



The Second Global Summit on Religion Peace and Security

Building bridges, fostering inclusivity and countering hate speech to enhance the protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants

Concept Note

Background

At a time of increasing divisions between nations and peoples as well as growing economic and social inequality, specific groups, including religious minorities, migrants and refugees, are being increasingly targeted with stereotyping, hate speech and hate crimes. This is particularly apparent in contexts where ultra-nationalist parties are ruling or emerging.

In these contexts, the use of hate speech, scapegoating or “othering” is widespread along with calls for the implementation of laws and policies that discriminate against specific identity groups. Also, common fears are manipulated while prejudice, bigotry and intolerance grow.

In many parts of the world, ultra-nationalist parties are emerging as a challenge to multilateralism and liberal democracies by questioning and undermining the very principles and values that these institutions are built on.

Focus of the Second Global Summit

The Second Global Summit on Religion Peace and Security will focus on building bridges, fostering inclusivity and countering hate speech to enhance the protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants.

It is organized as a follow-up to the first Global Summit on Religion, Peace, Security that took place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in November 2016. The first Global Summit focused on fostering religious freedom and preventing violent extremism and atrocity crimes and highlighted the importance of enhancing the synergy between the “Dialogue Five” stakeholders, thus diplomats, politicians, religious leaders, academics and civil society representatives (media and NGOs).

In this context, the main objective of the Second Global Summit is to establish an International Platform on Religion, Peace and Security aimed at connecting various relevant stakeholders, as well as enhancing their cooperation on matters related to peace, security, human rights and the role of religious leaders and actors. Details on the platform, including membership and how they are selected will be shared during the second Global Summit.

Of note, the platform also aims at supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular Goals 16 and 17, which call respectively to uphold “peace, justice and strong institutions” and revitalize “the global partnership for sustainable development”. There is no doubt that the achievement of these goals requires a better cooperation among different

stakeholders and a partnership which needs to be built on a shared vision and places the respect of fundamental principles and values at its core.

Objectives

The second Global Summit will:

1. Discuss ways to enhance the protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants by building bridges, fostering inclusivity and countering hate speech;
2. Identify challenges and opportunities in this regard;
3. Highlight knowledge, lessons learned and good practices in the field of building bridges, fostering inclusivity and countering hate speech;
4. Discuss practical ways the “Dialogue Five” stakeholders can contribute to this endeavour.

Expected Outcome of the 2nd Global Summit

The Second Global Summit aims at developing a “Plan of Action to enhance the protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants by building bridges, fostering inclusivity and countering hate speech.

Other

During the Second Global Summit, the second edition of the “Jean Nussbaum and Eleanor Roosevelt International Awards on Liberty and Peace” will be awarded¹.

In addition, the most recent publications of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty- “Religious Freedom’s Influence on Peace and Security” and “Diplomacy and Education for Religious Freedom A Priority for Public Policy”- will be launched.

Important questions the II Global Summit will aim to answer

1. How can cooperation and coordination of the Dialogue Five actors be improved to enhance the protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants?
2. What good practices and lessons learned can participants share on ways to build bridges, foster inclusivity and counter hate speech?
3. What can the “Dialogue Five” stakeholders do to build bridges, foster inclusivity and counter hate speech in order to enhance the protection of religious minorities, refugees and migrants?

Co-organizers: United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG) and International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (AIDLR)

Date: 29 April – 1 May 2019

Venue: Geneva, Palais de Nations, Conference Room XVII

¹ The award recognizes efforts made by individuals or organizations that have played or are playing a particular role in promoting dignity and respect, peaceful coexistence, human rights and religious freedom for all people, preventing violence and atrocity crimes and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies