



3rd WORLD FORUM
ON INTERCULTURAL
DIALOGUE
BAKU 18-19 MAY 2015

WFID 2015 SHARING CULTURE FOR SHARED SECURITY

CONFERENCE BOOKLET

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3RD WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE (WFID 2015)

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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 one 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 operation, coexistence, peace, love, tolerance and cross-cultural bonds among peoples and nations

1. The “Baku Process” for the promotion of intercultural dialogue was initiated by H.E. President Ilham Aliyev, of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Conference of Ministers of Culture of Europe and its Neighboring Regions held in Baku on 2-3 December, 2008.

2. Based on the global agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (2001); the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and 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

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 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.

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 MADANI**, 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”

Org: 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. 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

13:00

- Departure to the JW Marriot Hotel

13.30-15.00

- Lunch at the JW Marriot Hotel

15.00-16.30, JW Marriot Absheron Hotel / Sharq Hall 1

- **Plenary 2 Dialogue as transformation**

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

Org: UNAOC

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

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

16.30-16.45

- Coffee Break

16.45-18.15

- **Workshop Group 1 - "Dialogue in a post-2015 world"**

Shag Hall 1

Workshop Group 1a - Multiculturalism: Promising Realities

Org: Azerbaijan, Baku International Multiculturalism Center

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

Speakers:

1. **Tahir Salahov**, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Arts
2. **Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri**, 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 Alhayen**, 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"

Org: 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

Org: 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

Org: 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 Vlahović**, 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”

Org: 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

- Workshop Group 2 - “Dialogue as transformation”

Khojasan room

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

Org: 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

Org: Council of Europe

Speakers:

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

11.00-11.30

- Coffee break

11.30-13.00, Sharq Hall 2

- Ministerial Conference

2nd roundtable

“Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda”

Org: 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

Org: 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 Libreville

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

Org: 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 Mammadguliyev, 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 Mustafić**, 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

Org: UNESCO

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

Speakers:

1. **Ibrahim EL Assiri**, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue
2. **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

3. **Mohamad Nokari**, Sheikh at Dar Al Iftaa - Lebanon
4. **Suleiman Abdul Moneim**, Alexandria University
5. **Herve Sabourin, Director**, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie in the Middle East
6. **Selim El Sayegh**, Intercultural Dialogue Expert and University Professor
7. **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

Org: UNAoC

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

Speakers:

1. **Ed Maklouf**, Expert in Citizen Journalism (UK),
2. **Hans Shakur**, Hi-tech Expert, Israel
3. **Maged El Samny**, Vice President, EFYD
4. **Azer Khalilov**, Director General, Caspian International Broadcasting Company
5. **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:

1. **Manel Sanchez**, Director of EYCA
2. **Kristiina Ling**, Brand Manager, EYCA

Org: 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

SIDE EVENTS

Side event 1

18-19 May, 2015, Amirjan room, JW Marriot Hotel

- Meeting of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World

Org: ISESCO

Side event 2

19 May, 2015, 09:00-09:30, Hovsan room, JW Marriot Hotel

- Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs on Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue

Org: UNESCO, KAICIID and Azerbaijan

Opening:

- 1. Nada Al-Nashif**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
- 2. Gunay Afandiyeva**, Secretary General of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO

3. **Prof. Steven Shankman**, UNITWIN Network Coordinator, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace at the University of Oregon
4. **Prof. Patrice Brodeur**, Director of Research, KAICIID Dialogue Center

09:30-11:00

- **Thematic discussion 1:** “World Religions in the Context of Contemporary Culture: New Perspectives of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”

Co-moderators: **Prof. Basilius Jacobus Groen**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue in South-Eastern Europe at the University of Graz, Austria & **Prof. Liubava Moreva**, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Moscow Office

Key speakers:

1. **Prof. Steven Shankman**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace at the University of Oregon, USA
2. **Prof. Priyankar Upadhyaya**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding at the Banaras Hindu University, India
3. **Prof. Hassan Nadhem**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on the Development of Inter-Religious Dialogue Studies in the Islamic World, the University of Kufa, Iraq

11:00-11:30

- Coffee break

11:30-16:30, (13:00-14:30, Lunch)

- **Thematic discussion 2:** “The Challenges of Intercultural Dialogue for Formulating Policy Responses in our Plural Societies”

Co-moderators: **Prof. Paul Morris, Chair holder**, UNESCO Chair in Inter-Religious Understanding and Relations in New Zealand and the Pacific & **Dr. Selin Şenocak**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education, Director, Occidental Studies Applied Research Center Political Sciences and International Relations Faculty Member, Istanbul Aydın University, Turkey

Key speakers:

1. **Prof. Gary Bouma**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2. **Prof. Melloni Alberto**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Religious Pluralism and Peace at the Bologna University, John XXIII Foundation for the Religious Studies
3. **Prof. Roger Koussetogue Koude**, UNESCO Chair for Memory, Cultures and Interculturality (791) Vice-Dean, Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Lyon

20 May, 2015, 09:30-13:00, ADA University

- **Working Session of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network:** Discussion of a Joint Action Plan for 2016-2017

Co-moderators: **Prof. Steven Shankman**, UNITWIN Network Coordinator, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace, University of Oregon, USA & **Prof. Dimitri Spivak**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Cultures, and Interreligious Dialogue, the North-Western Affiliation of the Russian Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S. Likhachev, St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation

Introduction:

1. **Prof. Steven Shankman**, UNITWIN Network Coordinator.
2. **Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta**, UNESCO, Social and Human Sciences Sector, Focal Point for UNESCO Chairs on intercultural dialogue.
3. **Rosa Guerreiro**, international expert in intercultural and interreligious dialogue, remarks on the mission of the UNESCO Chairs networking.

20 May, 2015, Park Inn - Hotel

- **Meeting of the Ministers of Tourism of Member States of Turkic Council**

20 May, 2015

- City tour will be organized at 10:00-12:00 and 15:00-17:00

20-21 May 2015, Wednesday

- Departures

CONCEPT NOTE

3rd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE (WFID 2015)

18-19 May 2015, Baku, Azerbaijan

Under the 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 (including the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe) and ISESCO, the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue will be held on May 18-19, 2015 in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue 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 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.

WFID 2015: Sharing Culture for Shared Security

The 3rd World Forum will have 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 seeking to mobilise a global responsibility of “Living together peacefully in a diverse world.”³



3. Azerbaijan hosted the 1st World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on 7-9 April, 2011, as announced by by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (23 September 2010, New-York). The Forum 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 contexts and provided an opportunity for sharing of good practices and the launch of new initiatives within this intercultural platform. 500 representatives from 102 countries from all continents, many international organization, NGOs, media representatives, scholars, experts and etc. participated in the Forum organized under the motto - “United Through Common Values, Enriched by Cultural Diversity”.

The 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was held on 29 May-01 June 2013, Baku, Azerbaijan under the motto “Living together peacefully in a diverse world”. The programme comprised several sessions, such as “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”. Moreover, The Forum featured side events prepared and led by partner organizations, including the celebration of “Do one thing for Diversity and Inclusion”, the Intercultural Innovation Award ceremony for Central Asia, Black Sea and Mediterranean regions, the 1st Alumni Summit of the “Emerging Leaders”, a conference of “Global Network Towards a global intercultural cities learning community”, the workshop “Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges”, as well as the sessions “Tourism as a key driver of mutual understanding and tolerance among cultures”, and “intercultural dialogue through faith and science”.

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 inter-section 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 preconceptions that drive certain tensions at home and internationally – particularly in a multi-polar world where assumptions 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 governance 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 realities 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 organisations 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 dimensions 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 acknowledgement 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 understand 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 for positive change and as the successor generation.

It is youth that has 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 intercultural dialogue will be an important and continuing deliverable as the WFID moves forwards, along with the Baku process more generally.

CONCEPT OF THE PLENARIES AND WORKSHOP

Plenary Session 1: Dialogue in a post-2015 world

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

Org: Azerbaijan with Partners

Brief: 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: this first Plenary Session explores approaches to sharing cultures for shared security that place emphasis on the use of dialogue, persuasion, being attractive and accepting to others –all characteristics of so-called ‘soft-power’ with a real potential for changing the interaction between nation-states as well as between communities of difference. This first plenary will also 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. Working together to encourage and enable dialogue, sometimes in contexts where the various players seem to be at odds with one another is a product of a ‘soft-power’ approach. 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.

Key questions: In a fresh and innovative approach to the potential of ‘soft power’ in global affairs and intercultural relations, the panel will elaborate understanding and experience of the context of diversity and in the context of the real and positive benefits that such diversity can bring to communities and neighbourhoods. The challenge of living with ‘shared security’ requires a stronger accommodation of individual cultural rights and characteristics in public life, supported by the mechanisms of laws, education, common use of language and languages and the issues of protected cultural identities, respect for religious belief and practice and preservation of collective memory.

Format: The plenary session will be of 60 minutes in length with experts in the field of religion and conflict providing theoretical and practical perspectives on religion and countering violent extremism. The presentations will be followed with a 30 minutes of moderated questions and answers session.

Plenary Session 2: Dialogue as transformation

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

Org: UN Alliance of Civilizations

Brief: In recent weeks and months, we have seen an alarming rise in the wave of violent extremism, radicalisation, terrorist attacks and incitement to hatred. Such unjustifiable acts have culminated into targeted killings of innocent people from different faiths, perpetuating stereotyping, xenophobia and racism. Violent extremism is “driven” by a variety of factors. To effectively respond to the “drivers” of violent religious extremism, a multi-stakeholder approach is needed, with governments, civil society, and religious communities each playing their decisive and complementary roles.

Key Questions to be addressed: The plenary session will analyse the various factors that are “drivers” to violent extremism and recommend concrete and effective responses, not just to violent extremism but the “drivers” as well. The session will focus on the needed collaboration among diverse religious communities, governments and the United Nations to combat the drivers of violent extremism and uphold the dignity of all people.

Format: The plenary session will be of 60 minutes in length with experts in the field of religion and conflict providing theoretical and practical perspectives on religion and countering violent extremism. The presentations will be followed with a 30 minutes of moderated questions and answers session.

Plenary Session 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

Org: Azerbaijan with Partners

Brief: This third plenary focuses on the role and responsibilities of local and national governments, and, importantly international organizations both of government and in the third sector as

critical players in the challenge of building trust between people worldwide. It will return to our 3rd Forum theme of 'shared security' and look at the importance of collective engagement by all stakeholders.

