



30 June 2017

**Launch of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes**

**14 July 2017, ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, 3:00-6:00pm**

Dear Dr. Olteanu,

I would like to invite you to take part in the launch by the Secretary-General on 14 July of the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes (“Plan of Action”). This Plan of Action, as well as five regional action plans, were developed by religious leaders and actors during a series of consultations held between April 2015 and December 2016<sup>1</sup>. They were developed under the leadership of my office, with the support of the KAICIID Dialogue Center, the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and the World Council of Churches.

This event will bring together Member States, the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations and faith actors to adopt and launch the Plan of Action and related regional action plans and to discuss strategies for their implementation. These pioneering documents are the first to focus on the role of religious leaders and actors in preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes and the first to develop context specific regional strategies with this objective. Implementation of the Plan of Action and regional action plans could contribute to the prevention of atrocity crimes worldwide, especially in areas affected by religious and sectarian tensions. I believe that implementation of the Plan of Action will also serve to advance the Secretary-General’s prevention agenda, and is most likely to succeed with the full support of relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders. I very much hope you will accept the invitation to be the keynote speaker at the reception in the evening.

I look forward to seeing you at the launch of the Plan of Action!

Dr. Liviu Olteanu  
Secretary General of the International Association  
for the Defense of Religious Liberty (IADRL/AIDLR)  
Switzerland

Adama Dieng  
Under-Secretary-General  
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General  
on the Prevention of Genocide

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<sup>1</sup> Regional consultation for Europe took place in September 2015; the MENA region, November 2015; the Americas, February 2016; and Africa, May 2016