



**ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

**between**

**the UN Alliance of Civilizations**

**and**

**the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation  
for the Dialogue between Cultures**

**Istanbul, April 2009**

## I - PREAMBLE

The Executive Director of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, hereinafter referred to as "AoC", Mr. Marc Scheuer and the Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation, hereinafter referred to as "ALF", Mr. Andreu Claret, on the occasion of the Second Annual Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations in April 2009 in Istanbul, intend to prove, by means of this agreement, their mutual interest in fostering their collaboration.

## II - CONTEXT

Whereas ALF, as a common institution of the Euro-mediterranean Partnership (Union for the Mediterranean) and acting as a network of civil society organizations working for dialogue in the region, having as major mandate that of bringing people and organizations from both shores of the Mediterranean closer together through sustained dialogue and help to bridge the gap between them;

Whereas AoC, as an initiative of the United Nations, aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions, and to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism;

Whereas ALF and AoC, in consideration of the correspondence of their respective mission and objectives, which are those of promoting the intercultural dialogue, are determined to cooperate towards the promotion and the implementation of initiatives which are in line with the mission and related Programmes and Plan of Actions of both parties;

Whereas Article 18 of the joint Declaration of the Paris Summit which launched the Union for the Mediterranean, held on July 13, 2008, states that "The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures as a Euro-Mediterranean institution will contribute in an effective manner to the cultural dimension of the initiative in cooperation with the UN Alliance of Civilizations".

**The parties hereby agree to the following:**

## III – AREAS OF JOINT ACTIONS

ALF supports organizations and individuals working for the promotion of dialogue and the political objective of shaping the Euro-Mediterranean region as 'an area of co-operation, exchange, mobility, mutual understanding and peace', focusing for the years 2009-2011 on the following six fields: Ideas and Ideologies; Education; Cultural Production; Media; Religion, Spirituality and Values; Cities and Diversity; targeting especially young people, women and migrants;

AoC supports, through a network of partnerships, the development of projects that promote understanding and reconciliation among cultures globally and, in particular, between 'Muslim' and 'Western' societies, focusing on the following four program areas: Youth, Media, Education, and Migration;

### III.1. Launching of common initiatives

In a brainstorming meeting, co-chaired by President Jorge Sampaio, UN High Representative for the AoC, and Mr. André Azoulay, President of the ALF, which was held in Paris, on February 3, 2009 and brought together international organizations and bodies that are members of the Group of Friends of the Alliance and a number of civil society organizations that are partners of the ALF, the ALF and the AoC launched the common initiative "**Restore Trust, Rebuild Bridges**" to face the consequences of the deterioration of the situation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region, particularly in the Middle East.

All the participants were invited to be part of it, to contribute with their ongoing programs and/or with new ideas for potential joint new actions. The AoC and the ALF collected the proposals and will collaborate on the implementation of the projects in the field of culture, education, youth and media.

Other initiatives will be decided upon by both parties.

### **III.2. Development and implementation of projects, in collaboration with other partners**

In consideration of the correspondence of their respective mission and objectives, which are those of promoting the intercultural dialogue, the ALF and the AoC will cooperate in the development and implementation of projects which are in line with their respective mission; e.g.:

#### **III.2.1. Culture/Migration:**

PLURAL +

A Youth-Produced Media Festival on Migration and Diversity whereby youth from all over the world would submit short videos on their thoughts, experiences, opinions, questions and suggestions about migration, integration, inclusiveness and identity. Highlighting their reality on this issue and what can be done in daily lives to ensure peaceful coexistence in diverse cultural and religious contexts. PLURAL + is a collaboration of AoC, ALF, IOM (International Organization for Migration) and other partners.

#### **III.2.2. Cities and Diversity:**

Dialogue Café

Through the power of Telepresence and the reach of the Human Network, Dialogue Café will link together a diverse group of citizens from around the world, exponentially expanding our ability to problem-solve and innovate as a global community. The Dialogue Café initiative is designed to connect individuals from the academic, business and global community, in order to stimulate ideas that address problems or solve issues within our society, such as youth literacy or job skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dialogue Café aligns with the aims of the AoC and ALF in that both seek to address widening rifts between societies by promoting a paradigm of mutual respect and appreciation among peoples of different cultural and religious traditions.

#### **III.2.3. Media:**

Work within the media sector will centre on building and sustaining a media dialogue approach with journalists and media practitioners across the Mediterranean and putting in place the rapid response communication mechanism to provide journalists with user-friendly access to information and expertise, particularly in the context of crises with cultural dimensions. In addition to expanding this communication mechanism and resource, media-based outreach work, support publications and information campaigns will ensure the ALF and AoC can maximise the reach and impact of its activities across the Mediterranean region. The ALF and the AoC will also collaborate on the Mediterranean Journalist Award.

Other projects will be decided upon by both parties.

## **IV – CONDITIONS AND MODALITIES**

**IV.1.** The AoC and ALF will ensure the conception, the running and the coordination of the joint initiatives and projects, on the basis of common decisions taken by both parties.

**IV.2.** Both parties shall promote the joint initiatives at an international and Euro-Mediterranean level, including common visibility strategies, campaigns and presentations.

**IV.3.** Both parties understand and are in agreement that all financial arrangements related to the implementation of the concerted initiatives and projects will have to be negotiated separately and will depend on the availability of funds.

Both parties will exercise their best efforts in securing, should the need arise, external funding for the implementation of the joint initiatives and projects.

**IV.4.** The present MoU may be amended, at any time, upon the formal written request by one party and written confirmation of the other party.

Date 06/04/2009

Marc Scheuer, Executive Director  
AOC representative signature

Handwritten signature of Marc Scheuer in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by 'Scheuer'.

Andreu Claret, Executive Director  
ALF representative signature

Handwritten signature of Andreu Claret in black ink, appearing as a series of connected loops.