

# REPORT

of the

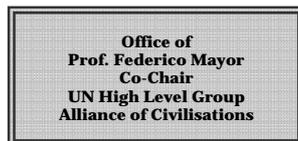
## Hearings with the International Community & Civil Society

regarding the

### United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations

Palais des Nations  
Room XXIII – Building E  
Geneva, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006

organised by:



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hosted by:



Office of the Director General  
United Nations Geneva

with the collaboration of:



Conference of NGOs in  
Consultative Relationship with UN



World Confederation  
of Labour



International Confederation  
of Free Trade Unions



UBUNTU – World Forum of  
Civil Society Networks



World Federation of  
United Nations Associations

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**Geneva, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

Coordinated and edited by:

**Manuel Manonelles**

Advisor to the Co-Chair of the UN HLG for the Alliance of Civilisations

with the support of Elizabeth Dalmau and Janira Tor

This *Report of the Hearings with the International Community & Civil Society regarding the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations* has been prepared by the Office of Prof. Federico Mayor – Co-Chair of the High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations- under the coordination of Manuel Manonelles, Advisor to the co-Chair; and the support of Elizabeth Dalmau and Janira Tor.

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**PART I**

**REPORT OF THE SESSIONS**

## **Opening session**

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- Speakers:*
- Tony Hill, NGLS
  - Ibrahim Osman, IFRC
  - Federico Mayor, Co-Chair HLG AoC
- “Principles and values of the Alliance of Civilisations”

The opening session was chaired by **Tony Hill**, Director of NGLS (Non-Governmental Liaison Service) who, during his intervention, drew the attention of the participants to the recent events in the Middle East, stressing the fact that a growing number of innocents were dying in the region as a consequence of the escalation of violence. In this sense, the victims were remembered during this intervention with a minute of silence.

Subsequently, Mr. Hill highlighted the pragmatic and action-driven character of the hearings which aimed at providing a forum for different perspectives and views to be presented.

**Ibrahim Osman**<sup>1</sup>, Secretary General of the IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies), showed the coincidence between many of the objectives sought both, by the Alliance of Civilisations and by the IFRC. These common areas would regard not only to the principles of non-discrimination, inclusion, tolerance, interdependence, collective work for peace and prosperity, but also the impartial approach they both should follow.

In this sense, Mr. Osman offered the support of this International Federation to the High Level Group (HLG) for the Alliance of Civilisations, to work on the implementation of the outcomes of its report.

The need for being critical but constructive at a same time was highlighted and three specific proposals were defined. First of all, the one of setting up a system of collaborating centres, which would allow to activate a process involving a large and diverse number of actors (including NGOs, private sector, agencies, etc.) in such a way that each of them would contribute to the process with their specific expertise. Secondly, to actively involve empowered youth in reaching the mentioned objectives, mainly using non formal education methods. Thirdly, he insisted on making an effort to focus on the design of long-term initiatives.

Finally Mr. Osman expressed his concern about the need for the report to be issued by the HLG to be structured and with special attention to the proposals for its implementation.

**Federico Mayor** pointed out that the main role of the UN system is to bring people together in order to bridge the divide and to avoid armed conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> For the complete intervention, see Part II of this report

In this framework, it is necessary and beneficial to be inspired by several UN declarations but we need to make further steps showing, with our example, how to become citizens of the world and how to make next generations also follow this path. It is time for action and, thus, if the report aspires at accomplishing concrete objectives, it must be an action-driven document.

This is why the Alliance of Civilisations searches to work on the political will. Several other elements, though, are also essential for reaching successful results: the people have to take a leading role on this process of dialogue, it has to be a process focused on peacebuilding instead of on peacekeeping, it has to avoid conflict and coordinate efforts of the already existing institutions, avoiding duplications and reinforcing the UN system.

This can be done, mainly, through mobilisation either under traditional formats, such as demonstrations, or by new ones, which are only possible now thanks to the new technologies (internet, cell phones, etc).

Prof. Mayor also underlined that, in order to promote the development of this process, freedom and education are essential, while phenomena such as extremism and imposition are completely unacceptable.

This is why we need to take action on several fields simultaneously: on policies of integration of immigrants, on the promotion of multilateralism, on education (contents, exchange and twinning, etc.), facilitate access to Internet and work on the empowerment of youth.

Prof. Mayor concluded his intervention by reading a personal declaration on the situation of the Middle East.

## **1<sup>st</sup> session: principles and objectives of the Alliance of Civilisations**

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- Moderator:* - Bruna Faidutti, WFUNA
- Speaker:* - Manuel Manonelles  
Advisor to the Co-Chair of the HLG AoC

The session was chaired by **Bruna Faidutti**, Director of the Geneva office of the WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations), who stressed the interest of adopting a constructive and a positive approach to the subject.

**Manuel Manonelles**, Advisor to the Co-Chair of the HLG for the Alliance of Civilisations, presented the specific objectives of the initiative of the Alliance of Civilisations and the task of the HLG, referring to the specific parts of both the Concept Paper of the Alliance and the Terms of Reference of the HLG. He also commented the objectives and methodology of these hearings, highlighting the need for formulating concrete proposals.

Afterwards, Mr. Manonelles explained that the HLG had already met in three plenary meetings (Mallorca, Qatar and Dakar), addressing topics such as multipolarity and multilateralism, the importance of the political and symbolic dimensions including thematic areas such as youth, education, media and migrations/integration. Moreover, he asserted that the HLG had specially addressed the transversal issues of gender and religion.

Furthermore, Mr Manonelles stated that the HLG had interacted with several international organisations, in order to guarantee coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts. Within this framework, organisations such as the OSCE, UNESCO, League of Arab States, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, United Cities and Local Governments or ISESCO had ensured their support to the implementation period.

Finally, he added that the initiative also counted on the support of more than 30 states.

Subsequently, the **debate** was opened, with the first interventions being made by the representatives of Spain and Turkey:

The representative of Spain expressed his very positive valuation of the work having been carried out within the HLG, looking forward to the final report. In addition, the Spanish representative mentioned the work that Spain, together with Turkey, was developing in order to establish a “group of friends” so as to ensure the necessary political will.

This representative also stressed the importance of defining and setting up mechanisms to follow-up the work having been carried out within the HLG. In this sense, he encouraged the participants to put forward proposals of pragmatic and applicable character.

The representative of Turkey reaffirmed her country’s support to the initiative of the Alliance of Civilisations, being Turkey one of the co-sponsoring states of this initiative.

The representative of Hungary asserted his interest in the initiative of the Alliance and thanked the organisation of the event for giving this opportunity to the international organisations and civil society.

After those interventions, the debate continued with the moderator highlighting the interest of putting forward applicable recommendations which may concretise eventual existing statements and declarations.

During the discussion, the following was highlighted by individual participants:

- The aims of the Alliance of Civilisations require a change in the mindsets of citizens. In this sense, it is necessary to concentrate efforts on addressing children.
- Communication technologies should serve the objectives of the Alliance of Civilisations.
- Neither human rights nor democracy should be imposed.
- Concern has been expressed about the extent to which the conclusions of the HLG will afterwards be implemented. In this sense, the existing political will around the initiative is seen as an important asset.
- The need for a strengthened multilateral system (including UN system but also regional organisations) is underlined as an important element to ensure the follow up of the recommendations to be included in the report of the HLG.
- Concern was raised about the role of civil society in the initiative of the Alliance of Civilisations: there is the will but not the means to participate.

Finally, **Prof. Mayor** retook some of the topics addressed during the session.

First of all, Prof. Mayor reaffirmed his conviction that mutlipolarism and multilateralism are key factors of international stability. Secondly, the topic of gender was addressed, confirming its presence in the report in a transversal way. Access to technology is highlighted as one of the concrete and main proposals to be taken into account and implemented as soon as possible.

With regards to the need of changing mindsets, Prof. Mayor focused on the important role of education, provided through academic institutions, but above all, through our continuous example.

In order to conclude, Prof. Mayor made reference to the discussions that are already taking place with regard to the methods of implementation and finally, to the fact that this initiative not only counts on a broad governmental political will but also on the support of many organisations which have expressed their support.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> session: The political & the religious dimensions**

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- Moderator:* - Renata Bloem, CONGO
- Speakers:* - Vladimir Petrovsky, CDAC
- Gaspar Martínez, Pax Romana-ICMICA

The session was chaired by **Renata Bloem**, President of CONGO (Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with UN). During her intervention, Ms. Bloem stressed the strong revival of a spiritual trend (although not necessarily religious) in all societies.

**Ambassador Valdimir Petrovsky**<sup>2</sup>, Chairman of CDAC (Comprehensive Dialogue Among Civilizations) and former Director General of UNOG and former President of the Conference of Disarmament, consecrated his intervention to address the political dimension of the Alliance of Civilisations.

Using a comprehensive approach to the topic, Amb. Petrovsky divided his intervention into three parts: the new political landscape and the new actors, the collective action and, finally, some proposals of how to contribute to a global movement of rejection of extremism in any society.

With regard to the first part, Amb. Petrovsky presented the current scenario of globalisation, characterised by its interdependency and multiculturalism, as a new double-edged context offering great opportunities but also hard international threats both in terms of hard and soft security.

In this sense, Amb. Petrovsky highlighted the need for building a human oriented globalisation, fair and equitable, considering that it is an objective that can only be reached by collective action, including the participation of a wide range of actors (from institutional ones to civil society, media, and representatives of the corporate sector).

In this new context, traditional actors, such as states, need to re-adapt themselves in order to deliver and meet their obligations with their citizens. They should do so through a redefinition of their national interest, the recognition of the intersection between domestic and international politics (redefining thus, the concept of sovereignty) and by networking with a plurality of actors.

Facing this reality, universal responses are increasingly needed and concerted multilateral actions at different levels of governance are essential (from international to local, encouraging regional units and ensuring coordination between the different actions).

With regard to the second part of his intervention, Amb. Peterovsky argued that the new scenario requires collective action. Mainly referring to the security field, we should be able to offer multifaced actions to work for the different scopes of the security.

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<sup>2</sup> For the complete intervention, see Part II of this report.

Furthermore, we need to implement actions which are consistent with the rule of law and human values; these actions should enhance: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, peaceenforcement and should also support arms regulation.

Finally, regarding the third part of his intervention, Amb. Petrovsky argued that, in order to achieve tangible results by the Alliance of Civilisations, it is absolutely indispensable to involve a wide plurality of actors in partnership and which should work to change the mindset and the conception of international issues. For this, we count on the means of multilateral diplomacy, the role of Parliaments and the need to promote good governance (primacy of the legal approach, transparency, responsibility and base on common ethical principles) at all levels. We should also strengthen the UN system so as to develop responsible multilateralism, empower democracy at domestic level, and establish mandatory observation of laws and adherence to the value system.

But it is also important the way we communicate and develop a spirit of dialogue (avoiding misunderstandings, increasing the interest in others, highlighting common values, cultural differences, and best practices).

To conclude, Amb. Petrovsky expressed his will to collaborate with the implementation of the final report of the HLG for the Alliance of Civilisations.

**Gaspar Martínez<sup>3</sup>**, Representative of Pax Romana-ICMICA and responsible for the International Congress on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, addressed the religious dimension of the Alliance of Civilisations.

First of all, he analysed the dramatic changes our world has suffered during the last thirty years. In this sense, he highlighted the crisis of the model that came out of modernity and the development model which was associated to it, both of them having received heavy criticism, especially regarding their Eurocentric thrust. As a consequence, a number of more or less violent reactions are taking place against the Western model of society; however, the conflict can not be reduced to a Muslim – “Western-Christian” confrontation. In any case, this confrontation shows frustration with regard to the way Western countries have conducted their foreign policies and set the international agenda as much as a search for a new way of conducting their political life in accordance with their own traditions and cultural identities.

At the same time, in Western societies themselves, secularisation is increasingly discredited and religions are increasingly becoming a refuge for those who experience globalisation and nowadays' international scenario as a cold-blooded world. In some cases, too, this panorama is becoming a ground for reconstructing their identities on the basis of resistance, inspiration and hope. Finally, all these trends are promoting the ongoing formation of multicultural-multireligious societies.

Very often the theory of the *Clash of Civilisations* is being used; however, this theory simplifies reality in an unacceptable way as the clash is growing not between civilisations but within most societies themselves regardless of their religious affiliation.

Secondly, Mr. Martínez formulated the following recommendations for the work of the HLG:

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<sup>3</sup> For the complete intervention, see Part II of this report.

- Dialogue among civilisations, cultures and religions should be recognised as fundamental and, in this framework, the relation between different actors, including religious NGOs, is of vital importance.
- It is essential to undertake practical actions in the fields of education, youth, medical and social workers, and police corps to foster understanding, tolerance and cooperation and combat stereotypes and misperceptions.
- A consultative group composed by representatives of member states, the United Nations system and non-governmental organisations should be created in order to help value the role of interreligious and intercultural cooperation.
- Profound existing injustice and imbalances should be addressed.
- Need for adopting a multifaced, comprehensive approach to this topic.

During the **discussion**, the following was highlighted by individual participants:

- The discussions of the Alliance of Civilisations would need to be accompanied by a creative action plan so as to make sure that they are implemented.
- Actions at different governance levels (national, local, international) should be complementing each other.
- Culture of dialogue should be included in manuals and taught at schools.
- To address the political and religious dimensions of the Alliance of Civilisations is essential to reinforce the power of moderates positions.
- A spiritual forum at the UN which would allow regular discussion and exchange is currently missing.
- No model, regardless of which model it is, should be imposed.

In order to conclude, **Prof. Mayor** thanked the participants for their proposals and commented on the topics addressed during the session such as the importance of the fact that some problems are inter-religious but most of them are intra-religious. He also highlighted that anyone can express his/her ideas as far as there is no imposition.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> session: Youth, Education & Media**

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*Moderator:* - Josep Xercavins, UBUNTU Forum

*Speakers:* - Richard Amalvy, WOSM  
- George Gordon-Lennox, Reporters without Borders

The session was chaired by **Josep Xercavins**, Coordinator of the UBUNTU Forum Secretariat.