The emphasis in the traditional discourse on security of 'war and peace', in which national (often military) security continues to overshadow the more human dimensions on which the Baku Process has placed emphasis, can divert attention away from the challenge for global trust building and for dialogue around shared vulnerabilities and shared insecurities.

Processes of building trust on a global scale and with global reach recognise the real contribution that the acknowledgement of shared and common vulnerabilities have, alongside our shared and common responsibilities to address them.

Key questions: This Plenary will help us to explore a key factor in the approach to building trust between people –trust that can mitigate against continued disagreement and help prevent disagreement from descending into violent conflict and sustaining disharmony. The process of building trust in difficult times and contexts reinforces need to understand 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. To what extent, for example, can and should international organisations with national governments recognize and highlight, challenge and resolve contemporary examples of global vulnerabilities and 'injustices'.

Format: The plenary session will be of 60 minutes in length with experts in the field of religion and conflict providing theoretical and practical perspectives on religion and countering violent extremism. The presentations will be followed with a 30 minutes of moderated questions and answers session.

CONCEPT OF THE PLENARIES AND WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshop Session 1

Multiculturalism: Promising Realities

Org: Azerbaijan, Baku International Multiculturalism Centre

One of the most important objectives of the “Baku Process” for the promotion of intercultural dialogue which was initiated by H.E. Mr. Ilham Alyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2008 is to promote understanding, dialogue, and tolerance among peoples belonging to different cultures. Multiculturalism is the most effective responses of a multicultural society toward cultural diversity. It aims at preserving and developing cultural diversity existing in society. The panel will discuss the 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. The discussants will also exchange their 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.

Workshop Session 2

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

Org: UNESCO

In today’s context of globalization, which raises more and more mistrust, intolerance, exclusion and tensions, the Silk Roads offer an instructive example of a long-lasting legacy of exchanges, dialogue, cooperation and also confrontations from which we could learn. A better understanding of the rich history and cultural heritage that flourished along the Silk Roads as well as better knowledge of the processes of mutual influences could contribute to the current reflection on intercultural dialogue in modern time. What are the differences between this historical form of globalization and the current one? Why and how the Silk Roads left such a positive memory of

beneficial exchanges and dialogue? What lessons could we draw from this historical experience in order to face the challenges of modern globalization?

In order to share ideas on these issues, it is proposed to organize an interactive panel on the UNESCO Silk Roads initiative: past and present.

- Major cultural interactions and common heritage of the Silk Roads.
- Lessons from the Silk Roads and the challenges of intercultural dialogue in current international context

Workshop Session 3

Harnessing Tourism's power as an agent for promoting tolerance, understanding and dialogue between peoples, cultures and civilizations

Org: UNWTO

Brief: With over one billion tourists crossing borders every year, tourism has become a major socio-economic 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 civilizations across the globe, lie at the very heart of responsible and sustainable tourism.

A research programme recently launched by UNWTO, 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 tolerance, understanding and dialogue between different peoples, cultures and civilizations.

The objective of this session is to analyze the conditions under which tourism is able to fully play its role as a transformative agent for dialogue and mutual understanding, which are the building blocks for peace and to recommend effective initiatives, strategies and approaches to this end.

Workshop Session 4

Learning to live together through Education: from policy to practice

Org: UNESCO

Brief: In today's increasingly complex and interconnected world, we face both opportunities as well as challenges in promoting peace, sustainable development and global citizenship through education. Global patterns and trends such as increased mobility, environmental degradation, income inequality, as well as social tensions all call for an education that can better prepare students for a more peaceful and equitable world and promote intercultural dialogue. At the same time, the focus of education discourse is increasingly moving away from so called 'hard skills' such as literacy and numeracy, and more towards so called 'soft skills' such as tolerance, empathy, intercultural understanding, and respect for diversity. Indeed, of the four pillars of learning⁴ - Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Live Together and Learning to Be - there is a need today for education to shift its emphasis from knowing and doing towards living together and being. This is all the more relevant within the context of the UN Secretary General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI), which lists 'Fostering Global Citizenship' as one of its three main priorities.

Within this context, a multi-country⁵ study published in 2014 by UNESCO Bangkok entitled *Learning to Live Together: Education Policies and Realities in the Asia-Pacific*. It explored how the concept of 'Learning to Live Together' is operationalized in education systems in terms of national policy frameworks, curriculum, pedagogies and assessment. The main findings of this study showed that while countries may define this concept in policy and curricula, it remains unclear how this becomes a reality in the classroom- an implication affecting many countries around the world. Following on from this study, further research on the integration of relevant skills and competencies at school level, as well as the new 'Happy Schools

Project'- are working to shed light on how this vision for education can be implemented, in the spirit of intercultural dialogue.

This roundtable will provide an overview of the main findings of UNESCO Bangkok's research as well as that of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), which are both UNESCO Institutes, as well as highlight the challenges and opportunities for integrating learning to live together through education. In addition, the roundtable will include perspectives from academics and school representatives in order to have a better

4. The four pillars of learning are outlined in the landmark report, *Learning. The Treasure Within*, by the UNESCO International Commission on Education for the Twenty-First Century published in 1990.

5. The ten countries that participated in this study include: Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

understanding of how schools and educators can tangibly promote respect for diversity, intercultural understanding through enhanced learner well-being and holistic development.

Workshop Session 5

The role art and heritage in cross-cultural relations

Org: Azerbaijan

There are two current contextual difficulties. One is the rise of various kinds of authoritarian populism around the world, as a counter-tendency to globalisation, 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. The second is the 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.

These and other challenges may need to be addressed by all concerned. Governments, international organisations, directors of cultural institutions, cultural NGOs, networks, managers and artists may find themselves facing into a difficult headwind in the coming years. What new strategies should be adopted? Which experience can we learn from? How might culture, the arts and heritage have a greater impact in promoting intercultural dialogue locally, regionally and especially globally?

Workshop Session 6

Competences for Democratic Culture

Org: Council of Europe

The aim of this workshop would be to present the background to and state of play of the work being done to develop a framework for Competences for Democratic Culture and engage the participants in a debate and group work to obtain feedback on the usefulness of the model of competences for the participants' education processes.

Workshop Session 7

Engaging youth in intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity

Org: UNESCO

Brief: The crucial role of young women and men in advancing intercultural dialogue and understanding needs to be increasingly recognized within the global development agenda. Recent events in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as well as in other regions of the world, clearly demonstrates that today's large youth population, driven by a need for change, can shape social, economic, political and cultural life.

The current economic crisis, as well as increases in migration, is changing the discourses on identity and integration, affecting in particular young people, with new forms of threats to peace. As such, youth are more than ever exposed to this reality, exacerbated by the new information technologies, the Internet and social media as a whole. The misuse of cyberspace has a dramatic impact on the globalization process and changes the conditions for building lasting peace, and important issue to address in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Based on UNESCO Youth strategy and current work of the Organization with its partners regarding growing threats to freedom of expression and respect for cultural and religious diversity, the objective of this workshop will be to reflect on the ethical, social and political issues related to the use of social media and digital platforms, including the role they can play in promoting intercultural dialogue, tolerance and respect for diversity, with a focus on the role of youth.

Developments in latest UNESCO work in this domain will be discussed during this round table, including the sharing of preliminary results of inquiries initiated on youth involvement in social media. The goal is to initiate a discussion on the risks and opportunities of social media for promoting intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace and through that, its contribution as an enabler for the increased involvement of youth in decision making processes and democratic participation.

Discussions during this session will focus on key findings of a new regional study on youth online engagement. This study is carried within the framework of the NET-MED Youth Project, a three-year initiative (2014-2017) which aims to favour an enabling environment for young women and men through the development of their competences, to exercise of their rights and active citizenship, particularly in decision-making processes. The networking capacities of youth organizations in the concerned countries of the Mediterranean region will be strengthened,

notably by increasing their interaction with the media and their use of ICT-based platforms.

In cooperation with the research centre CELAT/University Laval (Canada), UNESCO has launched an in-depth evaluation of the existing youth web platforms in the Arab region. These results will advance the understanding of youth online engagement and mobilization and will provide recommendations for the design of a new regional web platform connecting youth and opening spaces for focused exchanges and debates across the region. The presentation proposed for this Forum will highlight some exemplary web platforms that have been examined (benchmarking). Youth organizations that are members of NET-MED Youth will share their perspectives and experiences on the issues of intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity and fight against online hate speech, in the context of the Southern Mediterranean Region, with a discussion open to other contexts and realities.

Workshop Session 8

Youth as agents of social change: contributors to peace and dialogue processes

Org: UN Alliance of Civilizations⁶

Brief: Today's world population stands over 7.1 billion, where 1.2 billion youth aged 15-25 live predominantly in developing countries and make up for approximately 40% of the world's unemployed. While notable progress has been made in recent years, many young people are still denied the investment and opportunities that they require to realize their full potential. Mainstream narratives on young people are too often reductive, negative and fail to represent the diversity of their experience. Lesser known is the capacity of young people to be agents of positive change and engage in peace building: young people are successful social entrepreneurs, leaders in their organizations, role models to their peers and other members of their society. They are active contributors to peace and dialogue by participating in peace building processes, working to counter polarisation and extremism, and can be characterized by the words innovation, commitment, and inspiration.

6. The UNAOC sees youth as key agents of change when it comes to building peaceful and inclusive societies. We understand that if youth participation is enhanced, society as a whole will benefit. We seek to expand the recognition of the work of young people and for them to be included into larger processes to advance the objectives of the UNAOC: to promote cross-cultural understanding and minimize the forces that fuel polarization. We do this in several ways, including by providing youth organizations with opportunities to implement concrete projects in their community, by facilitating networking among youth and with other leaders, by supporting their advocacy efforts, and by strengthening their individual and organizational capacities. Over the years, the UNAOC has built a network of alumni spanning countries in all continents, including countries highly affected by identity based and sectarian tensions and conflicts.

While efforts are being made by the international community, governments and civil society to advocate for the imperative of further including youth in decision-making, policy making and peace building processes, many gaps remain.

In this context, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations proposes plenary panel on youth as agents of social change – contributors to peace and dialogue processes. The goal is three-fold:

- Contribute a more nuanced narrative on youth and the diversity of their experiences by highlight their contributions, knowledge and understanding;
- Contribute knowledge in areas where evidence of young people's contribution is either scarce or complex (e.g.: countering violent extremism; youth participation in formal peace processes; youth as promoter of intercultural dialogue);
- Stimulate discussion on future action and needs, informing how policy makers, donors, governments and other entities interested in advancing the search for solutions can contribute and support these efforts. Ultimately, the goal is to encourage these to take advantage of the capacity of young people for peace building and social resilience.

