transparency, professionalism and, in humanitarian contexts, the principles of the Code of Conduct of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the Red Crescent and of Non-Governmental Organizations.

CISP is committed to strengthening and extending alliances and partnerships with other international non-governmental organizations, public institutions, local authorities civil society organizations, companies, universities and research centres, diaspora associations, to increase the impact of the projects, to extend income and inclusion opportunities, to favour co-development routes, to create permanent collaboration and integration networks.

CISP conceives partnerships as strategic alliances with reference to which some priorities are identified, such as:

- To ensure the projects' sustainability and repeatability;
- To allow the integration of cultures, competences and knowledge, and to support the effectiveness of interventions and their accountability;
- To foster a link between "good practices" and "good policies" in favour of social inclusion, social cohesion, and reinforced pacification processes;
- To contribute to the achievement of two key objectives of the 2030 Agenda: Objective 7 (**Clean and accessible energy**) and Objective 9 (**Enterprises, innovation, and infrastructures**). We cannot think to achieve such objectives, indispensable in terms of growth and development, without the active

involvement of the entrepreneurial world, with a view to inclusive business that takes into account the rights and needs of communities, and respects local environments and cultures;

- To widen and develop alliances with the academic and scientific research worlds, facilitating their integration with the institutions responsible for planning, implementing, and assessing territorial development, and to promote the growth of a responsible ruling class, paying the right attention to the issues of the 2030 Agenda.

D.2 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSION

The sustainable development objectives 1 (**To end poverty**) and 10 (**To reduce inequalities within and among nations**) are not separable in CISP's practice. Extreme inequalities, associated with strong limitations to social mobility, thwart the fight against poverty by distorting growth mechanisms. Inequalities are harmful for the cohesion of societies, for an individual and community sense of belonging, self-confidence, and hope.

We therefore endorse the call of the first objective, stressing the need to combat every kind of poverty in every context. Even in Europe we record growing rates of poverty, often causing dramatic choices, such as the reduction of the consumption of essential goods, loss of hope for the future, or the recourse to loaning with usury. The fight against poverty knows no geographical borders for us.

Objective 10, with its 7 targets, provides for an increased income for the poorest, for the promotion of social and economic inclusion, and for the affirmation of equal opportunities for all.

CISP has taken on a strong commitment against inequalities and social injustice, for the safeguard and the promotion of fundamental rights, for the creation of opportunities, and the consolidation of social protection systems.

In order to respect the commitment, CISP:

- Privileges the most socially, economically, and geographically vulnerable and marginalized groups;
- Implements programmes aimed at the promotion of labour opportunities meant to reduce income inequalities;
- Promotes and actively supports public policies for the fight against poverty and inequalities, emphasizing participative approaches and the contributions of local communities to the definition of such policies;
- Supports the adoption of social protection policies, even through technical assistance actions;
- Promotes the fight against discriminations through the strengthening of association processes among endangered categories and groups, as well as through dialogue about public policies, so as to inspire legislative frameworks – and the related implementing tools – that may hinder every form of discrimination.

D.3 ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES

The possibility to access quality services for the poorer sectors of the population may significantly contribute to reduce inequalities. The quality of services is a crucial criterion, in line with the sustainable development objectives 3 (**Health and Well-being**), 4 (**Quality education**) and 6 (**Clean water and sanitation**). The 2030 Agenda overcomes the dichotomy between access to services and their quality. Both dimensions are indispensable and qualify individual and community rights. Bearing this in mind, CISP extends its own commitment to bring drinkable water where there is none, to improve access to water where this is lacking, to reinforce educational systems by making them actually inclusive and open to the needs of the most vulnerable groups, and to widen the coverage of health care systems, both preventive and therapeutic.