**Richard Amalvy**<sup>4</sup>, Director of Communication and Media of the WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement, addressed the topic of youth and education dividing his presentation into three parts.

During the first part, he addressed the several and simultaneous trends which are currently affecting young people worldwide. He mainly highlighted the increasing instability that youngsters are facing in the public sphere (economical problems, regional conflicts, uncertainty of some political regimes, etc.) but also in the private one (such as the increasing instability of the family ties).

These trends are also encouraged by the proliferation of extremist nationalisms, the reduced access to education and the increase of migration flows which quite often result into phenomena such as racism, misperceptions, lack of respect, social exclusion, which, in some cases, might derive to social violence.

In this sense, media play a key role as they provide images of war, environmental and humanitarian disasters and violence to young people at a very high speed; this way, media narrow the critical thinking necessary to understand reality in its whole complexity and, thus, also increase the possibilities of generating aggressive orientations among youth. Furthermore, through media, youngsters also receive the images of fundamentalisms which, sometimes, struggle of civilisations and cultures, as much as propaganda from dictatorships and totalitarian regimes (reduced access to free information is a key factor of misperception).

In the second part of this presentation, Mr. Amalvy addressed the different responses that youth organisations can provide to this new scenario and that actually contribute to the goals of the Alliance of Civilisations.

Youth organisations help new generations to set better conditions for understanding the current global challenges at the same time that they open new perspectives for their leaders and members, contributing this way to the goals of the Alliance of Civilisations. The Alliance, thus, can build on this already existing cooperation; however, it is necessary to point out that this task lacks of financial resources from governments and international organisations so as to develop all its potentialities.

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<sup>4</sup> For the complete intervention, see Part II of this report.

In this sense, youth organisations contribute to the process of development based on the training of agents of change and having an important social impact as they empower change-makers in their communities.

Furthermore, most youth organisations are based on a non formal educational method, through which youngsters “learn by doing” and acquire soft skills such as engagement, sense of democracy, initiative, participation, motivation, respect and tolerance, responsibility, self-confidence, solidarity. They also learn how to communicate and develop interpersonal relations, how to solve problems and conflicts; increase their leadership, management and organisational skills as much as their team spirit and volunteerism. These skills can not be easily taught in formal education as they are learned through practical experience.

In order to conclude, Mr. Amalvy reminded the need for the HLG of the Alliance of Civilisations to: recognise the youth sector of civil society; to recognise the ability of youth organisations to act socially on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity and, finally, the need for investing in youth and in education. Mr. Amalvy also highlighted that the main challenge is to design consistent youth policies at global, regional and national levels, a task that the UN could achieve through its world programme of action for youth.

**George Gordon-Lennox**<sup>5</sup>, Representative of Reporters without Borders, made an exhaustive explanation about the respect of press freedom in the world, as much as denouncing and condemning several violations of this right.

Mr. Gordon-Lennox presented freedom of press as a cornerstone of Human Rights and as a guarantee of other freedoms because it encourages transparency and good governance as much as increased justice. In this sense, he also highlighted its fundamental role with regard to the exchange of ideas between nations and cultures contributing to disseminate universal values.

In the context of the Alliance of Civilisations, one of the main issues to be addressed, and mainly bearing in mind the cartoons crisis, is the one of how to reconcile freedom of expression and the respect for each individual's deepest convictions.

In this sense, Mr. Gordon-Lennox proposed the HLG to adopt within its conclusions, a strong recommendation to endorse press freedom as a universal value brooking no restrictions other than protecting individual privacy, shielding innocent children from pornography, and preventing hate propaganda and incitement to violence.

Furthermore, he also highlighted how accurate, balanced and detailed are the reports of the special rapporteur having been appointed by the UN Human Rights Council. In this sense, he proposed the HLG to also recommend giving more importance to these reports by eventually creating a permanent working group on press freedom and the protection of journalists.

During the **debate**, the following was highlighted by participants:

- The youth sector represents a great percentage of the world population and it is a factor of change. This is why, it needs to be urgently not only heard but also

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<sup>5</sup> For the complete intervention see Part II of this report.

incorporated in the process of the Alliance of Civilisations, not undervaluing its potential.

- Youngsters have an immense capacity to create but they generally do not have the opportunity to develop it. In this sense, we need to promote young leaders.
- Youth intergenerational equity needs to be reaffirmed in order to promote a more sustainable world.
- Media should try to reduce gender unbalance in the coverage of news.
- Media should not focus as much as it is focusing on sex, sports and scandal instead of in creativity.
- Media need to be free but also responsible as it is very difficult to legislate on this domain. Responsible media exist and they have to become part of this process.
- Attention should be paid to the fact that moderates are often marginalised by media only guided by audience polls.
- Media is increasingly becoming an international actor and this is why, on the one hand, concentration of media is being used as a weapon and, on the other hand, media is also becoming a victim of aggressions.
- Some kind of database could be set up in order to create a worldwide network of citizens who may reflect the philosophy of the Alliance of Civilisations, such as binational couples or families.

Finally, **Prof. Mayor** retook some of the topics addressed during the session. Prof. Mayor highlighted the importance of making citizens react, mobilise against abusive behaviours of media, and defending freedom of expression. The importance and interest of the notion of intergenerational equity was also underlined as much as the importance of youth organisations.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> & closing session: Economic & social issues, migrations & gender**

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*Moderator:* - Willy Thys, WCL & ICFTU

*Speaker:* - Michele Klein-Solomon, IOM

**Willy Thys**<sup>6</sup>, Secretary General of the WCL (World Confederation of Labour) but also in representation of the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), introduced the economic and social dimensions of the discussion by arguing that although globalisation has created new opportunities, they have not resulted into a reduction of social disparities, neither in the increase of the number of decent jobs offered, neither on the improvement of working conditions, nor even in the reduction of poverty. The tendency has been more on the opposite direction. This has been caused by the fact that globalisation is nowadays driven by the interests of markets and not by that of the workers or the peoples.

This phenomenon, combined with the increasing economic gap between North and South and the economic, commercial and financial policies being implemented in many countries, has accelerated the rhythm of international migrations.

In this sense, only sustainable development in all regions of the world can allow any human being to live in dignity. Migrations, though, constitute a privileged field to override the hypothesis of the *Clash of Civilizations*.

**Michele Klein-Solomon**, Acting Director for Migration Policy, Research and Communications Department of the IOM (International Organization for Migration), addressed the issue of migrations in contemporary world.

Ms. Klein-Solomon started her presentation by providing an overview of the dimension of the migratory phenomenon in contemporary world, refereeing to facts such as the 191 million people that are currently living outside their countries of origin for at least a year, or the percentage of nearly 50% of this migration corresponding to women. Migration is, thus, a basic aspect of today's world and it is not likely to change.

Most migration today is not permanent as the increased mobility that characterises our world makes it increasingly feasible to think of migrations at international level.

Migration is nowadays a survival strategy for many people, but those who emigrate keep very much in contact with their home countries (mainly by Internet) and usually send them remittances. While this international migration used to take place between countries with colonial links, this is not the typical model any more.

This migratory phenomenon implies challenges in what regards the integration of the migrant. On the one hand, because of its social dimension (real challenges in schools, how not to discriminate, health care, etc.) but also at the cultural level, because nowadays, migrants are not expected any more to abandon their identities; nowadays, migrants have

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<sup>6</sup> For the complete intervention, see Part II of this report.

rights and therefore, a mutual change needs to occur in the hosting cities and countries: migrants should accommodate to the hosting culture and vice versa.

Still, no *Clash of Civilisations* should happen, while on the contrary, an interaction of cultures should be encouraged. In this sense, every society will have to look at itself and find out its own and real identity. There is no integration model that would be able to accommodate to all societies. This is a process of mutual recognition, of acceptance of different ways of living, of tolerance, etc. but also the recognition of the practices of the nationals.

Still, the most important way towards integration is to engage in dialogue among different actors. This dialogue should be carried out at all governmental levels (including cities and local governments) but also with other stakeholders such as civil society representatives, religious organisations and employers.

In sum, migrations are positive as they provide energy, innovation and entrepreneurship to the hosting society; however, in order to develop this positive role, the hosting society needs to let them play fully in the market and in society too.

During the **debate**, the following was highlighted by participants:

- In order to promote dialogue with immigrants, a certain number of security conditions are required such as hosting centres. To this respect, information is extremely important for newcomers, and that is why these centres are an essential tool as they offer the help the migrants need to connect them to the services of the hosting society.
- Compensation for skilled migration from South to North should be discussed. This is especially relevant with regards to exchange programmes and higher education, being the hosting countries the ones which keep the best trained professionals. In this sense, the need for creating good incentives and job opportunities in their countries of origin is evidenced. For this, the transfer of technologies, traditional knowledge and protecting these intellectual properties are key elements.
- Migration helps to take into consideration the fact that we all have multiple identities. Migration, thus, is an opportunity since it forces us to confront ourselves to what is different but also because it compels us to come out of the trenches of our identities.
- With regard to the creation of stereotypes, we should pay special attention to the use of language and, in this sense, avoid expressions such as “illegal person”, or “illegal migrant”. Currently the expression used by the IOM and the international community is that of
- When talking about migrations, it is also extremely necessary to pay attention to collateral effects such as human trafficking and smuggling (especially in women but also in children).

### **Closing session:**

During the closing session, **Federico Mayor** thanked all those institutions having been involved in the organisation and hosting of the hearings as much as to all the participants for having put forward a fruitful discussion and enriching proposals.

Prof. Mayor went through the main topics having been addressed during the hearings in order to conclude by stating that the participation of the people and the development of action-driven processes with participation of civil society is the only solution to the challenges of contemporary international conflicts, and especially those to be addressed by the Alliance of Civilisations.

## **PART II**

### **INTERVENTIONS OF THE SPEAKERS**

## **Alliance of Civilisations: A perspective from the IFRC**

Statement by Mr Ibrahim Osman, Deputy Secretary General, at the Hearings with the International Community and Civil Society organised by the UN High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations, in Geneva

*17 July 2006*

The International Federation very much values the initiative which has led to the Secretary General of the UN deciding to launch the "Alliance of Civilisations" initiative, and the opportunity to take part in this discussion today.

We note, however, that it has been launched in the aftermath of the polarisations and difficulties of recent years.

In fact, the issues which have now come to prominence are not new. They have troubled the world for very many years, and were central to the decision to form our predecessor organisation, the League of Red Cross Societies, in 1919.

Ever since, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which make up our International Federation have been working nationally and internationally to foster and promote an environment free of discrimination and built on the concepts of interdependence which are such an important part of the concept paper prepared for the High Level Group.

I shall offer some examples of what we do, and how it supports goals which are virtually identical to those in the concept paper.

But let me say at the outset that we in the International Federation, including our 185 member National Societies, stand ready to work with the High Level Group and the Secretary General to put strength and substance behind this initiative.

We particularly welcome the close involvement of the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey, and it might be useful to note in terms of future cooperation that our President is also the President of the Spanish Red Cross. The Turkish Red Crescent Society is a member of the International Federation's Governing Board and has offered to host the next regional conference of our European National Societies.

- There are opportunities for action and interaction in both these contexts.
- They also indicate a path for action-oriented programming being sought at the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which will bring all governments and all National Societies together in November 2007.

Chair, The work of the International Federation and its National Societies is built on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent. They date from the earliest days of our Movement, in 1864, and were adopted and endorsed by all governments and National Societies in 1965.

The Fundamental Principle of Impartiality ensures that the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent will be done without discrimination of any kind, aiming to relieve suffering on the basis of need and the urgency of distress.

When read together with the other Principles and particularly the Fundamental Principle of Humanity, it is clear that the task of the International Federation is to promote action against

discrimination, to work for a world in which people of all kinds and beliefs work together for peace and prosperity.

This is why we see our work on Principles and Values as such a central part of our mandate.

Without Impartiality, it is not possible to achieve the other results we seek.

The Alliance concept which brings us together today has the same driving force.

But we do not phrase our objectives around what might be seen as negatives. We do not describe our work as a counter to extremism, or to influences that feed on exclusion, or to threats to peace and security.

Rather, we promote the direct value of a world in which people recognise, welcome and thrive on being together.

So, my first point is that our experience shows that it is better to write goals around positives, showing not just that discrimination is bad, but togetherness is good.

Chair, The International Federation's assessment of the value of National Society programs, and of its own program for Global/Local Action in support of tolerance and non-discrimination, led it to make an important Pledge at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003.

The Pledge, delivered of course in the aftermath of the terrible events of 9/11, covers a number of International Federation priorities, but two key elements for today's discussion are:

- Develop public dialogue and advocacy, promoting tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for diversity at national and international level.
- Develop partnerships and to promote dialogue and to support programmes in this area with governments, as well as international and national organisations working for the same goals specifically considering the importance that youth play in peer and non-formal education to promote international friendship and understanding.

We continue actively to promote the Pledge, and have brought it to the attention of virtually all parts of the international community. National Societies promote it in their countries and with their governments, and we will be preparing a document covering our experiences for the 30th International Conference in 2007.

At another level, we watch as carefully as we can for opportunities to contribute to the work of other organisations, and to form partnerships where they would add value to our objectives.

One which deserves mention is the action which has been undertaken in recent years through an initiative known as the World Meeting on Religions and Cultures.

We recall today that the Third meeting in that series, in Athens in 2004, brought together leaders of the world's religions for an important discussion about almost exactly the same issues as those highlighted for the High Level Group today.

Much of the debate then was couched around the need to combat negatives, but we tried to stress the importance of working for positives.

Similarly, the World Conference on the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination in 2001 concentrated on addressing negatives.

On the other hand, we have taken part in some other discussions where stronger attention has been given to the positive value for countries and communities of promoting inclusion, acceptance and tolerance as vehicles which will take us all to a stronger interdependent world.

