

## Seminar “Covering Migration: Challenges Met and Unmet”

***Hosted by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Gulbekian Foundation, in partnership with the Global Editor’s Networks, this seminar of editors, migration journalists and migration experts will discuss challenges, best practices and opportunities.***

Organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), hosted by the Gulbekian Foundation, and in partnership with the Global Editor’s Network, this seminar of editors, migration journalists and migration experts will discuss challenges, best practices and opportunities in the media coverage of migration.

In this era of unprecedented mobility, migration and the associated increase in cultural and ethnic diversity often generates or reinforces stereotyping. In today’s societies, migration is often perceived as a threat to stability, prosperity and identity. Often migrants are used as scapegoats, are stigmatized and held responsible for existing problems. When playing their role of agent of information, media can have a positive influence in enhancing pluralistic societies. On the other hand, when supporting myths, stereotypes and prejudices, media can reinforce a climate of tension.

For institutions like the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations that see the role of media in shaping public opinions and behaviors as crucial, it is timely to create a platform to further dialogue with media professionals on the issue of migration. Identifying challenges and best practices in the coverage of migration will help provide opportunities to counter misrepresentation and misinformation of migrants that encourages mistrust and leads to a social malaise between newcomers and host communities.

Aiming at engaging a more global discussion, the UNAOC proposes to present the recommendations of the seminar on the occasion of its annual Forum, in February 2013 in Vienna.

The High-Level reunion, which will be opened by High Representative President Jorge Sampaio and moderated according to the Chatham House Rule, brings together a selection of editors, journalists and migration experts from the Mediterranean region. In addition, the seminar will welcome representatives of the main organizers and partners - including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Global Editors Network (GEN), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Union – and high level experts on migratio