

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS
NATIONAL STRATEGY

I. INTRODUCTION

Turkey, being conscious of its cultural heritage of peaceful coexistence and being an insider to the cultures, traditions and institutions of the West for nearly two centuries, is in a unique position to understand the significance of dialogue among civilizations and to apprehend the dire consequences that may result from the absence of tolerance and understanding among cultures. This is why the Alliance of Civilizations, initiated by the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and Spanish Prime Minister, Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and launched by the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, as a UN project in 2005, has been adopted wholeheartedly in Turkey.

The High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations, co-chaired by Minister of State, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın, and by the former General Director of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor, fulfilled the mandate given to them and issued a Report in Istanbul in November 2006. The Report, with its keen analyses, rich content and concrete recommendations is considered a landmark document, particularly with respect to its emphasis on an action-driven approach to prevent conflicts, reduce tension, and increase dialogue and cooperation among civilizations. The Alliance is rightfully regarded as the peace project of the 21st century.

The U.N. Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon's commitment to the project, his appointment of the former President of Portugal Mr. Jorge Sampaio as the High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations, and last but not least the increasing support of the Group of Friends, make us highly optimistic about the current success and future potential of our initiative.

The problems that challenge us today are of a complex nature; hence the strategies that we develop must match their complexity. Like in many other situations, the best way to achieve alliance among cultures is through multiple strategies: initiating immediate cooperation when possible, appealing to the strength of arguments when needed, and providing various incentives to make cooperation preferable when appropriate. Complex and multifaceted though it is, our strategy is a strategy of action, not of mere thought or talks. We consider inertia or indifference towards problems that are undermining peaceful relations among nations as the worst possible approach. Thus the initial engagement with these problems begins with a proper cognitive and emotive reaction. However, the current situation of the world requires from us to do more and to join our efforts in unison for the common good as it was indicated frequently and amply in the HLG Report of the Alliance of Civilizations. An example of good practice at the international level was provided in 2006 in a joint effort by the Turkish and Spanish Prime Ministers, who published the article "A Call for Respect and Calm" in handling the cartoon crisis. To increase the number of these kinds of cooperative efforts is one of the main objectives of Turkey's National Strategy.

The successful completion of Turkey's full accession into the European Union, which has been underway since 1963, will be a good example of the Alliance of Civilizations and of the coexistence of communities and individuals from different religions and cultures in a milieu of peace and tolerance.

In order to realize the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations, peace and cooperation among individuals and nations should first be seen as a public good for the benefit of all. Wars and conflicts are not, and should not, be seen as necessary steps of human progress; their decline in number, scope and effect will only give way to our hopes for a peaceful future for humanity. Peace and cooperation must be perceived as the normative ground upon which human relations develop and human potential flourishes. This change of perception requires a major restructuring of our thoughts and beliefs towards relations among individuals, societies, institutions, nations and cultures. In sum, what is needed is a passionate

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

heart, a firm resolution, a new mindset. To provide for all three together in a coherent way, our national strategy aims to realize projects and activities toward the values and goals of the Alliance of Civilizations. The key concepts that guide our strategy and motivate our actions are pluralism and diversity, friendship and cooperation, dialogue and understanding, and respect for human dignity and gender equality.

Pluralism and Diversity: Although diversity can create difficulties, it can also be a rich resource for solutions to the problems that we are facing today. Many consider diversity to be the real engine behind social progress. A lack of diversity can even be seen as the cause of stagnation that affects many societies. Diversity and pluralism require cognitive skills that promote different ways of perceiving and interpreting problems and generating a wide range of solutions for them. Diverse groups and societies outperform homogeneous ones. People with different cultural backgrounds are more likely to see the world differently and to have fresh perspectives on important matters in life. Human progress depends as much on our ability to turn our differences into advantages as it does on our readiness to deal with new problems. A diverse society is also more likely to have talented individuals who lead their communities to safe shores in troubled times. Diversity is beneficent when there is a coherent structure upon which diverse opinions, interests and acts can converge. When individuals are constantly competing against each other, and perpetually trying to undo what others achieve, diversity has little to offer.