I make special mention in this regard to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, of the OSCE, which has done determined work in this direction at regional and national levels.

Chair, Time does not permit a more exhaustive description of what we do, but the relevant

information is available in the International Federation's website, especially in the pages on our Reducing Discrimination Initiative.

I turn now to your invitation to the group here today to offer suggestions for the future.

One idea which we think would be worth pursuing would be to ask the High Commissioner for Human Rights to set up a system of collaborating centres, rather like that which has been employed so valuably by UNAIDS in the work against the pandemic.

This has the merit of drawing in all kinds of expertise on different dimensions of the subject, and of being unrestricted in terms of what can be done.

There is no issue of overload on resources or dissipation of effort, for the net result is that the work is mainstreamed by a large number of agencies, NGOs and other bodies, including the private sector.

The International Federation, for examples, participates as a UNAIDS Collaborating Centre in work against stigma, a particularly relevant subject for this High Level Group too.

Among the bodies which we would like to see taking part in such an initiative are the bodies set up by the Human Rights treaties. There is also assuredly a role for the expertise gathered in the new UN Human Rights Council.

We would be happy to work with the Group and its associates on this or any other proposal which might actually make a difference in the field we are addressing here.

We are also particularly interested in proposals for the mobilisation of youth in support of these objectives.

The International Federation and its member National Societies have a strong commitment to supporting empowered youth involvement in all our work.

Work towards inclusion and acceptance of all forms of difference is a central point in this commitment, and we see Youth as fundamentally important to the design of a better world for the generations to come.

The International Federation, together with other major organisations, links to the United Nations to maximise opportunities for the empowerment of Youth.

This year, for example, International Youth Day on 12 August has the theme "Tackling Poverty Together". For us, poverty has many dimensions.

One of the mechanisms we use to tackle it is to reinforce respect for diversity and inclusion, and for the Fundamental Principles which are at our base.

We do not see short-term solutions to the challenges which confront human dignity today. We do believe that proactive measures can help, but we would insist that any such measures must be accompanied by work for the long term, concentrating on Youth.

There are many statements along these lines, every year, by governments and international organisations. But for far too long the debate has been too unstructured and short on deliverables.

Let us hope that the determination of the Secretary General, the quality of the High Level Group, the determination of the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey and the exchange we will have today will help make a significant difference.

## **Political Dimension of the Alliance of Civilizations**

*The statement of Ambassador Dr. V. Petrovsky<sup>7</sup> at the hearings regarding the UN High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations. 17 July 2006*

For the Alliance of Civilizations, which seeks to forge a collective political will and to mobilize a concerted action at the institutional and civil society levels, the discussion of political and religious dimensions is very important; with the understanding that all other dimensions will also be in the focus of attention. In the newly emerging global society, interdependent by its substance and multicultural by its form, the comprehensive approach is very much in need.

In my statement I will deal with the action-oriented dialogue on political problems and concentrate on 3 issues:

- I. The new political landscape and the new actors;
- II. What is to be done in collective action;
- III. How to contribute to a coalescing global movement which, reflecting the will of the vast majority of people, rejects extremism in any society.

-I-

The process of globalization we are now facing, unfortunately acts as a double-edged sword, opening tremendous opportunities for some while creating new risks and challenges for others.

Speaking about new and emerging threats that foment extremism, some make the emphasis on the “Hard threats” (terrorism, WMD, criminal network) and others on civil wars, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, poverty and environmental degradation which are called “Soft threats” by comparison.

To address all these threats, it is necessary to make the process of globalization human-oriented, fair and equitable. This demands collective action at the institutional and civil society levels.

From this viewpoint, it is important to keep in mind that the present stage of globalization, characterized by an unprecedented pace of change, coincides with deep changes in political landscape. The authority of nation-states is challenged. Although nation-states remain the major units of international relations, many national governments are unable to control what transpires within their borders, and are incapable of meeting their obligations to their citizens.

To meet new challenges, states need to develop a much wider definition of their national interest, both in scope and time; they need to learn how to network with different kind of actors in order to produce global goods and services. Due to these multiple and interacting processes, a fundamental **change in the nature and conception of “sovereignty”** is taking place.

**Global politics** in which states are the major actors, is not just politics on a larger scale, but an entirely different kind of politics, that is fundamentally different from both domestic and international politics. The border that, in the past, used to divide domestic and international politics is fading away.

The global character of **new challenges demands universal responses** and concerted multilateral actions that transcend the national boundaries and stereotypes of

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<sup>7</sup> Ambassador Dr. Vladimir F. Petrovsky is the Founder and Chairman of the NGO « Comprehensive Dialogue Among Civilizations ». He is the former Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva and former UN Under Secretary General. CDAC can be viewed at [www.comprehensivedialogue.org](http://www.comprehensivedialogue.org)

traditional interstate relations. It represents a formidable challenge for the whole system of interstate and intergovernmental organizations.

There are four levels of interactions of states: global, transcontinental, regional and local level.

On the highest global level, in addition to the UN and Interparliamentary Union, there are the G8 and some other structures.

The new transcontinental level is represented by such organizations such as NATO, OSCE, APEC, ASEM, G77 and others.

I would like to particularly stress the importance of the new regionalism, which represent not only the increasing number of traditional regional, but also new subregional organizations.

There is a clear trend nowadays to avoid to keep regional structures closed and encourage interlocking membership.

For the sake of harmony in interaction of the governmental structures at all levels, the constructive parallelism in collective actions should be encouraged.

-II-

The new paradigm of mutual respect needs a clear message for collective actions in the political field.

I deeply believe that new geo-politics makes strategic security a major goal.

Since the beginning of the XIX century (Vienna Congress) security has been considered a cornerstone for peace, stability, and well being, for all international structures and alliances. Both the League of Nations and the UN were created with the purpose of ensuring security for all their members. As the Russian philosopher Berdyaev has said, "Security will not bring us to the paradise, but close the doors to hell."

Security which is associated with the positive peace—meaning not only the absence of conflicts but also stability, well being, and normal relations between states—is supposed to be treated in a multifaceted, comprehensive manner by the Alliance of Civilizations.

The major breakthrough to such approach to security has taken place at the end of the Cold War. In autumn 1989, Moscow and Washington jointly introduced to the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly the draft resolution on security in all aspects, which was unanimously adopted as Resolution 44/21. According to this resolution, security should be treated not only in its traditional military dimension, but as security in all aspects; from violence as well as from hunger, diseases, environmental degradation, any violation of human rights. Security in all aspects implies the security of the state, the society, and the human being. It incorporates also the ideas of collective, common and cooperative security, which were advanced both by the UN and NGO's.

In the post-September 11 situation, the importance of **security in all aspects** is even more prominent. The new security environment reinforces the need for States and international bodies to take every possible measure, consistent with the rule of law and with human values, in order to assure the safety of citizens and the security of societies and states.

Within the paradigm of strategic security, the traditional military-political issues should be tackled with the aim of peace-promotion.

Within this context 5 P's are becoming very important. By this I mean preventative diplomacy, peace-making, peace keeping, peace-building, and peace enforcement as the last resort.

As for disarmament, we need now to make clear what we are striving for. In the Cold War we spoke about disarmament and arms control because the major players could not accept the UN-Charter's words: arms regulation and disarmament. I deeply believe that the time has come to revive this UN charter concept. Arms regulation means less than general and complete disarmament, but more than arms control.

The core of arms regulation which are directed at the non-proliferation of WMD, the proliferation of certain weapons and the control of transfer of conventional weapons are rules-based and contain clear terms for the compliance, implementation and verification of their standards. They also underscore the principle of preventative action – the greatest assurance of security we can have. Thus, they provide strength for practical action to fight terrorism.

-III-

Turning to the question of how to strengthen the Alliance of Civilizations, I can say from my political and diplomatic experience, we cannot make our applauses with one hand, especially with so many new actors in the global arena.

To achieve tangible results in bringing together moderates all over the world, we need to develop a close partnership between the governments, independent judiciary, legislature, religious bodies, civil society, academic institutions, businesses, and the media.

A cross-section partnership between politicians, religious leaders, intellectuals, media networks, members of NGO's and so on, could promote new perceptions and new policies for international issues, enhancing their relevance for domestic constituencies while confronting the most relevant issues on the global agenda in order to build an institutional base for politics in a healthy democracy.

The role of parliaments in mobilizing the political will is of paramount importance. From my own experience, I highly appreciate how the UN and IPU since 1995 share parliamentary diplomacy. In many cases, parliaments have helped multilateral diplomacy, putting into effect the international agreements, through ratification.

Of course the role of the NGO's, which are the clearest manifestation of civil society, is of no less importance in mobilizing political will. NGO's hold views different from those of the governments and they serve as an effective proponent in elaborating government policies. NGO's could play their own role as generators of international agreements.

Within the context of peace promotion, there exists many opportunities for NGO's in early warning and preventive diplomacy, conflict management and coalition building.

Of course mass media is supposed to be actively involved in the action-oriented dialogue which aims at: identifying good and bad practices. Mass media can be especially helpful in reducing mutual or relational ignorance.

To develop a close partnership of the major actors in political field, good governance is very much in need.

It is very important to emphasize the meaning of good governance. For me denotes transparent, responsible, constitutional, democratic governance.

Such governance is supposed to be guided by the primacy of the law, based on the common moral-ethical principles. This is the only way to live in accordance with high human standards. Human dignity, I quote our chairman Federico Mayor, means that "all the members of the human family have the right to living conditions commensurate with their dignity, and that humanity should express its solidarity towards those who have fallen prey to life's perils."

I strongly believe in the primacy of the legal approach. New negotiations concerning security in all aspects should be based on the existing norms of international law, making a special emphasis on legal, rather than military, deterrence. In other words, there should be a clear understanding that justice is best served before the bar and not by dropping bombs on it.

One more observation: I think it is wrong to use the expression "rogue states," because it does not make a distinction between the decision-makers and the people at large. It would be more appropriate to speak about "countries of concern," and whenever coercive actions are to take place to keep in mind the "humanitarian threshold." In other words, to undertake these actions while always seeking to minimize their damaging effects on the

vulnerable groups of populations (the elderly, women, and children). Such an approach in practical terms would also facilitate positive changes in countries of concern.

The primacy of law needs constitutional democracy at all levels of interaction.

As for democracy at the global level, we need to strengthen the UN, which is today no longer a conference-servicing organization located in a few headquarters, but, using the words of the Secretary General, “it is a highly diversified organization, working world-wide to improve the lives of people who need help.” The UN now has 80,000 peace keepers in 17 countries. Of course it is clear that reform of the UN is much needed. However, it is also clear that, due to existing procedures, it will take a long time to implement all the reform proposals.

Nevertheless, much could be done now for adjustment of the UN to the changing situation if to make the fresh reading of the UN charter. Nothing prevails the Security Council from having the meetings at the Foreign Minister’s level, and having meetings in different places. The Military Staff Committee, instead of being abolished, should be revived so that meetings of military leaders at different levels could be introduced for the international practice. A lot could be done for better management of conference services. Some new agencies could be created.

Strengthening the role of the UN as the center of agreed actions requires responsible multilateralism. By this, I mean on one hand recognition by all member states of the role played by the key actors required for bilateral and multilateral policy formulation; and on the other hand, responsiveness by the same key actors to the views of all the members of the global community.

On the national level, constitutional democracy does not entail the existence of a police state or military watchdog, but implies obligatory observation of the laws that have been worked out by elected representatives, as well as the adherence to the value system.

Democracy should be in the people’s minds as a part of how they see the world, and that is not something that can be achieved overnight.

Last but not least, for a coalescing global movement of moderates, it is very important to develop the spirit and culture of dialogue at all levels of interaction. In other words, what is very important today is not only the message we wish to communicate, but how we communicate it. This affects how our message will be perceived and received.

In our communication we must be neutral and as devoid of double standards as possible. In the dialogue we should demonstrate a genuine interest to others’ points of view, and allow for constructive criticism. We should underline the common values and cultural differences. We must be understood correctly – not just our words but their deep meaning.

We should also speak less of generalities, concentrate on practical undertakings, and bring to the attention of the listeners good examples, in order to demonstrate how peace, stability, and well-being are able to replace hatred and conflict. Citing good examples does not imply the insistence on the adoption of the “blueprint” for all countries. We need to have a new outlook on diplomacy; to create conditions that the power of diplomacy prevails over the diplomacy of power; to prefer the balance of interests rather than the balance of powers.

Of course particular attention should be paid to the understanding of these goals by the younger generation, to whom the future of our planet belongs.

In conclusion, I would like to say that CDAC, of which I am the Chairman, is planning to launch its projects following the principles and approaches, elaborated in my statement.

CDAC seeks to cooperate closely with other organizations to achieve the goals, proclaimed by the Alliance of Civilizations.

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**Hearings with the International Community & Civil Society  
United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations  
Geneva, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

On behalf of Pax Romana, International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs, I cannot but highly commend the organisers of this Hearings session for calling upon the contribution of civil society organisations to devise the appropriate ways and means to foster a true Alliance of Civilisations.