To assert such objectives in a concrete way, CISP is committed to:

- promoting the leading role of communities within the dialogue with public institutions in order to obtain the needed resources and investments, and the guarantee of qualitatively acceptable standards concerning services or their actuation wherever these are non-existent;
- ensuring the economic sustainability of services, a fundamental prerequisite for an effective access over time. Nonetheless, cost recovery mechanisms must not become barriers for the poorer populations and they must not hinder access for those who are deprived of financial resources;
- promoting access to quality services that may ensure the right to education for boys and girls youth, and adults alike; the right to health care and prevention programmes; the right to benefit from adequate sanitation; and to have drinkable water at one's disposal;
- promoting the updating of school and university curricula to bring them in line with the principles of global citizenship and of the 2030 Agenda, especially with target 4.7 (Education to sustainable development);
- promoting training and awareness-raising actions aimed at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Objective 12 (Promotion of responsible consumption and production) in order to increase the sustainability of services supplying common goods, such as water and energy;
- supporting the development of inclusive services, paying special attention to gender equality;
- eliminating the existing barriers to access – be they physical, cultural or psychological – for disabled minors and adults, and to combat social and cultural stigma and prejudices towards disabled persons;
- supporting national governments and local administrations in their work to conform their own legislative frameworks to international conventions, so as to favour the inclusion of physically and mentally disabled persons in vocational training processes and in the labour world.

D.4 TO GUARANTEE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

One of the priorities of CISP is to promote initiatives for economic inclusion, enhancing income opportunities and social and economic empowerment of the poorest and most marginalized populations, in line with the Sustainable Development Objective 8 (**Decent work and economic growth**).

To achieve this objective, a dialogue with policy makers is essential in order to define public policies capable of increasing productivity and acceptable working conditions, as well as diversifying the economic fabric. In many countries, counter-posing the emergence of informal economy and designing effective and reasonable tax systems are essential measures to ensuring that resources support public policies and inclusive services for the community.

To achieve this objective, CISP has the following priorities:

- To enhance the capacities of beneficiaries to play a leading role in local development to defeat poverty;
- To contribute to the elimination of limitations on freedom of choice, and to the development of technical and vocational capacities associated with poverty;
- To prioritize the needs of the poorest and most marginalized groups, accounting for different vulnerability factors related to each context;
- To promote local development by involving economic and entrepreneurial actors in ensuring income and inclusion for the poorest groups of the population;
- To promote a meeting-point between labour demand and offer, steering vocational training towards scopes that are consistent with local economic dynamics;
- To favour – especially in support of youth in conditions of disadvantage and social exclusion – the development of transversal competences (soft skills), which are essential for their integration in public and private labour contexts;

- To promote access to credit for people deprived of financial guarantees and warrants on property through the collaboration with local financial bodies and, where these are non-existent, facilitate their creation.

D.5 TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION

CISP adds its voice to those claiming that humanitarian protection must be assured for the innocent victims of armed conflicts, natural disasters, and every kind of health, food, and social emergency.

Even in contexts characterized by serious humanitarian emergencies, CISP's action is aimed at promoting a leading role for local subjects, at empowering existing community solidarity networks, at gradually fostering the passage towards rehabilitation and development. Rehabilitation, in our practice, means a reconstruction of the social fabric grounded on more solid and resilient bases, as compared with pre-crisis conditions. For example, in the event of areas cyclically affected by food crises subsequent to draughts, this approach may translate into an effort to promote the diversification of income and subsistence sources, thus reducing the dependence from rain-fed agriculture. In areas characterized by conflicts concerning access to productive resources, rehabilitation also means to promote initiatives aiming at solving the causes of such conflicts, and to provide public institutions with the capacity to actuate mediation mechanisms among mutually hostile groups.

Starting from these considerations, CISP:

- Applies the principle of *do not harm*, by ensuring that – in situations of conflict – aid does not engender tensions and risks for the population, guaranteeing equal opportunities for accessing essential services to mutually hostile communities and groups, and preventing the risk of distortions in the way such aid is used;
- Integrally takes on the nine commitments codified in the *Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability* adopted by humanitarian organizations in Copenhagen¹ in 2014;
- Applies humanitarian interventions indicators that are reliable, internationally codified, and suited to the different national contexts, such as those formalized in the project SPHERE, and in compliance with the adoption of the 9 commitments related to the *Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability*;
- Intends to ensure assistance and direct services to refugee populations, migrants, displaced persons, and to the hosting communities in destination and transit countries;
- Contributes to the prevention of “dependence from outside syndrome” among the beneficiaries of humanitarian aid, both favouring their leading role in the management of such aid and promoting a progressive shift towards rehabilitation and consolidation of the social, institutional, and economic fabric in the areas affected by humanitarian emergencies.

