

**ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS
NATIONAL PLAN OF BRAZIL**

**ALIANÇA DE CIVILIZAÇÕES
PLANO NACIONAL DO BRASIL**

2009

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1. ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS – ORIGIN AND PERFORMANCE

The initiative of the Alliance of Civilizations was proposed at the UN General Assembly in 2004 by the President of Spain, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, with the co-sponsorship of the Premier of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The bid of the Alliance is to mobilize public opinion all over the world in order to overcome prejudice, misperceptions and “polarization between the Islamic World and the West”, as a way to prevent conflicts among States and different communities of heterogeneous societies. The idea was immediately well-received.

On July 14 2005, the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, officially launched the Alliance of Civilizations as a UN initiative, establishing a High Level Group, constituted by 20 experts from different regions, with the purpose to elaborate a report on concrete actions to be developed by the Alliance. The Group was composed by widely acknowledged personalities, renowned for their academic and professional experience, among them the Brazilian scholar Candido Mendes. The Group’s report was presented in November 2006, after one year of intense working sessions. Its conclusions recommended activities by States and International Organizations on the local, regional and national levels aimed at four priority targets: Education, Youth, Migration and the Media.

In April 2007, following the High Level Group recommendation, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed Mr. Jorge Sampaio, the former President of Portugal, to be his High Level Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. Since then, the High Representative has been coordinating the initiative and taking several steps trying to diminish tensions and promoting tolerance and intercultural dialogue with a wider scope, no more restricted to the West and Islam. Action carried out by the High Representative and those implemented by States and International Organizations that are members of the Alliance of Civilizations, jointly known as “Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations”, are previously or subsequently considered in regular meetings. The most important meetings take place once a year in World Forum.

The First World Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations was held in Madrid, in January 2008. During that meeting the report of the High Level

Group was officially approved, as well as the recommendation that States' activities should be planned and consolidated in National Strategies or Plans of Actions.

The Second World Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations will be held in April 6-7 2009, in Istanbul. The Third Forum is expected to take place in Brazil, in 2010.

1.1 BRAZIL AND THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS (AOC)

The idea of an "Alliance of Civilizations" is of natural interest to Brazil. A pluricultural, multi-racial nation that assumes its internal diversity as a fundamental factor of its own identity, Brazil responded favourably to an invitation from Spain in 2006 and joined the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations.

In December 2007, an International Seminar on the "Alliance of Civilizations, Interculturalism and Human Rights" was held in Rio de Janeiro, with official support and direct sponsorship by Candido Mendes University, the Iberoamerican Office, the Academy of Latinity Academy. Distinguished national and international personalities, such as Mr. Jorge Sampaio, took part in the Seminar.

In January 2008, Brazil attended the I Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, in Madrid. Mr. Tarso Genro, Minister of Justice of Brazil, headed the Brazilian delegation. On that opportunity, Mr. Genro confirmed Brazil's commitment to the main guidelines defined by the High Level Group and, for the first time, referred to Brazil's availability to host the III Annual Forum of AoC, in 2010.

In response to the High Representative's request for member States to designate a high level official to act as Focal Point and National Coordinator for the Alliance of Civilizations, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, by a decree of July 28, 2008, appointed career Ambassador José Augusto Lindgren Alves as National Coordinator for the Alliance of Civilizations. Since then, the National Coordinator has been following official meetings of the Group of Friends and has been in close contact with the UN Secretariat and Focal Points from other countries to discuss plans of action. Professor Candido Mendes, after concluding his mandate in the High Level Group, was appointed, by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Ambassador of the Alliance of Civilizations.

His responsibilities are now to promote, together with his homologues in the High Level Group, the Alliance and its purposes around the world. Since then, he has been developing several activities in Brazil and abroad. In his capacity as President of the Academy of Latinity, he organized, together with the Nobel Institute and the Norwegian Academy of Sciences, an International Conference on “Human Rights and its possible universality”, which was held in Oslo, on February 16-18 2009, and congregated experts from different countries. Brazil’s Minister of Justice Tarso Genro, and Senator Cristovam Buarque had also taken part in the event.

With the recent confirmation that the III Annual Forum will be held in Brazil in the first semester of 2010 and with the presentation of this National Plan, Brazil reinforces its official commitment to the aims and actions of the Alliance of Civilizations.

2. NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Brazil can be proud of having forged in its territory a lasting, operating, sort of “Alliance of Civilizations”, resulting from contributions of several ethnic origins historically present in its territory as well as the integration of immigrants from many cultures and regions of the world. There remains in Brazil, as in any other country, the need to adopt measures to eradicate prejudice and structural internal difficulties to reach full equality for all groups, as envisaged in the Constitution and infra-constitutional laws, stimulated by several kinds of “affirmative action”. At the same time, in the international sphere, Brazilian foreign policies include many initiatives to bring Brazil and South America closer to other countries and continents of varied cultures. Among these initiatives one can count mechanisms such as IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa), ASPA (South America – Arab States), ASA (South America – Africa), besides, evidently, the natural priority given to member countries of the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries).

The Brazilian National Plan has been elaborated in accordance with recommendations of the High Level Group, most of which are already being implemented. It lists official measures and projects on the Federal level, either current or programmed in the spirit of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, as adapted to the characteristics of Brazilian society. They are complemented by other activities developed by civil society, including educational and research

institutions, our Academia in general, the media, and public and private agencies with diverse aims.

Bearing in mind that problems of inter-religious coexistence are very rare in Brazil today, internal action, addressing our national situation, are mainly directed to guarantee effective equality conditions among all people and ethnic or racial groups, without prejudice to the existing diversity. Most of these actions aim at promoting the social improvement of afro-descendants and indigenous Brazilians, protecting especial rights of specific communities, such as indigenous people and *quilombolas* (descendants of slaves that escaped to live in rural communities during slavery), and facilitating the integration of immigrants - without forcing them to abandon the gist of their original cultures. Measures directed to divulge and promote the Alliance of Civilization in Brazil have been added to those initiatives, as well as to action taken abroad with the same objectives - besides the regular initiatives adopted to support Brazilian communities living in other countries.

The Brazilian National Plan includes medium and long-term projects with the following purposes: i) to privilege mutual knowledge and respect for diversity; ii) to foster civic values and a culture of peace; iii) to improve integration and capabilities of migrants, with especial attention to youth; iv) to disseminate the purposes of the UN Alliance of Civilizations; v) to promote social inclusion of marginalized groups of the Brazilian population.

Initiatives in the Plan were listed and are mostly being implemented, in coordination, by the Ministry of External Relations, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Communications, the Special Secretariats for Human Rights (SEDH), Promotion of Racial Equality (SEPPIR), Policies for Women (SPM) and Youth, subordinated to the Presidency of the Republic.

2.1. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE NATIONAL PLAN

The Government took into consideration the following basic guidelines to elaborate the National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations:

- Respect, tolerance, and equality of opportunities are essential for a secure and peaceful world.

- Inequality, absolute poverty, and the persistence of situations of domination and injustice hinder peoples and nations from enjoying essential conditions for developing a decent, peaceful future.
- Exclusion and poverty are among the major threats to civilization. The struggle against hunger and for the reduction of socioeconomic inequalities is fundamental for diminishing tension and conflicts.
- The causes and origins of intolerance must be dealt with in full respect for international commitments and strict observance of internationally recognized Human Rights. They are universal, interrelated, interdependent and essential for democracy.
- A constitutionally secular State, Brazil has the duty to treat people from different religions and faiths with full equality, and cannot interfere in the religious education and convictions of individuals.
- All forms of peaceful international cooperation are of great importance for the Alliance of Civilizations to succeed. Strategies of cooperation with the United Nations agencies such as UNESCO, UNICEF or WHO, and with other regional organizations are essential to the action foreseen.
- The Alliance of Civilization's channels made available to exchange information about successful experiences are important to the exchange and follow up of initiatives, as well as to their refinement. Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Alliance of Civilizations is important for the success and sustainability of the UN initiative.
- Dialogue and interaction with civil society are indispensable factors for the implementation of the National Plan.

2.2 GUIDELINES FOR THE FOUR PRIORITY AREAS OF ACTION: YOUTH, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA AND MIGRATIONS.

2.2.1 YOUTH

- Adolescents and youth in general are among the groups most vulnerable to the influences of fanaticism and intolerance, besides being the main victims of violence. On the other hand, they are the best promise for the future when adequately oriented towards mutual knowledge, tolerance and respect for differences.
- The integration of young people in programs that promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation is crucial to the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.

- Providing substantial investment in the area of education and fostering youth participation in all spheres of society are of utmost importance in promoting the Alliance of Civilizations.

