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Strasbourg, 12.11.2009

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe: the 2009 Lisbon Forum

"Creating a culture of human rights through education"

Date: 13-14 November 2009

Location: Aga Khan Development Network - Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, Portugal

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.

Description: 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. 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 relation between Europe and the rest of the world.

During the 2008 session, a new process was launched devoted to the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level. A work programme was adopted for the upcoming years, focussing on the promotion, understanding and strengthening of human rights, as well as on present and future challenges in this field. Among various themes, "Creating a Culture of Human Rights through Education" was chosen for the 2009 Lisbon Forum.

The overall aim of the Lisbon Forum 2009 is to promote the creation of a culture of human rights, through "quadrilogue" action, i.e. governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society.

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe will address the opening session of the Forum, together with Jorge Sampaio, President of the forum and Special Representative of the UN Alliance for Civilizations and Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre. Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights will launch the introductory session.

Practical information: The Forum, starting at 9 pm, will be open to the press.

[Programme of the Forum](#)

[More information on the North-South Centre](#)

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.