Conclusions

1. The Arab Spring, with its mistakes and successes, its opportunities and threats offers a favorable or at least suitable scenario for the work of development organizations.

2. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should include good governance as one of the objectives of sustainable development and devote resources to achieve it, particularly in the Middle East.

3. Spain must rethink and increase the importance of the Middle East. As a geographical area, Spain is most likely to be partner and recipient of official development assistance due to the geographic, cultural and economic proximity between the two, as well as to the particular needs of the moment.

4. While addressing the recommendations and priorities of the major actors and international donors, civil society organizations should continue to advocate the principles they have identified as key to constitute their mission and values.

5. NGOs should seek synergies and develop networks to set up strategies consistent with their principles and priorities.

6. In the context of the Arab Spring, youth and education (in its broadest sense) are particularly relevant as a target group and as a sector of intervention, respectively. Both large and small donors must prioritize these components in their selection criteria.
7. The existence, presence and visibility of minorities in the Middle East as well as the full respect for their individual and community rights must be preserved, promoted and in some cases restored, not only to ensure good governance in societies and states, but also to protect the identity of the Middle East.

8. The current situation offers a new opportunity, which might be the last in a long time to advance the resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The United Nations and the U.S. should support the legal and strategic framework.

9. The interventions of international cooperation for development should prioritize the achievements in access and respect for human rights without being deceived by purely economic or materialistic indicators that can hide and, in fact, often hide human rights violations.

10. To maximize the effectiveness of the interventions of international development cooperation, many national and international actors should be encouraged to participate. It is especially important to include local public institutions, large international agencies, local or foreign private sector, civil society and also the target group it seeks to influence.