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

BRIDGING CULTURES, BUILDING PEACE


Background

This session will bring together media professionals and experts who regularly comment on world affairs to discuss the role of media in bridging cross-cultural divides. Focusing on a number of concrete case studies (such as the Gaza crisis and the controversy over Minarets in Switzerland), the session will aim to explore the influence of the media in shaping public perceptions and the role of experts and analysts in improving understanding of complex intercultural conflicts.

Questions for discussion

• How can a broad range of balanced opinions help shape the debate over divisive cultural and religious issues?
• How are such issues addressed in different parts of the world?
• What influence do press self-regulation, public service media, training for editors and journalists have on perception of cross-cultural tensions and conflicts?
• How do public perceptions of intercultural issues impact on politics and vice versa?
• How might a wide range of balanced opinions counter prevalence of one-side coverage, dominant frames and stereotyping?

Organizing partners

Anna Lindh Foundation, European Commission