# Notes 13-14 November 2013

The event was co-organized by CADTM and Olga Zrihen (Belgian senator) and Marie-Christine Vergiat (Member of European Parliament). Konstantinos Todoulos was present there from Eurodad on the meeting of 13th November and Bodo Ellmers was present there on the strategy meeting as well. There were contributions by EU MPs and a Tunisian MP as well as from Gina Ekholt (SLUG) and Xavier Sol (Counterbalance) on the panels.

* The seminar hosted a variety of voices of the debt and audit movements from Maghreb and Mashreq countries: Egypt, Tunisia and among the audience there were contributions from Morocco and Mali.
* Speakers from made points one progress and setbacks to the efforts to audit debt by the fallen regimes of Mubarak in Egypt and Ben Ali in Tunisia as well as initiatives in Europe to support this process and raise awareness for these issues.
* The different sessions highlighted the importance of both the movements on the ground of these countries and the effort from developed countries to audit and facilitate the cancellation of debt from EU and multilateral institution like WB and IMF.

## 12th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE CADTM ON THE DEBT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## Egypt-Tunisia, what about the debt two years after the EU commitments?

Speakers talked about:

* Responsibilities and the initiatives that should be taken by EU countries and European institutions to facilitate the cancellation of dictator debt and the protection of human rights in MENA countries. EU MPs and CSOs with help from Arab Spring countries should take action on that. The issue should also be raised with relevant creditor clubs such as the Paris club.
* The Arab revolutions in MENA countries had and should continue to have high in their agendas during the transition process the cancellation of debt taken up by oppressive regimes.
* Steps should be taken to limit the creation new debt and the impositions of harmful conditions from bilateral loans (e.g. from Gulf states) and from multilateral institutions such as EIB, EBRD, IMF. These banks are still focusing on development projects, realized by Public-Private Partnership (PPPs) and continue harmful austerity and liberalisation processes.

## 2) Debt audits

The meeting focused on the spoke on the experience and the outcome of conducting audits on debtor countries of the MENA region (mainly Tunisia, Egypt) but also from creditor countries, which was pioneered by Norway. The efforts should incorporate the best elements of examples such as Ecuador and Norway on how to conduct the audits in the efforts to cancel the debt in a socially inclusive way and expanding on current successes.

# Arab debt crisis strategy meeting 13 November 18, 2013

Action points (translated from Eurodad from French, provided by CADTM)

**Networking**

* Collect existing information
* Plan protests , actions that are carried out in different countries
* Share all information on lists
* Exchange of information , creation of a database,
* Use ICAN
* Translate different documents in different languages
* Work more on networking to hear in our respective countries new voices.
* CADTM Africa will hold a “open university” on spring in March and April 2014 could be a joint work
* See if we can extend the work in Algeria and the two shores of the Mediterranean

**Inquiry**

* Follow up with the commitments of creditors resolutions of the European Parliament, take the call of the European Parliament : MPs by calling our respective countries, some of whom became ministers. Belgium : resume agreement with the government ...
* Use social networks
* Ask parliamentary questions
* Think about the elections (June in Belgium and Euro Parliament )
* Getting together to make open letters, letters of inquiry
* Make a schedule / timetable moments ( IMF visit , budgeting ,
* Integrate debt in the memorandum NCCD
* Have a conference of the various parties (creditors, debtor countries) - neutral arbitration ( e.g. Grenada )

**Sensitisation**

* Proposal for People's Court on the debt - be careful to learn from what has already been done. Focus first on a country?
* Popularise based on existing reports examples of illegitimate debts ( can also be used to challenge ) make a brochure, a common occurrence ?
* invite key members of the Norwegian audit in our country

**Research :**

* Continue research including EBRD, EIB (work with Bankwatch , Counter Balance) . Use of specific projects to advance our demands.
* Push for the claims to be integrated into the audit process citizens of European countries.
* Refine the definition of illegitimate debt
* Clearly define the objectives set up a citizens' audit (official, in Global South, North etc.)
* Assist in the search for information on the claims of European countries and compare them to other budget or expenses as bank bailouts
* Conduct joint work CADTM NCCD and others? Work on Belgian debt towards developing countries and integrate it into the audit work of the Belgian debt.

**Financial Assistance**

* Collect financial support to conduct activities