

Hearings

with the International Community & Civil Society

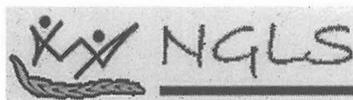
Regarding the:

United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations

Palais des Nations
Room XXIII – Building E
Geneva, 17th July 2006

Organised by:

Office of
Prof. Federico Mayor
Co-Chair
UN High Level Group
Alliance of Civilizations



UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service

hosted by:



Office of the Director General
United Nations Geneva

with the collaboration of:



Conference of NGOs in
Consultative Relationship with UN



World Confederation
of Labour



International Confederation
of Free Trade Unions



UBUNTU -World Forum of
Civil Society Networks



World Federation of
United Nations Associations

Context:

The UN Secretary General appointed last July the High-Level Group (HLG) for the Alliance of Civilizations which is due to present its report the second half of this year. This group is co-chaired by Prof. Federico Mayor (former UNESCO DG) and Prof. Mehmet Aydin (Minister of State of Turkey).

According to its terms of reference, the proposal for an Alliance of Civilizations "...responds to a broad consensus across nations, cultures and religions that all societies are interdependent, bound together in their development and security, and in their environmental, economic and financial well-being. The Alliance seeks to forge collective political will and to mobilize concerted action at the institutional and civil society levels to overcome the prejudice, misperceptions and polarization (...) And it hopes to contribute to a coalescing global movement which, reflecting the will of the vast majority of people, rejects extremism in any society

Events of recent years have exacerbated mutual suspicion, fear and misunderstanding between Islamic and Western societies. This environment has been exploited by extremists throughout the world. Only a comprehensive coalition will be able to avert any further deterioration of relations between societies and nations, which could threaten international stability. The Alliance seeks to counter this trend by establishing a paradigm of mutual respect between civilizations and cultures."

These hearings are a response to the demand of several international networks of NGOs to find an appropriate space and time to give civil society and other organisations the opportunity to openly exchange view and opinions with the HLG before its report is closed.

These hearings will count with the participation of Federico Mayor, Co-Chair of the HLG and former UNESCO Director General.

Addressees:

- Civil society organizations, especially those with delegates in Geneva
- System of international institutions present in Geneva
- Diplomatic Missions in Geneva

For more information: hearingsgeneva@hotmail.com

For registration: Gertrud.Attar@unctad.org

Structure proposal:

- 08:30-09:00 Arrival and registry of the participants
- 09:00-10:00 Opening session:
Speakers: - Office of the DG UNOG
- Tony Hill, Coordinator NGLS
- Federico Mayor, Co-Chair HLG AoC
"Principles and values of the Alliance of Civilizations"
- 10:00-11:00 1st session: Issues: Principles and Objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations
Moderator: Pera Wells, WFUNA
Speaker: - Manuel Manonelles,
Advisor to the Co-Chair of the HLG AoC
Debate
- 11:00-11:15 Break
- 11:15-12:45 2nd session: Issues: The political & the religious dimensions
Moderator: Renata Bloem, CONGO
Speakers: -South Centre (t.b.c.)/ Inter Parliamentary Union (t.b.c.)
-Peter Weiderad, World Council of Churches (t.b.c.)
Debate
- 12:45-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-15:30 3rd session: Youth, Education & Media
Moderator: Josep Xercavins, UBUNTU Forum
Speakers: -Amb. Vladimir Petrovsky, Comprehensive Dialogue
Among Civilizations - CDAC
-Richard Amalvy, World Organisation of the Scout
Movement - WOSM
- ? Rapporteurs Sans Frontieres (t.b.c.)
Debate
- 15:30-15:45 Break
- 15:45-17:15 4th session: Issues: Economic & social issues, Migrations & Gender
Moderator: Willy Thys, SG World Confederation of Labour
Speakers: -Director for Europe, UNHCR (t.b.c.)
-International Organisation for Migrations (t.b.c.)
-Gender (t.b.d.)
Debate
- 17:15-17:45 Closing session:
Speakers: -Int'l Federation of the Red Cross (t.b.c.)
-Federico Mayor, Co-Chair