It is a common place to point out that our world has dramatically changed over the last thirty years. Although the fall of the Berlin Wall has been conventionally considered as the symbolical turning point in recent history, we all know that other important developments were taking place well before what has been described as “the end of ideology” some people associate to the crisis of the communist model. I would simply like to lay out some of these developments:

1. The crisis of the model that came out of modernity, i.e., what Max Weber called “the disenchantment of the world”, coupled with applying reason, whether philosophical, technological or political, to human emancipation, progress, and welfare. This model, clearly rooted in Europe, became in fact the standard after which every society in the world had to be reorganized in order to be truly emancipated, developed, and modern. As many authors have contended, modernity and the development associated thereby were both a beneficial factor in human history and a not so positive hegemonic ideology. Now both modernity and its Eurocentric thrust have come under heavy criticism for, as their critics put it, they marginalised every culture and worldview that did not comply with its core principles and tenets.
2. As a consequence of the aforesaid crisis, the last thirty years have witnessed quite a number of more or less violent reactions to whatever could be linked to the Western model of society. Iran, Afghanistan, Egypt, Native-American Canada, India, several African countries, as well as the recent developments taking place in Latin America are quite revealing in this sense. The wide geographical and cultural scope of these reactions prevents us from reducing them to a Muslim-Western Christian confrontation. Although the root-causes of such developments cannot be brought under a single banner, they all show a deep frustration with the way Western countries have conducted their foreign policies and set the international agenda. They also show a search for a new way of conducting their political life more in accordance with their own traditions and cultural identities.
3. More and more often, Western societies are experiencing what some analysts call a wider cleavage between those who rely on and defend modernity and its values and those who flatly reject it. The whole battle in the US for and against teaching the theory of creationism instead of that of evolution in school is just an example of it. The religious factor is one of the most powerful behind this development and has become a key political element everywhere. It has become customary to term this worldwide movement as fundamentalism, but many authors, like Peter Berger and others, think that this unexpected “reenchantment of the world” that clearly discredits the secularisation theory, discloses the fact that more and more people look everywhere for religion as a refuge from what they experience as a cold-

blooded world (what Habermas defines as the colonization of the life-world by a reason that has become purely instrumental) and a firm ground for reconstructing their identities on the basis of resistance, inspiration, and hope.

4. Finally, all these trends are taking place in the era of globalisation, in which time and space are being increasingly compressed due to the technological cyber-revolution, thus causing cultures, religions, markets, and politics to be under pressure, to be forced to interact (and sometimes to collide), and to undergo a dramatic change which is felt by some as a golden opportunity and by many others as a dreadful threat. The ongoing formation of multicultural-multireligious societies, as a result of unsustainable world imbalances, of migration and of international mobility driven by progressively worldwide open markets, pose an enormous challenge for which we clearly are not prepared, but also is to be taken as a great opportunity for a new leap in human history, potentially leading to a better and more solidary world.

We all know that these developments have given rise to ethnical, identitarian, and religious conflicts in which, too often, violence and terror are blindly used: New York, Bali, Madrid, London, Mumbai are just but a few examples. Some people think that this form of conflict is the result of a “clash of civilizations”, especially a clash between the Christian West and the Muslim world. This is an unacceptable simplification. Taking into account the four factors I have mentioned, there is an increasing clash neither only nor mainly between civilizations but inside most societies, regardless their religious affiliation. How otherwise is to be explained the great success of Christian Evangelism in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, to the point that, for some analysts will have an unprecedented growth over the next forty years? How to explain otherwise the conflicting factions within the US, so many Muslim countries or in India?

A year ago, an important Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace took place at UN headquarters in New York, under the auspices of the Secretary General, UNESCO, and ECOSOC, among others. I would like to rephrase and to underline and some of its conclusions, which bear interest for the purpose of this session:

1. The main life-related issues of peace and justice, human rights, religious freedom, poverty, education, sustainable development, the rights and well being of children, the equal dignity of men and women, indigenous peoples and the protection of the environment are common concerns that must be the ground for interfaith, intercultural, and intergovernmental dialogue and collaboration. The partnership of governments, the UN system, and religious NGOs is of crucial significance in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, such as the Millenium Goals.
2. Interreligious dialogue and cooperation are essential and can facilitate the work of enhancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere. Therefore, more deliberate and strategic efforts in interreligious dialogue and cooperation are needed to foster relationships and interdependencies, and to advance understanding among diverse peoples, cultures and religions.
3. Non-governmental organizations representing different religions and multi-religious coalitions are an important part of civil society, and because of their mainly grass-roots character, their proximity to people and communities, and their symbolical-spiritual force, are well placed to help to devise balanced and effective policies, to detect and prevent conflicts and, in any case, to help to control their

damage and, eventually, to solve them. In other words, religions and the institutions that represent them cannot be banned from the public sphere but must be brought in under the leadership of the international civil bodies when it comes to questions concerning mutual recognition, universal justice, and lasting peace.

Allow me now to adapt three of its final recommendations to the purpose of these Hearings:

1. The High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations should recognize that dialogues among civilizations, cultures, and religions constitute vital contributions towards the promotion of a just and sustainable peace. In this respect, the High Level Group should call for an expansion and deepening of the relationship between the United Nations System and civil society, including religious NGOs, setting up the appropriate institutional mechanisms to that end.
2. In this regard, The High Level Group should be a springboard for Member States of the United Nations, in partnership with the United Nations system and civil society, to undertake practical actions in the fields of education, youth, media, social workers, and police corps to foster understanding, tolerance, and cooperation among peoples of different religions and beliefs, as well as within the increasing number of multicultural, multifaith societies, so as to overcome intolerance and combat stereotypes and misperceptions.
3. The High Level Group should also support the creation of a tripartite consultative group composed of representatives from Member States, the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations to tap available resources and abilities, and develop ways and means to affirm the role of interreligious and intercultural cooperation in attaining a just and sustainable peace through the mechanisms already available in the United Nations system, such as the efforts to promote a Culture of Peace and a Dialogue among Civilizations, the intercultural and interreligious work of UNESCO, and the annual International Day of Peace on 21 September. This tripartite consultative group should also identify new ways to address interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational issues and concerns, including the opportunity and mechanism for religious leaders to speak, interact and respond more clearly and quickly in times of violence, crises and conflict.

I would like to end by saying that, despite its importance, all this is not enough to respond to our current global situation. There is an urgent need for coming up with a new global covenant in order to redress the profound injustice and imbalances (cultural, religious, political, and economic) deeply rooted in the current way of approaching and conducting international relations. The need for a new world order based on principles that truly guarantee global governance in order to secure justice, equality, and peace, is heard everywhere. Responding to that demand might also require a paradigm shift in devising and conducting international relations and international bodies, such as the UN system. One is reminded here of the paradigm shift brought about in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Europe by the Treaty of Westphalia. The whole vision of Europe - religious, cultural, and political- was thoroughly overhauled to pave the way for a new Europe in which mutual recognition and tolerance could make peace possible. The current situation brought about by a global world might be asking – *mutatis mutandis* - for a similar shift on a global scale. Short of this global approach, no effort whatsoever will bring lasting peace to our troubled world.



World Organization of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout

World Scout **Bureau** Mondial du Scoutisme

## **Education, Youth and Media**

**Keynote address, United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations**

*Richard Amalvy, Geneva, 17 July 2006*

### **1. GENERAL TRENDS AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **1.1 Instabilities**

The global instability made of economical problems, the threat of regional conflicts, the uncertainty of some political regimes, directly affects children and young people in their daily life. In a way the slogan "no future" sounds cruelly true for millions.

Demographic and sociological studies show an increasing instability of the family tie. In several industrialized countries, nearly one marriage in every two ends in divorce.

#### **1.2 The increase of nationalisms**

The increase of nationalisms which demonstrated the jack of cultural homogeneity in the former Yugoslavia, the same nationalisms which are still conflicting in Asiatic and African countries, also cruelly affect children and young people.

#### **1.3 The increase of the flows of migrants**

Those instabilities generate important flows of migrants that a very recent international conference held in Morocco tried to understand and reduce.

From the South to the North the related impacts of this migration have the following names: racism, misperceptions, jack of respect, moonlighting, social exclusion and sometime as in France last autumn social violence in suburb areas where those people are concentrated.

#### **1.4 The reduced access to education**

The conflicts, the poorness, the social exclusion, and the above mentioned instabilities reduce the access to education for billions of children and young people.

### **2. GENERAL TRENDS AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE THOUGH THE MEDIA**

#### **2.1 The global village on one screen**

For those connected to TV channels, the global village appears daily with all these instabilities

- Image of war
- Image of environmental and humanitarian disasters

The speed of the images narrows the necessary critical thinking which helps understand the reality.

#### **2.2 Violence on the screens**

The violence is given to young people without any educational clue:

- on the news
- on movies
- on video games
- now via Internet

The UNESCO global study on media violence, a joint project of UNESCO, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and Utrecht University, presented in 1998 already concluded that "the extent and omnipresence of media violence contributes to the development of a global aggressive culture... combined with the real violence which many children experience, the probability is high that aggressive orientations are promoted rather than peaceful ones".

### **2.3 The threat of fundamentalism**

Religious and ideological fundamentalisms generate various conflicts which argue in favour of the struggle of civilisations and cultures. This threat increases by a loss of the sense of values.

### **2.4 The threat of propaganda**

Dictatorships and totalitarian regimes are still using propaganda. It is propaganda that accelerated the ethnic conflict in Rwanda in 1994.

The fundamentalism, the loss of the sense of values and propaganda strongly harm the capacity to understand realities thanks to a system of critical thinking.

### **2.5 Reduced access to information**

A reduced access to information or a reduced access to free information is also a key factor of misperception.

### **2.6 The digital divide**

Finally, in developing countries, the injustice of the digital divide adds new barriers to the social and cultural development.

## **3. RESPONSES OF THE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

How can the youth organisations contribute to the goal of the alliance?

### **3.1 Be part of the process**

At global and local levels, the partnerships opened or offered by and to youth organisations help build better conditions of understanding of the global challenges by the new generations. Dialogues and debates, such as the interreligious dialogue, allow the youth organisation to think wide and to open new perspectives for their leaders and members.

The Alliance can build on existing cooperation that the youth organisations cannot sustain by a lack of financial resources.

### **Campaigns and international coalition**

The youth organisations have already signed up for most of the global campaigns:

- The Millennium Campaign
- 'All different all equal' of the Council of Europe
- 'The Decade for the Culture of Peace' of UNESCO

This sensitisation is important to forge the collective good will. If, from the very local to the global levels, youth organisations have created capacities to operate, they still need to have more support given by intergovernmental organisations and by governments.

The well known process of development based on the training of agent of change is crucial when working with youth organisations. The measurement of the social impact of change-makers in their communities is evident and calls for a greater support of social movers coming from youth organisations.

### **Non formal education**

Rather than learning "hard knowledge" from text-books, young people "learn by doing" through peer-education methods and voluntary work. Most of the youth organisation have based their educational method on Non Formal Education. It provides young people with "soft skills" which cannot be easily be taught in formal education because they are learned through "hands-on" practical experience and thus are much more effectively gained in non-formal environments.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> YFJ – Policy paper on Youth NGOs as non-formal educators

Non-formal education helps young people develop the following qualities: engagement, sense of democracy, initiative, participation, motivation, respect and tolerance, responsibility, self-confidence, solidarity.

It also helps develop the following competencies: communication and interpersonal relations, conflict resolution, leadership, management skills, organisational skills, problem solving, team spirit<sup>9</sup>.

The characteristics of NFE are: volunteerism, experiential learning, progressive programmes, peer groups, youth-adult relationship, leadership development and the development of a value system.<sup>10</sup>

### **Critical thinking**

If we insist on critical thinking, it is to make understand what could be the response of free youth organisations to:

- instabilities
- the threat of fundamentalism and propaganda
- the elaboration of cultural prejudices
- social exclusion

Non formal education helps to empowerment children and young people.

### **ACTIONS FROM THE SCOUT MOVEMENT**

The Scout Movement, which prepares itself to celebrate its first centenary of existence, has experienced most of that difficulties and successes.

Difficulties, when it has been forbidden by totalitarian regimes, and still forbidden in 5 countries for being identified as a school of democracy.

Successes through specific events, programmes of projects:

- International events such as the world jamborees where the geography of the world is present in a city of kids
- The interreligious dialogue built on the spiritual dimension of the movement and its capacity to overcome prejudices
- The Youth of the World Campaign supporting the Millennium Campaign adapting the messages for a youth audience
- The Scouts of the World programme, a badge curriculum based on the essence of sustainable development
- The Amahoro project, a project aimed at training 25'000 agent of peace in the Great lakes region
- The Moba project, which contributed to develop the spirit of reconciliation in the Balkans
- The peace cruise, which promoted Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East and created a generation of young leaders willing to change the world.

We believe that being a global youth movement we have a global responsibility to appraise the reality of the world today and to challenge it positively. This is our contribution to shape a better world.

### **CONCLUSION**

"The alliance seeks to counter these trends by establishing a paradigm of mutual respect between civilisations and cultures"

What do we need as youth organisations?

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<sup>9</sup> YFJ- La reconnaissance de l'éducation non formelle

<sup>10</sup> Alliance of Youth CEOs, The Education of Young People : a statement at the dawn of the 21st century

- Recognition of the youth sector of the civil society: youth organisations are social mediators and vehicle for social participation.
- Recognition of the ability of youth organisations to act socially: On the basis of the principle of subsidiary, the UN could invent mechanisms for inviting global and national leaders to use the expertise of the youth sector, in other words, to use the principle that the OECD defines as such: "a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level"<sup>11</sup>,
- Investing in youth and in education: The main challenge is to design consistent youth policies at global, regional and national levels. The consistency shall embrace all the strategic chain, from the analysis of the situation, the elaboration of the content, the implementation and the evaluation. For the UN this can be achieved through the World Programme of Action for Youth. The global partners - intergovernmental institutions as well as youth organisations - have already adapted their political and operational agenda to various priorities which have been identified since 1995 within the World Programme.

As a conclusion, this quotation from the Founder of the Scout Movement:

"No man can be called educated who has not the willingness and a desire, as well as a trained ability, to do his part in the world work".

**Richard Amalvy**

*Director, Communications and Media*  
World Scout Bureau

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<sup>11</sup> The origin has been traced within Pope Pius XI encyclical: 'On the Fortieth Year', 1931. This definition gives a more detailed idea of a possible social commitment: "So the highest authority in the state should not be distracted by matters of lesser importance, but should leave them to groupings lower down the hierarchy. It will carry out its business more freely, more decisively and more effectively, by limiting itself to what it alone can achieve - providing a sense of direction, exercising vigilance, giving encouragement, anti imposing constraints, as circumstances require. Those at the top should bear in mind that the happiness and prosperity of the state depends on the quality of relations between social institutions at different levels, which itself depends on observing the above principle of the 'subsidiary' (supportive) role (of the higher-level institution)".

