



United Nations
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



**Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations
Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April 2009
Breakfast Session 10: Can New Media Help Bridge Cultures?
Monday April 6, 2009, 07:45-08:45
Organized with UNESCO and Global Voices Online**

Objectives and Expectations of this Session

The growth of the internet and the burgeoning of social networking websites have revolutionized the way people engage with the world. New media is providing creative opportunities to share information, articles and opinions with online networks and virtual communities. Channeling information in real time and providing views from the ground that are often unavailable in traditional media, new media can enrich public debates and open a broader spectrum of ideas and opinions.

Moreover, new media can help provide access to a rich array of stories about diverse communities and cultures, raising awareness about the views and opinions of individuals living on the other side of the planet and offering new ways in which individuals can connect with each other across borders.

Questions to Frame the Discussion

How can the potential of new media be harnessed to enhance cooperation and understanding among cultures? Can the ways in which individuals are connecting to exchange information bring cultures closer and enable more people to recognize that cultural diversity is not a threat, but something that can enrich our lives? To explore these issues and put forward practical proposals to mobilize these emerging possibilities, new media professionals will be convened in an interactive moderated discussion.