

Hearings

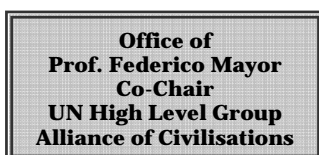
with the
**International Community
& Civil Society**

regarding the:

United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations

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

organised by:



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:

In July 2005, the UN Secretary General appointed the High-Level Group (HLG) for the Alliance of Civilisations which is due to present its report before the end 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 Civilisations “...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 views and opinions with the HLG before its report is finalised.

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

Addressees:

- Civil society organisations, especially those with delegations in Geneva
- International institutions present in Geneva
- Diplomatic Missions in Geneva

Program:

- 08:15-09:00** **Arrival and registration**
- 09:00-10:00** **Opening session**
Speakers: - Tony Hill, NGLS
 - Ibrahim Osman, IFRC
 - Federico Mayor, Co-Chair HLG AoC¹
 “Principles and values of the Alliance of Civilisations”
- 10:00-11:00** **1st session: Principles and Objectives of the Alliance of Civilisations**
Moderator: - Bruna Faidutti, WFUNA
Speaker: - Manuel Manonelles
 Advisor to the Co-Chair of the HLG AoC²
Debate
- 11:00-11:15** **Break**
- 11:15-12:45** **2nd session: The political & the religious dimensions**
Moderator: - Renata Bloem, CONGO
Speakers: - Vladimir Petrovsky, CDAC
 - Gaspar Martínez, Pax Romana-ICMICA
Debate
- 12:45-14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00-15:30** **3rd session: Youth, Education & Media**
Moderator: - Josep Xercavins, UBUNTU Forum

Speakers: - Richard Amalvy, WOSM
 - George Gordon-Lennox, Reporters without Borders
Debate
- 15:30-15:45** **Break**
- 15:45-17:15** **4th session: Economic & social issues, Migrations & Gender**
Moderator: - Willy Thys, WCL & ICFTU

Speakers: - Malika Floor, UNHCR
 - Michele Klein-Solomon, IOM
Debate
- 17:15-17:45** **Closing session:**
Speakers: - Federico Mayor, Co-Chair HLG AoC

¹ HLG AoC: High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations.

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List of speakers & moderators

Mr. Richard AMALVY	Director, Communication and Media of the WOSM (World Organisation of the Scout Movement)
Ms. Renata BLOEM	President of CONGO (Conference of NGOs in Relationship with ECOSOC)
Ms. Malika FLOOR	Senior Regional Adviser for Refugee Women and Children in the Bureau for Europe, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
Mr. George GORDON-LENNOX	Representative of Reporters without Borders
Ms. Bruna FAIDUTTI	Director of the Geneva Office of the WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations)
Mr. Tony HILL	Director of NGLS (the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service)
Ms. Michelle KLEIN-SOLOMON	Acting Director, Migration Policy, Research and Communications Department. IOM (International Organisation for Migrations)
Mr. Manuel MANONELLES	Advisor to the Co-Chair of the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations; and Director of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace
Mr. Gaspar MARTÍNEZ	Representative of Pax Romana – ICMICA (International Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs), responsible for the International Congress on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue
Mr. Federico MAYOR	Co-Chair of the United Nations High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilisations, and President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace
Mr. Ibrahim OSMAN	Deputy Secretary General of the IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)
Mr. Vladimir PETROVSKY	Chairman of CDAC (Comprehensive Dialogue Among Civilisations) and former Director General of UNOG
Mr. Willy THYS	Secretary General of the WCL (World Confederation of Labour), also in representation of the ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions)
Mr. Josep XERCAVINS	Coordinator, Secretariat of the UBUNTU Forum (World Forum of Civil Society Networks)

Working language will be English

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