**George Gordon-Lennox, Reporters Without Borders representative to the international organisations in Geneva**

**Speaking Notes for the Hearings with the International Community and Civil Society regarding the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations**

**Geneva, 17 July 2006**

Professor Federico Mayor, ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour for me to address these Geneva Hearings of the Alliance of Civilisations at a most critical time in world history, a time when the clash of civilisations is characterized by dramatic and violent events and the need to foment mutual understanding between peoples is ever more urgent.

Allow me to thank you on behalf of Reporters Without Borders, the organisation I represent at the United Nations here in Geneva, notably at the Human Rights Council, for giving me this opportunity to say a few words about how in our view how free, fair and honest debate via the media (and here I include Internet) can contribute to that goal. Reporters Without Borders was founded more than 20 years ago by a group of idealistic young journalists in France with a first objective of promoting fairer coverage of world events than that given by the mainstream media at the time. They soon realised that other efforts were being made in the same direction (the present efforts of Inter-Press Service and the Geneva-based InfoSud are noteworthy examples, specially in the field of human rights). Quite quickly thereafter they undertook to militate in favour of the freedom of the press and denounce violations wherever they occur, without political, cultural, racial, religious or regional bias of any kind. With regional sections throughout Western Europe and North America and a network of more than 100 correspondents around the world in all continents, RSF (as it is known by its French acronym) functions like a news agency, publishing and distributing on a daily basis from its Paris headquarters by e-mail and through an up-to-the minute multilingual website ([www.rsf.org](http://www.rsf.org)), reports of press freedom violations and related issues. The Paris bureau and the national sections organise frequent seminars, debates, press conferences and other events regarding press freedom and the protection of journalists, for example to mark World Press Freedom Day on 3 May each year.

Need I remind you that it was during your tenure and with your strong support as Director General of UNESCO, Professor Mayor, that World Press Freedom Day was created in 1993 by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly? Reporters Without Borders was one of the first promoters, with UNESCO, of this observance. In your last year at UNESCO you co-signed with Secretary General Kofi Annan and the then High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson a most eloquent statement for World Press Freedom Day 1999 which I would like to relay as a message to this High Level Panel. I'm sure you will forgive me if I quote it at some length, for it says in a nutshell almost all I would have wished to say here today (and I suspect you had a strong hand in drafting it!):

“...Each time a journalist is killed or attacked, society at large suffers a grievous wound. For whenever one journalist suffers violence, intimidation or arbitrary detention because of his or her commitment to conveying the truth, all citizens are robbed of the right to think and act according to their conscience.

Press freedom is a cornerstone of human rights and a guarantee of other freedoms. It encourages transparency and good governance; it ensures that, over and above the mere rule of law, society enjoys the rule of true justice. There are, however, those who still question the value of freedom of speech to their societies; those who argue that it threatens stability and endangers progress; those who still consider freedom of speech an imposition from abroad and not the indigenous expression of every people's demand for freedom.

This argument is never made by the people, but by governments; never by the powerless but by the powerful; never by the voiceless, but by those whose voices are the only ones allowed to be heard. Let us put this argument, once and for all, to the only test that matters: the choice of every people, to know more or know less, to be heard or be silenced, to stand up or kneel down.

“Freedom of speech is a right to be fought for, not a blessing to be wished for. But it is more than that: it is a bridge of understanding and knowledge. It is essential for that exchange of ideas between nations and cultures which is a condition for true understanding and lasting cooperation. ... The continued targeting of journalists demonstrates the need to pursue the struggle with increased vigour. ... a thriving local, national and international free press is more important than ever. It underpins the emerging information society and is a driving force for sustainable human development.

“Our daily diet of accurate information ...still depends on the daily exercise of courage and integrity by journalists, on the tenacity of editorial teams, on the commitment of independent media to carry high the principles of a profession under permanent pressure. ...We salute their courage and their commitment to the universal pursuit of truth and knowledge.”

Although issued more than seven years ago, that message is just as pertinent today as it was in 1999; unfortunately, well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it has not yet been heard in many parts of the world, as the tragic record of the past year and a half illustrates:

Few years started off as badly as 2005, states the Reporters Without Borders annual report issued on World Press Freedom Day 2006. On 5 January, the kidnapping in Iraq of a French journalist and her local guide – she was held for 157 days -- followed closely on the safe return home of two other kidnapped French journalists. Several other foreign and local journalists were kidnapped in Iraq and then freed, and the kidnappings showed no sign of ending. Need I recall, as Reporters Without Borders has done in all these cases, that these media professionals were simply doing their job and that nothing can justify subjecting them to such terrible ordeals.

In neighbouring Lebanon two senior journalists were killed in car-bomb attacks during the year 2005 and a star presenter for a TV station was seriously wounded in another. Now the theatre of such tragic events, Lebanon, with the best record for press freedom in the Arab world, has been moving towards self-censorship, with among the best-known political commentators in constant danger and some forced into exile. And now in the last few days journalists and media have again been deliberately targeted by the Israeli punitive action.

Reporters Without Borders compiles an annual worldwide list of predators of press freedom to show which powerful people are attacking journalists and media outlets. This very exclusive club expanded in 2005 to include new Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who made inflammatory remarks as soon as he took office and forced reformist newspapers to close down.

In 2006, other fears have arisen, such as with the victory in Palestinian elections of Hamas, which has little time for critical or independent media. Leadership changes do sometimes inspire hope, however: in Ukraine, for example, the new President Viktor Yushchenko shows promise of ending repressive practices, and in Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first elected female head of state in Africa, has given a new lease on life to the country's media.

2005 was a bloody year, with at least 63 journalists and five media assistants killed worldwide (the highest number in Iraq) and more than 1,300 media workers attacked or threatened - the highest toll since 1995. Violence against journalists is now routine in Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nigeria and Mexico and it goes unpunished. A few killers of journalists were arrested and given prison sentences in 2005 but others are still walking free. Impunity is still the main enemy of human rights activists. Reporters Without Borders often hears that a journalist has disappeared, leaving no word with employers and family who suffer terribly in their search for signs or news of the missing person. We've added a special page to our website ([www.rsf.org](http://www.rsf.org)) so that vanished journalists are not forgotten.

Imprisonment is the favoured weapon of authoritarian rulers to silence journalists and more than 100 currently languish in jails around the world. The picture is much the same from year to year and China, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran and Burma are still the countries holding most journalists. In these places, a sharp commentary, an over-strong adjective or an irritating news item are immediately dubbed "threats to public order," "sedition" or "undermining state security." Punishment can be five, 10 or even 20-year prison sentences, as well as cancellation of civil rights, all aimed at breaking the journalist involved and frightening others who might utter some critical or disobedient thought.

No form of media escapes censorship, not even the increasingly popular Internet "blogs", which soared in number in 2005. Many journalists in Iran or Tunisia, for example, turn to the Internet when censored in the mainstream media. Websites, personal pages and "blogs" in such countries have become the only source of opposition or independent news. But the censors are watching and bar access to sites and filter, monitor or delete material they don't like. China is by far the top world expert at this but other countries are catching up.

But our focus isn't all on countries south or east. We also keep a careful eye on press freedom in Europe and in North America. The battle to defend the secrecy of journalistic sources, which landed an American journalist in prison, is more pressing than ever. The issue is hotly debated, and repeated searches of journalists' homes and offices in several European countries are alarming. Concentration of media ownership also worries many advocates of media diversity and freedom.

We are encouraged to continue our own activism when we learn of the release of a journalist, the reopening of a censored media outlet or the sentencing of an enemy of press freedom. For example, the media have more freedom nowadays in India, some Central American countries and the Indonesian province of Aceh. Reporters Without Borders has helped to reform the press laws in Mauritania and hopes to do the same in Chad and Cameroon. Mexico has set up a special prosecutor's office to investigate attacks on journalists.

The row over the cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed printed in a Danish newspaper in September 2005 – and I think you would all agree that the least one can say is that they would not win a competition for good taste! -- shows that people everywhere are very interested in freedom of expression. The definition of that often varies from one continent to another, but the uproar has shown that nobody is indifferent to the issue. And making an

issue of press freedom can only benefit us all. In this regard, Reporters Without Borders sought to defuse the crisis by organising a conference in Paris of leading intellectuals of all religious and political persuasions and by issuing an appeal for calm and reason as the controversy moved in disturbing new directions. The statement issued on 2 February 2006 pointed out: “While we understand that many Muslims have been shocked by these caricatures, as Islam forbids any physical representation of the Prophet, there is no justification for calls for violence or threats of any kind. We need to examine this case for what it is. The newspapers that (first) published these cartoons are ... in countries in which religion belongs to the private domain. In this tradition, religious freedom goes hand in hand with freedom of expression, which includes the right to make fun of beliefs one does not share. One must also bear in mind that the press is independent of the government in these countries. The views and editorial decisions of individual news media are just their own. They do not speak for their governments or their fellow citizens.

“Reporters Without Borders appeals to political and religious leaders in the Muslim countries and to the Arab press to do everything possible to calm people down, so as to be able to start a debate about how we all perceive each other. Similarly, the organisation calls on everyone in the West to concentrate on defusing tension and avoid what could be seen as unnecessary provocations. How are we to reconcile freedom of expression – which many perceive as an overriding need, wherever they live – and respect for each individual’s deepest convictions? Let us hope that the controversy about these cartoons will help us find an answer to this difficult question. Reporters Without Borders will do its best to foster a debate among all those – hopefully the majority – who prefer dialogue to confrontation.”

Unfortunately Mr. Chairperson this appeal went unheard in a number of countries. Editors and journalists were arrested or fired and newspapers closed or censured in such countries as Algeria, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia and Yemen, for publishing the cartoons. Yet ironically anyone anywhere in the world interested in seeing the cartoons could find them in about one minute surfing on the world-wide web!

I do not wish to labour this issue further. We cannot but deplore when journalists are arrested or lose their jobs for whatever reason, wherever they are or under whatever legal system they exercise their right to inform. It is a fundamental right, Mr. Chairperson, as you well know, enshrined in Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which “reaffirms the right for everyone to hold opinions without interference, as well as the right to freedom of expression, to seek, receive and impart information and through any media and regardless of frontiers”, and it is just as valid today as it was almost 60 years ago. Reporters Without Borders is one of the civil society organisations that has defended that right over the years here in Geneva at the Human Rights Commission and will continue to do so now at the new Human Rights Council.

The same year as the General Assembly created World Press Freedom Day, 1993, the Human Rights Commission appointed a Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of expression. I commend to the attention of this hearing the most recent reports of the current Special Rapporteur, Mr. Ambeyi Ligabo. They make no bones about the fact that Article 19 is part and parcel of international law. Insofar as countries have agreed to his visits (and unfortunately many refuse to do so) the Special Rapporteur plays a very important watchdog role. His reports are balanced and detailed, and we are proud that they often quote Reporters Without Borders. The Human Rights Council would do well to consider giving more importance to these reports and one way might be to create a permanent working group on press freedom and the protection of journalists. This could indeed be one of the recommendations of the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilisations.

Mr. Chairperson, to kill or imprison a journalist for publishing facts or opinions that go against the grain of those in power is like cutting off someone else's arm to cure one's own headache. Better they should take an Aspirin and look within themselves to find the causes. Allow me to quote a friend, Keith Hindell, former BBC correspondent and member of the United Nations Association, who wrote me a few days ago. He said: "In broad terms the true progress of civilization cannot be maintained without free criticism. It's a self correcting mechanism of which a free press plays the leading role."

I would add that the annual barometer of press freedom published by my organisation is a useful yardstick to the situation of human rights around the world. Where there is a high level of press freedom and democratic and open debate on ideas and issues, other fundamental rights are usually also respected. We urge this High Level Group to adopt among its conclusions a strong recommendation endorsing press freedom as a universal value brooking no restrictions other than those put in place by democratically adopted laws. These should be strictly limited to protecting individual privacy, shielding innocent children from pornography, and preventing hate propaganda and incitement to violence. You could well take for inspiration the 1999 World Press Freedom Day message I quoted earlier.

Mr. Chairperson, let us not fall into the trap of saying that it is the media that is the problem. The media is only a reflection of the ills of society. Free and pluralistic expression via press, radio, TV and Internet can and should, however, contribute to promoting the universal values of freedom, peace and justice to which we all aspire. This can only be possible if the media are not muzzled by destructive and dictatorial extremisms and fundamentalisms of all stripes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

## ***Issues: Economic and social dimension, Migrations & Gender***

**Willy Thys, Secretary General the World Confederation of Labour  
also in representation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions**

### ***Introduction***

Within the framework of this honourable initiative, “Alliance of Civilisations”, we will go into the important theme of the social and economic dimension of migrations & gender.

The migration issue is on the agenda of many initiatives. In recent years they have even been reinforced, which is positive, including in the field of the coherence of the policies between all the organisations working on this dossier.

A high-level dialogue is scheduled for 14 and 15 September, and in this respect the UN Secretary General has prepared a report for the UN General Assembly. This report contains a lot of elements that enrich the debate and tie up with the contributions of several international institutions active in the matter of migration, among them ILO and IMO. Incidentally, the report recognises the essential role played by the International Labour Organisation, which we particularly salute. The emphasis on the need for a greater international coordination and coherence of the relevant policies and measures constitutes another richness of the report.

The fact remains that the awareness of the importance of integrating the gender perspective into the analyses and action programmes related to migration still needs to grow, at all levels. The migration process keeps being analysed as if it affected the men and women involved indiscriminately.

### ***Some background: the considerable rise in international migration***

- In 2005, there were 191 million international migrants, 115 million of whom in the developed countries and 75 million in the developing countries. Between 1990 and 2005, the high-income countries as a whole registered the strongest rise in the number of international migrants (41 million).
- Female migrants account for nearly half the total number of migrants worldwide, and in the developed countries they outnumber the male migrants.