2.2.2 EDUCATION

- Knowledge of correct historical and anthropological data - therefore studying, learning and fostering of research on different cultures and religions - is essential for generating constructive ideas for future internal and external action of the Alliance of Civilizations.
- Cultural exchanges are very important for the promotion of a naturally tolerant environment in high schools and universities.
- Universities e colleges must adopt programs that stimulate debate and knowledge about different points of view and opinion.

2.2.3 MIGRATION

- Migrations are a historically inexorable phenomenon that must be always analyzed with due respect to national sovereignty, universal human rights and the principle of non-criminalization of “illegal” migrants. Any link between the migratory issue and the international security agenda and the fight against terrorism tends to generate more intolerance among communities and States.
- Migrations have a positive impact on economies and national cultures of origin and destination countries.
- In the first place, it is necessary to adopt measures to fight possible manifestations of xenophobia, racism and intolerance under all its forms to promote tolerance and migrants cultural integration.
- Integration in society does not mean forced cultural assimilation, which would cause the migrant person to lose his/her referential roots.

2.2.4 COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

- Media have a decisive role in the formation of values and the dissemination of tolerance or intolerance in any society. Its constructive performance is, therefore, indispensable for the promotion of the Alliance of Civilizations principles. Therefore, it is necessary that they act in a responsible manner in divulging cultural diversity and stimulating inter-religious and

intercultural dialogue. Their influence does not occur only by means of editorials and opinion articles, but also in the way news is presented.

- Freedom of expression is a fundamental right that cannot be restrained, unless in circumstances contemplated by the International Law of the Human Rights, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Its counterpart is each one's responsibility when exercising this right. Against possible excess and provocation, democratic states have adequate legal remedies to be regularly used.

2.3 PROPOSED ACTION:

Based on the general and specific guidelines presented, Brazil commits itself to implementing the activities and projects listed below, bearing in mind the purposes of the Alliance of Civilizations:

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS:

- *Fully support all programs and activities developed by the Special Secretariat for Policies for Women, of the Presidency of the Republic, in particular, as far as the Alliance of Civilizations is concerned, in combating prejudice and discriminatory acts that result from harmful cultural traditions.* The current II National Plan of Policies for Women is developed through priority activities in areas such as Education, Youth and Ethnic and Racial Relations. It is worthy to mention, in this context, the Program on Gender and Diversity in Schools, which prepares teachers and other education professionals to deal with themes like gender relations, ethnic and racial equality as well as non-discrimination based on sexual orientation. The objective is to eradicate prejudice and discrimination that historically inflicted, in Brazil as abroad, human relations at schools and learning systems. All of its strategic axes address women in their diversity, no matter whether by generations, racial or resulting from sexual orientation etc. The Special Secretariat for Policies for Women also develops cooperation activities abroad that value diversity in general, reaffirming the right to gender equality.
- *Incorporation of the principles and purposes of the Alliance of Civilizations in the mandate of the Ministry of Education Human Rights Committee.* This Committee was created in 2004 to coordinate the elaboration of human rights educational policies and to promote human rights as a transversal priority of government policies. It has already been observing the essential notion of respect for diversity that inspires the

Brazilian educational system. In this case, the Committee will just have to assimilate as its own the main elements of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, no change being required.

- *Inclusion of emphasis on the culture of peace, tolerance and mutual respect in the National Plan of Education in Human Rights.* Since the Plan is already naturally oriented towards respect of diversity as a factor of our rich cultural heritage, the inclusion of this notion will value even more the desired harmony as an essential environment for building a culture of peace, democracy, development and social justice in Brazil and its external projections.
- *Orientation of the implementation of the Human Rights National Program towards the principles and purposes of the Alliance of Civilizations.* Again, there is no need to change current programmes. The only necessary measure that competent organs learn about and assimilate these directive elements.
- *Inclusion on the agenda of the 12th National Conference on Human Rights,* in December 2009, of the notion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue among its guiding axes.
- *Active participation in the Durban Review Conference (Geneva, April 2009).* The Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean Preparatory to the Durban Review Conference was held in Brasilia in June 2008. In the Final Declaration Preamble, the countries of the region registered the close linkage existing between the spirit of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Durban Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the tolerance and intercultural respect sought by the Alliance of Civilizations. Active participation of Brazil in the Durban Review Conference will be one more effort to contribute to the ideals of the Alliance of Civilizations.

