

BAKU PROCESS

2008-2018

ADVANCING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE FOR
HUMAN SECURITY, PEACE AND SUSTAUNABLE DEVELOPMENT

“

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE THE “BAKU PROCESS” BEGUN TODAY
TO BE LONG-TERM PROCESS.

”

H.E MR. ILHAM ALIYEV
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

— ADVANCING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE FOR —
HUMAN SECURITY, PEACE AND SUSTAUNABLE DEVELOPMENT

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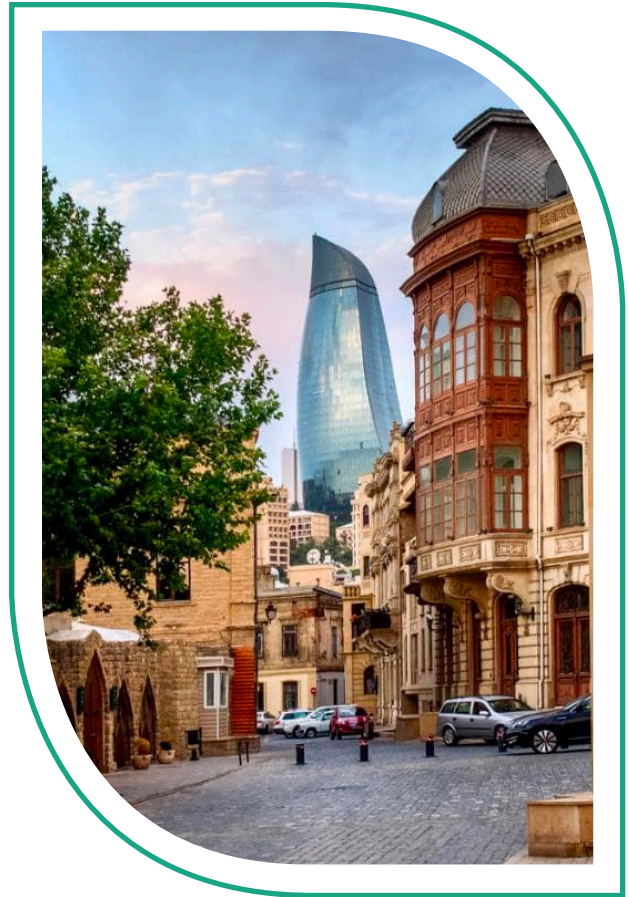
INTRODUCTION TO BAKU PROCESS AS A GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

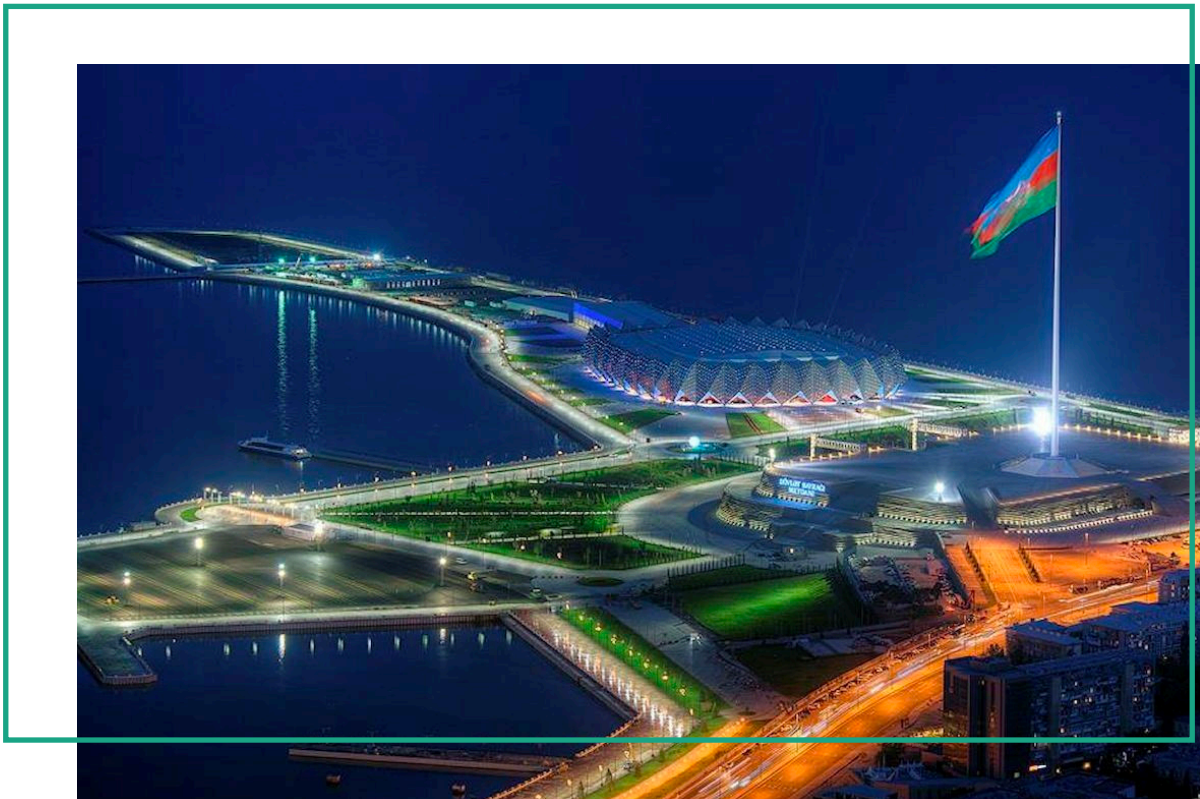
The ultimate goal for each nation-state is to build a safer and more secure and prosperous environment and world for its people where they will live in peace and harmony with each other and with other nation-states. And this has not always been a happy story; throughout history, the road leading to this goal has been challenged by clashes, conflicts and sometimes wars, ignited by negative ideologies, intolerance and even hatred.

Often this is made the more difficult because of a lack of mutual understanding of each other's culture, histories and traditions a lack of understanding that weakens all attempts to accommodate ideological differences and avert the animosity and intolerance. Despite the unprecedented progress reached in the most recent history of the human-kind, the same threats are still placing obstacles to the peaceful co-existence of nations and between people of different culture, religion or ethnicity. It is for this reality that we need to know more about what builds better understanding in the

world and the role of intercultural dialogue. In this context Azerbaijan is an example of a country very much committed to the promotion of intercultural dialogue both at home and all around the world and has already proved by concrete acts its intention to play an active role in building bridges and trust among civilizations and cultures using its multicultural experience and historical heritage.

Azerbaijan is a special and unique place where different cultures and civilizations meet at a crossroad between the East and West, North and South. With a foot in both Asia and Europe, and concurrent membership of both Islamic and European international organizations, Azerbaijan absorbs the values of the different civilizations, thus enabling it to assume a role as a genuine bridge.





Azerbaijan- a miraculous country of centuries-old culture, history and ancient communities, whose life-style presents a distinctive and harmonious combination of the traditions and ceremonies of different cultures and civilizations. The peculiarities of the historical development of Azerbaijan, its geographical position and the national composition of the population created favourable conditions for the spread of different religions and cultures in the country. Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and other religious and beliefs managed to spread over the country in different periods of time, interacted with one another and established the specific religious and cultural life in the country. Through this experience, Azerbaijan has built a culture of acceptance, tolerance, trust and confidence where people of difference of faith, be they Muslims, Jews and Christians enjoy peaceful coexistence and live with mutual respect for each other; and they have done so for centuries.

Azerbaijan was home to one of the earliest Christian communities in the world, a Christian community that helped to shape Azerbaijan's history through the ages. Today, this community remains an important and vibrant part of Azerbaijani culture and society. Living along side the Christian and Muslim communities is a thriving Jewish community of about 30,000 which too has a long heritage in Azerbaijan dating back over two thousand years. When, over the centuries, Jews in the surrounding regions found themselves persecuted, they found Azerbaijan to be a haven. The Jewish community, though small, has been an integral part of Azerbaijan's economic, cultural and political life, and today synagogues and Jewish schools flourish in the country. The three major religions have prospered because of the age-old respect and tolerance of the Azerbaijani people, who pride themselves on peaceful coexistence. But as the experience in different parts of the world shows, social tolerance is a necessary but not sufficient condition; communities can achieve even more with the active support of state actors; government that promotes tolerance and resists sectarianism. In this way we can begin to see a vision of shared security in which all sections of society, both state and non-state actors commit themselves to create positive relations within and between communities. Traditionally the notion of security has been dominated by the discourse of peace and war -where the military overshadows personal security. Here one nation's security is often at the expense of another. But we are interested in more than that -and our work has been focused on promoting dialogue, and as a result a stronger understanding of our common insecurities, our common vulnerabilities.

The Government of Azerbaijan has promoted this approach to shared security by creating an environment that nurtures and promotes the ancient traditions of tolerance, and rejects radicalism, extremism and hatred. Azerbaijan sees diversity as one of the country's great strengths and virtues, and has worked to ensure that this diversity continues to blossom.



The Government has built and rebuilt synagogues, mosques, and churches; created new cultural centres for different faiths; and financially supported all three religions without discrimination.

The government has repeatedly and proactively, over the course of the last decade, brought together political, cultural, religious leaders from the region and around the world to promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue – an example which is sorely needed in today's world.

Azerbaijan's historical, cultural and economic distinctiveness has developed the mentality of Azerbaijan people and the entirely population of the country has been forming during the centuries in the spirit of tolerance and respect to different cultures and nationalities. Azerbaijan mentality embodies Eurasian idea of intercultural and interreligious dialogue with eastern ideas of harmony and identity with and through diversity.

With this commitment and with Azerbaijan at the crossroads of different cultures and civilizations, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan initiated the "Baku Process" for the promotion of intercultural dialogue in 2008. The Baku Process comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage living on different continents, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect.

"Baku Process" was launched at the Conference of Ministers responsible for Culture which was held in Baku on December 2-3, 2008 on the theme of "Intercultural dialogue as a basis for peace and sustainable development in Europe and its neighbouring regions". The Conference was organized in partnership with the Council of Europe and was a very substantive initiative which placed emphasis on the importance of dialogue among cultures and civilizations as a reality of today's world and one of its important aspects. This event was the first of its kind, brought together the ministers of culture of the Council of Europe and the ministers of culture of number of Muslim countries which makes this Conference another major step in the development of dialogue and mutual understanding in the globalized world.

The conference highlighted the vital role of cultural policy and action in promoting understanding among different regions and cultures and provided a great opportunity to launch a Baku process as a sustainable process that will sponsor future high-level and practice-oriented meetings between key policy makers and practitioners in Europe and its neighbouring regions on initiatives related with intercultural dialogue.

Representatives of the 49 member states of the European Cultural Convention and of the Council of Europe bodies, representatives from selected mainly Mediterranean ALECSO/ ISESCO member states, senior officials from the Council of Europe, the European Commission, UNESCO, GUAM, TURKSOY, IRSICA, ICOMOS, ICCROM and other international organisations and foundations, European NGOs took part in the events in Baku. They were joined by leading international experts in the area of cultural policy, intercultural dialogue, heritage, and prominent figures from the arts/ cultural community. As the result of the conference Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue has been adopted and "Artists for dialogue" project was launched.

As a continuation of the "Baku Process", Government of Azerbaijan invited more than 10 states from Europe to participate at the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Culture of Islamic countries held in Baku on 13-15 October, 2009. According to the initiative of the Government of Azerbaijan, a Ministerial Roundtable on "Fostering Dialogue and Cultural Diversity – Baku Process: New Challenge for Dialogue between Civilizations" was organized among the member states of ISESCO and invited states from Europe in the first day of this conference, 13 October, 2009.

On the same occasion, the rest of speakers in this roundtable stressed the vital need to continue holding such meetings between the Islamic community and the European Community, to involve governments, peoples, states and cultures in this dialogue, to make the youth as the main target group of cooperation projects of the two blocs, and to focus the international efforts in this regard.



At the end of this ministerial roundtable, a Communiqué was adopted in which the participants reiterated their support for the joint efforts aimed at spreading the culture of cooperation, fair dialogue and mutual respect.

After the Islamic and European conferences Government of Azerbaijan decided to organize World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on 7–9 April, 2011 in Baku under patronage of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This initiative was declared by the President Mr. Ilham Aliyev at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (23 September 2010, New-York).

The Forum supported by prestigious international organizations as UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe, North–South Center of the Council of Europe, ISESCO was held in this format for the first time ever, was to advance the initiatives, realized by Azerbaijan in the sphere of intercultural dialogue, from regional context into the global level, and to establish a fully-functioning International Forum in the country. For the media, Euronews was an official media partner of the Forum.

Building on previous events held in the Azerbaijani capital on this theme and on the work developed by the stakeholder organisations in recent years, the Forum marked a strong recognition that intercultural dialogue is one of the most pressing challenges of our world and, indeed, one that increasingly manifests itself on a global scale. Baku, as a crossroads of religions, histories and civilizations and traditions where intercultural dialogue is a de facto aspect of everyday life, and where a relationship between Islam and modernity is in evidence, seemed a particularly appropriate place to ask difficult questions and look for promising answers. 500 representatives from 102 countries from all continents of the World - global public figures, heads of international organisations, heads of state or governments, ministers of culture and cultural ambassadors, parliamentarians and diplomats, mayors and other local-authority figures, representatives of non-governmental organisations and enterprises, media representatives and journalists, cultural experts and practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists participated at the forum. This synergy between political leaders and officials, experts and practitioners was encouraged by informal networking around the event. Euronews as a media partner promoted the forum through its broadcasting networks.

The Forum examined the barriers to dialogue and tackled, as concretely as possible, the issue of how dialogue can best be pursued in diverse contexts under the motto - "United Through Common Values, Enriched by Cultural Diversity". Plenary sessions and workshops on the topics of the role of culture and cultural diversity, education, faith and religious, journalism and social media, science, women, youth, heritage and cities were held in the framework of the Forum.

The now-named 5 A - Intercultural Cooperation Platform was established at the Forum, which attracted wide attention for its scope of discussion items. Bearing in mind the Azerbaijani language acronym of the first letters of the five continents, represented with large delegations at the event - "Avropa, Asiya, Amerika, Afrika, Avstraliya", the new platform was symbolically named the "5 A's". After this successful first Forum, the Government of Azerbaijan decided to organize World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue once every two years according to the decree signed by Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in May, 2011.

From May 29 to June 01, in 2013 Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe, ISESCO, North-South Center of the Council of Europe organized 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku. 600 representatives from 115 countries from all continents, head of governments, former presidents, ministers, mayors, representative of many international organization, NGOs, media representatives, scholars, experts and etc. participated in the Forum

The 2nd World Forum has used its convening power to create space for effective and meaningful dialogue on cultural diversity and intercultural cooperation. By working within the existing global context, the Forum has positioned itself alongside its partners, each of whom is responding to the challenges and opportunities that cultural diversity brings to communities and for social cohesion.

The Forum brought together significant local/national and global stakeholders. It combined plenary discussions on the overarching theme of the Forum - Living together peacefully in a diverse world - with sector-specific workshops promoting agendas of the partner organisations. - "How to build the world future together?", "How to build the popular support for cultural diversity?", "The New Era of Globalization: Hybridity of cultures in changing world", "Supporting Intercultural Actions" and side events prepared and led by partner organizations, including

Intercultural Innovation Award ceremony for Central Asia, Black Sea and Mediterranean regions, conference of "Global intercultural cities learning community", the workshop "Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges", the sessions of "Tourism as a key driver of mutual understanding and tolerance among cultures", intercultural dialogue through faith and science" etc.

Side events at the Forum included the first summit of the Alumni Network of the UNAOC Fellowship; the UNAOC "Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion" campaign; UNESCO "Writing Peace" exhibition and etc.

The "Living Together Peacefully in a Diverse World" competition prizes as a joint project of Azerbaijan and UN Alliance of Civilizations were also awarded during the Forum, to outstanding projects run by not-for-profit organisations in Arab and Central Asian countries that have proven positive results and are protecting and enhancing cultural diversity.

For the first time the Conference of Ministers responsible for both fields - culture and tourism was held in the framework of the 2nd World Forum.

International cultural events namely, "Presentation of films about world nations ethnic and traditional music" in the National Seaside Park (Baku Boulevard), "Multicultural music exchange" composition, "Colors of life" - exhibition by an outstanding German artist Inga Smith, "Dance in Yanardagh" - performance by best known Japan Butoh artists Ko Murobushi were held.

Ballet of "Gobustan shadows" has been developed on the occasion of the 2nd World Forum as a special open-air show on the backdrop of the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape where was inscribed in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage in 2007. This piece of art reflects the building-up of a human collective able not only to learn about nature and make better living conditions, but also to transcend the utilitarian needs for warmth and food through creativity and memory.

Under patronage of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UN Alliance of Civilizations, UNESCO, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe (including the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe) and ISESCO, the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was held on May 18-19, 2015 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

The 3rd World Forum under the motto of "Sharing Culture for Shared Security" focused on the theme: "Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda", with a view to mark the celebration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21st May). The role of culture, heritage, religions, faiths or beliefs, migration, sport, education, art, business, among others, will be addressed in this regard to address new trends and challenges for intercultural dialogue, using the timely framework offered by the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), proclaimed by the United Nations.

In support of these celebrations, the three plenary sessions sponsored discussion on: "Sharing Culture for Shared Security: Cultural rights in the modern age", "Countering Violent Extremism: the Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Religious Pluralism and Advancing Shared Well-being" and "Shaping common global agenda: Role of International organizations in building trust and understanding between cultures". The theme of the 3rd World Forum reflects the significance of global security in 2015 and the global attention

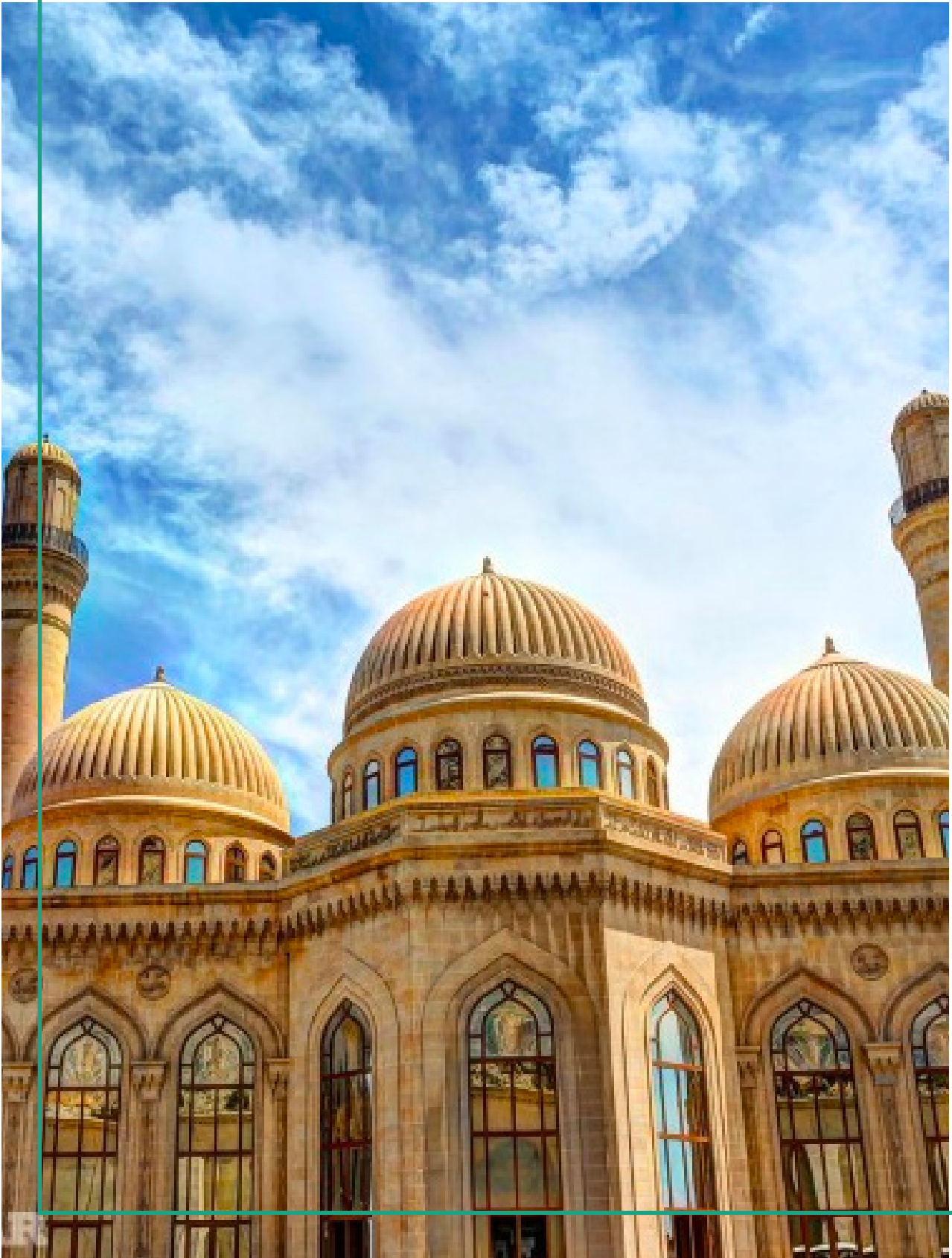
placed on the security of vulnerable people at a time of significant human insecurity.

The Forum also hosted the second Ministerial Conference on "Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda", the first meeting of the new Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and a book launch of the UNESCO-Tudor Rose publication entitled "Agree to Differ" were among the important side events.

The outcomes of the Baku Forum will feed back into UNESCO's work on intercultural dialogue and support the development of future strategic and programmatic action lines, including in the context of the UN Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)

The World Forums organized so far have created new opportunities for stakeholders to meet, exchange and share experience and to reinforce the 'strong will' called for in President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev's opening remarks at the 2015 Forum. "Today, representatives of all the religions, ethnic groups live in Azerbaijan and contribute to the successful development of our country. I think this is one of our biggest assets. And we are proud of that.



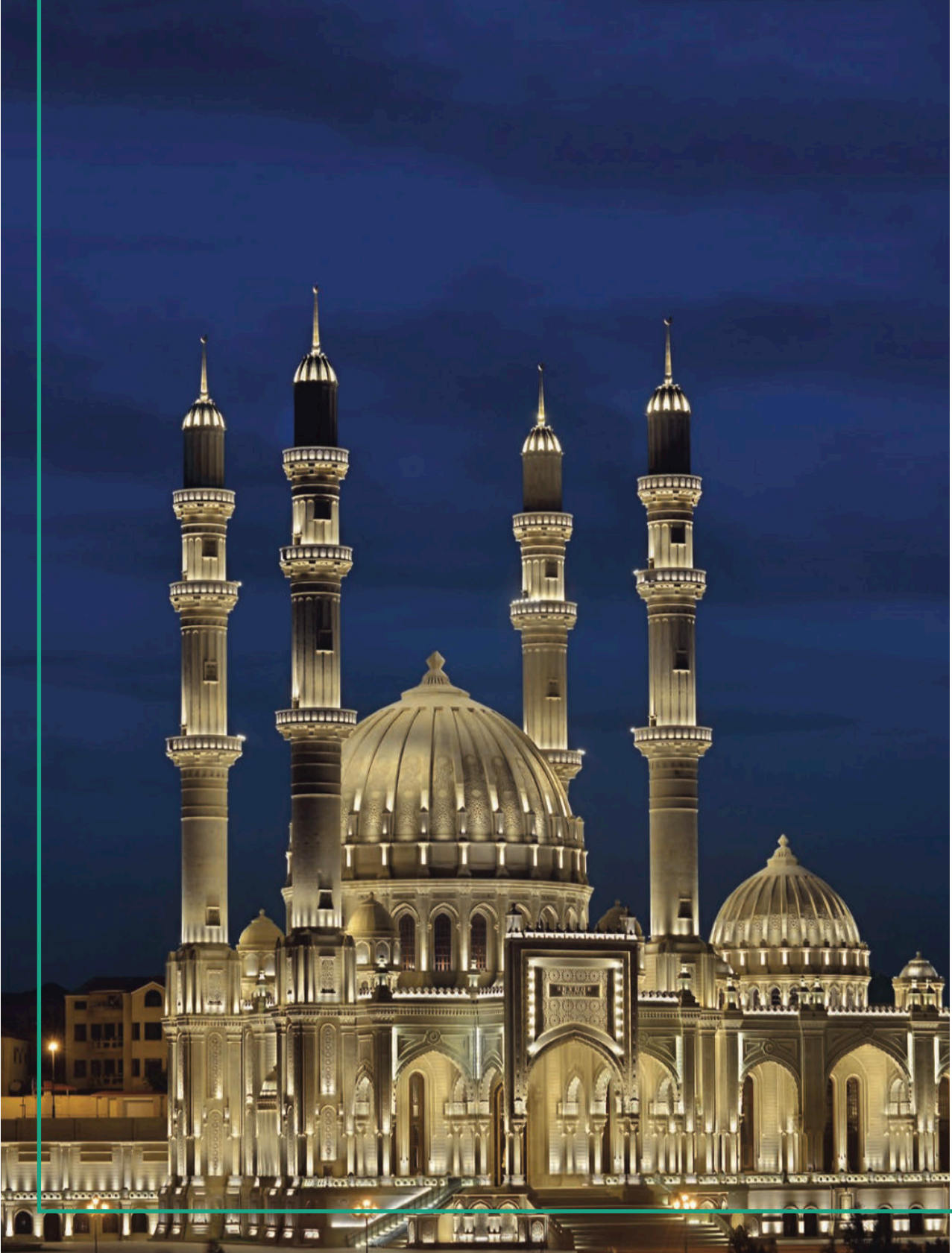


Therefore we organize numerous international events to promote the values of multi-culturalism, values of peaceful cooperation, mutual understanding. I think the world needs this kind of events, needs open discussions, exchange of views in order to strengthen the positive tendencies.”

By bringing together heads of governments, ministers, heads of various international organizations, senior policy makers, cultural professionals, goodwill ambassadors, experts, journalists, practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists, the World Forums have become an international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organisations around the globe to take concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding among nations by raising awareness on the importance of intercultural dialogue worldwide.

Therefore the Baku Process has made a noteworthy contribution to contemporary challenges of living together peacefully by stressing the importance of intercultural dialogue. The Baku Process creates opportunity for global conversations between state and non-state actors and stresses the importance, above all, of practical actions and collaborations.





CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE IN EUROPE AND ITS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

“Intercultural dialogue as a basis for peace and sustainable development in Europe and its neighbouring regions”

2-3 December 2008, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Conference of Ministers responsible for Culture was held in Baku on 2 and 3 December 2008 on the theme of “Intercultural dialogue as a basis for peace and sustainable development in Europe and its neighbouring regions”. The Conference is organized together with the Council of Europe.

This conference was a very substantive initiative which clearly illustrated that dialogue among cultures and civilizations is indeed a reality of today’s world and one of its important aspects. This event was the first of its kind, brought together the ministers of culture of the Council of Europe and the ministers of culture of number of ISESCO member states which makes this Conference another major step in the development of dialogue and mutual understanding in the globalized world.

The conference highlighted the vital role of cultural policy and action in fostering understanding among different regions, cultures and provided a great opportunity to launch a sustainable process that will include future high-level and practice oriented meetings between key cultural policy makers and operators in Europe and its neighbouring regions on initiatives related with intercultural dialogue. The Baku Ministerial Conference has offered a key opportunity to follow up the Council of Europe “White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue” and its recommendations, including on how Europe engages in dialogue with its neighbours.

The representatives of the 49 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention and of the Council of Europe bodies, representatives from selected mainly Mediterranean ALECSO/ ISESCO member states, senior officials from the Council of Europe, the European Commission, UNESCO, GUAM, TURKSOY, IRSICA, ICOMOS, ICCROM and other international organisations and foundations, European NGOs as well as leading international experts in the area of cultural policy, intercultural dialogue, heritage, and prominent figures from the arts/ cultural community took part in the events in Baku. As the result of the conference Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue has been adopted and “Artists for dialogue” project was launched.







MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ON “FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY – BAKU PROCESS:

13 October 2009, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

As a continuation of the “Baku Process” for intercultural dialogue launched in December 2008, Government of Azerbaijan invited more than 10 states from Europe to participate at the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Culture of Islamic countries held in Baku on 13-15 October, 2009. The idea of round table was put forward at the conference of the Ministers of Culture of the European countries on December 2-3, 2008 in Baku and is implemented within the framework of Baku Process of Cross-Culture Dialogue founded in that conference. According to the initiative of the Government of Azerbaijan, a Ministerial Roundtable on “Fostering Dialogue and Cultural Diversity – Baku Process: New Challenge for Dialogue between Civilizations” was organized among the member states of ISESCO and invited states from Europe in the first day of this conference, 13 October, 2009. The roundtable was moderated by H.E Mr Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and H.E. Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director General of ISESCO. In this roundtable, the representative of the Council of Europe expressed the European Community’s desire to enhance North-South cooperation through concrete initiatives, and invited ISESCO and its Member States to further their cooperation relations with the Council, to attend the meetings and conferences it organizes and to contribute to the cultural projects favouring the materialization of the objectives specified in the Working Document of the ministerial roundtable and relevant documents. On the same occasion, the rest of speakers in this roundtable stressed the vital need to continue holding such meetings between the Islamic community and the European Community, to involve governments, peoples, states and cultures in this dialogue, to make the youth as the main target group of cooperation projects of the two blocs, and to focus the international efforts in this regard on caring for cultural heritage, cultural works and cultural property wherever they are endangered. At the end of this ministerial roundtable, a Communiqué was adopted in which the participants reiterated their support for the joint efforts aimed at spreading the culture of cooperation, fair dialogue and mutual respect.

Participants of the roundtable emphasized the necessity to promote bilateral, regional and international co-operation between official bodies, governmental organizations and local community institutions through the encouragement of the free movement of ideas and persons, and the entrenching of the principles of mutual acquaintance and solidarity to transfer and share leading expertise and experience in the Communiqué.







1ST WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

UNITED THROUGH COMMON VALUES, ENRICHED BY CULTURAL DIVERSITY

1ST

7-9 APRIL, 2011

BAKU, REPUBLIC of AZERBAIJAN



1st WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

PROGRAMME

10:30-12:00 OPENING SESSION: "TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT DIVIDING LINES"

10:30 - 10:40 Film presentation

10:40 - 12:00 Welcoming speeches by:

- 1. H.E MR. ILHAM ALIYEV**, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 2. MR. MEVLUT CHAVUSHOGLU**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- 3. MR. ABDULAZIZ OTHMAN ALTWAIJRI**, Director General of ISESCO
- 4. MR. HANS D'ORVILLE**, Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning of UNESCO
- 5. MR. MARC SCHEUER**, Executive Director of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat
- 6. MR. JEAN-PAUL CARTERON**, President and Founder of Crans Montana Forum

RAPPORTEUR: MR. VICTOR ANGELO, Former Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General, Portugal

12:00 - 12:30 Photograph of Forum Participants

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch in the Gulustan Palace

14:00 - 14:10 Announcement of the Programme

MR. ABULFAS GARAYEV, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

14:10 - 16:00 FIRST SESSION: INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Co-Chairs:

- 1. MR. ELMAR MAMMADYAROV**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 2. MR. JEAN CHRISTOPHE BAS**, Senior Advisor, Strategic Development and Partnerships, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

RAPPORTEUR: MR. GUNNAR MANDT, Advisor of European Wergeland Center

PANELISTS:

1. **MR. PAN GUANG**, Professor and Vice-Chairman of Shanghai Centre for International Studies, China
2. **MS. KATÉRINA STENO**, Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO
3. **MS. CATHERINE FIESCHI**, Counterpoint British Council, UK
4. **MS. DARLA DEARDORFF**, Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators, Duke University, USA
5. **MR. EBERHARD KOELSCH**, Vice-chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Chair of NSC Think-Tank Respondents
6. **MR. ABDULAZIZ BIN MOHAYIDDIN** Khoca, Minister of Culture and Information, Saudi Arabia
7. **MR. WALTER SCHWIMMER**, World Public Dialogue of Civilizations, Former Secretary-General Council of Europe, Austria
8. **MR. BRANISLAV MICUNOVIC**, Minister of Culture, Montenegro
9. **MR. HAMAD BIN ABD AL AZIZ AL KAWARI**, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Qatar
10. **MS. NATHALIE GOULET**, Member of Parliament, France
11. **MR. TARIQ H. CHEEMA**, CEO of World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists
12. **MR. FRANCISCO VEIGA** Director of Culture, Municipality of Lisbon, Head of Anna Lindh Foundation Network in Portugal, Portugal
13. **MR. KAMRAN LMANOV**, Chairman of State Copyright Agency, Azerbaijan
14. **MS. GULSHAN PASHAYEVA**, Deputy director of Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
15. **MR. EVGENY NOVOZHILOV**, Deputy Chairman of Executive Committee Commonwealth of Independent States

15:30 - 16:00 Debates

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 - 18:00 SECOND SESSION: "MAKING DIALOGUE MEANINGFUL: CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE"

CO-CHAIRS:

1. **MR. ABULFAS GARAYEV**, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. **MR. ROBERT PALMER**, Director of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Council of Europe

RAPPORTEUR:

1. **MR. ROBIN WILSON**, expert

PANELISTS:

1. **MS. LEILA GHANDI**, Writer, Photographer, Film-maker, Morocco
2. **MR. RAMAZAN ABDULATIPOV**, Rector of Moscow State University of Culture and Art, Russian Federation
3. **MS. BASMA EL HUSSEINY**, Director of Al Mawred Al Thaqafy, Egypt
4. **MS. FRANCINE MARIE JEANNE HOUBEN**, Director of Mecanoo Architecten, Netherlands

RESPONDENTS:

1. **MR. DUSEN KASEINOV**, TURKSOY secretary general
2. **MR. NORBERT RIEDL**, Head of Department for bi and multilateral Cultural Affair of the Federal Ministry of Culture, Art and Education, Austria
3. **MS. SARMITE ELERTE**, Minister of Culture, Latvia
4. **MR. KARL-ERIK NORRMAN**, Secretary General of European Cultural Parliament
5. **MR. LAZARUS DOKORA**, Deputy Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Zimbabwe
6. **MR. MIKAYIL JABBAROV**, Chief of the Old City State Historic Architectural Reserve, Azerbaijan

Debates

18:30 Departure from the Gulustan Palace

19:00-20:00 Arrival to the Heydar Aliyev Palace

Cultural evening

- Performance of "Tale of the Wind" by Azerbaijani and Lithuanian artists in the framework of the project "Dia- logue of Culture Capitals".

20:15 - 22:00 Welcoming dinner at Yacht Club

Friday, 08 April, 2011

08:45 Departure from the Hotels 09:15 Arrival to the Gulustan Palace

09:30 - 11:30 THIRD SESSION: "WOMEN AS KEY AGENTS OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE"

CO-CHAIRS:

1. **MRS. MEHRIBAN ALIYEVA**, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, UNESCO and ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador, the member of Milli Majlis, Azerbaijan
2. **MS. KATÉRINA STENO**, Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO

RAPPORTEUR:

1. **MS. PRAMILA PATTEN**, CEDAW expert

PANELISTS:

1. **MS. HIJRAN HUSEYNOVA**, Chairperson of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan
2. **MS. S.Y.ORLOVA**, Deputy chair of Council of Parliament of Russian Federation
3. **MS. RACHIDA DATI**, Mayor of the 7th arrondissement of Paris, France
4. **MS. WENDY LEEDS-HURWITZ**, Director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue, USA

5. **MS. CONCEPCION OLAVARRIETA**, Chair of the Mexican Node of the Millennium Project, Mexico
6. **MS. MBARKA BOUAIDA**, Member of Parliament, Morocco
7. **MR. ALEXANDER AGEEV**, General Director of Institute of Economic Strategies, department of humanitarian sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation

RESPONDENTS:

1. **MS. CONCEPCION OLAVARRIETA**, Chair of the Mexican Node of the Millennium Project, Mexico
2. **MR. SAYED MAKHDOOM** Raheen, Minister of Information and Culture, Afghanistan
3. **MS. ANNA-MARIE LIZIN**, Honorary Speaker of the senate of Kingdom of Belgium
4. **MS. GIULI ALASANIA**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Georgia
5. **MS. TUGBA KALAFATOGLU**, Founder and President of VOTE Women in Politics, Turkey
6. **MS. NATALIA MOLEBATSI**, Library Marketing Coordinator University of South Africa, South Africa
7. **MS. ROSA ALEGRIA**, Co chair of Brazilian Node at the millennium Project, Brasil
8. **MS. BIBI BAKARE-YUSUF**, Publishing Director of Cassava Republic Press, Nigeria
9. **MS. RACHIDA DATI**, Mayor of the 7th arrondissement of Paris, France
10. **MS IFIGENIA KATSARIDOU**, Director General at the Research Center on Gender Equality Issues, Greece
11. **MRS. MARGHERITA COSTA**, Honorary council of Azerbaijan Genova Torino Milano, Italy
12. **MR. BILAL RABAIA BILAL ALBUDOOR**, Ministry of Culture and Youth Assistant Under Secretary, United Arab Emirates

Debates

11:30 -12:00 Coffee break

12:00-13:30 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS:

THEMATIC WORKSHOP 1: "DIALOGUE BETWEEN AND AMONG THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS"

CO-CHAIRS:

1. **MR. DENIS HUBER**, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
2. **MR. HIDAYAT ORUJOV**, Chair of State Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

PANELISTS:

1. **DR. MARCUS BRAYBROOKE**, Co-founder of Three Faiths Forum, UK
2. **MS. ZEYNO BARAN**, US scholar and author of "The Other Muslims: Moderate and Secular", USA
3. **MR. FRANCISCO VEIGA**, Head of Anna Lindh Foundation Network in Portugal

RESPONDENTS:

1. **MR. SALMAN MUSAYEV**, Deputy Head of the Muslim Board for the Caucasus, Azerbaijan
2. **MR. ALEXANDR ISHEIN**, The Eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church in Baku and the Caspian region
3. **MR. SEMYON IKHILOV**, Head of the Religious Community of Mountainous Jews
4. **MR. TARIQ SALIM MASARWA**, Minister of Culture, Jordan
5. **MR. TAHER NASER MAHMOOD AL HAMMOOD**, Deputy Minister of Culture, Iraq
6. **MR. VLADIMIR FETEKE**, Superior of Roman-Catholic Church, Azerbaijan



Debates

THEMATIC WORKSHOP 2: "THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA AND JOURNALISM IN CROSS CULTURAL RELATIONS"

CO-CHAIRS:

1. **MR. NEIL O'REILLY**, Head of the media service, Euronews

PANELISTS:

1. **MR. KADER ABDERRAHIM**, California University, USA
2. **MR. FRANCIS PISANI**, Le Media A Paris, France
3. **MS. SOLANA LARSEN**, Managing Editor/ Global Voices Online, USA

RESPONDENTS:

1. **MR. KADER ABDERRAHIM**, Associate Dean of the California University, USA
2. **MR. FRANCIS PISANI**, Le Media A Paris, France
3. **MR. ASIM MOLLAZADE**, Member of National Parliament, Azerbaijan
4. **MR. ELMIR VALIZADEH**, Deputy Minister of Communication and Information Technologies, Azerbaijan
5. **MR. ABEL ENRIQUE PRIETO JIMENEZ**, Minister of Culture, Cuba
6. **MR. YASHAR GULUZADE**, Editor-in-chief of State Information Agency, Azerbaijan

Debates

13:30 - 15:00 Lunch in the Gulustan Palace

15:00 - 16:30 PARALLEL EVENTS:

Event A: PRESENTATION OF CONCRETE INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS THAT FOSTERING INTER-CULTURAL DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

CHAIR:

1. **MR. CHRIS BASHINELLI**, Bridge the Gap TV, USA

PRESENTERS:

1. **MR. SHAHZAD MUHAMMAD**, Executive Director-Chanan Development Association (CDA), Pakistan
2. **MS. SARA REEF**, USA
3. **MR. MANAL ELATIR**, Director Middle East Partnership Initiative and President IMDAD for social entrepreneurship, Morocco
4. **MR. WANJIRU KAMAU-RUTENBERG**, Presidente Akili Dada , Kenya
5. **MR. PECE GORGIESKI**, President Unity in Diversity, Australia
6. **MS IRENA GUIDIKOVA**, Council of Europe (Intercultural Cities)

EVENT B: "Managing Diversity in Cities: towards intercultural urban policies" Presented by the "Intercultural Cities" programme (ICC), joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission

CHAIR:

1. **MR. PHIL WOOD**, author of "Intercultural Cities" project, UK

RAPPORTEUR:

1. **MS. IRENA GUIDIKOVA**, Coordinator of the "Intercultural Cities" programme, Council of Europe

PANELISTS:

1. **MS. MANUELA JÚDICE**, City Council of Lisbon, Portugal

2. **MS. MARIA ROSA MARQUEZ CABRERA**, Minister for Rural Development and Equality, Mexico City, Mexico

3. **MR. ALEXANDER A. USHAKOV**, Chairman of the City Council of Izhevsk, Russia

4. **MR. SERHIY VALTER**, Mayor of the City of Melitopol, Ukraine

5. **MR. WŁODZIMIERZ WYSOCKI**, Deputy Mayor of the City of Lublin, Poland

16:30- 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 - 17:30 Closing ceremony

- Brief distillation of key conclusions by rapporteur-general, Ms. Catherine Fieschi, Counterpoint British Council, UK

- Closing comments by Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

17:30 -18:00 Press conference

18:00 Departure from the Gulustan Palace

19:00 - 21:00 Dinner with special concert programme in the Buta Palace/ Presentation of the winners of the photographic competition on intercultural dialogue

SIDE EVENTS

A) "FIRST CONVENTION OF THE GLOBAL YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS"

B) "TRADITIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN CIS MEMBER COUNTRIES: CULTURE, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION"

C) "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: "CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND PHILOSOPHY OF DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD"

Free cultural programme and departure

CONCEPT NOTE

WORLD FORUM FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE ON 7-9 APRIL, 2011 IN BAKU

Based on the global agenda on the Dialogue among Civilisations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (November 2001), the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was issued by ISESCO in 2004, Declaration and Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue (May 2008), Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue Government of Azerbaijan initiated to host the **World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue on 7-9 April, 2011 in Baku** under patronage of **H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan** in the framework of the Baku process launched at the Conference of Ministers responsible for Culture in Europe and its neighbouring regions (December, 2008). The aim of the "Baku process" is to establish a platform in which today's challenges can be discussed in the spirit of intercultural dialogue and universal values.

Why in Azerbaijan?

Azerbaijan is one of the unique places where different cultures and civilizations meet at the crossroad between the East and the West, the North and the South. At the same time, being a member of both Islamic and European organizations Azerbaijan absorbs the values of both civilizations, thus enabling it to assume a role of genuine bridge. This is not casual that many international conferences - the Conference of Ministers of Culture of Europe and its neighbouring regions (December, 2008), the Conference on Role of Women in Cross-Cultural Dialogue (June, 2008) the Conference of Culture Ministers of Islamic Countries (October, 2009), the Ministerial Roundtable on "Fostering Dialogue and Cultural Diversity - Baku Process: New Challenge for Dialogue between Civilizations", the Conference of Culture Ministers of Turkic Speaking Countries (October, 2009), a Summit of World Religious Leaders (April, 2010) were organized in Baku.

Why intercultural dialogue?

As that worrisome challenge has risen up the political agenda, the notion of 'intercultural dialogue' has emerged as a simple and clear description of the requirement of the moment. The risk is the perpetual division of society and the international community into various versions of a collectivised 'self' and 'other', defined along lines of religion, skin colour, language or nationality, or some combination of these. And the solution must entail a breaking down of such stereotyped identities through genuine talking, and listening, by individuals, NGOs, governments and transgovernmental organisations.

Even though this is a novel line of inquiry, a significant body of understanding and good practice has developed, perhaps consolidated to the greatest extent to date in the 2008 White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue produced by the Council of Europe and subsequently translated into several languages. But this is a challenge on a global, not just a European, scale—not only in the sense that no part of the world is immune from cultural intolerance but also in that globalisation has had a 'dark side'. In engendering a world of much greater, and ever-increasing, uncertainty,

it has paradoxically enhanced the appeal of authoritarian and populist forces anxious that the global 'we' of the world's teeming arrivals lounge should be reduced to the reassuring antagonism of 'us' against 'them'.

Intercultural dialogue is currently a concern of the United Nations (particularly through the Alliance of Civilizations and UNESCO), of the Council of Europe (and its partner North-South Centre) and a range of other transnational organisations: the European Union, ALECSO, ISESCO, the Anna-Lindh Euro-Med Foundation for dialogue between cultures and so on. It is also a concern of governments, particularly as they have found that the old models of managing cultural diversity—of assimilationism or multiculturalism—no longer seem adequate to an increasing challenge. And it is a pressing issue for NGOs, for businesses and for cultural practitioners on the ground. So how can this vast array of manifestations of dialogue be conducted so that it sounds like an orchestra rather than just a cacophony of noise?

There is thus a need to map out what a world without dividing lines would look like and how it can be realised. It is in this context that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue will take stock of where, as a global community, we find ourselves in 2011 in addressing the challenge and try to define lines of development for the future. Since this is a work of exploration, and in the spirit of intercultural dialogue, it will be a participatory event, with several themes in play.

First, there is work to be done in clarifying the concept. There is, to date, only one recent academic volume elaborating the idea of intercultural dialogue as such and the challenge posed by aggressive nationalism, racism and xenophobia and other forms of intolerance can only be met with intellectual rigour from the other side. Defining more exactly what intercultural dialogue is, and does, and the context in which it takes place is thus one line of inquiry. Should, for example, there be an institute, in a higher education institution or consortium of institutions, specifically tasked with this work of academic broadening and deepening, in an internationalist spirit and a cross-disciplinary manner?

Secondly, intercultural dialogue can not succeed if it is purely ethereal. And breaking down the division between the 'self' and the 'other' necessitates a capacity to stand back and see oneself from the standpoint of the 'other'. Here then are two key reasons for a focus on how cultural activities in the narrow sense—like writing, and reading, a novel for instance—can contribute to intercultural dialogue. Such activities can appeal to the same visceral emotions as do those who reject dialogue, but in a positive way, and at best they can encourage a capacity for reflection, by presenting other roles and possibilities which might be difficult for the average citizen to create in their own mind. So culture as practice, as well as culture as domain, is worthy of further discussion.

Thirdly, we need to know more about what makes for success in intercultural dialogue. Although we are all different, there is something in common and nothing brings us closer to each other than the community of moral values and ethics. So best practices making this dialogue feasible is to identify these basic values that run through and are inherent to all cultures and beliefs.

Last but not least, intercultural dialogue can never be really meaningful if it is confined to political elites (and international conferences). How can citizens at large be inspired to engage in it 'spontaneously'? One particular

focus might be on the roles women can, do, might or should play in taking part in, and facilitating, dialogue. This is partly because issues of gender equality keep coming up in intercultural conversations. It is partly also because common experiences as women may create bonds between female citizens of differing cultural backgrounds, on which foundation intercultural dialogue can more readily take place. Yet women are often in subordinate positions in the social hierarchy. So how can their participation in dialogue be enhanced? Specific emphasis should also be put to the role of the youth as a potential driving force in intercultural dialogue, taking due account of the fact that the youth frequently serves as both the target and instrument for certain political forces which do not pursue lofty goals.

These considerations have informed the programme for the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, to ensure that it adds value significantly to the dialogue on dialogue. If it proves to be a success, it may become only the first of an annual or biennial series. This would address a significant 'co-ordination dilemma'.

Apart from possible initiatives suggested above, a current World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue to be held in Baku on 7-9 April, 2011 could provide a regular opportunity simply for contacts to be made and exchanges to be arranged. The Baku Global Forum programme has thus also been constructed to allow for meetings of cognate groups on the day before the event and for informal networking around its margins. The list of invitees has also been developed to ensure a highly diverse group of individuals, in every sense, comes together at the event. Encounters may well be of as much or even greater value when individuals working in different sectors, rather than different global regions, get the opportunity to 'exchange notes' on their experiences.

The forum will also provide a platform for the launch of new practical initiatives. For example, key actors in inter-cultural dialogue are urban municipalities, for a number of reasons. Negatively, intercultural conflicts are heavily concentrated in cities around the world: ethnic riots are very largely urban phenomena. More positively, local authorities are closer to the ground than national governments and may be more cognisant with the particular intercultural concerns which stem from their demographic composition. They may also have more credibility in dealing with these problems and have more face-to-face connections with NGOs and the level of the street. These factors explain the success to date of the Intercultural Cities pilot project developed by the Council of Europe in partnership with the European Union. So the Baku World Forum aims to be a 'talking shop'—in the best possible, rather than pejorative, sense of that phrase.



1st WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

UNITED THROUGH COMMON VALUES, ENRICHED BY CULTURAL DIVERSITY

7-9 APRIL, 2011

BAKU, REPUBLIC of AZERBAIJAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, held April 7-9 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan was an initiative of the Government of Azerbaijan supported by UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, Council of Europe, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and SESCO. Building on previous events held in the Azerbaijani capital on this theme and on the corpus of work developed by the stakeholder organisations in recent years, the forum marks a recognition that intercultural dialogue is one of the most pressing challenges of our world and, indeed, one that increasingly manifests itself on a global scale.

The forum addressed the conceptual, governance, policy and practical aspects of the challenge of intercultural dialogue. It examined the barriers to dialogue and tackled, as concretely as possible, the issue of how dialogue can best be pursued in diverse contexts.

Holding the World Forum in Azerbaijan, under the auspices of President Aliyev, was no accident: This was where the Baku process began in 2008 with the meeting of the Conference of the Council of Europe. It was also where the ISESCO ministerial conference was held in 2009. Finally, Baku, as a crossroads of religions, histories and civilizations and traditions where intercultural dialogue is a de facto aspect of everyday life, and where a relationship between Islam and modernity is in evidence, seemed a particularly appropriate place to ask difficult questions and look for promising answers. The forum attracted the participation of global public figures, heads of international organisations, heads of state or governments, ministers of culture and cultural ambassadors, parliamentarians and diplomats, mayors and other local-authority figures, representatives of non-governmental organisations and enterprises, media representatives and journalists, cultural experts and practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists. This synergy between political leaders and officials, experts and practitioners was encouraged by informal networking around the event. Euronews as a media partner promoted the forum through its broadcasting networks.

II. Key conclusions:

- What needs to be highlighted now is what we share rather than what divides us
- Education is the cornerstone of any process of intercultural dialogue
- While it is important to recognise that some problems require political and economic solutions, intercultural dialogue can play a role in securing the basic understanding and cooperation necessary for political and economic action
- Women play a key role in intercultural dialogue and it must be supported
- Interreligious dialogue is a part of intercultural dialogue
- New media and social media are intrinsic to contemporary intercultural dialogue and more must be done to encourage an understanding of their use and potential
- Cities are sites of challenge but also laboratories of innovation

III. Key recommendations:

- To embrace a conception of culture that promotes creativity and change
- To implement the CEDAW process and make the most of existing institutional and legal constraints to promote and protect the role of women in intercultural dialogue
- To refrain from using culture to justify discrimination and violence

IV. Key commitments

- To turn the World Forum into a regular event
- To use appropriate means to place cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue higher on the international agenda

V. OPENING PLENARY



H.E MR ILHAM ALIYEV
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was opened by H.E Mr Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr Mevlut Chavushoghlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajjri, Director General of ISESCO, Mr Hans D'Orville, Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning of UNESCO, Mr Marc Scheuer, Executive Director of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Secretariat, Mr Jean-Paul Carteron, President and Founder of Crans Montana Forum.

The session began with a film presentation illustrating cultural diversity in Azerbaijan. It also revealed the many facets of a country that is on a rapid road toward modernization.

Following the film, H.E Mr Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomed participants and expressed his confidence in the results of the Forum to promote intercultural dialogue. 'History has shown that Baku has always been a point of convergence for different religions' explained Mr Aliyev, and state policies promote both freedom of conscience and understanding between citizens. Mr Aliyev stressed his intention to make the World Forum a regular event. Islamic values are at the core of Azerbaijani culture, but the country is very much linked to the West: this, stressed Mr Aliyev, makes Azerbaijan a bridge between East and West and a centre for intercultural dialogue.

The economy of Azerbaijan is one of fast growing economies in the world—and this sets the stage for social transformations. While this sort of globalization is a positive trend, it should be seen as an opportunity to bring people closer. But this is not an easy task (the President mentioned the occupation of Azeri lands by Armenia and he stressed the need to implement the Security Council's resolutions on the matter) and the Forum must outline additional proposals to overcome difficulties in dialogue.

Mr Aliyev expressed the wish for the Forum to have a long-lasting impact and thanked the participants for their attendance.



MR MEVLUT CAVUSOGLU
PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Mr Çavuşoğlu re-iterated that intercultural dialogue was one of the most pressing issues in the world today. And stressed that Europe had always been a hub of multicultural societies. However, he acknowledged the key challenges of xenophobia, intolerance and exclusion.

The shared values of Europe (human rights, democracy and tolerance, non-discrimination) need to address the root causes of the current problems of intolerance. To enable this, the Council of Europe is actively engaged in promoting mutual understanding and the democratic governance of cultural diversity. Guidelines have been approved by the CoE.

Parliaments, he added, have a key role to play in the area of intercultural dialogue: they must promote action plans for Intercultural Dialogue and contribute to improving civic participation.

Our focus, said Mr Çavuşoğlu should be on what unites people more than on what divides them. This World Forum is an opportunity to examine best practices across the world. Finally, Mr Çavuşoğlu noted the changes in the Arab World – whose search for democracy must be supported.



MR ABDULAZIZ OTHMAN ALTWAIJRI
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISESCO

Mr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO

Mr Othman Altwajri expressed his gratitude to Azerbaijan for organizing this very relevant Forum. Globalisation is an opportunity to bring people closer together and build new partnerships between peoples. In order to do this, the promotion of cultural dialogue is critical: the world needs to work together and not forget the cultural dimensions in the fight against inequalities and social injustices.

Mr Hans D'Orville, Assistant Director General for Strategic Planning of UNESCO

Mr D'Orville brought greetings from the Director General of UNESCO. He stressed that dialogue among cultures is very close to UNESCO's heart as part of building a new humanism since ignorance is the root cause of antagonism between civilisations. As such UNESCO has always supported the dialogue of cultures and has a long history of initiatives aimed at promoting quality education as a basis for understanding the world's cultures and civilisations. Mr D'Orville paid specific attention to the problem of youth unemployment and highlighted the role of the media in promoting intercultural dialogue. Finally, he added that gender inequality must be at the core of our efforts to ensure sustainable development and respect for all.



MR HANS D'ORVILLE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR STRATEGIC
PLANNING OF UNESCO

VI. FIRST SESSION: INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

This panel addressed a number of key questions: what is the correlation between intercultural understanding and peace? Can we measure progress in intercultural understanding? And can we incorporate intercultural dialogue with a sustainable development agenda.

Overall the session stressed the critical role of educators and education, Drew attention to the necessity of 'smart' measurement that focus on numbers but also on their interpretation and meaning and finally underscored the danger of homogenising cultures and of side lining creativity.

Mr Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan co-chaired the session with **Mr Jean Christophe Bas**, Senior Advisor, Strategic Development and Partnerships, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. Mr Mammadyarov underlined the importance of culture for the people of any nation. Azerbaijan, he noted, has a tradition of peaceful cooperation. There are challenges to be faced, but challenges can be overcome by dialogue. Culture is one of the pillars of human relationships and Azerbaijan is a good example of the peaceful coexistence of cultures and religion. Mr Mammadyarov concluded on the importance of hosting such forums regularly. Mr Bas, referred the questions set out to the panel but also related a key piece of information: in the world today there are 143 conflicts occurring, of these, 108 have a strong cultural element.



Mr Pan Guang, Vice-Chairman and Professor of Shanghai Center for International Studies, China was the first panelist. He began by highlighting Azerbaijan as a good example of a correlation between intercultural dialogue and peace and development. He also cited China as a diverse country that had developed into a stable, multicultural country. To Mr Pan Guang two factors were key: media and education. The latter, he argued, should comprise of music, sports, Drama, film, the gamut of cultural activities and he stressed the need for education to include elements of cultural exchange and suggested cross-cultural summer camps. Everyone, he added, should learn about religions other than their own.

Ms Katérina Stenou, Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO, agreed with the remarks but mentioned the need for a broader conception of cultural diversity. She stressed the need to include creativity in this definition. Ms Stenou underlined three qualities to develop intercultural competence: self-reflexivity, conviviality and availability. These, she concluded, are important for people to develop the ability, openness and readiness to fully understand the other.

Amb. Eberhard Koelsch, Vice-chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. Chair of NSC Think-Tank, highlighted the work of the Council of Europe in the field of intercultural understanding. He mentioned the Faro declaration of 2005, the Action Plan following the Summit in Warsaw in 2005 and the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue of 2008. Amb. Koelsch also mentioned the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and the Court of Human Rights. These are instruments open to the 800 million people living in Europe.

Dr Catherine Fieschi, Director of Counterpoint, stressed the importance of creating appropriate instruments to measure the relationship between policy instruments that support diversity and cross-cultural exchange and other public goods such as peace, sustainability and prosperity. She said that while measurement should not be over-valued, good, solid measurement is the basis upon which we can convince institutions and policy makers to commit to policies that support intercultural dialogue and cross-cultural exchange. Dr Fieschi made a number of suggestions for projects that might evaluate the kind policy architecture that sustains cross-cultural exchange and leads to positive outcomes such as peace, development and sustainability.

Dr Darla Deardorff, Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators, Duke University, USA underlined the importance of education. She listed competencies that are important to get along successfully together: respect, awareness, listening, adapting to one another and relationship-building. These competencies, she added, should be taught and learnt in schools. They should also be evaluated in terms of impact—what is the meaning behind the numbers when we seek to measure the impact of our work? Asked Dr Deardorff.

The Chair, Mr Mammadyarov introduced a new theme toward the end of the panel: the role of the media and the importance of modern technology.



Ten participants intervened after the panelists. Many underlined the importance of education and the necessity of starting as early as possible—including before school, in the family. Representatives of Arab nations stressed the role of religion as instruments of peace. In religions they argue, you find respect for the other as well as for the other's religion. Respect and tolerance are key words in Islam. One participant expressed the concern that we were preaching to the converted: how do we talk to those who don't already agree with us? His view was that we needed more participation from civil society.

Several respondents made excellent contributions.

· **Mr Abdulaziz bin Mohayiddin Khoca**, Minister of Culture and Information, Saudi Arabia

Mr Khoca thanked his hosts for the invitation. This sort of dialogue he noted is bringing people closer together. My country, Saudi Arabia, said Mr Khoca, is at the heart of the Arab world and delivers the intercultural dialogue message on behalf of the Muslim world at the global level because it is at the center of the Arab culture. King Abdallah attaches special importance to these initiatives and Saudi Arabia is very active in the intercultural dialogue field as it believes that Islam carries a message of peace.

· **Mr Walter Schwimmer**, World Public Dialogue of Civilizations, Former Secretary-General Council of Europe, Austria

Mr Schwimmer warned of the dangers of preaching to 'the already converted'. He highlighted the importance of the conference but asked that the participants turn their words into action. He emphasized the need to involve more of civil society in the processes of intercultural dialogue as well as the necessity of involving schools in delivering a curriculum of 'dialogue of civilizations'.

· **Mr Branislav Micunovic**, Minister of Culture, Montenegro

Mr Micunovic commented on the fact that Azerbaijan illustrated the essence, according to him, of the principles of intercultural dialogue. He noted that not so long ago, the Balkan and South East Europe suffered heavy losses as a result of ethnic conflict and noted that such mistakes should never be repeated. Thanks to the commitment to the principles of intercultural dialogue, the countries of Southeast Europe have managed to become closer and messages conceived in the cultural field have traveled to other sectors of society. This is our obligation, said Mr Micunovic, and we are strengthened by the work of UNESCO, of the Council of Europe, of the EU and the UNAOC. Montenegro realizes the need to promote universal values all the while preserving and valuing certain identities and specificities. He concluded on the importance of the relationship between culture and economics and the value of tourism.

· **Mr Hamad Bin Abd Al Aziz Al Kawari**, Minister of Culture and Heritage, Qatar

Mr Al Kawari praised the successes of Azerbaijan. He went on to say that a dialogue of civilizations is the requirement of our times. Qatar was one of the initiators of this process. We have worked to make Doha a cultural hub and we want to highlight the creation of the Qatar Cultural Foundation that signals our commitment to intercultural dialogue and our openness to partnership.

· **Ms Nathalie Goulet**, Member of Parliament, France

Ms Goulet noted that forums such as these could too easily become talking shops, but that this one was different

because Baku truly is a special place and Azerbaijan a success story. She noted her extreme fondness of the place and her many friends in Azerbaijan and praised the remarkable contribution of Azerbaijan to intercultural dialogue.

· **Mr Tariq Salim Masarwa**, Minister of Culture, Jordan

Mr Masarwa spoke as the head of the largest network of Muslim donors worldwide and expressed his support for the forum and its goals as well as his admiration for Azerbaijan. Mr Masarwa emphasised the need for more engagement from the philanthropic sector, which needed to move – he said – from being an instrument of emergency to one of development. Philanthropy, he concluded, is what unites us.

· **Mr Francisco Veiga**, Director of Culture, Municipality of Lisbon, Head of Anna Lindh Foundation Network in Portugal, Portugal

Mr Veiga drew attention to Lisbon's aims being represented in such an important forum. He added that it was due to Lisbon wanting to be a part of a 'continuous dialogue'. He drew attention to Lisbon's engagement in the new phase of the intercultural cities programme—there are no global cities without the circulation of ideas. This cosmopolitan approach is essential.

· **Mr Kamran Imanov**, Chairman of State Copyright Agency, Azerbaijan

Mr Imanov thanked and welcomed participants. He noted that society and culture were both complicated systems, however, he added, they are also self-regulating systems that generate their own stability and impart a logic on each other. This does not however absolve us from supporting the processes by making the right policy decisions. Mr Imanov went on to note that parts of Azerbaijan are under foreign occupation and that in those territories Azerbaijanis cannot exercise their cultural rights or make the most of their cultural heritage that is being destroyed. He noted the necessity of raising voices against this.

· **Ms Gulshan Pashayeva**, Deputy director of Center

MS Pashayeva noted that the conference was proof that we live in a globalized world. She noted that the late 20th century had seen the confrontation of two rival models of modernization whilst today we are faced with religious fundamentalism. MS Pashayeva however emphasized the entirely changed nature of international relations, a system she said that no longer tolerated double standards. Azerbaijan is at the beginning of a complex modernization process while the Nagorno –Karabach problem is still unresolved. She noted the necessity of bringing peace to that region.

· **Mr Evgeny Novozhilov**, Deputy Chairman of Executive Committee Commonwealth of Independent States Azerbaijan, said Mr Novozhilov, is at the crossroads of east and West and a fitting place for this forum. He expressed the hope that the forum would help us find new approaches to dialogue.

VII. Second session: making dialogue meaningful: culture, art and heritage

This session sought to address the challenge of intercultural dialogue specifically through the lenses of culture, the arts and heritage. What would be the most supportive frameworks for intercultural dialogue, and how best can policy-makers and practitioners achieve positive results on a transnational scale?



The underlying assumption is that there is a division of responsibilities between government ministries and those who are working in practical ways in the sectors of culture and heritage. The former set the policy frameworks and establish, and often finance, the relevant institutions, while the latter are responsible for the day-to-day practice of intercultural dialogue in the cultural sphere. But, how can the public space for the promotion of intercultural dialogue become a civic space where different cultural encounters take place?

How can heritage and creativity enhance intercultural dialogue and help combat fundamentalist ideologies? And what role can artists play in the promotion of intercultural dialogue, going beyond “official perspectives” and programmes by governments?

Are there any particular cultural forms, which are especially conducive to intercultural dialogue, such as literature, music or film?

Finally, what part can heritage and museums play in ending wars over memory, within divided states or between those, which have suffered from mutual enmity? How can museums and heritage sites become important spaces for the promotion of intercultural dialogue?

Co-chairs: Mr Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr Robert Palmer, Director of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage of the Council of Europe.

This thought-provoking session raised challenging questions about the proper place of cultural practice in stimulating dialogue. Whether because the speakers were mainly women or because the participants were mainly practitioners, received or ‘official’ views gave way to more oblique angles.

Mr Palmer noted the diversity of participants as well as the fact that there is something about arts and culture that can unite people in shared expression. They certainly don’t resolve conflict on their—in fact they sometimes contribute to them, but they can often pathways and solutions. Mr Palmer then proceeded to introduce Ms Leila Ghandi and noted that she was herself a mix of cultures.

There were different and yet reconcilable arguments for advocating greater recognition for cultural and intercultural activity on the one hand and downplaying it on the other. There were also important contributions fleshing out the ethics and practice of intercultural dialogue through cultural vehicles.

First, the case for more: The contribution of arts to intercultural dialogue was often underestimated through being conceived narrowly in terms of words—rather than sounds, images and emotions. The arts, argued Sasma El Hussein, Director of Al Mawred Al Thaqafy in Egypt have a capacity to engender shared expression, which could bring people together, in laughter or tears. Culture and heritage were often a source of trauma and conflict, though, so caution was needed.

Secondly, the case for less: Intercultural dialogue was often presented as the means to resolve ‘cultural differences’. But this could cultural-ise disputes, like the Arab-Israeli conflict, which was principally over the land or natural resources. There was an argument that the arts could bring people together and make them feel that as one, but this assumed that the arts were a neutral instrument when artistic work often took ‘sides’. Yet there may be an ‘and’ here rather than an ‘either-or’. It is perfectly possible to recognise that economic and political problems must have economic and political solutions—but to articulate such solutions and build effective alliances to turn them into reality means creating new solidarities, in which (inter-) cultural practitioners can play a key role.

It was argued that engendering such solidarities is not just a matter of the 'mechanical' proximity of people. It was about cultural 'co-creation', recognising that all cultures—usually discretely understood—did or should converge on fundamental values of truth, beauty and love. There was a need to replace the zeal to convert by zeal to understand.

What did this mean in practice? There had been, it was argued, a recent emphasis on developing intercultural competences, said Ms Leila Ghand, a Moroccan writer, photographer and filmmaker who travelled the globe, yet intercultural dialogue was not so difficult if based on love and human sympathy. In introducing people to each other, photography, film and the visual arts could be powerful means, with emotional impact, complementing political tools.

Echoing the concern not to ignore oppression or injustice, it was argued that dialogue depended on equality and justice for all.

Ms Francine Marie Jeanne Houben- Director of Mecanoo Architecten, Netherlands, is an architect working around the world. She stressed the need for 'open-minded' buildings and public spaces to favour intercultural dialogue. Buildings should not just be icons but also be about public spaces that added to the coherence of the city. From universities to libraries to performing arts centres, they should act as magnets for the public, stimulate conversations, showcase local heritages and appeal to the formative senses of children.

Recognising, therefore, that intercultural dialogue cannot and should not monopolise the public domain, these testimonies were evidence of a moral compass and a rich vein of creativity and innovation that cultural practices could bring to the task.

Mr Ramazan Abdulatipov, rector of Moscow state university, stressed the unique character of Azerbaijan, and also the huge potential of the space created by Azerbaijani, Caucasian and Russian cultures. He noted the fact that most of the cooperation was already occurring. In his remarks Mr Abdulatipov, made a point of stressing that there was a long history of cooperation and intercultural dialogue in this area of the world. Finally, Mr Abdulatipov noted that often cultures achieved what he called a 'mechanical closeness' of proximity, but that intercultural dialogue and really knowing the other could only be achieved through the pursuit of ideals such as beauty, kindness, truth and love.

A number of respondents made excellent contributions:

- Mr Norbert Riedl, Head of Department for bi and multilateral cultural affairs, Austria

Mr Riedl began started by thanking Mr Garayev and then went on to note that everyone in the room was aware of the issues being discussed, but there was a need to take these out beyond the forum and into practical applications. Mr Riedl stressed Austria's commitment to art in education and to artist mobility. He concluded by emphasising that artists live in the context of the real world and the circumstances in which they live should never be glossed over.



• **Ms Sarmite Elerte**, Minister of Culture, Latvia

Ms Elerte thanked her hosts and noted the timeliness of the debate. She noted that concepts of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity had become significant because cultural wellbeing of communities had come to be seen as crucial. She emphasised that Latvia focuses on implementing general principles in practical ways through various initiatives at the community, school and library level.

• **Mr Karl-Erik Norrman**, Secretary General of European Cultural Parliament

Mr Norrman declared that he had founded the European Culture Parliament based on Yehudi Menuhin's idea that culture needed a parliament and on Denoir's idea that Europe needed a soul. Mr Norrman went on to explain that the idea behind the ECP is to create a place where the social visions of artists and intellectuals can be expressed.

• **Mr Lazarus Dokora**, Deputy Minister of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Zimbabwe

Mr Dokora thanked his hosts for their hospitality and then went on to emphasise that the arts and culture are the right vehicles to create dialogue between cultures because they are universal languages. He praised the work of UNESCO and NGOs in helping to preserve cultural heritage in Africa and added that Africa had much to offer in terms of techniques for negotiation and dialogue. Mr Dokora concluded on the importance of passing the tools of dialogue down from one generation to the next.

• **Mr Mikayil Jabbarov**, Chief of the Old City State Historic Architectural Reserve, Azerbaijan

Mr Jabbarov explained that the Old City of Baku was the heart of Baku and that it tried to bring to life intercultural dialogue. It refused to become a 'museum city' but rather wanted to be 'living history'. In order to do this, Mr Jabbarov said that they used a mix of municipal and restoration resources as well as public-private partnerships. Mr Jabbarov noted the importance of the Qiz Qalasi project, the Art Garden Project and Marionette Theatre project.

VIII. Third Session: Women as Key Agents of Intercultural Dialogue

Building on the achievements of the International Baku Forum on "Expanding the Role of Women in Cross-cultural dialogue" and namely on its Declaration (June 2008), this workshop was of great significance and doubly so as a part of The World Forum. It aimed to define a theoretical and operational framework in order to promote women as key agents of intercultural dialogue, the latter understood as a continuous process inspired by shared universal values.

Taking into account the complexity and the variety of the political, social and cultural contexts worldwide with their numerous reference points, this session aimed to do justice to the diversity of women's experiences and aspirations in order to enhance this dialogue, to diversify its forms and to widen its scope. To do so, a deeper

- Demonstrating that gender is above all a social and cultural construct and that there is no single way to achieve gender equality by showcasing various strategies women use to empower themselves in traditional and modern societies;
- Analysing the link between gender, culture and development;
- Identifying priority areas for policy makers to direct the discussion on gender issues in the arts, culture and media;
- Helping women to create new spaces of dialogue and action that are both participatory and culturally diverse;
- Lending support to specific initiatives by women and men that instead of merely turning difference and diversity into a statement of identity, aim to transform it into a source of creativity;
- Strengthening women's already established skills in networking in civil society, academia, policy making and media;
- Generating the enabling conditions which allow a greater involvement of women, whether as artists and cultural producers or as managers.

Co-chair of the session Ms. **Mehriban Aliyeva**, the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, gave the opening statement. Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva welcomed the guests and emphasized the significance of the forum: Azerbaijan's first lady said that in the recent years, Baku had become a center of intercultural dialogue. "Looking back to the past, we could enumerate some international events. Last year, Baku hosted the world summit of religious leaders. Baku was announced a capital of Islamic culture in 2009. A meeting of the ministers of culture of OIC member states as well as the European countries was also held the same year. In 2008 Azerbaijan hosted the International Women's Conference and adopted the Baku declaration on the role of women in intercultural dialogue," said Ms. Aliyeva. Azerbaijan has always been a country open to the world: The Catholic temple, Orthodox Church, Jewish synagogue, which are located next to the Muslim mosque are living proof of the tolerance which defines the country, she said. The first lady of Azerbaijan expressed her confidence that the forum and its participants would make a worthy contribution to strengthening intercultural dialogue and concluded by emphasizing that the clash of civilizations would not prevail as well as restating Azerbaijan's commitment to the values of humanism, global justice and global ethics.

Ms Katérina Stenou, Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO, was co-chair and added some remarks. Ms Stenou emphasised that women, who make up half of humanity, reflect the full gamut of traditions, ideologies, beliefs, political views and lifestyles. Yet, despite their limitless diversity, women throughout the world share certain common characteristics, such as their sensitivity to human vulnerability and the attendant ethical impulse to alleviate suffering whenever possible by providing security to each individual. In other words, this attitude towards human vulnerability constitutes a sort of fundamental humanism, which can be regarded as the other side of the coin of a global civic culture. In addition, the struggle for human rights and this term encompasses of course cultural rights as well as women's rights is the clearest manifestation of this global civic culture. In this context, and I quote the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001", no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to



limit their scope". Thus, in defending women's rights on a global scale, we need to protect the rights of women in culturally sensitive ways, bearing in mind that the definition of culture is always a politically contested exercise and that women may become the victims of the effects of cultural backlash.

Ms Stenou added that women were both custodians of the past and "incubators" of innovation and change. In most of the world's societies, women, particularly in their capacity as mothers, provide a link between successive generations by transmitting traditional know-how, practices and systems of values and ethical standards – all essential elements of the so-called "intangible heritage of humanity". As custodians of the memory of humanity, women play a determinant role in the construction of cultural identity, and it is the recognition of the cultural identity of various groups within a society that is a prerequisite for constructive cultural pluralism.

But herein lies an extraordinary paradox: while being custodians of the past, women, far from being conservative, also bear the seeds of innovation. In other words, preservation does not preclude innovation. On the contrary, through their creative capacity to select those worthwhile elements of the past and the present, women contribute to dignified policies for social change.

PANELLISTS:

Ms Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs, Azerbaijan;

Ms S.Y.Orlova, Deputy chair of Council of Parliament of Russian Federation;

Ms Rachida Dati, French MEP and Mayor of the 7th arrondissement of Paris, France;

Ms Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz, Director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue, USA;

Ms Concepcion Olavarrieta, Chair of the Mexican Node of the Millennium Project, Mexico;

Ms Mbarka Bouaida, Member of Parliament, Morocco;

Mr Alexander Ageev, General Director of Institute of Economic Strategies, department of humanitarian sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation

The session highlighted the need for a more balanced participation of women and men in intercultural dialogue– this was seen as an essential precondition to enhancing the effectiveness of intercultural dialogue.

The crucial role of women in the process was examined: specifically the role that women play in peace-keeping, peace-building and counter-extremism. This last point was made **Ms Orlova** and by **Ms Olavarrieta** who drew attention to the role of women and goddesses in Aztec mythology.

Ms Olavarrieta also commented on the three guiding principles of culture in Mexico–freedom, pluralism and progress. The Role of UN resolution 1325 and the CEDAW process were held as key in the development of the role of women in this area.

Concurrently however, the panel was forced to recognize that despite their unique contribution, the role of women was still not properly valued or promoted. Women continue to be excluded from public dialogue, decision-making and key leadership roles. What was also noted was that beyond the difficulty of accessing power, a life in politics can be particularly difficult for women. Ms Dati emphasised the need to strengthen channels of access for women into politics and to higher administrative offices. Ms Orlova also emphasised the role Ms Aliyeva had played in her own country of Azerbaijan.

Finally, several contributors noted the danger of using culture and cultural explanations to justify the mistreatment of women or their exclusion from the public realm or from resources. The fact that these norms are resistant to change should not lead us to excuse them on the grounds of 'culture'.

Obstacles were noted: an imbalance of power between men and women across institutions and political life in general; the lack of political will to change this; the persistence of stereotypes concerning gender roles; deeply entrenched cultural norms that prove highly resistant to change; the lack of clarity and openness of religious authorities in interreligious and intercultural dialogue. In particular Ms Bouaida, noted that real change had been slow in coming to Morocco and that the important changes of behaviour were the ones taking most time.

Acknowledging that women can play a central and distinctive role in intercultural dialogue and peace building, implementing the CEDAW process, and making the most of the legal process and of CONSTRAINTS are key to overcoming these obstacles. Ms Huseynova, was particularly vocal on the matter, calling for the application of resolution 1325 of the Council of Europe. Finally Ms Leeds Hurwitz commented on the role of communications in intercultural dialogue.

A number of participants made remarks following the panel interventions. Most noteworthy were a number of voices guarding against 'culturalising' policies and behaviour that were not cultural but in fact no more than institutionalised discrimination and violence against women.

RESPONDENTS:

· **Mr Sayed Makhdoom Raheen**, Minister of Information and Culture, Afghanistan

Ms Raheen noted that her country was at the very heart of this issue—she noted that Afghanistan once was at the crossroads of civilisations and that now it was insular as well as a place where women's rights were violated by the Taliban.

· **Ms Ifigenia Katsaridou**, Director General at the Research Center on Gender Equality Issues, Greece
Ms Katsaridou noted that the European Council's Resolution 1325 is constantly violated despite the fact that women hold the key to intercultural dialogue as evidenced by the Council's Recommendation on Women and Intercultural dialogue of 2010. She concluded on the contribution of women to new forms of dialogue

· **Ms. Anna-Marie Lizin**, Honorary Speaker of the senate of Kingdom of Belgium, Belgium

Ms Lizin called on the audience to demand the full application of existing law to protect and enhance the rights of women. She warned against using culture and tradition to justify crimes against women.

· **Ms Giuli Alasania**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Georgia, Georgia

Ms Alasania focused on gender equality in Georgia and noted that while progress had been made much remained to be done. She pointed to statistical evidence of the still very large gap between men and women in economic, social and political terms

· **Ms. Margherita Costa**, Honorary council of Azerbaijan Genova Torino Milano, Italy

Ms Costa focused on the concept of multiculturalism and asked what it meant in practice—her answer was that multiculturalism was respect for diversity in the face of globalisation.

· **Ms Tugba Kalafatoglu**, Founder and President of VOTE Women in Politics, Turkey

Ms Kalafatoglu highlighted the role of her Organisation VOTE in helping women realise their goals and their potential.

· **Ms Natalia Molebatsi**, Library Marketing Coordinator University of South Africa, South Africa

Ms Molebatsi referred to the voice of traditional South African women and concluded with a call 'hello traveller, warrior, woman'.

· **Mr Bilal Rabaia Bilal Albudoor**, Ministry of Culture and Youth Assistant Under Secretary, United Arab Emirates Mr Albudoor referred to the fact that the UAE have recently adopted a strategy focusing on culture and aimed at forging a new society based on rational exchange in order to promote exchange between communities.

· **Ms Rosa Alegria**, Co-chair of Brazilian Node at the millennium Project, Brasil

Ms Alegria spoke of shifting the model between men and women from that of domination, to one of partnership.

· **Ms Bibi Bakare-Yusuf**, Publishing Director of Cassava Republic Press, Nigeria

Ms Yusuf spoke about the importance of stories and storytelling and highlighted their role in shaping nations and identities.

IX. First Thematic Session: Debate Between and Among the World Religions

The World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue included a workshop on **"Dialogue between and among the world's religions"** with the aim of reinforcing the exchange and discussions on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue.

In light of recent developments which brought these matters both to the forefront of the news and to the top of political agendas, the workshop addressed the challenges for an understanding between different religions and a true dialogue for a better knowledge, authentic respect and better coexistence.

With this purpose the workshop brought together experts, representatives of religious institutions as well as networks for religious dialogue with the aim of hearing different points of views and discussions based on practical case studies for identifying action for the promotion of the role of the religious communities together with secular stakeholders – governments, local authorities, civil society organizations and communities and facilitating the networking for a better dialogue and a culture of understanding and respect of other beliefs and creeds.

CO-CHAIRS:

Mr Denis Huber, Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe,

Mr Hidayat Orujov, Chair of State Committee for Religious Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr Orujov emphasised that inter-religious dialogue is a requirement of our times. He noted that the main issue should not be one of assimilation of one religious group by another but one of coexistence and in that respect praised Azerbaijan's freedom of belief and religious expression. He concluded on the need for religions to promote universal values.

Mr Huber followed on by noting the topicality of the issue being discussed and asserted that one cannot discuss culture without taking religion into account. He cited Portugal's President Sampaio in adding that the world was not in the grip of a clash of civilisations, but rather a clash of ignorance. Mr Huber concluded by saying that though religion had often been a source of conflict it needed to be seen as part of the solution.

The session's main aim was to emphasise the importance of inter-religious dialogue as a distinct aspect but also an intrinsic part of intercultural dialogue. This is to be noted, as the distinction is not often made.

Furthermore, the session's contents were a strong indication that religion is beginning to be perceived not solely as a problem, but as a tool for intercultural dialogue and as a part of the solution by peoples and governments.

The session stressed that the success of intercultural dialogue is based on mutual respect and understanding of the different parties and that religions have to be part of this process in order to overcome ignorance and misunderstandings.

Early intercultural and interfaith experiences and help to understand our multicultural reality the need for a political decision towards this goal was remarked upon.

Interfaith activities and joint community services allow individuals, families and societies as a whole to understand the richness of the religious exchange and the importance to face life, problems and joy together.

Spiritual and theological sharing facilitate the discovery of commonalities at local and global level as well as the global ethics and citizenship that lay under the over-emphasised differences between religions.

Today Islamic countries offer a new challenge to the world demonstrating that they struggle for justice, democracy and human rights from within Muslim societies.

Muslim representatives in the session stressed the concept that "Islam should be very far from war and conflicts" and they declared themselves proud of the tradition of tolerance. The 2004 Amman Message presented to the United Nations in which Jordan invited Muslim countries to define contemporary Islam and what image they want to show abroad and everywhere was mentioned as a case in point.

The representatives of various Muslim countries highlighted the importance of religion as a part of civilization and the danger of the misuse of religions, creating hate and antagonism between countries and within societies. Dialogue has to be nurtured but care needs to be taken with respect to political implications.



The panelists agreed that religion should never be used as a justification for criminal behaviour – this, they stressed, is clear in the Koran. Finally, Azerbaijan was cited by different religious leaders and representatives of the country invited to this session as an example of interreligious coexistence.

PANELLISTS:

Dr Marcus Braybooke, Co-founder of Three Faiths Forum, UK;

Ms Zeyno Baran, US scholar and author of “The Other Muslims: Moderate and Secular”, USA;

Mr Francisco Veiga, Head of Anna Lindh Foundation Network in Portugal

Mr Braybrooke emphasised the need for religions to value each other and what value they had in common. He noted the useful role of cross-faith mentoring programmes in helping people feel at home in a society. Finally Mr Braybrook underscored the important role of NGOs in facilitating faiths acting together.

Ms Baran spoke of the natural compatibility between Islam and democracy. The reason there are still tensions is that people remain unaware of the deep struggle within Islam between the pluralists who want to build societies that are tolerant and pluralist and the radical islamists. It is important that people become aware of this distinction since the amalgamation is a source of frustration for ordinary Muslims who feel victimised by this misunderstanding of their faith. She concluded on the deep connection between Islam and Europe.

Mr Veiga highlighted the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation in the Euromed countries and emphasised the importance of the region especially in light of recent events in the Middle east which reveal that youth in the region, while religious, are committed to the values democracy, social justice and dignity.

A number of respondents made remarks:

• **Mr Salman Musayev**, Deputy Head of the Muslim Board for the Caucasus, Azerbaijan

Mr Musayev emphasised that Islam is a religion of peace and that one of its principles is that diversity is one of the manifestations of divine mercy. Diversity is intrinsic to the Islamic faith. Religions should therefore offer models of cultural reconciliation.

• **Mr Alexandr Ishein**, The Eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church in Baku and the Caspian region

Mr Ishein started off by noting the diversity of Azerbaijani society, including its religious diversity. He went on to note the support for inter-religious dialogue in Azerbaijan.

• **Mr Semyon Ikhilov**, Head of the Religious Community of Mountainous Jews

Mr Ikhilov commented on the long-established nature of the Jewish communities in Azerbaijan and spoke of the high occurrence of mixed marriages as evidence of tolerance and integration.

• **Mr Tariq Salim Masarwa**, Minister of Culture, Jordan

Mr Masarwa spoke of the role of Jordan in promoting intercultural dialogue and noted that the very existence of this forum proved that a dialogue was possible. He concluded that acceptance of other religions is at the heart of Islam.

• **Mr Taher Naser Mahmood AL Hammud**, Deputy Minister of Culture, Iraq

Mr Hammood noted the importance of this field and the urgency with which inter-religious dialogue needs to be pursued. He noted that tensions were still very high and that heads of state should be doing more to promote dialogue and understanding between religions.

• **Mr Vladimir Feteke**, Superior of Roman-Catholic Church, Azerbaijan

Mr Feteke noted the tolerant spirit of Azerbaijan and the peaceful co-existence of all three main religions.