Four [TBC] young people from the UNAOC alumni network will discuss their approaches to intercultural dialogue and countering the forces that fuel polarization and extremism.

The proposed session aims to go beyond the standard interaction between speakers and listeners, creating synergies among participants, in order to share thoughts and ideas, to create space for discussion after the session and to generate potential cooperation beyond the session itself.

Workshop Session 9

Youth Participation: the role of Global Education and intercultural competences

Org: Council of Europe North South-Center

The workshop will be organised based on the links between global education (GE), the development of intercultural competences and youth empowerment and participation.

The session will include the contribution of experienced youth trainers and activists, who have collaborated in previous training courses organised by the Centre.

The main objectives are:

- To share the GE approach as tool to promote the development of intercultural competences with young people;

- To allow participants to experience the GE approach and have an understanding of its added value, especially with youth groups;
- To develop a common understanding on what intercultural competences are and the link with GE;
- To reflect on the role of intercultural competences for youth empowerment and participation; To share good practices promoted by young people and youth organisations that link global education, intercultural dialogue and youth participation.

Workshop Session 10

Partnering with the Community and Religious Leaders for Intercultural Dialogue

Org: UNESCO

Brief: Religion plays a significant and positive role in promoting common intercultural dialogue competences in society. Religious leaders hold the potential of playing a fundamental role in conflict prevention and dialogue promotion. They also give the concept of a culture of peace and dialogue the greatest relevance. To this effect collaboration with religious institutions/ leaders can have a profound influence to reinforce and promote dialogue among youth. In addition the impact of intercultural dialogue programs can be far-reaching when norms and messages are grounded in the religious beliefs and practices in a community.

Discussion: venues of partnerships, with Muslim religious communities in the Arab states, related to promoting intercultural dialogue among youth. The round table will build on previous work of the UNESCO in partnering with the religious institutions. A draft resource will be presented and discussed. The resource aims at providing essential knowledge for the analysis of the relationship between the role of religion institutions and the promotion of peace and dialogue. It also introduce to the fundamental principles of intercultural dialogue and the culture of dialogue that lie at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. The broad aim of this resource is thus to: a) Raise greater consciousness among religious leaders about the critical role of the religion in promoting intercultural dialogue in the Arab World; and b) Generate among religious leaders greater responsible promotion on issues related to intercultural dialogue, tolerance, diversity, and youth participation.

Workshop Session 11

Younger people as future influencers: Responsible and Constructive Use of Social Media

Org: UN Alliance of Civilizations

Brief: 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 disseminated and accessed via 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. Youth, as much as they are the most active users of social media, they are equally the most likely recipients of negative social media. Inspiring youth towards the responsible and constructive use of social media is a fundamental aspect that needs to be addressed.

Key Questions: How should society address these phenomena? How should we discuss them within the framework of freedom of expression? The outcome of this session would be a recommendation that would highlight the need for an open and transparent discussion on youth and freedom of expression in the age of social media.

Workshop Session 12

Promoting youth Mobility to enhance intercultural understanding: the successful experience of the Youth card

Org: Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility

As regards the Partial Agreement's on Youth Mobility contribution, it'll fit in part 3, WG3 (D) "Dialogue as Young People" and will address some questions mentioned in the Azerbaijan's working document at the bottom of page 7. We propose a workshop on **"The use of Youth Card as a tool to Promote Intercultural Understanding"**.

SIDE EVENTS

Side event 1

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

1st roundtable

“Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda”

Org: 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

Side event 2

Academic Forum of UNESCO Chairs on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue

Org: Azerbaijan, UNESCO, KAICIID

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

Brief: The event is organized by UNESCO, KAICIID and the Government of Azerbaijan with a view to promoting mutual understanding and peace in the framework of the 3rd World Forum on International Dialogue and will take place from 19-20 May 2015.

Today, globalization and rapid social transformations bring new opportunities, but also pressing challenges which call for a better articulation between cultural diversity, local cultures and universal values. This is particularly evident in an international context marked by a raise of intolerant behaviours, radicalization, extremism and conflicts, often fuelled by the manipulation of cultural and religious identities or beliefs.

More than ever before, we need to reaffirm the importance of intercultural dialogue, including interreligious dialogue, with a view to bring humanity closer together as one. This goes at the foundation of UNESCO's mandate to build peace in the mind of men and women, particularly important this year of the 70th anniversary of the Organization.

In this context, the relevance to the WFID and of the Baku Process as a whole could not be overemphasized, as it offers a platform to enhance the academic debate, while nurturing new arguments for policy-making actions for a truer dialogue to take place in our multicultural societies.

As think tanks and as bridge builders between academia, civil society, local communities, research and policy-making, UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs specialized in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue have a central contribution to make, building on their practical experience from different regions of the world to address these issues. The discussion will also contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), for which UNESCO is the lead agency for the United Nations system, and provide in this regard seminal knowledge on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and the sharing of inputs about main challenges to connect academia with policy-making, while designing concrete steps forward for nurturing a roadmap for this Decade.

Key discussion will include:

- “World Religions in the Context of Contemporary Culture: New Perspectives of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”
 - “The Challenges of Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue for Policy Response to our Plural Societies”
 - Working Session of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network: Discussion of a joint action plan for 2016-2017
-
- Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan

Opening:

- 1. Nada Al-Nashif**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO
- 2. Gunay Efendiyeva**, Secretary General of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO
- 3. Prof. Steven Shankman**, UNITWIN Network Coordinator, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace at the University of Oregon
- 4. Prof. Patrice Brodeur**, Director of Research, KAICIID Dialogue Center

Thematic discussion 1: “World Religions in the Context of Contemporary Culture: New Perspectives of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”

Co-moderators: Prof. Basilius Jacobus Groen, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue in South-Eastern Europe at the University of Graz, Austria & **Prof.**

Liubava Moreva, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Moscow Office

Key speakers:

1. **Prof. Steven Shankman**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace at the University of Oregon, USA
2. **Prof. Priyankar Upadhyaya**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding at the Banaras Hindu University, India
3. **Prof. Hassan Nadhem**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on the Development of Inter-Religious Dialogue Studies in the Islamic World, the University of Kufa, Iraq

Thematic discussion 2: “The Challenges of Intercultural Dialogue for Formulating Policy Responses in our Plural Societies”

Co-moderators: **Prof. Paul Morris**, Chair holder, UNESCO Chair in Inter-Religious Understanding and Relations in New Zealand and the Pacific & **Dr. Selin Şenocak**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diplomacy, Governance and Education, Director, Occidental Studies Applied Research Center Political Sciences and International Relations Faculty Member, Istanbul Aydın University, Turkey

Key speakers:

1. **Prof. Gary Bouma**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
2. **Prof. Melloni Alberto**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair in Religious Pluralism and Peace at the Bologna University, John XXIII Foundation for the Religious Studies
3. **Prof. Roger Koussetogue Koude**, UNESCO Chair for Memory, Cultures and Interculturality (791) Vice-Dean, Faculty of Law, Catholic University of Lyon

Working Session of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network: Discussion of a Joint Action Plan for 2016-2017

Co-moderators: **Prof. Steven Shankman**, UNITWIN Network Coordinator, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace, University of Oregon, USA & **Prof. Dimitri Spivak**, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair for Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Cultures, and Interreligious Dialogue, the North-Western Affiliation of the Russian Institute for Cultural and Natural Heritage named after D.S. Likhachev, St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation

Introduction:

- 1. Prof. Steven Shankman**, UNITWIN Network Coordinator.
- 2. Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta**, UNESCO, Social and Human Sciences Sector, Focal Point for UNESCO Chairs on intercultural dialogue.
- 3. Rosa Guerreiro**, international expert in intercultural and interreligious dialogue, remarks on the mission of the UNESCO Chairs networking.

Side event 3

Book launch: “Agree to Differ” -a landmark publication on the international decade of the rapprochement of cultures, by UNESCO and Tudor Rose

Agree to Differ is a publication that aims to amplify the international dialogue being conducted during the early years of International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022). It is to engage governmental and international organizations as well as institutional and professional interests in displaying the extent and variety of their efforts to make the world a better place.

Agree to differ will be a fully illustrated 200-page glossy publication with over 60 invited authors relating their work in active efforts to encourage rapprochement of cultures at international, regional, national, and local levels of activity. Their commentaries will draw upon experiences around the world, showcasing why cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and responsive democratic governance are vital for the development and peace, especially in time of global crisis.

Agree to Differ will reflect the progress and challenges in this essential topic, highlighting good practices in a wide variety of societies and disciplines. By focusing on the experiences and livelihoods of people, especially those in vulnerable human habitats, the book will strive to project the benefits of experience into future actions and institutional commitments to better understanding and effective cultural rapprochement in achieving future sustainable development.

The book will be launched at a high-level side event, with UNESCO DG and official authorities from contributing countries being present.

Side event 4

Meeting of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World

Org: ISESCO

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) is holding the 14th meeting of the Consultative Council in Charge of Implementing the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World, in Baku, Azerbaijan on 18-19 May 2015, on the occasion of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.

The meeting will gather representatives of member States in the Council: namely, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Benin and Niger. Also in attendance will be ex-officio members: Saudi Arabia (in its capacity as Chair of the eighth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers and the Seat country of the OIC), Senegal (COMIAC Chair), Morocco (Seat country of ISESCO), along with the OIC, ISESCO and the UAE (host country for the 13th meeting in Sharjah).

SPEAKERS



NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER

The UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations

Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser assumed the leadership of the Alliance in March 2013. As a veteran diplomat and the 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly, he has devoted his time and work to peace-building.

Mr. Al-Nasser, who is now ranked as a Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Qatar, has served as his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, from 1998 to 2011.

In December 2006, he was President of the UN Security Council, representing the State of Qatar in the Council during the two-year period when Qatar was a non-permanent member. During this time, the Council took action on several issues, including international cooperation to combat terrorism and the protection of journalists in armed conflict.

He played several leading roles including President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. As chair of the Group of 77 and China, he guided action that led to the establishment of the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Affairs, a financing mechanism that helps countries of the South address issues such as poverty, hunger and natural disasters.



IRINA BOKOVA

Director General of UNESCO

Irina Bokova is Director-General of UNESCO since 2009. She was Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to France and Monaco, Personal Representative of the Bulgarian President to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO from 2005 to 2009.

Born in 1952, she obtained an MBA from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and studied at the universities of Maryland and Harvard in the USA. During her rich and distinguished career, she served as Bulgaria's representative to the United Nations and later as Secretary of State for European integration and Foreign Minister. Ms. Bokova has long promoted the transition to European integration. As Founder and Chairperson of the European Policy Forum, she worked to overcome divisions in Europe and promote the values of dialogue, diversity, human dignity and rights.



