



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



ALLIANCE of CIVILIZATIONS



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The 2009 Lisbon Forum

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

AKDN

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

*“Creating a culture of human rights
through education”*

13-14 November 2009

**Aga Khan Development Network
(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*

Background

The mission of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe, also known as the North-South Centre (NSC), is to provide a framework for European co-operation for the purpose of increasing public awareness of global interdependence issues and to promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe. The North-South Centre is often described as the Council of Europe's window to the world, because its purpose is to assert the validity of the values upheld by the Council through dialogue and co-operation beyond the European continent.

Lisbon Forum

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, 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, in partnership with the Alliance of Civilisations, devoted to a particularly topical issue, the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level. On 10-11 November 2008, the participants carried out a general analysis of the situation 60 years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948. On the basis of this analysis, 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.

The following subjects were selected:

- 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 freedom
- creating a culture of human rights through education
- the abolition of the death penalty.

Among these themes, the one chosen by the statutory bodies of the North-South Centre for the 2009 Lisbon Forum is "Creating a Culture of Human Rights through Education".

Human Rights

The original matrix of the whole structure of human rights at international, regional and national level all over the world is still the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Specific efforts have been made at regional level to reinforce States' commitment to the effective implementation of human rights. The Council of Europe is, to a great extent, a "child" of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. An essential part of its *raison d'être* is the implementation in Europe (particularly through the European Convention on Human Rights and the Revised European Social Charter) of the ideals and principles defining human beings since 1948. Its essential role in the protection of human rights and the promotion of the rule of law and democracy in Europe has been unanimously recognised, including by the European Union¹.

Human Rights Education

Human rights education is crucial for the realisation of human rights. It is important to know and understand the concept of human rights in order to respect the rights and freedoms of others and to understand our common responsibility for their implementation in every society. Therefore, education about human rights needs to be present throughout the entire education system and learning environments. According to the international community, human rights education is defined as education, training and information with the objective of creating a culture of human rights. This is carried out through sharing of knowledge and skills, in order to strengthen values that promote human rights, as well as the encouragement to take action and promote and defend human rights.

On 10 December 2004, in the aftermath of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1994-2004), the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The aim is to improve the implementation of human rights education programmes at all levels through cooperation, from the international level to grass-roots level. Moreover, the objectives constitute a framework for action and entail the promotion of a common understanding of the basic principles of human rights. The World Programme is composed of a series of phases, of which the first one covers the period of 2005-2009 with a focus on primary and secondary education.

While celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on 10 December 2008, the UN General Assembly declared 2008-2009 as the International Year of Human Rights Learning. It aims to broaden and deepen human rights learning, according to the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependency, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive dialogue and cooperation. It should protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

¹ See the memorandum of agreement signed by the Council of Europe and the European Union in May 2007, Paragraph 10 of which states, "The Council of Europe will remain the benchmark for human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Europe".

Against this background, several regional intergovernmental organisations have been very active to promote human rights education as an essential part of their policies as part of their mission to foster and sustain human rights and raise greater awareness. In particular, the Council of Europe has an impressive record in this regard through its Education Directorate's long standing programmes for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and its assistance and support of the United Nations in the implementation of the World Programme at the European level.

In addition, the Youth Directorate is running a specific Youth Programme on Human Rights Education since 2000 as an important instrument to consolidate education and learning about, for and in human rights throughout Europe. Since its inception in 1990, the Council of Europe's North-South Centre has been engaging in Global Education, which encompasses the global dimensions of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education as well as global youth work.

Other important regional initiatives either already exist or are currently in the process of being set up in Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. On the African continent, the African Union (AU) was instrumental in adopting the African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights, which aims at the promotion and protection of human rights and basic freedoms in Africa, committing all signatories to promote the rights and freedoms in the Charter through education, training and publication, as well as the African Youth Charter.

For the Americas, the independent Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (I/IHR) acts as one of the most important world Centres for teaching and academic research on human rights with emphasis on the problems of America. Its mission is to promote and strengthen respect for human rights set out in the American Convention on Human Rights, giving a particular priority to human rights education in primary and secondary school education, university teaching, continuing education for civil servants and training the employees of human rights civic organizations and public institutions.

The Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) is mainly concerned with enhancing and coordinating educational, cultural and educational activities in the Arab world. Its work is guided by the Arab Charter on Human Rights that declares the importance of incorporating the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms into formal and non-formal education curricula and educational and training programmes.

In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - reaching out to ten Asian countries - is currently discussing setting up of an ASEAN human rights body by the end of 2009, reflecting the need to institutionalize the promotion and protection of human rights. Such an initiative could be the beginning of a process of which human rights education is given a central place.

Another approach on human rights education is the Culture of Peace Programme by UNESCO. The programme was created in 1994, followed by the Year for the Culture of Peace (2000), which was developed into the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). Culture of Peace is defined as a set of values and attitudes that reject violence by trying to solve the root causes of problems through dialogue and negotiation. There are four main categories of work in the programme: education for peace, human rights and democracy; the fight against exclusion and poverty; the defence of cultural pluralism and cross-cultural dialogue and finally conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace.