Friendship and Cooperation: Cooperation and friendship among cultures proceeds in different dimensions. In some cases, a valid norm is sufficient for cooperation and in others, face-saving concerns might be a strong incentive for individuals or groups to work together. At times, concerns about being left out or being isolated may also motivate cooperation. However, unlike cooperation between two individuals through reciprocal relations, alliance among cultures can require carefully formed incentives and commonly shared values. Cooperation itself does not necessarily carry an objective value, since two individuals or groups may cooperate to the detriment of a third one. The perspective of this potential third party has to be built into the general structure of our strategies. In our strategy, participation for the common good is the rule.

Dialogue and Understanding: There are various well known methods to be applied for problems that arise in the area of intercultural relations, and these methods include negotiation, conflict resolution and mediation. Dialogue is an approach which is related to these methods, but less clearly defined. This can be taken as an advantage since dialogue, being more flexible, can be easily adapted to each specific situation. Furthermore, dialogue requires cooperation at the minimum level without which the participants could not even carry out their interaction. Dialogue and the processes that are conducive to it are therefore the main tools with which we may begin to work on issues that emerge out of our differences in values, beliefs and acts.

There are several criteria that test genuine intercultural communication. Deepening one's knowledge about one's own culture and cultivating an appreciation for other cultures come first. Moreover, without the critical skills necessary for evaluating constantly changing information, dialogue is unlikely to progress very far. Finally, dialogue entails an ethical stance through which our interactions cast off their habitual routine and transform into a significant relation. These criteria do not only make dialogue possible but also constitute the basics without which no long term relation can last.

Respect for Human Dignity and Gender Equality: During various stages of policy making, planning, evaluation and implementation, respect for human dignity and gender equality will form the focal point that defines our activities. Disagreements are the brute facts of life. We often disagree not only in our tastes but even in our perceptions of facts, and more importantly, in our choices of ethical norms. Some norms, however, are too valuable to be a subject for negotiation. Our strategy is based on respect for human dignity, gender equality, freedom, tolerance, and the democratic governance that lets these values function fully in a pluralistic society.

II. STRUCTURE

A. AoC NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

In order to realize the National Strategy of the Alliance of Civilizations in its entirety and to secure coordination among the relevant Ministries, institutions and non-governmental organizations, an AoC National Coordination Committee will be established and its director and members will be appointed by the Prime Minister. The National Coordination Committee, which will operate under the guidance of the Minister of State, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın, will organize regular meetings during 2008 – 2009 and prepare an annual report to be presented to the Prime Ministry regarding the developments in the area of Alliance of Civilizations. The projects included in the National Strategy will be implemented by the relevant Ministries. The National Coordination Committee will consist of the representatives from the following Ministries.

Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın)
Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)
Ministry of State (Mrs. Nimet Çubukçu)
Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu)
Ministry of Interior Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of National Education
Ministry of Labor and Social Security
Ministry of Culture and Tourism
Ministry of Environment and Forestry

B. GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Since a significant number of the Members of the Grand National Assembly are already involved with various activities and projects that come under the umbrella of inter-cultural dialogue, the National Coordination Committee will work closely with them to coordinate various efforts and maximize their outcome.

C. MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The National Coordination Committee will cooperate with the municipalities and local authorities so that the main objectives of the Alliance are reflected in their social policies, and secure the involvement of individuals and groups at the community level.

D. CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

As recommended in the High Level Group Report, the National Coordination Committee will aim to secure the involvement of national and international organizations and civil society groups in the projects and activities of the Alliance of Civilizations. Among these organizations are UNESCO, UNDP, OSCE, OIC, IRCICA, Anna Lind Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, TİKA, TESEV, SETA, TOBB, TUSİAD, and MUSİAD. In implementing the AoC projects concerning the youth, the National Coordination Committee will seek the cooperation of national and international youth organizations such as the Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative.

E. PROCESSES

The Projects included in the National Strategy will be implemented at three levels: (a) new projects will be initiated, such as organizing meetings, publishing articles and books, and establishing centres for cultural dialogue at the universities; (b) support will be provided for the ongoing projects that are active toward the objectives of the AoC, such as the projects that are listed below and are currently implemented by the Ministries and NGOs; and finally (c) a dialogue perspective will be injected into the existing projects that

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

are likely to adapt some of their aims and content to the general aims of the Alliance. (To prevent repetition, the projects under the responsibility of more than one Ministry are mentioned only once.)

