

Dr. Nabil AlSharif Opening speech

- Today we are holding the Heads of Network Meeting for 2020, we owe it to modern technology that we are **still able** to open this HoNs Meeting today despite the challenges posed by **COVID19** and which, I believe, have impacted each and everyone of us and our work to promote Intercultural Dialogue.
- The **Network of Networks** is the very basis of the ALF Foundation's existence. Following the 15th anniversary of its creation, the ALF Network is the constituent element of the Foundation, not only because it is our Statutory obligation, but also because it is still remaining a source of inspiration from the grass roots level to the Foundation.
- In the past the ALF Network faced many challenges, and even for the past year, the pandemic did not allow us to meet in person with our grass roots level through our activities and programmes. We had to readopt our approach in the virtual world in order to promote all our Intercultural work.
- The **Strategic documents**, namely the **Network Guidelines** and the **Network Strategy** can be a strong tool for efficient operation and contribute to effective strategies for Members engagement. The Secretariat is providing today an **opportunity for a better future** for the Network of Networks.
The **Network Guidelines** act as a framework to guide the Secretariat, the Heads of Network Institutions and Member organisations in carrying their respective roles towards achieving a sustainable and effective coordination in the effort of **the promotion of Intercultural Dialogue** in the **Euro-Med region**.
The **Network Strategy**, recalling the ALF Network principles, strengths, opportunities, threats and weaknesses, as well as the Networks mission, vision, objectives and the plan of action for the future of the ALF Network of Networks.
Acting as a Strategic Orientation of the ALF Network by building up on the efficient utilization of the joint efforts of the Network Members, Heads of

Networks and Secretariat in engaging through diverse actions for the development of the ALF Network.

- I am happy to inform you about that the position of the **Outreach Manager** was **announced** a few days ago.
- This year we are **celebrating 25 years** since the signature of **the Barcelona Declaration**, the **ALF contributed** with the engagement and participation of the civil society in the last 15 years. We recently published the **ALF Review** with an overview of all our Activities since the inception of the Foundation.
- I **welcome** you all and wish **success to YOUR meeting!**