RESPECT TO DIVERSITY:

- *Intensification of the Education for Diversity and Citizenship Programme,* which aims at fighting inequalities related to ethnicity or race, gender, sexual orientation, age, region and culture in schools.
- *Deepening of actions of the Program on Afro-Brazilian Culture,* which seeks to develop the existing communities of Afro-Brazilian tradition, including those remaining of the former *quilombos*. This initiative intends to secure their development in a manner coherent with the communities' historical, religious and cultural needs.

- *Continuation of the Campaign on Valuing Indigenous Peoples' Cultures and the Indigenous Cultures Award.* This item will reinforce what is envisaged in Article 231 of the Brazilian Federal Constitution, which recognizes the original right of indigenous people to enjoy natural resources in territories traditionally occupied, by them.
- *Fostering initiatives similar to the creation of the Quilombo dos Palmares Memorial Park.* Center of the well-known "Palmares Republic", where Zumbi, its leader and main hero, lived and ruled, this park in Alagoas State is today an important ethnic and referential center for the history of Afro-descendants in the Brazilian society formation.
- *Demarcation and recognizance of the Quilombolas Communities.* The Quilombola Social Agenda, which is part of the "Brazil Quilombola" Programme, with resources allocated to communities that descend from of escaped slaves, has one of its action axes in the legalization of the rights to land from former Quilombos Areas to their remaining inhabitants. Supported by the Palmares Cultural Foundation, the Brazilian government, for more than 10 years, has already legalized the traditional occupation of areas in many States (Maranhão, Bahia, Minas Gerais, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul among others). This experience is now to be continued with resources envisaged for the 2008-2009 period. Certification (legal recognition of land possession) is granted on the basis of self-recognition of each community as "quilombola", and abides by International Labour Organization 169 Convention on indigenous and tribal peoples, as well as Brazilian legislation.

EDUCATION

- *Teaching of Afro-Brazilian History and diffusion of Afro-Brazilian Culture in schools,* which are compulsory by Law 10639 since 2003. This legislation updated Law 9394 (1996), which established the National Education Guidelines, in order to include in the official curriculum of the Brazilian Teaching Network the discipline of "Afro-Brazilian History and Culture". Law 10639 establishes as well that the school calendar would celebrate the "National Day of Black Consciousness" (November 20).
- *Implementation of Article 33 of the Law on Education Guidelines, concerning religious teaching in elementary public schools.* It determines: "Religious teaching, with a facultative nature, is part of the citizen's basic formation, is a discipline included in the regular schedules of elementary public schools, and must ensure respect to the religious diversity of Brazilian culture, prohibiting any form of proselytism.

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE:

- *Protection of sacred places.* Protection of the main religious temples as historic sites was first influenced by our Portuguese heritage and covered only precious urban churches and rural chapels. Since the 1970s, by registering the Casa Branca cult yard in Bahia, Afro-Brazilian Candomblé yards have also been recognized as such. Today churches, synagogues and other cult yards are registered as Brazilian historic sites.

YOUTH:

- *Presentation of the purposes of the Alliance of Civilizations and diffusion of its activities during the II National Youth Conference.* In 2008, Brasília held the I National Conference on Public Policies for Youth. Brazilian youngsters had the opportunity to discuss themes like democratic freedoms, participation, diversity, culture and the media. In the II National Youth Conference the U. N. Alliance of Civilizations will be presented and its purposes submitted to discussion of participants, in order to allow the Brazilian youth to offer opinions concerning the promotion of tolerance in Brazil and to make suggestions to the government.
- *Intensification of the students international exchanges, means of activities such as:*
- *Diffusion of the Milton Santos Programme of Access to High Education – PROMISAES,* which grants scholarships for students from developing countries, especially from African nations, to study in Brazilian federal institutions.
- *Intensification and enlargement of the Students-Agreement Programme (PEC-G) on undergraduate level.* This is a joint initiative of the Ministries of External Relations and of Education. It already addresses Africa, Asia and Latin America. Up to this moment, there have been agreements with 47 countries, and the exchange of students with these regions has been increasing in a constant manner.
- *Intensification and enlargement of the Students-Agreement Programme (PEC-PG) on post-graduate level.* This is a partnership developed between the Ministry of External Relations, the Ministry of Education's Coordination for Improvement of High Level Personnel (CAPES) and the National Council of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPQ). Brazil has agreements of this kind with countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Since the PEC-PG was established in 1981, agreements with 54

countries have been signed. From 2000 to 2009, 1251 students have been selected to different post-graduate courses.

