

United Arab Emirates

Office of Information Affairs
For Deputy Prime Minister



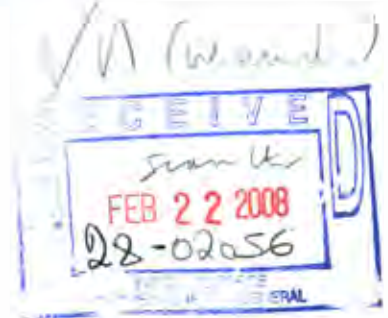
دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
مكتب شؤون الإعلام
لنائب رئيس مجلس الوزراء

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Alliance of Civilizations

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Your Excellency,

Sub: Working Papers of Symposium “Alliance of Civilizations”

Please allow us to express our profound appreciation for your endeavors to enhance the cultural dialogue among nations and peoples within the framework of the United Nations Organization.

It is our pleasure to enclose herewith the working papers of the symposium “Alliance of Civilizations” organized by the United Arab Emirates’ Center of Information Affairs on 4/2/2008, in response to the UN-backed Alliance of Civilization Initiative. This event witnessed the participation of H.E. Manuel Piñero, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Selim Karaosmanoğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Máximo Cajal, Former Spanish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Mohammed Khalifa Al Murar, Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister of the Emirates.

The aforementioned papers are for your kind perusal.

We look forward to establishing cultural and scientific cooperation with you, wishing you all success.

Please accept our best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Khalifa Al Murar
Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister

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Encl.

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Symposium
"Alliance of Civilizations "

4/2/2008

Statement of H.E. Manuel Piñeiro
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, first allow me to say thank you very much indeed to Director Al Murar for his words and giving hospitality to this event that we are having today.

What makes an initiative that goes through the obstacles, the indifference and many setbacks that separate initiative that succeed from initiative that failed. The Alliance of Civilization could have been one of the initiatives that failed as many others. Not because they are worthless, but because the time was not right and the circumstances are not adequate. There are many reasons to explain success and failure.

But **this** initiative by the Prime Minister of Turkey and Spain went through all the walls that separate success from failure and it has succeeded. Why do I say it has succeeded? Because not anymore the Alliance of Civilizations is an initiative of Turkey and of Spain, now it is already an initiative of us all. We are all member of the United Nations and the Alliance of Civilization, since last year, is an initiative of the United Nations.

To speak about how could that be possible, to tell us the ups and downs of the itinerary of these initiatives, we have today a very distinguish speaker Ambassador Cajal is a diplomat for many years has occupied very important and responsible job in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain. Jobs full of responsibility and job which implied to have a look at the young, the present and to get into the future.

Well the answer to the civilization is not only something which is happening today every minute, but it is something which should we have an inclination to last, an inclination to all the young today and the young tomorrow. To tell us about is Ambassador Cajal and **before** proceeding him we have also the very distinguish presence of Turkey Ambassador to whom I ask the floor. Thank you very much.

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**Statement of H.E. Selim Karaosmanoğlu
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey**

**Speech by H.E Selim Karaosmanglu, Ambassador of the Republic of
Turkey to the UAE**

Mr. Director

Excellencies,

Honourable Guests,

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am truly feeling privileged and humbled to be at the presence of such a distinguished audience and let alone to be able to address them.

Taking this opportunity I should like to express my gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Prime Minister for this superbly organized meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This last three decades of 20th century witnessed or passed through a chain of political, economic and social developments in a rapid pace. The economic requirements of societies have led to a mass movement of people, sometimes in the form of mass migration. The extend of contact among the different societies was enormous, so was the impact. Some communities were passing through an experience that they had never been through before left admit that it was in deed a fenamonal encounter different cultures, different habits and customs, different colours even different smells. This was the advent of social globalization.

This cultural shock created unfortunately mutual presentments and serious social tensions with political implications. This tension was not only religious or sectarian epithomes of racial descriptions start appearing in the media as well no laws or administrative measures can stop it. It was already embedded in the mind set and the consequences were sometimes

violent for all the parties concerned this was a hostile and inhuman encounter in some countries inter communal dialogue was non-existent. This must not only be curbed but has to be stopped urgently.