IYAD BIN AMIN MADANI

Secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Mr. Madani was born in Mecca in April 1946. He holds a bachelor's degree in production administration, which he obtained from Arizona State University in 1969.

Mr. Madani began his career as general director in a Saudi Airlines' administrative office in 1970. Then he joined media and he was editor-in-chief of Saudi Gazette until 1999, being the first editor of the daily. At the same time he served as general director of the Okaz Organization for Press and Publication until his resignation in April 1993.

He was appointed to the shoura council as a member.[5] He served there until 1999 when he was appointed Hajj minister. He was in office as Hajj minister from 1999 to February 2005. Next, he was appointed minister of culture and information in February 2005, replacing Fouad bin Abdulsalam Al Farsi, who in turn became Hajj minister.

Mr. Madani also served as vice president of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Foundation for housing development.

In November 2012, Saudi Arabia nominated Mr. Madani to the post of secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the 39th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC member states in Djibouti. His appointment was officially announced after the 12th Summit of the OIC in Cairo on 8 February 2013.



ABDULAZIZ OTHMAN ALTWAIJRI

Director General of ISESCO

Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri is the Director General of ISESCO. He is a Saudi Arabian author and lecturer who has served at various posts including Executive Director of "Islam Today", an Islamic academic journal published in Arabic, English and French; and "AL JAMIA" Journal published by the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World.

Abdulaziz was director general of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization -ISESCO, served as secretary general of the Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World, was a member of the Royal Al-Albayt Institute for Islamic Thought, Jordan, of the advisory committee of the Arab-Islamic Civilization Encyclopedia, of the World Islamic Forum for Dialogue, of the board of trustees of the Arab-European Centre for Studies in Paris, of the Arab Thought Forum in Amman and of the scientific committee of Prince Abdulmuhsin Bin Jallawi Center for Research & Islamic Studies Sharjah.



MARGARITA POPOVA

Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Margarita Popova was born on May 15 1956. In 1975, she graduated from the Bertolt Brecht German-language high school in Pazardzhik.

In 1980, she received a master's degree in Bulgarian Philology, with a minor in German, at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. In 1989, she received a master's degree in law from Sofia University.

From 1981 to 1988, she was a proofreader at the Military Publishing House of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria.

She was appointed prosecutor in Pirdop in 1990, in 1991 she was a regional prosecutor in Ruse, and administrative head and regional prosecutor in Sofia district from 1996 to 2006.

In July 2009, she became Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria. While in office, she worked on projects related to important national priorities: A strategy for continued judicial reform in terms of EU membership with crucial amendments to the Judiciary Act, a criminal justice policy concept with the launch of a new draft Penal Code, confiscation of property acquired through crime or other unlawful means, together with experts from the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe; A draft state policy in the field of juvenile justice, together with experts from France; A concept for administrative and criminal justice.

On January 22 2012, after being elected, she assumed the office of Vice President of Bulgaria



SULJO MUSTAFIĆ

Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro

He is the Vice President of the 25th convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro. He has been the MP of the 24th convocation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the period 2009-2012, the President of the MP Group of the Bosniak Party (BP), member of the Committee on International Relations and European Integration, the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports, as well as the Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee (SAPC).

He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad (Serbia) – Department of Southern Slavic literature and Serbo-Croatian language, in 1998.

Mr. Mustafić is one of the founders and the president of the festival "Maslinijada – Old Bar", one of the biggest tourism and agricultural manifestations.

He is the author of two monographs "Knjiga o Baru" ("Book about Bar"), the first comprehensive historical and ethnographic monograph of Bar and "Tradicionalna barska kuhinja" ("Traditional Bar's cuisine"), which deals with culinary heritage of Bar's region.



VALERI CHECHELASHVILI

Secretary General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development , GUAM

Born in Tbilisi, in 1983 Chechelashvili received his master's degree from the faculty of International relations and law of Kiev University. In 1987 he finished aspirantura of the same faculty becoming a Candidate of Sciences in Economy.

In 1987-88 Chechelashvili worked in the republican Ministry of Light Industry of Soviet Georgia, the department of international economic relations. After that he worked for the government company "Gruzkurort" (Georgian resort). In 1989-94 Chechelashvili worked in leading positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia where in 1992-94 he headed the division of international economic relations.

In 1994-96 Chechelashvili became the Ambassador of Georgia to Ukraine and Moldova concurrently. After that he returned to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a deputy minister. In 2000-05 Chechelashvili was a secretary general for the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and then the Ambassador of Georgia to the Russian Federation.

In 2005 for several months he headed the Ministry of Finances of Georgia. Since 2005 Chechelashvili is the Ambassador of Georgia to Switzerland and Permanent representative of Georgia to the United Nations in Geneva. In 2007 he was appointed a secretary general of GUAM.

He is a holder of numerous awards and medals.



RACHIDA DATI

Mayor of 7th District of Paris, Member of the European Parliament

Rachida Dati is a French politician and Member of the European Parliament, representing Île-de-France. Before her election, she held the cabinet post of Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice. She was a spokesperson for Nicolas Sarkozy during the French presidential election of 2007.

In 2002, she became Nicolas Sarkozy's advisor. In 2006, she joined the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) party. On 14 January 2007, she was named spokesperson for Sarkozy on the day he was chosen as UMP candidate for the presidential elections of April 2007. After Sarkozy's victory on 6 May 2007, she was appointed Minister of Justice. On 23 January 2009 Nicolas Sarkozy announced that Dati would take the second position on the UMP candidate list for Île-de-France constituency in the European Parliament election in June 2009, to which she was elected. She left her post as minister after being elected as a European deputy.

Soon after she left the government, in summer 2009, she founded a consulting company called "La Bourdonnais consultant".

She studied at the University of Burgundy, where she received a Master's degree in Economics, and at Panthéon-Assas University, where she received a Law degree.

She was elected mayor of the 7th arrondissement of Paris on 29 March 2008.



ABULFAS GARAYEV

Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dr. Abulfas Garayev is the Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2006. Previously, he held the position of Minister of Youth, Sport and Tourism from 2001 to 2006, Minister of Youth and Sport from 1994-2001. He is chair of the Organizing Committee of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue since 2011, co-chairman of the Intergovernmental Commission on cooperation between Azerbaijan and Cuba since 2009. During his term as minister of Culture and Tourism, he was the chair of the 6th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (2009- 2011), headed OIC Tourism Ministers Conference (2006-2008) and CIS Council on Cultural Cooperation. In December 2013 Mr. Garayev chaired the 8th session of the Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage of UNESCO.

A. Garayev received his PhD in philosophy and culture from the Academy of Social Sciences, Moscow-Russia (1992) and degree from University of Foreign Languages and Pedagogy in Baku Azerbaijan, in 1978. He also attended specialized courses on Management and Marketing in the Russian State Administration Academy in 1992. Mr. Garayev is also actively involved in scientific work and pedagogical activities; he is author of several books and is an Associate Professor of Azerbaijan Tourism Institute since 2006.



NATHALIE GOULET

Member of Senate, France

Nathalie Goulet is a member of the Senate of France, representing the Orne department. She is a member of the Union of Democrats and Independents and sits with the political group of the Centrist Union. She is a member of the commission of Foreign Affairs and Defense Forces.

Nathalie Goulet's years of public service are based around her unwavering belief in the ability to promote public transparency and ethics. In the Committee on Foreign Affairs, she keeps defending peace and freedom, the interest of international diplomacy and raised her voice in the fight against terrorism. She also pledged for a peace process in the conflict in the near-east and other regions.



NADA AL-NASHIF

Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences

Ms. Nada Al-Nashif was appointed Assistant Director General for Social and Human Sciences on 16 February 2015.

She held the post of Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Arab States and ILO Assistant Director-General since 2007. During her tenure, she prioritized the roll-out of Decent Work Country Programmes with emphasis on enhanced employment policies; support to entrepreneurship culture; social dialogue mechanisms with vibrant workers' and employers' engagement; and enhanced social protection for all.

During her UNDP years, she served in positions of increasing responsibility in Libya, at UNDP Headquarters in New York, and in Lebanon, and integrating UN Reform initiatives and expanded partnerships approaches.

She came to the ILO from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) where she started in 1991. She holds a Masters in Public Policy (MPP) from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a BA in Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE) from Balliol College, Oxford University.

She has served on several boards, including most recently as a Member of the Advisory Board at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, Weidenfeld Scholarships and Leadership Programme (UK), a Member of the Board of trustees of the NGO "Welfare Association" and, the Board of Trustees of Birzeit University.



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BAS

Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation of the Council of Europe

Jean-Christophe Bas is since June 2014 Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation at the Council of Europe in charge of the Organisation's action promoting democracy and intercultural competences and citizenship in the policy area of Education and Youth.

Prior to this, he has collaborated from 2008 to 2014 with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in New York as deputy Director. He is the author of *EUROPE A LA CARTE* (Editions du Cherche Midi), a book of reflections on European identity published in November 2009 at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. From 1999 to 2008, he served as the Head, Development Policy Dialogue at the World Bank. He was the first Executive Director of the Aspen Institute in France (1994-1999), chaired by the former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre. He was a Professor of Political Sciences at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Lyon and a Vice President of the European Fund for the Freedom of Expression. He started his carrier as Head of staff of the President of the Committee on External Economic Relations (1984-86) at the European Parliament. In 1989 he was elected as city counselor in Besançon, capital city of the Franche Comté Region. From 1989-1991, he was a journalist working for several newspapers and magazines.



TARIQ ALI AL-ANSARI

Chief of Cabinet, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Ambassador Tariq Ali Al-Ansari was designated Chief of Cabinet for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations under the mandate of His Excellency Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for

UNAOC. Prior to that, he was Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Office of the 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly (2011-2012).

As a Diplomat at the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York from 2005 to 2011, he was an expert on issues relevant to international peace and security counter-terrorism as well as Security Council issues

Mr. Al-Ansari holds a Bachelor in Business Administration and Economics from the University of Qatar, as well as, a Master's degree in Administrative Science "International Relations and Diplomacy" from the United States of America.



HIS EMINENCE. JOHN CARDINAL ONAIYEKAN

Archbishop of Abuja

John Cardinal Onaiyekan was born in the town of Kabba, in what is now Kogi State. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School in Kabba from 1949 until 1956, Mount St. Michael's Secondary School in Aliade, Benue State from 1957 until 1962, and Ss. Peter & Paul Major Seminary in Bodija, Ibadan from 1963 until 1965. He completed his religious studies in Rome in 1969, and was ordained as a priest on 3 August of that year.

