

CHARTER

Cordoba Forum

A) PREAMBLE

People across the globe suffer from displacement, injustice, violence and discrimination caused by the belief within communities that “different” groups are incompatible and cannot live peacefully with one another. Faced with the seeds of suspicion, fear and prejudice throughout the world, the Cordoba Forum sees the urgent need to strengthen diverse actors working towards dialogue, rapprochement and mutual understanding, in short towards convivence.

B) NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Cordoba Forum is an initiative of the Paradigma Cordoba Foundation, which registered the Forum’s name and label under Spanish law on 24th March 2015 with the subtitle “World Convivence Forum”. The Forum is a not-for-profit network and gathering of organizations and individuals which meet annually in Cordoba on May 16th on the occasion of the United Nations International Day of Living Together in Peace. The present Charter has been adopted by the Organizing and Fundraising Committee of the Cordoba Forum (OFC-see below) at its London meeting on October 10th 2018 and is one of the outcomes of a Founding Meeting of the Cordoba Forum by 21 entities (mostly NGOs) that met in Cordoba at the invitation of the Paradigma Cordoba Foundation, the Nicolas Puech Foundation (Geneva) and the Municipality of Cordoba on 10th – 11th April 2018.

C) VISION

The Forum’s vision is a world of convivence in which diverse communities live together in peace, respecting one another’s differences. The Forum draws inspiration from the historic city of Cordoba where it convenes, in which diverse cultures and three world religions thrived side-by-side successfully enough during the al-Andalus for this era to later be mythicized as a beacon of coexistence.

D) MISSION

The Forum aims at contributing to a world of greater convivence, and to more effective work on the part of organizations and individuals striving to achieve this goal.

The Forum celebrates, encourages and supports convivence and the “spirit of Cordoba” in all regions of the world. It seeks to gather diverse actors working towards dialogue, rapprochement and mutual understanding into a “federation of consciences” through an annual gathering and an Award scheme, in order to learn from one another’s experiences;

to inspire and enhance initiatives and networks; and to draw attention to –and celebrate– the United Nations International Day of Living Together in Peace.

E) METHODOLOGY

The Forum comprises, and carries out its mission through:

- 1) One three-day, conference-style meeting per year, held over the 16th May in Cordoba, Spain, on the occasion of the UN International Day of Living Together in Peace. It will be held in three languages (French, English, and Spanish) and will involve participants representing civil society, non-governmental, religious and other organizations fostering convivence, each in its own way. It shall:
 - (a) Create an environment for free and frank exchange according to the principles set out in Annex 3;
 - (b) Enable the sharing and gathering of best practices, success stories and lessons learned to inspire and inform the work of participants;
 - (c) Showcase youth innovation and endeavour through the participation of young participants (under 30) and the presentation of their selected projects;
 - (d) Foster encounters and the development of networks and partnerships between different sectors, particularly between young and more experienced participants;
 - (e) Create the opportunity to diversify and strengthen networks of actors in all regions of the world.
- 2) An Award scheme, consisting of grants offered annually to youth projects (of which the project manager must be under 30) in recognition of activities showing outstanding initiative, innovation or impact in creating convivence.
- 3) An Organizing and Fundraising Committee (OFC), created by the Founding Members which meets at intervals. It shall:
 - (a) Take and communicate decisions concerning the Forum on behalf of all Members;
 - (b) Organize and review the Forum’s annual activities;
 - (c) Fundraise for the Forum’s annual activities;
 - (d) Advocate on behalf of the Forum for dialogue, collaboration, education and other activities contributing to convivence.

F) RESOURCES

The Forum presides over the following resources:

- 1) A web page
- 2) Secretariats for the Forum and the OFC
- 3) Material resources raised through fundraising activity by the OFC
- 4) Contributions in kind made by collaborating organizations and associations

G) MEMBERS OF THE FORUM

Members are natural persons representing organizations engaged in activities that further convivence. They are divided into:

- 1) Chairperson of the OFC: convener of the Forum and intermediate meetings;
- 2) Organizing and Fundraising Committee (OFC): original members designated by the Founding Members or co-opted by the OFC itself for new members to make decisions, raise funds for, and organize the Forum each year;
- 3) Secretariat to the Forum: responsible for coordination and logistical assistance. The position is compensated out of Forum resources and hosted by the Paradigma Cordoba Foundation;
- 4) Secretariat of the OFC: run by one of the members of the OFC on a voluntary basis, in coordination with the Secretariat of the Forum and under the guidance of the Chairperson of the OFC;
- 5) Founding Members: those present at the launch of the Forum in April 2018 (listed in Annex 1);
- 6) Donors: individuals or entities which contribute resources to the Forum and which are acknowledged accordingly in Forum materials and branding;
- 7) Participants: those who are invited to, and attend the Forum on one or more occasions.