In such a climate, the Secretary General of the UN Mr. Kofi Annan launched this invitational alliance of civilizations, which has a broad scope and comprehensive meaning. He asked Spain and Turkey. It was not because Prime Minister Erdogan and Prime Minister Zapatero have been firm believers of such a need, a subject which they've brought up everytime they meet or talk.

Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan's choice was not a random choice it was the historical experience of Spain and Turkey that led him to this decision. It was the popular culture of these two countries that led him to focus on Turkish and Spanish Societies.

Excellencies,

Spain and Turkey are shouldering this initiative to show that the richness in our culture and traditions are the result of being able to absorb and about the civilizations we encounter, be at home or abroad. The present day modern Spain and Turkey lay on such a healthy Trans continental interaction between races, religions and traditions. It is our common wealth we are proud of it.

Our Prime Ministers are politicians, so they are bold, they have daring visions and in this difficult task and noble mission they need other very select countries with the same tradition and vision. That is why our respective governments instructed my dear colleague and friend Ambassador Manuel Pineiro and myself to make a joint demarche at the Foreign Ministry in Abu Dhabi to invite the United Arab Emirates government to actively participate in this initiative. The United Arab Emirates with its leaders and people have already adopted such an attitude

and created a climate accordingly. Our governments have been grateful from the positive response and feed back they received from the UAE. We are sure that the Emirates presence and active participation in the group of friends in this process would enhance and give impetus and vigour to this arduous task. We are proud that the first alliance of civilizations forum was held and concluded successfully in Madrid on 15th January 2008.

I am not going to take much of your time

I am not going into the responsibility of the media and education, school text book contents in this field. But please let's agree on something let's not use the word tolerance. Tolerance is an act of unduring with something. What we expect and demand is not tolerance but open-mindness and respect.

Thank you very much for bearing with me.

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4/2/2008

Statement of H.E. Máximo Cajal
Spanish Former State Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS: Present and Future

In his address to the UN General Assembly, on 21st September 2004, the Spanish Prime Minister asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to establish an Alliance of Civilizations aimed at preventing that increased misunderstandings and polarization among cultures and societies, especially between Islam and the West, might make the spectre of the so-called *Clash of Civilizations* become a reality. In other words, as the High-level Group Report asserted:

in a context of anxiety and confusion caused by the "clash of civilizations" theory, the need to build bridges between societies, to promote dialogue and understanding and to forge the collective political will to address the world's imbalances, has never been greater. This urgent task constitutes the "raison d'être" of the Alliance of Civilizations.

For sure, this proposal was neither the result of a sudden impulse of good will nor the outcome of just a cold academic analysis; much less, a *coup de théâtre*. It was a highly political decision adopted in very special and specific circumstances. The full significance of the step taken by José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero can only be correctly understood when it is placed in its historic context; that is, within the domestic and external framework where it was born. This process evolved between two precise dates: March 16, 2003 –when President Bush and Prime Ministers Blair and Aznar met in Azores and when, three days later, the invasion of Iraq took place– and March 11, 2004, the day of the terrorist attacks in Madrid.

It was during these twelve months that took shape a different way of fighting the roots of terrorism; of combating this universal peril by other means, without neglecting, obviously, the unavoidable security commitment. And this happened because, before the general elections in Spain on March 14, 2004, there was already a previous ideological foundation in the Spanish Prime Minister's approach not only to the threat of terrorism but, more generally, regarding how international relations should be managed; how a different global and political environment should be organized; which rules had to be applied so that a new and better world order should replace the present one. Not surprisingly, this ethic approach happened to be the same that, a few months later, underpinned his call for an Alliance of Civilizations, that is, a call for a system of values, of principles, of international morality, in the antipodes of those prevailing at that time.

These principles –reasserted in the speech delivered before the UN General Assembly– were a determined support to multilateralism, to international legality represented by the United Nations Organization as well as full respect for human rights, for equality between men and women, for democracy as well as for the peaceful solution of conflicts. A package of principles altogether opposed to unilateralism, to pre-emptive war and to the contempt, if not the hostility, towards the United Nations.