Aim and Objectives

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.

The objectives are as follows:

- to promote dialogue on human rights education and explore different understandings of human rights education;
- to reinforce co-operation between international and regional organisations on the issue of human rights education;
- to share experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents and identify the challenges facing human rights education and elaborate joint action on how to meet these challenges;
- to explore ways to promote human rights education with young people and through youth organisations and to discuss strategies and approaches to human rights education in youth work;
- to contribute to the ongoing consultation process that should lead to the adoption of a Recommendation by the Committee of Ministers supporting global education in the member States of the Council of Europe;
- to support the process leading to the adoption of a declaration on education in human rights within the framework of the UN (“Marrakech initiative”).

Organisation and Working Methods

The organisers of the 2009 Lisbon Forum are the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Alliance of Civilisations, in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network. Key note speeches, shorter interventions and discussions will be held in English and French and simultaneous interpretation to/from these two languages will be available during the conference.

In parallel to the Lisbon Forum, a fair with stands will be set up for human rights organisations, education professionals and practitioners to display their work in the field of human rights education and to allow for an exchange of experiences on tools, methods, projects etc. The fair will continue in the afternoon on the second day, after the closing session.

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2009

08h30 Registration

09h00 Welcoming words

Nazim AHMAD, Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network

António COSTA, Mayor of the city of Lisbon (tbc)

09h15 Opening session

Jorge SAMPAIO, President of the Lisbon Forum and Special Representative of the UN Alliance of Civilisations

Miguel Angel MARTÍNEZ, Vice-President of the European Parliament

José Manuel BARROSO, President of the European Commission (video message)

Maud de BOER-BUQUICCHIO, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

10h00 Introductory Session

Thomas HAMMARBERG, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

Message from Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, read by Ambassador Abdullah Mohammad HEMAYETUDDIN

Mikhail SHVIDKOY, Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Co-operation (tbc)

10h45 Coffee Break

11h00 **Working session I - Building global citizenship through human rights - Global strategy for strengthening human rights education**

Moderator: Denis HUBER, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Keynote speakers:

Marcia KRAN, Director of the Research and Right to Development Division, UN High Commissioner on Human Rights

Angela MELO, Director, Division of Human Rights, Human Security and Philosophy, UNESCO
Kirsten MLACAK, Head of the ODIHR/OSCE Human Rights Department

Abdollah JASSBI, President of Azad University, Tehran

Discussion

13h00 Lunch and Exhibition

14h30 Working session II - Regional approaches to human rights education – challenges and best practices

Moderator: Sandra MONTEIRO, Director of “Le Monde Diplomatique” in Portugal

Keynote speakers:

Vera DUARTE, Minister of Education, Cape Verde

Mohamed-El Aziz BEN ACHOUR, Director-General of the Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Director General for Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe

Margaret CRAHAN, Vice-President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights General Assembly (Costa Rica)

Expert from the Aga Khan University, London

Discussion among the panelists led by the session moderator

16h00 Coffee break and Exhibition

16h30 Plenary discussion: regional approaches to human rights and education for intercultural understanding and dialogue – how to foster a culture for peace

Moderator: Ana PERONA-FJELDSTAD, Executive Director of the European Wergeland Centre (Norway)

Inputs by:

Fanny DURVILLE, Co-ordinator of the Advisory Council, Anna Lindh Foundation

David KERR, Principal Research Officer, National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)
Sarah TOBHI MOTHA, Coordinator at the Human Rights Education Centre in South Africa

Suhas CHAKMA, Director of the Asian Centre for Human Rights in India

Ana Maria RODINO, Member of the MERCOSUR Commission on Human Rights Education

General discussion

18h00 End of session

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2009

09h00 **Working session III - Youth as agent of change in human rights education**

Moderator: Matlotleng Patrick MATLOU, Chief Executive Officer of the African Institute of South Africa (AISA)

Keynote speakers:

Ana María Almarío DRESZER, Secretary of the Latin American Youth Forum (Foro Latino americano de Juventud – FLAJ)

Elshad ISKANDAROV, Secretary General of the International Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC)

Sofia KALLIO, Vice-president for Seminars and Conferences of the International Board of the European Law Students' Association (ELSA)

General discussion

10h30 Coffee break and **working session** on displaying good practices, networking and identifying joint commitments for human rights education – led by the Portuguese Platform for NGDO's '*Plataforma*'

11h30 **Conclusions by the General Rapporteur of the Lisbon Forum**, Felisa TIBBITTS, Executive Director of the Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)

11h45 Closing session

Chair: Deborah BERGAMINI, Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre

Representatives of the outgoing (Slovenia) and the incoming (Switzerland) Chairmanships of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

- President of the Republic of Slovenia (tbc)
- Representative of Switzerland

Representative of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union

High-level Representative of the Portuguese authorities

13h00 **Closing remarks by the President of the Lisbon Forum, Jorge SAMPAIO**

13h15 Lunch

14h30 Guided tour of the Ismaili Centre (optional)

Afternoon Human Rights Fair (optional)