X. Second Thematic Session: The Impact of Social Media, Technology and Journalism on Cross-Cultural Relations

The Internet, technologies and digital media are profoundly reshaping the world around us. The use of social media to mobilize citizens (see for instance the recent events in the Middle East), the impact of blogs, Facebook and Twitter, illustrate how easy and direct access to information has become in an increasingly networked world. Digital tools are used to share information, bring new ideas and respond to problems and crises across cultures, communities and nations. The workshop sought to address the following questions: Does this availability of information and technology mean better understanding across cultures? How do social media help better inform people across cultures? What role do citizen journalists play in enhancing understanding of other cultures, and building alliances with professional journalists? And, finally, are Mainstream media and social media complementary or in competition with one another?

CO-CHAIRS:

Mr Neil O'Reilly, Journalist, Euronews;

PANELLISTS:

Mr Kader Abderrahim, California University, USA;

Mr Francis Pisani, Le Media A Paris, France;

Ms Solana Larsen, Managing Editor/ Global Voices Online, USA

Mr Neil O'Reilly, Journalist at Euronews and co-chair of the panel, noted that our world there creates a demand for intercultural dialogue. Referring to his experience in Northern Ireland, Mr Reilly noted that intercultural dialogue often involved a few step forwards and few steps back—unfortunately, he said, the steps backwards are often the most visible ones. He noted that social media had profoundly changed the way in which dialogue is pursued and orchestrated because now the people were the journalists. He concluded by underlining value of World Forum in Baku.

The editor-in-chief of the international network Global Voice Online (USA) **Solana Larsen** asked how influential is citizen media were really in creating revolution, in creating changes or making an impact? She noted that the most important contributions were that citizen media offer more variety of sources but that above all it wasn't the media themselves that made a difference but rather the citizens who use them—those who often take risks.

The representative of California University Kader Abderrahim addressed the role of social media in the development of intercultural relations at the present stage. K. Abderrahim, of the University of California at Berkeley, introduced a note of modesty with respect to 'new media': his view was that social networks such as Facebook and Twitter have not replaced traditional media. He did however note that traditional media and new media did not play the same role. Referring to the events in the Middle East Mr Abdurrahman said that even he had been surprised by the role that social media had played in the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt.

The representative of French organization Le Media **Francis Pisani** especially underlined the value of carrying out of such seminar in the frame of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. Mr Pisani reminded the audience that social media were transgenerational and trans-religious—they bring people together in a way that no other network can. But Mr Pisani also reminded the audience that access to such media was not evenly distributed.

• **Mr Asim Mollazade**, Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan

Mr Mollazade acknowledged that social access to media was changing the world, but that it was capable of both the best and the worst results.

• **Mr Elmir Valizadeh**, Deputy Minister of Communication and Information Technologies, Azerbaijan Mr Valizadeh acknowledged that social media offered new opportunities for dialogue.

• **Mr Ali Akbar Javanfekr Shahri**, Press Advisor to President of Iran and IRNA Managing Director, Iran Mr Shahri shared his concern about the rise of Islamophobia on the internet

• **Mr Abel Enrique Prieto Jimenez**, Minister of Culture, Cuba

Mr Jimenez expressed his concern about the domination of international media by large news corporations.

• **Mr Yashar Guluzade**, Editor-in-chief of State Information Agency, Azerbaijan

Mr Guluzade noted that by spending too much time behind computer screens, some youth cut themselves off from important sources of culture.

XI. Simultaneous events:

a) Presentation of concrete initiatives that foster intercultural dialogue and cooperation

Intercultural understanding requires the active political support by governments and international organizations. However, it cannot be achieved without the people themselves and the multiple initiatives that aim at bridging the divide among cultures, religions and communities. Grassroots organizations can indeed play a tremendous role in promoting mutual understanding, trust, and respect for the "other" through concrete projects.

The organizers of the Baku Forum paid a special tribute to these "champions in cultural innovation" coming from around the World, and showcased some of these initiatives on the occasion of the Forum.



WORLD FORUM ON
INTERCULTURAL
DIALOGUE
BAKU 7-9 APRIL 2011



BAKU PROCESS

CHAIR:

Mr Chris Bashinelli, Bridge the Gap TV, USA

Mr Bashinelli said that session was dedicated to celebrating concrete initiatives that promote cultural understanding and intercultural dialogue. He referred to his own experience of learning dialogue skills in a neighbourhood setting in Brooklyn.

PRESENTERS:

• **Mr Shahzad Muhammad**, Executive Director-Chanan Development Association (CDA), Pakistan

Mr Muhammad spoke of the work of his organisation Chanan Development Association. He gave an overview of its aims: Chanan Development Association is a national youth organization working in Pakistan with the mission to empower young people and ensure their meaningful participation in all aspects of program of policy development. They use innovative implements such as media, pure education and other campaigns to achieve our mission. They implement a variety of programs ranging from health, education and gender mainstreaming, but the main focus is on interfaith harmony, peace and intercultural dialogue. Mr Muhammad spoke of the anti-extremism campaign: the idea was to launch the national youth peace campaign that is national youth pure education and campaign to reduce extremism. The goal of the campaign is to create a culture of equality, acceptability and tolerance among youth pursuing democratic, non-violent and peaceful principles.

• **Ms Sara Reef**, USA

Ms Reef outlined the aims of the TEA project a part of Intersections International. The TEA project, theatre engagement and action is one of many projects that Intersection International runs to promote peace, justice and reconciliation. Intersections as a New York based NGO works to promote global social justice in the areas of action and advocacy, conflict resolution and intercultural understanding with the special emphasis on youth and arts. The TEA project is youth led interactive theatre performance and a facility to dialogue that works to promote conflict resolution and peace building. Ms Reef showed a short video of 'under the Veil'.

• **Mr Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg**, Presidente Akili Dada, Kenya

Ms Kamau-Rutenberg spoke of her organisation Akili Dada: At Akili Dada, she said, we believe that justice is served, when there is a diversity of voices at the decision-making table. We also believe that women and especially women from poor backgrounds should have access to decision-making processes. We also further believe that education; mentoring and leadership training are critical to poor women's access to leadership positions. As a result, Akili Dada invests in brilliant young girls from poor families. We offer comprehensive scholarships, personalized mentoring and rigorous leadership training that is based in community service. We invest in young women, because without our help these future leaders would Drop out of school and be forced to enter into early marriage or the low-wage workforce. Ms Kamau-Rutenberg went on to show some slides of their work.

• **Mr Pece Gorgieski**, President Unity in Diversity, Australia

Mr Gorgieski spoke of the work of Unity in Diversity; an organisation connects organisations that are actively engaging other cultures in building initiatives. We use slightly different methods, slightly different workshops, he said, where we invite students and youth to write an essay. We received dozens and dozens of them and reviewed them. And we look for reflections and ideas about intercultural understanding from youth and students.

What do the students consider is important in intercultural dialogue discussion and how we can present their views on the global platform?

• **Ms Irena Guidikova**, Council of Europe (Intercultural Cities)

Ms Guidikova spoke of the Intercultural cities initiative and described it as a model that invites cities to look at integration practices not as a machine processing people through institutions as a network system of interdependent organisations that together create a new value and potential for common development. We invite cities to work at a symbolic level, a political level and finally, the practical recognition that diversity is about adapting public services to different communities as well as public policies. Diversity in order to thrive, said Ms Guidikova, needs not only resources, but also initiatives that help people to interact, come together in a single universal public space.

b) “Managing Diversity in Cities: toward intercultural urban policies” Presented by the “Intercultural Cities” programme (ICC), joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission

There is a genuine need for making migrant and minority integration more effective by bridging cultural divides, creating common cultural capital and injecting cultural competence in policies and institutions of diverse societies. This need is nowhere more strongly felt than in cities where long-standing residents share – or compete for – space, resources and opportunities with successive waves of newcomers with other ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds.

CHAIR:

Mr Phil Wood, author of “Intercultural Cities” project, UK

Mr Wood began by providing an overview of Intercultural Cities. How can ideas of diversity also enhance the city, he asked? When diverse people come together, they bring many different skills and these skills compliment the skills of local people. So, the city benefits in that way. It gives to city access to new markets in other parts of the world. People, who travel in new land and city bring new hope and aspiration with them. They want to make a success in their lives. When people mix, they think about new ideas, not just about technology, but also social side for solving environmental problems that city has at the moment. Cities need these ideas and cities need to be cosmopolitan, so they can compete in the world. Diversity in the climate of openness and opportunities will produce creativity and innovation and that would provide opportunities for cities. But, this will only happen if the conditions are right. So we are proposing a new way of thinking about living together in cities. We believe that if the cities want an advantage, they have to be intercultural. This is not assimilation. But the main thing is that these groups move, there are dynamics that create new energy and business ideas for the city. Mr Wood concluded on the fact that the cultural dimension of integrating diverse communities has been insufficiently explored and most cities lack the awareness, experience and know-how to engage effectively with this agenda.

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CHAIR:

Mr Phil Wood, author of “Intercultural Cities” project, UK

Mr Wood began by providing an overview of Intercultural Cities. How can ideas of diversity also enhance the city, he asked? When diverse people come together, they bring many different skills and these skills compliment the skills of local people. So, the city benefits in that way. It gives to city access to new markets in other parts of the world. People, who travel in new land and city bring new hope and aspiration with them. They want to make a success in their lives. When people mix, they think about new ideas, not just about technology, but also social side for solving environmental problems that city has at the moment. Cities need these ideas and cities need to be cosmopolitan, so they can compete in the world. Diversity in the climate of openness and opportunities will produce creativity and innovation and that would provide opportunities for cities. But, this will only happen if the conditions are right. So we are proposing a new way of thinking about living together in cities. We believe that if the cities want an advantage, they have to be intercultural. This is not assimilation. But the main thing is that these groups move, there are dynamics that create new energy and business ideas for the city. Mr Wood concluded on the fact that the cultural dimension of integrating diverse communities has been insufficiently explored and most cities lack the awareness, experience and know-how to engage effectively with this agenda.

Panellists

The panelists gave details of the implementation of ICC cities in their respective cities:

Ms Manuela Júdice – City Council of Lisbon, Portugal

Ms Júdice thanked her hosts for their hospitality and the organisers of ICC. She focused on the manner in which the Bangladeshi population was increasingly making use of public space.

Ms Maria Rosa Marquez Cabrera – Minister for Rural Development and Equality, Mexico City, Mexico

Ms Marquez Cabrera pointed out that intercultural dialogue did not happen in a vacuum and that the major obstacle to it is often social and economic inequalities. As such she outlines some of the Mexican initiatives to try and address the economic gap on the basis of a human rights approach. Ms Cabrera outlined a series of legal developments designed to protect and enhance the rights of migrants.

Mr Alexander A. Ushakov – Chairman of the City Council of Izhevsk, Russia

Mr Ushakov outlined the process of implementation of ICC in Izhevsk, a historically industrial and multi-cultural town. He noted the opening, in 2008, of the House of People's Friendship in order to create a space for interaction for public authorities and ethno-cultural associations. On the basis of such initiatives and the celebration of diversity through cultural gatherings, Mr Ushakov noted that the city had been able to achieve establish dialogue between the authorities and associations as well as achieve a measure of integration.

Mr Serhiy Valter – Mayor of the City of Melitopol, Ukraine

Mr Valter outlined the cross-cultural and inter-religious celebrations in Melitopol.

Mr Włodzimierz Wysocki – Deputy Mayor of the City of Lublin, Poland

Mr Wysocki noted the popularity of ICC amongst students and the many student and NGO initiatives to which it had given rise.











2ND --- WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

2ND

BAKU PROCESS







2nd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

FORUM PROGRAMME AND CONCEPT

Official Opening ceremony

"How to build the world future together?", Page 29

30 May, 10:30 – 12:00, Heydar Aliyev Center

SPEAKERS:

1. Official Opening speech by His excellency mr. Ilham aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. **Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**, UN High Representative for the UNAOC
3. **Ms. Irina Bokova**, Director General of UNESCO
4. **Mr. Abdulaziz Ottoman Altwajri**, Director General of ISESCO

Plenary Sessions

Plenary Session 1

"Cultural corridors in Southeast Europe, Black Sea and Caucasus regions – shared heritage, common responsibilities, sustainable future", Page 30

30 May, 15:00-16:30, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Sharg Hall 1

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Sc. Vasil Prodanov, University of National and World Economy, Sofia

SPEAKERS:

1. **Mr. Georgi Parvanov**, President of the Republic of Bulgaria (2002-2012)
2. **Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
3. **Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovi**, Assistant to the Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO
4. **Mr. Stjepan Mesi**, President of Croatia (2000 - 2010)
5. **Ms. Irina Bokova**, Director-General of UNESCO
6. **Mr. Branislav Micunovic**, Minister of Culture of Montenegro
7. **Ms. Penelope Denu**, Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes
8. **Ms. Romyana Mihneva**, Historian and Cultural Landscape Protection Expert
9. **Ms. Donika Georgieva**, University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia, Bulgaria

Plenary Session 2

“The New Era of Globalisation: hybridity in culture in a changing world”, Page 31 30 May, 16:30-18:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Sharg Hall 1

Moderator: Mr. Edward Mortimar, Senior Vice President of The Salzburg Global Seminar,

SPEAKERS:

1. **Mr. Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff**, Director General: The World Dialogue Council
2. **Mr. Mikhael Shvidkoy**, Adviser of the President of Russia
3. **Mr. Shamit Saggarr**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Sussex. Director of Doctoral Studies, UK
4. **Mr. Lamberto Dini**, Former Prime minister, Italy
5. **Mr. Yilmaz Hakan**, Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bogazici University, Turkey
6. **Mr. Frederik Stjernfelt**, University of Aarhus, Denmark
7. **Mr. Jorge Sanin**, Director of the Department of International Affairs, OAS
8. **Mr. Ilham Mammadzade**, Director of the ANAS Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law, Azerbaijan

Plenary Session 3

How to build public support for cultural diversity, Page 33
31 May, 14:30-16:30, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Sharg Hall 1

Moderator: Prof. Alp Ozerdem, Director, Centre for Peace & Reconciliation Studies, Coventry University, UK

SPEAKERS:

1. **Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas**, Deputy director for Strategic Development and Partnerships of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
2. **Prof. Dr. Mehmet Saglam**, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Turkey
3. **Mr. Hafiz Pashayev**, Rector of Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
4. **Ms. Mari Skare**, Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, NATO
5. **Ms. Samia Bibars**, Ambassador, Director of Culture & Dialogue among Civilizations Department, League of Arab States
6. **Mr. Jonathan Shen**, CEO Shinework, China
7. **Mr. Francesco SPANO**, Segretario Generale del MAXXI, Italy

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshop Session 1

“Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges”, Page 35 30 May, 15:00-16:30, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Khojasan Hall

Organizer: Azerbaijan, CoE North-South Center

Moderator: Mr. Roman Chlapak, Deputy Executive director, North-South Center of the Council of Europe
Rapporteur: Mr. Steven Stegers, European Association of History Educators

SPEAKERS:

1. Mr. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, EUROCLIO- European Association of History Educators
2. Mr. Halit Eren, General Director, IRCICA, Turkey
3. Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan
4. Ms. Brian Carvell, expert, Council of Europe
5. Mr. Fadi DAOU, Chairman and CEO, Adyan Foundation

RESPONDENTS:

1. Mr. Sami Adwan, Bethlehem University, Professor, Palestine
2. Mr. Matthias Klingenberg, DVV-International
3. Mr. Polina Verbytska, Nova Doba – All Ukrainian Association for History and Social Studies, Ukraine
4. Mr. Dr. Azmi OZCAN, Historian, Rector, Bilecik University, Turkey
5. Mr. Mostafa Hassani Idrissi, Professor of the University Mohammed V-Souissi, Morocco

Workshop Session 2

“Western-Muslim Relations: from Polarization to Partnership”, Page 37 30 May, 16:30-18:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Khojasan Hall

Organizers: Azerbaijan, UNAOC

Moderator: Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, Deputy director for Strategic Development and Partnerships of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

EMERGING LEADERS:

1. Mr. Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din, Full bright Scholar, DPI Communications Officer and Huffington Post Blogger
2. Mr. Cédric Baecher, Co-founder (2002) and Managing Director of Nomadéis, an independent consulting agency focusing on sustainability and international cooperation issues
3. Mr. Farhad Mammadov, Chair of the Strategic Research Center under President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
4. Mr. Wadia Ait Hamza, Public Affairs Manager Rabat School of Governance & Economics (EgE Rabat) and the Vice President of the Mediterranean Forum for Youth (FOMEJE)

5. Ms. Annika Kiessler, Head of the Energy Policy division at 50Hertz, a major European electricity grid operator involved in the German transition from carbon-based to renewable energy sources, former German Parliament staff

6. Ms. Dala Ghandour, Lawyer specializing in family law with particular interest in Sharia and is a certified mediator

RESPONDENTS:

1. Mr. Rabah Ghezali, Managing Director of European Government Affairs & Head of Government Affairs, France at NYSE Euronext, former Economist at IMF

2. Mr. Elisabeth Ryan, Lawyer for Patton Boggs LL, advising foreign and domestic companies and government entities on international business, legal, and public policy matters in the United States, the Middle East etc., former US Congress Staff

3. Ms. Emna Ben Yedder, Financial and Administrative Director at Medico Consult and the General Secretary and a founding member of a local NGO "ACT – Think & Decide"

4. Mr. Muaz Abudalo, Member of the Free Assembly, an emerging political group in Jordan that advocates for social democratic thought in the country

Workshop Session 3

"Building intercultural competences for 21st Century", Page 39

30 May, 16:30-18:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Hovsan Hall

Organizers: UNESCO, Azerbaijan

Moderator: Mrs Katérina Stenou, Director, Coordinator, Intersectoral platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (UNESCO)

1. Ms. Felisa Lynn Tibbitts, Founder and Senior Advisor, Human Rights Education Associates (HREA)

2. Ms. Ferial Ait-Ouyahia Herlaut, Consultant (UNESCO)

3. Mr. Konstantinos Tararas, Programme Specialist (UNESCO)

4. Ms. Souria Saad Zoi, Programme Specialist (UNESCO)

5. Ms. Amina Hamshari, Assistant Programme Specialist (UNESCO)

6. Mr. Abdelbasset Ben Hassan, Director, Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR)

7. Mr. Ahmad Zaouche, Consultant, UNESCO Rabat

8. Mr. Jahangir Selimkhanov, Expert on culture, Azerbaijan

Workshop Session 4

"Tourism as a key driver of mutual understanding and tolerance among peoples and cultures", Page 40

31 May, 09:30-11:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Khojasan Hall

Organizers: Azerbaijan, UNWTO

Moderator: Mr. Francesco Frangiulli, President of the ST-EP Foundation and former Secretary-General of UNWTO





SPEAKERS:

1. **Mr. Tijani Haddad**, President of the International Federation of Journalists and Travel Writers (FIJET) and former Minister of Tourism of Tunisia
2. **Mr. Peter Keller**, Professor for International Economics in Tourism, Head of the Unit for Research in Tourism, Ecole des HEC, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
3. **Mr. Jafar Jafari**, Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, USA, Founding Editor of Annals of Tourism Research, and Chief Editor of the Tourism Social Sciences
4. **Ms. Penelope Denu**, Director, European Institute of Cultural Routes and Executive Secretary, Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes
5. **Ms. Katérina Stenou**, Director, Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, UNESCO
6. **Mr. Jafar Jafarov**, Rector of the Azerbaijan Tourism Institute

Workshop Session 5

“Urban policies for diversity in 21st century: the Intercultural cities paradigm”, Page 41

31 May, 09:30-11:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Hovsan Hall

Organizers: Azerbaijan, Council of Europe

SPEAKERS:

1. **Ms. Christina Baglai**, Intercultural cities (ICC) Assistant Programme Manager, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
2. **Mr. Daniel de Torres Barderi**, ICC expert, IMACITY SL, Barcelona, Spain
3. **Ms. Helena Rojas**, Director of Division for Democracy, Human rights and Intercultural Development, Botkyrka Municipal Council, Sweden
4. **Mr. Olexandre Butsenko**, Director, Development Centre “Democracy through Culture”, Kyiv, Ukraine
5. **Mr. Oliver Freeman**, Consultant in intercultural management, Lausanne, Switzerland
6. **Mr. Francisco Empis**, Coordinator of the Portuguese ICC network, Lisbon, Portugal
7. **Mr. Bruno Cianco**, ICC expert, ICC Coordinator at Castelvetro, Head of the Transcultural Master Programme at the University of Modena Modena, Italy
8. **Mr. Enping Zhuang**, Associate Dean, School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai University, Shanghai, China
9. **Mr. Mathias Malmberg**, ICC expert, Voorschoten consultancy, the Netherlands
10. **Ms. Phyllis Brunson**, Associate director, Center for the Study of Social Policy, Washington, D.C. Washington, USA

Workshop Session 6

“The Role of Corporate Sector in Promoting intercultural dialogue and diversity”, Page 43

31 May, 09:30-11:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Amirjan Boardroom

Organizers: Azerbaijan, UN Alliance of Civilizations

1. Mr. Effenus Henderson, Chief Diversity Officer and Director, Workforce Representation and Diversity for Weyerhaeuser Company, USA

2. Mr. Carl Westring, Vice President Partnerships Education First

Workshop Session 7

“Global citizenship: towards intercultural actions”, Page 43

31 May, 11:30-13:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Khojasan Hall

Organizers: Government of Azerbaijan

Moderator: Dr Darla Deardorff, Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)

SPEAKERS:

1. Mr. Stephen Shashoua, Director of the Three Faiths Forum, UK

2. Mr. Jose Cordeiro, Founder and president emeritus of the World Future Society, Venezuela Chapter, Sociedad Mundial del Futuro Venezuela

3. Ms. Sirkka Heinonen, University of Turku, Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC), Director of Helsinki Office (tbc)

4. Mr. Fiyaz Mugal, the Founder and Director of a not for profit organization called Faith Matters

5. Ms. Sanja Vlahovic, Minister of Science, Montenegro

6. Mr. Hans Köchler, President International Progress Organization, Germany

7. Mr. Jafar Ku Shaari, General Director of Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

8. Mr. Taleh Heydarov, Chairman of European Azerbaijan Society, Azerbaijan

Workshop Session 8

“Intercultural dialogue: Faith and Science”, Page 45

31 May, 11:30-13:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Hovsan Hall

Organizers: Azerbaijan, ISESCO

Moderator: Dr. Bruno Abd-al-Haqq Guiderdoni, Astrophysicist, University of Lyon, France

SPEAKERS:

1. Mr. Abdelilah Benarafa, Expert in charge of cultural policies and cultural diversity, ISESCO, Rabat, Morocco

2. Mr. Elshad Iskandarov, Chair of the State Committee for Religious Affairs

3. Mr. Mohamed Tahar Bensaada, Philosopher, Haute Ecole Ilya Prigogine, Brussels, Belgium

4. Ms. Inès Safi, Physicist, University of Paris, France

5. Ms. Nabila Aghanim, Astrophysicist, University of Paris, France

6. Mr. Nidhal Guessoum, Astrophysicist, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

7. Mr. Claudio La Jacono, President of the Institute for Oriental studies, Italy

Workshop Session 9

“Strengthening the role of civil society to promote intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion”, Page 46

31 May, 11:30-13:00, JW Marriott Absheron Baku Hotel, Amirjan Boardroom

Organizers: Azerbaijan, UNAOC, Global Dialogue Foundation

SPEAKERS:

1. Mr. Peter (Pece) Gorgievski, Chief Executive Officer of Global Dialogue Foundation, Unity in Diversity, Australia

2. Mr. Fuad Muradov, Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan



CONCEPT NOTE

2ND BAKU WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE BAKU 2013

“Living together peacefully in a diverse world”

Two of the most pressing challenges of the contemporary world and, indeed, challenges that increasingly manifest on a global scale are those of living together peacefully and the intercultural dialogue that helps make that happen.

This second high-level international meeting devoted to various aspects of living together with mutual respect and understanding between all cultures of the world has been declared by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly and is supported by a roster of international organisations. The first Baku Forum in 2011 addressed challenges of intercultural dialogue in its various aspects regarding conceptual frameworks, governance, policy and practice. It tackled the barriers to dialogue and faced concretely how dialogue can best be pursued in diverse context. The Baku Forum is establishing itself as a powerful convenor for sharing good practices and launching new initiatives.

At the first Baku Forum two key commitments were made:

- To turn the World Forum into a regular event;
- To use appropriate means to place cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue higher on the international agenda.

The distinctive role and purpose of the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue at Baku (WFID) will be to continue to raise global awareness about the importance of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as well as to reflect the rising strategic weight of Azerbaijan and its near neighbours as both a geo-political crossroads and as an emerging geographical corridor in which a convergence of interests between global actors abounds, serving a common interest and addressing strategic needs of all countries involved.

In an unprecedentedly interconnected world both corridors through which encounter and exchange take place and other more virtual connections are required. The Baku World' forum is fully inclusive and has ensured sufficient and full engagement from a truly global community.

WFID will continue to enable Azerbaijan and its close region to make a distinctive contribution to global understanding. A more local, regional component within the Forum reflects long traditions of acceptance of cultural diversity in and between communities and nation states.

WFID is focusing on the challenge of living together peacefully in a diverse world. It has taken as a starting point acceptance that global communities are diverse, some super-diverse; this demographic fact sets an important agenda for people worldwide.

The 2013 Forum combines national governments, international agencies, business and civil society in intense and practical conversation about building a peaceful world together, about the particular challenges of multi-cultural societies and about the responsibilities of global citizens for intercultural action.

The Forum will use plenary sessions, parallel roundtables and workshops as well as hosting a Ministerial Conference. Session formats are described in Annex 1.

Introduction: a distinctive approach to WFID

The approach to the 2nd WFID will retain the strong commitment to intercultural dialogue as a tool, a process and as a 'destination'. A key component of this Forum will be the building of support among people. This is predicated on the concept accepted at the first Forum, and elsewhere, that intercultural dialogue has become both a necessary and desirable characteristic of the contemporary world –the unavoidable consequence of globalisation and super-diversity.

Organising for WFID 2013



An organising theme for the WFID 2013 will be to take stock of where we are, taking a critical view about how well we have used intercultural dialogue in various challenging contexts over the past few years. The participants will bring essential insights drawn from experience and best practice; the strategic partners to the Forum combine agencies and organisations whose commitment to successful dialogues is unambiguous. WFID provides a unique opportunity for convergence and collaboration for this important agenda. Each session of the Forum will highlight insight –looking broadly at what has been successful, and why? And will respond with foresight –together taking a positive and practical forward-look to where we might be in, say, ten years' time. What are the goals that we would set against this understanding? So, where might we be, and how might we have used intercultural dialogue to get there? WFID 2013 gives structure to this foresight by choice of three contemporary themes for dialogue:

1. Working together to build a shared future;
2. The emergence of new hybridity in culture as a consequence of globalisation
3. The role of global citizenship for intercultural action.

Taking the Insight-Foresight approach to our work at the WFID will help develop a sense of distinctiveness for the continuing conversations at the Baku Fora over time.

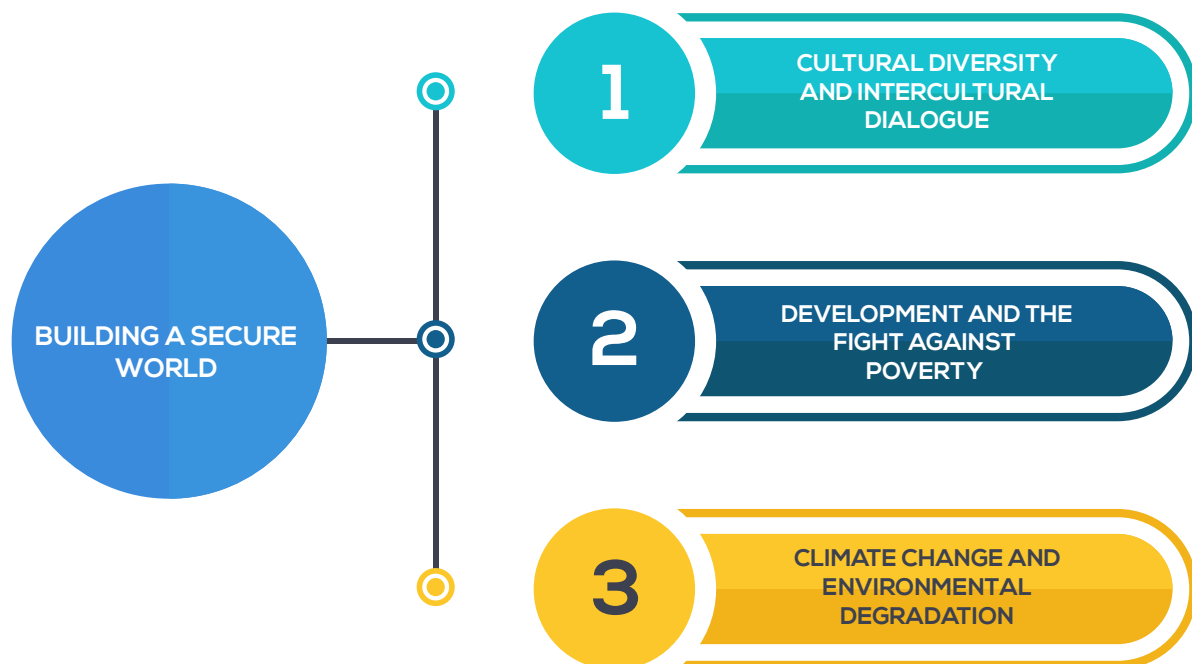
An overarching agenda

Globalisation has brought the world closer together; distances between places have seemingly become shorter.

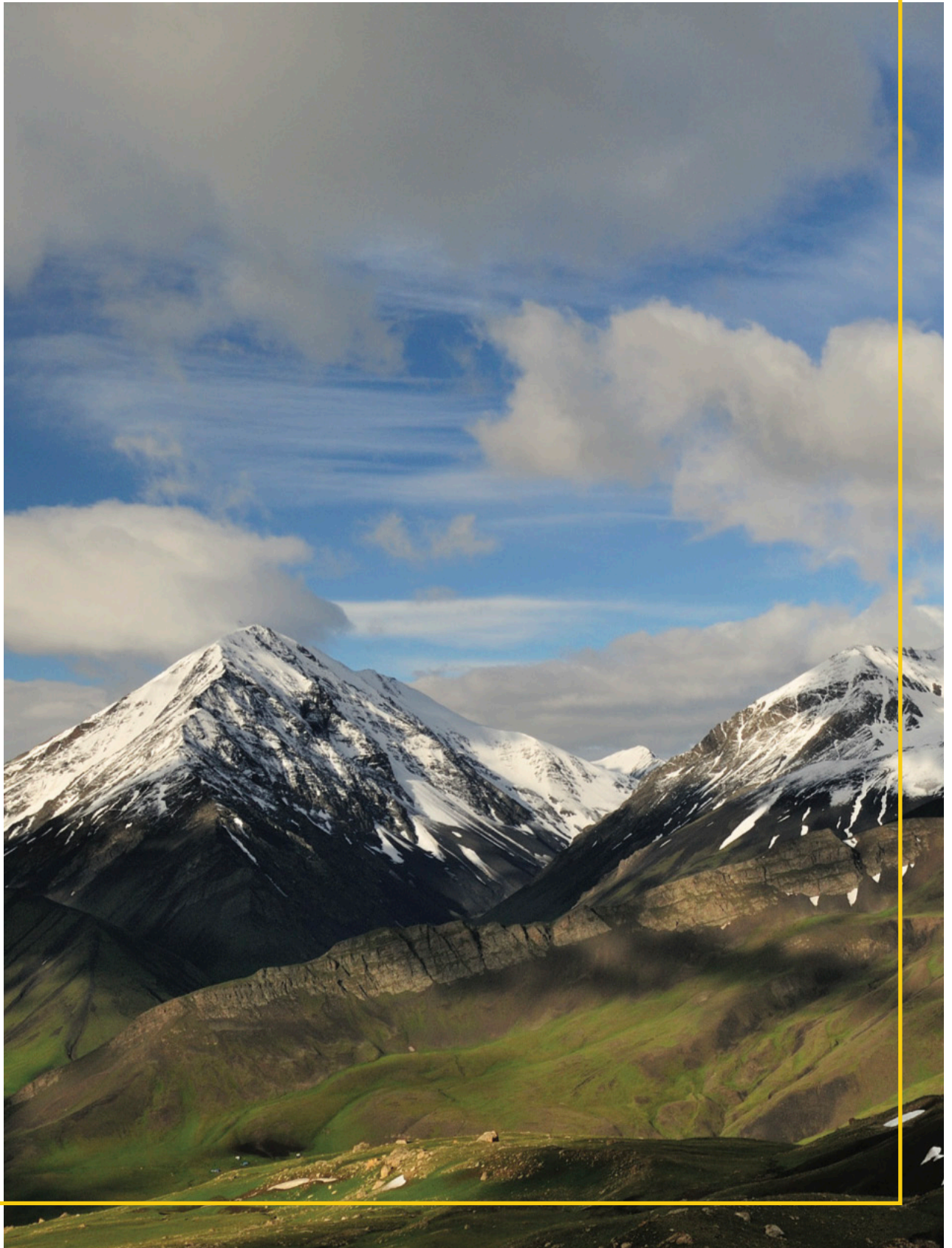
As a result, people interact with cultural difference on a daily basis. In order to address some of the pressing issues of modern day life, it is vital to be able to navigate global networks. Intercultural dialogue is important in meeting these challenges. It helps recognition that difference exists, and addresses the need to encourage mutual trust and understanding between diverse people. The environment in which intercultural dialogue takes place is marked by difference, proximity and interconnectedness.

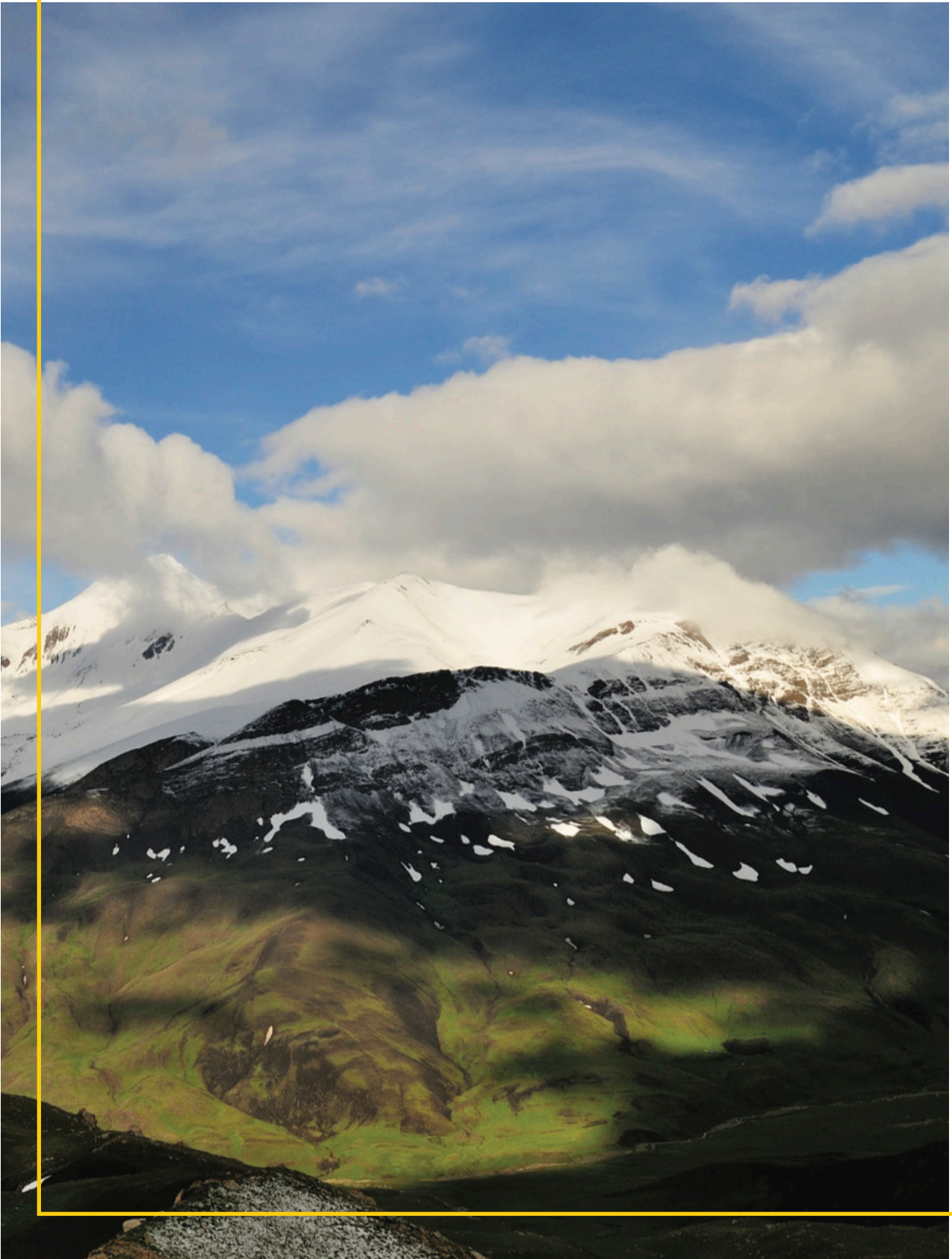
Placing cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue higher on the international agenda is critical for human security and a prime responsibility for the 21st Century. Human security is a people-centred concept that focuses on the most critical and pervasive threats below which the survival, livelihood and dignity of individuals are seriously threatened.

Multiple influences, complex identities, growing inequality and almost-complete interdependence characterise a world where success and peace depend on peoples' ability to share space, resources and understanding. In this regard, 21st Century change is unprecedented and demand a new sense of priority for understanding cultural difference in a connected world in which threats to peaceful coexistence challenge individuals, local communities and spill over into regional and international security threats. The high level ambition of the WFID 2013 is to promote agreement and international commitment that cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is elevated to a position alongside the war on poverty and climate change as prime global priorities for human development and security, and the particular role that cultural exchange and diplomacy can have to these agendas.



The first ten years of the 21st Century was characterised by an urgency to understand each other better. The second ten years will be more about learning to live together in ways that promote security, prosperity and environmental sustainability. Cultural relationships and intercultural dialogue in particular, make a significant contribution to this challenging agenda through earning intercultural trust. This stands at the beginning and at the end of development and yet it is also a resource along the way.





What and why culture and cultural identity?

WFID seeks to examine the importance of culture as a source of difference and demarcation, through the lens of perceptions of culture. The Forum will seek to take as a starting point an imperfect reflection of culture that can create the opportunity to operationalise cultural exchange, rather than to focus on the myriad of definitions of culture that exist and how people continue to discuss semantics. Culture and cultural identity are symbolic, a system, applied to groups, to a large extent learned phenomenon as well as being both process and product.

For WFID, culture is defined as a system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and artefacts that members of society use to cope with their world and with one another, and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning.

Culture, then, in its broadest sense is cultivated behavior; that is the totality of a person's learned, accumulated experience which is socially transmitted, or more briefly, behaviour through social learning.

The "Baku Process"

Azerbaijan is one of the unique places where different cultures and civilizations meet and a significant corridor between the East and the West, the North and the South. At the same time, being a member of both Islamic and European organizations Azerbaijan absorbs the values of both civilizations, thus enabling it to assume a role of a genuine connector.

The Baku Process is a challenge for the promotion of intercultural dialogue to move from ideas to practice and to establish a platform in which today's challenges can be discussed in the spirit of intercultural dialogue and universal values.

The Baku Process is understood as a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage living on different continents, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect.

The Baku Forum has taken responsibility for delivering the global agenda on the Dialogue among Civilisations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (November 2001), the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was adopted by ISESCO in 2004, Declaration and Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue (May 2008), as well as the Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue Azerbaijan hosted the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on 7-9 April, 2011 in Baku under patronage of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan that had been declared by the President at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (23 September 2010, New-York).

WFID 2011, supported by prestigious international organizations such as UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilisations, Council of Europe, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, ISESCO, convened 500 representatives from 102 countries from all continents of the World; Cultural Ministers from 20 countries, deputy ministers of numerous states, leading international organizations including the ISESCO Director General, the Assistant Director General

of UNESCO, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, mayors of various world cities, diplomats, media organizations, international NGOs, scientists, scholars, distinguished cultural experts, practitioners, intellectuals and activists. Together pursuing the theme “United Through Common Values, Enriched by Cultural Diversity” they worked to advance the initiatives, realized by Azerbaijan in the sphere of intercultural dialogue, from regional context onto the global level, and to establish a fully-functioning International Forum in the country.

The 5 A - Intercultural Cooperation Platform was established at the Forum to promote wider attention to cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Bearing in mind the Azerbaijani language acronym of the first letters of the five continents, represented with huge delegations at the event - “Avropa, Asiya, Amerika, Afrika, Australiya”, the new platform was symbolically named the “5 A’s”.

Contemporary influences of the Baku Forum

WFID 2013 will reflect how global awareness about the importance of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is growing. This concept note describes how it is proposed to ensure that the 2nd Baku Forum (and those that follow) has a clear and distinctive role and purpose. This might set it apart from other important forums, such as the Alliance of Civilisation Forum in Vienna held in February 2013.

The emergence of a distinctive and sustaining role for the Baku Forum will help turn it into a regular event.

At the First World Forum in 2011, Intercultural Dialogue was acknowledged for its power and as a ‘pressing need’. The preparatory concept note for that Forum argued importance of such dialogue “by pointing to dramatic transformations in the world system in recent decades which fostered renewed intolerance of the ‘self’ for the ‘other” (Wilson 2011), and showed how it can engage in the broad cultural arena where acute manifestations of intolerance appear. Little has changed.

Since that time there has been more questioning about the likely global order of the future in which any and all forms of dialogue might take place to promote positive cultural relationships. For some time, and particularly since discussion about the decline of the ‘West’ started in earnest, the move from a bi-polar to a multi-polar world has created significant changes for dialogue. What is now referred to as the ‘Western World Order’, together with the West’s capacity to define modernity, has created generation of commentators unsure whether there was a difference between modernisation and Westernisation. These are big issues for the context of Intercultural Dialogue –particularly the foresight that we may be about to experience a world with competing narratives (rather than a convergence towards a Western narrative).

Some have argued that a future world order may look rather different from our current thoughts. The West may have to embrace political diversity rather than insist that liberal diversity is the only legitimate form of government. The World may well be headed towards a “global dissensus” (Kupchan, 2012). There may be some resonance with this for the contribution that Azerbaijan and its close region can make to global understanding, where long traditions of acceptance of multi-faith communities and moderation are in

evidence. A regional component that examined this and drew in relationships with central Asia as well as central Europe might bring distinctive outcomes.