It is certainly because of such a different starting-point, and due to the strong appeal from its action-oriented focus –but also because of the ever-growing risk of a global conflict and the awareness of the need to act against it– that the credibility of the Alliance of Civilizations has steadily raised, thus attracting an increased worldwide backing. Since its inception –when at the end of 2004 only a handful of governments and international organizations, mainly Muslim, expressed publicly their interest in the initiative– the support from the international community to this proposal has never yielded. On the contrary.

Today, more than 80 countries and international organizations have joined in a Group of Friends of the Alliance, backing this endeavour both politically and financially. Between 2006 and 2007, 7 million US dollars have been already transferred, or pledged, to the Alliance special account in New York. Among the donors, besides the contributions from Spain and Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, together with Norway, stand out for their generosity and their commitment to the Alliance.

One more proof of the good health of our common undertaking is the sustained course of its institutional consolidation. This process started when it was formally launched by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in July 2005. One month earlier, Prime Minister Erdogan, of Turkey, had accepted the invitation to become its co-sponsor together with his Spanish counterpart. In September that year, the High-level Group of eminent personalities was established, whose Report, which I just mentioned, was presented in Istanbul in November 2006. A few months later, already in 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed doctor Jorge Sampaio, former president of Portugal, as his High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. Finally, just two weeks ago, the I Forum of the Alliance met in Madrid.

The II one will take place some time next year in Turkey. Brazil has already applied to host the III Forum in 2010.

May I now address the future of the Alliance.

When, at the beginning of 2008, as we are doing today, we talk about this initiative, we are not dealing anymore with a dream, as quiet a number of sceptics put it not so long ago; not even with just a more or less stimulating project. What we have now before us is a unique tool in the hands of the UN Secretary-General to bridge the divide between peoples and cultures; to promote common understanding, tolerance and appreciation of diversity among us; an unprecedented mechanism to neutralize and deactivate crisis as well as a different approach to pre-emptive action if only because it aims at the hearts and at the minds.

The Alliance of Civilization is a political and global instrument aimed at combating a threat, which is also global, by means of practical and concrete measures. Because it is global and political, it belongs to the United Nations. And because it is action-oriented, it has an added value. This is what makes the difference with other, also valuable, initiatives. Dialogue is not an end in itself. Obviously, it falls to the international community –governments, international organizations and civil society– to take up seriously this challenge and to act together accordingly. We are all convoked to join in this universal endeavour. The human kind is now facing two universal challenges: Terrorism and Climate change. We will only prevail if we fight them together.

The “Concept Paper” on the Alliance, made public in June 2005, already underscored both the mobilizing purpose and the security objective of what, at that time, was still a project submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General:

There is a need for a comprehensive coalition to counter the trend toward extremism and avert a deterioration of relations between societies, which could even threaten international stability. The Alliance of Civilizations is a reaffirmation of the increasing interdependence of all societies around the world, be it in the environmental or health sectors; in economic, financial, or security relations; or in the development field.

The world is approaching a new phase which demands a new global order. The unipolar world which emerged only a quarter of a century ago after the fall of the Soviet Union, will be replaced, sooner rather than later, by a multipolar concert

which will make it necessary to establish a new set of rules that guarantee global coexistence. These new rules will rest upon the principles promoted by the Alliance of Civilizations, paramount among them full respect for international legality, for the United Nations system, for democracy and human rights. It is otherwise inconceivable a multilateral new order where different powers –such as the United States of America, Russia, China, India, Japan, the European Union, and, why not, perhaps other nations such as Indonesia, Mexico or Brazil, in a not so distant future– will compete peacefully among them outside an ethic, acceptable to all, pattern of conduct under the aegis of a more democratic and efficient United Nations Organization.

Addressing the Summit of the League of Arab States in March 22, 2005, the president of the Spanish government also referred to this new scenario:

Efforts in the political and security field must pursue the consolidation of a more just and peaceful international order, since without justice and peace there can be no progress and stability and it would be difficult to meet the threats to our security. We must work to attain an effective multilateral system, based on respect for the rule of law, the promotion of democratic values and the strengthening of our common institutions.