III. PROJECTS

MINISTRY OF STATE
(Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın)

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
01	Turkish Modernization from the Perspective of the Alliance of Civilizations	- A conference will be held on Turkish Modernization, as an example in pursuance of the objectives, contained in the report of the High Level Group, of encouraging Muslim societies to contribute to global developments and to promote dialogue within this framework.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)	2009
02	Conference on Atatürk's Vision on Culture and Civilization	- A conference will be held on Atatürk's thoughts on culture and civilization, in view of the principles and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Atatürk Research Centre	2008
03	Cross-civilizational Dialogue and Cultural Enrichment: Conference on the role of the Media	- A conference will be held, with the participation of the international press members and other experts, to examine the role to be played by the media in the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Directorate-General of Press and Information (BYEGM)	2008
04	Conference on the Alliance of Civilizations in view of Scientific Developments	- A conference will be held to examine the concepts of science and civilizations and to study the risks and advantages of scientific developments, in view of the contents and aims of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)	2009
05	Conference on Islamic Civilization and Pax Otomana	- The contribution of the Islamic Civilization and Ottoman practices to the culture of peace and co-existence will be explored from the perspective of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Turkish Historical Society	2009
06	Scholarship	- Scholarships will be made available to students and academicians seeking to conduct research in the field of the Alliance of Civilizations, inter-cultural dialogue, conflict prevention and conflict resolution.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) TÜBİTAK, TÜBA	2008-2009
07	Academic Publications Board for the Alliance of Civilizations	- A board will be established, comprising academicians with an interest in the Alliance of Civilizations and expertise in history, philosophy, theology, anthropology or other related fields, in order to act in a consultative capacity with respect to publications.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Academic Publications Board	2008-2009
08	Monographs and Translations on the Alliance of Civilizations	- Monographs will be commissioned on the Alliance of Civilizations and on cross-fertilization between the Islamic and Western Civilizations both in Turkish and English. Within the framework of the Alliance's objectives, an	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Academic Publications Board	2008-2009

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

		anthology of articles in Turkish and other languages, which are published in various journals and frequently-quoted, will be published. Introductory works on inter-cultural dialogue and its objectives will be published for the general public. - Significant documents drafted by international organizations, in particular those exploring the issue of inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue such as the "Democratic Dialogue: a Handbook for Practitioners" published by the UNDP and 'the White Paper on inter-cultural dialogue' being prepared by the Council of Europe, will be translated into Turkish.		
09	Media Literacy	- A media literacy pilot project has been launched at primary and secondary schools with the purpose of developing the capacity of the younger generation for analysis, evaluation and communication, in response to the messages conveyed by the media. A special section, dealing with the role of the media in the Alliance of Civilizations, will be added to the pilot project.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) High Council of Radio and Television (RTÜK) Ministry of National Education	2007-2009
10	Protocol on the Ethical Principles of Broadcasting	- RTÜK has concluded a Protocol on the Ethical Principles of Broadcasting in 2007 with various radio and television broadcasting corporations. RTÜK will monitor the implementation of the Protocol by the media and present annual reports to the Ministry of State.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) RTÜK	2008-2009
11	Training Seminars for the Media	- In cooperation with other relevant institutions, RTÜK will hold training sessions, for the benefit of the employees of local and national radio and television broadcasting corporations, on the freedom of communication, the balance between freedom and responsibility, correct and neutral reporting, responsible broadcasting, democratic pluralism and national and global peace.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) RTÜK	2008-2009
12	Festivity for World Children	- The Festivity of National Sovereignty and Children are celebrated each year on 23 April, bringing together in Turkey thousands of children from around the world and providing an important occasion for building cross-cultural bridges. These festivities will be adapted to reflect the perspective of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) Turkish Radio and Television (TRT)	2008-2009
13	Visual Arts Projects	- RTÜK, TRT, the Anatolian Agency and BYEGM will prepare video clips, short films, documentaries and advertising material for the general public on intercultural dialogue, in cooperation with media corporations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) RTÜK, TRT, Anadolu Agency (AA), BYEGM	2008-2009
14	Alliance of Civilizations Media Prize	- A prize will be awarded to a media corporation and/or to an employee of a media corporation for contributing to the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın)	2008-2009
15	The Internet Website and	- The official website of the Alliance of Civilizations in Turkey will be	Ministry of State	2008-2009

