



**Association internationale
POUR LA DÉFENSE DE LA LIBERTÉ RELIGIEUSE
International Association
FOR THE DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, NEW YORK & VIENNA
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Concluding Remarks of the AIDLR's Secretary General on Second Global Summit 'Religion, Peace and Security', held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva

Excellencies, Eminences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

After three days of debates and analyses, proposals and commitments to foster once more our journey to worldwide peace for the benefit of future generations, by paying attention to the call of the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, who urged "let us work together to prevent and end atrocity crimes and all affronts to human rights and human dignity" we have concluded the Second Global Summit on 'Religion, Peace and Security' which took place from 29 April to 1 May 2019 hosted in the emblematic Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room XX of the Palais des Nations.

I express my special gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General Special Adviser of the UN Secretary-General on Prevention of Genocide H.E. Mr. Adama DIENG for cooperating during all these years and specially for co-organizing together with me the First Global Summit hosted in 2016 and the Second Global Summit hosted in 2019 contributing for a better world with peace, respect, freedom and security. I thank to H.E. Mr. Michael MOLLER, Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, to the UN bodies and Member States, regional organizations, to diplomats, politicians, religious leaders, scholars and NGOs representatives for encouragements, support and inputs received previous to or during the Second Global Summit. Also I can't forget to thank here again to the former and the current Special Rapporteurs on Freedom of Religion or Belief: Dr. Heiner Bielefeldt and Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, also to Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice of Kingdom of Spain and to the University Complutense Madrid for their support, encouragement and co-sponsorship on organizing international conferences and global summits, based on 'Dialogue Five' framework suggested "to be copy" worldwide for the benefit of international peace, development and security.

In behalf of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (AIDLR) after many researches I initiated years ago this worldwide project and I co-organized the First and this timely Second Global Summit

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on Religion, Peace and Security with the UN Office of Genocide Prevention. I'm delighted by the outcome of the summit and for it I would like to express my thanks and sincere gratitude to you for your participation and active contribution as speaker and for your comments, inputs and interest on contributing that our dream for a better world with peace, respect, equality and human rights to become a reality. Also I trust that you was able to enjoy the summit and the opportunity to share with your 'neighbor' the good practices and lessons learned; I hope that based on the summit topic "Building Bridges, Fostering Inclusivity and Countering Hate Speech to Enhance the Protection of Religious Minorities, Refugees and Migrants", you as all attendees felt empowered to make the next step on the upward journey in this arena. We decided that it was crucial to make a positive contribution to a better world of harmony and security, and also aiming at supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - in particular Goals 16 and 17, which call respectively to uphold "peace, justice and strong institutions" and revitalize "the global partnership for sustainable development" and security too.

Based on the AIDLR background and my own expertise, since years ago I assumed to lead an international campaign based on my special frame researched, in favor of peace, security, religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all people, by organizing international conferences and summits, by working closely with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention – in whom I found a committed partner on common objectives, and also cooperating with many other entities and experts representing the UNESCO, the EU and other regional organizations, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Education and Culture. I committed to speak out, facing contemporary challenges and emphasizing prevention and preventive diplomacy as a key factor in the struggle against violence, genocide and extremism. I vehemently condemn violence, terrorism and genocide that affect civilians, religious or non-faith minorities, refugees and migrants, and I strongly express my disagreement with the manipulation of *religion* for political or religious benefit.

I address the need to foster non-discrimination of religious minorities, refugees and migrants by countering hate speech and encouraging the defense of religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all people. I strong believe that this can be achieved by building upon the AIDLR's initiative on the **International Platform on Religion, Peace and Security** that has been developed over many years. **The two global summits have been built upon the "Dialogue Five © framework"** - which was researched and authored by the AIDLR Secretary General and involved bringing together five influential 'actors': diplomats, politicians, religious leaders, academics and civil society representatives (including media, non-governmental organizations and others such as proposed recently on youth, business, etc.). If we want to see changes and implementation, the 'five different actors' –must partner with representatives at all levels including: national (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Education and Culture), regional (such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the African Union, the Organization of American States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, etc.) and international (United Nations and its bodies such as Office of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO, UNICEF, etc.) to cooperate and debate at the same table, and in a coordinated way, the major topics of international concern, such as the discrimination of religious minorities, refugees and migrants, the respect for differences, peace and security, etc.

