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Intercultural Dialogue : Issues and perspectives for the Council of Europe

Lisbon, 20.06.2007- Helping to draw up recommendations for the Council of Europe's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue is the main objective of the Colloquy on « Promoting intercultural dialogue: issues and perspectives of the Council of Europe », organised from 23 to 24 June in Lisbon by the Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport and the North-South Centre* of the Council of Europe, with the support of the Aga Khan Development Network.

The colloquy will be the culminating point of a wide consultation process organised by the Council of Europe for the adoption of a White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue**. The White Paper is intended to give a fresh and lasting impetus to the various initiatives and policy approaches aiming at strengthening cultural diversity and diminishing the risks of discrimination and exclusion of cultural minorities.

The meeting in Lisbon will bring together 60 leading personalities and experts from both the North and South. The debates will focus on the challenges of intercultural dialogue and the role and priorities of international institutions active in intercultural dialogue.

The opening session will take place on Saturday 22 June, at 9.00 in the presence of Maud de Boer Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilisations, Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport – Co-ordinator for Intercultural Dialogue, Council of Europe and Nazim Ahmad, Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network.

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Place of the meeting :
Centro Ismaeli, Avenida Lusitana, Lisbonne (Portugal)

(*) Information on North-South Centre activities can be found at <http://www.nscentre.org>
(**) Information on the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue can be found at : <http://www.coe.int/dialogue>

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