



RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF RELATIONS WITH  
THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The idea to establish the Alliance of Civilization (AoC) was put forward by Spain in 2004 and supported by Turkey in 2005. The UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan also supported this initiative, which was reflected in the Outcome document of the World Summit held in New York in September 2005, and in the resolution of the sixtieth session of the UN General Assembly named "Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations".

The High-Level Group (HLG) was nominated in 2005 to formulate the AoC concept and Plan of Action. This work culminated in a report that was made public in Istanbul in November 2006. The report contains general assessment of inter-civilizational dimension as well as several packages of specific proposals – on education, mass media, youth policy and migration – which should become a program of action at the national, regional and local levels for States as well as for international organizations and civil society.

After the HLG had completed its work, the AoC Group of Friends was set up in 2006 with Russia as one of its members.

In pursuance of the HLG objectives, Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, was appointed UN Secretary-General High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, in April 2007.

The first AoC Forum took place in Madrid on 15 and 16 January 2008. It was attended by delegations from more than 80 States, including Russia, heads of major NGOs, representatives of numerous (more than 300) non-governmental, youth and religious bodies, business communities and mass media. Sergey V. Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, forwarded his welcoming address to the Forum's participants.

The Forum approved recommendations made by the HLG and the AoC Group of Friends, including those on Alliance priorities, systematic collection and dissemination of information concerning positive experience of intercultural communication, launching the Rapid Response Media Mechanism, States' responsibility to elaborate national strategies within the framework of the AoC and the development of plans of partnership with the Alliance by international organizations, including religious organizations.

In view of the above, Russia decided to formulate the present Follow-up Plan in the framework of its participation in the Alliance of Civilizations.

### AIM

The aim of Russian participation in the Alliance is to implement the concepts formulated by the High-Level Group and the recommendations of the first Alliance Forum in Madrid and the second in Istanbul seeking to consolidate the efforts of States and civil society on addressing cultural divide and exclusion and providing for inter-civilizational accord. In this context, our priorities are to ensure respect for human rights, gender equality and pluralism as well as to counter all forms of xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance.

Russia will seek to provide that the Alliance of Civilizations works in close cooperation with global and regional partners, including UNESCO, the OIC and the Council of Europe, forming the AoC Group of Friends, as well as the CIS. Alongside with that, the following ideas will be used to strengthen the conceptual basis of the AoC activities: shaping a multipolar world order relying on international law, maintenance of cultural and civilizational diversity, elimination of poverty and fight against terrorism.

Russia will promote the use of the Alliance as a forum to share views and best practices among representatives of governments, civil society, regional organizations (including the CIS, the OIC, the CoE). At the same time, it is essential that the AoC does not supplant other existing venues for dialogue.

The Russian Federation will seek to strengthen the capacity for inter-civilizational collaboration through the Alliance with a view to strengthening multilateralism in international relations.

### FOCUS AREAS

The focus areas of the national plan of the Russian Federation for promotion of relations with the Alliance of Civilizations are education, youth policy, mass media and migration.

### COORDINATOR FOR THE COLLABORATION WITH THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

The Coordinator (Focal Point) is to carry out in full all working level activities related to the Russian participation in the Alliance of Civilizations in the intervals between the forums of the Alliance.

The Coordinator acts under the auspices of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To support the Coordinator, the MFA of Russia has established the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Inter-Civilizational Dialogue and Collaboration with the Alliance of Civilizations (IDWG).

**PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS,  
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND OTHER SEGMENTS  
OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

In order to provide Russia's participation in the Alliance of Civilizations, we intend to engage, on a large scale, Russian non-governmental organizations, societies, associations, funds and other structures representing our country's civil society and to set up, under the Interdepartmental Working Group on Inter-civilizational Dialogue and Interaction with the Alliance of Civilizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, an NGO Specialized Expert Advisory Council involving representatives of Russian traditional confessions.

We will promote cooperation between Russian NGOs and those of the CIS countries, in particular, through the national Peace Foundations.

The potential of Russia's scientific community, including Russian Academy of Sciences Institutes of Ethnology, Anthropology, World History, Oriental Studies, World Economy and International Relations and Philosophy, should be tapped to implement the Plan.