D.6 SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

None of the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives can be upheld without an analysis of the factors that generate social exclusion and vulnerability in every context.

In many countries, increased inequalities and exclusion correspond to a social geography characterized by the proximity of developed areas and areas where people live in socioeconomic conditions of great poverty and marginalization. In such contexts CISP's projects prioritize attention to the poorest population sectors and to underserved areas, promoting rights and inclusion in development processes.

Long-term strategies to reduce vulnerabilities must have the goal of strengthening community resilience, by reinforcing local capabilities to prevent and manage humanitarian crises, and to trigger changes capable of reducing the vulnerability to external shocks. This is a clear-cut strategic choice, summarized in target 5 of the Sustainable Development Objective 1 (**Before 2030, to build the resilience of the poor and of those**

in vulnerable situations, and to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to extreme events linked with the climate and other shocks and economic, social, and environmental disasters).

CISP's projects, aiming at strengthening community resilience, at combating social exclusion and at reducing vulnerabilities, are in compliance with the Sustainable Development Objective 2 (**To defeat hunger**). The target 2.1 (**Access to secure and sufficient food throughout the year**) identifies vulnerability as one of the main factors that determine undernourishment and malnutrition.

Vulnerable groups and individuals are not condemned to stay in this situation forever, and their skills and resources must be identified and enhanced: this is the basic prerequisite of CISP's commitment for economic, social and institutional empowerment.

To put into effect our commitment to foster social inclusion for under protected groups and to counter vulnerabilities, CISP establishes the following priorities:

- To promote the empowerment of under protected groups, strengthening their capacity to uphold their own rights and extending their access to services and resources;
- To assert denied rights, and to defend the integrity and dignity of persons, groups, and communities through prevention and protection actions;
- To implement interventions that are consistent with a "*Rights-Based*" approach, by tackling the deeper causes of poverty and exclusion;
- To enhance the capability of civil society organizations to represent the interests of under-protected sectors of the population;
- To empower public service providers in becoming more efficient and effective;
- To concretely adopt a gender perspective in each project, being aware that gender inequalities are factors of exclusion and vulnerability.

D.7 TO DEVELOP INNOVATION AND TO FIND NEW SOLUTIONS

Essential prerequisites for updating CISP's methodologies for intervention, and for introducing new solutions to existing problems are: the analysis of lessons learned, integrating information from the scientific and research world, and listening closely to the claims and the ideas of local communities. The target 9.b of the 2030 Agenda (**To support the development of domestic technology, research and innovation in developing countries**) is translated into the search for effective technologies, suitable for local contexts, to increase the availability of essential goods such as water, energy, and agricultural inputs.

The 2030 Agenda proposes objectives that are integrated and interdependent. To achieve them will require innovation and contextualization, taking into account technical changes, the absorption capacity of new technologies, and cultural, social, economic and environmental characteristics. For instance, the attainment of the Sustainable Development Objective 2 (**To defeat hunger**) requires, in territories cyclically affected by draughts, both a diversification of income and subsistence sources, as well as a search for crop varieties resistant to draught, which may result in greater food security for local communities.

With reference to the above-mentioned priorities, CISP takes on some clear-cut commitments, among which:

- To develop alliances and collaborations with applied research centres to boost the effectiveness of projects, providing them with scientific grounds and constantly updated techniques;
- To promote the exchange of methodologies and operational approaches with all other actors operating within the aid and development sector, public institutions, universities, and private companies;

- To prioritize actions aimed at preventing and handling natural disasters, by actuating territorial collaborations to train the personnel of the responsible public bodies, organizing community mobilization and participating in international networks for the exchange of good practices;
- To promote the permanent training of operators;
- To promote the networking of territories of different continents, both within the framework of the “South-South” cooperation and encouraging exchange among European and partner country territorial areas, so as to increase the possibility to identify common solutions to common problems;
- To favour the development and innovation of small and medium enterprises by supporting small-scale entrepreneurs through technical assistance and financial services suited to their needs.

