



The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations seeks to address widening rifts between communities and societies by reaffirming a paradigm of mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious backgrounds and by helping to mobilize concerted action towards this end. It aims to bridge the world's divides and to build trust and understanding across cultures and communities worldwide.

The Alliance of Civilizations was established in 2005 as a UN initiative jointly supported by the President of the Government of Spain and the Prime Minister of Turkey. It emerged out of a conviction that, in order to achieve sustainable peace, long-standing divisions between cultures need to be addressed. This vision was articulated by the High-level Group of the Alliance, appointed by the UN Secretary-General to explore the roots of polarization in the world. In their report, members of the Group outlined a range of practical initiatives aimed at improving relations between diverse cultures. These recommendations – in the areas of youth, education, media and migration – provide the foundation upon which the Alliance developed its work.

In April 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, as High-Representative for the Alliance. Under his leadership, the Alliance embarked on an extensive program of work which includes a range of practical initiatives and projects. The Alliance is supported by a Group of Friends, a growing network of over 100 governments and international organizations. Members of this community build on the momentum created by the Alliance by developing National Plans and Regional Strategies and putting forward their own solutions to the challenge of promoting good governance of cultural diversity. Working with its global network of government partners, the Alliance promotes policies and initiatives aimed at addressing cultural diversity challenges and at improving relations between diverse cultural groups. It also works at grassroots level, promoting innovative projects in education, youth, media and migration in order to build trust, reconciliation and mutual respect among diverse communities.

## **The Alliance of Civilizations is:**

- A **unique political initiative of the United Nations** which aims to build trust and understanding across countries and communities, thereby countering the forces of polarization and extremism
- A **mobilizing force** that achieves results in partnership with national governments, international organizations, religious and civil society groups, foundations, corporations, and the media
- An **action-driven** initiative which implements and supports innovative projects on the ground
- A **global matchmaker**, connecting innovative grassroots leaders with policy-makers and foundations to help bring their ideas to life
- A **powerful voice** that strives to reduce tensions dividing communities and build upon common values and interests shared among diverse cultures and religions

*Please note our new contact information:*

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