

Your Excellency, Mr. Minister
Dear President of FAAPA, Distinguished guests
Dear Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to be here in Rabat in order to address the historical First General Assembly of the newly-founded Atlantic Federation of African Press Agencies (FAAPA).

On behalf of the Mediterranean Alliance of News Agencies (AMAN), I convey the greetings and wishes of all member agencies for every success in your proceedings.

AMAN looks for close relations with FAAPA. That's why we responded positively to the proposal of the FAAPA President, Director General of MAP, Mr. Khalil Hachimi Idrissi, for signing a cooperation agreement between the two groupings.

The signing took place in October in Sharm El Sheikh, where MENA hosted the annual General Assembly of AMAN.

My personal aspiration is to see this cooperation flourish to the benefit of both alliances. We live in a very fragile world and we need each other. We need to exchange experiences and expertise. We need to support each other and show solidarity.

This is our objective in the Mediterranean. Bringing together national news agencies from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Bringing together advanced and less advanced news agencies. Bringing together rich and poor news agencies.

That was the scope why AMAN was founded in 1991 in Tunis.

Today AMAN consists of 19 national news agencies and five alliances which represent various regions: EANA (Europe), OANA (Asia-Oceania), FANA (Arab agencies), the Inter Press Service and FAAPA.

These alliances have the status of observer.

I want to commend the vital role played by MAP, which is a founding member of both Alliances, AMAN and FAAPA. These initiatives show how much attention MAP gives to create conditions of support and solidarity among the national agencies of the two regions and to promote development and progress in the agency business.

As Secretary General of AMAN for 15 years, I always count on the support and advice of MAP people, who are always ready to work for AMAN's objectives. We have many in common and nothing to separate us.

Let's establish those relations either bilateral or multilateral that will prove beneficial for all.

Let's join forces in facing common problems, anxieties, needs and challenges.

I would like to congratulate and thank the Director General and the staff of MAP for the warm hospitality extended to all of us and the excellent organisation of this meeting.

I wish you every success to your deliberations.

George Penintaex
CNA Acting Director/Editor-in-Chief
AMAN Secretary General