John Cardinal Onaiyekan taught at St. Kizito's College, Isanlu in 1969. He became rector of St. Clement Junior Seminary in Lokoja in 1971. He finished his Licentiate of Sacred Scripture in 1973 and earned his doctorate in 1976. He became Vice Rector of Ss. Peter & Paul in 1977.

On 18 September 2012, Archbishop Onaiyekan was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to serve as one of the papally-appointed Synod Fathers for the upcoming October 2012 Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization.

He was created a Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI in a consistory on 24 November 2012. As Cardinal-Priest he was assigned the titular church of San Saturnino. On 31 January 2013, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Cardinal Onaiyekan to serve as a Member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) and as a Member of the Presidential Committee of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

He was one of the cardinal electors who participated in the 2013 papal conclave that elected Pope Francis.

Cardinal Onaiyekan was appointed by Pope Francis as the Apostolic Administrator ad nutum Sanctae Sedis of the diocese of Ahiara in Imo State, eastern Nigeria on Wednesday, 3 July 2013.



VICTOR TVIRCUN

Secretary General, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

In June 2012, Dr. Tvircun was elected Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS) in Istanbul. During 2009-2010 he headed the Institute of European Integration and Political Science in Chisinau. In 2005-2008, he continued his career as the Minister of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova.

In 2001, Dr. Tvircun was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in the Republic of Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Arab Republic of Egypt, State of Kuwait, State of Qatar, Republic of Lebanon, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Organization. Prof. Tvircun has numerous scientific and honorary degrees. He is Doctor Honoris Causa of the State University, Seoul, and Member of the Academy of Pedagogical and Sociological Science, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Ambassador Tvircun was named Man of the year in 2009 - Award of American Biographical Institute, and Man of the year 2007 - Award of "Europe Liberty", Prague. Amb. Tvircun is decorated by the order of "Honour", the order of "Gloria Muncii", order of Orthodox Church of Chisinau and Moldova "Cuviosul Paisii Velicovschi", 1st degree, order of the Moldavian Orthodox Church "Stefan cel Mare", 2nd degree, and many others. The Secretary General has more than 200 publications, including 12 books.



SAMAD SEYIDOV

Member of National Assembly

Samad Seyidov is a professor and an Azerbaijani politician who serves as the Member of National Assembly of Azerbaijan from the 36th Khatai electoral district.

He graduated from Psychology Studies Department of Saint Petersburg State University in Russia. Starting from 1986, he worked at Azerbaijan University of Languages as lab assistant, senior lab assistant, senior professor, vice-rector for education issues. In 2000, he was appointed Rector of the Azerbaijan University of Languages. He is member of International Association for Analytical Psychology.

Seyidov chairs the Azerbaijani delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) which consists of 12 members of parliament. He has been a member of the assembly since January 22, 2001. Seyidov is a member of Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee), Political Affairs Committee, Sub-Committee on conflict prevention through dialogue and reconciliation and Sub-Committee on External Relations.



STEPHEN SHASHOUA

Director, Three Faiths Forum, UK

As Director of the London based 3FF (Three Faiths Forum), Stephen Shashoua, together with his dynamic team, innovate, design, and deliver a wide portfolio of award-winning social cohesion programmes to encourage interaction and learning between people of different faiths and beliefs. Having joined in 2004, Stephen has led the development of 3ff since 2008 into one of the UK's largest and most delivery orientated interfaith and inter-cultural organisations. Stephen oversees 3FF's outreach, both nationally and internationally. With a background in education and lifetime of understanding cultures, Stephen continues to work towards solutions to conflicts between communities and promote interaction, cooperation and learning through his work on the ground, as well as through his writing and lecturing.

Having moved to the UK from Canada in 2003, Stephen was named one of 40 Jews under 40 making a positive difference to the British Jewish community. He is an Ariane de Rothschild Foundation Fellow, sits on the Advisory Board for the Islamic Foundation, is a UNAOC Global Expert, is currently a Visiting Research Fellow attached to the Department of Professional and Community Education at Goldsmiths University of London, is part of the ROI Community, and a Co-Founder of Iraq in Common.



NIHAL SAAD

**Spokesperson for the UN High
Representative for the Alliance of
Civilizations**

Prior to the current position, she was the Spokesperson for the 66th President of the United Nations General Assembly. With more than twenty-two years of experience in Journalism, Ms. Saad was the Head of the Press & Information Bureau at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN. Before moving to NY, she was Senior Political Correspondent and TV host for Egypt's TV. She holds a Master's degree in TV Journalism from the American University in Cairo and a Diploma in Linguistics from Ain Shams University in Cairo. She has appeared on several TV shows as a commentator on International affairs, with Larry King (CNN), Al Arabyia TV, France 24 and Egypt's TV.



PAM ROACH

Vice-President, Washington State Senate, United State of America

Pamela Roach is an American Republican politician and a Washington State Senator representing the 31st Legislative District.

She received a Bachelor's degree in History from Brigham Young University in 1970, and received a teaching certificate the next year.

Senator Roach earned her B.A. in History from Brigham Young University in 1970. She went on to receive her teaching certificate in 1971. She has also worked as a legislative aide for Washington State Senator/King County Council Member Kent Pullen

Roach was elected to the senate in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014 Her current term expires January 2019.



DAVID LORDKIPANIDZE

General Director of Georgian National Museum, Georgia

Paleanthropologist David Lordkipanidze is the first General Director of the founded in 2004 National Museum of Georgia that unifies 10 major museums of the country and 2 research institutes. Under his leadership the Museum is gradually transforming from a Soviet-type institution into a vibrant space for culture, education and science.

Prof. Lordkipanidze's professional activities are connected with Dmanisi, the world famous archaeological site. This work thrust Georgia in to modern paleoanthropology and has transformed our comprehension of the biogeography of early hominids, revolutionizing understanding of their morphology, population, environment, culture, and dispersal. He has authored over 130 scientific articles published in widely respected and well-known scientific journals such as Nature, Science Magazine, Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences of USA, Journal of Human Evolution and more.

He is a Corresponding member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences; Member of the Academy of Europe (Academia Europaea); Foreign associate member of the US National Academy of Sciences. He was awarded with the Rolex Award for Enterprise; Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei "Fabio Frassetto" International Prize, Italy; Humboldt Research award. Lordkipanidze holds National decorations of Georgia (Order of honor and Presidential Order of Excellence) and France (Palmes Académiques and L'Ordre du Mérite).



RABBI MARC SCHNEIER

President of Foundation for Ethnic Understanding

A graduate of Yeshiva University, Mr. Schneier is an advocate of tolerance and understanding between different ethnicities. He has been honored by the United States Congress as well as the State of Israel, and is the recipient of the Kelly Miller Smith Ecumenical Award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Martin Luther King, Jr. "Measure of a Man" award from the NAACP, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Civil Rights Leadership Award in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal, and the American Civil Rights Education Services Civil Rights Award.

Schneier has written and spoken extensively on Interfaith relations, and is a frequent guest on television and radio talk shows. He is the author of the book, *Shared Dreams*, an account of the relationship between the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Jewish community during the civil rights era, published in January, 2000.

He was appointed to the Steering Committee of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's World Conference on Dialogue, convened by King Abdullah in Madrid (2008) and in Vienna (2009, 2010, 2012). Rabbi Schneier has also been appointed to the Executive Steering Committee of the Multi-Religious Campaign Against Anti-Muslim Bigotry in the United States (2010). In 2010, Rabbi Schneier served as the keynote speaker at the Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue in Doha, Qatar. In 2011, he was the first rabbi to be received in Bahrain, by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.



MIKE HARDY

Professor of Intercultural Relations, Director of Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations

Professor Hardy joined Coventry University in 2011 to lead and transform the University's work in social and community cohesion. He has, most recently taken strategic responsibility for Coventry University's work in Human Security and now leads the new University Research Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations. Mike's work focuses on human security and specifically living with difference and with inter- and intra-community relations. His particular current interest is in intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, and the consequences for domestic communities of state foreign policies.

Professor Hardy leads the Coventry Initiative that is seeking to recast the relationship between Coventry University and its host City through a focus on people-to-people social relations, and the exploration of the notion of an 'urban-serving' university. This innovative programme casts the University as a catalyst for positive change through social relations in the City

Mike was awarded the OBE in 2001 for his work in the Middle East, and was appointed as Companion of Honour of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the Queen's Birthday Honours June 2010 for his work internationally in Intercultural Dialogue.

Mike is a trustee of 3FF and a life fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts



VASIM MAMMADALIYEV

Scientist of oriental studies, chairman of a cathedra of Arabic philology

Vasim Mammadaliyev was born on August 27, 1942 in Baku. He got his primary education in Baku and then entered oriental studies faculty of Azerbaijan State University, on a specialty of Arabic philology.

In 1964-1967, he was post-graduate student of Azerbaijan State University. In 1968, at the age of 26, he defended Doctor's dissertation on the theme of "Comparative and typological analysis of tenses of the verb in modern Arabic-Azerbaijani languages and Iraqi dialect" at Tbilisi State University and he became the youngest Doctor of Arabic sciences in the USSR after defending Doctor's dissertation on the theme of "Tense, person and mood in modern Arabic language", in 1974, at the age of 32.

Vasim Mammadaliyev is member of Iraqi Academy of Sciences (1989), Academy of Islamic Right under the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (1994), Syrian Academy of Quran Sciences and Arabic philology (1995) and Academy of Arabic Language of Egypt (2003).

Vasim Mammadaliyev is the author of more than 600 articles and 20 books. His works were published in more than 15 countries of the world.. He translated Quran into Azerbaijani language together with academician Ziya Bunyadov during to Soviet period.



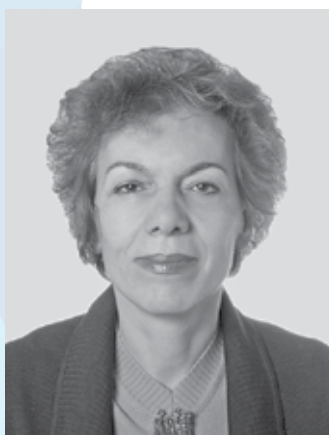
AMR ABDEL-GHAFFAR

Advisor to the UNWTO Secretary-General on Tourism and Peace and UNWTO Regional Director for the Middle East

Mr. Abdel-Ghaffar is a senior official of UNWTO with over 30 years of experience in shaping tourism policies and strategies and managing development plans and projects, particularly in the Middle East, the region which he serves, as the Organization's Director, since 1992.