Finally, WFID 2013 will retain the strong commitment to Intercultural Dialogue as a tool, a process and as a 'destination'. This is predicated on the concept accepted at the first Forum, and elsewhere, that intercultural dialogue has become both a necessary and desirable characteristic of the contemporary world – the unavoidable consequence of globalisation and super-diversity.

Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue (ICD) as a prime responsibility of our time

Successful intercultural dialogue is essential to help us navigate the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century world. Cultural relationships that are involved help provide the means, opportunities and skills required by people, organisations and communities to work successfully together. Through working together, we can better understand and share approaches to the challenges confronting us during this age of globalisation and super diversity.

"The exchange of knowledge and ideas generates opportunities and responds to aspirations. This builds understanding and co-operation and enables people to have more secured and fulfilling lives. This is a people-to-people endeavour; these cultural relationships are essentially dialogue between human beings, not between cultural entities." (Anna Lindh Foundation).

Intercultural dialogue is important as it allows long-term and intensive engagement with people from another culture. This can help people see their own culture from a different perspective, which leads to re-evaluating their own views and ideas. On the other hand, intercultural dialogue also re-introduces some of the detail – the diversity – into our perception of others.

Successful intercultural dialogue is based on purposeful long-term interactions. These allow the development of individuals' confidence and competences to move towards bridging cultures through a two-way process of open, honest and critical engagement. Intercultural dialogue explores difference, insisting not on agreement but on listening with respect.

Intercultural dialogue is a particularly sensitive area of cultural relations, inherently contentious and open to different, contradictory interpretations. Mutual respect – not the same as mutual approval – is crucial. Reasoned disagreement builds stronger, more authentic and lasting relationships. Avoiding difficult questions (such as political conflict or differences in values) is counterproductive: addressing them directly and with respect builds trust.

WFID is looking at both religion and science in the context of intercultural action.

Religion, faith and belief play form the backdrop to the day-to-day lives of the majority of the world's population. Without approaching some of the key current intercultural debates of global significance through the lens of belief, we are unable to effectively engage with the concerns or interests of a significant section of global societies.

The role of faith in public affairs can be a highly contentious issue in international and cultural relations. It could be argued that the role of faith in society is central to some of the most pressing international political and security issues/debates of the day. However, in an increasingly pluralist and globalised world, building a more nuanced and cross cultural picture of the role that faith plays in our societies will help to tackle some of the preconceptions that drive these clashes at home and internationally – particularly in a multi-polar world where assumptions about the global order are challenged.

Whilst, there have been some very successful international initiatives that seek to engage effectively across different religious or faith communities. These tend to deal with some of the complexities of relations between world religions and their leaders or internally to those groups (Intra and Inter faith initiatives).

These conversations between ‘religions’ clearly play a central role in inter-cultural dialogue. However, the differing cultural contexts of faith does not simply come down to understanding differing cultural practices, values or doctrinal stances within communities – it is actually a far bigger picture of the changing nature of the role of faith in the private and public sphere and individual, community, national or trans-national identity.

The role of intercultural dialogue in this sphere should seek to move on from simply bringing together faith leaders and move to seriously engaging with misconceptions and polarizing narratives concerning the nature of secular governance and the role of belief, faith and religion in society.



REPORT **2ND WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

“LIVING TOGETHER PEACEFULLY IN A DIVERSE WORLD” 29 MAY - 01 JUNE, 2013

BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The 2nd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE was held from May 29 to June 01, 2013 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan under patronage of **H.E. Mr Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe, ISESCO, North- South Center of the Council of Europe.**

The 2nd Baku Forum addressed challenges of intercultural dialogue in its various aspects regarding conceptual frameworks, governance, policy and practice. It has tackled the barriers to dialogue and faced concretely how dialogue can best be pursued in diverse contexts. It provided an opportunity for sharing of good practices and the launch of new initiatives within this intercultural platform. 600 representatives from 115 countries from all continents, head of governments and many international organization, NGOs, media representatives, scholars, experts and etc. participated in the Forum.

The Forum adopted the overall theme of ‘Living together peacefully in a diverse world’ and continued the commitment made by **President Ilham Aliyev** for the creation of a global platform for the promotion of intercultural dialogue, to raise awareness and understanding about cultural diversity.

In welcoming delegates, President Ilham Aliyev emphasised the holding of the Forum as a manifestation of the “Baku process”. The “Baku process” began in 2008, the start of a broad process, will be remembered for the participation of Culture Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member-states in the Baku meeting of Culture Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2008. Following in 2009, Baku hosted a meeting of the Culture Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that was attended by their colleagues from the Council of Europe.

In other words, Baku, essentially playing the role of a geographical bridge, has also successfully performed the function of an intercultural bridge.

“Azerbaijan has been the homeland for the representatives of all ethnicities and confessions living here for centuries, and as an independent country, Azerbaijan is still a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Representatives of all religions and ethnicities live here like one family, in an atmosphere of peace, friendship and mutual understanding.

It is our great asset, a great advantage, and I believe that this factor has also played a role in the successful development of Azerbaijan.”

Ilham Aliyev

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, opening remarks,

30 May 2013

Rapporteur's Summary

1. A busy Forum: building on the past and supporting the future

The 2013 World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue adopted the overall theme of ‘Living together peacefully in a diverse world’. This second World Forum continued the commitment made by President Aliyev for the creation of a global platform for the promotion of intercultural dialogue, to raise awareness and understanding about cultural diversity.

The First World Forum, supported by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was held on 7-9 April 2011 and made significant commitments, which have been delivered and implemented.

The 1st World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue made commitments to

- The continuation of the Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, hosting an event every two years.
- The launch of a campaign to raise awareness about the significance of the challenge of cultural diversity as an important influence on peace and stability in the world; as important as the fight against poverty or the concern over climate change.

1	2	3	4
Work in partnership with existing programmes of leading international organisations in this field: UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilisations, Council of Europe, ISESCO and UN World Tourism Organisation.	Amplify rather than duplicate efforts.	Foreground the (rapidly) changing nature of culture and cultural diversity.	Continue discussion of global citizenship, globalisation and global interaction.





Thus the 2nd World Forum was planned to use its convening power to create space for effective and meaningful dialogue on cultural diversity. By working within the existing global context, the Forum has positioned itself alongside its partners, each of whom is responding to the challenges and opportunities that cultural diversity brings to communities and for social cohesion.

The Forum brought together significant local/national and global stakeholders. It combined plenary discussions on the overarching theme of the Forum – Living together peacefully in a diverse world – with sector-specific workshops promoting agendas of the partner organisations. Opportunity was taken to convene a first meeting of Ministers of Culture and Tourism from around the world to discuss initiatives to support the role of arts, music, entertainment and sports as well as other forms of collective expressions of human values to foster the culture of peace.

Workshops of the Forum discussed

- History teaching
- “Muslim-West” partnerships
- Intercultural competences
- Tourism
- Hybridity of cultures
- Urban policies and the role of cities
- The private sector: both large corporations and SMEs
- Global citizenship
- The role of faith and science
- Civil society organisations (CSOs) and the introduction of national CSO chapters.

In addition to the First meeting of Ministers of Culture and Tourism, other side events at the Forum included the first summit of the Alumni Network of the UNAOC Fellowship; the UNAOC “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” campaign; UNESCO-sponsored “Writing Peace” exhibition.

The “Living Together Peacefully in a Diverse World” competition prizes were also awarded during the Forum, to outstanding projects run by not-for-profit organisations that have proven positive results and are protecting and enhancing cultural diversity.

Opening ceremony of the Forum

The opening session included formative presentation from leaders of the collaborating partnership behind the Forum setting out the context, challenges and agendas that made the Forum both timely and important.

In welcoming participants, His Excellency **Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan** noted that regardless of the public and political structure,

“Azerbaijan has always been a space of religious tolerance. I am glad that in the years of independence we have not only managed to maintain these positive trends, but have further strengthened them and do not

limit our activities to Azerbaijan alone. The initiatives Azerbaijan has put forward are reverberating around the world today. I believe that all of our regional initiatives – political, economic and others – also create favourable conditions for regional cooperation, while the dialogue among peoples and nations further enhances these positive trends.”



H.E MR ILHAM ALIYEV

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

President Mr. Ilham Aliyev continued by challenging contemporary views on multiculturalism, setting the tone for further conversations during the Forum:

“There is practically no alternative to multiculturalism. The alternatives of it are discrimination, xenophobia, racism and fascism. I believe that in the 21st century progressive people should be more active in preventing these negative trends... In particular, different thoughts about multiculturalism have been expressed lately. Some believe that multiculturalism has failed. Politicians in some countries have openly talked about that. We see that public opinion is very pessimistic trends. Unfortunately, sometimes political statements, the activities of non-governmental organizations and some media institu-

tions do not contribute to the development of inter-civilizational dialogue. Instead, they give way to discrimination. Therefore, the responsibility of politicians and public figures is of great importance here. Any idea expressed anywhere in today’s globalizing world and in the Internet era may immediately reverberate in the world.

I think that the Second Forum, taking place in Baku is a great contribution to our common cause. But we should not limit our work to organizing forums. We have to prepare a variety of activities and carry out a variety of events. We should take serious measures to promote intercultural dialogue.

I believe that we should apply the positive experience even more broadly. The people present here, the participants in this forum have one common idea. We share the idea of multiculturalism, the successful future of the intercultural dialogue, strengthening the positive trends occurring in the world. This being the case, we must also strive to strengthen these positive trends with our work and practical steps.”

His Excellency Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, His Excellency Mr Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilisations, reinforced his support and the importance of the strong partnership between the Baku Process and the UN Alliance of Civilisations. He reminded participants of the universal commitment to diversity and inclusion, informed, how in a growing number of countries culture is perceived as source of division, instead of a path to dialogue and human solidarity. In some regions, as he informed, minorities are victims of atrocities including mass killings, only because they belong to different cultures. Holy books



MR. NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER
UN HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE UNAOC

are burned and religious symbols are defamed. These, he stressed, are real challenges, which threaten our efforts to achieve our shared goals of peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

“There are many people around the world who stand for diversity and inclusion, and who know that it is indispensable to live in peace and prosperity. As leaders from Governments, corporate sector, civil society, our role and responsibility is to hear their voice and expectations and to empower them to counter the forces of polarization and hatred.

Although the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many other international law instruments clearly prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion, race, gender and many other differences, sadly we live predominantly in a world of intolerance, xenophobia, marginalization, tensions and conflict.

I want to seize this opportunity and in the presence of Ministers of Culture and Tourism from around the world to stress the role of arts, music, entertainment and sports as well as other forms of collective expressions of human values to foster the culture of peace. I have announced in my inaugural address in Vienna this past February that these would become part of the new pillars of the work of the Alliance of Civilizations. I'm very pleased to say it again here, in this beautiful city of Baku where culture, arts and history constitute the core of the identity of this country.

We have indeed the conviction that media, civil society and the corporate sector are essential components, crucial actors if we want to be able to reach this goal of “Living together peacefully in a diverse world”. They do innovate, they are close to the people, they understand the dynamics of the modern and complex world where we live.”

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO reminded delegates that we live in turbulent times, and an age where differences between nations are made more complex by differences within nations. “(We are in..) times of economic crisis, when societies are more diverse, when culture stands increasingly on



MS IRINA BOKOVA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO

the frontline of conflict, as in Mali, in Syria. Addressing the diversity of States has always been a central question of international relations. Today, addressing cultural diversity within States is becoming the core issue.

This is why dialogue is so essential as a way to deepen social inclusion and solidarity against the pressures of fragmentation. For UNESCO, peace cannot be based exclusively upon political and economic arrangements – it must be founded upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind. This solidarity must build on dialogue and exchange, through respect and understanding.”

Madame Bokova concluded with reference to the words of Azeri poetess Mahsati Ganjavi, whose 900th anniversary was celebrated by UNESCO earlier in the month.

“Mahsati Ganjavi wrote poetry about the dignity of the human spirit. In her words,

When I went beyond myself, the pathway finally opened. This, I think, is the essence of dialogue for peace.”

Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) congratulated participants as champions of a just peace and of optimism, aligning strongly the work of ISESCO and of OIC to the Baku Process:

“Advocates of intercultural dialogue are therefore peace-makers committed to a bright, safe and prosperous future. They keep hope alive, restore broken bonds of rapprochement and coexistence between peoples and nations, and lay the ground for new relations based on mutual understanding, shared interests, and respect for international law.

Such is the civilized mission of this Forum, which brings us together as champions of just peace and holders of an optimistic view to the future of humanity in these moments of pervasive despair.



MR ABDULAZIZ OTHMAN ALTWAIJRI
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISESCO





The 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue Plenary Sessions

SESSION	INSIGHT	FORESIGHT
<p>Plenary 1:</p> <p>Cultural corridors in Southeast Europe, Black Sea and Caucasus regions – shared heritage, common responsibilities, sustainable future</p>	<p>Success in South East Europe showing the power of culture and heritage in bringing together diverse communities</p>	<p>Extend to the Black Sea and Caucasus; a major new programme of cultural exhibitions and exchange would see interaction and contact through heritage and the arts.</p>
<p>Plenary 2:</p> <p>The New Era of Globalization: Hybridity of cultures in changing world</p>	<p>The permanence, pervasiveness and complexity of diversity and identity. Including demographic (race, ethnicity, age, social class) and cognitive difference (the way people think and behave.)</p>	<p>The growing complexity of cultural diversity –and the importance of understanding the sources of tensions between different cultures. · Importance of socio-economic structural conditions, and inequality. Need for a new language –new terms, new signals.</p> <p>· Global interaction (not globalisation); replace agreement with acceptance; include human dignity and respect.’</p>
<p>Plenary 3:</p> <p>Building public support for cultural diversity</p>	<p>Recognition of the challenges within the ‘usual suspects’, the constituency of the already committed.</p>	<p>Need to build a broader and deeper constituency of ordinary people and communities –and extend beyond the policy-maker. To include explicitly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the private sector · women · younger people · civil society <p>and a range of cultural diversity champions. These should learn lessons from other global change campaigns such as those around poverty, HIV/Aids, STDs, and climate change for example</p>

2. Foresight: pointers for the World Forum in 2015, 2017 and beyond:

We highlighted a number of issues for development and discussion at a future World Forum.

2.1 Four topics emerged:

a. The private sector: an untapped resource? Large and international companies are important sources of good practices and resources; some say they are 'ahead of the game' in terms of managing diverse communities (employees, customers and stakeholders) and when approaching cultural diversity as an asset. SMEs are important implementers and innovators, with reach and influence in communities. The private sector can be part of the story: cross-sector partnerships, and the convergence of sectors highlight new approaches.

b. Life-long learning: seen as a prerequisite for action. Education is important for all, and not just for those within formal education. The importance of life-long learning, and a focus on those that influence behaviour now. New insights were shared around the importance of the perceptions, behaviours and understandings of parents, community leaders as well as faith leaders, in the broad education of people.

c. Inequalities matter: we need to establish and remember the link between cultural diversity and international development: the importance of inequality as a powerful source of intercultural tension.

d. Younger people are influencers, shapers, change-makers now and don't want to wait to be granted control; all generations must be involved.

2.2 Recommended improvements to our approach:

a. How we dialogue: methods and mechanisms. We need to improve our practice in dialogue –a World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue that could use dialogue better. We may need to extend our constituency and participants and combine them in new ways and new collaborations within our constituency. The strength of the World Forum has been the active involvement of senior politicians, policy-makers, academics and community practitioners, but we must seek ways of incorporating them not just as attendees or even participants but also as directors/innovators/agenda-setters.

b. The faith and belief dimension. Religion emerged as a significant component within intercultural dialogue globally, and we have the opportunity now better to interrogate the meaning and practice of religious diversity and tolerance in context.

c. Multi-layered diversity. We must not forget the diversity within nation states and within communities, including our own as a Forum, in 2013 with 97 nations represented.

A Preliminary Evaluation: drawing comment and ideas

In addition to the reports of moderators and conclusions drawn by session chairs, a series of discussions with participants were held during the Forum, and an evaluation undertaken. The discussions focused upon delegates' reasons for attending, their experiences of the Forum, their views on ICD and their own ICD practice, and how to take the Baku Process forward towards the 3rd Forum in 2015.

Professor Mike Hardy

Baku Forum 2013

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE 2ND WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIA- LOGUE, 29 MAY – 1 JUNE 2013

Professor Mike Hardy
Aurelie Broeckerhoff
Dr Rebecca Catto
Centre for Social Relations, Coventry University

Introduction

This report constitutes an initial evaluation of the 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in Baku 29 May – 1 June 2013.

It is based upon observation and interviews conducted during the Forum by Professor Mike Hardy, Aurélie Broeckerhoff and Dr Rebecca Catto of Coventry University's Centre for Social Relations, as commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Azerbaijan.

1. Participants

1.1 Overview

Over the course of the Forum we were able to interview 30 delegates from 20 different countries across the world, including in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and North America. Interviewees represent a range of ages, professional roles, and seniority, and there is a gender balance. Hence, whilst the sample is not representative, it is indicative of a variety of delegate viewpoints, and the analysis that follows ought to be read with this in mind. The interviews focused upon delegates' reasons for attending, their experiences of the Forum, their views on ICD and their own ICD practice, and how to take the Baku Process forward towards the 3rd Forum in 2015. Yet they were semi-structured in order to facilitate exploration of particular themes and issues raised by interviewees. Each individual's background and work inform their views (as did the stage during the Forum at which we were able to interview them), nonetheless, common and recurring themes emerge, which we present below.

Overwhelmingly, interviewees were deeply grateful for the invitation and support to attend the Forum. One delegate not involved directly with intercultural dialogue (ICD) in his professional role commented: "So this is my first time experience and I'm very, very grateful for the invitation I received from the Ministry and I was very happy to be involved in these events." All saw ICD as relevant to their professional role and/or voluntary work, and this was a reason for attending.

Interviewees were involved in politics, law, tourism, history education, the private sector, NGOs, academia, the arts, journalism, and the UN and other transnational bodies. Various motivations for their engagement with ICD were cited. For example, one interviewee spoke of their own experience of ethnic discrimination, two of their

personal experiences of a mixed heritage, and two cited the importance of building dialogue between Muslim and non-Muslim cultures post 9/11. Another explained that they believe that the existence of injustices and inequality placed responsibility to act upon those in privileged positions. A strong belief in the importance and value of ICD prevailed: "I think dialogue is a good thing, intercultural or otherwise. I approve of it, probably practice it quite a lot.", as did a sense of personal passion for ICD: "I have a very personal reason I think, I've been fortunate enough to be exposed during my life to so many different cultures and it's been enriching my life all along... I have been exposed to the fantastic assets of the world in terms of cultural heritage and religion and I've obviously seen and been confronted with some of the difficulties. So I've made a pledge that I want to contribute to a more multi-cultural and inclusive society. So it's both a personal passion and conviction that I have that happily now can be combined with the professional work that I do in my current capacity." Coming from a context currently in conflict, one delegate explained that ICD is a necessity rather than luxury in that context. Similarly, three other interviewees felt that there is no alternative to dialogue. Another spoke of how their Christian faith background motivated them to work towards making this world more peaceful.

1.2 Hopes and Expectations

Given that interviewees generally stated a belief in and personal commitment to ICD, it is to be anticipated they would come to the Forum filled with hopes and expectations. At a basic level, there was a hope to be able to network and meet likeminded others. A few interviewees expressed their anticipation of the opportunity to think together and share and generate ideas.

Three respondents expressed how they expect the full, frank, and honest addressing of awkward, taboo and difficult topics to comprise part of dialogue: "I do think the fact that issues are difficult is not a good reason for not dealing with them..." One of them asserted that there is evidence to show that excessive politeness and a lack of recognition of the degree of problems is a real danger. There was also a repeated expectation that effective ICD will lead to action, yet others recognised the challenges of implementation.

"I also wanted to get acquainted with Baku, a place that I've never been and one that is emerging to be an important player."

Some interviews hoped and expected to learn more about Baku and Azerbaijan through attending the Forum:

"this is the first time I'm coming to this part of the world, I have not even heard of the country Azerbaijan in my life before until I got the invitation letter and then I took time to look at Google to find exactly what the country is all about and where it is and just look at it."

1.3 Value and Benefit

Having arrived with certain hopes and expectations, what then did interviewees think they had learned and gained from participation at the 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue? What did they enjoy and find valuable? Those who had attended the first Forum in 2011 were appreciative of the developments and improvements they observed in terms of content, the mix of sessions and delegates, and more space for networking within the event programme.





The conference context itself was praised in numerous interviews. The impressiveness of the Heydar Aliyev Center was commented upon, as was the comfort and space of the JW Marriott Absheron as the main conference venue. Interviewees spoke of the hospitality, friendliness and helpfulness of the local organizers and volunteers. One interviewee stated: "Overall the organisation of the conference, everything has been 100% perfect, end of.", and another that the event was well organized.

Some interviewees spoke positively about the President's speech and further presence at the Forum Opening Ceremony as demonstrating commitment to and leadership on ICD: "it should be beneficial because the country is taking the leadership on taking a kind of dialogic approach to difference and potential conflict. So starting with the President there's a lot to be grateful for and acknowledge in terms of that leadership. Trying to be on the side of reasoned argument, discussion, debate, and ultimately dialogue..." The participation of **Mr Abulfas Garayev**, Minister of Culture and Tourism, and **Mr Mikayil Jabbarov**, Minister of Education, was also acknowledged and appreciated, as was that of culture and tourism ministers from around the world.

Individuals cited personal learning points. One had appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Azerbaijani local government. A couple of interviewees mentioned the opportunity to learn more about history education and multiple perspectives on history specifically, and others faith and science. The interactive intercultural cities workshop session was also particularly appreciated, as was the session on tourism, which made one participant reflect upon the importance of emotion and empathy in tourism. Another enjoyed hearing how human rights are being interpreted as part of Tunisian tradition rather than alien to it following the Arab Spring. One ICD practitioner now plans to develop more work engaging with young people having been prompted by the Forum to think more about the importance of including them in ICD, and another said that they would take home the general, positive message that "it is very possible that all of us irrespective of our race, our religion, wherever we come from we are one humanity and we can live together."

Participants gained not only from what they had learned, but the opportunity to feel that their own work was recognised and appreciated. The Do One Thing for Diversity and Living Peacefully Together in a Diverse World schemes and awards were seen to provide particular recognition and visibility to some of those involved at the grass roots of ICD, as well as credibility. Three mentioned how they thought the time and space in a lovely setting functioned as a reward for people who work hard all year within limited budgets. One delegate described getting to meet a lot of people who embrace the same values and believe that ICD is one way of a making better world as a "recharging mechanism" in and of itself.

Indeed, the opportunity to meet, network, and exchange ideas with likeminded people from across the world was highly valued by the majority of interviewees. Relative to other international forums, one delegate commented that the smaller scale of the Forum made it easier to meet people. One interviewee summed it up as follows: "it gives a feeling of belonging, that you are not alone, that there are many people so that is involved in many sort of works and I really enjoyed the part of this forum and I'm really pleased with the receptivity of the people..." Another spoke of entering into the spirit of it and challenging as well as listening to others. One interviewee acknowledged that the people who attend events such as the Forum "aren't necessarily the ones we have to convince", but they nonetheless believed that "there is a benefit to creating a network of change

makers that are, that have roughly the same goal so that they can work together in the future to bring about real change.”

The Azerbaijani context was frequently commented upon in interviews. Some spoke of Azerbaijan’s location at a cultural crossroads between East and West: “just look at the setting of the forum, it’s very inspiring to be here in Azerbaijan at the crossroads of so many different cultures and religions and I’m very inspired when I visit societies that exhibit these crossroads. There are a few examples around the world and it’s not easy to coexist and that happens in some places around the world whereas we see in other places it doesn’t work and in that sense I think, you know, just being here it’s inspiring to see that it is possible.”

Eight interviewees spoke specifically about the benefits of the setting and the opportunity to learn more about Azerbaijan. For some it had challenged their preconceptions about the city and country. A couple of interviewees found the society to be more open than they had expected. The fact that **President Mr. Ilham Aliyev** had addressed the conflict with Armenia directly in his opening speech was noted.

Three interviewees cited the fact that our evaluation commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism was being conducted as a particular benefit. One said: “It’s great to have the opportunity there’s someone actually looking for evaluation and feedback.” Another felt it was a way for them to contribute actively to the process, fulfilling a sense of responsibility.

2. Dialogue

2.1 Understanding the Concept

The range of personal and professional backgrounds of forum participants was also reflected in the breadth of approaches to intercultural dialogue (ICD). As expressed by participants and speakers alike, ICD is a means to achieving peaceful co-existence in diverse societies. The intercultural approach starts from the premise that difference is acknowledged, that it exists, but that these differences are not “ignored or overrated.” For participants, ICD, as a way of resolving social tensions, forms the starting point for communication and talking. It is the first “breaking down of barriers” between those engaged in a conversation. But it needs to go beyond simply talking, and involves training or working together towards a common goal. ICD requires active listening and empathy – one participant referred to this as “listening with the second ear.” Participants saw openness as the most important value for those wishing to effect change through intercultural dialogue.

In sum, intercultural dialogue was mainly seen as a tool and a process to improve relations between peoples and nations, which place emphasis on listening, mutuality and empathy for those involved. For interviewees, the most powerful form of intercultural dialogue is when communication is genuine, frank, open to difficult conversation and, wherever possible, voluntary. How, then, is such dialogue achieved?

2.2 Modes and Forms

As seen, at the forefront of dialogue was the factor of communication: communication through face-to-face interaction, through media, social media or through works of art, performances or cultural heritage. ICD was seen by

most as a “long-term multi-stakeholder challenge” which can find expression in the following modes and forms of Intercultural Dialogue:

2.2.1 As Face to Face

To some participants, dialogue was seen as an exchange between leaders and experts from many different countries, while to others it was what happened at the grassroots level. The majority of participants interviewed saw face-to-face engagement as necessary for successful intercultural dialogue: “the most powerful way to change people’s minds, and the most powerful way to change policy and the most powerful way to actually advance an agenda is through person-to-person conversation because then you’re able to identify connections and similarities between people”. This face-to-face interaction could take shape for example as international project teams working together, or as facilitating peaceful relations in communities or societies. The benefit of face-to-face interaction was the possibility of seeing yourself through others’ eyes and being given “a wider perspective of this great journey of life.”

2.2.2 Through Social Media

Most participants were of the view that effective intercultural dialogue required face-to-face interaction. They saw social media as a supporting vehicle for collaborating and communicating, but not as the main platform for dialogue. While social media was identified as important, it could not replace face-to-face engagement. One participant highlighted this by expressing the close relationship between ICD and the building of social capital: “Intercultural dialogue is about local action and actual human beings connecting altogether.”

2.2.3 To Overcome Structural, Socio-economic Inequality

ICD not only occurs in different modes, but can be focused in different areas and upon more specific subjects and goals.

Participants felt that socio-economic differences are a major source of intercultural tensions. At the same time, socio-economic problems are both the origin of intercultural tensions as well as their expression. When disadvantage and inequality are passed down through generations – people are exposed to “settled disadvantage” – this can lead to tensions in local areas, whether this be equal access to health care, school performance or life expectancy. Successful intercultural dialogue needs to help address such structural issues in order to achieve its aims of peaceful co-existence.

2.2.4 To Overcome Conflict

Intercultural dialogue could assist policymakers and practitioners in all efforts of conflict prevention, transformation and resolution by taking people from different sides in a situation or social conflict and allowing them to get to know each other, by either working with marginalised groups within societies or across borders. For participants in their work these groups included: asylum seekers and refugees, ethnic or religious minorities, women, youth. Working “up the pipeline”, that is intervening and engaging people before issues become entrenched or lead to anger, animosity or violence, was preferred by most participants – this point relates to issues around funding for ICD and its measurement/accountability. (Both will be discussed below). In this instance, ICD can help in trying to “resolve an issue amicably” by helping dialogue participants see that “peace starts in the mind”. Participants wished for a more explicit exchange regarding the sources of such conflicts and tensions

between policymakers, academics and practitioners in order to learn from the experiences of others around the world that may face similar issues. Some participants advised caution by highlighting that ICD was only one option among many, that it was the first step of a long peace process, and that it may only be able to lead to improvement, rather than completely resolving deep-rooted issues.

2.2.5 As Cultural Exchange

While the previous two sections focused on wider dialogue between groups, within and across different countries, some participants took a narrower definition of intercultural dialogue. This definition focuses more explicitly on ICD as exchange between peoples and nations of their tangible and intangible cultural heritage, such as works of art, music, performances, language. Some participants saw the Forum as an opportunity to promote bilateral cultural relations between their home country and Azerbaijan. They particularly enjoyed being able to attend the Ministerial session at the Forum, which brought together culture ministers from the region and beyond. ICD in this respect used cultural heritage as a way of engaging people to activate their imagination and creativity in helping to open the mind. One participant remembered hosting an art exhibition for high-profile people who may not have had an interest in the arts: “They reflected on the art and actually you [could] see later that all these scholars that were very tense [ended up] kind of laid back and... talking together. You can see people finding inspiration, connecting and networking, understanding. And then these people became advocates of understanding.”

2.2.6 Through Tourism and Travel

Tourism and travel were seen as important vehicles for intercultural dialogue. To many participants, meeting people from other countries and cultures was the best way to learn about other ways of life. They felt that contact with local people while traveling would teach them something about one’s own culture. Many participants viewed the purpose of activities and conferences in ICD as primarily promoting contact between people from different countries: “These types of events should teach about other cultures, rather than debating definitions of intercultural dialogue...” or “When people are exposed to other cultures, they will learn something”. Overwhelmingly, to participants this meant having the opportunity to speak to ‘everyday’ people in their ‘everyday’ environments, therefore getting to know the ‘everyday life and culture’, rather than being exposed to what one participant called “the official touch”. Although in some instance, participants felt that using the more obvious forms of cultural heritage could be an entry point for exploring further the “complexity of layers” of another country, or using it as a “safe space for cultural interchange”.

2.2.7 In Education

The moderator for one of the panels summed up contributions on a panel halfway through the session with the words “All we have heard so far is: education, education, education.” This also holds true for the importance participants placed on education for intercultural dialogue, although it was felt by some that it was difficult to promote or advocate changes in education policy at conferences like this one, because education policies are decided in national and sub-national committees and ministries removed from the international and intergovernmental world of ICD. This included formal and informal education, as well as education for all ages. Education was seen as useful in teaching “intercultural competence”, “values”, “cultural humility”, positive “human relationships”, principles of “peaceful co-existence”. Embedding ICD in education requires going beyond literacy of cultural issues, and incorporating empathy and compassion - the “heart dimension” - into the learning process.





2.2.8 As Interfaith Dialogue

Interfaith dialogue was genuinely seen to be a more narrow and focused form of intercultural dialogue, focusing on issues of religion and religiosity, faith and beliefs. Participants felt that it may be the most sensitive form of ICD, as people may feel their personal beliefs and values are questioned. A practitioner highlighted the difficulty of conducting interfaith work: "People are sort of conscious and even suspicious at times that you are trying to encroach, and ... interfere with their own belief, with their own world view." Another participant differentiated between the intrapersonal and the interpersonal dimension of religion, the former describing one's personal belief system and faith, the latter denoting the social dimension of religion. Focusing on the latter in interfaith activities may provide resources for overcoming some of the challenges of conducting interfaith dialogue.

2.3 Benefits and Challenges

According to interviewees, the biggest benefit of intercultural dialogue is its ability to challenge stereotypes and help its participants acquire new perspectives on any given situation. It could form the basis from which to build a "robust public discourse" that respects the many cultures present in diverse societies. Another advantage of ICD, as well as events such as the World Forum in Baku, was seen as its ability to create links between like-minded people - the "network of change makers" referred to above in Section 1 - which could together advance a global agenda. Connecting with others provides inspiration and motivation.

One of the biggest challenges identified was that it takes time to conduct ICD, and even more time for its results to become visible. This makes it incredibly hard to measure. At the same time, hosting large international events could sometimes lead to ideas that would be difficult to put into practical and applicable action in shape of national policies or grassroots activities.

3. Baku Themes

The categories presented in this section of the report are based on the themes that were discussed on the panels and those that found resonance in the interviews conducted. We decided to focus on those that were the most recurring in our classification.

The Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue has the opportunity to contribute something new to ICD, based upon what was raised and discussed during the 2013 event. Below we first identify what are emerging as the **core Baku themes**, followed by sub-themes which represent a continuation of broader ICD discourses.

3.1 Emerging Core Baku Themes

3.1.1 Globalisation and Global Interactions

As part of its distinct contribution, the 2nd World Forum has established global interactions that can act as important anchors among some of the more impersonal processes of globalization.

Globalisation was seen with more caution now than it had been towards the end of the 20th century. As globalisation has brought the world closer together, this exposure has also brought with it the potential for more conflict. One of the reasons for the potential of conflict was seen to be that societies change so rapidly that people

do not enter the same depth of relationships that help understand one another: “communication is so rapid and superficial ..., so they don’t know and don’t want to know, they have no time to know.” Further, globalisation can cause unease in the relationship between local or national culture and the global spheres of influence and action. “...when we talk about global and we talk about globalisation, the very word globalisation (...) sets a kind of nervousness in people, particularly people in the Third World. Because we feel that we will adopt and we will lose our identity completely.” In order to avoid and overcome this unease, it is important not to talk about global culture as “assimilation, amalgamation, melting pot of all cultures until one culture comes up.”

Some interviewees felt that globalization has led to increased diversity within societies, where members of society, who may be very different in close proximity

Where members of society, who may be very different to one another, live in close proximity to each other, sharing resources and responsibilities: “So people are asked to live together while they have very different cultures... The situation (has) caused some misunderstanding...” Hence, the idea of a global culture or universalism was called into question and there was a preference amongst interviewees for interaction that does not aim for homogeneity. Intercultural dialogue should undergo a shift from asking people to live in unity towards trying to understand sources of difference, such as expressed by this participant: “So we have to ask the question first ‘What are the sources of differences?’ before we (are) told how to live in unity.”

3.1.2 East vs West

A sense of underlying and structural differences between the Eastern and Western world was present for many of the participants we spoke to. Sometimes the labels ‘East’ and ‘West’ were used to denote geographical demarcations and their cultural implications, or to describe religious and cultural differences between Christianity and Islam, and sometimes between “the Muslim world” and Europe/America. Especially in the latter expression, a shared view among participants was that social tensions arising from such polarisation necessitated and supported the importance of intercultural dialogue. “It’s a conflict that’s been exploited to justify all kinds of violence and it really impacts on people’s lives in so many ways...”

Although some participants highlighted “structural differences in culture” that existed between East and West, many felt that ICD would help break down misconceptions and allow people to clarify any misunderstandings. Participants highlighted that ICD in this context would not lead to dominance of one culture over another, but allow space for the cultural specificities of each society/community/people: interaction rather than homogenization.

At the same time, participants felt that addressing the issue of ‘East’ and ‘West’ has helped them realise the diversity that exists within labels: “our idea was that we’re going to understand the Western world, how they function, their organisation, their societies, their communities... But what happened during informal bus rides, as Arabs amongst each other, we have discovered that we had our own stereotypes among each other. We discovered our own individuality within the unity of a term called Middle East.” The recent rise of a more diverse range of nation-states on the global stage, including Azerbaijan, is also destabilizing the notion of a rigid division between East and West.

3.1.3 Power and Privilege

Alongside asymmetric international power relations, various forms of power and privilege were identified by participants across the conference, ranging from the power to decide on the content and context of intercultural dialogue, international conference attendance, or one's own role in one's own society.

Many participants felt that attending conferences such as the World Forum was a privilege only available to elites: "I am sure we all fall in that line of upper class". At the same time, participants felt their work around ICD should affect and help those in society that needed it the most. They saw their involvement in the larger international networks as a means to add value to the lives of people who needed it: "So this is an added attraction to me ... to do more for the people who are unable to do things. I think people like us we can do and contribute to the downtrodden people." or "You must fulfill the aspirations of the common people of your society."

The problem with this, according to one participant, is that international conferences attract the so-called "converted" to matters of intercultural dialogue: "the conferences have people of the elite attending, but those who are fighting are less educated, so it's about reaching those people." Also reflected in the discussions was the desire to involve beneficiaries of ICD, or members of groups in conflict with each other, in international conferences: "it is very important to include every segment of the society ... common people also have to be made to understand how important it is to live together." Participants highlighted that ICD should involve not only people with a vested interest in the field, either through personal or professional involvement, but also people who were "maybe construction workers, waiters, musicians ...".

3.1.4 The Inclusion and Interaction of Sectors

Related to questions of power and privilege, how the different sectors – public, private and voluntary – can be involved and interact in intercultural dialogue is a major new area of concern flagged at Baku 2013.

Grassroots and Civil Society

Some participants expressed concern that "high-level" intercultural dialogue that takes place between officials, government representatives and academics is particularly thought-provoking, but that with limited input from grassroots practice, it would fail to have real impact to people who needed to benefit from its results the most. Especially practitioners made a distinction between "intercultural dialogue with waffle and intercultural dialogue on the ground", with the former being less applicable to everyday needs and concerns than the latter. Many participants saw high-level dialogue between leaders as a necessary but not sufficient condition of ICD – "In everyday life is the beginning of making dialogue". They expressed that the grassroots could learn from the political, but that the political also needed to learn more from the grassroots, and that this would require more listening on the part of the politicians. A major perceived benefit of the involvement of the political sphere in grassroots intercultural issues was the endorsement political involvement provided, and the way that this could benefit practitioners in attracting funds for projects. Participants expressed a concern over the competition between different agencies involved in ICD, which sometimes obstructed or hindered improvement at the local level: "We know that there is competition for legitimacy between the different institutions, also access to funding, so I had the feeling that ... these people are sitting in their offices and thinking about ...grand theories and in everyday life there are people confronted with ... difficult situations and have to take decisions."

Others felt that this required more government involvement, and that projects “would be more successful if the government agencies embraced and elevated and provided resources for that.”

The Private and Corporate Sector

Overall, the corporate sector was seen as important emerging player in intercultural dialogue, but underrepresented at the Forum. While the corporate sector can share valuable insights about its diversity management approaches, some participants felt that the private sector needs to undergo a transformative shift away from consumer spending and profit as indicators of economic resilience towards social indicators of diversity benefits.

Participants called for greater convergence between the various sectors, where the private sector could teach some aspects of its diversity management. “I’ve felt that there is definitely a need to continue to explore further public/private partnerships when it comes to addressing the issues of, and benefits of diversity.” However, at the moment, participants felt that the world of the corporate sector and that of civil society and the private sector were still very separate: “They [the corporate sector] have developed huge expertise and knowledge and it’s really urgent now to see how we can build those two worlds together.” This convergence should happen primarily at the level of leadership, with increased opportunities for interaction and engagement across the various sectors and industries: “it starts with the leadership in any organisation be it public or private. Unless the leadership is determined to unlock the potential of diversity and embrace diversity it’s not going to happen.”

Private sector representatives also felt that there had been a shift away from ceremonial representation of cultural diversity in the workplace to a much more “business-oriented” approach, involving operating in multi-cultural markets, with a multitude of consumers. This mainstreaming of diversity and inclusion shadows developments in the world of policy and practice, and more exchange could help all parties involved.

“... for the next forum it would be fantastic if we could have more participants from the corporate world to be able to spread best practices from the corporate world to the public sector. Having said that I also noted ... that it’s very important to be humble being a representative of the corporate world. It’s not necessarily the fact that we’re doing everything right in the corporate sector, however we do have tools and mechanisms that would benefit tremendously the public sector when it comes to execution of progress.”

A concern about the profit motive of corporations and negative impact of mass advertising and consumerism was also raised against greater involvement of the corporate sector in ICD: inclusion and interaction have to be carefully managed.

3.2 Continuing Discourse

3.2.1 Youth

How young people can be more successfully included in intercultural dialogue is an ongoing concern for many practitioners and this was reflected at the Forum where young people were a much talked about subject throughout. Discussions ranged from the role of youth in ICD, the involvement of youth in international events such as the World Forum, the achievements of youth projects, and the responsibility of youth in taking forward ICD.

In some instances young people were seen by interviewees as recipients of targeted youth engagement interventions, for example counter-radicalisation efforts. In this view, youth were seen as sources of intercultural





tensions that required leadership on how to educate youth. “We need to talk more on how we educate young people” or “youth engagement as a way for policymakers to deal with them.” While these standpoints identified youth as ‘part of the problem’, some participants felt that youth should increasingly be included in discussions about ICD, and not just be recipients of it. As seen above in Section 1, one respondent now intends to incorporate youth in their ICD work as a result of what they learned at the Forum.

One participant felt that it was important to “involve more bright young things who achieve a lot with only their passion and little resources” and could thus act as inspiration to previous generations. Some participants expressed a concern for a growing “resentment not to intercultural, but a resentment against the old people” as a challenge for ICD. This was also reflected in the view of another participant, who linked rebellious behaviour in youth to a response to the power and privilege that previous generations hold (again bringing the core theme of power and privilege to bear).

3.2.2 The Media

The media were seen to hold a lot of power in promoting positive intercultural relations and thus be an important tool for intercultural dialogue. The media hold power as they can shape perceptions and stereotypes of others, where people do not have the opportunity to engage in face-to-face interaction. “All they know is what [has been] served to them by the media.” There was a sense that the power the media hold in choosing to report or not to report should also be reflected in the responsibility they have in selecting the news stories that they publish.

The main criticism of the media was for its preference to broadcast negative news stories and thus to entrench negative emotions in societies, as “human beings [we] have a tendency to believe what is seen and printed.” The media should thus have a duty to report in a balanced manner both positive and negative news: “The media often prefer to broadcast negative news, so that good news stories don’t make it into the headlines.” Many participants wished for events such as the Forum to be picked up by international news companies. Some participants said that they saw it as their own responsibility to use alternative media platforms, such as social media, to share more positive news stories and to “share a different perspective that the traditional media wouldn’t share.” Thus social media can become a tool for ICD (see sub-section 2.2.2 above).

3.2.3 Faith and Science

The Forum workshop on faith and science was well attended, and, as mentioned above in Section 1, praised by interviewees who had attended it. They regarded the session as an excellent starting point for a more in depth discussion on the relationship between the two. “So I think on the international level and also at forums like this we could also find ways of talking more on the relationship between science and religion, because there seems to be a lot of conflict already going on [with] science trying to claim superiority over religion and religious people saying that science is not good.” The relationship between science and religion is an age-old, contentious one, but the Baku Forum has begun to bring a fresh perspective on it, incorporating it as both a topic and tool for ICD. One of the points raised by participants was to incorporate a wider representation of faiths in these discussions: “the next stage might be to have a similar discussion but with scientists from different religious religions. You know Christian, Jewish what have you.”