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

	the Meeting Point for Civilizations	<p>updated and enriched and rendered inter-active. The website will form a source of reference for Turkish citizens seeking information on Alliance activities and projects.</p> <p>- The Meeting Point for Civilizations, an internet data bank project, aims to provide easy access to all information and documentation on the Alliance of Civilizations. This website will be available in multiple languages.</p> <p>- On-the-job training programmes provided to public employees of Ministries and other government institutions will be expanded to include lectures, conferences and workshops on the values and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.</p>	<p>(Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın)</p> <p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p>	2008-2009
16	Alliance of Civilizations and Training Seminars		<p>Relevant Ministries of State</p> <p>Ministry of Interior Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of National Education</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Social Security</p> <p>Ministry of Culture and Tourism</p> <p>Ministry of Environment and Forestry</p>	

MINISTRY OF STATE
(Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
17	World Conference on Youth and Dialogue	<p>- A conference will held, as part of the Youth Week on the occasion of the 19 May Festivity for the Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sport, to bring the world youth together around the values of the Alliance of Civilizations and to encourage the participation of the young generation in the activities designed to promote the objectives of the Alliance. A concert by international musicians with a keen awareness of the importance of cultural dialogue will be organized and with the participation of internationally renowned sportmen, a sports activity will take place as part of the Project.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p>	2009
18	Three Cultures Three Cities Three Sports	<p>- In line with the values and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations and bearing in mind the role of sport in bringing together diverse cultures and in forging friendships, activities in three different sports and cultural events will be organized in Cordoba and Istanbul, which are among meeting points of civilizations, and in a third city to be determined at a later stage.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p> <p>Ministry of Culture and Tourism</p>	2008-2009

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

19	The Human Race One Step Two Continents	<p>- With the support of international sponsors, a "Human Race" will be held with the participation of 10 million people in 32 countries on 31 August 2008, following the conclusion of the Olympic Games. The Turkish component of the Project will be implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of State responsible for youth and sport. The Race that will be take place in Istanbul, a meeting point of continents and civilizations, will send messages of friendship and dialogue throughout the world.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations Sponsoring Companies</p>	31 August 2008
20	Meeting of Civilizations: Antakya-Rome International Cycling Tour	<p>- A "Meeting of Civilizations International Cycling Tour" will be organized beginning in Antakya and ending in Rome between 12 and 29 Nisan 2008.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p>	2008
21	Sport and Culture of Peace	<p>- Further efforts will be deployed to encourage the participation in sports activities of families, the core building blocks of society, with all of their members, and thus to ensure that the younger generations stay away from the increasing cases of violence in sport.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p>	2008-2009
22	"Run to the Future"	<p>- With the support of the Minister of State responsible for sport and the involvement of sponsoring corporations and civil society institutions, a "Run to the Future" Project will be implemented for the participation of young athletes from rural areas. The aim of the activity is to encourage the youth from rural regions to engage in regular sports activities and to forge friendships with fellow athletes.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations Sponsoring Companies</p>	2008-2009
23	Youth Week "HEPIBİZ" Festivity	<p>- On the occasion of Youth Week celebrated each year in May, 2500 youths from 140 Youth Centres in various Turkish cities and towns will come together with 1000 youths from different countries of the world. As part of the project, a "Tolerance Symposium" will be held, along with cultural and artistic activities, concerts, workshops, a promotional fair, and cultural tours.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p>	2008
24	Exchange Programme between Youths of Central and Southeast Europe and Turkey	<p>- A Youth Exchange Programme will be initiated, involving youths in Central and South East European countries and in Turkey. The aim is to bring together youths from different cultures and to encourage them to forge friendships.</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p>	2008
25	Youth Centres Focusing on Employment	<p>- Efforts will be deployed to increase the number of Youth Centres, which currently stands at 140, and to adapt them to offer job training courses so as to contribute to the enhancement of youth employment prospects. This project will seek to ensure the integration of the young generation in various parts of Turkey in the socio-economic and cultural life of their communities and take into account the specific requirements of Chambers of Commerce and Industry as well as local businesses for trained labour. İŞKUR will assist the youths attending training courses at the Youth Centres to find jobs once</p>	<p>Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioğlu)</p> <p>Ministry of Labour and Social Security Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR)</p>	2008-2009