D.8 GENDER EQUALITY

One of CISP’s fundamental strategic commitments is to contribute to the progress of the Sustainable Development Objective 5 (**Gender equality**). All 9 targets of Objective 5 qualify CISP’s action, translating into projects implemented in partnership with local communities, civil society organizations, and women’s associations. Any commitment against poverty and for social inclusion will turn out to be abstract if it does not take into account actual gender inequalities, and the barriers to accessing health care, education,, credit, and productive resources that women of all ages encounter.

If, on the one hand, a concrete gender perspective must be included in every strategy aimed at achieving each one of the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives, the presence of a specific objective for gender equality is one of the most qualifying and important aspects of the 2030 Agenda. In line with target 5.1, CISP endeavours **to put an end to every form of discrimination towards all women and girls in every part of the world**, and takes on the following strategic and operational priorities:

- To prevent, hinder, and eliminate every form of gender-based violence;
- To fight and eliminate all harmful practices, such as forced marriages for young girls and female genital mutilation, through community mobilization and awareness-raising activities;
- To support the full and effective participation of women in public life and in the management of essential services for local communities;
- To facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health and to reproductive rights;
- To ensure equal rights to accessing economic resources and income for women, by defining approaches and methodologies consistent with their needs, and founding cooperatives and female savings and credit groups;
- To promote self-awareness and empowerment among women;
- To inspire and suggest policies and regulations that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

D.9 MIGRATIONS AND THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

The 2030 Agenda includes different references to migrations, among which: target 4.b (**To favour the mobility of students to access quality education**), target 5.2 (**To fight sexual and commercial trafficking**), target 8.7 (**To fight against human trafficking**), target 8.8 (**To affirm the rights of migrant workers**), target 10.7 (**To facilitate safe migration**), target 10.c (**To reduce the costs of remittance transfers**), target 16.2 (**To fight against violence and children trafficking**), target 17.18 (**To develop collection systems of national statistical data, also concerning migrations.**) Such references become strategic options, integrally adopted in this Declaration of Intent.

The search for decent living conditions and better opportunities in one’s own country or in other countries of the world is an inalienable right of every human being. For those who are fleeing from violence, war, and

authoritarian regimes, the possibility to ask for refuge and to find it in other countries is a right enshrined in international law and codified by the “Geneva Conventions.”

For CISP, issues concerning the rights and the protection of migrants are crucial: the right to dignity and safety in transit areas, the right to assistance and protection in destination countries, and the right to correct information concerning the risks of irregular migration. Clear legislative frameworks and information regarding the economic contexts of destination countries may allow people to make thoughtful choices and decisions.

The interventions of the international community must contribute to enhance the positive impact of migrations and to eliminate their human and social costs, by extending regular mobility channels, which may contribute to reducing humanitarian tragedies often associated with irregular fluxes.

On the basis of such prerequisites, CISP is committed to:

- Strengthening the collaboration among civil society actors in order to manage migratory fluxes through the construction and the consolidation of non-governmental organization networks and other subjects in the countries of origin, destination, and transit;
- Raising public awareness about the reality of migration to counter racist phenomena, xenophobia, and social exclusion to create and promote cultural models oriented towards reception and hospitality; to fight policies and phenomena of closure and fear; to promote long-lasting solutions concerning integration; and to protect the most vulnerable groups-, such as women and children, from exploitation and slavery;
- Enhancing accurate information at the disposal of potential migrants to ensure dignity and awareness for migratory efforts, as well as to prevent risky migrations;
- Promoting labour and income opportunities in the countries of origin, so as to prevent migratory routes that appear as escapes from poverty and marginalization;
- Promoting activities for voluntary repatriation and positive socioeconomic reintegration through education, vocational training, and creation of income-generating activities;
- Enhancing the role of diasporas as actors in development processes, and for the reduction of poverty in the communities of origin;
- Promoting productive investments in the countries of origin through remittances of migrants;
- Ensuring the participation of migrants who have acquired high professional profiles in the development strategies of their countries;
- Fighting against human trafficking, paying special attention to women and minors; and to support family and community inclusion processes for unaccompanied minors, orphans and children deprived of protection networks.

