



United Nations



## ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

### **Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations**

**Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April 2009**

### **Breakfast Session #13: Bridging Divides in the Field of Humanitarianism and Development**

Organized by the Humanitarian Forum

#### **Background:**

In many crisis contexts, like Afghanistan or Darfur, there is a nearly total lack of cooperation between “Western” and Islamic humanitarian NGOs, even though both "sides" have great impact. Similarly, faith based NGOs are receiving increased attention and Government funding, but cooperation between development organisations with different religious backgrounds is very rare. This international picture is mirrored on the ground, where local NGOs tend to work in isolation from each other.

This amounts to a divide in the field of humanitarianism and development. This working breakfast will explore and develop ways in which we can pool together knowledge and resources of NGOs with different cultural backgrounds and value systems to bring humanitarian and development aid to the people in need.

#### **Key Questions:**

- What causes the divide and what are the solutions?
- What is happening to bridge this divide?
- What more can we do to support these initiatives?

Comments by panelists will be followed by a general discussion.

Moderator: Huseyin Oruch, Trustee of the Humanitarian Forum and Deputy President of the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (INGO), Turkey