



# North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



ALLIANCE of CIVILIZATIONS



The 2010 Lisbon Forum



ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

*“Freedom of expression, conscience  
and religion”*

AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

4-5 November 2010

Ismaili Centre, Lisbon

*This event is being organised by the  
North-South Centre of the Council of Europe  
in partnership with  
the Alliance of Civilizations  
and the Aga Khan Development Network,  
with the financial support of  
the European Commission  
and the Principality of Liechtenstein*

## **Background**

The mission of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe, also known as the North-South Centre (NSC), is to provide a framework for European co-operation for the purpose of increasing public awareness of global interdependence issues and to promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe. The North-South Centre is often described as the Council of Europe's window to the world, because its purpose is to assert the validity of the values upheld by the Council through dialogue and co-operation beyond the European continent.

## **Lisbon Forum**

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the south of the Mediterranean. The Forum has been held by the North-South Centre since 1994. It focuses on issues at the heart of the mandate and actions of the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Intercultural dialogue plays a key role in this respect, both within European countries and in relations between Europe and the rest of the world.

## **Organisation and Working Methods**

The Lisbon Forum is co-organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Alliance of Civilizations, with the support of the Aga Khan Development Network and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. Mr Jorge Sampaio, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, is the President of the Lisbon Forum. The event enjoys the political support of the governments of Italy, Portugal and Spain and the financial support of the European Commission and the government of Liechtenstein. Keynote speeches, shorter interventions and discussions will be held in English and French and simultaneous interpretation to/from these two languages will be available during the conference.

## **Adoption of a theme for the 2010 edition**

During the 2008 session, a new process was launched, in partnership with the Alliance of Civilizations, devoted to a particularly topical issue, the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level. On 10-11 November 2008, the participants carried out a general analysis of the situation 60 years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948. On the basis of this analysis, a work programme was adopted for the upcoming years, focusing on the promotion, understanding and strengthening of human rights, as well as on present and future challenges in this field.

The following subjects were selected:

- the impact of globalisation on human rights
- the principle of equality between women and men
- freedom of expression, conscience and religion
- human rights as a basis for the integration of cultural diversity
- security and freedom
- creating a culture of human rights through education<sup>1</sup>
- the abolition of the death penalty.

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<sup>1</sup> Selected as the theme for the 2009 Lisbon Forum.

Among these themes, **“Freedom of expression, conscience and religion”** was chosen by the statutory bodies of the North-South Centre for the 2010 Lisbon Forum.

Conscience is one of the fundamental characteristics of the human being: it has the ability to know both its own reality – which makes it unique – and to judge the moral value of its actions - which is the foundation for its relationship with others and the world. This is why freedom of conscience, and its corollary, freedom of religion, are an integral part of inalienable human rights. As such, they are protected by virtue of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights. A democratic society must nevertheless authorise, in the name of freedom of thought and expression (guaranteed by Article 19 of the UDHR and Article 10 of the European Convention), an open debate on the matters relating to religion and beliefs. Freedoms of expression, of conscience and of religion are a requirement of any democratic society enabling people to define their perception of life and human societies.

Based on practical case studies, and in light of jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights<sup>2</sup>, the 2010 Lisbon Forum could seek to address challenges as well as dilemmas and even contradictions that can arise between the principles of secularism and neutrality of public space and the demonstration of belonging to a culture and a religion, between the principle of individual freedom of conscience and the manifestation of identifying religious symbols, between the freedom of expression and sensitivity of certain religious groups. In this regard, the discussions could reaffirm the importance of putting an end to the use of all expressions that incite hatred and violence which often occur in Europe against migrant or minority populations. During the debate, warnings could be given on the danger of falling into the trap of manipulation of religious beliefs for political or other agendas and that these beliefs can be the source of dissension and conflict within democratic societies.

This debate is directly linked to the promotion of understanding different religions, cultures and customs and therefore, intercultural dialogue which is ranking increasingly higher on the list of political priorities at national, regional, and international level. As recalled in the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue of the Council of Europe (2008), cultural diversity must be perceived as a source of mutual enrichment, not tension, with a real open dialogue between cultures. The overall objective of intercultural dialogue should therefore be to preserve diversity in open and inclusive societies by promoting communication and by favouring skills and knowledge necessary for living together peacefully and constructively in societies, between countries in a same geographic space and between different continents.