4. The Future

Our interviews indicate not only that delegates gained a lot from participation at the 2nd World Forum, but also that they are keen to contribute to the development of the Baku Process and the 2015 Forum. All interviewees were asked for suggestions as to how the Forum might be improved and the numerous comments and ideas are organized under headings below.

Azerbaijan is seen to be in a unique position in this era of greater global cooperation and interdependency to undertake a distinct form of leadership in the field of ICD, and the Government must ensure it is engaging in effective dialogue with citizens within Azerbaijan in order to have credibility in such a role. For Baku 2015 it was felt that there is the opportunity to refresh the programme and replenish ideas around ICD.

4.1 Content

As seen, attendees are already familiar with and committed to the concept of ICD. Hence the Baku Process does not need to cover the very general and basic and can move ICD forward. One delegate described abstract terms such as cultural hybridity as “not very user friendly” and felt that there is the opportunity to “establish what the underpinning theory of change” to drive action. Another also commented upon the abstract language. One suggestion is to ground the meta-questions of ICD, communication or integration more in everyday experience.

Greater focus on the emerging core themes identified: global interactions rather than globalisation, beyond East vs West, power and privilege and the inclusion and interaction of sectors, could bring further focus and depth to the Baku Process. Cutting across the themes, radicalisation and extremism was highlighted as a specific topic to be addressed across sectors: “So the big take away point for the Forum would be Ministers, Officials, and other NGOs and other people could and should be working more imaginatively on the pipeline, working further upstream as it were, not when problems have crystallised, not when extremism has become anger by which time oftentimes it’s too late... there’s a real opportunity... to look at what contributes to alienation, extremism in countries that [are] otherwise are very dissimilar...”

Under ‘East vs West’, the relationship between Asia and the EU was also raised as a particular subject for further exploration. Gender and sexual orientation and homophobia were regarded by some as requiring greater consideration at the Forum; topics where concerns about global interactions and power and privilege intersect. The cultural and heritage sectors were a further two sectors that interviewees recommended could be more involved in the Forum. Culture and history was flagged as an important theme by five interviewees who called variously for more input on: tourism; young people and cultural and tourism; cultural heritage including language; the arts and the creative industries.

4.2 Planning and Organization

Delegates also had suggestions as to how the framework of the Forum could be enhanced for next time. For example, at least a fifth of interviewees would have appreciated a greater opportunity to engage more informally with the city and Azerbaijani people and culture. It was suggested that conference volunteers could act as guides for interested delegates.

4.2.1 Participants

A common call from interviewees was for a list of participants and their details to be circulated in advance in order to help people plan and prepare and connect with people with similar interests. Given interviewees' concerns regarding the inclusiveness of ICD, it is perhaps unsurprising that diversifying the delegate list was a recurrent theme, and one that relates to the emerging core themes. One delegate suggested encouraging greater participation from representatives from East and South Asia, another those involved in local government worldwide. There was a call for "sharper screening of invitees and what they represent", and two for the nominations process to be adapted in order to enable participation from a wider range of people.

One group perceived as absent at the Forum by a fifth of interviewees was "ordinary", "normal", "common" people: people not engaged in the international world of ICD. Their voices were felt to be an important and missing counterpoint. Some would also like to see greater engagement from local people, including Azerbaijani universities, women, and young people. Young people from around the world could be more involved, given that there are so many are working on the ground "doing amazing stuff using their social capital and just their commitment to this issue in the absence of resources..." Another delegate stated: "[the] link between [the] corporate world and academic or the government that needs to be included a little more here... I know corporations are seeking to make themselves more viable on the ground like this, so, you know, maybe through sponsorships or getting out to them and letting them know about these types of conferences could help as well."

A general point from interviews for the organizers to consider for Baku 2015 is the balance between old and new participants. Inviting new participants brings fresh ideas and perspectives and opens up the extraordinary opportunity to a wider range of people. Yet, a level of consistency is also necessary in order to build upon what has already been achieved.

4.2.2 Format

Some frustration at the timing and overrunning of sessions was expressed, and it was suggested that enabling moderators and panellists to get to know each other ahead of time would enhance the sessions, as would fewer panellists, facilitating greater audience participation and discussion. Six interviewees directly commented that there had been too many plenary speeches, with speakers and content repeated. Greater interaction between participating ministers and other delegates would be welcomed. The progress from the 1st Forum in terms of the mix of sessions could be built upon further according to interviewees, whilst remaining sensitive to different communication and learning styles (e.g. some, especially those less fluent in English, can prefer to sit and listen to talks). An exhibition and poster session were two specific, different forms of interaction recommended. Smaller, interactive workshops focused on specific issues and projects (perhaps along the lines of the Council of Europe Intercultural Cities workshop session), were another method advocated by many, which could link more directly discussion and outcomes (see below). Case studies could be used to stimulate problem solving and the sharing of experiences and best practice.

4.3 Outputs, Outcomes and Measurement

Some interviewees expressed the hope that the Forum would lead to concrete action and were concerned regarding the measurement of the success of ICD. It is therefore unsurprising that the relationship between the work and conversations at the Forum and action and outcomes beyond the conference resonated with at least a third of respondents.

"...dare to make some choices and say yes in Azerbaijan they organise this forum for intercultural dialogue... so that we can really present some concrete results for that."

There was a strong sense that the momentum from the Forum ought not be lost between now and 2015. One interviewee suggested producing a newsletter to update participants on the Forum's progress, another a "living follow up" such as an online forum where best practices could be exchanged so "that we don't come back in two years and we start from where we ended off."

Some recommendations were quite specific, for example, recommending an accountability mechanism: "I think that there are a lot of different tools that can be used to increase accountability and to offer both an incentive based approach to accountability as well as a punitive approach to accountability when it comes to fostering intercultural dialogue... on a quarterly basis or a semi-annual basis, Baku Forum participants reported out on the concrete steps that they had taken, what has worked in their country, and where they need help and support from their peers who attended the forum. That would be an example of continuing to foster that dialogue." and: "to ensure progress between now and the next forum I think there should be some action points distributed and ideally you should have organisations and corporations sign up to those; they could be tied to the Baku Process as action points that people and organisations would commit to and you should also assign metrics to those change or action points so that you can evaluate the progress. I think that would be a tremendous effect to open the forum in two years' time having summarised and aggregated the total effects of the different action points made by different organisations and companies in the two years that have passed as well."

One interviewee suggested publishing a book so that the ideas from the Baku Process can be more widely diffused. Also, building upon sub-section 3.2.2 above, more effective harnessing of international and social media was recommended for spreading the Forum's message and agenda.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

It should be clear from the foregoing presentation that the World Forum is perceived to have already achieved a lot and have the capacity to develop further, making a distinctive and powerful contribution to ICD.

Building upon recommendations by interviewees and in light of our own observations and wider discussions, we see further ways to implement this. On a very practical level, engaging a professional event organiser to oversee planning and execution and/or provide training and support to the staff responsible for organizing Baku 2015 could bring great benefits. It would aid the delivery of the accompanying cultural and entertainment events, which are an important part of the event programme.

The ongoing collaborations with international partners are important. There is scope potentially for closer collaboration with similar forums and key partners, ensuring complementarity.

As we begin to discuss and prepare for the 3rd World Forum, planned for May 2015, this is the ideal moment to survey all participants in order to gain a representative insight into their views on and experiences of ICD and the Forum and test the validity of the emerging core Baku themes identified in this initial report. These can then be further developed and built upon for the 3rd Forum, potentially through a smaller meeting of academic experts in 2014.

Thus the momentum and potential of the Baku Process can be consolidated and harnessed.













3RD --- WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

SHARING CULTURE FOR SHARED SECURITY

3RD

18TH - 19TH MAY, 2015

BAKU, REPUBLIC of AZERBAIJAN



3rd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

INTRODUCTION

Baku Process¹

Culture connects people of difference, and connection enables encounter and exchange. Dialogue between cultures can become a powerful antidote to rejection and violence, by enabling people to live together peacefully and constructively in a multicultural world, with a sense of global community and belonging.

Dialogue among Civilizations²

The Baku Process comprises open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage, living on different continents, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect.

A distinctive feature of this process is that it brings together people of difference, in terms of origins and heritage, education, culture and ethnicity through projects and programs in the field of culture and dialogue. Another important feature is that this process is supported by a global partnership and is mobilized by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe, ISESCO, and Heydar Aliyev Foundation, together creating a powerful and constructive network of international organizations and NGOs.

The contribution of the Baku Process to the path of human civilization is indispensable, given its role in consolidating cooperation, coexistence, peace, love, tolerance and cross-cultural bonds among peoples and nations



OBJECTIVES OF THE BAKU PROCESS

- To promote understanding and dialogue within and between cultures;
- To increase co-operation, in particular but not exclusively between Muslim and Western societies;
- To build respect and understanding among cultures and amplify voices for moderation, reconciliation and for pluralism which help calm cultural, religious and other tensions between peoples;
- To define the opportunities of using culture, cultural heritage and the arts more pervasively and effectively in the process of actively promoting intercultural dialogue and cooperation as well as practical actions;
- To support cultural and artistic activities and exchanges and recognize the role of artists and creators-as catalysts of dialogue and mutual understanding;
- To create opportunity for intercultural dialogue through concerted actions between the competent international and regional organizations, with the active involvement of the member states concerned, civil society and wherever possible private sectors.

Since 2008 after launching of the Baku Process, many international high level events and activities have been organized in Baku. Baku Process has become a key global platform for dialogue between people, as Azerbaijan is one of the unique places where different cultures and civilizations meet at the cross-roads between the East and the West, the North and the South. At the same time, being a member of both Islamic and European organizations, Azerbaijan absorbs the values of both civilizations, thus enabling it to assume a role of genuine bridge.

With this commitment in the framework of the Baku Process Government of Azerbaijan has organized European (2008) and Islamic (2009) ministerial conferences dedicated to the intercultural issues and the First and Second World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku in 2011 and 2013 in partnership with UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe and ISESCO and reached remarkable achievements, supporting the inscription of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity at the forefront of the international agenda.

PROGRAMME

17 MAY 2015, SUNDAY

16:00-18:00 - City tour will be organized at

13:30-14:30, National Seaside Park - Opening of the "Tree of Peace"

17:00-18:00, JW Marriot Absheron Hotel, Khojasan room - Press Conference

18 MAY 2015, MONDAY

10:00-11:00, Heydar Aliyev Center

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening speech by

H.E. Mr. Ilham ALIYEV, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

SPEAKERS:

1. Nassir Abdulaziz AL-NASSER, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

2. Irina BOKOVA, Director General of UNESCO

3. Iyad bin Amin MADAN, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

4. Abdulaziz Othman ALTWAIJRI, Director General of ISESCO

5. Mr. Amr Abdel-Ghaffar, Advisor to the UNWTO Secretary-General on Tourism and Peace and UNWTO Regional Director for the Middle East: Delivery of speech on behalf of Mr. Taleb Rifai, UNWTO Secretary General

11:00 - 11:30

- **Book launch: "Agree to Differ"** - a landmark publication on the international decade of the rapprochement of cultures: published by UNESCO and Tudor Rose

- **Award ceremony** - International Partner Organizations - UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organizations, ISESCO and Council of Europe will be awarded with the symbol of the Forum.

- **Group Photo**

11:30-13:00, Heydar Aliyev Center

- **Plenary 1 Dialogue in a post-2015 world** - "Sharing Culture for Shared Security: Soft power and diversity in the modern age"

Organizers: Azerbaijan with partners

Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan

Moderator: Prof. Mike Hardy CMG OBE, Chair in Intercultural Relations, Executive Director, Center For Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, United Kingdom

SPEAKERS:

1. Margarita Popova, Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria

- 2. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri**, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
- 3. Koïchiro Matsuura**, Former Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- 4. Rabbi Abraham Cooper**, Associate Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center
- 5. Dusen Kaseinov**, Secretary General of TURKSOY
- 6. Annette Blum**, International Consultant for Interfaith Affairs of the Simon Wiesenthal Center
- 7. Tahsin Görgün**, Head of the Department of Philosophy, Istanbul 29 Mayıs University
- 8. Barry van Driel**, International Director for Teacher Training and Curriculum Development at the Anne Frank House, Vice-President of the International Association for Intercultural Education, Editor-in-Chief of Intercultural Education
- 9. Naser Alhayan**, Head of Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait

Hovsan room

Workshop Group 1b - The Silk Roads, Pioneer Routes of Dialogue and Exchanges: "The Silk Roads Initiative and its Potential for today's Intercultural dialogue"

Organizers: UNESCO

Moderator: Mrs. Shirin Akiner, Senior Fellow, Cambridge Central Asia Forum, University of Cambridge

SPEAKERS:

- 1. Mehrdad Shabahang**, Programme Officer, UNESCO Silk Roads Online Platform
- 2. Fuad Muradov**, Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan
- 3. Doudou Diène**, Vice-President, Scientific Board, International Research Institute on Civilization Policy (IIRPC
Edgar Morin), President of the Board of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
- 4. Jacques Legrand**, former president and current professor of the French Institute of Oriental Languages and Cultures 'INALCO'
- 5. Reza Degati**, Philanthropist, photojournalist, architect, Fellow of the National Geographic Society and Senior Fellow of the Ashoka Foundation
- 6. Laura Yerekesheva**, Deputy-director of institute of East Conducting in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- 7. LYU Zhou**, Director of National Heritage Centre, Tsinghua University of Beijing,

Khojasan room

Workshop Group 1c - Harnessing Tourism's power as an agent for promoting tolerance, understanding and dialogue between peoples, cultures and civilizations

Organizers: UNWTO

Moderator: Amr Abdel-Ghaffar, Advisor to the UNWTO Secretary-General on Tourism and Peace and UNWTO Regional Director for the Middle East

SPEAKERS:

- 1. Nicole Häusler**, Advisor on Sustainable Tourism Development, Myanmar Tourism Federation
- 2. Natalia Naranjo Ramos**, Tourism and Development Advisor, Global Sustainable Tourism Council, Ecuador and Colombia

3. **Rami Isaac**, Senior Lecturer in Tourism, NHTV Breda University, Netherlands
4. **Rina Alluri**, Programme Officer, Business and Peace Programme, Swisspeace
5. **Pranil Kumar Upadhayaya**, Researcher Expert on Codes of Ethics, Nepal
6. **Cordula Wohlmuther**, Programme Coordinator of the Institutional Relations and Resource Mobilization Programme, UNWTO
7. **Jafar Jafarov**, Rector of Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University
8. **Penelope Denu**, Executive Secretary, Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

Khirdalan room

Workshop Group 1d - Learning to live together through Education: from policy to practice

Organizers: UNESCO

Moderator: **Susan Vize**, Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Bangkok (Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education)

SPEAKERS:

1. **Firudin Gurbanov**, Deputy minister of Education, Azerbaijan
2. **Kidong Bae**, Chairperson of the Governing Board, APCEIU
3. **Elaissa Mendoza**, Senior Research Associate SEAMEO INNOTECH
4. **Terje Magnussønn Watterdal**, Country Director, Norwegian Afghanistan Committee
5. **Julian Edwards**, Head of Learning, NIST International School
6. **Aliénor Salmon**, Research Assistant, Education Policy and Reform Unit
7. **Sanja Vlahovi**, Minister of Science, Montenegro

18:15-18:30 - Free time

18:30-20:00 - Dinner at Marriot Absheron Hotel

20:00-20:30 - Departure from the meeting venue to the cultural programme

20:30-22:00, Heydar Aliyev Palace - Cultural programme "The light regained"

19 MAY 2015, TUESDAY

09:30-11:00, Sharq Hall 2, JW Marriot Absheron Hotel - Ministerial Conference

1st roundtable - "Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda"

Organizers: Azerbaijan

Chair: Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan

Note: Ministers, heads of Delegations and representatives of the Ministries responsible for culture and tourism are invited to participate at the ministerial roundtable

09:30-11:00 - Departure from the meeting venue to the cultural programme

Workshop Group 2 - "Dialogue as transformation"

Khojasan room

Workshop Group 2a - The role art and heritage in cross-cultural relations

Organizers: Azerbaijan

Moderator: **David Lordkipanidze**, General Director of Georgian National Museum, Georgia

SPEAKERS:

1. **Halit Eren**, Director General, IRCICA - Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture
2. **Sevda Mammadaliyeva**, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan
3. **Peter Mousaferiadis**, Cultural Infusion, Australia
4. **Kishor Kumar Tripathy**, Editor, Cultural Informatics Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Ministry of Culture, Government of India
5. **Dragana Filipovic**, Ambassador, Head of the Council of Europe office in Baku
6. **Carlotta Del Bianco**, Vice President of the Del Bianco Foundation
7. **Katerina Stenou**, Former member of the WFID Task Force
8. **Diana C. Altman**, Executive Director of Karabakh Foundation
9. **Angela Gkerekou**, Former Minister of Tourism, Deputy of Culture & MP, Greece

Khirdalan room

Workshop Group 2b - Model of Competences for Democratic Culture Organizers: Council of Europe

SPEAKERS:

1. **Calin Rus**, Director of the Intercultural Institute, Timi oara
2. **Christopher Reynolds**, Education Policy Division, Council of Europe

11:00-11:30 - Coffee break

11:30-13:00 - Ministerial Conference

2nd roundtable - "Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda"

Organizers: Azerbaijan

Note: Ministers, heads of Delegations of the Ministries responsible for culture and tourism are invited to participate at the ministerial roundtable

11:30-13:00 -

Workshop Group 2: "Dialogue as transformation"

Khojasan room

Workshop Group 2c - Engaging youth in intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity

Organizers: UNESCO

Moderator: **Amina Hamshari**, UNESCO, Social and Human Sciences Sector, Intercultural Dialogue Section

SPEAKERS:

1. **Salma Negra**, UNESCO Rabat Office National Coordinator, UNESCO/European Union "Networks of Mediterranean Youth" (NET-MED Youth)
2. **Nour Kaabi**, Coordinator of Jamity Platform
3. **Nagla Abed**, Coordinator of Anna Lindh Foundation, Alexandria
4. **Lawrence Ndambuki Muli**, President and Regional coordinator of Network of Librevill young people for Culture of Peace
5. **Vasif Eyvazzade**, Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, WFID coordinator, Azerbaijan
6. **Mayson Chehab**, Project Officer, UNESCO Office in Beirut and Regional Bureau for Education
7. **Fathi Mansouri**, UNESCO Chair migration and intercultural studies, Deakin University, Director of the strategic Research Center for Citizenship and Globalisation

Gobustan room

Workshop Group 2d - Youth as agents of social change: contributors to peace and dialogue processes"
 UNAOC Moderator: Alessandro Girola, UNAOC Project Management Specialist - IIA

SPEAKERS:

1. **M Priscilla Brice**, UNAOC – Intercultural Innovation Award Alumni
2. **Johnny Gerges**, UNAOC – Intercultural Innovation Award Alumni, Lebanon
3. **Rama Shyam**, UNAOC – Youth Solidarity Fund Alumni , India
4. **Muhammad Shahzad**, UNAOC- Youth Solidarity Fund Alumni, Pakistan
5. **Ozerdem Alpaslan**, Professor, Coventry University, United Kingdom
6. **Shahin Seyidzade**, Chair of the National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Khirdalan room

Workshop Group 2e - Youth Participation: the role of Global education and intercultural competences
 Moderator: **Niall Sheerin**, Deputy Director, North-South Center of the Council of Europe

SPEAKERS:

1. **Farhad Hajiyev**, President of the Azerbaijan Youth Foundation
2. **Carmen Fischer**, NSC Global Education and Youth trainer
3. **Lawrence Mulli** , NSC Global Education and Youth trainer
4. **Malek Ben Ammar**, NSC Global Education and Youth trainer
5. **Teodoro Valente**, Vice Rector for Research and Innovation, La Sapienza University, Italy

Organizers: North South Center of the Council of Europe

13:00-14:30 - Lunch

14:30-16:30 - **Plenary 3 – Dialogue as global trust building**



Shaping common global agenda: Responsibility of international institutions and governments in building trust and understanding between cultures and civilizations

Chair: Mahmud Mammadgulyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan

Moderator: **Yahya Pallavicini**, Vice President of COREIS, Milano, Italy

SPEAKERS:

1. **Antonius Broek**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. **Pam Roach**, Vice-President, Washington State Senate, United State of America
3. **Suljo Mustafi**, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro
4. **Ramil Hasanov**, Secretary General of the Turkic Council
5. **Victor Tvircun**, Secretary General, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
6. **Valeri Chechelashvili**, Secretary General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, GUAM
7. **Stephen Shashoua**, Director, Three Faiths Forum, UK
8. **Alexis Chahtahtinsky**, Ambassador, project co-ordinator in Baku, OSCE
9. **Pece Gorgiewski**, Global Dialogue Foundation, Australia

14:30-16:00

Workshop Group 3: "Dialogue as global trust building"

Khojasan room

Workshop Group 3a - Partnering with the Community and Religious Leaders for Intercultural Dialogue

Organizers: UNESCO

Moderator: **Hegazi Idris**, Program Specialist, UNESCO Office in Beirut and Regional Bureau for Education

SPEAKERS:

10. **Ibrahim EL Assiri**, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue
11. **Vasim Mammadaliyev**, Azerbaijani scientist of oriental studies, dean of theology faculty at Baku State University, chairman of a cathedra of Arabic philology and full member of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
12. **Mohamad Nokari**, Sheikh at Dar Al Iftaa - Lebanon
13. **Suleiman Abdul Moneim**, Alexandria University
14. **Herve Sabourin**, Director, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie in the Middle East
15. **Selim El Sayegh**, Intercultural Dialogue Expert and University Professor
16. **Chehab Maysoun**, Project Officer, UNESCO Office in Beirut and Regional Bureau for Education

Khirdalan room

Workshop Group 3b - Younger people as future influencers: Responsible and Constructive Use of Social

Media Organizers: UNAOC

Moderator: **Jordi Torrent**, Project Manager of Media Literacy Education, UNAOC

SPEAKERS:

17. Ed Maklouf, Expert in Citizen Journalism (UK)

18. Hans Shakur, Hi-tech Expert, Israel

19. Azer Khalilov, Director General, Caspian International Broadcasting Company

20. Paul Myles, Editorial and Engagement Manager, "On our Radar" project

Gobustan room

Workshop Group 3c - Promoting youth mobility to enhance intercultural understanding: the successful experience of the Youth Card

Presentations by:

21. Manel Sanchez, Director of EYCA

22. Kristiina Ling, Brand Manager, EYCA

Organizers: Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card, European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

No Hate Speech Movement Campaign (NHSM) – presentation by Kristiina Ling, member of the Follow-up Group on NHSM

16:30-17:00 - Coffee break

17:00-18:00, Sharg Hall 1

CLOSING CEREMONY

Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan

Partners: UNESCO, UNAOC, UNWTO, Council of Europe, ISESCO

Rapporteur: Prof. Mike Hardy CMG OBE, Chair in Intercultural Relations, Executive Director, Center For Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, United Kingdom

18:00 – 19:00 - Free Time

20.00-22:00, Fairmont Baku Hotel, Nizami Ganjavi Ballroom - Reception

CONCEPT NOTE

3rd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE (WFID 2015)

18-19 MAY 2015, BAKU, AZERBAIJAN SHARING CULTURE FOR SHARED SECURITY

The 3rd World Forum has a major concern for culture and sustainable development in the post 2015 development agenda and will focus primarily on projects and programmes dedicated to the 21st of May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development declared by the UN General Assembly, as well as the role of faith, religions, migration, sport, education, and business in building trust and cooperation among cultures and civilisations.

The theme of the 3rd World Forum reflects the significance of global security in 2015 and the global attention placed on the security of vulnerable people at a time of significant human insecurity.

Placing intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity higher on the international agenda is critical for human security and a prime responsibility of our time. World Forums organised so far have brought together heads of governments, ministers, heads of various international organizations, senior policy makers, cultural professionals, goodwill ambassadors, experts, journalists, practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists. The World Forums have become an international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organizations around the world to take concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding among and between nations and communities by raising awareness of the importance of dialogue.

The 1st World Forum hosted in April in 2011 organised under the theme of "Unity through Common Values, Enriched by Cultural Diversity" and launched the commitment of the partners to the positives of diversity with a focus on common ground and values. The 2nd Forum built on this seek

This 3rd World Forum focuses centrally on human security and seeks to place emphasis on the power and importance of sharing our different cultures in open and giving exchange, whilst recognising that sustaining human security must be a fully shared responsibility; a responsibility for neighbours and communities, for educators and faith leaders, for national and regional governments as well as for international organisations: “Sharing Culture for Shared Security”.

In developing its theme, the 3rd Forum is proposing an agenda framed around three interlinked issues:

Dialogue in a post-2015 world

WFID 2015 will celebrate the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. Purposeful and successful intercultural dialogue in a post-2015 world will be an essential toolkit helping people to cope with the unprecedented challenges and pace of change in our modern world. Tools and capabilities that recognize dialogue as dynamic and engaging –focused on open and respectful exchange of views, experiences, hopes and fears, will support successful intercultural dialogue. Consistent with the theme developed at the 2013 Forum, this sharing ultimately provides the basis of better understanding and the stronger prospect of living peacefully in diverse communities. In our commitment to shared security, all must work to encourage and enable dialogue, sometimes in contexts where the various players seem to be at odds with one another. Governments, both at regional and national levels are strongly placed to promote cultural diversity and social cohesion, through rights-based strategies and the responsibility to protect. Civil society actors and other practitioners though sometimes alienated from the political process can nonetheless promote dialogue as an essential social skill based on lived experience in (sometimes very local) neighborhoods.

At WFID 2015, this sub-theme will explore the role of ‘soft power’ and the positive value of diversity. Recognizing and protecting cultural rights is fully consistent with the understanding of diversity as strength in contemporary communities and societies –and not just for economic benefit. This issue will include discussion on the importance of the media, training tools and frameworks for the promotion of intercultural competences. Side events will look at how tourism can mobilize encounters and exchanges, and an Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs will discuss approaches to, and strategies for, Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue.





This sub-theme will address, and seek answers to, the question of why and how dialogue is powerful in its own right. Dialogue can be explored as a process that promotes the forces for pluralism and erodes those for prejudice. Intercultural dialogue in the post-2015 era will occur in a context of particularly sensitive cultural relationships, open to different and sometimes contradictory, interpretations. Mutual respect – which is not the same as mutual approval – is crucial. Reasoned disagreement builds stronger, more authentic, and lasting relationships. Avoiding difficult questions (such as political conflict or differences in values) is counterproductive: addressing them directly and with respect builds trust. In the post-2015 era, human security will focus on the needs of vulnerable people, inequality, and disparity areas within which prejudice and stereotypes will need to be challenged.

We often generalise about what we do not know. Stereotypes are usually exaggerated views of particular characteristics, which result from our own cultural frames of reference. It becomes a problem when such generalisations become prejudices that affect the way we act towards others.

Intercultural dialogue is important as it allows long-term and intensive engagement with people from other cultures. This can help people see their own culture from a different perspective, which leads to re-evaluating their own views and ideas. On the other hand, dialogue also re-introduces some of the details – the diversity – into our perception of others.

Dialogue as transformation

Linking dialogue with transformation is important as it highlights that deep structural, behavioral and attitudinal change is required for transformation to take place. This requires much more than words and statements; it is rather a new social compact with economic, political and personal dimensions. This sub-theme at WFID 2015 will focus on both religion and education.

Religion has emerged as a significant component within intercultural dialogue globally, and we now have the opportunity to better question the meaning and practice of religious diversity and tolerance in context. Religion and faith form the backdrop to the day-to-day lives of the majority of the world's population, and the Forum presents a unique opportunity to approach some of the key current intercultural debates of global significance through the lens of belief. One of the plenary discussions focuses directly on the intersection between religion and violent extremism.

The Forum can reflect on some very successful international initiatives that seek to engage effectively across different religious or faith communities. These tend to deal with some of the complexities in relations between world religions and their leaders, or internally to those groups (intra- and inter-faith initiatives).

These conversations between 'religions' clearly play a central role in inter-cultural dialogue and for human security generally, and they provide a clearer understanding of the role that faith can, and will, play in rapidly changing and globalized 21st century societies. However, the differing cultural contexts of faith do not simply come down to understanding differing cultural practices, values or doctrinal stances within communities – it is actually a far bigger picture of the changing nature of the role of faith in the private and public sphere and in individual, community, national or trans-national identity.

The intercultural dialogue which is necessary, in terms of international relations, needs to go much further than these positive inter-change's between differing faith groups or faith leaders. There is a vital and timely need to have clearer picture of the differing perspectives on the role of faith in both the private and public sphere globally

– and how this impacts on individuals, institutions, systems of governance and international relations.

The role of faith in public affairs is a potentially contentious issue in international and cultural relations. It could be argued that the role of faith in society is central to some of the most pressing, contemporary international political and security issues/debates. However, in an increasingly pluralist and globalized world, building a more nuanced cross-cultural picture of the role that faith plays in our societies may help to tackle some of the precon- ceptions that drive certain tensions at home and internationally – particularly in a multi-polar world where as- sumptions about the global order are being challenged. The role of intercultural dialogue in this sphere should seek to move from simply bringing faith leaders together towards seriously engaging with misconceptions and polarizing narratives concerning the nature of secular gover- nance and the role of belief, faith and religion in society.

Dialogue as Global Trust Building

Looking more closely at the rapidly unfolding modernity and global economy, two of the most remarkable aspects are related to demographics and the way in which people connect. The measurable and increasingly important role of younger people combines with a growth in interaction among people around the world generally. Both these re- alities reflect that we are increasingly connecting with each other, and at the same time becoming interdependent more quickly than ever before. We are doing so against a backcloth of unprecedented faster, deeper and broader economic growth, which is being played out daily, and emphatically, in nations and communities worldwide.

In this context, the responsibilities of local and national governments, and, importantly international or- ganisa- tions both of government and in the third sector should be crucial success factors. The pursuit of a 'shared security' requires the involvement of all stakeholders –and the challenges are formidable. The notion of security in our world remain dominated by the traditional discourse of 'war and peace', in which national (often military) security continues to overshadow the more human di- mensions on which the Baku Process has placed emphasis. Within the tradition of national security, the security of the state has become the overriding focus for attention –which by itself does not always secure the security of people living within the state –often as a result of rapidly diversifying populations. Processes of building trust on a global scale and with global reach recognise the real contribution that the ac- knowledgement of shared and common vulnerabilities have, alongside our shared and common responsibilities to address them.

The Forum will help us to explore one key factor in the approach to building such trust the need to un- derstand both those issues and characteristics that we share and have in common –our commonalities, and the need to

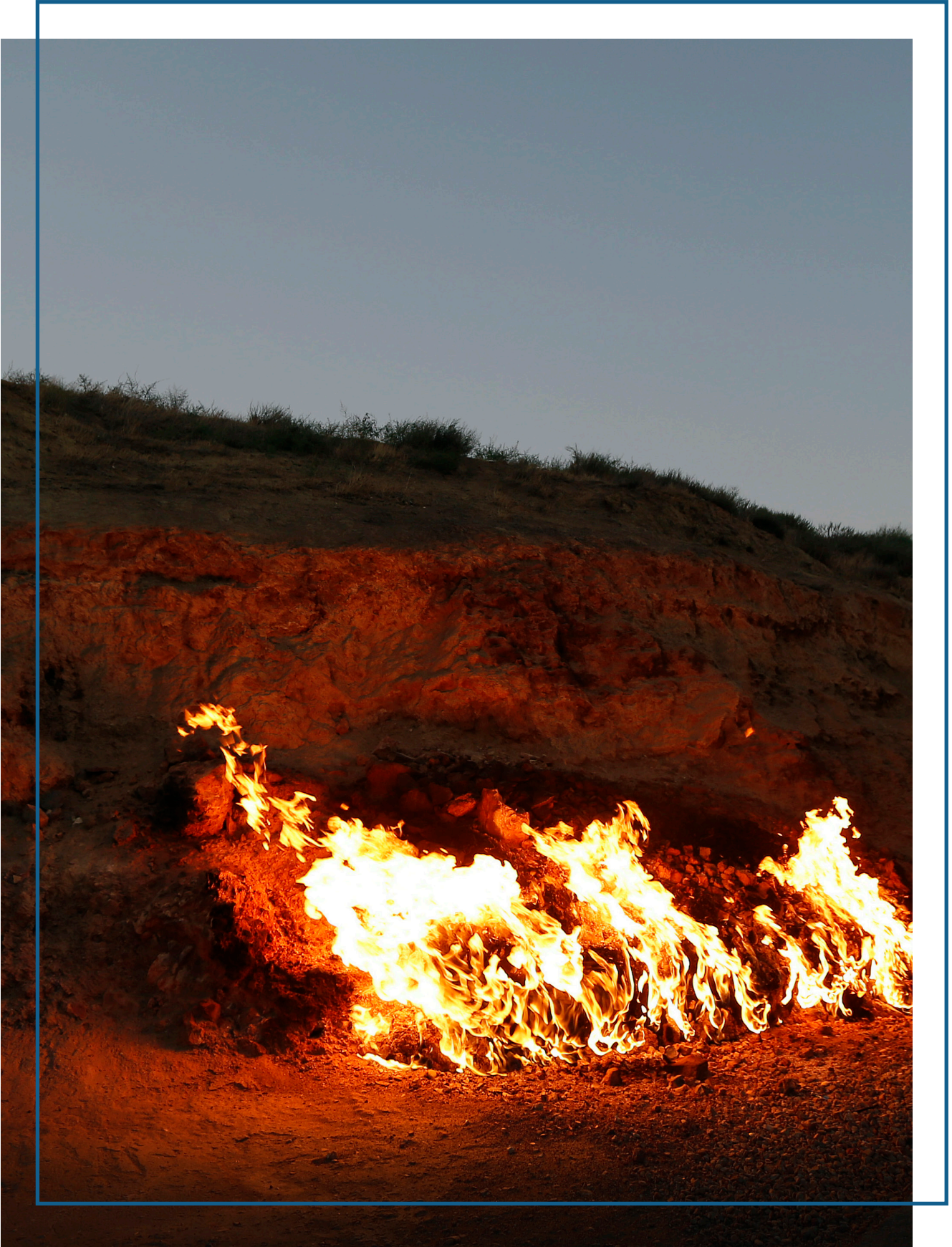
grow our understanding of the sources of tensions between communities; it seems as important, then to understand each other's insecurities –and governments and international organisations can play a lead role here.

A set of parallel workshops focused on young people.

These will enable the Forum to maintain continuity and momentum of the commitment within the wider Baku process to the importance of young people as both catalyst form positive change and as the successor generation.

It is youth that has the heightened the awareness of our differences, and who probably develop most quickly the defensive strategies that protect identities and a sense of belonging. It is young people who embrace the potentials of new technologies most quickly and whose aspirations are most readily dampened by an economic growth that widens disparities, stunts social mobility and promises much, but delivers little. Most importantly, when the uneven distribution of the gains from growth run mainly along cultural lines, divisions can be deepened, and even new ones introduced.

Three important questions will be addressed under this sub-theme: firstly, the role of young people as agents of change and as positive contributors to peace and dialogue processes. Secondly, questions about how well we understand and can learn from the way young people engage in dialogue through social media and digital platforms, and thirdly, the role of youth in the responsible use of digital media. Providing a strong platform for young people to be showcased as positive and progressive contributors to inter-cultural dialogue will be an important and continuing deliverable as the WFID moves forwards, along with the Baku process more generally.



3rd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

SHARING CULTURE FOR SHARED SECURITY

18TH-19TH MAY, 2015

BAKU, REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

INTRODUCTION: THE BAKU PROCESS

The Baku Process is a challenge for the promotion of intercultural dialogue to move from ideas to practice and to establish a platform in which today's challenges can be discussed in the spirit of intercultural dialogue and universal values.

The Baku Process is understood as a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage living on different continents, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect.

The Baku Forum has taken responsibility for delivering the global agenda on the Dialogue among Civilisations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (November 2001), the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was adopted by ISESCO in 2004, Declaration and Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue (May 2008), as well as the Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue Azerbaijan hosted the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on 7-9 April, 2011 in Baku under patronage of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan that had been declared by the President at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (23 September 2010, New-York). The WFID is supported by prestigious international organizations such as UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, Council of Europe, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, ISESCO, convening over 500 representatives from 102 countries from all continents of the World; Cultural Ministers from 20 countries, deputy ministers of numerous states, leading international organizations including the ISESCO Director General, the Assistant Director General of UNESCO, mayors of various world cities, diplomats, media organizations, international NGOs, scientists, scholars, distinguished cultural experts, practitioners, intellectuals and activists, biannually to Baku, Azerbaijan.

An unfolding context

World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (WFID) is a global event organized in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan every two years since 2011. The 3rd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE was held on May 18-19 2015 in collaboration with UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe, ISESCO, and the North- South Centre of the Council of Europe. More than 600 delegates from 94 countries participated.

This 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was organised around the theme: **“Sharing Culture for a Shared Security”**, as part of the “Baku Process” initiated in 2008 by the Government of Azerbaijan.

This year’s Forum provided planned continuity within the Baku Process, developing the content and context of exchange and discussion: The theme for WFID 2011 –“United through common values, enriched by cultural diversity”, developed through WFID 2013 –“ Living together peacefully in a diverse world”, sought consolidation in WFID 2015 through its theme: “Sharing culture for shared security”. The 2015 theme placed emphasis on two conclusions drawn from the earlier Forums: firstly that we have a **common goal of collective or shared security** – peaceful coexistence for all in our diverse and challenged world, and secondly, that a key condition to support this shared security was for the **active sharing of cultures** and the recognition that cultural exchange, broadly cast, helps highlight both commonalities and differences among people.

The Forum also contributed to the UN World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21 May), and the 10th anniversary of the Convention of the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

WFID 2015 developed discussion around the theme: “Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda”, with a view to mark the celebration of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (21st May). The role of culture, religions, migration, education, sport, youth, business, tourism, among others, will be addressed in this regard to address new trends and challenges for intercultural dialogue, using the timely framework offered by the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), proclaimed by the UN.

In support of these celebrations, the three plenary sessions sponsored discussion on: “Sharing Culture for Shared Security: Cultural rights in the modern age”, “Countering Violent Extremism: the Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Religious Pluralism and Advancing Shared Well-being” and “Shaping common global agenda: Role of International organizations in building trust and understanding between cultures”.

The Forum also hosted the second Ministerial Conference on “Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda”, the first meeting of the new Academic Forum of **UNESCO Chairs** on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and a **book launch** of the UNESCO-Tudor Rose publication entitled “Agree to Differ” were among the important side events.

The outcomes of the Baku Forum will feed back into UNESCO’s work on intercultural dialogue and support the development of future strategic and programmatic action lines, including in the context of the UN Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022)

The World Forums organized so far have created new opportunities for stakeholders to meet, exchange and share experience and to reinforce the 'strong will' called for in President Aliyev's opening remarks at the 2015 Forum. "To- day, representatives of all the religions, ethnic groups live in Azerbaijan and contribute to the successful development of our country. I think this is one of our biggest assets. And we are proud of that. Therefore we organize numerous international events to promote the values of multiculturalism, values of peaceful cooperation, mutual understanding. I think the world needs this kind of events, needs open discussions, exchange of views in order to strengthen the positive tendencies." President Aliyev, WFID 2015, Baku

By bringing together heads of governments, ministers, heads of various international organizations, senior policy makers, cultural professionals, goodwill ambassadors, experts, journalists, practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists, the World Forums have become an international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organisations around the globe to take concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding among nations by raising awareness on the importance of intercultural dialogue worldwide.

Specific objectives for WFID 2015

- To promote understanding, dialogue, tolerance among cultures to increase co-operation in particular, between Muslim and Western societies;
- To build respect and understanding among cultures and amplifying voices of moderation and reconciliation which help to calm cultural and religious tensions between nations and peoples;
- To define the opportunities of culture, cultural heritage and art in order to use its potential more effectively in the process of realizing intercultural dialogue and cooperation and to prepare real recommendations for practical actions;
- To support cultural and artistic activities and exchanges and recognizing the role of artists and creators-as vehicles for dialogue and mutual understanding, and introducing incentives to facilitate everyone's access to and participation in this activities;
- To develop intercultural dialogue through concerted actions between the competent international and regional organizations, with the active involvement of the member states concerned and civil society;
- To support and organize international events on the promotion of intercultural dialogue.

1. Preparation for 2015 Forum

Following the discussions at WFID 2013, four themes were identified for continued discussions, and these formed the basis for the development of the WFID 2015 Programme:

Cross- sector focus and the role of non-state actors, private sector and broad definitions of 'culture' to include faith and belief, tourism and the arts'

Education and role of life-long learning – particularly the challenges of radicalisation and countering extremist narratives.

Inequality and disparity; on-going recognition of the economic and structural conditions that have influence for social cohesion

Mobilising young people as both key audiences and as resources.

In the design of WFID 2015, the Forum Taskforce identified three plenaries to be managed by three of the partners: Government of Azerbaijan, UN Alliance of Civilisation and UNESCO

1. “Sharing Culture for Shared Security: Cultural rights in the modern age”

2. “Countering Violent Extremism: the Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Religious Pluralism and Advancing Shared Well-being”

3. “Shaping common global agenda: Role of International organizations in building trust and understanding between cultures”.

In addition, the taskforce had listened to the results of the review and evaluation and had set targets for improving the approach and use of the Forum. Specifically,

- **how we dialogue:** WFID and the Baku Process focus on coalitions and collaborations –the distinctive approach at the Forum to sharing of ideas and experience across the policy-academic-practitioner interface;
- **the role of the faith and belief dimension** –religion, religious diversity and the role of interfaith dialogue;
- **recognition of multi-layered diversity:** diversity within and between nation states a growing nor shrinking phenomenon

2. High level messages developed during the preparation and discussions with partners in the International Task Force Group of Baku World Forum 2015

Meetings of the task force were held in Baku, at United Nations Alliance of Civilisation, New York and at UNESCO in Paris.

The UN High Representative Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser described the preparation as “an historical event”. He said Baku Process and the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue served to preserve peace and cooperation. Al-Nasser praised the Azerbaijani government’s and President Ilham Aliyev’s attention to intercultural dialogue.

