



CITpax
CENTRO INTERNACIONAL
DE TOLEDO PARA LA PAZ

THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILISATIONS AND LATIN AMERICA: NEW APPROACHES TO DIALOGUE

San José de Costa Rica – Tuesday 30th September 2008

Since its inception, the Arias Foundation has as its mission the promotion of more just, peaceful, and equitable societies in Central America, spreading a message of peace to the rest of the world. The Toledo International Centre for Peace, in its few but intense years of activity, has become a reference point for Spanish institutions dedicated to the construction of peace. Both sponsoring foundations perceive in the Alliance of Civilisations a promising path for their peace missions, which should be exploited to its full potential. Promoting dialogue to improve understanding among nations and peoples, and to prevent intercultural conflicts is a means that should indeed be applied to situations other than the polarisation between western societies and the Islamic world. It should also address tensions between groups constituted around a common identity within a single region or State.

Consequently, this seminar will try to establish the space for dialogue at a high level that is necessary to promote the principles of the Alliance of Civilisations in the Latin American ambit. Moreover, this would be one of the first initiatives held in Latin America with the clear objective to promote and explain the principles of the Alliance of Civilisations, trying to adapt them to the particular realities of this continent.

The discussions in the seminar will be held in three complementary sessions, which will present the principles of the Alliance of Civilisations, stressing intercultural coexistence as a response to the prevailing divides in the continent, and explore new ways to build bridges between two realities which, for too long, have remained far apart, the Arab world and Latin America.

Both foundations aim, in this way, to create an adequate space for discussing the initiative launched under the auspices of the United Nations, and the possibilities for its implementation in the Latin American context. Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias, President of the country hosting this seminar, has strongly supported this initiative since the beginning, so that Costa Rica, can fulfil its merited role as a voice for peace in its global dimension.



PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 30th September 2008

- 09:30 – 10:00 **Opening words**
Luis Alberto Cordero, Executive Director, Fundación Arias para la Paz y el progreso Humano
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Welcome words**
Dr Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica
Jorge Sampaio¹, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations
- First Session:** **The Alliance of Civilisations: Globalisation Vs Polarisation**
10:30 – 13.00 *Moderator:* Arturo Reig, Spanish Ambassador to Costa Rica
Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Co President of the High Level Group, Alliance of Civilisation
Cándido Mendes, Secretary General for the *Académie de la Latinité* (Member of the High Level Group)
Shlomo Ben Ami, Vicepresident of CITpax
Dr Alfredo Jalife-Rahme, Political Analyst
Enrique Iglesias², Secretary General, SEGIB
- (Lunch)

¹ Video Message

² Written Message



Second session: Alliance of Civilisations: The Arab World and Latin America

14:00 – 16:00

Moderator: Luis Alberto Cordero, Executive Director, Fundación Arias para la Paz y el Progreso Humano

Assia Bensalah Alaoui, Ambassador at Large, Morocco

[Emilio Gonzalez Ferrín](#), Director of the Department of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Sevilla

Francis Ghiles, Senior Fellow, European Institute for the Mediterranean

John Tofik Karam, Assistant Professor Latin America Programme, DePaul university, Chicago.

(Coffee break)

Third session: The Alliance of Civilisations in Latin America: New references to address multiculturalism

16.30 – 18.30

Moderator: Emilio Cassinello, Director General, CITpax

Cândido Mendes, Secretary General for the *Académie de la Latinité* (Member of the High Level Group)

Kamran Asdar Ali, Associate Professor, Anthropology and Middle East Studies, Texas University

Manuel Rodríguez, Political Coordinator, DEMUCA Foundation

Victor Valle, Dean, United Nations University for Peace

Pedro Medellín, Director for the Latin America Programme, CITpax

20:00

Closing dinner

Keynote speakers:

Shlomo Ben Ami, Vicepresident of CITpax

Bruno Stagno, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica



List of participants:

Dr Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica

Kamran Asdar Ali, Associate Professor, Anthropology and Middle East Studies, Texas University

Shlomo Ben Ami, Vicepresident of CITpax

Assia Bensalah, Ambassador at Large, Morocco

Emilio Cassinello, Ambassador, Director General of CITpax

Luis Alberto Cordero, Executive Director, Arias Foundation

Francis Ghiles, Senior Fellow, European Institute for the Mediterranean

Emilio Gonzalez Ferrín, Director of the Department of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Sevilla

Enrique Iglesias, Secretary General, SEGIB

John Tofik Karam, Assistant Professor Latin America Programme, DePaul university, Chicago.

Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Co President of the High Level Group, AoC

Pedro Medellín, Director for the Latin America Programme, CITpax

Cándido Mendes, Secretary General for the *Académie de la Latinité* (HLG member)

Carla Morales, Technical Director, Arias Foundation

Patricia Pérez-Gómez, Project Coordinator, Latin America Program, CITpax

Arturo Reig, Spanish Ambassador to Costa Rica

Manuel Rodriguez, Political Coordinator, DEMUCA Foundation

Jorge Sampaio, United Nations High Representative for the AoC

Bruno Stagno, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica

Victor Valle, Dean, United Nations University for Peace

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