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

26	Youth in Social Life and Employment	their training is completed. - A pilot project will be initiated, in cooperation with the UNDP, to offer tourism-related training for youths and to enhance their employment prospects.	TOBB Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioglu) UNDP Ministry of Labour and Social Security İŞKUR	2008 – 2010
27	Programme on Youth's Social Development - Youth Cultural Bridge	- As part of the "Youth Social Development Programme", a group of volunteers will be invited to work at the Youth Centres in Turkey, as from March 2008, for a period of six or twelve months, from similar establishments in EU countries. If the project is successful, a group of youths from the Centres in Turkey will be selected to visit EU countries. Cultural dialogue will thus be initiated between youths in EU countries and in Turkey.	Ministry of State (Mr. Murat Başesgioglu)	2008-2009

MINISTRY OF STATE
(Mrs. Nimet Çubukçu)

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
28	Activities for the benefit of Turkish Women Living Abroad	- Several activities will be launched, particularly in those European countries with substantial Turkish communities, for the benefit of women, reflecting the nature and aims of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Mrs. Nimet Çubukçu) Directorate-General for the Status of Women Ministry of National Education	2008-2009
29	Efforts towards the Fight against Human Trafficking	- An international conference will be held to explore possible contributions to the Fight against Human Trafficking, bearing in mind the principles and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Mrs. Nimet ÇUBUKÇU) Directorate-General for the Status of Women	2008

MINISTRY OF STATE
(Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu)

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
30	The Alliance of Civilizations and Cultural-Religious Activities	-The Presidency of Religious Affairs will sustain its role in the enhancement of dialogue among cultures and faiths, promotion of girls' education, dissemination of human rights and universal ethical values and prevention of "honour killings" and radical tendencies. - On the occasion of the "Week of Commemoration of the Prophet's Birth (Mawlid' n-Nabi)" to be celebrated from 14 to 20 April 2008, a range of activities, i.e., public conferences, panels, prose and poetry competitions for students will be realized in Turkey, including European countries with substantial Turkish communities. The activities will aim at forging an awareness and culture of co-existence in citizens and especially among youths.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Presidency of Religious Affairs Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Presidency of Religious Affairs	2008-2009 14-20 April 2008
31	Programs on the Experience of Co-existence in Islamic Civilization	- The training programmes for the religious officers who would serve abroad will include courses in world religions, inter-religious affairs, and Muslims' experience of co-existence aiming to develop the culture of tolerance among Turkish citizens living abroad.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Presidency of Religious Affairs	2008-2009
32	Training Programme for Religious Officers who will be posted Abroad	- Exchange programmes particularly involving students and academicians who work in religious and cultural fields will be encouraged.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu)	2008-2009
33	Student Exchanges	- With the help of the International Divinity Programme, launched in 2006-2007, Turkish youths who live in Western countries and have a high school education will be able to study at the Theology Faculties in Turkey. This project aims to ensure that those students will eventually be able to provide, in their own communities in Western countries, religious services which are compatible with the characteristics and sensitivities of those communities.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Presidency of Religious Affairs	2008-2009
34	International Divinity Programme	- This project aims to form a framework for developing, among members of different faiths in Turkey and other countries, a culture of co-existence, mutual understanding and tolerance.	Ministry of National Education Council of Higher Education (YÖK)	2008-2009
35	Historical, Conceptual and Functional Dimensions of Inter-Religious Relations	- Several activities will be organized, for the participation of Turkish citizens living abroad, particularly Turkish youths, in the fundamental objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Presidency of Religious Affairs	2008-2009
36	Activities for Raising Awareness Among Turkish Citizens Living Abroad on		Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu)	2008-2009

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

the Alliance of Civilizations	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-------------------------------	-----------------------------

