



# North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



3 November 2011



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



## The 2011 Lisbon Forum



## PROGRAMME

"The Arab Spring: a major step towards  
making universal human rights real"

AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

3 - 4 November 2011

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*

Created in 1994, 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 countries on the south side of the Mediterranean. During the 2008 session, a process was launched, in partnership with the Alliance of Civilisations, devoted to **“The principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level”**. It provided a new opportunity to share Europe’s experience with other continents and exchange points of view and good practices with systems in other parts of the world, in particular those set up by regional organisations such as the African Union, the Arab League or the Organisation of American States. It also constituted a framework for analysing geopolitical changes since 1948 and their effects on the conception, interpretation and application of human rights. On the basis of the analysis and conclusions of the Forum, a work programme was adopted for upcoming years, focusing on certain issues which more particularly attract debate and/or deserve to be further discussed with a view to identifying possible common lines of action<sup>1</sup>. This multi-annual process benefited from the financial support of the European Commission and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The 2009 Lisbon Forum was dedicated to the theme **“Creating a culture of human rights through education”**. The event was organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Alliance of Civilisations, whose High Representative, Mr Jorge Sampaio, has been designated to chair the Lisbon Forum. The Forum attracted around 150 participants from a variety of 44 countries and representatives of international organisations including OHCHR, ODHIR, UNESCO, ALECSO, OIC, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The conclusions identified subjects where there appeared to be an underlying consensus, and others which required further thought. Paths for future action were identified for the Council of Europe, its North-South Centre and the Alliance of the Civilizations, as well as other agencies and actors present at the Forum.

In 2010, the Lisbon Forum theme was **“Freedom of expression, conscience and religion”**. The Forum was again organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Alliance of Civilisations. It attracted around 150 participants from a variety of 48 countries and representatives of international organisations including OHCHR, ODHIR, UNESCO and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The participants discussed in simultaneous working sessions which were held on the following themes: religious pluralism in democratic societies, the role of religious leaders in the promotion of a culture of peace, the prevention of radicalisation and religious extremism and the international co-operation for the promotion of religious freedom. The conclusions highlighted that freedom of expression, conscience and religion are among the foundations of democratic societies and are instrumental for the pluralism which characterises them, with special regard to the protection of religious minorities over the world. A series of policy recommendations were agreed, and specific follow up action has been / will be taken by the North-South Centre and the Alliance of the Civilisations throughout 2011.

During its 45<sup>th</sup> meeting (Lisbon, 28 March 2011), the NSC Executive Council:

- confirmed Mr Jorge Sampaio as Chair of the Lisbon Forum for a renewed period of two years (2011-2012);
- decided that the 2011 Lisbon Forum would take place on 3-4 November 2011;

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<sup>1</sup> The list of selected themes was as follows: 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 freedoms ; creating a culture of human rights through education ; abolition of the death penalty.

- agreed, on a provisional basis, that the 2011 Lisbon Forum should be dedicated to an analysis of recent developments in North Africa and the Middle East and that it should include a reflexion on the role of the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre, as well as the co-operation among international partners in this respect.

As a follow-up, the main organisational lines were agreed as follows:

- to organise the 2011 Lisbon Forum in co-operation with the League of Arab States;
- to use a “universal human rights approach” as a basis for the discussions;
- to put a special emphasis on the importance of civil society, in particular youth and women, and the role of social networks;
- to draw on lessons which could be learnt from previous historical experiences and/or political models which could be seen as sources of inspiration;
- to alternate between plenary sessions, aimed at analysing common trends and co-operation prospects, and more specific workshops organised in parallel;
- to promote inter-active working methods, both at plenary sessions and during the parallel workshops.

On 24 June, the new Executive Committee of the North-South Centre confirmed the dates of the Lisbon Forum as 3-4 November and agreed on the following theme: “the “Arab Spring”: a major step towards making universal human rights real”. It took note of the attached programme outline and entrusted the Secretariat to continue with the preparatory work in collaboration with the NSC Think-Tank, and taking into account the discussions held at the meeting.

In connection with the Lisbon Forum, on 2 November, the North-South Centre will organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of its Executive Committee, and the UN Alliance of Civilizations will hold a meeting of its Focal Points at global level.

Immediately after the Forum, the UN Alliance of Civilizations will also organize a workshop on “Gender issues, democracy and development”, as part of the Alliance of Civilizations Regional Strategy for Mediterranean. Those participants of the Lisbon Forum who would wish to do so are welcome to attend.

