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1st Meeting of the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights

The first meeting of the Permanent Forum of the Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights will be held from 7 to 9 December 2009 at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in **Cairo (Egypt)**, with the primary objective of examining the impact of migratory flows in these two regions.

Organized by UNESCO and the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights and placed under the high patronage of Suzan Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt, the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights 2009 will focus on migration in the Arab region and in Africa. The goal is to provide African and Arab States' governments with information for the formulation of policies more consistent with the reality of migration flows in these two regions. The Honorary President of the Forum is Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of *La Francophonie* and former President of Senegal. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Chair of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, is the Forum's Vice-President.

On this occasion, African and Arab experts on migration will hold two workshops: on “**national migration policies** bringing coherence in immigration and emigration policies while respecting the human rights of migrants”, and the other on “**inter-regional migration and regional agreements on human movements**”.

The opening ceremony will be attended by the Director-General of UNESCO, the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences and high-level representatives of international and regional organizations such as the International Organization of *La Francophonie*, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the African Union, the African Parliament, the Arab Transitional Parliament, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the African Parliamentary Union, the Arab League for Education, Culture and Sciences Organization (ALECSO) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Culture Organization (ISESCO).

The Forum will also gather representatives of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), Parliaments and NGOs from Africa and the Arab region

Many issues, particularly relevant for African and Arab States, will be addressed, such as transit migration, integration and protection of migrants, the international legal and normative framework of the rights of migrants, their political and labour rights, the ratification and implementation of the [Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families](#), permission to reside, to live, to work or to buy property, or the state of regional policies for managing international migration. It will also discuss cooperation in the fight against irregular migration, to maximize the opportunities for regular migrants, failed transit migration, return migration, circular migration and remittances.

Other related issues will be also discussed such as the strategies of implementation of the African Charter Democracy, Elections and Governance, before concluding the first Forum by adopting a declaration and recommendations.

While responding to questions last September from [SHSviews](#), Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed “the importance of democratizing globalization” and strengthening “South-South solidarity”.

So, as all available data point to the fact that migration is not a burden but a benefit; can we build on this benefit and draft better policies? What is the role of non-State actors in the migration process? To what extent should States cooperate in managing migration flows? Should there be an ad hoc institution such as a World Forum to coordinate the efforts of all actors involved?

These are some of many crucial questions that will need to be fully addressed and answered by the participants in this meeting and on which the success of the meeting will depend on.

For more information:

- [4th International Conference in Cairo and 1st Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue](#) in *SHSviews* 26
- [Migration at the heart of the Forum of Arab-African Dialogue](#) in *SHSviews* 25
- [Forum permanent de dialogue arabo-africain sur la démocratie et les droits humains](#)
- [DOSSIER - A new era for international migration](#) in *SHSviews* 14
- [UNESCO's programme on International Migration](#)
- [Human Rights of Migrants](#)
- [Policy development on migration matters](#)
- [Cultural Diversity and Migration](#)
- [UNESCO's Contribution to the Global Consultative Forum within the United Nations on International Migration: Promoting the Human Face of Migration](#)
- [Human Trafficking and Exploitative Migration](#)
- [Diaspora Networks and Migration](#)
- [Urban Development](#)
- [Human Rights](#)

Other events relating to UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme in December 2009:

- **2-3 December:** Global Forum on Civilization and Peace. Seoul, **Republic of Korea**.
- **2-3 December:** Joint UNESCO-Miriam College Workshop on Environmental Ethics Education for All. Manila, **the Philippines**.
- **2-4 December:** Training of members of the National Bioethics Committee. Abidjan, **Côte d'Ivoire**.
- **5 December:** UNESCO Workshop on Ethics and Climate Change. Yokohama, **Japan**.
- **7-11 December:** 3rd Latin American and Caribbean MOST Summer School. Santo Domingo, **Dominican Republic**.
- **9-11 December:** Expert Meeting on Poverty. Paris, **France**.
- **10 December:** Celebration of the Children's Rights Convention. Paris, **France**.
- **10-12 December:** International symposium on bioethics. Shanghai, **China**.
- **12-13 December:** 3rd Joint UNESCO-Kumamoto University Bioethics Roundtable: What is Medical? Kumamoto, **Japan**
- **14-15 December:** 1st Meeting of the International Network of Women Philosophers sponsored by UNESCO. Paris, **France**
- **18 December:** Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science. Paris, **France**

Just published:

Human Rights

- [Human rights: questions and answers](#). Series Human rights in perspective, 2009
- [HIV & AIDS: what to do with that?](#) Other, Others, Otherwise Series, 2009
- [ARADESC: UNESCO/ISESCO Arab Research-Policy Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), 2009 (brochure)
- [UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, 2008](#)

Philosophy

- [Teaching philosophy in the Arab region](#). High-level Regional Meeting on the Teaching of Philosophy in the Arab Region, 2009
- [Teaching philosophy in Africa. Anglophone countries](#). High-level Regional Meeting on the Teaching of Philosophy in Anglophone African countries, 2009
- [Teaching philosophy in Asia and the Pacific](#). High-Level Regional Meeting on the Teaching of Philosophy in the Asia and the Pacific, 2009
- [Teaching philosophy in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), 2009
- [Philosophy: A School of Freedom](#). Teaching philosophy and learning to philosophize: Status and prospects, 2007

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► Journée Mondiale du SIDA

UNESCO Soutenir des réponses au VIH et au SIDA basées sur les droits de l'homme

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