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
37	Activities in Pursuance of the Fundamental Objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations	- Some of the projects currently conducted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in conjunction with the European Union, the Council of Europe and other institutions are relevant for the purposes of the Alliance of Civilizations. The Support Project for the Implementation of Human Rights Reforms in Turkey, the Support Project in Respect of Turkish Efforts in the Fight against Human Trafficking and the Support Project for Access to Justice by Victims of Human Trafficking may be considered in this regard. In the implementation of these projects, the Ministry of Internal Affairs will sustain its support for inter-cultural harmony and dialogue by taking into account the principles and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations.	Ministry of Internal Affairs	2008-2009

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
38	Regional Conferences Central Asia The Middle East The Balkans	- Regional conferences will be held in pursuance of the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations. These conferences will seek to raise awareness on inter-cultural dialogue, to explore the means of putting into practice the recommendations of the Alliance of Civilizations at national and international levels and to implement or support joint international projects in pursuance of these recommendations.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2008-2009
39	African-Turkish Summit	- The possibility of earmarking a session at the African-Turkish Summit, devoted to "the Alliance of Civilizations from the African Perspective", will be explored.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	August 2008

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

40	Activities in the Field of the Fight against Religious, Ethnic and Cultural Discrimination and Islamophobia	<p>- In light of the principal objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations, the ongoing efforts for ensuring that Turkish citizens living abroad make greater use of fundamental rights and freedoms of faith and conscience and that they are not subjected to religious or ethnic discrimination or acts of "Islamophobia" will be sustained and coordinated.</p>	2008-2009
		Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Directorate of Religious Affairs	

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
41	The Alliance of Civilizations and Curricula	<p>- The Ministry of National Education regards inter-cultural schooling as a fundamental part of general education and attaches special importance to those elements which encourage friendly relations between societies and cultures. Courses on human rights, citizenship and mutual respect and understanding have been successfully incorporated into the Turkish educational system. Furthermore, the curriculum followed in primary and secondary schools contain a substantial section on Western cultures, allowing students to obtain a comprehensive impression of European history, literature and arts. The Ministry will sustain its support for inter-cultural dialogue through projects which may be regarded as relevant to the Alliance of Civilizations.</p>	Ministry of National Education	2008-2009
42	Textbooks	<p>- The Ministry of National Education will set up a commission to review and evaluate the current textbooks in use at primary and secondary schools from the perspective of cultural issues. The commission will assess textbooks especially from the perspective of the Alliance of Civilizations and will report its findings to the Ministry. Those subjects that would reinforce the Alliance of Civilizations will be included in textbooks, in line with the findings of the report. Ministry will also seek to achieve, with the help of bilateral cultural and educational agreements and memoranda of understanding, the mutual exchange and evaluation of textbooks especially with European and Balkan countries through joint committees of experts.</p>	Ministry of National Education Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2008-2009
43	Promotion of Mass Access to/Participation in Primary Education	<p>- This projects aims to ensure full access for all children to primary schooling and to high quality educational opportunities.</p>	Ministry of National Education	2008-2009
44	Participation in the Relevant Activities of International	<p>-Efforts will be deployed to participate in projects of international organizations aiming at the further development of educational opportunities for inter-cultural dialogue, tolerance, social harmony, and history, languages</p>	Ministry of National Education	2008