## Thursday 3 November 2011

**8:45** Registration of participants

**9:15** Welcoming words from Nazim AHMAD, Aga Khan Development Network Representative

### 9:30-10:30 Opening session

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**Moderator:** Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

- Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Chair of the Lisbon Forum
- Message from Youssef Amrani, Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, read by Ernest Urtasun, Diplomatic Advisor to the Secretary General
- Bernardino León, Special Representative of the European Union for the Southern Mediterranean
- Miguel Angel Martinez, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- Magda Zaki, Director / Minister Plenipotentiary, Department of the Dialogue among Civilizations, League of Arab States
- João Bosco Mota Amaral, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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10:30-11:00 Coffee break

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### 11:00-13:00 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session

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**Moderator:** Eberhard Koelsch, Ambassador (ret), Chair of the North-South Centre Think-Tank

#### 11:00-12:00 1<sup>st</sup> panel: "Democracy on the move"

This panel will discuss and analyse the ongoing developments in the Southern Mediterranean region and their impact at regional and global level. The following issues could be addressed: the prospects for spill-over effect of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions throughout the region, particularly in the Mashreq and the Gulf; the future of Libya after Muammar Gaddafi; and the impact of current transformations in the Arab world on the geopolitical relationships in the Mediterranean region.

- Latifa Akharbach, State Secretary to the Minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Morocco
- Khemaies Jhinaoui, State Secretary to the Minister of foreign affairs, Tunisia
- Denis Badré, Senator, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, France
- Amr Elshobaki, President of the Arab Forum for Alternatives, Egypt
- Mário David, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Mashreq countries of the European Parliament

**12:00-13:00 2<sup>nd</sup> panel: “Democracy and development”**

This panel will look at the social and economic roots of popular unrest in the Mediterranean Arab world and will analyse what lessons can be learned from the diverse scenarios. Looking at the future, the panel will explore the possible link between democratization and development, and the role of international and regional co-operation in the region in this respect. The panel will explore how external actors could provide support to the democratisation processes of Arab countries, in particular the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Alliance of Civilizations.

- Hamdi Loza, Ambassador of Egypt to Portugal
- Piotr Switalski, Director of Policy Planning of the Council of Europe
- Sophie Bessis, Deputy Secretary General of the International Federation of Humans Rights (FIDH), France

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13:00-14:30 – Lunch

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**14:30 – 15:30 The role of women as agents of change in the South Mediterranean region**

Report from the Conference on “Women as agents of change in the South Mediterranean region” on 24-25 October in Rome (Italy).

**Speakers:**

- Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre
- José Mendes Bota, Chair of the Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men

**Contestants:**

- Amany Asfour, President of the Egyptian Business Women Association and of the African Alliance for Women Empowerment (AFRAWE), Egypt
- Faranaz Keshavjee, Writer and Lecturer, Portugal

**Discussion**


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15:30 Coffee break

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## **16:00 – 18:00 Workshops on Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia**

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Each workshop will be facilitated by a moderator. There will be short introductory remarks by 4-5 speakers followed by an interactive discussion.

### **Egypt**

This workshop will analyse the democratic changes that the “Arab Spring” brought in Egypt. Among the main issues which could be addressed are: the passage from military to civil power; education; freedom of religion; the involvement of youth, women and civil society in political and public life; as well as perspectives for future collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

**Moderator:** Helena Barroco, Alliance of Civilizations

Speakers:

- Amr Essam, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Focal Point for Egypt
- Amr Elshobaki, President of the Arab Forum for Alternatives, Egypt
- Waleed Rashed, co-founder of the April 6 Youth Movement, Egypt
- Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff, Director General, World Dialogue Council
- Mona Shahien, Project Manager of the Tahrir Lounge project, Egypt
- Amany Asfour, President of the Egyptian Business Women Association and of the African Alliance for Women Empowerment (AFRAWE), Egypt
- Ghada Khalil, Responsible for External Relations and Communication, Asociacion Nexos Alianza, Spain

### **Tunisia**

This workshop will analyse the democratic changes that the “Arab Spring” brought in Tunisia. Among the main issues which could be addressed are: the functioning of democratic institutions in the post-electoral context; the role regional actors could play in supporting the democratisation; the model of state system to follow and secularism-religion relations in the Tunisian context; the involvement of youth, women and civil society in political and public life; as well as perspectives for future collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

**Moderator:** Murat Daoudov, Member of the North-South Centre Think Tank

Speakers:

- Sophie Bessis, Deputy Secretary General of International Federation of Humans Rights (FIDH), France
- Hasni Abidi, Director of the Studies and Research Centre for the Arab and Mediterranean World (CERMAM), Switzerland
- Mohamed Kamoun, Euromed Youth Trainer, Tunisia

**Morocco**

This workshop will analyse the democratic changes that the “Arab Spring” brought in the Kingdom of Morocco and the strategies that have facilitated this process, at governmental and civil society level. Among the main issues which could be addressed are: the respective roles of the King, the Prime Minister and the Parliament in the new Constitution; the new political landscape after the elections of 25 November; the involvement of youth, women and civil society in political and public life; the role of the media and communication in the on-going transformative process, as well as perspectives for future collaboration with the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

**Moderator:** Alicia Cabezudo, Member of the North-South Centre Think Tank

Speakers:

- Latifa Akharbach, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Focal Point for Morocco
- Nadia Bernoussi, Professor for constitutional law and Member of the Committee for the Reform of the Constitution, Morocco
- Aziza Nait Sibaha, Journalist specialised in international politics, France 24
- Amina Bouayach, President of the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights (OMDH)

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**18:30 – End of session**

**20:00 – Dinner at the Sana Malhoa Hotel**

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## **Friday 4 November 2011**

### **9:00-9:30 Report from the workshops**

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The Moderators of the workshops will present a brief summary of the discussions held and, as far as possible, operational conclusions.

- Helena Barroco, Alliance of Civilisations
- Murat Daoudov, Member of the North-South Centre Think Tank
- Alicia Cabezudo, Member of the North-South Centre Think

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**9:30 – 12:00 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session**


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**Moderator:** Victor Angelo, Former United Nations Under Secretary-General and Member of the North-South Centre Think Tank

**9:30-10:30 1<sup>st</sup> panel: “Citizenship as a key concept to build democracy and realize human rights for all”**

The concept of citizenship is generally understood as a legal status, defined by civil, political and social rights. It is a powerful source of identity, which can be complementary to or generate tensions with, other sources of identity such as religion, ethnic or cultural identities. This panel will analyse the challenges and opportunities of extending civil, political and social rights in the countries of the “Arab Spring”. One important aspect of this discussion will be to analyze the role of education in building a strong citizenship. The panel will also discuss the role of citizens as political agents, actively participating in a society's political institutions and thus contributing to shaping their country's future – at local, national and international levels – as well as ways and means to develop an organized civil society.

- Sabine Rohmann, Chair of the education and culture Committee of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe
- Fadi Daou, Chairman & CEO of ADYAN: Lebanese Foundation for interreligious studies and spiritual solidarity
- Marc Schade-Poulsen, Executive Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network
- Mona Shahien, Project Manager of the Tahrir Lounge project, Egypt
- Yohannes Mezgebe, Vice-President of the Pan African Youth Union

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10:30-11:00 Coffee break

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**11:00 – 12:00 2<sup>nd</sup> panel: “The role of media and new technologies (including social networks) as instruments to promote and develop democracy”**

A common trend in the countries of the “Arab Spring” is the role of the media and the internet (including social networks) in organizing popular movements and giving a voice to the individuals on the streets. Through the internet, any individual can become a protestor, a journalist, an opinion leader or a political leader. This panel will discuss how media and new technologies can be used to promote and develop democracy, for example by reaching out to people which were not closely involved in politics or public life in the past, such as women and the younger generations.

- Gustavo Cardoso, Professor at Lisbon University Institute (ISCTE), Portugal
- Driss Lamrini, Journalist (Morocco), International bureau of the Maghreb Arab press agency
- Sofia Lorena, Journalist at *Público*, Portugal
- Shahinaz Abdel Salam, Blogger, Egypt
- José Manuel Rosendo, Journalist, Antena 1, Portugal



**12:00 Closing session**

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**Moderator:** Denis Huber, Executive Director of the North-South Centre

- Conclusions of the Forum / Denis Huber, Executive Director of the North-South Centre
- Hamdi Loza, Ambassador of Egypt to Portugal
- Karima Benyaich, Ambassador of Morocco to Portugal
- Youssef Louzir, Ambassador of Tunisia to Portugal
- Luís Filipe Neves Brites Pereira, Secretary of State for Foreign and Cooperation Affairs of Portugal
- Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Chair of the Lisbon Forum

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13:00-14:30 – Lunch

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**14:30** End of the Lisbon Forum