Azerbaijani Minister of Culture and Tourism Abulfas Garayev said “the fact that the presentation ceremony takes place at the UN headquarters and at UNESCO in Paris, testifies to Azerbaijan’s commitment to universal values”.

He hailed Baku Process and the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue as “the world’s only initiative bringing together major international organizations including UNESCO, the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)”.

UNESCO Permanent Representative to UN, Moufida Goucha reaffirmed that UNESCO attaches a particular importance to promoting peace and dialogue. She congratulated the Azerbaijani delegation on behalf of UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova.

UNWTO Permanent Representative to UN, Rafiuddin Ahmed read out a congratulatory message of Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization Taleb Rifai.

Permanent Representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to UN Ufuk Geksen read out a message of greetings of ISESCO Director General Abdulaziz Othman Altwajiri.

The planning meetings and discussions in New York and Paris featured demonstration of a film highlighting President Ilham Aliyev's initiative to found Baku Process and the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. The participants of the event were presented books on Azerbaijan's cultural and tourism potential.

The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was initiated in 2008. Two previous editions were held in 2011 and in 2013. It has become a global platform for exchange and discussion on major contemporary challenges pertaining to intercultural dialogue and the sharing of related universal values, which have become pressing issues to address in our globalized and more diverse societies.

This open forum continues to reaffirm the imperative need to consolidate and intensify dialogue among peoples from different cultures, religions or beliefs, in order to create, at the national, regional and global levels, an environment conducive to respect for cultural diversity, human rights and mutual understanding.

3. The Forum: By side events and sessions



INAUGURATION OF THE "TREE OF PEACE" MR NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER

(UN High Representative for the UNAOC), **Ms Irina Bokova**
(Director-General of UNESCO),

Ms Mehriban Aliyeva (Azerbaijan's First Lady, UNESCO
Goodwill Ambassador),

Ms Hedva Ser (Author of "Tree of Peace" UNESCO
Artist for Peace)

Inauguration of the "Tree of Peace" took place, in May 17, within the framework of the Third World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue in Baku.

Azerbaijan's First Lady, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mehriban Aliyeva attended the inauguration.

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova and a number of other guests coming to Baku to attend the Third World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue joined the event. Guests of the Forum were photographed in front of the "Tree of Peace".

Made of bronze, the monument "Tree of Peace" has been erected on the territory of the New Boulevard, near the State Flag Square. The "Tree of Peace" is UNESCO's emblem, the symbol of tolerance and peace. Erected in public places, this monument invites people to think about peace.

The “Peace of Tree” is recognized as a symbol of mutual understanding between nations, and advocates for solution of conflicts and dissemination of peace around the world. Ms. Mehriban Aliyeva addressed the ceremony. Then Irina Bokova and UNESCO World Artist for Peace Hedva Ser took the floor. At the end, a dinner-party was arranged on behalf of Mehriban Aliyeva in honour of the attendees of the ceremony.

OPENING THE FORUM



H.E MR ILHAM ALIYEV
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The World Forum, an integral component of the “Baku Process” was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E Mr Ilham Aliyev

The President set out an operating frame for the Forum and particularly talked about the Forum’s civilizational mission and the success it is achieving in pursuit of its humanistic goals. The President, said that the Forum has become one of the most important international events dealing with intercultural dialogue and alliance among civilizations, coexistence and harmony among nations and peoples, as it contributes to defusing tensions and crises which plague international relations and shatter humanity’s dream of a more secure and peaceful world

President Aliyev reiterated that the Forum represented the opportunity to give visibility to Azerbaijan’s domestic policy, explicitly mentioned in his opening speech:

“We can say that Azerbaijan has successfully addressed major economic and social issues” [...] “our strong financial position, a stable political situation, regional initiatives, natural resources and, most importantly, human capital are the factors leading Azerbaijan forward”

President Aliyev emphasised that the Baku Process undoubtedly represents a success for the Azerbaijani Government, paving the way to a progressively more active role of the country in intercultural and inter-religious dialogue

“Today we have representatives here from over 100 countries. It is really very important that these people have come to Azerbaijan to share their opinion because there are a lot of conflicts in the world. Blood is being shed in these conflicts; battles are taking place in Europe and also in our region. In this case Azerbaijan is like a stable island in the region,” stressed the president.

Topping the agenda of the forum was the security problems facing the world and also the violence sparked by extremism.

“To have in the same room imams, rabbis, Gulf State representatives, people from countries at war who are not speaking to each other, that is already a good result. For a better future we need a better education. We have to have common values, but values which have to be really practiced.

President Aliyev continued by emphasizing how the instabilities in the world increase the need for dialogue:

"I think the world needs this kind of event, needs open discussions, exchange of views in order to strengthen the positive tendencies.

Unfortunately what we see now in different parts of the world creates big concern. We see some tendencies in negative direction. Therefore we need open, frank discussion about what we must do together in order to bring countries, civilizations and religions closer to each other to reduce tensions, hatred. This is the issue, I think, one of the important issues on global agenda. Traditions of multiculturalism have always been very strong in our country.... Multiculturalism has no alternatives. I think the responsibility of politicians, public figures, international institutions, NGOs and media is growing. I know that one of the topics of discussions of the forum will be precisely related to responsibility of public figures and politicians. Sometimes we see that religious hatred is deliberately cultivated. Sometimes we see in different parts of the world the acts of violence based on ethnic and religious grounds. And the responsibility of politicians and those people who can influence the public opinion is growing. Therefore, I think that by common efforts we need to promote the values of multiculturalism. I know that there are different ideas about that - sometimes, pessimistic ideas. But there are positive examples of multiculturalism. Azerbaijan is one of them. I think it is dangerous to consider that multiculturalism is not something that can have future. On the contrary, if we give up our efforts, the situation in the world will be even worse. Therefore, the example of countries like Azerbaijan, which is now considered to be one of the world centres of multiculturalism, I think, is a good indicator that multiculturalism is alive.



MR. NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER
UN HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE UNAOC

High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Mr Nassir Abdulaziz al-Nasser

replied by highlighting the crucial importance of intercultural dialogue, explaining its role in removing obstacles to the enforcement of the Security Council resolutions on the one hand, and enhancing mutual understanding and mutual trust between the Great Powers in a way that encourages them to take strong binding decisions towards ending the long-standing crises prolonged by the convulsive positions of some players at the level of the United Nations.

He also stressed that intercultural dialogue was by no means a luxury, nor was it a purely cultural action which has nothing to do with the humanitarian political action aimed at redressing the imbalances of today's world, explaining that it was rather a

explaining that it was rather a crucially important mission that we must strive to discharge in a way that would strengthen the foundations of world peace.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Iyad Ameen Madani, and Director General of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri also addressed the ceremony.



MS IRINA BOKOVA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO

UNESCO Director-General Ms Irina Bokova made a speech at the event highlighting:

“The situation in the world today is really worrying. We are seeing more conflicts and they are changing and we become more intolerant. I think we have not paid enough attention to culture – our cultural heritage and cultural diversity.

“We have not paid enough attention to education programmes. I think we have to change the content of school text books. We have to study more history. We have to know our own culture and that of other countries,” Irina Bokova, General Director UNESCO

Advisor to the UNWTO Secretary-General on Tourism and Peace, Regional Director for the Middle East, Amr Abdel-Ghaffar read out a congratulatory message of UNWTO Secretary-General Taleb Rifai.

The current time is critically important, dialogue and courage are needed to overcome its challenges, **said Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) Iyad Amin Madani at the official opening ceremony for the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.**

“Forums similar to the one being held in Baku today, are needed for this dialogue, since culture is one of the basic elements of states’ economic stability,” said Madani. “In each visit to Baku, we discover something new,” he said. “This city is very dynamic in terms of its spirit, energy which is palpable. It is not only related to Azerbaijan’s geographical position, but also to the country’s leadership, its vision that turned the country into what it is today.”

He added that OIC is fully committed to the dialogue process, creation of partner relations with other organizations to reach understanding.

“Our task is to create interrelation between what we are discussing here, and the possibility to convey it to the ordinary people who live in conflict zones, or to those who can’t return to their lands due to the disagreements in religious and national issues,” OIC secretary general said.

Madani said that everyone should strive for multiculturalism.



IYAD AMIN MADANI
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)

"Today, we need to deeply think over the fact that each society and country is a kind of a common "pot" for various cultures and nationalities," he said. "We have to make efforts in the multicultural world, while this common "pot" gives us a single point of view." OIC secretary general added that different cultures can be harmonic parts of this "pot".



MR ABDULAZIZ OTHMAN ALTWAIJRI
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISESCO

Dr Abdulaziz Othmane Altwajri, the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organi- zation (ISESCO) reminded Forum participants that the Forum's civilizational mission was more than ever rel- evant, with many regions around the globe plagued with tensions, wars, and turmoil, as a result of rising trends of terrorism, hate, racism, and sectarian strife, often ex- acer- bated by the interference of foreign players seek- ing to fuel the destructive chaos which they claim to be serving their strategic interests. Dr Altwajri delivered his address in response to Azerbaijan's President and ministers, representatives of regional and international organizations, and senior intellec- tuals and academics. His words captured much of the concerns expressed throughout the Forum over the three days.

He confirmed his view that that many countries around the world, most of them Arab and Muslim, were facing seri- ous and complex crises shaking their stability amidst the international community's total incapacity to find political solutions to the complex crises that continue to undermine world peace. The efforts the international community has made through the Security Council have actually failed to end bloodshed and violence and give peace and se- curity a chance to thrive, he asserted. Such a failure, he argued, was partly due to the miscalculations of the Great Powers, which run counter to the com- mon good of humanity. He explained that this was no surprise of politicians as they barely take culture into account in their policies pertaining to the major issues directly impacting international peace and security, which makes them often insensitive to the humanitarian realities on the ground, moral values and cultural facts.

In the same vein, Dr Altwajri said:

"It is this glitch of international politics which makes the international community unable to enforce inter- national law, protect human rights and respect the rights of peoples to decide their own destiny; enjoy freedom, dignity and social justice; maintain their spiritual, cultural and civilizational specificities; resist injustice, oppression and tyranny. This glitch also led to cowardice in front of occupation and violation of countries' territorial sovereignty, as in the cases of Azerbaijan's province of Nagorno-Karabakh, occu- pied by Armenia; the Palestinian territories, occupied by Israel; and the Moroccan Sebta and Mellilia and Jaafarin Islands, occupied by Spain. This upholds our conviction that intercultural dialogue should be a key component of a peaceful solution, under international law, to all the difficult crises being endured by myriads of peoples in plain sight of the international community."

On the other hand, Dr Altwajri called for a translation of the Forum's objectives into concrete actions as he said:

“Such is the tough responsibility of this World Forum, which we all, each in their realm of competence, are required to shoulder at two main levels: the first level concerns pursuing action in this direction to enhance intercultural dialogue and accordingly develop it into an alliance of civilizations, thus reaffirming such a logical causal connection between intercultural dialogue and the alliance of civilization. This has also to be coupled with an expansion of the scope of relevant conferences, seminars, activities and workshops. The second level concerns intensifying relevant efforts at all levels, in a bid to integrate the outcomes of intercultural dialogue into education curricula, culture forums and all actions of civil society organizations, in order to disseminate them on a larger scale. This should also involve launching leading initiatives with the aim of materializing the values of dialogue and translating them into concrete actions with a wider global impact.”

In this regard, he said that intercultural dialogue had moved beyond the confines of the crucial phase of theorization into the stage of materializing the relevant ideas, visions and proposals put forward and debated in this Forum by intellectual, academic and political leaders.

“You will agree with me on the importance of embarking on this new stage to consolidate the international standing of this forum as an ever-shining beacon of cultural development and a source of intellectual innovation towards a better world where peace, justice and harmony prevail,” he told the Forum members.

The opening ceremony was followed by the launch of “Agree to Differ” book, a landmark publication on the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures, co-published by UNESCO and Tudor Rose. President Ilham Aliyev and the First Lady of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva attended the ceremony.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova handed a document certifying the inclusion of Azerbaijani Kelaghayi in UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity to First Lady, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mehriban Aliyeva.

The Forum looked to the future in its meetings in terms of ‘the big project’ and ‘the small project’, with the abiding theme that tolerance is possible.

“We share difference and diversity and we have to learn how to live together without killing each other. That’s the hope. That’s the big project. The small project is to look at things that work so that we can live together,” concluded Paul Morris of UNESCO

International partner organizations were awarded the symbol of the forum.

4. Plenaries

Plenary 1 Dialogue in a post-2015 world

“Sharing Culture for Shared Security: Soft power and diversity in the modern age”

Organisation: Azerbaijan with partners





Chair: Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan

Moderator: Prof. Mike Hardy CMG OBE, Chair in Intercultural Relations, Executive Director, Center for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, United Kingdom

SPEAKERS:

1. Margarita Popova, Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria

2. Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

3. Jean-Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe

4. Nathalie Goulet, Member of Senate, France

5. Rachida Dati, Mayor of 7th District of Paris, Member of the European Parliament

6. Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, USA

7. Samad Seyidov, Member of Parliament, chairman of International and Interparliamentary Relations Committee of Parliament, Azerbaijan

8. Konstantin Shuvalov, Russian Foreign Minister's Representative for work with UNOAC, Ambassador at Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia

The Azerbaijan Government organised this first Plenary to develop the agreed theme for the Forum: the need for a collective approach to development and as to human security in this post-2015 development goals era, and the high-level speakers were invited to share their contexts and experiences regarding joint-working to promote more positive coexistence in diverse communities. The panel discussed the concept of 'soft power' and high-lighted the importance of local context for effective policy.

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- The critical and continuing role of education, of life-long learning
- The role and contribution of the non-state organisations –including those based on faith groups and their contribution to table communities at very local levels.
- The importance of dialogue for ordinary people and not just always involving the 'usual suspects' of global, national and local government authorities, and the importance for these agencies to work across institutions and together.
- That context matters, and the strong relationship between peace in communities and peace between nations.

Plenary 2 - Dialogue as transformation

"Countering Violent Extremism: the Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Religious Pluralism and Advancing Shared Well-being"

Organisation: UNAOOC

Chair: Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOOC)

Moderator: Nihal Saad, Spokesperson for the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

SPEAKERS:

1. **Tariq Al-Ansari, Ambassador**, Chief of Cabinet of the Office of the HR
2. **His Eminence**, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja
3. **His Eminence**, Metropolitan Emmanuel, Vice President, Conference of European Churches, France
4. **D William F. Vendley**, Secretary General, Religions for Peace
5. **Mubariz Gurbanli**, Chair State Committee for Religious Affairs
6. **Mohamed Sameh Amr**, Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Ambassador of Egypt to UNESCO
7. **Victor Grezes**, Coexister, France
8. **Rabbi Andrew Baker**, OSCE CiO Special Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism

Panelists explored the various drivers of violent extremism and recommended concrete and effective responses to counter terrorism; such as adopting multi-faceted approaches to address the root causes of extremism, empowering religious leaders and encouraging their engagement at the community level.

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- Enhancing education curricula and enforcing social inclusiveness and good governance. UNAOOC highlighted the relevance of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals to the work and mandate of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, particularly SDG # 16 that calls for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.
- The role of religious leaders was stressed in reaching out to the various communities and working as messengers of peace or conducting religious diplomacy.
- Religious leaders participating in the discussion pointed out to the need to revise text books and re-educate religious leaders/preachers.
- There was a stress on the freedom of religion and beliefs while at the same time demonstrate respect for those who do not share our beliefs.
- Crimes committed in the name of religion are crimes against religion.

Plenary 3 – Dialogue as global trust building

“Shaping common global agenda: Responsibility of international institutions and governments in building trust and understanding between cultures and civilizations”

Organisation: UNESCO and Government of Azerbaijan

Chair: Mahmud Mammadguliyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Azerbaijan
Moderator: Yahya Palavicini, Vice President of COREIS, Milano, Italy
Speakers:

SPEAKERS:

1. **Antonius Broek**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. **Pam Roach**, Vice-President, Washington State Senate, United State of America
3. **Suljo Mustafi**, Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro
4. **Ramil Hasanov**, Secretary General of the Turkic Council
5. **Victor Tvircun**, Secretary General, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation
6. **Valeri Chechelashvili**, Secretary General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, GUAM
7. **Alexis Chahtahinsky**, Ambassador, project co-ordinator in Baku, OSCE
8. **Pece Gorgiewski**, Global Dialogue Foundation, Australia

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- This third plenary session focused discussion on trust and trust-building, and placed emphasis on the responsibility of international institutions and governments in building trust and understanding between cultures and civilizations and shaping common global agenda, both important themes as laid out in President Ilham Aliyev's opening remarks .
- The session picked up on the Forum theme :“Sharing culture for sharing security” suggesting that this was very appropriate - not in the sense that we do not see the challenges posed to security by the lack of intercultural or interfaith dialogue, the rise of intolerance, discrimination or violence based on race or religion
- The terrorist attacks against the journalists and cartoonists of Charlie Hebdo, and against the Kosher supermarket in Paris as well as the recently planned attacks on Churches or on Mosques underline the continued importance of positive relationships.
- The rise of anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, often associated with violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism on the one hand, the rise of xenophobia, islamophobia and of the far right on the other hand, have a destructive potential for many of our societies.
- Discussion ensued as to what it was that international organizations including OSCE and governments can do about it? Apart part from those immediate priorities, what role can the OSCE play with its 57 member countries in providing a platform for participating States to learn from each other's experience. International organizations have an important role to play here in fostering more international co-operation between states, which remain the primary actors.
- The reason for current crisis in international relations is that the very basic system of values and principles has been destroyed, and the trust and understanding has been ruined. We are witnessing dramatic changes in the international order, leading to new set of international relations in Europe and worldwide. This is the new international order in making, and we do not know when the process will be finalised and what kind of new order it will be. · Under current circumstances, international organizations, both global and regional, can provide the unique capacity to restore trust and understanding. In international community, it is difficult for anybody, even a strong and influential player, to oppose the overwhelming majority endlessly, and this should motivate activities of international organizations as here chances for success are higher, compared with bilateral format. In addition, the level and quality of the challenges currently at hand require a collective, multilateral effort.

5. Workshops

Dialogue in a post-2015 world: Multiculturalism: Promising Realities

Moderator: Kamal Abdullayev, State Counsellor on Multinational Multicultural and Religious Affairs, Azerbaijan

Discussion points:

- There are various aspects of multiculturalism from cultural, political, ethnic, religious, economic, gender and other perspectives both in its theoretical and practical dimensions in light of adaptation to challenges of the contemporary globalized world.
- Need to exchange thoughts on interdisciplinary approaches to cultural, ethnic, racial, religious diversities as having promising potentials to offer better solutions to problems arising from contemporary multicultural realities in different countries.

The Silk Roads, Pioneer Routes of Dialogue and Exchanges: “The Silk Roads Initiative and its Potential for today’s Intercultural dialogue”

Moderator: Shirin Akiner, Senior Fellow, Cambridge Central Asia Forum, University of Cambridge Merd-
hahd & Mehrdad Shabahang, Programme Officer, UNESCO Silk Roads Online Platform

Discussion points:

- The Cultural Heritage of the Silk Roads is a vector for the Intercultural Dialogue in modern time.
- Highlighting the common cultural legacy as well of plural identity of the people who are living along the Histori- cal Silk Roads is a direct contribution to the promotion of intercultural dialogue and Culture of Peace in our diverse and plural modern time.
- It is essential that the International Organizations and particular UNESCO based on their mandate un-
dertake initiatives for underlining the common cultural heritage and plural identity of the people who are living along the Silk Roads. In this respect, it is important that the local communities of regions along the Silk Roads be involved in the process of studying and highlighting the Silk Roads legacy.

Harnessing Tourism’s power as an agent for promoting tolerance, understanding and dialogue between peo- ples, cultures and civilizations

Moderator: Amr Abdel-Ghaffar, Advisor to the UNWTO Secretary-General on Tourism and Peace and UNWTO Regional Director for the Middle East

Discussion points:

- With over one billion tourists crossing borders every year, tourism has become a major socio-eco-
nomic activity of our times that engages people of practically all nations and from every corner of our planet, either as hosts or as guests.
- The values of tolerance, understanding and inclusion, treasured by innumerable cultures and civilization across the globe, lie at the very heart of responsible and sustainable tourism. A research programme recently launched by NWTO, jointly with the Government of Austria and the Centre for Peace Research and Education of the University of Klagenfurt, provides, for the first time, a sound knowledge base on Tourism’s role in promoting dialogue and understanding between different peoples, cultures and civiliza-
tions

Learning to live together through Education: from policy to practice

Moderator: Susan Vize, Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Bangkok (Asia and Pacific Re- gional Bureau for Education)

Discussion points:

- Many countries are reflecting the concept of learning to live together in policies (e.g. constitutions, laws) in de-
fining the purpose of education.
- Curricula in some countries are shifting to place more attention on relevant skills and competencies across the curriculum and are becoming more multi-dimensional, yet this varies by country.





- Teachers need more support to better grasp these vast concepts, and be equipped with relevant and practical tools to use more innovative and participatory teaching strategies that facilitate 'learning to live together' in the classroom.
- Emphasis on 'hard skills' and high-stakes exams have overshadowed so called 'soft skills', therefore the need for assessment to recognize these skills and competencies with methods beyond tests and exams so that they are given adequate value and recognition.
- While policy and curricula may reflect the concept of learning to live together, it is very difficult to see how this is made a reality in the classroom. The gap between policy and practice is particularly evident between the curricula, and its link to teachers' practices as well as assessments.
- Need further research to better understand the concrete ways in which this concept is reflected in practice at classroom and school level, in order to
- Gather evidence of best practices to identify models, initiatives and practices that promote the concept of learning to live together, so that they can be shared to better inform policy at the national level and adapted for use in other countries or situations.
- Need to engage adults, particularly parents, as part of the education community as crucial actors in promoting learning to live together among learners.

The role art and heritage in cross-cultural relations

Organisation: Azerbaijan

Moderator: David Lordkipanidze, General Director of Georgian National Museum, Georgia

Discussion points:

- Need to address the issue of the rise of various kinds of authoritarian populism around the world, as a counter-tendency to globalization, often resulting in nationalistic and pietistic movements that leave no room for intercultural dialogue. For many of these movements, civil society is not considered autonomous, and intercultural dialogue is viewed as a threat rather than a source of enrichment, as well as the issue of global economic crisis, which in certain countries is fostering a sense of insecurity inimical to intercultural dialogue, or subjecting the cultural and heritage sectors to retrenchment and greater dependence on support from earned revenues or sponsorship from private companies and individuals for whom intercultural dialogue may not be a priority
- New strategies should be adopted to overcome the two current contextual difficulties
- Finding ways where culture, the arts and heritage have a greater impact in promoting intercultural dialogue locally, regionally and especially globally

Engaging youth in intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity

Moderator: Amina Hamshari, UNESCO, Social and Human Sciences Sector, Intercultural Dialogue Section

Discussion points:

- Dialogue should be a results-oriented process. It is engagement of youth to do!
- Intercultural dialogue presumes that racism, discrimination and stereotypes are solved. Dialogue is not feasible if racism and related issues persist. Education (formal and non-formal involving civil society) is the key.
- Optimal aims of ID are skills, competences acquisition and youth active participation
- Innovative practices including volunteering and exchange were presented and are recommended to be scaled up!

Such as Haver of UNESCO Beirut office, NET-MED Youth, Jamaity of Tunisia and the Pan African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace. The use of art, media, and technology were highlighted!

- Internet platforms do not necessarily engage Youth in an in depth dialogue on critical issues.
- Rethinking education: in addition to knowledge and skills give more emphasis on values and attitudes.
- Dialogue should be mainstreamed and translated into Youth policies in addition to formal and non-formal education
- Dialogue initiatives and programs should focus on specific issues related to Youth and cultural identities, civic and politic participation, economic, art and creation and their impact on public opinion
- Give the floor to youth active participation in citizenship through youth-led programs in cooperation with civil society and research institutions
- Public policies should take advantage and support social media platforms to disseminate ID messages, knowl- edge exchange and skills
- A common effort to the solutions of promoting peace should be a global one, not just local or national oriented.
- Youth's engagement towards ID has a prominent place in Baku's 2015's edition. A phenomenon which should be taken into serious consideration for long-term planning at the global Agenda level. Sustainable international platforms promoting ID such as Baku's World Forum allows a long term perspective and analysis, which should be not only maintained but strengthened.

Youth as agents of social change: contributors to peace and dialogue processes

Moderator: Alessandro Girola, UNAOC- IIA

The panel focused on youth as agents of social change and contributors to peace and dialogue processes. Through the interventions of the panelists, some of them representing organizations supported by UNAOC programs and projects, the session brought concrete evidence of young people contribution to peace and intercultural dialogue. Furthermore it shed light on current challenges and needs for policy makers, government and civil societies, to take full advantage of the capacity of young people and develop youth-focused and youth-inclusive policies.

Discussion points:

- On the style: the way the session was organized (panelists to respond to 3/4 main questions + final Q&A) allowed for good interactions among panelists.
- From feedback I received from participants who came to attend the session I would strongly recommend to run a similar session in the future because it offered a concrete opportunity to hearing directly from youth about their work, their impact, their challenges, their needs.

Youth Participation: the role of Global education and intercultural competences

Moderator: Niall Sheerin, Deputy Director, North-South Center of the Council of Europe

Discussion points:

- It is necessary to share the GE approach as tool to promote the development of intercultural competences with young people.
- Participants should experience the GE approach and have an understanding of its added value, especially with youth groups.

- Should develop a common understanding on what intercultural competences are and the link with GE.
- Shared good practices promoted by young people and youth organisations that link global education, intercultural dialogue and youth participation.

Workshop Group 3a - Partnering with the Community and Religious Leaders for Intercultural Dialogue

Moderator: Hegazi Idris, Program Specialist, UNESCO Office in Beirut and Regional Bureau for Education

Discussion points:

- The concept of dialogue has to be enlarged in terms of definition. Dialogue is a result based process, it is an obligation.
- There should be no one model for ID. Each country and region should create its model.
- Human security is the responsibility not only the state, but also the community: media, religious leader, and civil society.
- UNESCO Beirut has developed 140 indicators that are measured for media and ID.
- There is an urgency to clarify the terms used in the field of ID.
- There is a central role for universities to play to build the competences of ID among youth! Haver program of Beirut has developed accredited university courses and already established partnerships with 20 universities from the Arab region to implement this initiative.
- There are many examples proving that partnering with the religious leaders can be a working model to promote social cohesion. Lebanon is a vivid example.
- UNESCO Beirut will organize a conference to launch the media indicators and guidelines for ID in the fall of this year!
- UNESCO Beirut in partnership with the AUF will launch a massive online university course on ID to run in 3 languages: French, Arabic, and English.
- UNESCO Beirut will launch in 2016 a manual for Muslim religious leaders that aims at providing guidelines for ID and how to communicate the ID messages to youth: in mosques and religious institutions!

Younger people as future influencers: Responsible and Constructive Use of Social Media

Moderator: Jordi Torrent, Project Manager of Media Literacy Education, UNAOC

The internet and social networking sites can be a very powerful tool and can be used in a very positive and rewarding way. However, it can also be open to misuse and abuse. Defamatory messages, inciting language as well as hate speech are easily found on social media platforms. They are helping not only the cultivation of cultural and religious stereotypes throughout society, but also encourage the radicalization of individuals provoking intense social polarizations that often contribute to violence. Inspiring youth towards the responsible uses of social media is a fundamental aspect that needs to be addressed. At the workshop three unique and innovative social media initiatives were presented and discussed.

Hans Shakur, from Games for Peace, a non-profit organization that aims to foster dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian youths through interactive computer games. By utilizing the popularity of online computer games, Games for Peace promotes dialogue, reduces prejudice and creates shared, positive experiences, between Israelis

and Palestinians. Games for Peace creates online gaming events and programs, based around popular commercial games, that bring together tens of thousands of Israeli and Palestinian youth to play, communicate, bring down at the same time cultural, political and religious barriers.

Ed Maklouf, from Gather, a new platform designed for creating citizen science campaigns via a dedicated mobile app. Apps created gather structured data from participants, and enable a true community of interested people to contribute to research and collecting data together. Inspiring examples of mobile crowd-sourced data and research, and how the incentives and technology used can relate to non-profit campaigns.

The last participant was Paul Myles, from On our Radar, a non-for-profit organization supporting the development of mobile and web-based solutions to provide affordable and secure ways of building communication among communities in peril. Should society address these phenomenon? On Our Radar champions the importance of smooth information flows, aiming at becoming an organisation supporting practices of ethical transparency. During the discussion On our Radar's mobile journalism project enabling citizen reporters from communities across the Niger Delta to share the stories that affect their communities was particularly discussed.

The session was particularly relevant as an opportunity for an open discussion were issues of freedom of expression, trust and government censorship were studied vis-à-vis the new digital platforms that, while empowering citizens to produce their own media, it also facilitate the distribution of polarizing points of views and violent discourses. The need for developing critical thinking skills and media literacy was identified as an important tool in order to facilitate participation of citizens in current democratic societies where social media platforms play a very important role in shaping perception and ultimately policy.

Side event - Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs on Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue

The Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs during the 3rd WFID was a timely initiative to address topical issues to build a bridge between academia and policy-making, theory and practice, research and education, evidence and solutions.

The particular role of UNESCO has been highlighted for a long-standing commitment to "advancing, through the educational, scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind" (Action Plan of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures). The WFID 2015 in Baku was significant as UNESCO Chairholders from all over the world met together for the first time to discuss interreligious and intercultural themes to facilitating dialogue in multicultural societies.

The UNESCO Chair Director presented a paper responding to questions and guidelines sent from the Forum. He also suggested a joint project on the works of the great poet "Mohammed Fuzuli", who was born and raised up and died in Karbala, Iraq. This project is regarded also as a cultural bridge that connects between Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey and some other Turkish minorities in some states, in collaboration with UNESCO and the government of Azerbaijan.





This participation in the Forum aimed at encouraging and enabling Iraqi people and organizations to support diversity by raising awareness of the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue and understanding less than five main points; the traditional and new media, encouraging the participation of young people, education, women empowerment, and trans-disciplinary research. Attending this event has also strongly given Iraq an important opportunity to express the danger of religious extremism and sectarianism and how to eliminate them to build a solidarity that respect all religions and beliefs. Moreover, one of the objectives of the forum is opening a collaborative framework with other international UNESCO chairs at the international universities to share and exchanges experiences on themes of shared interests and exploits these cultural relations in the programs and activities that the UNESCO Chair at the University of Kufa has been conveying in reality.

Achieved Results

The discussed challenges and proposed initiatives during the Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs defined the wide prospects for further cooperation between the UNESCO Chairs in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue as well as for fostering the partnership with the KAICIID Dialogue Centre and further involvement in the World Baku Forum in 2017.

In particular, the following results were achieved:

- The Academic Forum contributed to the WFID outcomes in advancing the initiatives for concrete actions to support diversity and intercultural dialogue;
- The recommendations for the wider involvement of educational and cultural institutions, media agencies, as well as social groups, especially youth and women, to foster intercultural and interreligious dialogue, have been discussed to be further developed in close collaboration by the Chairs;
- The partnership of KAICIID with the UNESCO Chairs in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue has been reinforced;
- The capacities of the UNESCO Chairs through the experience and knowledge sharing will be developed, as well as the networking and collaboration have been strengthened;
- New UNESCO Chairs in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue considered joining the UNITWIN Network on Interreligious Dialogue for Intercultural Understanding;
- The training, educational and awareness-raising activities of the UNESCO Chairs towards promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue have been reconsidered to be advanced;
- The UNESCO Chairs of the UNITWIN Network on Interreligious Dialogue for Intercultural Understanding agreed to propose their initiatives to elaborate a joint action plan for 2015

6. Ministerial meeting

The Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic H.E. Mr. Abulfas Garayev welcomed ministers' participation in the 2nd Ministerial Meeting. H.E. Mr. Garayev noted the expected topics to be raised during meeting covering such aspects as discussion on contribution to the poverty reduction, development of education, sustainable development, urbanization, such vivid leverage cultural heritage and cultural management etc.

In his opening remark in the ministerial conference, H.E Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations has emphasized the contribution of the diverse cultural approaches towards the economic development, promotion of social cohesion and fostering the environmental sustainability. The High Representative has also expressed his appreciation of the World Forum and his desire for holding future discussions with the ministers responsible for culture and tourism.

Ministers of Republic of Lithuania, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Serbia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Albania, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Senegal, Georgia, Malaysia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Tajikistan, Ukraine, Republic of Togo, Kingdom of Spain, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Romania, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Indonesia, Holy See, State of Kuwait, Kenya, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Arab Republic of Egypt and TURKSOY, CoE, Brooklyn Foundation Representative, CIS Representatives expressed their high satisfaction with organization of World Forum initiated by the Government of Azerbaijan Republic. The Ministers emphasized the importance of World Forum aimed to sustainable development of tourism, culture and related fields for the improvement of economic-social life. Following the meeting it was proposed to hold such meetings more often.

7. Asking questions: Coventry University's research project

Research findings: Building on a small research survey in 2013¹ Overall the findings report an extremely positive view of the forum in general. As an initiative intended to bring people together from a range of cultural backgrounds in order to share their experiences and thoughts WIFD was a great success. Delegates were forthcoming in their praise and appreciation of both the government of Azerbaijan for hosting the forum and recognising the value of intercultural dialogue; as well as of their experience of Azerbaijan as a country and its own cultural legacy.

In today's world, unprecedented levels of exchange occur between divergent populations. Understanding on how to facilitate successful intercultural dialogue is more necessary than ever for peaceful relations. It is commonly believed that international forums can provide the most useful platform for rigorous debates and exchange, due to their ability to bring delegates from across the globe face to face, however, such events are seldom evaluated (Beck and Visholm 2014; Wallach 2014).

The Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University

Over the course of the WFID 2015 our team of researchers conducted approximately one hundred interviews with delegates attending the conference in order to i) investigate what delegates expected of the forum; ii) the extent to which such expectations were met (during and retrospectively); iii) the impact of engagement on understanding and practice of intercultural dialogue; iv) how subsequent forums of this type could be improved for maximum success.

Importantly, there were areas highlighted by the research for consideration and potential improvement. Participants discussed how they would welcome greater structure within the sessions. Several suggestions for how sessions might be delivered more effectively were provided and will be considered for their potential merit. For example, some delegates proposed a more practical focus with guest experts covering different approaches to intercultural dialogue. Furthermore, there was general agreement that the panel session approach had not allowed for sufficient discussion among the delegates present. A common suggestion was to use sessions to discuss a specific question or topic, during which all delegates may each share ideas and provide agreed solutions for better practice.

It was evident from the interviews that many delegates found the informal space outside of the sessions, such as lunchtime and coffee breaks, just as valuable for providing an opportunity for dialogue. In fact, several interviewees reported making vital contacts and forging working relationships during these periods. This reflects the important platform for networking provided by the forum as a crucial part of the wider Baku Process.

Participants expressed a greater desire to engage in dialogue with those representing different sectors. It is clear that community organisations benefitted from exchanging with similar organisations, particularly NGOs from other countries; however several delegates reported missing opportunities to have dialogue with government and UN representatives. In many ways this was viewed as a missed opportunity for cross-sector dialogue, vital for practitioners who wish to engage and inform policy makers.

The initial findings from the research were presented at an academic conference at George Washington University in August 2015. The feedback from the audience was extremely positive in terms of the potential value the research has for both understanding how global forums can act as an intervention; as well as for understanding and implementing intercultural dialogue more broadly.

The research has therefore begun to uncover some important findings for how the Baku Process can be further strengthened to achieve its intended outcomes. In addition to the interviews, the research team will conduct a survey with all the delegates who attended the conference. This will allow participants to retrospectively provide feedback on the experience, and for the research to explore how the forum changed thinking, created new opportunities, and influenced the way people work differently in the area of intercultural dialogue as a result. The team at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations continue to work on this project and look forward to disseminating findings²

8. Closing ceremony and final remarks

Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan

Partners: UNESCO, UNAOC, UNWTO, Council of Europe, ISESCO

Rapporteur: Prof. Mike Hardy CMG OBE, Chair in Intercultural Relations, Executive Director, Center for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, United Kingdom

Minister Garayev congratulated the participants to the WFID 2015 for their energy and enthusiasm; in his closing remarks, the Minister highlighted the distinctive role of the Baku Process for confronting the challenge of prejudice and discrimination in the world of diversity and change that we live.

Minister Garayev celebrated the broad definition of 'culture' that had encouraged the Forum to include powerful new agencies and drivers in the discussion of culture, and the dialogue between cultures that had been enabled. He referred with gratitude to the well-attended meeting of Culture Ministers and to their commitment to establish the high level agreements that made the development of supportive policies easier.

Minister Garayev thanked President Aliyev for the introduction and continued support for the Baku Process and for the World Forums that carry the flag of high-level dialogue –600 participants from almost 100 countries.

In conclusion he called on his fellow task-force members –from UNAOC, UNESCO, ISESCO, WTO, CoE to maintain their support and commitment to the Baku Process and to promote it as an inclusive process for a better world.

Rapporteurs final remarks:

This 3rd World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue began with the critical review of the 2013 Forum and the content and form has developed through the unstinting work of the taskforce over the past several months.

The discussions have been characterised by context, innovation and the search for stronger understanding of the lived experience of people worldwide. For context, the many participants at the Forum quickly observed that the world is changing more rapidly than ever before –and that the shared security sought through the discussions needed to adapt to a whole set of new vulnerabilities –vulnerabilities associated with rapid change. During the Forum the participants had welcomed a strong emphasis on youth –youth helping the world with constructive uses of social media; youth acting as effective agents of social change; youth developing brand-new competences and capabilities –fit for the modern age and youth mobility. These four sessions on youth had enlivened the content of the Forum and were clearly effective antidotes to the impact of rapid change.

Similarly, delegates have welcomed the discussion of faith and its contemporary interface with extremism.

We had observed together that there was still much work to do, particularly in developing more tools for dialogue that can help bridge the gaps that appear between people of difference.





There is an even greater need for strong evidence to underpin the ideas for the actions that have been discussed and a need to be clearer about what we seek and what kind of outcome would feel like success.

WFID 2015 has set a new agenda and injected new energies into the work of those who seek to mobilise dialogue to disempower the forces of prejudice; in many ways the Baku Process has identified a set of bridges that we need to build and to cross –and not just the bridge between people of difference.

The Baku Process should be characterised by successful bridging between concepts and policies, between perceptions and realities, between evidence and solutions, between theory and practice.

Above all WFID 2015 recognised the importance of creating a bridge between encounter (our meeting with people of difference) and engagement (working and transacting with them for sustaining contact).

Finally, the Baku Process already invests in creating an effective bridge between all those organisational partners that work so hard to promote intercultural dialogue; once that bridge is strong and resilient, the partners must take responsibility for crossing it!

9. Commitments for the future

WFID 2015 placed emphasis both on the **importance** of dialogue and on the **quality** of dialogue. The Forum responded directly to calls following WFID 2013, to consider more carefully and fully, the role of faith and the role of youth, as well as to challenge the role of large global events within the process of promoting dialogue and strengthening understanding. The conclusions at the closing ceremony focused again on the need for the discussions and raised awareness generated by the Forum to be nurtured and translated into practice to bring about real and sustaining change in communities and between people. Similarly, the Forum highlighted the increased challenge introduced by those who would radicalise and promote extremism and violence, most especially, though not exclusively among young people. There was considerable agreement that at its best dialogue is the essential toolkit, helping people to cope with unprecedented challenges and conflicts and the pace of change in our modern world. It can sustain peaceful relations. But too often it can distract and pretend, making us feel better without being better.

Effective dialogue between people of difference and with different needs and agendas is vital for real and sustained peace – the kind that let's us sleep easy. And we appear to engage with it a lot. On the global stage, World Forums such as Baku are convened to bring together heads of governments, ministers, heads of various international organizations, senior policy makers, cultural professionals, goodwill ambassadors, experts, journalists, practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists.

These platforms enable us to take concrete actions to support diversity, strengthen mutual understanding among and between nations and communities, and raise awareness of the importance of dialogue.

But many miss the mark. Their focus is on talk and not dialogue. More often than not they eschew difficult conversations, and their talk is at or for rather than with people. And develop a legacy of what might be 'unrealised dialogue'. This is dialogue that fails to happen (in the real sense) and fails to deliver.

One challenge is that high-level forums do not reflect our changed times. Families and communities recognise that concerns about safety and wellbeing must centre on individual and people-to-people relationships. Actions designed to improve the security of everyday people need to protect and empower them to lead fulfilled and happy lives. It is not enough to focus on securing borders and nation states; we need human security, and specifically the 'shared security' that became the theme of WFID 2015. We are seeing that secure states do not necessarily ensure secure communities within.

Effective dialogue: dynamic and engaging, focuses on open and respectful exchange of views, experiences, hopes and fears and provide the basis for better understanding and a stronger prospect of living peacefully in diverse communities. As discussed at WFID 2015, in the commitment to shared security, all must work to encourage and enable dialogue, sometimes in contexts where the various players seem to be at odds with one another. In our connected global village, it is cooperation and collaborations that will matter and make the difference – and both need real dialogue.

At the opening ceremony, President Aliyev called for a real sense of urgency and a strong will to succeed. Many of the working sessions, plenaries and workshops of the Forum pointed to the changes taking place in the world and how the agenda of the Baku Process might respond over the next period. Three themes were emphasised:

Firstly, the growing connectivity and interdependences in our joined-up world; secondly, the urgent need for peacebuilding in the post-2015 development world and thirdly the continued importance of youth and the younger generations.

Dialogue in the new global village

In our new 'global village', differences between people, previously driven by minority-majority relationships within a nation-state, now contend with diasporas, social media and international travel. There is a plethora of new potential conflicts and tensions within and between minorities. New international agencies have cropped up responding to issues like international finance, crime, environmental concerns and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The European project is struggling to cope with the growth of global business, which together with international migration on a new and unprecedented scale has added to a sense of powerlessness and alienation. There is no telling how profound the impact of these changes has been for the way people see themselves and what all this might mean for the notion of nation-state and national identity. The claim of nationalistic identities has inevitably been weakened, both by the growth of regional and separatist appeals and by the wider appeal of international interdependence.

Our interactions are increasingly likely to be based on multi-faceted relationships, in which individuals draw more heavily on their education and experience, shared spaces and opportunities for connection. It follows that we should focus on the community learning opportunities that can combat insular communities, radicalisation and extremist views.