Though the history of humanity has always been marked by migrations, which in many cases have been the driving force behind the history, the migration phenomenon today presents particular characteristics that have to be placed in the context of globalisation and of imbalances resulting from the rise in poverty due to a bad distribution of wealth.

It is true that one could say in very many respects globalisation has created new opportunities. But so many opportunities have not found expression in improvements in terms of the reduction of social disparities, a rise in the supply of decent jobs, better working conditions and poverty reduction. On the contrary. And this is related to the fact that globalisation expresses itself more as an ideology based on the free market, on the latter's precedence over the workers' and peoples' rights. As a matter of fact, this was largely dealt

with and discussed during the 2nd World Social Forum on migration, which was held in Spain a few days ago.

In the opinion of the trade union movement, the deficit of decent employment is at the heart of this phenomenon. We have lots of data at our proposal, and they go to show that people leave their countries because most of them have fallen prey to conditions of hardship, to lack of opportunities and to despair. Thus, migration is viewed as a quest for a better future.

The growing economic and demographic gap separating the industrial from the developing countries can only strengthen the migration phenomenon. Indeed, it is the direct consequence of the financial and commercial policies and the structural adjustment policies that have been implemented in many countries, resulting in privatisation, unemployment and poverty. Thus, migration has become a structural component of the global economy.

In view of this situation, governments are increasingly concerned by the economic, social, political and demographic consequences of migration. Lots of governments apply restrictive policies aimed to lower the levels of migration<sup>12</sup>, and some of them apply policies that favour the security approach and tend to criminalise migration. These policies have been counterproductive, however, raising clandestine migration and labour trafficking rather than lowering them. Today, migration has been officially stopped in the European countries. But an informal migrations keeps developing, centred on activity sectors (domestic staff, hotel and restaurant business, some building subsectors, agriculture, etc), in which the workers have no social protection whatsoever and are in many cases submitted to exploitation and to blatant violations of the social and even the human rights.

*So, migration has consequences for economic development and a considerable impact on the future of the nations. And the current policies to stop migration are applied without a thorough analysis of the social, political and economic advantages and particularly of the contribution of intermixing of peoples, the dialogue of cultures and the alliance of civilisations.*

Despite the obvious links between migration and development, they are hardly discussed as such in most places of debate on migration. The recent report of the UN Secretary General does not clearly recognise this link. And yet, it exists. Indeed, the migration phenomena are very much on the rise, and the way they are taking place also constitutes a deficit in terms of development: poor working conditions, unskilled staff, informal employment, absence of social protection, etc. This situation also constitutes a downward spiral on the whole of the working conditions worldwide.

Moreover, few policies are based on an approach centred on employment, human rights and adequate responses to the challenges of migration. *As trade unionists we attached the greatest importance to an approach that focuses on the rights as well as on the social dialogue and on a more prominent role of the social partners.*

In this sense, the ratification and application of all the basic conventions and of the specific conventions on migrants by all the States of origin, transit and arrival of migrants are goals we must continue to pursue. The issue of migrants in an irregular situation also deserves a very particular attention, because they are the most vulnerable migrants, and their number is constantly on the increase.

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<sup>12</sup> The number of countries that adopted migration reduction policies went up from 6% in 1976 to 40% in 2001

*It is therefore clear that the migration issue cannot be separated from the one of sustainable development. The struggle against poverty, observance of the basic human rights, creation of decent jobs for adults worldwide, education for all, equal opportunities for men and women, and a social framing of the economy are part of this strategy. Fair and sustainable development in all the regions of the world constitutes the basis and the prerequisite for achieving that each human being can live in dignity.*

### **Gender and migration**

International migration has for a long time been dealt with as an almost exclusively male phenomenon. To various extents women have participated in the international migration movements. Yet, they remained sociologically invisible despite their numerical importance and economic function. Seen from the orthodox economic point of view, this can be explained by the “dependent” status of women migrating as wives, mothers or daughters of male migrants. Indeed, in the view of a market as the perfect state between supply and demand, “dependent” women are not involved at all in the production process and therefore not paid. But then, in this view on things the fact is left aside that work paid by production and consumption on the one hand and unpaid reproductive-biological and social work, for the greatest part done by women, on the other are complementary. Nor is taken account of the fact that migrating families can only hold out if the production on the labour and the reproduction in the domestic field are balanced.

Since the 1980s, the response of female labour to the international demand has created new profiles of migrant women. Parallel with the feminisation of poverty, we have witnessed the striking economic and social phenomenon of feminisation of international migration. The looks of migration have changed. Indeed, when women decide to leave “alone” for another country, in search of a job, they become actors of their migration. They do not migrate as “dependents” anymore, but as “active” participants.

In a context of inequality and structural discrimination, the tendency towards feminisation of migration has to be understood as a new strategy women pursue to fight poverty.

Despite the legal, cultural, structural and other limitations, the growing number of migrant women entering the labour markets of the countries of destination raises questions and crucial problems. The problems facing migrant women are complicated by their double condition of women and of migrants. Their status of women, migrants, non-citizens of the country and workers on a male-dominated employment market makes international migrant women workers particularly vulnerable to various forms of discrimination, exploitation and abuse.

Despite the growing number of migrant women working in the host societies, they meet with many obstacles and acute problems resulting from the gender segregation on the labour market. It is true that migration offers women the opportunity to have paid work; raising so their ability, thanks to the repatriation of their salaries, to improve the living conditions of their families in the countries of origin. However, migration of female labour is marked by concentration in a limited number of “predominantly feminine” jobs and industries (textiles, ready-made garments, etc) as domestic workers, “hostesses”, helpers in restaurants and hotels, etc. In other words, they have jobs at the lowest levels of the employment hierarchy, which bring in little, in which the working conditions are precarious, and the future prospects are limited. These jobs are called “feminine” because they are associated with docility, obedience and attitudes that are traditionally considers feminine attributes.

Moreover, these women are particularly vulnerable because they find themselves in situations of individualised work, in which there are less opportunities to establish information, solidarity, organisation and moral and legal support networks.

A further reality is that the existing legal instruments (C97 and C143) do not integrate the gender perspective. The UN Convention takes into consideration the issue of violence against women, but one cannot say that it fully integrates the gender perspective.

The migration experience, in its different moments, is structured by gender in that it takes different shapes for men and for women. The links between gender equality and migration are manifold and complex. Indeed, the relations between men and women in the countries of origin and their respective roles can affect the ability for women to emigrate by limiting their aptitude to make independent decisions and also by limiting their access to resources. But the existing gender relations in a given society can also underlie the choice to leave the country.

Besides, this feminisation of migration has gradually modified the definition of the roles assigned to each gender and affected the gender relations in the countries both of origin and of destination. The link between gender and migration appears upstream and during the migration process: migration can be conducive to the self-empowerment of women, favouring so gender equality provided that specific protective measures are taken.

Thus, the achievement of gender equality in the developing countries is an important measure in the poverty reduction process. As women are important elements to generate development, respect for the women's rights is essential to favour development. So, the self-empowerment of women is essential to attain the development goals, and a gender perspective is crucial in all the development policies and strategies.

Migration can influence their economic and social status as well as their role in the development of their countries of origin, but only on the understanding that their integration takes place under good conditions. The decision to migrate gives women a decision power that traditionally belongs to men.

### ***Conclusion***

Since migration is a social reality in the industrial countries and migrant labour is needed to satisfy the demand of part of the labour market, this reality requires that a number of rights in terms of social security benefits are guaranteed and that the following is ensured:

- ✓ The promotion of equal opportunities and equal treatment of nationals and migrants, of men and women, which must be recognised in the laws and in the practices. This supposes not only a formal equality in the access to rights, but also the elimination of the indirect obstacles to this access (assimilation of the events, totalisation of the periods, transfer of rights acquired abroad, etc).
- ✓ The promotion and ratification of the international instruments to defend the migrant workers.
- ✓ The promotion of the concrete application of international law. In order to achieve that this law does not remain dead letter, it is necessary to evaluate transgressions and to establish enforcement mechanisms.
- ✓ The organisation of campaigns to sensitise public opinion and the authorities in order to promote genuine integration and a dialogue of cultures.

- ✓ The organisation of campaigns to sensitise and coach prospective migrants.

The issue of migration and gender is very complex and engages countries of North and South, rich and poor regions, and men and women. There are different interests and views: those highlighting security and the criminalisation of migration, and the others, centred on work, social aspects and human rights.

Today, we have the opportunity to exchange views and opinions with the High-Level Group before it closes its report, which will have to be finalised in the second half of this year. We hope that it will take account of the contributions from this important workshop.

One of the aims of this alliance of civilisations is to contradict the hypothesis related to the crash of civilisations and to demonstrate that even in diversity it is possible to have an alliance based on shared values and interests. The migration issue is a privileged field to check the hypothesis related to the crash of civilisations.

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## **PART III**

### **PROPOSALS FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**

## Concrete proposals for the Alliance of Civilizations

**Michael Karlen, Secretary General,  
Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations,  
Geneva, July 17, 2006**

1. The topic should be discussed at the level of head of states as an essential element for comprehensive security, stability and development and to give it the necessary importance.
2. To develop and strengthen a comprehensive approach and implementation of the goals of the alliance of civilizations there should be additional consultations also with other sectors of society, i.e. religious organisations, the business community, academic circles, the media etc. on needs, challenges and potentialities from their particular perspective.
3. An international ongoing task force with top representatives of all the major sectors of society should be established. This team would develop or follow up on strategies, make best use of synergies and push the implementation in their respective fields. We give a special emphasis to this point to make sure that recommendations are followed by practical actions. It will be important to secure the necessary funds that these actions teams can function effectively
4. In the same way a special task force or action team should be established in each country. These actions teams would be coordinators, facilitators or the connecting link between the different sectors of society.
5. To work for common goals is one of the best ways to build peace and understanding and create alliances. We look at this as action oriented dialogue around a specific subject. Therefore much more attention should be given to common projects and goals. Of course the MDG's are here a major focal point. Each sector of society should be invited to propose concrete actions in their particular field to reach these goals. Additionally there could be special programs in the educational sphere, i.e. special competition on certain topics, including young people or artists from different regions of the world. This could be a partnership project involving different stakeholders.
6. The knowledge about other cultures, religions and countries is an essential element and should be inspired and facilitated through educational measures, creative media partnerships, internet campaigns, special events involving different civilizations and cultures, exchange programmes, study tours, travelling exhibitions etc.
7. The attitude and the spirit of dialogue should be promoted and strengthened through special educational modules for children, students, parliamentarians, diplomats and journalists based on general rules and guidelines and adjusted to each particular field.
8. Symbols can be very effective tools in advancing a cause. The creation of a house or temple of religions or civilizations in as many cities as possible will be a tangible and important step in this direction.

**Draft Proposal for a  
DECADE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION FOR PEACE**

**AS A CONTRIBUTION TO IMPLEMENTING THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS**

**Executive Summary**

This draft proposal is aimed at promoting the vision of the Alliance of Civilizations by encouraging the declaration by the United Nations of a “*Decade of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace*”. The UN could convene an “*Interreligious Forum for World Peace*”, with a specific mandate and term, to facilitate the organization of a Decade.

***A. Propitious times for a Decade of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace***

While the world is aware of the importance of a religious dimension in several recent local conflicts and international tensions, it also contemplates with hope the development of a number of religious and interfaith initiatives committed to peace building.<sup>13</sup> There is also a growing recognition within the UN of the role of interreligious dialogue and cooperation for peace, clearly expressed in recent resolutions of its General Assembly,<sup>14</sup> which promote “*interreligious dialogue*” as well as “*religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation*”. The High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations, established by the Secretary General, is expected “*to strengthen mutual understanding, respect and shared values among different peoples, cultures and civilizations*”. The Decade proposed here could make a strategic interreligious contribution to that objective, and could provide a global neutral umbrella for achieving that goal through increased partnership at global, regional, national and local levels.

***B. Main features of the proposed Decade and proposed implementing Interreligious Forum***

Although the preparation of a final proposal for the Decade is still in process, the following features are suggested:

**1. Time frame:** 2009- 2019, starting and ending on 21 September, the International Day of Peace. That launching date would give 12 months to prepare and promote a final proposal and to win political support from member states, in order to present the corresponding project of resolution to the General Assembly in its 62<sup>nd</sup> session (September 2007), with another 24 months for formal preparatory activities. The Decade would then overlap by only one year with the ongoing Decade for a Culture of Peace, and could learn from that experience.

**2. The leading social actors:** Even though member states and UN agencies and bodies could be expected to play a significant role in the implementation of the Decade, a participatory approach could be adopted to give the main responsibility to pertinent civil society organizations gathered in an “*Interreligious Forum for World Peace*”, which could be convened by the UN.

**3. An “*Interreligious Forum for World Peace*” could have the following characteristics:**

a) **Membership:** The Forum’s members would be civil society organizations (including NGOs) of a spiritual or religious nature, operating at a global level or at an international scale, and subscribing to the principles which inspire the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular respect for freedom of religion or belief and for cultural and religious diversity.

b) **Main functions:** The Forum should see as its main responsibility the making of a contribution to a plan of action for the proposed Decade, as well as promoting and monitoring through its member organizations its implementation at all levels. The Millennium Development Goals, promotion of a

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<sup>13</sup> It is the case, for example, of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), the Parliament of World’s Religions, the Peace Council, the United Religions Initiative (URI), the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Saint Egidio Community, the Focolari Movement, the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and many others.