We started the second summit proposing to all participants to spend two moments of meditation and prayer for peace and a successful outcome of the summit, and also of silence in memory of all victims of violence and terrorism that has affected civilians and our brother and sisters in humanity, such as the Jews in Pittsburg, United States, the Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, and the Christians in Sri Lanka, all congregations that suffered major injury and loss of life in unprovoked terrorist attacks that took place during their time of worship".

The AIDLR's video, 'Ambassadors for Liberty, Hope and Peace' (with same name of one of the AIDLR' journals), launched on the first day of the summit, targeted to provide to all of us much inspiration by describing the way the AIDLR founder, Jean Nussbaum, and the AIDLR presidents of its honorary committee – Eleanor Roosevelt, Albert Schweitzer, Paul Henry Spaak, René Cassin, Edgar Faure, Leopold Sédar Senghor, Mary Robinson and Adama Dieng. – valued the *dignity* of others and how they defended not a religion but the freedom of conscience and the principle of religious liberty for all people. The ADILR launched too during the summit three important books: "*Agents and Ambassadors for Peace*", "*Religious Freedom Influence for Peace and Security*" and "*Diplomacy and Education for Religious Freedom, A Priority for Public Policy*"; these last two books represent a summary of the first global summit from 2016,

and planned to constitute important tools of inspiration for all ‘Dialogue Five’ actors – starting with suggested good practices for Member States and religious leaders.

The ceremony of the “Award of Excellence, Ambassador for Liberty and Peace -Jean Nussbaum and Eleanor Roosevelt”, honoring the memory of the AIDLR founders and in recognition of the role played by many actors to promote peace, freedom, and defense of religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all people, took place too on the first day of the summit. In behalf of their work and commitment for peace and religious liberty, the following distinguished persons were honoured: His Eminence Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah, President of the Forum for Promoting Peace, from the United Arab Emirates; His Excellence Michael Møller, Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva; Rabbi Michael Melchior, Chairman of the Mosaica Center for Religious Conflict Transformation in the Middle East; Ms. Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, First Deputy Director of the OSCE/ODIHR; Professor Li Guodong, Calligraphy Artist for Peace from China; Dr. Ganoune Diop, Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Dr. Kishan Manocha, Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion and Belief at the OSCE.

The speakers’ messages and participants’ comments during all three days of summit were extremely well received, and I express our hearty congratulations to all of them.

The AIDLR by its Secretary General being convinced on its international role and responsibility to contribute on fostering peace, freedom of conscience and religious liberty for all people, assumed by huge efforts, amount of work and financial resources to be the main contributor of the organization of the global summit; for it the AIDLR tried to pay the travel and hotel of the speakers and other participants and wants to express many thanks specially to the United Nations Office of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect for its support on the conference room and many diplomatic and administrative issues; also the AIDLR thanks to ADRA, IIRF, LDS-C and BYU Law for financial support offered in behalf of the Global Summit.

Brothers and sisters in humanity,

As we expressed in the Concept Note of the Second Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security: Building Bridges, Fostering Inclusivity and Countering Hate Speech To Enhance the Protection of Religious Minorities and Migrants, and based on the proposals of participants – Member States, academics, religious leaders, UN bodies, regional, inter-governmental, non-governmental, organizations, media, youth, etc.- a Committee of Experts has started to work on a **Preliminary Framework for a Plan of Action: Towards a Roadmap for an International Platform on Religion, Peace and Security**. Updates and information on this Roadmap will be posted periodically at www.aidlr.org.

I conclude by thanking you again for joining the summit and I would like to underline to the end that *on the issue of human rights, development and peace, nothing of a political nature happens by accident* and quoting Adama Dieng “*We all have the responsibility to build bridges, address hate speech and foster inclusivity if we are really serious about leaving no one behind*”.

Dr. Liviu Olteanu
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Initiator and co-organizer of the Second Global Summit