We are now entering the second stage in this still short but nonetheless success-story. In May last year, the High Representative presented the Implementation Plan of the Alliance of Civilizations to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the years 2007-2009. Last September, doctor Sampaio addressed in New York a meeting of representatives from the countries and organizations pertaining to the Alliance Group of Friends. He invited them to establish *National Strategies* and *Partnerships Charters* with the Alliance, hoping that some of them might present these commitments to the Forum in Madrid.

The I Forum of the Alliance is a watershed. For the first time since the launching of this initiative, less than three years ago, the Alliance of Civilizations has presented to the Community of Nations at large a package of concrete and practical measures which respond both to the recommendations from the High-level Group's Report and to the High Representative's Implementation Plan. Also, on this occasion, five agreements were signed by the High Representative with UNESCO, the League of Arab States, ISESCO, ALESCO and "United Cities and Local Governments", as well as a letter of intent with the Council of Europe. Different

initiatives were also launched at the Forum. HH Sheikha Mozah of Qatar announced a 100 million \$ investment in a Global Youth Employment project; HM Queen Noor of Jordan a multi-million \$ Media Fund to support the production and distribution of entertainment films which enhance the relations between different societies.

Besides the National Plans presented by Spain and New Zealand and the partnership agreements with multilateral agencies and organizations already mentioned, the following initiatives were also launched at the Madrid Forum:

1. An Alliance of Civilizations Clearing House, starting with a theme of Media Literacy Education.
2. A Rapid Response Media Mechanism, to act especially in times of crisis.
3. A Youth Solidarity Fund, to support programs in the fields of intercultural and interfaith dialogue.
4. A global network of philanthropic foundations and private funders.
5. Establishment of an Alliance network of good will ambassadors.
6. Commitment by the UN Global Compact to produce a publication on best practices in the corporate sector.
7. Adoption of a statement of solidarity and joint commitment by religious leaders providing guidance to counter extremism.

In his remarks at the opening session on January 15th, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon clearly expressed where we stand now, when he said that at that moment he was thinking less of the problems we are facing but "more of solutions"; "my focus is on results. I am heartened to know that the Alliance of Civilizations is, too", he added. He also said something which I think is noteworthy because it focuses directly on the crux of what I mentioned before, the security dimension of this initiative:

In all these ways, the efforts of the Alliance will complement the work of the United Nations to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006. They will also bolster our endeavours in preventive diplomacy, and in supporting sustainable peace processes.

In the same action-oriented vein spoke the Spanish Prime Minister, when he said that the Alliance, understood as a global strategic undertaking, will only succeed, will only be sustainable, if we are capable of equipping it with a precise and practical critical mass. This endeavour, he added, will only consolidate insofar the

member States embody it in their national policies, insofar the goals it pursues are translated into the principles inspiring their domestic and foreign policies.

In his address during the ministerial Group of Friends working session, HE Abdul Rahman Al Owais, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development of the United Arab Emirates, emphasized, on his part, the global importance of the Alliance, whose promotion can only be successful he said

if we all exert continuous and sincere efforts to build bridges, rather than to divide, to foster friendship, rather than hostility, to explain, rather than to disseminate views to deepen misunderstandings. We in the United Arab Emirates will continue to play our part, both at home and elsewhere, in the pursuit of the goal to which we all aspire – a greater belief in the concept of global community and of the unity of mankind.

May I say now a few words about the Spanish National Plan

On January 11th, the Council of Ministers passed the Spanish National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations. This document was distributed during the Forum and is already placed in the Internet. The Plan, or the Spanish National Strategy if we prefer Sampaio's wording, has two parts. A politico-philosophical one and a catalogue of measures to be implemented by the different ministerial departments involved: Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Culture, Education and Science, Interior, Justice, and Labour and Social Affairs. The department of Defence will also be engaged in a next future.

The *rationale* which explains the step taken by my Government responds to different reasons. There are those of a geographic, historical and cultural character as well as those of a security nature. But this commitment is also the result of the Spanish origin of the initiative and because it is cosponsored by our Prime Minister, together with Prime Minister Erdogan from Turkey. What we pretend with the Plan is to translate, on a national scale, the specific goals of the Alliance and to insert them into our domestic and foreign policies. And, while embodying in a *corpus* these 57 measures, we pretend to frame them within a coherent and strategic vision, filling gaps, avoiding overlappings and giving them more visibility.

