

# Tunisian Youth Pact

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

We the young people of Tunisia, boys and girls, from all regions of the country and abroad, from all social categories, from all economic, social and cultural fields of activity, and from political parties, national organizations, associations and all civil society components,

In line with the initiative launched by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the glorious Change, proclaiming 2008 the year of comprehensive Dialogue with Youth; a national dialogue open for all, confirming the constant principles and values that underlie our collective awareness and that constitute, at the same time, our premise for the assertion of our national and civilizational existence, and our reference in our behavior and daily life; a dialogue that highlights the common capital of the young generations of Tunisians, and traces the prospects of the future in light of our aspirations and national orientations; a dialogue through which we renew our commitment to contribute effectively to building Tunisia and ensuring a better future for it;

Having completed the process of this dialogue that has covered all regions of the country and the various youth spaces available, using all written, audio-visual, electronic and SMS means of communication;

Meeting in a large national youth gathering in the “City of Sciences”, Tunis, on October 11, 2008;

Consider the motto of our dialogue “Tunisia First” as the foundation for our awareness of the constant principles and values, and of the national references :

“Tunisia First” as a token of faithfulness to the country, to our history, and to our people’s glories that are deep-rooted in history;

“Tunisia First” as a token of love for this glorious land, of faithfulness to the memory of its martyrs, and of recognition to its prominent figures and great leaders and reformers whose memory is immortalized by history;

“Tunisia First” as a token of commitment to defend its banner which remains above all banners, and to elevate its status among the world’s nations, so that it remains glorious and invulnerable forever, as it constitutes the source of our pride, and as our dignity is indissociable from its dignity;

“Tunisia First” as a token of gratitude to all who sacrificed for the sake of its independence and sovereignty, and struggled for the establishment of its independent state and for its progress and prosperity;

“Tunisia First” as a token of recognition and gratitude to the Man of the Change who planted the seeds of hope, stimulated the forces of action and devotion, and revived our people’s sense of ambition, which has restored confidence and made possible the accomplishment of remarkable gains, achievements and successes;

“Tunisia First” as a token of faithfulness to the builder of our present and the guarantor of our future, our Leader and our guide today and tomorrow, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali;

Tunisia ranks always first, and its youth are invariably committed to serving its glory.

In light of these noble meanings, we announce :

Our determination to act with diligence and perseverance, and to devote all our capacities and competences, for the continuous building of an ambitious Tunisia, and for promoting it to the level of the more advanced nations;

Our commitment to the attributes of our national identity, with its deep-rooted historical and civilizational foundations, drawing from our rich national origins, in their African and Mediterranean dimensions, from our glorious Arab-Islamic civilization, and from

our country's contribution to universal civilization, and its shining image in its environment all over the ages;

Our strong resolve to preserve our Tunisian specificities based on moderation, the golden mean, and openness to our human environment, as well as on our people's constant commitment to the logic of wisdom and mutual understanding among humans, support to the causes of peace, right, solidarity and mutual assistance, and rejection of extremism, fanaticism and terrorism;

Our commitment to the rule of law and to the republican system and its principles; this system which our people has chosen for itself, and has incorporated within its Constitution; and our determination to persevere in safeguarding its foundations based on freedom, justice and respect for human rights, in the country of equality, women's rights and genuine solidarity.

Tunisia is for all, and all its youth are devoted to serving it.

We renew our commitment:

To serve our country with sincerity and devotion in all fields of life;

To act with diligence and to overcome all difficulties, so as to raise high Tunisia's banner in all scientific, knowledge, creativity and sports events, driven by a strong determination to embrace excellence and achieve further victories.

We renew our commitment:

To exercise our citizenship with awareness and maturity, as the youth's will is indissociable from the national will;

To express our gratitude to our benefactor and Leader President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who took the initiative to establish the right to vote from the age of 18, and offered us large opportunities for participation in the institutions of the Republic, in political action, in NGO and associative work, and in cultural and social activities. Let our action then be up to the large prospects offered today for all Tunisia's youth, from all social categories and components, whatever their conditions or specific needs.

In the same way as we cling on to these rights and pursue our action to further anchor and enrich them, we announce our full

and unwavering commitment to accomplish our duties vis-à-vis Tunisia and its people, and to assume our responsibilities in building our country's future and in actively participating in public life, through a larger involvement in political and civil action, and a greater contribution to the noble effort of volunteering and solidarity, so that young people become an active element and an essential component in our national progression.

Through this Pact, we reaffirm our strong determination to anchor the values and the spirit of modernity, to build the knowledge society, and to achieve an efficient and successful integration into the age of the knowledge- and intelligence-based economy, by further mastering cutting-edge technologies and developing all our capacities and creative skills to serve these noble civilizational objectives.

We renew our commitment to make sure our determination to achieve these objectives goes hand in hand with our resolve to adopt a civilized behavior, a notion that carries noble values, respect for the other, for freedom of opinion and faith, and for pluralism, openness to different opinions, and commitment to the ethics of dialogue and to the principles, culture and practices of democracy.

We reaffirm our awareness of the current huge challenges, particularly the challenge of employment which ranks first among President Ben Ali's absolute priorities. We renew our determination to contribute, with a high sense of patriotism, initiative and audacity, to the success of the policies and programs aimed at meeting all the current challenges and stakes.

We announce our commitment to materialize the principles and orientations spelled out in this Pact, our determination to pursue dialogue, and our attachment to our right to express our views and aspirations, in light of our national values and ethics, and within this free climate that encourages initiative and reflection, under the wise leadership of our guide today and tomorrow, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Long live Tunisia, free and invulnerable forever!

Long live the Republic !

Long live President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali !

Tunis- November 7, 2008