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

	Organizations	instruction and democratic citizenship instruction; Ministry will make use of conclusions of the Project in the Turkish educational system.		
45	Education in Democracy and School Boards	- Schools boards will be encouraged to attach priority to the dissemination of universal values such as tolerance, dialogue and pluralism in primary and secondary schools and in the society in general.	Ministry of National Education	2008-2009
46	Information Access Website	-Cooperation will be sought with international educational websites which seek to attach priority to e-school projects, internet access and educational technologies, to raise quality levels in education and to achieve equality of opportunity for every citizen.	Ministry of National Education	2008-2009
47	Informing Students of Turkey's Historical Treasures and Cultural Values	-The participation of Turkish and foreign students in the activities held each year from 18 March to 24 April as part of the the Commemoration of the Battles of Çanakkale is important from the perspective of "Dialogue with History". These activities, which have been reorganized as Republican Educational Visits as of 2004, and the in-country trips for groups of bright students (to western provinces for those living in the east and to eastern provinces for those living in the west), for the purpose of enabling them to become familiar with Turkey's historical treasures, will be sustained as established practices.	Ministry of National Education	2008-2009
48	Academic Activities	- Conferences, panels, seminars and workshops will be held, on and off campus, in cooperation with university administrations and student unions, in order to raise awareness of inter-cultural dialogue issues. Expert academicians will be invited to participate in these activities and to deliver lectures on ethnic, religious and inter-cultural tension, political conflicts and their resolution.	Ministry of National Education YÖK	2008-2009
49	Centres for Conflict Prevention and Resolution	- Centres for Conflict Prevention and Resolution will be established at various universities. The main aims of these centres will be to collect data on conflict resolution and dialogue, to conduct research and to offer courses in these fields. The centres will explore the possibilities for cooperation with dedicated units, at established universities and institutes, which have expertise in conflict studies.	Ministry of National Education YÖK	2008-2009
50	Efforts for Dialogue	- Universities will be encouraged to offer elective courses on dialogue between civilizations and cultures. The elective courses will be prepared and delivered by academicians working in social sciences and humanities. Universities will also be encouraged to establish a "Chair on Civilizational Studies" and to offer programmes on inter-cultural dialogue.	Ministry of National Education YÖK	2008-2009
51	Student Exchanges	- Student visits and exchanges at primary and secondary school levels will be	Ministry of National Education	2008-2009

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

		encouraged, in cooperation with international institutions, especially the European Union, so as to achieve cultural affinity.		
52	Students as Cultural Bridges	- Thousands of students from Central Asian, Middle Eastern and Balkan countries have been studying in Turkey as part of a major educational project running since the early 1990s. Efforts will be made to enable these students to act as cultural bridges between Turkey and their own countries and to contribute to inter-cultural dialogue.	Ministry of National Education YÖK Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu)	2008-2009
53	Scholarships	- As part of Turkey's bilateral relations with other countries and on the basis of reciprocity and goodwill, scholarships will be provided to foreign students for studies leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees including research activities and short-term Turkish language studies.	Ministry of National Education YÖK	2008-2009
54	Cultural and Educational Visits	- Cultural and educational programmes will be offered in Turkey to academicians and students from foreign universities, especially those involved in Turkish studies, in order to contribute to a better mutual understanding.	Ministry of National Education Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. M. Said Yazıcıoğlu) Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2008 =

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
55	Activities related to Migration and Migrants	- The Ministry of Labour and Social Security runs various projects relating to Turkish citizens working abroad and their integration into the labour market in the country of their residence, legal status and responsibilities. These projects range from information activities to entrepreneurship programmes and to social services. The Ministry will bear in mind the principles and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations and, in particular, sustain its support for efforts aiming to achieve harmony and dialogue on issues concerning migration.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	2008-
56	National Action Plan on Youth Employment	- The National Action Plan on youth employment will be implemented in cooperation with the ILO.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	2008-
57	Job Training and Initial Employment	- The Ministry personnel on official posting abroad will sustain their efforts in helping to secure job training opportunities for Turkish youths who are not able to pursue higher education and their subsequent employment, in cooperation with employment institutions and local governments of those	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	2008 -

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

		countries which have substantial Turkish communities.	
58	Securing Gender Equality in Employment and Promoting Women's Employment	- Efforts to promote the participation of women in social and economic life and to achieve gender equality at the workplace will be sustained in conjunction with the ILO.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security 2008-
59	Inter-Cultural Internships	- The Inter-Cultural Internships Project, whereby approximately 240 Turkish and German youths received a 40-day training in Turkey in the period 2003-2005, will be expanded to include some other European countries with substantial Turkish communities.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security İŞKUR 2008-2009