<sup>14</sup> Resolutions A/RES/59/23, A/RES/59/142, A/60/L.4/Rev.1 and A/60/L.10

Culture of Peace, Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights, as priority themes in the current agenda of the United Nations, should be taken up in that plan of action, which should both challenge and build upon relevant programs and activities being carried out by religious and interfaith organizations around the world.

c) Other functions: Such a forum could facilitate: (i)dialogue and alliance building among different faiths, spiritual traditions and related civilizations, which would lead to increasing mutual understanding, respect and trust; (ii)designing and developing joint programs, projects and activities by the member organizations, working as partners in the pursuit of pertinent UN goals; (iii) building partnerships between their own members and other secular civil society organizations, government agencies and social actors from the private sector, in the global, national and local pursuit of those UN goals; (iv) communication and partnership between spiritual and political leaders around issues dealing with peace; (v) building relationships of cooperation with the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system which are responsible for social, economic and environmental development; (vi) identifying root causes of religiously motivated injustice and violence in multi-faith societies, which could lead to non-violent conflict resolution as well as the promotion of justice and tolerance and elimination of various forms of discrimination.

NOTE:

This draft proposal emerges from the Partnership Committee (steering body) of the Project “Towards the creation of a spiritual forum for world peace at the United Nations” which is composed of the following men and women, in their personal capacity, giving (in alphabetical order) their name, faith, and organization:

**Project Director: Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez**, Christian Catholic. (For further information on this proposal contact [gerardo.gonzalez@mi.cl](mailto:gerardo.gonzalez@mi.cl))

**Other Partnership Committee members:**

**Swami Agnivesh**, Hindu, President of Arya Samaj; Peace Council, Councilor; Chairperson of the UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

**Isthar Adler**, Buddhist, Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation (LGWPF).

**Youssif Al-Khoei**, Muslim, Shi’a tradition, Director Al-Khoei Foundation.

**Dr. Charles Graves**, Christian Anglican, Secretary General, Interfaith International.

**Eduardo Missoni**, Christian Catholic, Secretary General, World Organization of the Scout Movement.

**Deepak Naik**, Hindu, Secretary General of Minorities of Europe and former member of URI Global Council

**Elly Pradervand**, Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF), Executive Director.

Representative of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns – Geneva - CSVGC

**Imam Abduljalil Sajid**, Muslim Sunni tradition, President Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony in the United Kingdom.

**Beatriz Schulthess**, Indigenous Spiritual Tradition, Member of WCRP Governing Board; Coordinator, Indigenous People's Spiritual Consultative Council; member of the Latin American and Caribbean Women of Faith Network.

**Dr. Rajwant Singh**, Sikh, President of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education (SCORE) and Executive Director of the Guru Gobind Singh Foundation.

**Sulak Sivaraksa**, Buddhist, President of Santi Pracha Dhaman and Founder of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists.

**Yehuda Stolov**, Jewish, Director of the Interfaith Encounter Association, Israel and Coordinator of URI in MENA region.

**Dr. John Taylor**, Christian, Representative at Geneva of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF)

19 July 2006.

## Entropy Institute for Risk Studies

### **One-page Comment Regarding Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Bioterrorism by Dr. Orley Lindgren**

Thank you for this opportunity to attend this important Hearing and to make a brief oral statement for your consideration. I urge the High-level group to give further consideration in its deliberations and in its report to the role of science and technology relevant to the Alliance of Civilizations. In particular, I wish to suggest that the benefits and risks of biological science and biotechnology warrant special attention by the High-level group as it prepares its final report.

In this context, I am proud to provide a brief introduction to international projects relevant to this High-level Group in which I worked closely with Professor Barry Kellman.. Separately, Professor Kellman is submitting a one-page written summary on behalf of himself and his organization at De Paul University in Chicago, entitled *Forging a Global Alliance to Prevent Bio-Terrorism*

The core idea of the programs that I am involved in with Professor Kellman is that bio-science is critical to human development: as it reveals the architecture of life, it generates life-saving discoveries and promotes globalization of both research and trade. These programs assert that, to encourage secure bio-science development, it is essential to strengthen the rule of law and principles of legitimate governance. Examples of international activities undertaken in recent years by Professor Kellman and his colleagues that are relevant to the interests, values, and activities of the High-level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations including:

In April 2003 at the UN Palais de Nations, with cooperation of the Office of the Director General United Nations Geneva, the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs, and the Director General of Interpol and other international and regional governmental organizations, Professor Kellman and I convened a three-day Workshop on Preventing Disease Weaponization in which 35-international organizations and 35 countries from five continents were active participants.

During a *Template of National Measures for Preventing Biological Terrorism*; and, *Geneva Workshop on Preventing Disease Weaponization: Summary Report and List of Attendees*, and *Laws and Measures for Counter-Terrorism and Regulation of Biology*.

In October 2004 in Bucharest, Professor Kellman and I convened a workshop on Bioterrorism Prevention with significant participation a dozen international organizations and subject matter leaders from Eastern Europe and Russia.

In October 2005 in Uganda, Professor Kellman and his colleagues convened the first workshop in Africa to consider the need to integrate prevention of bio-threats with development of bio-science which we now refer to as *The Global Covenant for Biosecurity*. It produced the *Kampala Compact* which is attached.

In December 2005, Professor Kellman initiated projects in sub-Saharan Africa, Eurasia and Latin America to study national legislation pertaining to biosecurity and prevention of bio-threats. I am currently working closely with on these projects. Results of these studies are currently being collated and will be made available to interested parties starting at the end of 2006.

In June 2006, Professor Kellman convene a workshop in Moscow on Preventing Bio-threats, that included preeminent Russian bio-scientists and government officials as well as experts who are preparing national legislation studies throughout Eurasia. The Moscow Workshop is a continuation of the process initiated in Kampala, Uganda in October, 2005, concerning the global bargain for biosecurity and bioscience. It produced the *Moscow Memorandum* which is attached.

Although too long to list, it should be noted that in the past four years Professor Kellman and I have also participated in well over one hundred meetings, briefings, symposia and workshops to promote understanding of bio-terrorism threats and approaches to mitigating those threats.

Very important: in May 2006, Secretary General Annan called for a *Global Forum on Preventing Bio-Threats*. Professor Kellman, myself, and all our associates strongly support this call and are considering initiatives to make it a reality. We believe that the Global Forum should be initiated in Africa. We urge the High-level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations to also give this matter serious consideration.

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**Representation:**

Dr. Lindgren represents the non-profit research and education organization the Entropy Institute for Risk Studies (aka Institute for Medical Risk Studies) and the project “Transnational Strategy for International Biocriminalisation” (February 2003-January 2005) supported by grant from the Global Security and Sustainability Grant Program of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

**Brief Biographical Information**

Orley Lindgren, Ph.D is a University of California at Berkeley trained Research Psychologist with additional background in communications, public policy, and educational psychology. He co-founded and is Co-Director (1984-current) of the Entropy Institute for Risk Studies (aka Institute for Medical Risk Studies)- During 2003-2005 he was Co-Director, with Professor Barry Kellman, of the project to research and promote a “Transnational Strategy for International Bio-Criminalisation” supported by the Global Security and Sustainability Grant Program of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Currently he is an Independent Consultant, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, National Biosecurity Legislation Study Program on Preventing Misuse and Promoting the Benefits of Biological Science and Biotechnology, based in Italy with responsibilities for the African sub-program.

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## **The potential contribution of *Initiatives of Change* to an Alliance of Civilisations**

The challenges of building an Alliance of Civilisations are complex and multi-faceted. It must go beyond a Western secular concept of “tolerance” towards an embrace of diversity that builds upon our spiritual traditions, and creates relationships of trust across the world’s divides. It must address the historical causes of hatred and mistrust, as well as present-day causes such as power imbalances, economic injustices and stereotypes fanned by partisan and irresponsible sections of the media.

Initiatives of Change (IofC) takes as its motto and mission the phrase “building trust across the world’s divides”. Best known for its significant contribution to reconciliation following World War II (see Johnston et al: *Religion the Missing Dimension of Statecraft*, OUP 1996), the movement formerly known as the *Oxford Group* and then *Moral Re-Armament* has over 70 years experience building trust between individuals and institutions from diverse religious, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Current on-going initiatives include:

- Dialogues to build trust and better understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. These have included an initial dialogue at the IofC centre at Caux, Switzerland (2002), a high-level “dialogue of civilisations” in Morocco (2004), on-going public programmes in Europe, the USA and Australia, as well as specialised dialogues in Lebanon and Indonesia.
- The Caux Round Table, a dialogue among senior business leaders that has resulted in the promotion and practice of principles of corporate social responsibility.
- The International Communications Forum, a network of media professionals working to practice and promote greater ethical standards and responsibility in the media.
- Agenda for Reconciliation, an initiative to give opportunities for those in diverse regions of crisis to share with one another what they are learning about healing the past and building a common future. The network is currently active in the Middle East, the Great Lakes region of Africa, the Horn of Africa, Cambodia, Papua New-Guinea and the Pacific.
- Hope in the Cities, a programme that has won accolades for its unique approach to racial reconciliation based on “honest conversation” and a blame-free walk through the historic causes of distrust.
- Creators of Peace, an international women's initiative, originating in Africa, inspires women at every level of society to take active responsibility to build peace in their communities.

The approach of IofC works because it is based on

1. Living what we ‘preach’ – change starting with ourselves based on the highest ethical values of integrity, compassion, active listening, care and service which are found in the teachings of all cultures and religions. Focusing on the practice rather than the theory leads to humility and a readiness to discover the “other”.
2. Sustaining relationships of trust that span the world’s divides. Trust, if it is to be sustained, must be based on far-reaching change in the attitudes, relationships and behaviour of individuals in all sectors of society. Such change is the fruit of sustained care and creative engagement in joint projects to realize shared visions.
3. An emphasis on developing skilled role models and agents of change. Training programmes are typically residential, experiential and multicultural. In 2006, Action for Life exposed forty young leaders from 12 countries to leaders and community activists across Asia.

As part of a coalition of organizations and agencies, IofC would aim to:

- Work with religious leaders to promote humbly living the highest values, starting with ourselves, and to de-emphasize religion as a divisive badge of identity.
- Work with business and political leaders to address the matrix of corruption and imbalances of power and wealth so that a sustainable and just world economy becomes a possibility.
- Work with the media, celebrities, educators, grassroots activists and the private sector to promote an embrace of diversity through a global “discover the other” campaign.

Because of its experience, approach, and the breadth and diversity of its network, Initiatives of Change is ideally placed to design and implement sustained programmes to build trust across the world's divides.

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## **Proposal from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies regarding the Alliance of Civilizations**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation), as an international organisation with permanent observer status at the United Nations, welcomes the Alliance of Civilizations initiative launched by the United Nations Secretary-General and cosponsored by the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey in August 2005.

The International Federation takes a consistent and inspirational approach to encouraging respect for human dignity and the promotion of its humanitarian values and principles with the aim to raise awareness of the public and private sector and to influence behaviour in communities. It is guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with aims to protect life and health, to ensure respect for human being and to promote mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all people. Furthermore the Principle of Impartiality specifically ensures that our work is carried out without discrimination of any kind.

In 2003, at the 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Federation made a pledge of non discrimination and respect for diversity<sup>15</sup> which guides its work and that of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In this spirit, the International Federation wishes to contribute to the work of the High-Level Group (HLG) established by the Secretary General of the United Nations, with the following proposal:

**At the international and regional levels: the International Federation believes that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights could provide leadership for work with the existing mechanisms, through**

- Promoting collaboration towards Alliance objectives by international and regional organisations and institutions, utilising its experts in relevant areas, including Treaty bodies, using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) as a key reference.
- Supporting direct engagement with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation to promote understanding of Alliance objectives through education channels and other media, including the internet.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/values/2003-fed-pledge-en.pdf>

- Promote the celebration of UN proclaimed International Days (i.e.: on Youth, Tolerance, Migration, against racism, etc) as opportunities to raise awareness and promote messages for mutual understanding and respect.

**At regional level the process should identify common concerns and synergy, involving existing networks and**

- Identify leaders and establish collaboration also at sub-regional levels to engage different actors, and to address the issues and challenges effectively.
- Strengthen opportunities to exchange knowledge (best practice and failures), capitalize on regional experiences and opportunities for learning and support.

**At the country level, partners should collaborate with and actively involve the concerned community-based organizations and institutions, and**

- Work together with existing institutions and bring the commitments into actions at the community level. National Human Rights Institutions and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies should be encouraged to join such collaborative efforts.
- With strong commitment from the top officials of each government, such partnerships should be enabled to reach out to the population for the promotion of understanding across religion, ethnicity, race and culture.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, working toward the protection of human dignity<sup>16</sup>, shares the same concerns as the Alliance of Civilizations, and remains at the disposal of the Secretary General and the HLG for consultations and support.

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<sup>16</sup> “Protecting Human Dignity” was the main theme for the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in December 2003.

## **FORGING A GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT BIO-TERRORISM**

**PROFESSOR BARRY KELLMAN, DEPAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW**

Bio-terrorism is, according to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, “the most important under-addressed terrorist threat” that “requires new thinking on the part of the international community.” Because of the potential for widespread contagion, suffering, and panic, bio-terrorism poses perhaps the greatest threat to forging a stronger alliance among civilizations.

Unfortunately, threats of bio-terrorism are inter-linked with progress in bio-science and technology. According to the Secretary-General, biotechnology “has developed exponentially” and “heralds breakthroughs ... in our attempts to eliminate infectious diseases that kill upwards of 14 million people every year.” Biotechnology’s advances “can, however, also bring incalculable harm if put to destructive use by those who seek to develop designer diseases and pathogens.” The reality is that advancing biotechnology can facilitate terrorists’ commission of a widespread bio-calamity. To suppose that terrorists will ignore these emerging capabilities is to replace precaution with hope – a wholly inadequate basis for developing global policy.

Biotechnology is closely linked with globalization, taking advantage of the mobility of resources and ideas and fostering economic growth through research and trade. Today’s challenge is not to constrain bio-science; it is to promote it subject to uniform standards that complicate its malevolent applications. There is great value in establishing common norms for handling of lethal pathogens, for bio-laboratory personnel and their access to specific sites, for accurate record-keeping, etc. These bio security standards can usefully help distinguish licit from illicit activities, and compliance should entitle scientists to operate free from interference.