Dialogue for peaceful relations

For the past ten years or so we have applied international dialogue to the challenges of global poverty. 2015 is the year when the global community must account for its performance against the Millennium Development Goals; so how have we done? The remarkable success has been with rallying the world in the fight against poverty. But we have failed, as a global community, to account for peace and security, including freedom from fear of violence, oppression, and injustice. And given that poverty and peace are so importantly and inextricably linked, this is disappointing.

At a global level, dialogue about peace and security has mostly remained focused on wars and civil conflicts. This eclipses the value and power of the dialogue around personal security, and distracts us from the negative impact on people and their communities. The record shows that in the five years to 2015 more than half a million people died violently each year. Sadly, 70,000 of these died in war zones. But around 408,000 people die violently each year in so-called peaceful, sometimes affluent places. The impact of this violence is far-reaching. Above all else, violence challenges social and human capital by sowing fear. In hours, it can destroy development investments that took years and decades to build. And its presence indicates a simple truth: dialogue is letting us down. It's failing to realise its potential.

Dialogue and young people

Looking generally, our record with dialogue is not encouraging. We have yet to embrace the changed nature of relationships, and we've been restrictive in our application of dialogue to human security (often because our attention to peace is applied singularly to the contexts of war). Little suggests that we can turn this around, apart from the changed scenarios that young people will bring. Two things will make a difference in the next period: young people, their way of thinking and their innate capacities, and the digital world, the new ways by which we will connect and interact (our session on the role of the young with digital media proposed...)

The increasingly important role of younger people will combine with growing interaction among people around the world more generally. Both realities reflect that we are connecting with each other more, and becoming interdependent more quickly than ever before. And we are doing so against a backdrop of unprecedented faster, deeper and broader economic growth. But it is younger people are playing this out most emphatically, and on a daily basis.

It is the young who have a heightened awareness of our differences, and who probably develop most quickly the defensive strategies that protect identities and a sense of belonging. It is the young who embrace the potentials of new technologies most quickly and whose aspirations are most readily dampened by an economic growth that widens disparities, stunts social mobility and promises much but delivers little.

As positive contributors to peace and dialogue processes and as agents of change themselves, it is the young who better accommodate and adapt to a world in flux. And it is they who will be more successful with real dialogue. They will lead us, especially through the new social media and digital platforms.

Providing a strong platform for young people to be seen as positive and progressive contributors to intercultural dialogue will be an important and continuing imperative as we look forwards.

Intercultural dialogue in the post-2015 era will be in a particularly sensitive area of cultural relationships, inherently contentious and open to different, contradictory interpretations. Mutual respect – not the same as mutual approval – will be crucial. Reasoned disagreement builds stronger, more authentic and lasting relationships. Avoiding difficult questions (such as political conflict or differences in values) will be counterproductive, whereas addressing them directly and with respect will build trust.

In the post-2015 era, human security will focus the needs of vulnerable people, on inequality and disparity. These are areas fraught with prejudice and stereotypes, which will need to be challenged.

Intercultural dialogue is important because it allows long-term and intensive engagement with people from other cultures. This can help people see their own culture from a different perspective, which leads to re-evaluating their own views and ideas. At the same time dialogue also re-introduces some of the detail – the diversity – into our perception of others.

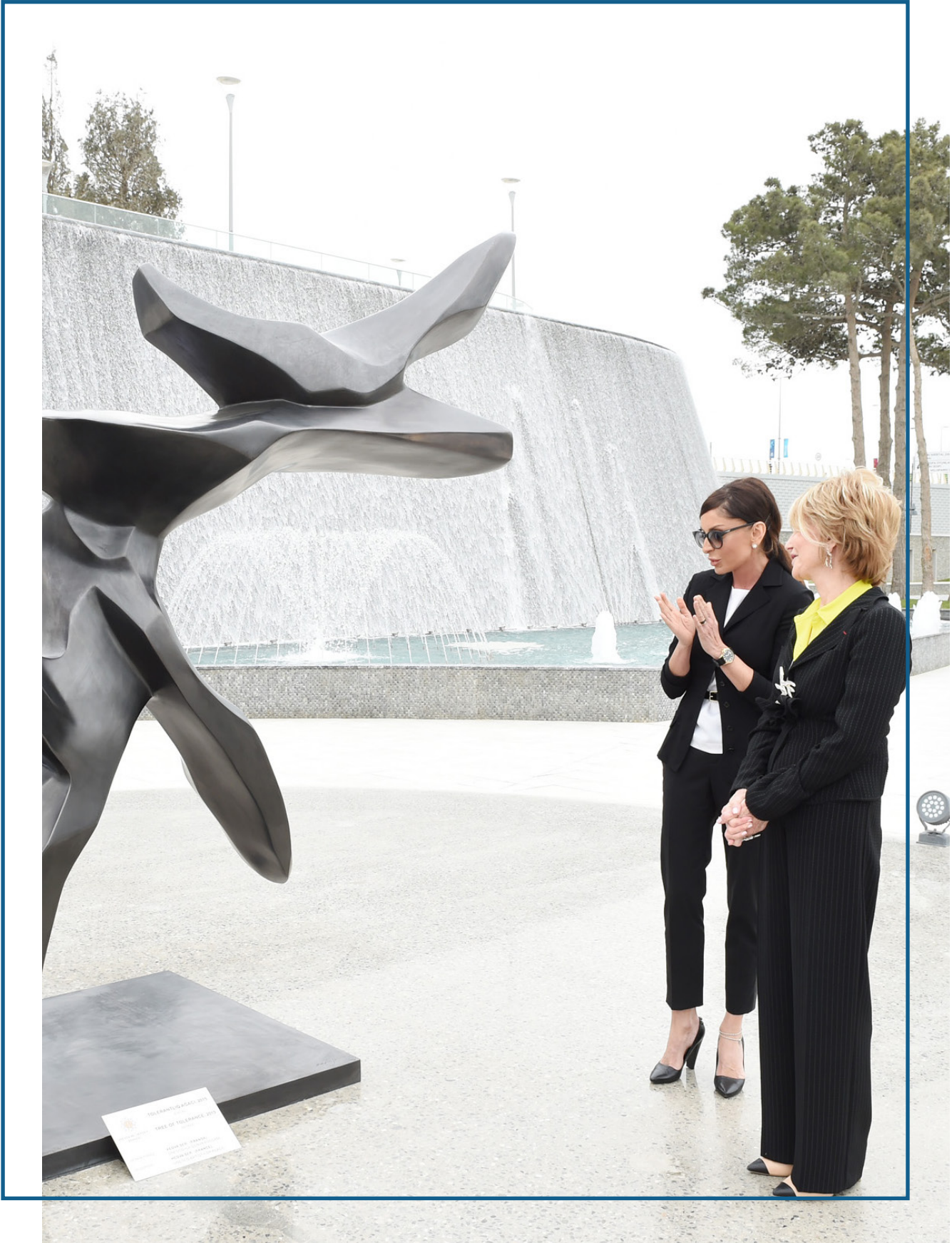
Taking the lead from President Aliyev's opening remarks, the Plenary and Workshop Sessions of WFID 2015 developed and discussed these and other matters, and a strong commitment was made to developing shared voices in future Forums: the voices of young people, of community members, of migrants and those displaced and those who seek asylum from conflict and prejudice, and to add these voices to the global, national and local governments and organisations already strongly represented at the Forum.

As President Aliyev exhorted:

“We need to stimulate the positive tendencies. What are the alternatives for that? Alternatives are alienation, discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, dangerous factors which already many times in the history of mankind have led to tragedy of civilizations and peoples.”











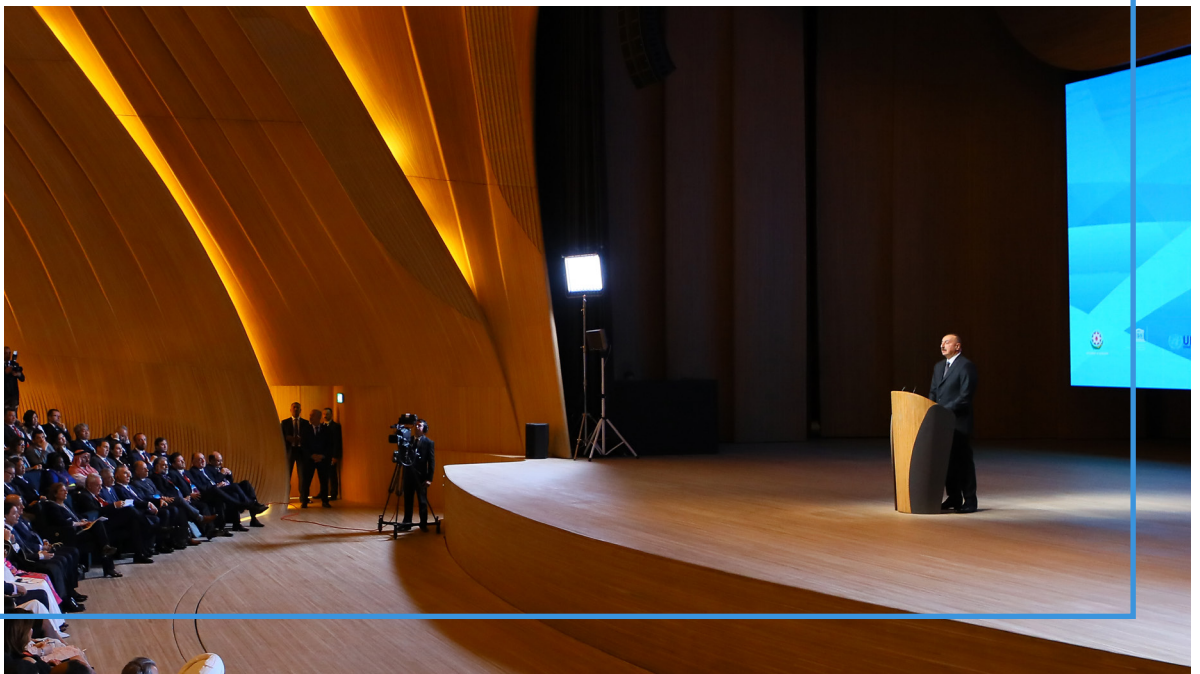


4TH WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

"ADVANCING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE: NEW AVENUES FOR HUMAN SECURITY, PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

4-6 MAY, 2017

BAKU, REPUBLIC of AZERBAIJAN



Advancing Intercultural Dialogue: New avenues for human security, peace and sustainable development

Since its introduction in 2008, Azerbaijan has promoted the positive application of its role in connecting cultures through the Baku Process. The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue is held in Azerbaijan a place where different cultures and civilizations meet at the crossroads between the East and the West, the North and the South. At the same time, being a member of both Islamic and European organizations Azerbaijan absorbs the values of both civilizations, thus enabling it to assume a role of genuine bridge.

The 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue

The 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (WFID 2017) on the theme of “Advancing Intercultural Dialogue: New Avenues for Human Security, Peace and Sustainable Development” was held on 4-6 May 2017 in Baku. The Forum was organized by the Government of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the Council of Europe, the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO).

The overall theme captured the concerns of the organisers that culture connects people of difference, and connection enables encounter and exchange. By enabling people to live together peacefully and constructively in a multi-cultured world, with a sense of global community and belonging, dialogue between and within cultures can become a powerful antidote to rejection and violence. WFID 2017 is the most recent major component of the Baku Process.

The **Baku Process** challenges intercultural dialogue to move from ideas to practice and seeks to establish a platform in which today’s challenges can be discussed with real dialogue, dignity and respect. It has become established as a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange of views between individuals and groups with different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage living in different continents and contexts, on the basis of mutual understanding and respect.

The Baku Process helps place intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity higher on the international agenda as a critical element for achieving human security and as a prime responsibility of our time. A central and integral part of the Process, the World Forums on Intercultural Dialogue (WFID) organised to date have brought together heads of governments, ministers, heads of various international organisations, senior policy makers, cultural professionals, goodwill ambassadors, experts, journalists, practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists. WFID has become an established international platform to enable and encourage people, countries and organizations around the globe to take concrete actions to support diversity, dialogue and mutual understanding among nations by raising awareness on the importance of intercultural dialogue worldwide.

Discussion at WFID 2017 placed side by side intercultural dialogue, human security, peace and sustainable economic development, highlighting the interdependence of these and, importantly, the centrality of dialogue for peaceful relations and sustainable development, and hence human security.

The World Forum in Baku (WFID) has taken responsibility for delivering the global agenda on the Dialogue among Civilisations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (November 2001), the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was adopted by ISESCO in 2004, Declaration and Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue (May 2008), as well as the Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue Azerbaijan hosted the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on 7-9 April, 2011 in Baku under patronage of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan that had been declared by the President at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (23 September 2010, New-York).

WFID, held biannually to Baku, Azerbaijan is supported by prestigious international organizations including UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, Council of Europe, The Council of Europe with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, ISESCO, World Tourism Organisation and the UN FAO; it brings together more than 800 representatives from 120 countries from all continents of the World; Cultural and Education Ministers from 20 countries, deputy ministers of numerous states, leading international organizations including the ISESCO Director General, the Director General of UNESCO, High Representative of UN Alliance of Civilisation, mayors of various world cities, diplomats, media organizations, international NGOs, scientists, scholars, distinguished cultural experts, practitioners, intellectuals and activists.

World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue 2017: making progress, the latest chapter

A core assumption of WFID has been the recognition that dialogue with those who are not perceived to be from the same cultural background is far from straightforward. In past Forums, discussions on intercultural dialogue has enabled discussion about uneven relationships: minority-majority, rich-poor, newcomers-residents or powerful-vulnerable. Even within a framework of mutual respect and without an emphasis on consensus, we have understood that the very platform upon which we ask others to come and engage with each other is often, and for the most part, uneven. Whether intentional or not, a dichotomy of advantage and disadvantage cannot simply be willed away, as well intentioned as intercultural dialogue practitioners may be.

WFID has evolved and the requirement for the field of intercultural dialogue to draw from disciplines outside of dialogue and communication studies and from a variety of global, local, public and private contexts, as a way of engaging with the challenges, has become more important. The Forums have also recognised and acknowledged that the utility of intercultural dialogue – as both a concept and a toolkit – is yet to be fully measured and assessed. As such, applying intercultural dialogue as a strategy for managing conflict in an increasingly globalised and connected world still requires much consideration. As diversity and the consequences of global conflicts have become more diffuse, strategies for cultural relationships have developed and spread. New experiences of cultural engagement in all walks of life must be crafted to help us to cope with what is now a permanently diverse and connected world.

The WFID platform is a unique experience because it ensures, by its design and implementation, that key stakeholders – who might be referred to as the global connectors – are engaged. For WFID 2017, the presence of Ministers of Culture and Education in Baku was an additional asset, including their involvement in the break-out discussions. There was also a welcomed, refreshed emphasis placed on giving speakers and participants more opportunity for interaction. WFID acknowledges that many participants, from all parts of the world, are developing meaningful projects to promote intercultural dialogue and diversity. At the 4th WFID many of these great practices were shared and showcased during the Forum.

2017 Highlights: The 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue

As WFID 2017 was fourth successful Forum to mobilise major organizations and individuals involved in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and diversity, WFID 2017 was an important step forward. It built directly on the results of the previous Forums, and helped deepen the reflections with new ideas and experiences. WFID 2017 also acknowledged the new political context in many countries around the world, with the rise of populism and polarisation and the emergence of a ‘new nationalism’ (The Economist 19 November 2016). This changed context set a distinctive agenda for the discussions and the programme of WFID 2017. Peace, stability and economic development in all parts of the world may be profoundly harmed by the emergence of this growing national introversion, which is also a threat for the SDGs agenda. Hence, it was more important than ever to increase efforts to promote cultural diversity and inclusive societies.

One important new dimension at WFID 2017 was the **1st High Level Meeting of International Organizations**. The WFID Task Force had discussed and agreed that intercultural tensions and conflicts are not caused by the differences between, or by the nature of cultures themselves, but more by the reality that societies are ill-equipped to effectively manage and overcome any challenges. While promoting dialogue and co-operation between the world’s cultures and peoples and aiming to address existing problems and increase joint efforts in this field, the Government of Azerbaijan had proposed to organise the 1st High Level Meeting of International Organizations in the framework of WFID 2017. The goal set for this High-Level Meeting was to convene the world’s political, cultural, military, economic, social, financial and other international organizations to debate human security, sustainable development and inclusive society issues and trace joint actions to settle tensions between cultures and civilizations often times stemming from religious, cultural and social constraints. This fresh initiative has created another important platform to mobilise resources and conduct shared activities notwithstanding the universality of international organizations or regional status and area of responsibility.

Additionally, WFID 2017 recognised the changing global political context by seeking to include all so-called Global Connectors and reach out directly to new entrants to WFID – notably the private sector, such as global, local and technology based companies particularly those committed to social impact and broader human security goal and the international financial institutions (Banks, IMF, World Bank etc..) and other development agencies. The Baku Forum provided a unique opportunity to bring together the “global connectors” and the leading CSR organizations and to discuss concrete opportunities of collaboration to promote dialogue and inclusive societies. These new global connectors are placing new emphases within their research, policy and flagship events on the urgent need to build Inclusive Societies.

WFID 2017 concluded that the private sector is another important actor, and a somewhat untapped potential in the promotion of inclusive societies and trust building among people and cultures. Huge financial resources and experience can be mobilised through Corporate Social Responsibility budgets, philanthropy and corporate engagement, and breakout group discussion at WFID 2017 explored these potentials.

The new participants are helping WFID grow its influence towards building more inclusive societies – and promoting the commitment to ‘new avenues for human security’ that is central to the theme of WFID 2017.

WFID 2017 looked directly at ways of finding practical strategies to build and reinforce trust and promote economic development as prerequisites of dialogue that creates a sustainable improvement in people’s quality of life. The focus on human security has brought new attention to the consequence of both natural and human-driven insecurity, the strong relationship between violent conflict and poverty, as well as the importance of food security. Overall human security is threatened by both violent conflict and natural disasters. WFID 2017 was enriched by the full participation of UNFAO in this regard, and the second plenary reflected this new imperative.

**PROFESSOR MIKE HARDY CMG OBE FRSA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WFID 2017: A step towards a more comprehensive conceptualisation of intercultural dialogue

WFID has long promoted that at its best dialogue is the essential toolkit, helping people to cope with unprecedented challenges and conflicts and the pace of change within our modern world. Dialogue can support and help sustain peaceful relations. But too often the prerequisites that dialogue remains an open process of exchange and respect between individuals and groups of different cultures, points of view and aspirations, built on a foundation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, are overlooked and not met. WFID 2017 highlighted how effective dialogue between people of difference, and with different needs and agendas, remains to be vital for real and sustained peace.

On the global stage, forums are convened to bring together heads of governments, ministers, heads of various international organizations, senior policy makers, cultural professionals, goodwill ambassadors, experts, journalists, practitioners, prominent intellectuals and activists. These platforms enable us to take concrete actions to support diversity, strengthen mutual understanding among and between nations and communities, and raise awareness of the importance of dialogue. But Intercultural dialogue in the 2017 is all the more important because of the sheer compression of the world, bringing people and their cultures into the same space with intense speed, creating new levels and forms of human interaction and interdependence. Mutual respect – not the same as mutual approval – will be the more critical. WFID 2017 reinforced the shared view that reasoned disagreement builds stronger, more authentic and lasting relationships. Avoiding difficult questions (such as political conflict or differences in values) will be counterproductive, whereas addressing them directly and with respect is more likely to build trust.

At a time when the world's efforts are focused on sustainable development for all, the challenges are often multidimensional and interrelated, with the needs of the most vulnerable being compounded by prejudice and stereotypes that must be challenged holistically.

Report of WFID 2017: Overview and Inception

WFID 2017 inspired significant interest from across the globe and from important inter-national organisations. The Forum brought together nearly 800 foreign representatives from more than 120 countries and 38 international organizations, including, among all, parliament leaders, vice-speakers, MPs, ministers, deputy ministers and other top-level representatives. WFID 2017 was attended by H.E. Mr Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, the President of Mali; H.E. Mrs Iliana Malinova Iotova, Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria; first ladies of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Mali and Rwanda; H.E. Mrs Irina Bokova, Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); H.E. Mr Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC); H.E. Dr Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); H.E. Mr Yousef Al Othaimen, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC); H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Tuwajjiri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); H.E. Mr Tacan Ildem, Assistant Secretary-General at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and H.E. Mr Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

In total, more than 1,500 participants took part in the event. WFID 2017 comprised 38 meetings, including bilateral sessions, and various cultural events.

WFID 2017 was streamed live by the United Nations, one of the first non-UN-hosted events to be broadcast live on the United Nations WEB TV. The live broadcast of the event on the UN WEB TV enabled other international organizations and media outlets to live stream the event on their official web pages.

WFID 2017 Opens

The official opening ceremony of WFID 2017 on May 5th 2017 was hosted at the Heydar Aliyev Centre. Addressing the ceremony, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr Ilham Aliyev welcomed the guests and voiced his gratitude to all participants for joining the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. The Azerbaijani President reminded participants that for centuries Azerbaijan had been a place where civilizations and cultures met. The President also noted that multiculturalism, as well as the ethnic and religious diversity are part of our history and today's reality. President Aliyev highlighted how multiculturalism is a state policy in Azerbaijan and is at the same time 'our lifestyle'. Though the word multiculturalism is relatively new and complex in meaning, the ideas of multiculturalism have always existed in Azerbaijan.

"Regardless of the time of history and political systems in Azerbaijan, our people have always been active in defending and promoting multiculturalism both inside and beyond Azerbaijan."

Speaking about the history and development of the Baku Process, H.E. Mr President Aliyev added that

"...the impact of success of the intercultural dialogue (in Azerbaijan) can be seen virtually in every field, from political life and the security-related areas to economic co-operations."

He went on to stress that without foreseeable partnership and relationships based on mutual respect today it would be very difficult for any country to achieve its goals,

"Therefore, these initiatives and the success story of Azerbaijan and its transformation into a centre of multiculturalism, followed by the establishment of Multiculturalism Centre in Azerbaijan, demonstrate that we are on the right track and are moving successfully. And today's forum, which embraces the whole world, is a clear demonstration of our intentions."





At the opening ceremony, the new “Baku Process Award for Leadership in Intercultural Dialogue” was announced jointly by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev and the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). This internationally recognized award in honour of the 10th Anniversary of the Baku Process will be presented to a very influential person in this field by a decision of the International Jury in 2018.

In her opening remarks, **UNESCO Director-General H.E. Mr Irina Bokova** expressed her gratitude to President H.E. Mr Ilham Aliyev and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador H.E. Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva for their valuable contribution to intercultural dialogue and support for such

a prestigious event. Mrs Irina Bokova also noted that the work done towards the development of intercultural dialogue by Azerbaijan, which is a historically ancient and culturally rich country on the Great Silk Road, would be a shining example for the whole world.

H.E. Mr Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) expressed his satisfaction for being again in Baku. Mr Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser underlined the important role of intercultural and interreligious dialogues in achieving the goals and said that as a UN organization, they share their values with the Government of Azerbaijan.

Speaking at the event, **H.E. Dr Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**, emphasized the significance of promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and close co-operation in the formation of a perfect world. Highlighting Azerbaijan’s exemplary role in this regard, Dr Rifai also stressed that the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was an ideal opportunity to think about our overall commitment.



Sharing his views on the agenda, **Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) H.E. Mr Yousef Al Othaimen** pointed out that cultural diversity plays an important role in strengthening the unity among peoples. He also emphasized the need to promote dialogues and peace culture for this purpose and to combine efforts towards this end.



H.E. Mr Abdulaziz Al-Tuwaijiri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), expressed his opinion on the issues raised in the forum and expressed his gratitude to President Ilham Aliyev for his efforts in bringing together people from all over the world to talk about peace and to increase understanding. He said that Baku is the place where peace, development and intercultural and interfaith dialogues and diversity co-exist.

Later in the Opening Session, **H.E. Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe**, expressed her hope for the best results for WFID 2017, and asked President

Ilham Aliyev and First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva not to let the torch of the Baku Process die out, because the world needs more peace, harmony and co-existence now.



When delivering the contribution of the Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) H.E. Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, the Director of the Cabinet of UNFAO H.E. Mr Mario Lubetkin said that the forum served to build cultural bridges between people.

WFID 2017 continued with a combination of open Plenary Sessions, formal meetings of international organisations and Breakout Groups

Plenary Session 1.

Co-organised by UNAOC and Government of Azerbaijan

“Promoting Dialogue and Building Bridges as a Tool to Preventing Violent Extremism”

Moderated by Mrs Nihal Saad, Chief of the Cabinet and Spokesperson for the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

Nihal Saad expressed her gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for the high level organisation of WFID 2017 and its commitment to the most pressing and vital issue in the contemporary period.

Keynote contributions included: **Elmar Mammadyarov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan who noted the possibility of achieving cooperation by strengthening ties between cultures and by promoting multicultural values. He also emphasized that Azerbaijan condemns terrorism and attaches great importance to the multicultural dialogue.

Maher Nassir UN Deputy Secretary-General and Director of the UN Department of Public Information noted that terrorist and extremist groups are operating on the Internet and are using different software applications. Nassir outlined how social media has become an instrument for extremist groups,

“They call people to violence and influence their consciousness in the groups which are created in social networks by them. At the same time, the spread of misinformation about the different cultures of the people through media can also cause people to become angry and pave the way for the extremists to benefit from this situation. Our main job is to protect the young and to give them the right direction,” he noted.

Alexander Zuev, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions noted that today tolerance and intercultural dialogue should be presented in the new forms, as extremism expands its borders by using new methods. He pointed out that the organisations within the United Nations System, and other international organizations, have a great responsibility, and stressed the importance of developing more effective methods by a number of structures of these organizations.



liana Iotova, Bulgarian Vice President, said that dialogue is the only way to achieve peace and stressed that it is necessary to protect a tolerant environment and to prevent the creation of violent extremism. Touching upon young peoples' education, the Vice President said that young people are extremely vulnerable to extremism. She continued by stressing that it is necessary to extend younger generation's outlook and to increase the exchange of education and experiences among the young people of the different countries by investing in education exchange,

"Even if we do not protect cultural diversity and do not respond to challenges in time, our societies can be helpless in front of big risks," she noted.

Tacan Ildem, Assistant Secretary-General of NATO stated that real steps should be taken to combat extremism. He noted that NATO welcomed and supported Azerbaijan's steps in this direction,

"NATO has always supported cooperation among countries. Our organization is trying to assist countries in any way in this regard," he said.

Mr Ildem also pointed out that the Internet is contributing to the radicalization process, and that it is important to protect people from extremist ideals and it is time to take practical steps for this purpose.

Kamal Abdelsalam Haassan representing Al-Azhar University emphasised that there is no call for violence in any existing religion, and all religions call for dialogue and peace. He pointed out the possibility of achieving progress in the fight against terrorism and extremism under the guiding of Allah's word in the holy books.

Abu Fassi Fihri, Regional Director for Search for Common Ground (Tunisia) suggested that Middle East and North Africa countries and civil societies should make efforts to build up the future of the youth by coming together. It is necessary to bring people together by means of dialogue and to introduce people's culture to the world. He also highlighted that it is possible to give young people more prosperous, engaging and aspirational futures by raising their literacy.

The Plenary Session continued its work with further discussions, questions and answers.

Plenary Session 2

Co-organised by UNFAO and Government of Azerbaijan

“Intercultural dialogue for food security and community resilience: Essential elements in achieving sustainable development and peace”

Moderated by Raschad Al-Khafaji, Attache of the Cabinet of Office of the Director-General, FAO who began by emphasizing that the session was dedicated to a very important topic for the modern world. Al-Khafaji thanked the Azerbaijani leadership for the high-level organization of WFOID 2017.

Leyla Aliyeva, Vice-President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiated the keynote speeches highlighting that it was a great pleasure that people from different parts of the world to come to Baku to discuss important issues related to the development of intercultural dialogue,

“Dialogue among cultures and people is a prerequisite for peace and prosperity in the world. There is no acceptable alternative to such dialogue. The less dialogue and understanding we have, the more way there is for hate and ignorance. Over the centuries, Azerbaijan has been a place where different cultures, religions and civilizations meet. Throughout history, all people in Azerbaijan, Muslims, Jews or Christians have enjoyed peaceful co-existence. In fact, no one perceived or called it ‘intercultural dialogue’. Such kind of relationships was simply part of everyday life in our country. That is why, our native city, beautiful Baku has become one of the centres for intercultural dialogue - a place, where people from all parts of the globe gather to make this world even more perfect,” she said.

Emphasizing the importance of discussions on food security, which is directly related to peace and sustainable development, Leyla Aliyev, as FAO Goodwill Ambassador and a pas-



sionate environmentalist Leyla Aliyeva stated that strengthening of intercultural dialogue in fact promotes the dissemination and preserves traditional agricultural knowledge. The sharing of food is in itself a form of cultural dialogue as the culture of cuisine provides people with the opportunity to come closer together, overcome prejudices, and better understand various lifestyles. Leyla Aliyeva pointed out that no country or organization can deal with global issues, such as food security, environmental protection and sustainable development alone. Dialogue is for the implementation of the agenda of global development.

The Goodwill Ambassador, continued by providing detailed information on the activities of the International Dialogue for Environmental Action - IDEA, established in 2011 for this purpose, invited all the participants to remain open to dialogue always at the end of her remark.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations started with a strong expression of highly appreciation for the hospitality of Azerbaijan, and said that all guests who come to Baku, were always eager to revisit this city again. Noting that the food issue is one of the priorities of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser pointed out that they cooperated with FAO on this issue.

Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism for Azerbaijan noted that food, culinary, nutrition are part of our daily lives,

"It is very good that FAO participates in this Forum, and food security is kept on the same level as human security," he said.

Minister Garayev stated that poor quality of food products affects people's safety. The Minister pointed out that food security is a strategic priority in our country and special attention is paid to agriculture.

Marcela Villarreal, Director of Office for Partnership, Advocacy and Capacity Development of FAO highly appreciated the representation of all the partners of FAO in the Baku Process. Villarreal considered it is important to take part in intercultural dialogue, stated that people should exchange, and share their knowledge and experiences with each other.

Emile Gros Nakombo, Mayor of Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, said that food security concerns all aspects of our lives. He also stressed the possibility of achieving progress in the world of agriculture.

WFID 2017 participants viewed a video-message on behalf of FAO about food issue. The message emphasised that every man, every woman and every child in the world should be provided with healthy food they need.

Raschad Al-Khavaji as Moderator of the session concluded by placing emphasis on the role of the intercultural dialogue in ensuring food security and thanked FAO for the participation in the Baku Process.

Participants of the session exchanged views through discussion, questions and answer on the food security situation in the world.

1ST HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Held in the Baku Congress Centre for the first time within the framework of WFID 2017, dedicated to the theme of

“Sharing Responsibilities for Human Security: Building Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”.

H.E. Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan leading the keynote presentations, stated that the Baku Process was a very important and rare international initiative.



Speaking about the humanitarian and charitable projects implemented by Azerbaijan in various parts of the world, alongside the important political initiatives that make nations and religions closer to each other, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva stressed that the contribution to the preservation of global cultural heritage demonstrates the Azerbaijan’s longstanding commitment to the values of multiculturalism.

H.E. Mr Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN-AOC) continued by complimenting highly the distinctive contribution of the Government of Azerbaijan in work promoting intercultural dialogue among people. Talking about the expansion of the UN Alliance of Civilizations over the last four years, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser also talked about the results gained and informed of the achievements in ensuring the sustainable development in building inclusive dialogue. At the end of his speech, Mr Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser said that the Organization would continue to support intercultural dialogue.

H.E. Mrs Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General appreciated the Baku Process, which was initiated by the President of Azerbaijan in 2008, as a timely decision. Highlighting the need for intercultural dialogue everywhere and in every group of society, and the importance of dialogue for the 2030 program,

Irina Bokova drew the attention to repeated calls made by the First Vice President of Azerbaijan Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva to bring cultures together. Irina Bokova thanked the Azerbaijani Government which has always paid special attention to these issues.

H.E. Dr Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) spoke about the role of the tourism sector in cross-cultural dialogue and pointed out that the best dialogue is the meeting of people. In real-life people see themselves as they are. WIFD 2017, as the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, creates enormous opportunities in this regard.

H.E. Mr Abdulaziz bin Othman Al-Tuwaijiri, Director-General of ISESCO, noted that cultural heritage is the most important resource of humanity. It is important for everyone to serve the common values. Cultural monuments should be protected. Al-Tuwaijiri also highlighted that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in Baku, and the Baku Process, is important for the joint investigation of all these problems.

H.E. Mr Tacan Ildem, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Diplomacy of NATO suggested that security was also related to the events happening not only within the country, but also in neighbouring countries, stressed that Azerbaijan supports NATO initiatives and takes particular steps.

H.E. Mr Mario Lubetkin, Director of the Cabinet of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization thanked the Azerbaijani people for organizing WIFD 2017 and emphasized that the event was organized at a high level. He noted that the FAO is honoured to participate at the Baku Process,

“Here we are talking about security and peace issues and it is very important for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,” he said.

Ramil Hasanov, Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, spoke about the work done by his Organisation and pointed out that one of the goals of the Organisation was to support sustainable development. He also noted that building inclusive and comprehensive societies was crucial, and we should actively mobilize our efforts.

Sahle Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi noted that she had come to Baku for the first time. She spoke of a good first impression in our country and stressed the importance role of the rich culture and history of Azerbaijan.

Gulam Ishaqzai, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program said that he welcomed the establishment of a National Coordinating Council on Sustainable Development with the relevant Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and other steps taken in this direction.

HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A further meeting was held at WFID 2017 on the theme of **“Building Synergies for Intercultural Dialogue between Economic, Financial Institutions and the Development Agencies towards the 2030 Agenda: Challenges and Opportunities”** moderated by **Khanim Ibrahimova**, deputy director of AIDA (Azerbaijan International Development Agency). Khanim Ibrahimova stressed out the importance of AIDA role in the World Intercultural Dialogue in terms of Global Economic, Financial Development. She also noted that, AIDA closely cooperates with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC Colombia) and other donor agencies and through implementation of joint projects expands its partnership relations with those international organizations and agencies.

Representatives from the Arab Maghreb Union; the Commission of the African Union; Red Cross Committee; International Migration Organization; Inter-Parliamentary Union; World Bank; Islamic Development Bank; KAICIID; OECD; UNEP; USAID; TIKA; KOICA; GIZ; France Development Agency; and other international organizations made direct contributions at the meeting

Navid Naqvi, Country Manager for the World Bank Azerbaijan Office discussed the significance of cooperation for the fight against poverty, suggesting that such prestigious forums (as WFID 2017) create new opportunities for joint approaches to important issues. Noting that he was listening attentively to the speakers at the forum, the speaker thanked the Azerbaijani Government for making this international platform a reality.

Rintaro Tamaki, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said that he was proud of being in Baku. He highly appreciated the discussions and proposals made at the session, and stressed that the proposals made at WFID 2017 would bring new approaches not only to the future cooperation of state bodies, as well as the private sector.

Michael Christides, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation pointed out that such cooperation is a very important factor in protecting cultural heritage. In his presentation, he argued that WFID 2017 once again shows that promoting cooperation in the field of culture is an important factor.

Rustam Ashonkhujjev, Regional economist from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), talked about the work done and projects implemented by the organisation he represents. He also pointed out that IDB attached great importance to cooperation with Azerbaijan.

MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD ON MAY 6TH, 2017

At the event chaired by Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan **Abulfas Garayev**, the historical importance of the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was highlighted.

The Ministerial Meeting was organised in a round table format, speeches on world conflicts, elimination of violence, establishment of cooperation, tourism development and other important issues were heard. Speaking about the participation of culture ministers and deputy ministers of up to 40 countries in the event, Minister Garayev said that the Baku Forum considered intercultural dialogue as a process. Emphasizing that the intercultural dialogue is a demand, the Minister pointed out that WFID 2017 aims at building a peaceful world. Expressing his gratitude to all the organisations that supported the Baku Process generally, and WFID 2017 specifically. Minister Garayev invited everyone to participate in the discussions.



H.E. Mr Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations pointed out that he was listening attentively to discussions within the framework of the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue and underlined a great role of all resources, including tourism in ensuring security among people. Speaking about the contribution of the UN Alliance of Civilizations to the peace process, Al-Nasser highlighted the importance of the measures taken to achieve Sustainable Development goals, and pointed out that cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue are recognized and lead to development goals. Al Nasser appreciated the 7th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations held in Baku in 2016 and emphasized the possibility of achieving Sustainable Development Goals thanks to these measures. He thanked the Government of Azerbaijan for supporting such a prestigious event.

H.E. Mrs Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General noted the expanded geography of this fourth forum. Emphasizing the importance of increasing the employment and literacy of young people, Bokova pointed out that the Baku Forum had a favourable opportunity for joint co-operation in all these areas. Bokova heralded WFID 2017 as creating new bridges between East and West.

H.E. Dr Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization appreciated the establishment of fruitful cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and expressed his confidence that the commitments would further continue. Highlighting the contribution of tourism to cultural diversity, cultural values and cultural heritage, Dr Rifai noted that tourism could be a powerful tool in the protection of culture.

Nabi Avci, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey expressed his high appreciation of the work of the Baku Forum and expressed his confidence that today's problems in the world could only be solved in such forums. Talking about the increasing importance of tourism in the world, the Minister said that culture and tourism cannot be separated from one another because tourists attach importance to cultural values and are particularly interested in the history and cultural wealth of the destination countries. From this point of view, it is very important to protect and promote cultural values.

Vladimir Medinsky, Minister of Culture of the Federation of Russia, spoke about the relations between his Ministry and UNESCO, as well as the ministry's activity in the field of preservation of historical and cultural monuments. He noted that the Baku Process, as well as the Ministerial Meeting held today is very important. These events help us to understand what is important to us. At the end Vladimir Medinsky thanked the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for supporting the protection of our common cultural heritage.

Firyad Hassan, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities of Iraq spoke about the major problems facing his country and informed about the historical monuments that were destroyed. Despite the restoration of five thousand cultural facilities in the country, he expressed regret that dozens of cultural heritage samples belonging to the Iraqi people were stolen and put on sale in international markets.

Hassan Arero Minister of Sports, Culture and Arts for Kenya noted that he came to Azerbaijan for the second time and was glad to take part in such an important event as the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. He also pointed out that through such a dialogue we can achieve peace and human security. Speaking about his country's interest in establishing bilateral cooperation with Azerbaijan, the Minister underlined that negotiations are underway in this direction.

Polad Bulbuloghlu, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Russia noted that intercultural dialogue is a tool for achieving the peace, underlining that the dialogue serves as a means of understanding the history of mankind and rapprochement between different countries.

Tugelbay Kazakov, Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of Kyrgyzstan pointed out that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue promotes understanding in globalization process and intercultural dialogue is a necessity of today's world. Kazakov shared the experience of Kyrgyzstan and noted that cultures of all countries and ethnic groups are the heritage of humanity. States should contribute to the development of culture.

Representatives of other countries participating in the meeting made speeches on culture, tourism and sustainable development. The final report was adopted at the end of the meeting where a broad exchange of views took place.

WFID 2017 BREAK-OUT SESSIONS, MAY 5TH

Session: "The Cultural Dimensions of Countering Extremism in Cyber- space: The Radicalisation of Youth Leading to Violence"

Organized jointly by UNESCO and Azerbaijan. Moderated by Boyan Radoykov, Chief of Section for Universal Access and Preservation of Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO.

Chafika Haddad, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Council for Information for All Program (IFAP) and Deputy Permanent Delegate of Grenada to UNESCO spoke about the aspects of combating extremism in cyberspace and stressed that information is a source of power,

"Information plays a major role in solving many issues. It is also a way to peace and unity in the development of countries," she added.

The speaker expressed her gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for creating opportunity to promote UNESCO's program at WFID 2017. She noted that this is an important step towards the fight



against radical extremism.

Dr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Professor and Chair of International Law at Cairo University, Former Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Egypt to UNESCO, thanked the Azerbaijani Government and UNESCO for their sensitivity to radical extremism, and went on to note that radical extremism is widely spread in countries where poverty and unemployment are prevailing, and where education is poorly developed.

Farhad Hajiyev, Executive Director of the Youth Foundation said to the session participants that different peoples live in peace in Azerbaijan where national and religious tolerance exists. Although radical extremism is not specific to any ethnic group, all countries are suffering from it. Emphasizing that it is very sensitive topic, Hajiyev noted that there are opportunities for everyone to make propaganda through the Internet. To avoid this tragedy, we must fight within the framework of cooperation.

Session: “Promoting innovative approaches to foster intercultural dialogue”

Moderated by Mr Alessandro Girola, Programming Coordinator at the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

Elza Maria De Silva, Founder and CEO of Red Dot Foundation / Safecity platform, emphasised the importance of promoting intercultural dialogue, noted that security should be ensured in every society.

Naama Markovitch, Director of Marketing and Business Partnerships of Unistream said that their main objectives are to ensure economic mobility by providing information on the goals and purpose of the organization.

Mahvash Hassan, Vice President of Welcoming America touched upon the importance of immigrants’ and refugees’ adaptation to the environment. Talking about the existence of fears associated with changes in society among local residents, Mahvash Hassan noted that Welcoming America was helping people to connect with each other.

Annamaria Olsson, Founder of Give Something Back to Berlin, noted the importance of building new platforms for those with different levels of education. Talking about providing interaction with the local community, Annamaria Olsson said that migrants and newcomers have contributed positively to the community.

Peter Mousaferiadis, Founder and CEO of Cultural Infusion, stressed that this organization was formed 30 years ago. Mousaferiadis stated that they prepared brochures for music and games, and they were trying to strengthen the cultural potential of the youth through festivals.



Session: “New avenues for the promotion of intercultural dialogue through e-resources: Launch of the UNESCO publication and e-platform”

The Panel session discussed the importance of the topic. The platform was introduced as an open and constantly evolving website with the same philosophy as that of Wikipedia, and is ready to absorb data from the entire world to enrich this content.

Panelists included **Francine Saillant**, Honorary Professor of Department of Anthropology of Laval University located in Quebec province of Canada; **Selim El Sayegh**, Director of Centre for the Analysis of Disputes and their Modes of Settlement of Paris-Saclay University; **Lázaro Israel**, International Consultant; and **Aleksandra Ochirova**, UNESCO Good-will Ambassador.



Session: “The role of parliamentarians in building cultural bridges between civilizations”

Samad Seyidov, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and Inter-parliamentary Relations noted that the role of parliaments and politicians in building cultural bridges has been taken as a basis in today’s issue.