During the period (1994-2005), in which UNWTO experienced rapid growth in its membership and activities, he was responsible for coordinating the preparation and implementation of six successive general programmes of work of the Organization and for introducing a new impact evaluation system. In 2006, he was assigned the responsibility of shaping the Organization's new Risk and Crisis Management programme, developing its governance structure, systems and processes and mobilizing external financial resources for its implementation. In 2008, he was appointed President of UNWTO's Themis Foundation for Tourism Education and Training and entrusted with restructuring the Organization's programme in this area. In 2012, he was designated by the Secretary-General as UNWTO's Focal point for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and, in January 2014, he was appointed by the Secretary-General's as his Senior Advisor on Tourism and Peace.

Mr. Abdel-Ghaffar holds a BA degree in Political Science and Economics and a MA in International Relations, from the American University in Cairo.



KATERINA STENO

Former Director, Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, UNESCO

Katérina Stenou completed her undergraduate degree in philosophy at the University of Athens and pursued her studies in Brussels and Paris where she defended a PhD related to intercultural education and communication (Sorbonne, 1990). She joined UNESCO in 1992 and was entrusted with the topic of intercultural exchanges towards mutual understanding. In 2000, she was nominated to the position of Director of the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue. In this capacity, Mrs Stenou was, inter alia, the Coordinator of the UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and of the UNESCO's Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

From April 2011 until June 2014, Mrs Stenou was Director of the Programme for intercultural dialogue, culture of peace and non-violence at UNESCO, programme which aims at mainstreaming cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, human rights, security and peace into public policies. Mrs Stenou was also the Focal Point at UNESCO for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and for the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue (KAICIID).

Mrs Stenou is a member of various research institutes devoted to these issues and participates regularly in symposia, conferences and round-tables organized by either universities or intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She has published several articles and books dealing with these questions.



HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN EMMANUEL

Vice President, Conference of European Churches, France

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France was born December 19, 1958 in Crete. His advanced studies in Philosophy and Theology were at the Faculty of Humanities of the Catholic Institute of Paris and St. Sergius Orthodox Institute. He continued his studies in Religious History at the Sorbonne (Paris IV) and the Higher Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Institute Catholique de Paris. He was ordained a deacon and priest in 1985. He later matriculated into Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1987 he was appointed as the Chancellor of the Metropolis of Belgium, while serving as Dean of the parish of the Taxiarchae in Brussels and teaching Orthodox Religion at the European Schools.

In 1996 he was elected Bishop of Reggio, and was appointed auxiliary Bishop of the Metropolitan of Belgium. In early 2003 he was unanimously elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to be Metropolitan of France. Since 2001 the Ecumenical Patriarchate has entrusted him with responsibilities for the International Interreligious Dialogue with the Monotheistic Religions. He also represents the Ecumenical Patriarchate in theological dialogues with the Vatican, the ancient Oriental Churches, and among the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches. Metropolitan Emmanuel has been named "Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" in France, among other Church and State distinctions.



WILLIAM F. VENDLEY

Secretary General, Religions for Peace International

Dr. William Vendley is the member of its World Council which consists of 60 senior religious leaders from all continents. He coordinates the activities and projects of Religions for Peace's 92 national and 5 regional councils.

Religions for Peace is the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition advancing common action for peace by working to advance multi-religious consensus on positive aspects of peace as well as concrete actions to stop war, help eliminate extreme poverty and protect the earth.

William assumed leadership of Religions for Peace International in 1994. He is a pioneer in advancing multi-religious cooperation to help resolve conflict and advance development and has facilitated the establishment of multi-religious councils around the world. He also facilitated the establishment of the Inter-religious Council of Sierra Leone in the midst of a ten-year civil war, supported the successful multi-religious mediations between the rebels and the government and was requested to assist in the formal peace talks in Lome, Togo.

William is an advisor to a number of governments on matters related to religion and peace. He advised President Obama through his service on the Multi-religious Cooperation and International Affairs Task Force of the White House Faith Based Council. He was appointed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and re-appointed by Secretary Kerry as one of ten members of the US State Department's Advisory Committee on Strategic Partnership with Civil Society and he is a Co-chair of the State Department's Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group.



MUBARIZ GURBANLI

Chair State Committee for Religious Affairs

Mubariz Gurbanli was born on January 7, 1954 in the Koltahnali village of Shamkir region

He worked as a teacher in a secondary school in Koltahnali since 1978.

Since 1985 he worked as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, Head of Department, Vice-Rector of Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts. Currently, he is an associate professor in the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts.

He was elected to the Milli Mejlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan) of IV convocation on 7 November 2010. He is a Member of the committee of legal policy and state system.

According to the Presidential Order of 21 July 2014 was appointed Chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations



MOHAMED SAMEH AMR

Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Ambassador of Egypt to UNESCO

Mr Amr was born in Cairo in 1966. He holds a Ph. D in International Law from the London School of Economics and a Master's degree in Public and Private Law from Cairo University. He is the author of numerous publications on matters of International Law, and led a distinguished academic career as a Professor of Public International Law at Cairo University.

Mr Amr has been closely connected to UNESCO since 2000, representing Egypt on a number of international committees and in negotiations concerning several UNESCO Conventions, notably those concerning Underwater Cultural Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Doping in Sport and the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.



VICTOR GREVES

COEXISTER, France

Born in Vichy, Victor Grezes travelled abroad for the first time when he was 16. He spent one year in South Africa thanks to the Rotary Club's exchange program, where he was trained to manage humanitarian projects. A talented speaker, he was awarded the 1st Price of the Speech and Drama Diploma by South Africa College.

After his one-year experience in Africa, Victor seized the opportunity to represent French high school and college students in the main EU organizations, and all across Europe. In the process, this young man saw how cross-cultural issues are a major component of international exchanges and conflicts.

Victor is definitely an open traveller, for he wants to discover the world, to explore new cultures and to get rid of what he calls 'the France-centered trap'. A born artist – he played drama and piano at the Conservatoire for 10 years.



RABBI ANDREW BAKER

OSCE CiO Special Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism

Rabbi Andrew Baker is Director of International Jewish Affairs for the American Jewish Committee. In this position he is responsible for maintaining and developing AJC's network of relationships with Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora and addressing the accompanying international issues and concerns. He has been a prominent figure in addressing Holocaust-era issues in Europe and in international efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

In January 2009 he was appointed the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in Office on Combating Anti-Semitism and has been reappointed in each successive year. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, an intergovernmental body of 57 nations headquartered in Vienna, has become a central arena for addressing the problems of a resurgent anti-Semitism.

He has played an active role in confronting the legacy of the Holocaust. He is a Vice President of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, the Jewish umbrella organization that has worked on restitution issues for over half a century. In 2003 he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit (First Class) by the President of Germany for his work in German-Jewish relations. He was a member of Government Commissions in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia that were established to address the claims of Holocaust Victims. - See more at:

A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, Rabbi Baker received a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a Masters Degree and Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. He is the father of four children.



FUAD MURADOV

Member of Parliament, Azerbaijan

Fuad Muradov was born on July 22, 1979, in Baku, Azerbaijan. He holds master degree on Environment and Oil Industry from Joint Master Program of the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy, University of Nice (France) and University of Genoa (Italy) in the framework of the EU Tempus Program. He is also a holder of Ph.D. in chemistry.

On November 6, 2005 he was elected as Member of Parliament (Milli Mejlis) from Sabail Constituency No 29. Since 2006 Fuad Muradov is the Member of the Initiative Group for South Caucasus Parliament, since 2008 the Member of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption Global Task Force within the GOPAC (The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption's).

Since 2011, he is the Co-chairman of the Energy Security Committee of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly; member of the "New leaders for tomorrow" community of Crans Montana Forum. Fuad Muradov is the member of working group on development of the draft State Program on Azerbaijani Youth in 2011-2015. Since June 28, 2012 Fuad Muradov is the Chairman of the "Great Silk Way" International Youth Union. He has numerous publications and scientific works.



KAMAL ABDULLAYEV

State Counsellor on Multinational Multicultural and Religious Affairs, Azerbaijan

Kamal Abdullayev was born in Baku in 1950. In 1968-1973 he studied literature and linguistics in the faculty of Philology at Baku State University, and in 1977 obtained a PhD in the Department of Turkic languages of the Institute of Linguistics at Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Moscow. From 1977 to 1984 he worked at the Department of Comparative Research of Turkic languages of the Institute of Linguistics at Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, holding successively the positions of Junior researcher, Senior researcher and Head of the Department.

In 1984 he upheld his Doctoral thesis "Theoretical Issues of Syntax in the Azerbaijani Language". From 1984 to 1987 he worked at the department of General and Azerbaijani Linguistics at the Institute of Foreign Languages (what is now the Azerbaijan University of Languages), rising to professor and head of the department. During 1988-1990 he was the vice-chairman of the Azerbaijan Culture Fund. From 1993 to 2000 he was head of the department General and Azerbaijan linguistics at the Institute of Foreign languages. In May, 2000 he was appointed the Rector of the Institute of the Russian language and Literature named after M.F.Akhundov. In June, 2000, he was appointed the Rector of the newly organized Baku Slavic University.

By the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan dated 28 February 2014 Kamal Abdullayev was appointed the State Counsellor on Multinational Multicultural and Religious Affairs. He is an author of numerous books and publications.



OZERDEM ALPASLAN

Professor Coventry University, United Kingdom

Professor Alpaslan Özerdem is Co-Director of the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, UK. With on early 20 year field research experience in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Turkey, he specializes in the politics of humanitarian interventions, disaster response, security sector reform, reintegration of former combatants and post-conflict state building. He has also taken an active role in the initiation and management of several advisory and applied research projects for a wide range of national and international organisations. He has published extensively and is co-author of Disaster Management and Civil Society: Earthquake Relief in Japan, Turkey and India (I.B. Tauris, 2006), author of Post-war Recovery: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (I.B. Tauris, 2008) and co-editor of Participatory Research Methodologies in Development and Post Disaster/Conflict Reconstruction, (Ashgate, 2010), is co-author of Managing Emergencies and Crises (Jones & Bartlett, 2011); co-editor of Child Soldiers: From Recruitment to Reintegration (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011); and Peace in Turkey 2023: The Question of Human Security and Conflict Transformation (Maryland: Lexington Books, 2013), Human Security in Turkey (London: Routledge, 2013).



