

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:**

**CONCERT OF WEST-EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY DANIEL BARENBOIM & EXHIBITION “AN ENCOUNTER OF CIVILIZATIONS: IBN KHALDUN”**

**Secretary-General Kofi Annan will outline his recommendations for the implementation of the Alliance of Civilizations report next Monday (18 December 2006, at 3:40 PM in the Trusteeship Council chamber at UNHQ). The recommendations, which aim to ease tensions between Muslim and Western societies, will be presented to the General Assembly together with the co-sponsors of the initiative, the President of the Government of Spain, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.**

The report of the High-level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations, prepared by a diverse group of eminent personalities, concludes that the key reasons for the growing divide in the world today and, more particularly, between Muslim and Western societies, are not religious but political. The initiative was launched following Spanish President **José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero’s call for an Alliance of Civilizations** in his speech at the 59th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (2004). The Alliance recommendations advocate specific measures aiming at building bridges between societies and cultures. The report analyzes the most pressing issues on the global stage and debunks the myth that a “clash of civilizations” threatens world stability.

Other events of the day sponsored by the Government of Spain consist of **a concert held in honor of Secretary-General Kofi Annan and in support of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative as well as the official opening of the exhibition “An Encounter of Civilizations: Ibn Khaldun.”** The concert features the renowned pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim who will conduct the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (**6:30 PM, General Assembly Hall**), conceived in 1999 by Mr. Barenboim and the late writer Edward Said as a workshop for young musicians from Israel, Palestine and various other countries. **The opening of the exhibition** (on display until 17 January 2007) will take place in the Main Gallery of the General Assembly Visitors’ Lobby. The exhibit explores the life and work of 14<sup>th</sup> century North African historian and thinker Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406), as well as the political, economic and social relationships between Europe and the Arab/Muslim world bordering the Mediterranean basin.

The informal plenary meeting of the General Assembly (3:30 PM, Trusteeship Council) will be open to the press and camera crews. A press briefing will be held by President Zapatero at 5:15 PM (S-226). English interpretation will be provided. For press inquiries please contact Jose Caballero, Press and Information Counsellor, Mission of Spain to the UN at [jmcaballero@spainun.org](mailto:jmcaballero@spainun.org). For information on the Alliance of Civilizations and to download the report, please visit the AoC website: [www.unAoC.org](http://www.unAoC.org). To receive a hard copy, please email: [ContactAoC@unops.org](mailto:ContactAoC@unops.org).