A true dialogue has as a prerequisite authentic respect and knowledge of other cultures and societies. Values such as respect for human rights, democracy, rule of law and responsibility are products of wisdom, of consciousness and of the collective progress of humanity. The objective is to identify the roots of these values in different cultures. In this quest for respect and knowledge of the Other, interreligious dialogue, an essential dimension of intercultural dialogue, takes its place; the success of this dialogue presupposes the recognition and respect for diverse forms of knowledge and their modes of expression, their customs and traditions. This also means seeking to create, as much as possible, a context of dialogue that is culturally neutral, allowing everyone to express themselves freely.

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<sup>2</sup> See the publication “Intercultural dialogue in the framework of European human rights protection”, published in March 2010, which outlines the scope of Articles 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion), 10 (freedom of expression) and 11 (freedom of association) of the ECHR as interpreted by the Court.

The Spanish Presidency of the European Union organised, in partnership with the Alliance of Civilizations, a conference on “Religious Freedom in Democratic Societies”, in Cordoba on 3-4 May 2010. The interactions, but also the tensions and even the conflict between freedoms of religion and expression were at the heart of the discussions. At the end of the conference, a series of conclusions were presented on the following themes, to serve as inspiration to European policies in the area:

- Religious pluralism in democratic societies;
- The role of religious leaders in the promotion of a culture of peace;
- Prevention of religious radicalisation and extremism;
- Co-operation for the promotion of religious freedom.

These conclusions, which reflect an essentially European point of view, were transmitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations which was held in Rio de Janeiro from 27-29 May. The issue of religious diversity, and its management, was one of the key topics discussed during the Forum, notably during the round table on education of religions and faith and the thematic session dedicated to the role of religious leaders in the promotion of peace and human development, which were held on 27 and 29 May, respectively. The Lisbon Forum will offer an ideal framework to pursue this dialogue, both by deepening the reflection of the issues discussed in Cordoba, and by sharing/comparing the European point of view with the experience of other continents.

A link has been established between the Lisbon Forum and the 2010 Meeting of the Council of Europe on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, which was held in Ohrid from 13-14 September 2010 in the context of the current Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. This year, the practice of structured dialogue, implemented since 2008 between the Committee of Ministers and representatives of the main religions in Europe, was dedicated to “The role of media in fostering multicultural dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding: freedom of expression in the media and respect towards other cultural and religious diversity”.

## **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

### **THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2010**

08h30 Registration

09h00 Welcoming words from Nazim AHMAD, Aga Khan Development Network Representative and Catarina VAZ PINTO, Councilor of Culture and Tourism, Municipality of Lisbon.

#### **09h15 Opening session**

Jorge SAMPAIO, President of the Lisbon Forum and Special Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilizations

Maud de BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Miguel Angel MARTINEZ MARTINEZ, Vice-President of the European Parliament

Marta VILARDELL COMA, Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe

Deborah BERGAMINI, Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre

10h15 Coffee break

#### **10h45 Plenary session I: Freedom of expression, conscience and religion at international and regional level: texts and supervisory mechanisms**

Moderator: Eberhard KOELSCH, Vice-Chair of the North-South Centre Executive Council

Ibrahim SALAMA, Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Margaret CRAHAN, Vice-President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights General Assembly

Douglas WAKE, Deputy Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR)

Mogens SCHMIDT, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information of UNESCO

Denis HUBER, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Discussion

12h45 Lunch

**14h30 – 18h30 Simultaneous working sessions:**

**Working session 1: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES**

Moderator: Mir Asghar HUSAIN, Education Adviser, MBI Al Jaber Foundation

- **The political implications of religious pluralism in democratic societies: a European perspective [Conclusions of the Cordoba Conference on “Religious Freedom in Democratic Societies”]**  
Patricia BEZUNARTEA BARRIO, Head of Area for Research and Development Fundacion Pluralismo y Convivencia, Spain
- **The role and responsibility of the media [Conclusions of the 2010 Council of Europe Exchange on the Religious Dimension of Intercultural Dialogue].**  
Guido BELATTI CECCOLI, Ambassador Permanent Representative of the Republic of San Marino to the United Nations in Geneva and other International Organisations
- **Non-religious convictions.**  
Jean DE BRUEKER, Deputy Secretary General – Centre d’Action Laïque (CAL)
- **Religious freedom and its limits by the Rome Convention and its implementation by the European Court of Human Rights. The decision of the European Court of Human Rights of Lautsi against Italy.**  
Gerardo RUIZ-RICO, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Jaen.