H) ACQUISITION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Forum Members will endeavour to appropriately fill and maintain the following roles in order to execute the Forum's mission efficiently:

- 1) The Chairperson of the OFC is nominated by a Founding Member or a Member of the OFC and is approved by consensus of the OFC (no objections when the list of participants is circulated for approval). He or she may relinquish his or her position of his or her own volition, or upon the request of two thirds of the members of the OFC and be replaced by a person designated by consensus by the OFC.

- 2) Original Members of the OFC have been appointed by the participants to the Founding Meeting. New members may be co-opted by the OFC by consensus. Members may relinquish their position at their own volition, or upon the request of two thirds of the members of the OFC. Any OFC member who does not participate in three consecutive OFC meetings will be considered as having resigned.
- 3) The Secretariat of the Forum is selected by Paradigma Cordoba Foundation and takes up or relinquishes its responsibilities in accordance with the Foundation's internal processes.
- 4) The Secretariat of the OFC is appointed by the President of the OFC with the agreement of the OFC member which will run the Secretariat. The OFC member hosting the Secretariat may relinquish the responsibility at their own volition, giving reasonable notice, or upon the request of two thirds of the members of the OFC.
- 5) Founding Members are those organizations represented at the launch of the Forum on 10-11 April 2018 (listed in Annex 1). Organizations may cease to be considered active Founding Members if they notify the President of their wish to withdraw from the role, or if two thirds of the Founding Members request, and the Chairperson of the OFC agrees, to remove them from Forum decision-making processes.
- 6) Donors may be applied to, or their offers accepted, contingent upon approval by consensus of the OFC. Agreements determining the terms of collaboration, branding and acknowledgements will be made on an individual basis between the Donor and the members of the OFC delegated to manage fundraising. Collaboration agreements are to be signed by the Chairperson of the OFC. Donors may withdraw from the role according to the agreements made with the OFC.
- 7) Participants to the Forum are persons either selected as individuals or nominated as representatives of chosen organizations, on the basis of their good work or potential in the field of convivence, encouraging social solidarity and coexistence. A balance of gender, age, culture, religious and geographic representation is to be striven for.
 - (a) Participants may be nominated and invited by the OFC at the suggestion of Founding Members of the Forum or on the initiative of the OFC, and the names approved via consensus of the OFC.
 - (b) Should an organization or individual request an invitation to the Forum, their name must be approved by consensus of the OFC.
 - (c) Participants can be removed from the list if two thirds of OFC Members support their removal prior to invitations being sent out. The Chairperson may veto the inclusion of an organization or individual, submitting his or her reasons to the OFC.

I) COMMUNICATION AND DECISION-MAKING

For the maintenance of an informed and concordant Forum Membership, Members shall observe that:

- 1) The working language of the OFC shall be English, and the OFC has the right to request that communications are made amongst its members in that language if necessary. The working languages of the Forum are Spanish, English and French.
- 2) The Chairperson of the OFC may nominate the Secretariat, and other roles and responsibilities connected to the Forum, contingent on OFC approval by consensus. No one is compelled to accept their nomination and may relinquish the position at any time, having fulfilled any duties to which they had formally committed in that position.
- 3) Meetings of the OFC shall be recorded and the minutes distributed to the OFC Members and other interested parties named by the Chairperson.
- 4) Major documents for the Forum and any associated activities (including but not limited to concept notes, invitations, lists of participants, agendas, budgets) shall be submitted with time for review and comment to OFC Members. Amendments will be submitted to the OFC and will be adopted or dismissed by consensus among OFC Members.
- 5) Proposed partnerships with organizations external to the Forum must be communicated to OFC with time for comment. Any objections will be submitted to the OFC and will be adopted or dismissed by consensus among OFC Members.
- 6) Changes to the Charter shall be submitted to the OFC with time for review and comment. Amendments will be submitted to the OFC, which may produce more drafts of the Charter until a version can be adopted by consensus both by the OFC.

J) ANNEXES

- Annex 1. Founding Members of the Forum
- Annex 2. Introduction to the Cordoba Forum
- Annex 3. Rules of Engagement in Dialogue.