MEDIA

- *Diffusion of the Public Network Television (TV Brasil)*. TV Brazil's schedule is based on principles such as human rights, protection of ethnic plurality, acceptance of diversity and minorities rights, enhancing general acquaintance of regional cultures and their participation in our national identity. The Brazilian Government envisages Public Television as an important factor of integration and social inclusion, based on human rights and on information as an instrument for promoting conscious citizenship.
- *Holding the II National Meeting of the Mocambos Network in 2009*, which aims at ensuring digital integration of the whole national territory, by making available to all communities in Brazil Points-of-Presence (POPs) and personal computers. GESAC Programme (Electronic Government, Citizen Support Service), which is a Network partner, offers Points-of-Presence (POPs) and other services in public schools, community telecenters, public, civil and military institutions, as well as indigenous communities (more than 30), fishing communities, quilombola groups (*circa* 30), and religious temple yards. This programme intends to extend internet access and other services to the still digitally excluded communities.
- *Diffusion in the whole country of activities related to the Alliance of Civilizations' purposes on the following official celebration days:*
- *National Day of Fight against Religious Intolerance (January 21)*, established by Law 11635 of December 27 2007. It seeks to eradicate discrimination, intolerance, prejudice, disrespect, and any violation of freedom of conscience and belief, securing freedom of cult and liturgies, by implementing different forms of action.
- *Black Consciousness Day (November 20 – the death date of Zumbi dos Palmares, the greatest historical symbol of black resistance to slavery and fight for liberty)*. The date is dedicated to reflection on the means of black people's full insertion in mainstream Brazilian society. Bill 4437/2007, now in Congress, will also establish, in the official celebration calendar, November 20 as the Zumbi National Holiday, to be annually celebrated in all Brazilian territory.
- *The National Day of Gypsies (May 24)*, collaborating to the demystification of the stereotyped image of the Gypsy (Roma) and fostering protection of their rights. May 24 is also celebrated as the Day of

Saint Sara Kali, the Gypsies' Catholic protector, as an opportunity to stimulate solidarity and friendship among peoples. Coherent with the policy of enabling Gypsy cultural assertion in Brazilian society, the Gypsy calendar of days was established, in 2006, to disseminate Gypsy culture. An information booklet on "Gypsy People – Rights on your hands" has been published and distributed.

MIGRATION

Regularizing the situation of foreign irregular migrants. Recognizing the immigrants' contribution to development, regardless of their origins, religious orientation or political condition, the Brazilian Government is concerned with the irregular situation in which many of them live. Considering their universal human rights, the Justice National Secretariat has already sent to Congress a bill that concedes amnesty to undocumented people, making possible the regularization of their juridical situation. In accordance with Article 5, *caput*, of Federal Constitution – which guarantees equal treatment to Brazilian nationals and foreign citizens who reside in the country – the bill will ensure protection of the same rights recognized to Brazilian nationals. This will entitle them to resort to the competent authorities whenever their fundamental rights are violated, with no fear of sanctions. It will, therefore, prevent immigrants from being submitted to possible degrading labor conditions. It will also enable the Brazilian State to grasp the real dimension of the migratory issue in the country, in order to guide the improvement of related public policies.

Implementing Policies to Receive and Integrate Refugees. A State party to the Geneva Convention on Status of Refugees, whose old "geographic reserve" was abolished, Brazil lifted such reserve in 1989, and concedes refuge to foreigners based on reasons of war, persecution, or human rights violations in their countries of origin. In doing that, Brazil adopts pioneering support policies, under the responsibility of the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE). Refugees are offered the means to integrate in Brazilian society on a natural process, which involves, as appropriate, from juridical assistance to learning Portuguese, the national language.

- *Promoting the "Foreigners' Decent Work" Programme*, under the auspices of the Ministry of Labor and Employment. The Programme seeks to eradicate migrants' exploitation in Brazil, as was the case of Bolivians in the São Paulo Metropolitan Area. Many activities in this sense have been

developed in collaboration with the Immigration National Council and the Ministry of External Relations, including the celebration of a Migratory Regularization Agreement.