TAHIR SALAHOV

Painter, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Arts

Tahir Salahov studied at the Azimzade Art College in Baku in 1945–1950 and the Surikov Moscow Art Institute in 1951–1957. Salahov won an early recognition: his diploma work, *The Shift is Over*, was exhibited in 1957 at the Moscow All-Union Art Exhibition and received public and critical acclaim. He became one of the leading representatives of the so-called “severe style”, a trend in Soviet art of the 1960s that aimed to set off a hard, publicist, realist view against the ceremonial “polished reality”.

Mr. Salahov lives in Moscow, where he is a professor and has a studio at the Moscow Art Institute. He has received numerous honors, including People’s Artist of USSR, Russia and Azerbaijan, Hero of Socialist Labour, USSR State Prize. He held position of First Secretary of the Union of Artists of the USSR (1973–1992) and now is the Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Arts, member of over 20 academies and other creative organizations throughout the world, including academies of art of France, Spain, Germany, Austria, etc.



KOÏCHIRO MATSUURA

Former Director General of UNESCO

Koïchiro Matsuura is the former Director-General of UNESCO. He was first elected in 1999 to a six-year term and reelected on 12 October 2005 for four years, following a reform instituted by the 29th session of the General Conference.

Mr. Matsuura studied law at the University of Tokyo and economics at Haverford College (Pennsylvania, USA) and began his diplomatic career in 1959. Posts held by Mr. Matsuura include those of Director-General of the Economic Co-operation Bureau of Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1988); Director-General of the North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1990); and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (1992–1994). He was Japan’s Ambassador to France from 1994 to 1999. After one year as the Chairperson of UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee, he became UNESCO’s ninth Director-General on 12 November 1999.

Koïchiro Matsuura is the author of six books on Japanese diplomacy, in the area of the development of relations between Japan and France, on history and perspectives of the “Great Seven” meetings, economic cooperation diplomacy, on the history of relations between Japan and the USA.



SEVDA MAMMADALIYEVA

Deputy Minister, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Prof. Sevda Mammadaliyeva acts as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 2006. On behalf of the Ministry, she is responsible for the national coordination of “STAGE” and “Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme” of Council of Europe, “Cultural Diversity”, “Information Observatory on Cultural Policy of the GUAM Countries”, “European Union Eastern Partnership Program”. She is member of Intergovernmental Commissions in France, Italy, Greece, Latvia, and Iraq.

After getting postgraduate study in Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences she worked there as a research, has profound experience in sociology, law and cultural studies and management of international working groups. Since 1999, she represents Azerbaijan in Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape of the Council of Europe. She actively participated in preparation of several Azerbaijani files prescribed into the lists of UNESCO.

Ms. Mammadaliyeva is author to numerous publications including “Cultural Policy on Azerbaijan”, “Culture during globalization”, “Culture and Human”, “Culture of stable development: from idea to reality”. Ms. Mammadaliyeva was awarded the Order of Arts and Literature of France “for her contribution to the field of Art and Literature” and Order of Honor of the Italian Republic.



SHIRIN AKINER

Senior Fellow, Cambridge Central Asia Forum, University of Cambridge

Dr Shirin Akiner has long firsthand experience of Central Asia and has written and lectured widely on the region. In 2006 she was awarded the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial Medal by the Royal Society for Asian Affairs; in 2008 awarded Honorary Fellowship of Ancien Association of NATO Defense College; in 2013, received the International Chingiz Aitmatov Award. Has held research and teaching posts at the University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies, and University College); and visiting professorships at European and US universities. Numerous papers presented at international conferences and high-level seminars in leading think tanks, international organisations and universities, in some 20 countries. Publications include seven monographs and over 75 scholarly articles on such topics as Islam, ethnicity, political change and security in Central Asia. Her work has been translated into 10 languages (French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Kazakh, Russian and Chinese etc.) Founder and general editor of the long-running Routledge book series ‘Central Asia Research Forum’; Rapporteur to the UNESCO project ‘Integral Study of the Silk Roads’ (1988-97).



FIRUDIN GURBANOV

Deputy minister of Education, Azerbaijan

Firudin Gurbanov graduated from faculty of "Economy and planning" of the Azerbaijan State Institute of National Economy with honor diploma in 1974. He worked as economist, junior and senior researcher at Scientific-Research Economy Institute for 1975-1982. He also worked as assistant, senior teacher, senior-lecturer and dean in Baku branch of Moscow Cooperation Institute for 1982-1989.

He worked as head of department of Science and Education establishments of The Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan Republic since 1994, as head of department of Science and Education of The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic since 2001, as head of department of Science and Education of The Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan Republic since 2006. He worked as head of Apparatus of Ministry of Culture and Tourism for 2007-2014. He is deputy minister of education of Azerbaijan Republic by Order dated July 18, 2014 of The President of Azerbaijan Republic.

Firudin Gurbanov was a member of Colleague of The Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan Republic for 2006-2007, also The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic for 2007-2014, member of National Olympic Committee for 2001-2008.

He is a member of steering committee of New Azerbaijan Party organization of Narimanov district.



MEHRDAD SHABAHANG

Programme Officer, UNESCO Silk Roads Online Platform

Mehrdad SHABAHANG was born in 1976 in Isfahan, Iran. He has a M.A degree in Ancient Culture and Languages from institute of Humanity and Cultural Studies of Tehran, Iran (2004) and PhD in History and Sociology from Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, France. (2011)

He worked for about five years as researcher and teacher in fields of Culture and Languages. He joined UNESCO in 2007 and worked on different cultural and intercultural dialogue programs and projects of the organization. He is the project officer in charge of UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform since 2012.



LAURA SULIN
Researcher

Ms Sulin joined the Centre for Trust, Peace & Social Relations as a Researcher in January 2014. Prior to joining the Centre, she worked at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels for the UK and Ireland desk.

Her work in the Centre involves conducting research to support the Executive Director's work and contributing to the Centre's other research projects. Her research interests lie in the field of peace, gender equality, conflict and reconciliation studies.

Ms Sulin holds a postgraduate MSc in Comparative Politics (Conflict Studies) from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2012. She is currently a part-time doctoral student in the Centre, examining gender mainstreaming process in relation to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.



JACQUES LEGRAND

**Former president and current professor of
the French Institute of Oriental Languages
and Cultures 'INALCO'**

1967-1968 Attaché at the French embassies to Mongolia and China.

1989-2015, Full Professor in Mongolian language and literature at INALCO,

1992, member of the UNESCO expedition program Integral Study of the Silk Roads, Routes of Dialogue;

Since 1998, President of the Academic Council, International Institute for the Study of Nomad Civilizations (IISNC).

2005-2013, President of INALCO.

At INALCO, successively vice-Director of the USSR-Mongolia department, Temporary Administrator of the Eurasian department, Responsible person in charge of the Internet and of the pedagogical computing programs,

Author of several books in Mongolian History, Literature and Linguistics and of more than one hundred articles and contributions mainly devoted, in the last decades, to the study and research upon Mongolian and Central Asian nomadic pastoralism.

Distinctions : Chevalier, National Order of the Legion of Honour (France), National Order Altan Gadas (Polar Star, Mongolia)



PENELOPE DENU

**Executive Secretary, Council of Europe
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural
Routes**

Penelope Denu has been Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) and Director of the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), located at the Abbaye de Neumünster in Luxembourg, since November 2011. Her role is to implement and promote the Council of Europe's cultural routes programme as well as countries' accession to the EPA. The EICR ensures that new projects for cultural routes wishing to join the programme are provided with assistance in preparing for certification, and helps, advises, promotes and evaluates the Council of Europe's 29 certified routes. The Executive Secretary also coordinates joint action on cultural routes with the European Commission and with other organisations in the field (UNWTO, OECD, European Travel Commission).

The cultural routes programme was launched in 1987 with the Declaration of Santiago de Compostela, launching the Way of Saint James as the first cultural route. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) was established in 2010 and was confirmed on a permanent basis in December 2013. It is a voluntary agreement open for accession by non-member states and forms part of the Council of Europe's activities to foster sustainable democratic societies through cultural co-operation. Currently 24 of the Council of Europe's 47 member countries have signed the EPA, and 29 cultural routes have been certified, with new candidates submitted each year.



GUNAY AFANDIYEVA

**Secretary General of the National
Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
for UNESCO**

Gunay Afandiyeva – Secretary General of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, Counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

She is regularly involved into the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue supported by UNESCO and Alliance of Civilizations and Baku Humanitarian Forum supported by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as into different UNESCO events, organized in Azerbaijan. She actively participated in the organizational process of the 18th Session of the International Committee of Bioethics in 2011, Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport in 2013, 8th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013. She was the organizer of the 5th Meeting of the National Commissions and Committees for UNESCO of the TURKSOY Member States on the occasion of the 20 years anniversary of the establishment of the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO, which contributed to the rapprochement of Turkic-speaking countries.

Gunay Afandiyeva is the author of different articles and publications in local and foreign media on the topics of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, multiculturalism, natural and human sciences, education and sustainable development. She has been awarded with numerous diplomas and certificates.



ALESSANDRO GIROLA

UNAOC Project Management Specialist – IIA

Alessandro Girola is an international development project officer with over ten years of professional experience. His interests include poverty reduction, intercultural dialogue and ation, women's economic empowerment, governance, financial inclusion, sustainability and rural development. After receiving degrees in Economics from Bocconi University and a master's degree in International Finance, Economics and Policy from Columbia University, he gained experience working in the financial sector, academia, and international organizations, including the African Development Bank and UN Women. He has worked in Africa, Europe, North America and South-East Asia. Alessandro is currently a Project Management Specialist at the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations where he helps social entrepreneurs to scale their impact more effectively through sustainable scaling pathways.



MR HUGUE NGANDEU NGATTA

UNESCO, Social and Human Sciences Sector, Focal Point for UNESCO Chairs on intercultural dialogue.

Mr Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta holds a Master Degree in Fundamental Laws obtained with the University of Nantes, France (2007). He started his career in Cameroon in the fields of human rights, socio-economic development, and humanitarian relief assistance. He joined UNESCO in 2007 as Assistant Programme Specialist in the promotion of intercultural dialogue for mutual understanding, including the organization's work on history and memory for dialogue, culture of peace and non-violence and the rapprochement of cultures. Mr Ngandeu Ngatta also serves as focal point for UNESCO's Chairs on intercultural and interreligious dialogue.



KIDONG BAE

Chairperson of the Governing Board, APCEIU

Academic Position

Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Hanyang University.

Dean, College of International Language and Culture/ Dean of Graduate School of Cultural Industry

Director, Institute of Cultural Properties, Hanyang University

Director, Institute of East Asian Archaeology

Chairperson, The Korean National Committee of International Council of Museum, 2011-

Chairperson, Board of APCEIU (2013- present), UNESCO

Chairperson, Board for Promotion of World Heritage Inscription of Amsa Prehistoric Site, Seoul.