Ziyafat Asgarov, First Deputy Chairman of the Milli Mejlis emphasized that Azerbaijan provides an example of a democratic society that guarantees the protection of everyone’s rights and freedoms, as well as based on the protection and development of the cultural property of the peoples, irrespective of their ethnicity and religion. Intercultural, inter-religious dialogue and multiculturalism have been raised to the level of state policy in Azerbaijan.

Mohammed Ali Humad, Chairman of Djibouti National Assembly, expressed his gratitude for the high level organization of WFID 2017 and underlined that very effective discussions were made here.

Radek Vondrá ek, Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic noted that intercultural dialogue is an important topic. Building cultural bridges between civilizations creates a significant basis for new ideas in this era of emerging terrorism and xenophobia.

Murtuza Abbasi, Deputy Chairman of the Pakistan National Assembly stated that participation in the session on intercultural dialogue is crucial for him, and intercultural dialogue can boost democracy in countries. Therefore, we should not spare our role in building cultural bridges.

Baroness Zahida Manzoor, Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom, pointed out that Azerbaijan possessed beautiful culture and said that WFID 2017 is a very important event for the whole world, as the coexistence of nations with different cultures creates conditions for the development of those countries.

Rabbi Marc Schneier, Founder and president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding spoke of the importance of dialogue. He highlighted that the establishment of cultural bridges between the countries could lead to peace and security in the world. Talking about the high level of tolerance in Azerbaijan, Rabbi Marc Schneier stressed that Azerbaijan is a model in the Muslim world and is an example to other countries. Azerbaijan is a strong state that reflects inter-religious, intercultural dialogue. People of different religions and cultures live in peaceful conditions in this country. The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in Azerbaijan is an example for America, along with all other states.

Session: “Harnessing the transformative power of tourism in building a better future: A shared responsibility” (UNWTO)

Dr Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Moderator of the session highlighted the significance of the session which has always focused on the topical theme of tourism. He thanked the Azerbaijani Government for such high level organization.

Princess Dana Firas, President of Foundation for Petra National Trust speaking on the theme of “How Tourism Can Improve the World”, noted that effective methods based on international experience in this area should be used for the sustainable development of tourism. Projects appropriate to the socio-economic realities of each country should be developed.

Arundhika Fernando, Deputy Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka, **Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa** President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and President of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, and **Koen Verlaeck** Secretary-General of Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs of Belgium shared their countries’ experience by talking on the subject..





Session: “The emergence of new nationalism: How to prevent rising of pop- ulism and polarization”, moderated by President of Global Compass **Jean-Christophe Bas.**

Richard Higgott, Professor of the University of Warwick emphasized that increase of pop- ulism is due to the globalization. The rise of populism and nationalism greatly damages the establishment of inter- cultural dialogue.

Virginia Proud Research Officer of Vrije University in Brussels spoke about populist politi- cians and not- ed that they promote themselves as a brand, by finding people’s weak points and talking about it. For this purpose, populists actively use social networks and gather people around themselves to confuse their thoughts.

Session: “Promoting a welcoming culture towards migrants and refugees in municipal authorities” (UNESCO)

Charaf Ahmimed Programme Specialist of UNESCO Office in Harare, and Moderator,

Carlton Parra Rodriguez Director of the Department of Economic Solidarity at the Abat Oliba CEU University of Spain noted that there was a migrant problem in Spain like other European countries.

Fuad Huseynov, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons said in his speech that there is a single Azerbaijan model, which was founded by National Leader Heydar Aliyev, to solve the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons in our country. Today, the experience of Azerbaijan is used in the world to deal with this problem. **President Ilham Aliyev and First Vice President Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva** are making significant efforts to improve the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons. This is cited as an example to the world by the leaders of influential international organizations who are frequent to Azerbaijan.

Thomas Rajacovics Head of Department and spokesman for Integration and Interfaith Dialogue at Mayor’s Office in the City of Graz emphasized the importance of the integration of migrants into society.

Patrick Taran, President of the Global Migration Policy Association pointed out that immigration mainly includes cities.



Session: “Training for effective intercultural dialogue and global citizenship: What works?”

Miguel Silva, Moderator, Representative of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe; **Federica Cicala**, Senior Education Officer in Italy and **Mohammed Alsaud**, instructor at the Instructional Organization for Global Education Programme informed the participants of the informal educational activities. It was noted that this form of education is mainly carried out through e-learning courses and trainings. The courses contain electronic information on human rights, intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship. The organization also hosts workshops, conferences and other events as relevant.

At the session, the global education concept was discussed between individuals and groups, both at local and global levels and both from formal and informal aspects.



Session: “Muslim-Arabic Legacy in the West” (UNESCO)

Amina Hamchari, Moderator UNESCO Representative. Underlining the relevance of the topic under discussion, Amina Hamchari pointed out that Baku had always successfully hosted important international events, and the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue is one of them. The UNESCO representative also expressed her gratitude to the Azerbaijani Government for the high-level organization of the forum. Amina Hamchari also stressed that the forum would contribute to the development of dialogue between the West and Muslim cultures.

Myriam Chopin, Medievalist at the Haute-Alsace University and President of the Strasbourg-Méditerranée Festival also delivered a report on the subject. She gave full-fledged information about the researches on Muslim culture in Paris.

Gerardo Bautista General Director of Editions des Archives contemporaines presented on the role of technical tools in spreading the Muslim-Arabic culture in his report. He pointed out that medieval Europe had benefited from the Muslim-Arab world.



NEW BOOK PUBLICATION PRESENTATION

As part of the forum, UNAOC made the presentation of the book entitled

“Opportunities for Media and Information Literacy in the Middle East and North Africa”

Hanifa Mezoui, Senior Advisor on Humanitarian Affairs and Civil Society of the UN Alliance of Civilizations gave more details about the book. She pointed out that the book was published by the International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media in 2016 within the framework of cooperation between UNESCO and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Speaking about the activities of the organization, **Hanifa Mezoui** noted that the purpose of the International Clearinghouse is to collect and disseminate information about children, youth and the media. One of the main goals is to conduct research among children and young people. The book contains articles published in this regard in 2016. This publication is a valuable resource for the elimination of gaps in literature about the progress of media and information literacy work of many countries around the world. Noting that articles in the book were presented in English and Arabic, H. Mezoui stressed the importance of translating the book into more languages.

Concert for Peace: On the first evening of the event, a concert entitled “The Spiritual Voice for Peace” was organized for the forum participants in Shirvanshahs’ Palace. At the concert, which was conducted by Honoured Artist **Fuad Ibrahimov**, Faraj Garayev’s composition was performed by the Nieuw Ensemble orchestra of the Netherlands, being accompanied by Honorary Artist **Sahib Pashazadeh**, a famous tar player of Azerbaijan.



WFID 2017 BREAK-OUT SESSIONS, MAY 6TH

Session: "Building Peace: 70 years of the UN Action towards a culture of prevention" (UNESCO)

Jens Boel Moderator, Chef Archivist of UNESCO

Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences delivered welcoming remarks and provided information about the project conducted by UN-ESCO. She noted that in 2015 UNESCO decided to conduct a research on the activities of the UN. The goal of this project with some thirty different agencies on-board is to analyse work done by UN and its institutions for the establishment of peace over the past period.

Araz Azimov Deputy Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan spoke about contribution of our country to international cooperation. It was noted that Azerbaijan is multicultural and a 'tolerant brand', serving as a bridge between different civilizations. Stressing the importance of preventive measures in the fight against conflict, the Deputy Minister pointed out that standard approach to preventive diplomacy is learning, analysis, evaluation, infrastructure issues and pressures. That's why the UN should be in contact with the regions and regional offices, and should further mobilize offices and organizations.

Christian Guillerment, Deputy Director-General for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica stressed that peace, human rights and security are key areas of the UN's activity.

David Fernandez Puyana, Consultant at UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva pointed out that the key instrument for peace and security is the UN Charter adopted in 1945. The UN Charter states that these issues should be supported in parallel. Peace of mind is a matter of national security.

Zalmay Khalilzad former US ambassador to the United Nations noted that analysis of the efficiency of institutional activities should be made. He emphasised that the United Nations is an indispensable institution contributing to security, Khalilzad pointed out that for being effective activity for peace, the situation should be assessed properly and the processes should be intervened in a timely manner. Necessary efforts should be made to achieve long-term stability in the region.

Session: “Inclusive dialogue in an age of polarization” (UNAOC)

Nathalie Guillaume Moderator, Political analyst at the UNAOC spoke about the relevance of the topic discussed.

Ali Hasanov Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Public and Political Issues pointed out that modern development stage of international relations is observed with complicated and controversial processes changing geopolitical landscape of the world. Trends for the formation of multi-polar system enhance the importance of inclusive dialogue that has a significant impact on the deepening of civilizations and intercultural relations.

Noting that multiculturalism is a lifestyle in Azerbaijan, Ali Hasanov underlined that the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre was established in 2014 by the Decree of President Ilham Aliyev. The year 2016 was declared the Year of Multiculturalism, and the year 2017 was announced a “Year of Islamic solidarity” by the Presidential Decrees in Azerbaijan. All of these are important in terms of the development of inclusive dialogue and studying multicultural models in the world.

Providing detailed information on the work done by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in promoting an inclusive dialogue, Ali Hasanov stated that over the years, the Foundation has implemented numerous projects aimed at repairing historical monuments and creating new cultural centres. Ancient religious and cultural monuments have been repaired and restored in countries like France, Vatican, Italy, and Bulgaria. Repair and restoration work has been carried out by the Foundation in the sanctuaries for the people of different religions in Azerbaijan, and education and cultural centres have been established for representatives of ethnic groups.

Maher Nassir, Acting Undersecretary-General of United Nations and Director of Department of Public Information of UN highlighted the importance of active involvement of young people in decision-making processes, ensuring gender equality in terms of inclusive dialogue. He stressed that avoiding polarization in society and creating mutual dialogue and equal opportunities play an important role for inclusiveness. Appreciating Azerbaijan’s efforts in promoting multicultural values and strengthening tolerance, the UN official expressed his gratitude to President Ilham Aliyev for his permanent attention to this issue.



Mohammad Mohiddin, Director of International Relations and Co-operation Department and Associate Professor of the International University of Agadir in the Kingdom of Morocco highlighted that in Asian countries, cultural and ethnic diversity is more colourful than other continents. He pointed out that various institutions, organizations and societies have been functioning in several rapidly developing Asian countries, especially in Malaysia, which encourage and promote inclusiveness. It was noted that the dialogue should cover all segments of society to succeed. We see this model in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's experience can be an example of international solidarity.

Brendan McAllister, Senior Mediation Adviser of UN Department of Political Affairs emphasized that inclusiveness plays a vital role not only in solving harmony and dialogue, but also in solving other problems in society. Expressing his gratitude to the Azerbaijani leadership for creating such a favourable dialogue, Mr McAllister expressed his appreciation for the importance of WFID 2017

Ambassador Juan Antonio March, Vice President of ONUART Foundation pointed out that significant success would be achieved in the promotion of inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue in society by using art. Ambassador March underlined that the measures taken in Azerbaijan to create an inclusive society had a good impression on him. Then the audience's questions were answered.

Session: "Heydar Aliyev and Interreligious Harmony in Azerbaijan"

co-organised by Azerbaijan State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations and the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre.

Professor Ayten Gahraman Moderator, Counsellor at Baku International Multiculturalism Centre
 Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office appreciated the fact of holding the next intercultural dialogue forum in Baku as a logical step in the present period of political, economic, national and religious concerns. In his remarks, Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade stated that Azerbaijan, which is continuing its historical role of a moral bridge between different civilizations, demonstrates to the entire world that it is possible to establish a society based on the harmony of religious and cultural diversity and this ideology is capable of survival. He stated that Azerbaijan, which was established on these very firm foundations, has turned into a state capable of spreading its successful ideas in the world. In the period when the manifestations of extremism, xenophobia, islamophobia, radicalism, terrorism on religious and national grounds are at large, when there is a migrant crisis, the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev acts as a herald of the universal ideas on the global scale relying on our people's traditional national and historical legacy. The Head of State is an active advocate of the ideas of multiculturalism and Islamic solidarity on a global scale, the author of the Baku Process on intercultural cooperation. First Lady of Azerbaijan, Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva's extensive activities on the international platform, her advocacy of the national and moral legacy at high level, her patronage of the universal values are a supreme merit to the country's holding its own in intercultural dialogue on the global scale. Our people and state earn these achievements based on National Leader Heydar Aliyev's emancipation ideology of Azerbaijanism.

Kamal Abdullayev, State Counsellor on Multiculturalism, Inter-ethnic and Religious Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan noted that Azerbaijan has historically been a multicultural country, and National Leader Heydar Aliyev is the political founder of Azerbaijani multiculturalism. At National Leader's initiative and by his instruction the protection of Azerbaijani multicultural traditions by the Government was reflected in the legal documents, as well as in the Constitution of Azerbaijan. Abdullayev pointed out that the policy of multiculturalism founded by National Leader is being successfully developed in the modern period by President Ilham Aliyev.

Mubariz Gurbanli, Chairman of the State Committee for the Work with Religious Organizations said that National Leader Heydar Aliyev, the founder of the Azerbaijani state, is the author of the policy related to our country's future.

Juan Carlos Mendez Pastor of the Christian Bel-El Centre of the Southern Baptist Church, **Aurielia Grigoriu** the Head of the Moldovan Branch of Baku International Centre of Multiculturalism, **Teresa Damasio** Head of the International Relations Department in Lusofona University of Humanities and Technologies, **Aleksandr Nesterov**, the Head of Yekaterinburg Branch of Baku International Centre of Multiculturalism each spoke of the multicultural and tolerant environment in Azerbaijan. They stated that Azerbaijan's multicultural values should be studied.

The speakers, touched upon the importance of the forum, pointed out that it was not by coincidence that the event took place in Azerbaijan. Since, the model of tolerance and multiculturalism is an example for other countries in the present stressful world.



Session: “Sports for intercultural dialogue and peace”

Caroline Baxter Tresise, Moderator and Consultant of UNESCO Bangkok office

Fuad Hajiyev, Rector of Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Culture and Sport spoke at the session and pointed out that sports in Azerbaijan is being paid great attention and care, sports infrastructure are developed, as a result, the Azerbaijani team has achieved great success in international sporting events.

Joel Bouzou, President and Founder of Peace and Sport organization and President of World Olympians Association appreciated the organization of the session on this theme within the framework of the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue and expressed his gratitude to the Azerbaijani government, especially President Ilham Aliyev.

Nevena Vukašinovi, Secretary General of European Non-Governmental Sports Organization (ENGSO) and Head of the European Youth Council gave information about the problems faced by refugee athletes and the steps taken to resolve them. It was noted that a special online sports dictionary for refugee athletes has been prepared. For the first time in history, the refugee team attended the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

A video clip devoted to the European sports forum was presented.

Sue Glassey Chairperson of the International Federation of Muay Thai Amateur Female Commission and former World Champion Boxer pointed out that sport is an indispensable platform in spreading multiculturalism and tolerance.

Vahid Shahbazi, Iranian Muay Thai Champion highlighted some aspects of sport in his country. He underlined the importance of sports in the rapprochement among peoples, and expressed his confidence that the discussions held within the framework of the 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue would have significant results.

Session: “Cultivating Peaceful Relations through Intercultural Dialogue”

Jean-Christophe Bas, Moderator and President of Global Compass stressed that the discussion subject was especially topical in recent times. He expressed his confidence that Baku Forum would create new opportunities for the development of intercultural dialogue.

Scherto Gill, Senior Fellow of Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace emphasized the importance of dialogue in interstate and international relations. While underlining the importance of peace and stability for the establishment of a dialogue, Gill pointed out that the peace also helps to establish proper relationships.

Imad Karam, Executive Director of Initiatives of Change International commented on the issue, saying that if we want to make changes, then everyone should start with themselves. Extremism, poverty and conflicts around the world have brought us to the globally growing migration problem. The solution to all these is to establish a proper intercultural dialogue and to invest in peace.

Prof. Patrice Brodeur, Senior Advisor of King Abdulla International Centre for Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue shared his views on religious tolerance and said that religious leaders should not only be satisfied with inter-communal relations, but should also be involved in negotiating with government officials.

Novruz Mammadov, Deputy Head of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration and Chief of the Administration’s Foreign Relations Department pointed out that it is necessary to develop peaceful relations and to find root of conflicts.

Alesia Kush, Secretary-General of the International Institute LIFE BEYOND TOURISM Foundation provided detailed information about the Foundation and noted that the main objective of the Foundation is to make travels for values. From this point of view Azerbaijan is a very beautiful country. Here, the combination of antiquity and modernity, the hospitality of people, the tolerant atmosphere in the country is the wealth of this land.

Tim Williams, Head of EU Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Programme gave information about the projects implemented by the Organisation. He noted that Azerbaijan-EU relations were established within the framework of special programs and covered various areas. Williams expressed his confidence that the joint projects will continue to be sustainable.

Special Session: “Countering Violent Extremism through Girls’ Education” (UNESCO)

Saniye Gülser Corat Moderator and Director of the Division for Gender Equality at UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris. The role of girls’ education in the fight against violent extremism in the world was discussed at the meeting. Corat expressed her gratitude both to the Azerbaijani Government, and to the organizers of the event, for their invitation to participate.

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General thanked Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and First Vice President Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva for the high-level organisation of the forum and special hospitality. Speaking about a significant role of education in society, Bokova said that girls’ education and their activities in society are one of the main goals of gender equality. Emphasising the role of women and education in the development of societies, the Director-General highlighted the significance of taking joint steps in attracting girls to education in some Muslim countries.

Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan spoke about the work carried out in the field of education and reforms implemented in our country. Talking about the role of women and girls in society in Azerbaijan, Jabbarov noted that the school for girls was established in Baku for the first time in the Muslim East and the Azerbaijani women gained the right to vote at a very early time. Roman Tesfaye, Ethiopian First Lady, speaking about the significant role of education in girls’ life, noted the importance of protecting women’s rights in society. She stated that women who are integrated into the society through education have a special place in the solution of many global problems.



Keita Aminata Maiga, First Lady of Mali expressed her gratitude to Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Vice President of Azerbaijan, for the invitation, and noted that the meeting was held at a high level. Emphasizing the significance of supporting women in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the important role of women and girls in the development of society, Mali's First Lady briefed on the ongoing reforms carried out in Mali.

Janet Kagame, Rwandan's First Lady spoke of violence against women in many countries, and stressed its negative impact on girls' education. Providing information about the country's history, the First Lady said that involvement of girls in education is a guarantee of gender equality.

Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan highlighted the importance of the topic discussed at the session. She underlined that radicalism and violence, including xenophobia and discrimination are the greatest and seriously damaging catastrophe of humanity. She pointed out that important work is being carried out in Azerbaijan for comprehensive development of children, their quality education, growth in healthy and educated environment, provision of high quality medical services and protection of their rights. Furthermore, Huseynova noted that the state child policy shaped as a national strategy has been strengthened by President Ilham Aliyev and First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva.

At the Session, the participants of the high-level meeting adopted a global humanitarian challenge.

Session: "Building Inclusive Societies and Peaceful Coexistence: An ASEAN Perspective"

Jean-Christophe Bas, Moderator and President of Global Compass

Building peaceful coexistence in inclusive societies, the attitude of people from different backgrounds based on mutual respect, including ASEAN's perspective was discussed at the panel.

Mohamad Ilyas Yahprung Deputy Director of Wasatiyyah Institute for Peace and Development in Thailand spoke about the role of local Muslims in the socio-political life of the country. He stated that a dialogue based on mutual respect among communities is essential to achieve coexistence in an inclusive society.

Jenny Wong, Senior Manager of Global Movement of Moderates Foundation talked about the work done by the Organisation on global problems and about the reasons for economic and political crisis in the countries. Wong also touched upon the important factors of living in peace and tranquillity.

Santos Morales Commissioner of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos stated that his country always respected the principles of cultural and traditional legislative principles, referring to the concept of advice in Islam. Formation of fraternal and friendly relations among communities in any society, as well as creation of equal conditions for achieving coexistence should be regulated by the relevant authorities of the states.

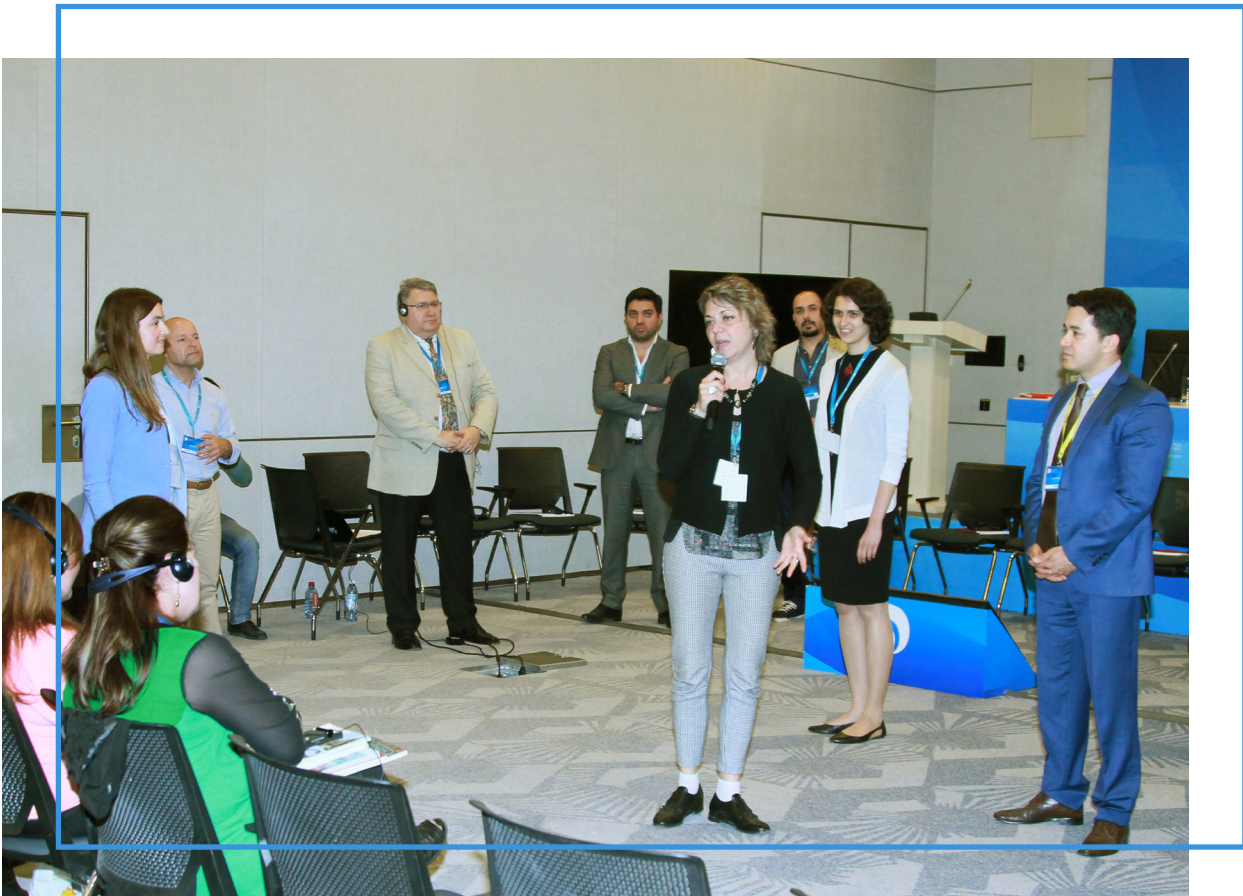
Eldar Salimov Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry official, talking about the ASEAN's perspectives, provided information on the work that had been carried out since the establishment of the organization. He pointed out that Azerbaijan has always given priority to economic and political cooperation with ASEAN. The signing of intergovernmental agreements by and between Azerbaijan and the member states of the organization is an evidence of great significance.

Session: "Generation what? How one transmedia campaign can inspire dialogue around the world" (UNESCO)

Sue Vize, Moderator and Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific , UNESCO.

Nick Christopher, Producer at "YAMI 2" delivered information on the project "Generation What?". He noted that through this project, young people can find answers to their questions.

Tatsuhiko Beniko, Director of Programming of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union stressed that 60 percent of the population living in Asia is young. He underlined that they wanted to organize closer and more active participation of the Asian youth in the surveys conducted by "Generation What?". Effective exchange of views on the ways to stimulate dialogue among young people was made at the session.



Session: “Empowering youth to prevent violent extremism through education” (UNESCO)

Maysoun Chehab Moderator and Basic Education and Intercultural Dialogue Programme Officer, UNESCO in Beirut.

Fadi Yarak, Director General for Education in the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education expressed his gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for the high-level organisation. Touching upon the importance of focusing on socio-economic policies, Yarak stressed the significance of literacy in society.

Gamal Shiha, Chairperson of the Committee of the Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Egyptian Council of Representatives and Member of the Egyptian National Assembly, pointed out that he was proud to be invited to such a prestigious forum. Saying that issues on security, peace and sustainable development that concern our society were being discussed at WFID 2017, Shiha emphasised the importance of the Baku Process in this regard.

Hassan Nadhem UNESCO Chair For Interreligious Dialogue noted that the organization he represented was investigating the ways of serious fight against violence. Touching upon the significance of enlightenment of religious figure. Nadhem said many groups in Iraq are working on interfaith dialogue.



Fariz Ismayilzade Vice Rector at the ADA University, emphasized that Azerbaijan was the cradle of religious tolerance for many centuries, and representatives of different religions live in peace and tranquillity in our country. Sending these messages to the world from Azerbaijan once again confirms that Azerbaijan has become a place of tolerance.

Session: “The cultural routes of the Council of Europe as Networks for Intercultural Dialogue” (Council of Europe)

Stefano Dominioni, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, stated that this network plays an important role in the development of mutual economic relations and intercultural dialogue among countries and leads to the development of tourism.

Nazim Samadov, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan pointed out the significance of the topic for Azerbaijan, and stated that the topic touches on two important issues - tourism and culture.

Hans Morten Lovrod, representative of the European Cultural Route of St. Olav Ways, highlighted that the route is a significant network that ensures reconciliation of the religious tolerance and culture among the people.

Ramon Montes, Researcher on Prehistoric Rock Art Trails of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe made a video-presentation. Speaking about rock art samples during the presentation, the speaker stressed that Azerbaijan has a special place in that direction and this area has expanded after joining of Gobustan to the Council of Europe’s Cultural Routes.

Iter Vitis Emanuela Panke, representative of the European Cultural Route and Denise De Roux representative of a project of “The Routes of the Olive Tree” provided detailed information on the routes they represented.

Within the framework of the session, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan Abulfas Garayev was presented with the certificate on joining of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe’s Cultural Routes.

Minister Garayev pointed out the importance of Azerbaijan’s participation in this route network and the creation of opportunity for attraction of more tourists to the country.

PRESENTATION OF UNESCO PUBLICATION “THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ISLAMIC CULTURE”, MAY 6TH 2017

Ali Moussa Iye, Chief of Section of History and Memory for Dialogue under Sector for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO, gave information about the book. He said that the first edition of the book was published in 1954 shortly after the establishment of UNESCO. This collection reflects profound academic exchanges among members of the Scientific Committee of UNESCO, editors and authors, to present a comprehensive historical and geographical overview of Islamic culture.

Dr Fawzia Al Ashmawi, expert on textbooks, UNESCO and Arab League spoke about the role of women in the Islamic world.

Organization Ali Abdelrahim, Secretary of the Islamic Da'wa emphasised the importance of the book that covers not only the history, but also various topics. Ali Abdelrahim underlined that through its holistic approach and pluralistic perspective, this six-volume collection significantly contributes to a better knowledge of Islamic civilization. The book is a relevant tool for intercultural and interreligious dialogue.



UNESCO-SHARJAH PRIZE FOR ARAB CULTURE AWARD CEREMONY BAKU CONGRESS CENTRE, MAY 6TH 2017

Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, delivered information on the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture. It was noted that the Prize, established in 1998, is annually awarded to two individuals who have significantly contributed towards the development of Arab art and culture.

Applicants to the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture must have significantly contributed towards the development, dissemination and the promotion of Arab Culture in the world.

Medievalist at the Haute-Alsace University of France and President of the Strasbourg-Méditerranée Festival Myriam Chopin noted that the laureates are chosen by the Director-General of UNESCO, on the recommendation of an international Jury of experts. In an era of globalization and profound political and social changes facing the world, this award fully reflects the values of mutual understanding.

Abdullah Al Owais, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Information of Sharjah Art Foundation highlighted that Sharjah Prize is presented for promotion of Arab culture. It is a prize for international recognition of the works of Arab scholars. Holding this award ceremony, recognized by international organizations, at such a prestigious event will help to attract the attention of people from different cultures to the works of scholars of the Arab world.

Two laureates of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize, artists Faouzi Khlifi (El Seed) and musician Shamma Nasser spoke on the contributions made by the Award to the development of Arab Culture. After the speeches, Shamma Nasir and Azerbaijani tar player Shahriyar Imanov performed music.



WFID 2017 CLOSES

THE 4TH WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE ON THE THEME OF “ADVANCING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE: NEW AVENUES FOR HUMAN SECURITY, PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” ENDED WITH A CLOSING CEREMONY ON MAY 6TH.

The Closing Ceremony was moderated by **Professor Mike Hardy**, Rapporteur and adviser to the Forum, Executive Director of Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University. Professor Hardy was joined by the leaders of Forum’s partner organizations - UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Council of Europe and ISESCO.

Professor Mike Hardy noted that WFGID 2017 had focused on issues of intercultural understanding and cultural diversity, mutual influence and synthesis of cultures during the globalisation process; he stressed the agreed importance of inter-civilizational relations in the rapidly changing world and the prevention of ethnic conflicts, tourism development and other issues in order to achieve peace and development. In addition, interesting proposals on social support for cultural diversity had been made.

H.E. Mrs Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO reflected on her views on the Forum. She stated that every closing session created opportunities for new beginnings. Highlighting her personal meetings with First Vice President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva, as well as with the first ladies of several countries, and discussions on women’s education in these meetings, Irina Bokova congratulated Azerbaijan for the successful organization of the Forum.

H.E. Mr Nasser Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of UN Alliance of Civilizations thanked the President of Azerbaijan for organizing such an important forum. It was noted that the issue of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue is becoming increasingly important. Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, who expressed his confidence in further expansion of cooperation with Azerbaijan, highlighted that the Government of Azerbaijan and the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) would celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Baku Process next year and the award will be presented to top-level officials.

H.E. Mr Abdulaziz Al-Tuwajjiri, Director-General of ISESCO expressed his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the First Vice President and the people of Azerbaijan for the high-level organization of the forum. He said that in fact this forum is a beginning. And as ISESCO, we must continue our partnership.

H.E. Dr Taleb Rifai Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization congratulated the Government of Azerbaijan and stressed that the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue has already become a tradition.

Noting that Azerbaijan, as an independent state, is a young and modern country, Dr Taleb Rifai pointed out that he was proud of participating in this forum in Baku.

Other speakers who spoke at the event thanked the Government of Azerbaijan for such a high level organization.

A special recognition was proposed for Director-General Irina Bokova at her last Forum in her current role with UNESCO.

WFID 2017 CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions were drawn about the form, substance and direction of future Forums and of the Baku Process in its tenth year.

WFID 2017 was the fourth successful Forum to mobilise major organizations and individuals involved in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and diversity. As an integral part of the Baku process, WFID 2017 was an important step forward. It built directly on the results of the previous Forums, and helped deepen the reflections with new ideas and experiences.

From the power and energy of the opening session to the reflections at the closing, WFID 2017 drew inspiration from its active participants and set action plans.

Actions for the future focus on three important areas for Intercultural Dialogue in general and the Baku Process in particular:

Meaning, Measurement and Mobilisation

Meaning: WFID 2017 identified the need to step up attention to the meaning, role and purpose of intercultural dialogue.

The Task Force from the international organisations was charged with assessing learning points for both the form and substance of the Forum. As the 10th Anniversary of the commitment to the **Baku Process** and to the **World Forums on Intercultural Dialogue**, a key question was raised about whether, as a matured event, the World Forum would be best continued at the scale and size of WFID 2017 with its focus on dialogue through presentations, or whether new forms might be developed emphasising dialogue through exchange and debate.

WFID 2017 having acknowledged the new political context in many countries around the world, with the rise of populism and polarisation and the emergence of a 'new nationalism' concluded that it also need to change in response to the contemporary challenges to peace and prosperity.

The clear alignment between intercultural dialogue and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was successful and welcomed. This changed substance set a distinctive agenda in the discussions. All participants endorsed the view that the main threat for the SDGs agenda would arise from the failures within culturally diverse and inclusive societies, or in other words, with the difficulties that societies and communities experience living together with difference.

As the **Baku Process** has established, interculturalism is the process of moving cultures into a space for joint experience and learning and encourages merging rather than emphasising distinction. For the future, The Forum will take responsibility for exploring more directly the meaning and challenges of Interculturalism and explore how the movement away from viewing culture as a tangible force impact intercultural dialogue and how realistic it is to propose moving from a place of ones' culture, if that culture is in constant flux and cannot be defined in any meaningful way?

Measurement: The clear alignment between Intercultural Dialogue and the SDGs and the outcomes of peace and prosperity demands more careful attention to measuring change and defining success.

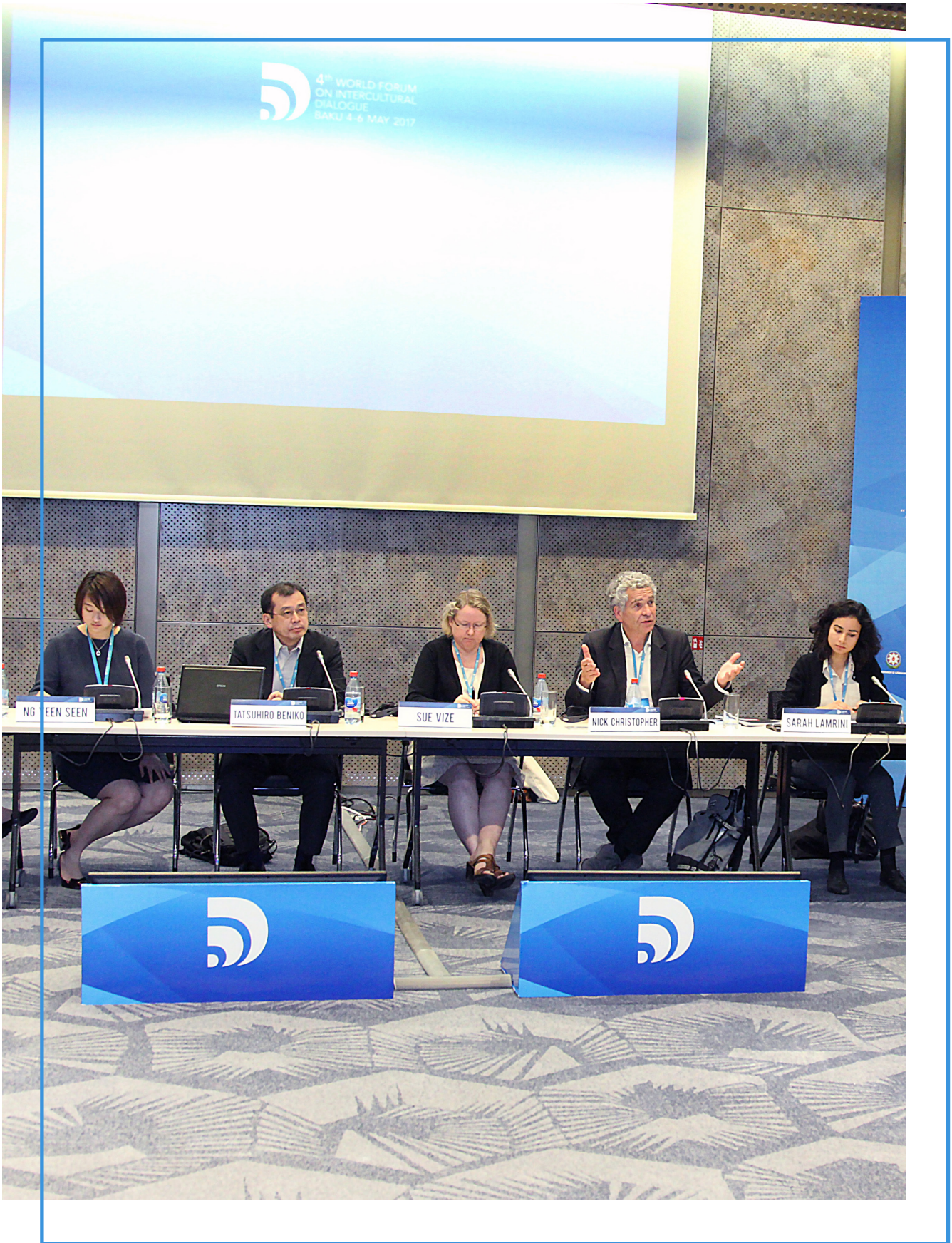
This clear alignment has created another important platform to mobilise resources and conduct shared activities notwithstanding the universality of international organizations or regional status and area of responsibility. But the alignment also has placed emphasis on the need to measure change and progress, and WFID 2017 concluded that it would be worthwhile to research and develop measuring tools, such as an ICD Index.

Mobilisation: The Forum stressed, in its conclusions, the critical importance of both the distinctive combinations of participating international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental with the private sector and the active mobilisation of the networks formed.

The critical High Level meetings of Ministers of Culture, Tourism and of Education, and Heads of International Organisations, have set precedents and ambitions for the mobilisation of new international discussions and shared actions

Similarly, recognition of the changing global political context had resulted in the inclusion of so-called Global Connectors and other new entrants to WFID – notably the private sector. The Baku Forum provides a unique opportunity to bring together the “global connectors” and the leading CSR organizations and to discuss concrete opportunities of collaboration to promote dialogue and inclusive societies. These new global connectors are placing new emphases within their research, policy and flagship events on the urgent need to build Inclusive Societies. WFID 2017 concluded that the private sector is another important actor, and a somewhat untapped potential in the promotion of inclusive societies and trust building among people and cultures. Huge financial resources and experience can be mobilised through Corporate Social Responsibility budgets, philanthropy and corporate engagement.

These new participants will help WFID and the Baku Process to grow its influence towards building more inclusive societies – and promoting the commitment to new avenues for human security, for peaceful relations and for shared prosperity. This agenda has never been more important.







BAKU WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE GROUP

MR. ABULFAS GARAYEV - Minister of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Azerbaijan

MS. SEVDA MAMMADALIYEVA - Deputy minister of culture and tourism, Republic of Azerbaijan

MR. VASIF EYVAZZADE - Head of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Azerbaijan

PROF. MIKE HARDY CMG OBE - Executive Director, Center for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, UK

MR. DENDEV BADARCH - Director of Division of Social Transformation and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO

MS. NIHAL SAAD - Spokesperson for the UN High- Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

MR. AMR ABDEL-GHAFFAR - Regional director for the Middle East, UN World Tourism Organization

MR. JOSEF HUBER - Head of Programme, Directorate for Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe

DR. ABDELILAH BENARFA - expert in cultural diversity and policies at the Culture and Communication Directorate of ISESCO

MR. NIAL SHEERIN - Deputy Executive Director, North- South Centre of the Council of Europe

HONORARY MEMBERS

MR. JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BAS - Former Deputy Executive Director, Strategic Development and Partnerships, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

MS. KATÉRINA STENO - Former Director of Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO

MR. ROBERT PALMER - Former Director for Democratic Governance, culture and diversity, Council of Europe

MR. NORBERT RIEDL - Former Head of International Relations Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture

PARTNERS

UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945.

UNESCO has 195 Members and eight Associate Members. It is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board. The Secretariat, headed by the Director-General, implements the decisions of these two bodies. The Organization has more than 50 field offices around the world. Its headquarters are located at Place de Fontenoy in Paris, France, in an outstanding, Modernist building inaugurated in 1958 and recently renovated. UNWTO's membership includes 155 countries, 6 Associate Members and over 400 Affiliate Members representing the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.

www.unesco.org

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

The Alliance of Civilizations aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions. It also helps to counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. The United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) was established in 2005, at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations. A High-level Group of experts was formed by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan to explore the roots of polarization between societies and cultures today, and to recommend a practical programme of action to address this issue. The Report of the High-level Group provided analysis and put forward practical recommendations that form the basis for the implementation plan of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

On 26 April 2007, former President of Portugal, Jorge Sampaio, was appointed as the High Representative for the UNAOC by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to lead the implementation phase of the Alliance.

The UNAOC Secretariat, which is based in New York, works with a global network of partners with States, international and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector to improve cross-cultural relations between diverse nations and communities. It also works at the grassroots level, promoting innovative projects that build trust, reconciliation and mutual respect. The Alliance works in four program areas to support such projects. These areas are: youth, media, education, and migration. www.unaoc.org

UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION



The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

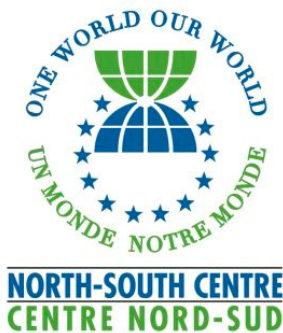
The Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg (France), now covers virtually the entire European continent, with its 47 member countries. Founded on 5 May 1949 by 10 countries, the Council of Europe seeks to develop throughout Europe common and democratic principles based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals.

ISESCO



Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was established by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in May 1979. ISESCO is one of the largest international Islamic organizations and specializes in the fields of education, science, and culture. Its headquarters are in Rabat, Morocco. According to the ISESCO website, its objectives include strengthening and promoting and consolidating cooperation among Member States (OIC) in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, developing applied sciences and use of advanced technology within the framework of Islamic values and ideals, consolidating understanding among Muslim peoples, and contributing to the achievement of world peace and security, particularly through education, science, culture and communication.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE



The North-South Centre's status in the Council of Europe, an intergovernmental organization, is unique: it is run on the basis of a quadrilogue, a term coined to mean the combination of four partners from political institutions and civil society—governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and NGOs. This system helps build bridges between players with different approaches, viewpoints and priorities, generating constructive synergies. All the partners in this four-way process take part in running the North-South Centre as members of its decision-making bodies. The Executive Council, which meets twice a year in spring and autumn, is made up of eight representatives of the member states, six NGO representatives, four local and regional authority representatives from the Congress of the Council of Europe, four parliamentarians, three leading personalities from the South, the representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Commission representative. The current President of the Executive Council is Ms. Deborah Bergamini.