- *Implementation of the “Resettlement in Solidarity” Programme.* This programme was designed to reallocate, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), people who had been settled in other countries with the status of refugee but still suffer from persecution, threats or lack of integration. It envisages acceptance and recognition of the status of refugee by Brazil, provision of documents and access to public services, housing, and free Portuguese classes. Among those already benefited by the Programme it is worth mentioning the recent resettlement of refugees from Colombia and Palestine.
- *Participation in discussions in Mercosur following the Santiago Declaration on migration principles.* The Declaration, which was approved in 2004 during the Ministers Extraordinary Meeting, emphasizes that: a) the regional migration issue must be addressed by mechanisms of open multilateral dialogue as a way to strengthen the integration process; b) the purpose of Mercosur in the matter is to establish a new migration policy, based on ethical principles and human rights observance, to be implemented by the member States; c) migration policy efficiency will depend on its adequacy to the regional and international situation and on acceptance of the fact that regularization of the migrants’ legal status is the only path for their full insertion in the society that receives him/her; d) treatment offered to nationals of other Mercosur members and associated States should be reciprocal.

ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTH AMERICA – AFRICA SUMMIT (ASA):

- *Creation of new academic chairs in African and South American universities,* in order to expand courses on history, sociology and culture in both regions, with a view to disseminating knowledge about each other, to encourage exchange of information and experiences, and to foster joint action on subjects of mutual interest.
- *Creation of the South American-African Library,* in support for the consolidation of consistent, durable political, cultural and economic links among South American and African countries. The library will operate, above all, in network with its affiliates connected by a common website. It will have an unlimited number of affiliates in both regions, as long as they express their interest and organization capacity.

- *Promotion of essays competitions on relations between Africa and South America.* A specific subject on the African–South American relations will be chosen each year.
- *Promotion of a Scanning Inventory of the main material and intangible documents, of the historical process shared by these two continents.* Research will guide action to be adopted to protect and divulge the common heritage.
- *Creation of an Afro-Latin Observatory* – a website belonging to the Palmares Cultural Foundation directed at internet dialogue. It makes available information from Latin American black communities and offers a database that will allow experience exchange. The main focus is diffusion of the historical civilization contribution the Africans brought to Latin America.

ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN-ARAB STATES SUMMIT (ASPA):

- *Enlargement of the South American-Arab States Library (BibliASPA) book collection.* The establishment of long-lasting consistent political, cultural and economic relations among South American and Arab countries was the goal of the ASPA Summit held in Brazil, in May 2005. It presumed building mutual knowledge among the involved societies. Consequently, the creation of BibliASPA has the intention of fostering cultural dialogue on studies related to social sciences, literature and arts that unite intellectuals and artists from South America and Arab States. The projected Library/Research Center headquarters will contain book collections specialized in Arab issues, in the case of South America, and in South American issues, in the case of the Arab World, mostly in the areas of literature, arts and social sciences. Launching of a website, with an extensive material collection and multimedia resources, is foreseen in the ASPA schedule, which also includes translation of books and the building the headquarters for the mechanism/organization in Algiers.
- *Holding BibliASPA courses.* Between February and July 2007, BibliASPA offered an 85-hour course on Arab short stories, in which 150 students from the Brazilian public education system took part.
- *Holding an Arab-South American Contemporaneous Film Festival,* with a special award offered for the whole work of movie directors.

- *Holding a Seminar on Joint Policies for Audiovisual Production and Distribution*, which will focus on solving problems for distribution of developing countries cultural production.
- *Grant of scholarships to Palestinian students in university programmes related to technology.*
- *Direct exchanges between universities from South America and the Arab States.* Each country will be responsible for maintaining a list of public universities, libraries and cultural research centers, to be published in the BibliASPA website, in order to facilitate exchange among intellectuals.
- *Scholarships for studying languages.* The promotion of university exchanges, mainly in the area of language learning, is one of the goals established by ASPA.
- *Holding Film Festivals alternately in both regions and promoting agreements on film co-production and distribution.*
- *Holding music, dance and gastronomy festivals.*

PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS' OBJECTIVES:

- *Holding sport events for peace and development promotion*, similar to the soccer games for promoting peace and social cohesion already held in Haiti and Botswana. Matches to popularize the Alliance of Civilizations purposes will be considered.
- *Holding the III Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Brazil in the first semester of 2010.*

Brasilia, March 2009