D.10 TO PROMOTE PEACE

The third target of the Development Objective 16 (**Peace, justice and solid institutions**) refers to the affirmation of national and international rule of law and equal access to justice for all. Many humanitarian projects are implemented in contexts where both individual and collective rights are denied. In these cases, the structural solution to crises can only be found in the instruments of politics and international law. Therefore, CISP is engaged in advocacy and awareness raising to encourage international institutions to take on an effective and decisive role in support of international law and justice.

Promoting peace also means fostering dialogue between communities and institutions, and removing all hindrances to accessing resources – land, water, financial resources, basic services – which engender conflicts and extreme competitions among groups and communities.

To put into effect such aspirations and objectives, CISP is committed to:

- Favouring integration between public policies and projects to determine a positive impact to prevent and handle conflicts;
- Supporting territorial development processes that may ensure access to resources for all communities and social, linguistic, and cultural groups, thus preventing extreme competition to access such resources;
- Supporting public institutions in the actuation of community mechanisms to prevent and positively handle conflicts in the territories they rule over;
- Promoting advocacy actions that induce international institutions to play an incisive role in favour of peace and international law.

D.11 TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE POLICIES

In line with targets 16.6 (**To develop efficient, responsible and transparent institutions**) and target 16.7 (**To ensure a reactive, inclusive, participative decision-making that may be representative at all levels**), CISP focuses its action on ensuring responsiveness to people's actual needs and supporting public policies capable, over time, of ensuring the fulfilment of those needs.

Consistently with this aim, CISP is committed to:

- Ensuring consistency between projects and public policies to fight against poverty;
- Supporting territorial and governmental authorities so that they may develop effective, efficient, and inclusive public policies, through the formulation of systems to collect and examine socio-demographic data related to the territories administered and the exchange of experiences with other countries;
- Ensuring and develop institutional managerial and operational reliability, monitoring and evaluation of interventions and inter-institutional collaboration;
- Fully applying the principle of accountability towards donors, governments, beneficiary communities and all subjects involved in the projects implemented;
- Favouring shared responsibility among public institutions and local communities in territorial development projects.

D.12 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This Declaration of Intent integrally takes on the priorities referenced in the 2030 Agenda by the Sustainable Development Objectives 13 (**Fight against climate change**), 14 (**Life underwater**) and 15 (**Life on earth**). The protection of the environment and the natural resources is an indispensable requisite to ensuring sustainable economic development and social inclusion, to preventing natural disasters, humanitarian crises and forced migrations, and to allowing the survival of vulnerable communities, such as agricultural and pastoral ones. By establishing alliances between civil society actors and the academic world, and between public and private institutions, CISP is committed to implementing advocacy and awareness-raising activities to ensure all international conventions be ratified and respected, especially those aimed at promoting sustainable development, cutting carbon dioxide emissions, and protecting the terrestrial and marine natural environment.

With reference to the Sustainable Development Objective 13, CISP takes on, among others, the following operational priorities:

- Improving the capabilities of institutions concerning mitigation, adjustment, reduction of impacts, and early warning;
- Increasing the capacity for planning and territorial management, and enhancing operational instruments for the forecasting, prevention, and handling of natural disasters.

With reference to the Sustainable Development Objective 14, CISP is committed to:

- Contributing to the protection and management of marine and coastal ecosystems and their biodiversity;
- Ensuring sustainable access to marine resources and markets for small-scale fishermen;
- Promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible tourism, with the purpose of extending income opportunities, and inclusion of communities living in protected coastal areas.

Finally, with reference to the Sustainable Development Objective 15, CISP's projects are based on the following operational priorities:

- To contribute to the protection and handling of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity in a sustainable manner;
- To promote territorial development plans inspired by sustainable management of all kind of forests, putting an end to deforestation, and promoting the recovery of forest resources;
- To contribute to the spread of new technologies suitable for local contexts for the production of energy with a low environmental impact;
- To promote the development of sustainable tourism, by enhancing the value of parks and protected areas, and to extend income and inclusion opportunities for local communities;
- To promote alliances and partnerships among territories belonging to different countries that have similar environmental characteristics, and to facilitate the development of protected natural and environmental resources.