We pay special attention to using the potential of the Russian Orthodox Church and other religious denominations represented in Russia.

The Federal Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Relations with the Compatriots Abroad and for International Humanitarian Cooperation should intensify its activities related to the topics dealt with by the Alliance of Civilizations in collaboration with EU national information and cultural centers to address the following themes: "Culture and Migration", "The Image of a Nation" and "Support for Natural Bilingualism in Diasporas as

a Prerequisite for Migrants' Efficient Integration into a Foreign Social Environment".

### EDUCATION

- Granting of scholarships to students from developing countries, including those from the Middle East, South, Central and South-East Asia, to make it possible for them to study free of charge in Russian universities.

- Promotion of learning Arabic, Farsi, Turkish and other languages spoken in Muslim countries, as well as studying of their history, culture, traditions and customs; provision of necessary conditions and opportunities for foreign specialists to learn Russian, including through internships at the Pushkin State Institute of the Russian Language, the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, the Lomonosov Moscow State University, other universities and major centers teaching Russian as a foreign language.

- Promotion of Russian language courses abroad, in particular those organized by the Federal Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Relations with the Compatriots Abroad and for International Humanitarian Cooperation in Russian scientific and cultural centers abroad involving human and educational resources of major Russian university centers teaching Russian as a foreign language, as well as those of the *Russkiy Mir* Foundation.

- Better use of Russian scientific and cultural centers offering local languages courses, with due account for migrants' ethnic and cultural specificity, to help Russian-speaking migrants from CIS countries adapt more quickly abroad.

- Development and implementation of educational programs (to be used in schools and special educational centers) to help migrants and their family members adapt to social and cultural features of a receiving community and to learn the language of a receiving country. Training of teaching staff for schools and preschool institutions with an ethno-cultural component, as well as for ordinary schools in the field of tolerance, intercultural dialogue and human rights.

- Development of an interdisciplinary module for model general education programs to study history and culture of religions constituting an integral part of the historical heritage of the peoples living in Russia.

- The activities referred to in this section will be organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

### YOUTH POLICY

- Increasing exchanges of young people and students under the auspices of the Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. Youth policy institutions, such as bodies for the youth affairs of entities of the Russian Federation, municipal entities and public youth organizations, as well as educational institutions at the level of secondary schools, colleges and universities will implement such exchanges.

- Participation of representatives of Russian youth in international events both in the bilateral and multilateral formats: festivals, contests, sports competitions.

- Making the intercivilizational dialogue one of the main lines of activities involving the young believers. The International Youth Forum "An Intercultural Dialogue and its Religious Dimension" (30 November – 4 December 2008, Kazan) supported by the Council of Europe was an example of the involvement of young adherents to the traditional Russian religions in this field.

- Events provided for in this section will be implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in close cooperation with the Ministry of Sports, Tourism and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation.

#### MEDIA

- Analyze possibilities of the Russian participation in the Rapid Response Media Mechanism created under the auspices of the Alliance of Civilizations in case of crisis situations in the sphere of multicultural cooperation and systematic collection and dissemination of information on the positive experience of intercultural communication. For these purposes, the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation (VGTRK) could be engaged in broadcasting programs in the Russian language, and the Russian State Radio Broadcasting Company "The Voice of Russia" and "Russia Today" TV channel – for broadcasting programs in foreign languages. For these purposes such public information agencies as "RIA Novosti" and ITAR-TASS could also be used.

- Hold more "round tables" on "The role and social responsibility of media in solving the problems of interconfessional dialogue, in countering terrorism and xenophobia" on the premises of The Federal Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Relations with the Compatriots

Abroad and for International Humanitarian Cooperation representations, including through use of the NGO Specialized Expert Advisory Council within the IDWG.

- Support in engaging adherents to Russian traditional religions in the Rapid Response Media Mechanism. Use the appropriate experience of rapid response to interreligious crisis situations gained by the Interreligious Council of Russia.

- Extensive media coverage of cultural events provided for in the section "Culture".

- Events provided for in this section will be implemented by the MFA of Russia in close cooperation with the Federal Press and Mass Communications Agency.

