



**Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations
Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April 2009
Breakfast Session #9: Culture and Development
Tuesday, April 7, 2009: 07:45-08.45**
Organized by the French Development Agency (AFD)

Objectives and Expectations of this Session

Culture and development are neither opposite nor parallel, but strongly linked. Indeed the gap seems wide: on the one hand, development has to do with financial, technical and governance issues, as well as infrastructure projects; whereas on the other hand culture refers to ideas, myths, art creation, the independence and loneliness of artists, the relationship with God, etc. But in reality and in the Mediterranean area in particular, all development projects are primarily political projects nourished by cultural references and founded on myths. Arts and architecture also are political issues. And they have lasting economic value.

The objective of the session is to explore the complex links between culture, religion, and the development of societies and cities.

Questions for Discussion

- How to mix cultural and development projects?
- Can the preservation of cultural heritage and urban planning be reconciled?
- How to promote multicultural education exchanges and programs?
- How to foster dialogue across legal systems (Roman Law, Common Law, Islamic Shari'ah)?

Organization of this Session:

Each speaker will give a 5 minutes presentation to introduce the topic and then the floor will be opened for half an hour for an open debate with all participants.

Speakers:

Mr. Jean-Michel Debrat, Deputy Director General, French Development Agency
Mr. Jacques Huntzinger, Ambassador in Mission in charge of the Mediterranean Cultural Forum