Being Spain a quasi-federal State, the National Plan is restricted to our Central Administration. But we also pretend with it is to inspire and stimulate the other Public Administrations, that is the Autonomous Communities and the Local Governments, and the civil society as well. We also hope that Spain, together with other nations,

can play a role as an example, in accordance with the ethical principles of our foreign policy.

The second part of the National Plan is devoted exclusively to the 57 measures. The Plan is open-ended and will be reviewed after two years. New measures will be introduced on a case by case but without losing sight of the internal balance of the Plan. The document does'nt deal only with Spanish issues. There are a number of initiatives with a bilateral or wider scope, either relating to another country, Morocco for instance; to another region, the Maghreb for example, or just to a subcontinent, like Spanish-speaking Latin America.

For practical reasons, especially to avoid unwanted overlappings, the different measures do not correspond literally to the four sectors identified in the High-level Group Report –education, youth, migration and media. We have focused, on the contrary, on a functional approach and, therefore, divided the 57 activities in four chapters which, obviously, cover the four sectors above-mentioned, but which are aimed at:

1. promoting mutual understanding and appreciation of diversity
2. promoting civic values and a culture of peace
3. improving the integration and capacities of immigrants, with special attention to youth, and
4. promoting and disseminating the Alliance of Civilizations initiative.

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Statement of H.E. Advisor Mohammed Khalifa Al Murar

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors,

We have the pleasure at the Center of Information Affairs affiliated to the Deputy Prime Minister to welcome our distinguished guests in this symposium on "The Alliance of Cultures".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to welcome H.E. MANUEL PINEIRO, the Ambassador of Spain to UAE. He is a notable diplomatic character who worked as a Consul for his country in Morocco, Chargé d' Affairs, in the Embassy of Spain in Hanoi, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of Spain in China. He was the Ambassador of his country in Guatemala, Cameroon and Angola. He also worked as Deputy Director for Africa and Asia in the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We also have the pleasure welcome His Excellency Saleem Krawsma Noghlo, the Ambassador of Turkey to UAE, who will also deliver speech on this occasion. He occupied many important posts including the Ambassador of his country to Baghdad.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the pleasure to welcome His Excellency Maximo Cajal. The former Spanish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. He holds a degree in Law and in the Diplomatic Service. He worked as Secretary of Embassy in Bangkok, Paris and worked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He worked as a Director General - Diplomatic Information Office, then an Ambassador of his country to Guatemala, then Consul General in New York and after that an Ambassador in Sweden. Then he became the Director General of North American affairs, the Secretary General for Foreign Policy. After that he worked as an Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council. He also worked as an Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs and an Ambassador of Spain in France. He was the Consul General in Lisbon

and in Montpellier. He was the Personal Representative of the Spanish Prime Minister for the Alliance of Civilizations, December, 2004.

This is because Turkey is the gate of the Islamic World to Europe. Turkey is Semi-European country. It is an influential country in Europe and the Islamic World as well. By adopting this initiative, Turkey opened the way to find serious co-operation between the Muslim East and the Christian west. This co-operation will be means of avoiding religious wars between both sides.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is very upset to create hatred between nations and peoples for reasons of selfishness and straying from righteousness and justice. Things that gather the peoples are more than those who separate them. We are all originate from Adam and Eve.

People are distinguished by language and culture which they acquired for a long time and away from other peoples on earth.. Religions were a unifying factor of peoples and at the same time a reason for trials and wars.

What happened in the Medievals between the Muslim Arab in the east and the Christian Europe which is called "the Crusades" is an evidence that sticking to doctrines and claiming the possession of the absolute truth is the most dangerous thing for humanity in the future.

Ladies and Gentleman,

We welcome again our distinguished guests their Excellencies. We are also grateful to His Excellency the Spanish Prime Minister Mr. Jose Zabaterr who realized the depth of the crises between Europe and west from one side and the Arab & Islamic worlds from another side. We also thank him for his initiative "Alliance of Cultures"

From this platform, we call all the western and Islamic governments to stick to this initiative and make it a permanent issue of discussions in all the meetings between both sides.