**Working session 2 - THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THE PROMOTION OF A CULTURE OF PEACE**

Moderator: Alicia CABEZUDO, Professor of University of Buenos Aires

- **The role of religious leaders in promoting a Culture of Peace: a European perspective [Conclusions of the Cordoba Conference on “Religious Freedom in Democratic Societies]**  
Carmen PELLICER, Advisor for Catholic and Citizenship Education, Spain
- **Major religions working together for the promotion of inter-religious dialogue:**
  - Representative/s from the Catholic community/the Holy See:
    - Reverend Fr. Stefano MAZZOTTI, Secretary to the Apostolic Nunciature
  - Representative/s from the Protestant community
    - Reverend Vebjørn L HORSFJORD, Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL)
  - Representative/s from the Orthodox community
    - Hegumen Philip RIABYKH, Vice-Chair Man, Department for External Church Relations, Moscow Patriarchate
    - Hegumen Philaret BULEKOV, Moscow Patriarchate Representative in Strasbourg
    - Angeliki ZIAKA, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, Aristotle University Thessaloniki

- Georgica GRIGORITA, Representative of the Rumanian Patriarchate
- Representative/s from the communities of other Christian churches
  - Reverend James BARNETT, Anglican Church
- Representative/s from the Jewish community
  - Rabbi Mendel SAMAMA, Expert in European Affairs
- Representative/s from the Muslim community
  - Aziz HASANOVIC, Deputy Mufti, Islamic Community in Croatia

### **Working session 3 - THE PREVENTION OF RADICALISATION AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM**

Moderator: Murat DAOUDOV, Director of EU and International Relations at the Union of Municipalities of Marmara (Turkey)

- **Preventing radicalisation and religious extremism: a European perspective [Conclusions of the Cordoba Conference on “Religious Freedom in Democratic Societies”]**  
José FERNANDEZ DUARTE, Principal Commissary, Chairman of the Terrorism Working Group, National Police, Ministry of Interior, Spain
- **The rise of religious intolerance: myth or reality?**  
Magali RHEAULT, Senior Analyst, Gallup Center for Muslim Studies
- **Crimes against religion and rule of law**  
Maria FERNANDA PALMA, Member of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe

### **Working session 4 - INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Moderator: Victor ANGELO, Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UN Under-Secretary-General (rtd)

- **Co-operation for the Promotion of Religious Freedom: a European perspective [Conclusions of the Cordoba Conference on “Religious Freedom in Democratic Societies”]**  
David BEHAR, Chargé de mission, Religions Team of the Policy Planning Directorate, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France
- **Learning to Live Together - an Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education**  
Agneta UCKO, Director, Arigatou International and Secretary-General of the Interfaith Council of Ethics Education for Children
- **The role and initiatives of key international organisations with a regional mission in the promotion of religious freedom**  
Mike HARDY, British Council London
- **Educating towards a cosmopolitan ethic**  
Faranaz KESHAVJEE, Journalist, Portugal

## **FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2010**

### **09h00 Plenary session II: Tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, where are we?**

Moderator: Karim H. KARIM, Professor and Co-Director of the Centre for Ismaili Studies

The Most Reverend Rino PASSIGATO, Papal Nuncio in Portugal

The Reverend Canon Alistair MACDONALD-RADCLIFF, Director General of the C1 World Dialogue. Presenting the recently approved UN resolution instituting an Annual World Interfaith Harmony Week: The Vital Role of Religions in Addressing Mistrust

Joseph MAÏLA, Director of the Policy Planning Directorate and of its Religions Team, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France

Hassine BOUZID, Head of Mission in Spain of the League of Arab States

Maria Manuela De MELO, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Presentation of the report “Islam, Islamism and Islamophobia in Europe”

11h00 Coffee break

### **11h30 Closing Session:**

#### **Report of working groups on the four subjects mentioned above and conclusions**

Zoran PETROV, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of «The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia», Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Ali Kaya SAVUT, Ambassador of Turkey to Portugal

Sergio Busetto, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe

Pedro LOURTIE, Secretary of State for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic

#### **Closing remarks by the President of the Lisbon Forum, Jorge SAMPAIO**

**13h00 End of the 2010 Lisbon Forum**

**13h30 Lunch**