THIRD GLOBAL FORUM OF THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS, in Rio de Janeiro

BRIDGING CULTURES, BUILDING PEACE


Organizing partner
UNESCO

Background

In the framework of the UNESCO Future Forum, leading experts are invited to discuss the importance of cultural literacy for development and peace, in line with the key findings and recommendations of the recent UNESCO World Report Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue.

Together with reading and writing skills or numeracy, cultural literacy has become ‘the lifeline for today’s world’. At a time when the growth and intensity of encounters with ‘others’ is perceived to threaten cultural identities, a specific sensitivity to cultural difference is required along with the development of specific intercultural competencies to be exerted through education, the media, in multilingual settings, etc. As an ally of cultural literacy, cultural diversity can become a genuine source of wealth and creativity, and a lever to be utilized for sustainable development and enhanced social cohesion.

Special attention will be attached to discussing the positive outcomes that can be generated by cultural diversity, when it is used as an approach to renew development strategies and social cohesion policies.

Speakers and moderator

- Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Keynote addresses:

- André Azoulay (Morocco), President of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures
- Magda Abu Fadhil (Lebanon), Director of the Journalism Training Program at the American University of Beirut
- Manuela Carneiro da Cunha (Brazil), Professor of Anthropology and of Social Sciences at University of Chicago
- Homi K. Bhabha (India), Director of the Humanist Center at Harvard University (video-message)
- Olabiyi Yai (Benin) – Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO; former Chairperson of Executive Board; Professor of Linguistics (pending)