



GLOBAL SUMMIT ON RELIGION, PEACE AND SECURITY

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies by fostering religious freedom and preventing violent extremism and atrocity crimes.

Geneva, 24 November 2016

CONCLUDING REMARKS

From the outset, allow me to thank the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (AIDLR) and all the co-sponsors (EU, Spain and others) for putting together this timely conference. My warm thanks also to all the panelists for accepting to speak in this conference and for their most valuable contributions to the discussion. I am so pleased with the global profile of this conference as shown through the diversity of the participants who came literally from all around the world.

Dear friends,

At this point in the conference the discussions, the speeches are behind us. You have grappled with the many issues energetically and forcefully. Perhaps, at this point, you are a little tired. Perhaps the Declaration we just adopted is all that stands between you and a few days of well-deserved rest and relaxation if at all possible. Under these circumstances, I would like nothing more to congratulating you on a job well done, to congratulate you all for the conclusion of our Global Summit with such a successful outcome.

A special word of gratitude and warm congratulations to Dr. Liviu Olteanu who has invested so much time, energy and efforts in bringing to fruition in a such short period an idea which he shared with me last May in Madrid.

As we noticed through the various conclusions presented by our rapporteurs there is a lot that has been achieved but also a lot ahead of us to do. The Global Summit has revealed how much unites us and how vital it is to learn from each other, and how different actors, including diplomats, politicians, international organizations, religious leaders and the wider civil society can work together, concretely, in common cause, to build – and develop - national, regional and international architectures aimed to address successfully the challenges to peace, security and human rights, and in particular to freedom of religion of belief. These challenges include

atrocious crimes or the risk thereof in many countries, as well as terrorism and violent extremism.

In this regard, Sheik Al Yaqoobi made a urgent call to solve the Syrian conflict. I was pleased that many of you shared good practices and lessons learned to address these challenges. In this context, Rabbi Melchior briefed us about progresses made in recent years in interfaith dialogue among radical Jewish and Muslim religious leaders as a tool to contribute to peace and security in Israel and Palestine.

We were moved by the conditions of the Sikh community in India and the need to prevent further violence against them. I also cannot but join Azza Karam in paying tribute to Aziza Baroud, Amsatou Sow Sidibe and Rehman Kasule for the great work they are accomplishing in our Mother Africa, the cradle of Humanity. The words of Aziza Baroud still resonate in relation to the place and the important role of the Youth who are a key actor for any success to be achieved in the 'Dialogue Five' Platform.

Dear friends,

I challenge you to have the courage to take the extra step and take back home with you for further discussion and implementation not only the ideas, messages and projects that are easy to accept, but also the novel ideas, messages and projects that, on first glance, may raise eyebrows or be criticized, but that you feel may mark yet another advancement in the path towards sustained economic growth, respect for human rights, and upholding the principles of good governance and the strengthening of justice.

To conclude let me emphasize that this Summit, and its outcome in particular - the creation of the platform of different actors who can contribute to peace, security and human rights - fits well within my mandate and the programme my Office is running on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement to violence. Indeed, incitement to violence is not only a violation of human rights but it is also an international crime. Moreover, incitement is an indicator and trigger of violence, including of atrocious crimes, and is used to encourage violent extremism and terrorist action.

This platform, once it has been established, will contribute to better coordination and partnership of all actors involved in sustaining peace. Putting together this platform is not an easy task. In this regard, the organizers of our Conference will spare no efforts to conceptualize it in detail. It is a huge endeavor and one that will need time as well as human and financial resources. I personally will offer my strong support to this platform, once it is clearer how it will be shaped.

I have no doubt that you will agree with me that this conference represents the beginning of a powerful and much needed cooperation among different actors active in enhancing human rights, peace and security worldwide.

Brothers and sisters in Humanity,

Preventing atrocity crimes and their incitement, addressing violent extremism and building sustaining peace is a shared responsibility and that I hope that after having discussed and debated these issues in this conference room for three days we can all commit on working together and concretize our promise.

I wish you a safe journey back home and may the Almighty God bless all of us much abundantly.

Adama Dieng,

Under Secretary-General, United Nations
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on the Prevention of Genocide.