



**Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations
Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April 2009
Breakfast Session #15: Foundations engaged in Building Trust and Cooperation
Among Religions, Cultures and Peoples
Tuesday, April 7, 2009: 07:45-08:45**
Organized by the Alliance of Civilizations International Network of Foundations (INF)

- **Background**

The Alliance of Civilizations International Network of Foundations (INF) brings together foundations working to build trust and cooperation among religions, cultures and peoples. It promotes knowledge exchange, collaboration and advocacy. INF includes public, private and corporate foundations and individual philanthropists from around the world. INF aims to facilitate information exchange and to increase collaboration by providing a space for foundations to share information about their respective areas of work; share best practices in grant-making; hear from experts; address common challenges; and identify knowledge gaps that require additional research. INF encourages collaboration among complementary initiatives, especially across regions.

INF is also providing a series of resources to support foundations working on AOC-related themes.

- **Objective of the breakfast session**

The objective of the breakfast session is to discuss the follow-up of the first meeting of INF held in Marrakech last February and to agree on a set of priorities, particularly:

1. The creation of one or two affinity groups on:
 - “Islamic Pluralism” or “Achieving interfaith understanding”, with the objective to endorse the idea that understanding must move in *both* directions and that social justice and equity must be respected through the process.
 - Education and the new Media
 - Evaluation of projects and scaling up for impact.
 - Working with AoC to refine a strategic plan for achieving its objectives
 - Connecting interested Foundations with the AoC Marketplace of Ideas to facilitate partnership, scale-up and replication
 - Working together with AoC in raising people awareness on intercultural dialogue and cooperation and partnering on specific programs
2. The next steps on other ideas discussed in Marrakech:
 - Creating a virtual reference library on the management of cross-cultural relations;
 - Joint development of educational tools for cross-cultural dialogue;
 - Creating a matrix with Foundations and activities looking at overlap and potential synergy, common interest ;
 - Connecting with the private sector in order to leverage greater impact
- 3 The organization and the agenda of next INF meeting in Madrid to discuss and advise on AoC objectives.