Opportunities for bio-science development should be linked to fulfilment of bio-security obligations: development funding in biotechnology should be contingent on implementation of security controls; correspondingly, pro-active implementation of specific controls and cooperation with relevant international organizations should encourage developmental support. Mechanisms of assessment need to be defined, and procedures for providing assistance must be stipulated. However, today there is no certainty about what pathogens should be secured and tracked or what laboratories should be monitored? There is no mechanism even for merely basic census functions to determine the worldwide distribution of bio-science sectors.

As every bio-terrorism expert knows, preventing bio-terrorism is what the international community does worst. There is no international authoritative structure – rule of law—that can promote reasonable, even widely-shared initiatives to reduce bio-terrorism. Most important, there is no global body authorized to define and enforce policies to secure pathogens, control critical equipment, or detect covert bio-terrorism preparations. There is no strategic agenda to guide policy implementation; massive and critical constituencies are disengaged; and there is no meaningful capacity to induce recalcitrant States or persons to meet their responsibilities. International alarms of bio-terrorism ring nowhere!

Measures to protect against the misuse of biotechnology and assistance measures to promote human security must affirm the need for balance. It is illegitimate, therefore, to separate debates on the security issues associated with advancing biotechnology from the larger context of international competition in the commercialization of technology. Addressing bio-terrorism concerns inappropriately could undermine development of biotechnology with catastrophic effects. Developing biotechnology but failing to address bio-terrorism concerns could lead to catastrophe and undermine confidence in science. Addressing all these concerns in harmony is mandatory for humanity’s security.

**Representation:**

Professor Barry Kellman is representing himself in his capacity as Professor of Law and Director of the International Weapons Control Center, DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, Il. USA.

**Brief Biographical Information**

Barry Kellman teaches international law and directs the International Weapons Control Center at DePaul University College of Law. He earned a BA from the University of Chicago and a JD from Yale Law School.. He has long been concerned with weapons of mass destruction proliferation and terrorism. He worked for ratification and implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as lead author of the Manual for National Implementation of the CWC (1993; 2nd ed. 1998). He is senior chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) International Law and Security Committee and has published widely on: weapons smuggling, the laws of armed conflict, Middle East arms control, and nuclear non-proliferation.

Professor Kellman's work for the past six years has focused on biological terrorism. He served on the United States National Academies of Sciences Committee on Research Standards and Practices To Prevent the Destructive Application of Biotechnology (2003). He initiated and serves as Special Advisor to the Interpol Program on Prevention of Bio-Terrorism and works closely with the United Nations, many international and regional bodies, as well as with the United States and other governments. He has published widely and speaks often at workshops and other symposia around the world. This work is supported by grants from The MacArthur Foundation, The Sloan Foundation, and The Carnegie Corporation of New York. Professor Kellman has organized and convened major international workshops on bioterrorism and heads several programs on bio-terrorism prevention.

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## **Proposal**

Hearings with the International Community & Civil Society  
Alliance of Civilizations  
Geneva 17<sup>th</sup> July

Due to our role of focal point between the Civil Society, the United Nations and the Government, the United Nations Association of Spain severely supports and contributes the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, especially regarding one of the main topics that are taking into account by the High Level Group, the Youth. We are concentrated all our efforts, working on the Alliance of Civilization by stressing the role of youth as a factor of change, not as a mere subject of other's concerns and priorities. It's necessary to reach out to the youth of the world in order to instil the values of moderation and cooperation, and to promote appreciation of diversity through education, dialogue, exchange of information and advocacy. The voices of the young people, potentially the future leaders of our countries, must not only be heard, it must be seriously taken into account.

In a recent experience, during the first UN Model Assembly in Spain that we carried out during the month of May in Barcelona with the participation of more than 250 university students from all over the world, we introduced an Ad-Hoc Committee on the Alliance of Civilizations that discussed the contents of this new initiative from the youth view. As a result of this simulation the youth representatives made a resolution where they highlighted the need of ensures access to education, the integration of cultures through the creation of house of cultures and the introduction of cultural fairs, freedoms of speech and reform of the high-level group as the key work areas of the Alliance process.

Due to the success of this conference, we are organizing a new project by the end of October: the Mediterranean Forum of the "Young Alliance of Civilizations", a forum of young people living in the Mediterranean basin and in the European Region with the objective to celebrate and strengthen the ties that have connected the Mediterranean people for centuries. Our main purposes are the adoption of a final declaration expressing the views, hopes and proposals of the Mediterranean youth regarding the objectives, aims and future direction of the Alliance of Civilizations and its major areas of concern; and make a contribution to the Report of the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations with specific and concrete proposals for the Alliance's Programme of Action.

Young people still have much to say, and much to contribute to this process so we are encourage to the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations to create an Open Forum for the youth, in order to give them the opportunity to express directly their ideas and bring a whole different perspective to the table.

**PART IV**

**ANNEXES**

## **IV. a) Context & Program**

### **Context:**

In July 2005, the UN Secretary General appointed the High-Level Group (HLG) for the Alliance of Civilisations which is due to present its report before the end of this year. This group is co-chaired by Prof. Federico Mayor (former UNESCO DG) and Prof. Mehmet Aydin (Minister of State of Turkey).

*According to its terms of reference, the proposal for an Alliance of Civilisations “...responds to a broad consensus across nations, cultures and religions that all societies are interdependent, bound together in their development and security, and in their environmental, economic and financial well-being. The Alliance seeks to forge collective political will and to mobilize concerted action at the institutional and civil society levels to overcome the prejudice, misperceptions and polarization (...) And it hopes to contribute to a coalescing global movement which, reflecting the will of the vast majority of people, rejects extremism in any society*

*Events of recent years have exacerbated mutual suspicion, fear and misunderstanding between Islamic and Western societies. This environment has been exploited by extremists throughout the world. Only a comprehensive coalition will be able to avert any further deterioration of relations between societies and nations, which could threaten international stability. The Alliance seeks to counter this trend by establishing a paradigm of mutual respect between civilizations and cultures.”*

These hearings are a response to the demand of several international networks of NGOs to find an appropriate space and time to give civil society and other organisations the opportunity to openly exchange views and opinions with the HLG before its report is finalised.

These hearings will count with the participation of Federico Mayor, Co-Chair of the HLG and former UNESCO Director General.

### **Addressees:**

- Civil society organisations, especially those with delegations in Geneva
- International institutions present in Geneva
- Diplomatic Missions in Geneva



## **IV.b) List of speakers& moderators**

Mr. Richard AMALVY	Director, Communication and Media of the WOSM (World Organisation of the Scout Movement)
Ms. Renata BLOEM	President of CONGO (Conference of NGOs in Relationship with ECOSOC)
Mr. George GORDON-LENNOX	Representative of Reporters without Borders
Ms. Bruna FAIDUTTI	Director of the Geneva Office of WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations)
Mr. Tony HILL	Director of NGLS (the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service)
Ms. Michelle KLEIN-SOLOMON	Acting Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communications Department. IOM (International Organisation for Migrations)
Mr. Manuel MANONELLES	Advisor to the Co-Chair of the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations; and Director of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace
Mr. Gaspar MARTÍNEZ	Representative of Pax Romana – ICMICA (International Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs), responsible for the International Congress on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue
Mr. Federico MAYOR	Co-Chair of the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations, and President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace
Mr. Ibrahim OSMAN	Deputy Secretary General of the IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)
Mr. Vladimir PETROVSKY	Chairman of CDAC (Comprehensive Dialogue Among Civilisations) and former Director General of UNOG
Mr. Willy THYS	Secretary General of the WCL (World Confederation of Labour), also in representation of the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions)
Mr. Josep XERCAVINS	Coordinator, Secretariat of the UBUNTU Forum (World Forum of Civil Society Networks)

## IV. c) List of Participants

Mr Calle	Almedal	UNAIDS
Mr Richard	Amalvy	World Organisation of Scout Movement
Mr Elchin	Amirbayof	Permanent mission of Afganistan
Mr Galen	Bean	Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations
Mr Yuvan	Beejadhur	Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations
Mr Mohammed	Benjaber	Permanent Mission of Morocco
Ms Valeriane	Bernard	Org Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Ms Renate	Bloem	CONGO
Ms Johanna	Braun	Permanent Mission of Germany
Ms Ingeborg	Breines	UNESCO
Mr Gustavo	Capdevila	IPS
Ms Katherine	Carré	Susila Dharma International
Ms Farah	Cherif	Belgian Mission
Ms Michele	Cocchiglia	UN/ISDR
Ms Violette	Daguerre	Arab Commission for Human Rights
Ms Elizabeth	Dalmau	Office of the Co-Chair of the UN HLG for the Alliance of Civilisations
Ms Julia	D'Aloisio	Femmes Africa Solidarité
Mr Santiago	Daroca	UNRISD
Mr Trevor	Davies	Anglican Consultative Council
Ms Dorothy	Davies	Anglican Consultative Council
Ms Ghislaine	de Reydet	Lucis Trust-Bonne Volonté Mondiale
Ms H��l��ne	Durand-Ballivet	Int'l Catholic Society for Girls
Mr Ricardo	Espinosa	UNOG/ODG
Ms Bruna	Faidutti	WFUNA
Mr Gianfranco	Fattorini	Mouvement contre racisme et pour l'amiti�� entre les peuples
Mr Thomas	Frings	UNRISD
Ms Ann-Mari	Froberg	Permanent Mission of Finland
Ms Marta	Garde	EFE
Mr Ch.	Garin	IOPC - Int. Caux
Ms Francesca	Giannotti	Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations
Ms Mariela	Gonzalez	Venezuelan Mission
Mr Juan Manuel	Gonzalez de Linares	Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Espa��a
Mr George	Gordon-Lennox	Reporters without borders
Mr Charles	Graves	Interfaith International
Ms Fatima	Guenoun	AFNU, French Association for UN
Mr Javier	Guerrero	United Nations Association of Spain
Mr S. William	Gunn	Int'l Assoc. For Humanitarian Medicine
Ms Kristina	Hagen	International Federation of University Women
Mr Sonja L.	Hanachi	FIEM. Foundation Internationale pour les enfants du monde
Mr Manna	Haytham	Arab Commission for Human Rights
Mr Tony	Hill	NGLS
Ms Hella	Hoppe	Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches
Mr Riaz	Jayob	Third World Network
Mr Michael	Karlen	Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations
Mr. Felix	Kirchmeier	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Ms Michele	Klein-Solomon	International Organisation for Migrations
Mr T��rkekul	Kurttekin	Turkish Mission
Ms Myrna	Lachenal	World Federation for Mental Health
Ms Ana	Leurinda	Culture of Afroindigenous solidarit��
Mr Orley	Lindgren	Law School of Depaul University California

Ms Danielle	Maillefer	Initiative of Change International
Mr Mikel	Mancisidor	UNESCO ETXEA
Mr Manuel	Manonelles	Office of the Co-Chair of the UN HLG for the Alliance of Civilisations
Mr Gaspar	Martinez	Pax Romana -ICMICA
Mr Mohamed Moncef	Marzouki	Arab Commission for Human Rights
Mr Elchin	Masuku	Permanent mission of Afganistan
Mr Federico	Mayor	UN High Level Group Alliance of Civilisations
Mr Moussibalou	Mazou	AIDE Federation
Ms Nicole	Merkt	UNFPA
Mr Rodrigo	Montaluisa	IPB
Ms Sidney	Moyo	Youth with a Mission England
Ms Sylvia	Muller	German Permanent Mission
Ms Joy	Muller	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Mr Yuri	Nazarkine	Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations
Mr Klaus	Netter	B'nai B'rith International
Mr Adalbert	Nouga	Village Suisse ONG
Ms Yonka	Ozceri	Permanent Mission of Turkey
Mr Ibrahim	Osman	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Mr Paul	Paredes	FAO
Mr Lazaro	Pary	Indian Movement "Tupag Amaru"
Ms Agnes	Pedrero	EFE
Mr Patrick Uwe	Petit	The Goi Peace Foundation
Mr H.	Perraudin	IFUN
Mr Vladimir	Petrovsky	Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations
Ms Conchita	Poncini	IFUW
Ms Elly	Pradervand	WWSF-Women's World Summit Foundation
Ms Ariadna	Quintero	United Nations Association of Spain
Mr Henri	Ranaivoson	AIDE Federation
Mr Balazs	Ratkai	Mission of Hungary
Mr Dev	Ray	FAFICS
Mr Cyril	Ritchie	CONGO
Mr Patrice	Robineau	UNECE
Mr Arturo	Romboli	World Organisation of Scout Movement
Mr Leon	Saltiel	UN Watch
Ms Eliane	Schenk	CONGO
Ms Sorina	Serbotei	IPB
Mr Jean Pierre	Stroot	GIPRI (Geneva International Peace Research Institute)
Ms Astrid	Stuckelberger	Society for Psychological Studies for Social Issues
Mr John	Taylor	Int'l Association for Religious Freedom
Mr Riaz	Tayob	Third World Network
Mr Willy	Thys	World Confederation of Labour
Ms Janira	Tor	Office of the Co-Chair of the UN HLG for the Alliance of Civilisations
Mr Josep	Xercavins	UBUNTU-World Forum of Civil Society Networks

## IV-d) Photos



View of the opening session.  
From left to right: Tony Hill, Federico Mayor and Ibrahim Osman



View of the public participating in the Hearings



General view of the 1<sup>st</sup> session



View of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. From left to right: Manuel Manonelles, Federico Mayor, Renata Bloem, Vladimir Petrovsky and Gaspar Martínez



View of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session. From left to right: Manuel Manonelles, Federico Mayor, Josep Xercavins, Richard Amalvy, George Gordon-Lennox



View of the 4<sup>th</sup> and concluding session.  
From left to right: Federico Mayor, Willy Thys and Michele Klein-Solomon

Photos by the Office of Prof. Federico Mayor  
Co-Chair – UN High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations