

The Ankara Declaration

We, the participants gathered in Ankara for the fifth Glocalization Conference of the Glocal Forum, Mayors and representatives of 54 cities from all corners of the world, together with heads of international institutions, champions of the public and private sector, have held 3 days of deliberations against the backdrop of a growing danger of a rift between what is defined as the western world and large parts of the Islamic world. These notions are marred with misconceptions, misunderstandings, prejudice, even hostility and violence. This danger was emphasized, and the possibility of this leading to a dangerous deterioration in the international system.

In our deliberations we concluded that what we have in common overrides our differences, but indeed differences are legitimate, be they cultural or political, and must be respected and viewed as part of the mosaic of multiculturalism paving the way for peaceful coexistence.

For this purpose the Ankara conference has identified several important measures in order to sustain our efforts to build a bridge between civilizations:

- 1) Concerned by the “hostility between civilizations” and especially between the West and Islam – rejecting Islamophobia and Westernophobia - calling for an ongoing dialogue between civilizations.
- 2) To continue the call for dialogue between civilizations to culminate in another important meeting to be held in Rome in 2007.
- 3) To explore the creation of a multi-civilizational centre in the Middle East to create the possibility for joint dialogue in which the various civilizations condemn all violence and promote peaceful coexistence.
- 4) To create a multicultural centre in Ankara in cooperation with a Glocal Forum branch, that will promote multi-cultural expressions in different cities.
- 5) To call for the creation of an international day of multiculturalism under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations and UNESCO (approved by all participants).
- 6) To promote media exposure in the various cities in order to narrow the divide of ignorance and minimize dangerous stereotypes. This effort will be coordinated by the Glocal Forum.
- 7) All participants call to enhance greater harmony in Europe between people of different backgrounds. This trend can be enhanced by the speedy entry of Turkey to the EU.
- 8) To measure predictably the development of attitudes across cultural divides and report them to the international community and the UN.
- 9) To support the goals and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative which is co-sponsored by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey and Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero of Spain under the aegis of the UN Secretary General. In this context, the mayors pledged their cooperation at the local level to contribute to the improvement of understanding and dialogue amount different cultures and societies.

10) To empower youth to create an agenda inspired by the importance of the building of bridges between civilizations through dialogue and cooperation.

11) To enhance decentralization in international relations with a heightened role for mayors in civil society and the cooperation between them.

12) To establish a Glocal Media Center in order to strengthen local media expressions and the links between them.

13) To call for an immediate speedy resolution in a peaceful way of the current Middle East crises in order to avoid civilian casualties on both sides.

14) To embark on a process of activities in all above mentioned areas, to be defined as the “**Ankara Process**” and to be led by the Municipality of Ankara and the Glocal Forum (acting in Rome and Ankara). The Ankara Process will also deal with peacebuilding efforts through the glocalization process also on the Palestinian and Israeli issue.

In conclusion we, the participants at the Ankara Conference will promote - thanks to a culture of working to bridge the divide between civilizations - for the purpose of better understanding, social-economic development, enhancement of collaboration between local authorities especially on cultural, art and technical areas, and increased dialogue and conflict resolution in order to promote peacebuilding between civil society.

Melih Gökçek
Mayor of Ankara

Ambassador Uri Savir
President of The Glocal Forum

Cities Attending the Conference:

Akron (OH, U.S.A.)	Islamabad (Pakistan)	Rome (Italy)
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	Kabul (Afghanistan)	Rosh Ha'ayin (Israel)
Agadir (Morocco)	Karachi (Pakistan)	Salt Lake City (UT, U.S.A.)
Amman (Jordan)	Khartoum (Sudan)	Sana'a (Yemen)
Ankara (Turkey)	Kigali (Rwanda)	Sao Paulo (Brazil)
Athens (Greece)	Kikinda (Serbia)	Sofia (Bulgaria)
Baghdad (Iraq)	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	The Hague (The Netherlands)
Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	Lefkosa (Cyprus)	Tirana (Albania)
Bogotá (Colombia)	Managua (Nicaragua)	Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)
Boston (MA, U.S.A.)	Marseille (France)	Vienna (Austria)
Bologna (Italy)	Maputo (Mozambique)	Washington, D.C. (U.S.A.)
Chisinau (Moldova)	Modena (Italy)	
Delhi (India)	Moscow (Russia)	
Denver (CO, U.S.A.)	Nablus (Palestine)	
Doha (Qatar)	Nicosia (Cyprus)	
Dubai (United Arab Emirates)	Pescara Province (Italy)	
Durban (South Africa)	Philadelphia (PA, U.S.A.)	
Dushanbe (Tajikistan)	Pristina (Kosovo)	
Ferrara (Italy)	Rabat (Morocco)	
Florence (Italy)	Reggio Emilia (Italy)	
Freetown (Sierra Leone)	Rishon Le'Zion (Israel)	
Havana (Cuba)		