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
60	Exhibition on Inter-civilizational Cross Fertilization	- An exhibition will be prepared to reflect the wealth and diversity of cultures and civilizations in Anatolian history and their cross-fertilization. The Museum of Anatolian Civilizations will cooperate with the other leading museums in Turkey in implementing this Project.	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2009
61	Exhibition on Co-existence from the Ottomans to the Republic	- An exhibition will be held to reflect the Turkish people's past and contemporary experience of co-existence with and tolerance for diverse faiths and cultures in history; a catalogue will be prepared for the same purpose.	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008
62	Exhibition on Calligraphy and Rare Works	- An exhibition will be prepared on the theme of "Unity in Diversity" in Islamic civilization, comprising slides, photographs and digital copies of calligraphy and rare works both in and outside Turkey.	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2009
63	Cultural Bridge Programme	- As part of the "EU Cultural Programme", support will be given to civil society institutions seeking to promote cultural cohesion and mutual understanding and to forge lasting dialogue and sustainable partnerships among cultural actors in EU member and candidate countries; possibilities of cooperation with these institutions will be pursued.	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2013
64	Arts Activities	- As part of international activities held in and outside Turkey; plays, performances, exhibitions, concerts and other similar arts activities will be held, in order to help promote Turkish culture and to reinforce inter-cultural dialogue.	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008

Alliance of Civilizations National Strategy

65	Mevlana Documentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In cooperation with international film-makers, a documentary will be prepared on the life and philosophy of Mawlana Jaluluddin Rumi, the great theologian and poet. The documentary will emphasize Mawlana's universal message of peaceful co-existence of diverse cultures and faiths. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2009
66	Documentary on Anatolian Cultures and Civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A documentary will be prepared to provide information on acts of restoration carried out by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism at holy sites, such as the Ani Ruins and the Armenian Church at Ahtamar. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) TRT	2008-2009
67	Turkey as Guest Country at the 2008 Frankfurt Book Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Efforts will be deployed to promote the traditional and modern aspects of Turkish culture in Europe, emphasizing the cross-fertilization between Turkish and Western cultures in the fields of science, arts and literature. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008
68	Istanbul as European Capital of Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2010, Istanbul will be celebrated as the EU's European Capital of Culture. Various activities will be held, as part of the celebrations, to highlight Istanbul's contributions to the culture of co-existence and tolerance. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2010
69	Meeting of Directors of National Libraries from Mediterranean Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting will be held in Ankara, with the participation of directors of national libraries of countries bordering the Mediterranean, the potential for cultural cooperation between such libraries will be explored. There will be a special emphasis upon the role to be played by the libraries, which are rich repositories of humanity's cultural heritage, in the promotion of dialogue between civilizations. 	Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008
70	Museum of Islamic Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Museum of Islamic Science and Technology in Istanbul will be reinforced with new endowments and enriched with exhibitions reflecting the inter-cultural journey of scientific discoveries. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism Ministry of State (Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın) TÜBA, TÜBİTAK	2008-2009
71	Tour Guides Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminars and special activities will be added to training courses for tour guides, on the principles, values and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2009
72	Youth Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As part of the activities run by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with respect to youth culture, efforts will be deployed to enhance youth education, to develop their personal attributes, to broaden their vision and experience and thus to forge friendship between youths of different cultures. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2009
73	Map of Faith Tourism ve Religious-Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaflets will be published on the themes of "Maps of Faith Tourism" and "Motherland of Faiths" for use as part of international activities to be held within and outside Turkey, in Turkish and in foreign languages. As 2008 has been declared "The Year of St Paul", various activities will be held to provide information on St Paul's place of residence in Turkey, on the locations he visited and on the historic sites considered sacred by Christians. 	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	2008-2009

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

No	Project	Explanation	Implementing Ministries and Institutions	Date
74	Water-related Cooperation, Seminars and Regional Meetings	- Joint projects and information exchange will be pursued with those countries which have limited water resources and with Central Asian and Balkan countries in the field of potable water, hydro-electric power plants and irrigation dams. Furthermore, seminars will be held at universities on this subject with the participation of students, engineers and management staff.	Ministry of Environment and Forestry General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum	2008
75	Forestry Cooperation, Seminars and Meetings	- Joint activities will be pursued with neighbouring countries and with Central Asian and Balkan countries on forest fires, forest rehabilitation, forestation and forest protection. Cooperation will be sought, as part of city twinning practices, in planting twin-city forests and exchanging saplings in season.	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	2008-2009
76	Meteorological Cooperation, Seminars and Regional Meetings	- Conferences and seminars will be held with meteorological institutions in neighbouring countries and in Central Asian and Balkan countries with the purpose of exchanging best practices.	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	2008-2009