### MIGRATION

- Pursuing a migration policy that would ensure measures to provide assistance to foreign workers engaged in the Russian economy in adapting to the environment of a specific location in the Russian Federation and raising awareness of the legislation of the Russian Federation, the Russian language, cultural, religious traditions and customs of the Russian people. Such assistance will be provided above all through government bodies of constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation and other interested federal executive bodies of Russia will also be engaged in this work



Work in a number of related areas, such as cooperation in the field of science, gender policy, inter-civilizational public diplomacy, cultural interaction, interreligious dialogue and interaction with Russian business community will also contribute to the implementation of activities within four main areas of this plan.

### CULTURE

Holding days of foreign cultures in Russia and days of Russian culture in foreign countries, and also declaring a Year of a foreign country in Russia and a Year of Russia in foreign countries on the basis of reciprocity; in the context of such events it is possible to hold fairs, exhibitions, performances by musical groups and theatrical companies.

Carrying out activities aimed at preserving cultural identity in the era of globalization.

### RELIGION

Using the MFA Working Group on Interaction Between the MFA and the Russian Orthodox Church and the Consultative Council on Cooperation with Muslim Organizations in Russia for the purposes of inter-civilizational and interreligious dialogue.

In Russia, religious organizations should carry out different activities aimed at improving the interreligious dialogue as a follow-up to the already conducted fora, in particular, such as the International Conference "Dialogue of Cultures and Inter-Faith Cooperation", International Seminar "Dialogue, Tolerance and Education: the Concerted Action of the Council of Europe and the Religious Communities", World Summit of Religious Leaders, a number of meetings of the Group of the Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World".

Engaging the Russian Orthodox Church educational institutions and the Moscow Islamic University to promote relevant student exchange in religions sphere.

Promotion of the experience of the Interreligious Council of Russia as a forum for constructive interaction among representatives of different confessions.

Carrying out further work on developing the interfaith dialogue particularly through the promotion of Russia's initiative put forward at the 62th session of the UN General Assembly to set up a Consultative Council of Religions under the aegis of the United Nations, as well as further promotion of the religious dimension of the cross-cultural dialogue within the framework of the Council of Europe. The Consultative Council of Religions could be used as a platform for an exchange of views on the issues pertaining to the dialogue of religions and to the fight against their defamation, as well as to the manifestations of intolerance and xenophobia, and to the preservation of religious sites and cultural heritage.

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To implement the provisions of this Plan concurrently with Russia's humanitarian activities within the post-Soviet space, particularly in the CIS format. The CIS projects and programs that are in line with the goals and objectives of the Alliance could be implemented within the framework of the Interstate Humanitarian Cooperation Fund, working in cooperation with the Council for Humanitarian Cooperation of the CIS Member States. Such CIS projects and programs include the CIS Artistic and Scientific Communities Forum, educational, scientific, cultural, information and youth projects.

To take, on a permanent basis, measures to promote a positive image of the Alliance of Civilizations in the Russian Federation and to involve a broad range of cultural and academic groups in the programs of the Alliance.

To continue, in this connection, preparing and carrying out by the Russian academic circles the activities relating to cross-civilizational issues, in particular, such as the public diplomacy forums under the auspices of the Lahti process, prepared and tested as pilot projects by The Federal Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Relations with the Compatriots Abroad and for International Humanitarian Cooperation, the "Calligraphy for Peace" cultural diplomacy programs, and those implemented through the Pitirim Sorokin Foundation (among the latest examples is "The Global Civilizational Forum – The Future of Civilizations" held in April 2008 and March 2009). To this end, to use the capacities of MGIMO (University) of the MFA of Russia and the Saint-Petersburg Humanitarian University of Trade Unions (following the examples of the VIII and IX International Academic Readings "Dialogue of Cultures and Partnership of Civilizations" in memory of Dmitry Likhachov, May 2008 and May 2009, Saint-Petersburg). To involve in these activities the prominent representatives from Russian governmental institutions, leading figures of the Russian and world academic and cultural life.

When implementing specific programs of cooperation with the Alliance of Civilizations, close interaction should be developed with the World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations" as one of the most authoritative international non-governmental organizations which promote the intercivilizational accord.