Board Member, Hanmi Foundation of Culture.2005-/ Samsung Cultural Foundation 2013-/ Korea Foundation of Cultural Heritage Research

Board, Korean Commission for UNESCO

Board, National Foundation of Cultural Heritages in Foreign Countries



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

Born in Senegal in 1941, Doudou Diène was a prizewinner in philosophy of Senegal's Concours Général, holds a law degree from the University of Caen, a doctorate in public law from the University of Paris and a diploma in political science from the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris.

Having joined the UNESCO Secretariat in 1977, in 1980 he was appointed Director of the Liaison Office with the United Nations, Permanent Missions and United Nations departments in New York. Prior to this he had served as deputy representative of Senegal to UNESCO (1972-77) and, in that capacity, as Vice-President and Secretary of the African Group and Group of 77.

Between 1985 and 1987, he held the posts of Deputy Assistant Director-General for External Relations, spokesperson for the Director-General, and acting Director of the Bureau of Public Information. After a period as Project Manager of the 'Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue' aimed at revitalizing East-West dialogue, he was appointed Director of the Division of Intercultural Projects in 1993 (currently Division of Intercultural Dialogue). In this capacity, he is also responsible for intercultural dialogue projects concerning geo-cultural areas such as the Slave Route, Routes of Faith, Routes of al-Andalus and Iron Roads in Africa. In 1998 he was placed in charge of activities pertaining to interreligious dialogue.



VASIF EYVAZZADE

Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Vasif Eyvazzade is the Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2012. He has worked as a head of cooperation with international organizations and programs Division of the Ministry between 2009-2012. Vasif was adviser of the International Relations Department of the Ministry between 2006-2009. He is coordinator of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, which is organized once in two years in Baku, member of the World Forum International Task Force Group and Secretary of the World Forum Organizing Committee. Vasif coordinates cooperation with UN, UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Union, OIC, ISESCO, UNWTO, BSEC and other international organizations and also bilateral relations with more than 100 countries in the field of culture and tourism. He is member of many working groups for the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

He participated in more than hundreds of international conferences, forums in the different countries like France, Great Britain, Turkey, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Austria, Belgium, Indonesia, Croatia, Uzbekistan and etc. He was awarded as a "New Leaders for tomorrow" in the Crans Montana Forum in 2011.



AMINA HAMSHARI

UNESCO, Social and Human Sciences Sector, Intercultural Dialogue Section

Amina Hamshari conducts capacity building projects and awareness-raising campaigns for the promotion of intercultural dialogue since 2003 at UNESCO Headquarters. She has an extended knowledge of the Arab regional socio-cultural and political context. She has developed several educational projects in Palestine (1996-2002), pertaining to curriculum development and teacher training in peace education, human rights, gender, democracy, heritage education, intercultural dialogue and global values education. She currently works for the Intercultural Dialogue Programme at the Division of Social Transformations and Dialogue which is in charge of the implementation of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) at UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. Amina Hamshari holds a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Contemporary History (Master degree, Paris X-Nanterre University, 1994, France).



REZA DEGHATI

Philanthropist, idealist, humanist, architect and famous photojournalist, Fellow of the National Geographic Society and Senior

A philanthropist, idealist, humanist, and architect at heart and above all a famous photojournalist who has worked for The National Geographic among many other publications, Reza has been traveling the world for over 30 years. His eyewitness accounts have been published in the international media as well as in books, exhibitions and documentaries by National Geographic Channel.

More than just a photographer, Reza is a committed human being who has volunteered his services since 1983 to young people and women in vulnerable civil. In Afghanistan in 2001, he founded a next generation NGO Ainaworld, which trains people for careers in information and communication while providing training in different forms of visual language for refugees, suburban young people in Europe, and those living in insecure environments.

Fellow of the National Geographic Society and Senior Fellow of the Ashoka Foundation, Reza was awarded the World Press Photo award, the Infinity Award, the Lucy Award, the Medal of Honor from the University of Missouri and the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the American University of Paris. He has also been awarded the medal of Chevalier in the French National Order of Merit.



NICOLE HÄUSLER

Advisor on Sustainable Tourism Development, Myanmar Tourism Federation

Nicole Häusler has been working for more than three years as Responsible Tourism Consultant in Myanmar; since more than one year as Senior Advisor for Myanmar Tourism Federation in cooperation with CIM/GIZ. In Myanmar she was involved in the formulation of the Policies on 'Responsible Tourism' and 'Community Involvement in Tourism' and in the 'Tourism Master Plan'. Currently one of her main tasks is the development of strategies to use tourism as an instrument of internal peace-building in Myanmar.

Since more than 15 years she has been focussing her work on Responsible Tourism Management and Training, the implementation of 'Corporate Social Responsibility - CSR' and Tourism & Poverty Reduction especially in Asia and South America.

Nicole has worked on the micro and macro level with the public and private sector, NGOs, tourism authorities, training centres and above all with local communities. Her special skills are institutional change management, participatory methodologies and intercultural communication. She is as well a member of the 'International Centre for Responsible Tourism - ICRT' in Great Britain, Board Member of the 'Responsible Tourism Day at WTM' and a lecturer at the 'University of Sustainable Development (FH)' in Eberswalde near Berlin, Master Programme of Sustainable Tourism Development. In the past Nicole gave several lectures at international conferences and fairs such as WTM in London and ITB in Berlin.



RAMI ISAAC

Senior Lecturer in Tourism, NHTV Breda University, Netherlands

Born in Palestine, Rami Isaac did his undergraduate studies in The Netherlands, graduate studies in the U.K. and has earned his PhD from University of Groningen, in Spatial Sciences, in The Netherlands. He is currently a senior lecturer in tourism teaching at the undergraduate as well as postgraduate levels at the Academy for Tourism at the NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands. In addition, he is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management at Bethlehem University, Palestine. He was the external assessor of Bethlehem TEMPUS (2004-2006) curriculum development project in Palestine in the field of pilgrimage, tourism and cultural industries.

Currently he is the President of the Research Committee 50 on International Tourism, International Sociologist Association ISA (2014-2018). His research interests in the area of tourism development and management, critical theory, and political aspects of tourism. He published numerous articles and book chapters on tourism and political (in)stability, occupation, tourism and war, violence and transformational tourism.



HERVÉ SABOURIN

Director, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie in the Middle East

Titulaire d'une Agrégation, d'un Doctorat et d'une H.D.R (Habilitation à diriger des Recherches) en Mathématiques, enseignant-chercheur à l'Université de Poitiers (France), Vice-Président de l'Université de Poitiers en charge des Relations Internationales jusqu'en Avril 2012, Hervé Sabourin a occupé également le poste de Directeur pour les Relations Internationales d'un réseau national de 16 Universités françaises nommé F.I.G.U.R.E (Formation en Ingénierie dans les Universités de Recherche), créé en 2011 pour mettre en place dans les universités françaises un nouveau programme de formation d'ingénieurs.

Il a été nommé en septembre 2014, Directeur régional du Bureau Moyen-Orient de l'AUF. Expert européen auprès de l'E.A.C.E.A (Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency), évaluateur des dossiers de candidature aux programmes européens d'éducation et de recherche, il assure aussi, nationalement et internationalement, la promotion et le développement du nouveau programme européen pour l'éducation, Erasmus+.

Son domaine de recherche en Mathématiques tourne autour de la représentation des Groupes et des Algèbres de Lie et ses applications géométriques - géométrie de Poisson et systèmes intégrables.

PARTNERS



UNESCO

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

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 Civilizations (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 27 February 2013, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser assumed the position of UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations succeeding President Jorge Sampaio.

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



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

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.

www.unwto.org

Council of 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.

www.coe.int



ISESCO

Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was established by the Organisation 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.

www.isesco.org.ma

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- The Organizing Committee warmly welcomes the participants of the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.
- All expenses (meal, accommodation, internal transportation) of the participants for 3 (three) nights will be covered by the inviting side.
- Working languages of Opening Ceremony, Plenary Session and Ministerial Conference are: English, French, Russian, Arabic and Azerbaijani.
- Workshops and parallel workshops are in: English, French and Azerbaijani.
- OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 3rd WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE WILL BE HELD AT HEYDAR ALIYEV CENTER
- Sessions, meetings and workshops will be organized in JW Marriott Absheron Hotel Baku.
- Heads of delegations of the Ministry responsible for Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Arts may deliver a speech in the Ministerial Conference to be held on May 19, 2015 at 09.00-13.00. Each speech should not exceed 5 (five) minutes.
- For the period of the Forum every hotel, which accommodates guests, will be equipped with a special information desk.

ACCOMMODATION

HOTELS

“JW Marriott Hotel Absheron Baku”

Azadlig Square. 674, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1010

Tel: (+994) 12 499 8888; Fax: (+994) 12 499 8889

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/gydjw-jw-marriott-hotel-absheron-baku/>

“Hilton Baku”

Azadlig Ave. 1, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1000

Tel: (+994) 12 464 5000 Fax: (+994) 12 464 5001

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/promotions/hi_baku/index.jhtml

“Fairmont Hotel Baku”

Heydar Aliyev Ave. 2, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1154

Tel: (+994) 12 496 8000 Fax: (+994) 12 496 8008

<http://www.fairmont.com/baku/>

“Holiday Inn”

Keykab Khanim Safaraliyeva Street 5, Baku

Tel: (012) 599 11 00 Fax: (+994) 12 599 11 00

<http://www.holidayinn.com/baku>

“Four Seasons Hotel Baku”

Neftchilar Ave. 77/79, Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1095

Tel: (+994) 12 404 2424 Fax: (+994) 12 404 2425

<http://www.fourseasons.com/baku/>

Throughout the Forum each hotel, which accommodates guests, will be equipped with a special **Information Desk**.

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICES will be provided (airport – hotel, hotel - Forum venue, hotel - airport). Accurate flight details sent in advance will guarantee the participants to be provided with airport pickup services on time.

TOURS

Baku City Tour will be arranged by the organizers (free of charge)

Those who would like to join the tour please contact the Organizing Committee members

Tours to the Regions of Azerbaijan

Tours to the regions can be booked through the travel agency (on self-paid basis)

For more information:

www.azerbaijan.travel

CONTACTS

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In case of urgent matters please contact with:

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For additional information:

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.mct.gov.az/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.mfa.gov.az/>

State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.migration.gov.az/>

**The Organizing Committee wishes all participants of the Forum a productive work
and pleasant stay in Azerbaijan!**

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Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

World Forum Organizing Committee House of Government, AZ-1000

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