D.13 TO SAFEGUARD AND PROMOTE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Safeguarding and protecting the cultural heritage of a community is essential to building collective identity, inclusion, and social cohesion. Moreover, culture is an engine of community development processes: it fosters the growth of active and democratic citizenship, influences the consolidation of intra-community relations based on trust, and enhances the wealth of diversities. Protecting cultural heritage is also an essential prerequisite for the achievement of target 8.9 (**Before 2030, to formulate and apply policies aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, which may create more jobs and promote local culture and products**). In the light of such motivations, CISP is committed to:

- Taking on the key strategic objectives of environmental protection and the safeguarding of the artistic and cultural heritage;
- Increasing opportunities for socioeconomic development and income associated with the promotion of the cultural heritage;
- Supporting internationally adopted measures aimed at preserving cultural and artistic heritage;
- Enhancing the value of artistic and cultural expressions that represent different identities existing in different territories;
- Facilitating exchange and interaction among cultural and artistic entities in different territories and countries, so as to reinforce dialogue and integration;
- Promoting sustainable tourism policies and practices through the promotion of cultural heritage.

ANNEXES

1. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

Endorsed by CISP on April 7, 1997

CISP applies a Code of Conduct consistent with its strategic and methodological guidelines when formulating and implementing its humanitarian, rehabilitation or development cooperation projects. The Code of Conduct enhances the work of the managerial staff and of all those who, in Italy and abroad, identify, implement and monitor the projects.

1. Projects must be designed to meet the real needs of the people and be defined in accordance with the economic, social, and cultural characteristics of the different contexts. This means always ensuring that projects are implemented in respect of local cultures.
2. Cooperation intends to enhance local technical, professional and material resources. This means, for example, that the functions assigned to expatriate personnel must not mortify or marginalize the role and contributions of local personnel, which, on the contrary, must be promoted and supported. Within this context, the promotion of South-South regional cooperation actions is crucial.
3. Activities undertaken in third countries tend to strengthen, improve and, if necessary, modify national development plans, that, in any case, must be taken into account when cooperation activities are planned. As a matter of fact, cooperation cannot substitute or replace the role of local planning authorities and agencies. On the contrary, only by acting in total respect for the role of these authorities and by a continuous dialogue with them, cooperation can have the authority and the status required to negotiate, whenever necessary, the introduction of corrective measures into local policies and plans.
4. In order to guarantee a high effectiveness of the projects implemented, attention must be paid to their identification, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Beneficiaries must be involved in the different phases of such activities and be informed on their results.
5. Professionalism is a fundamental ethical principle which characterizes the relationship existing between CISP, the countries and the communities with which it works. It is also a precondition for the establishment of sound and effective relationships based on mutual respect and cooperation.
6. Always in respect of the principle of non-interference in the political and religious life of third countries, CISP considers it appropriate the promotion of the role played by institutions and organizations, which actually contribute to development and democratisation processes, also through the implementation of specific and operational collaborations. In this regard, CISP gives particular importance to the enhancement of the role of the associations of women, small producers and other marginal individuals and groups (refugees, indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, etc.).
7. In order to guarantee transparency, governments, partners and local communities must all be fully informed on funding sources that make it possible the implementation of projects.
8. Projects must be managed in order to ensure economic, social and institutional sustainability and guarantee long-term benefits. At the same time, financial resources must be used appropriately in order to guarantee the achievement of benefits for local populations.
9. Coordination between international cooperation agencies and organizations and the institutions in the recipient countries is an important means of ensuring greater effectiveness to the work and the policies implemented. At this regard, CISP is willing at all times to disseminate information on its activities.
10. With regard to humanitarian activities aimed at overcoming complex emergency situations, CISP acts in accordance with the Code of Conduct elaborated by the International Committee of the Red Cross which affirms, among others, the following principles: the universal right to humanitarian assistance without any restriction due to ideology, religion, race, sex or other considerations; the political and operational independence while implementing relief actions in order to avoid any possible support of one of the opposing factions, especially in situations of conflict; respect for the rights of the individual, as defined in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

2. THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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