



General Assembly

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Second Session

Ad Hoc Committee on the Alliance of Civilizations

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Alliance of Civilizations,

recalling the Report of the High-Level Group and its conclusions,

reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

reconfirming the right to freedom of conscience, expression, media and information as a longtime gained value,

recognizing that different cultures have a different perception of these freedoms and concepts,

taking into account the important role of media and civil society in spreading values and a message of tolerance and brotherhood,

deeply concerned about the continued prejudiced information spread by certain media agencies against certain ethnic and religious groups,

fully believing that as a result of regulation of information, citizens are not provided with sufficient information to be well educated and open-minded, which is the core aim of the Alliance of Civilizations,

noting with deep concern that it is extremely important to maintain respect and tolerance for all identities in view of the fact that in today's interconnected society there is a grave threat that the dominant cultures could harm minority cultures,

declaring that the major aim of the AoC is to reduce the current risk of misunderstanding which may arise between the West and the Arab Islamic world,

acknowledging that Migration is a reality we have to face urgently,

bearing in mind that migration enhances cultural diversity as well as cultural richness of living in a multicultural world,

deeply concerned about the current situation of discrimination in the receiving countries of immigrants,

acknowledging that education and media are core focuses of the Alliance of Civilizations and need urgent attention,

affirming that all these aspects are connected, as education and media affect the immigration process,

alarmed by the fact that cultural and the religious tolerance is one of the most challenging and controversial issues, for cultural identities are an integral part of the richness of human experience and such must be respected and promoted,

aware of the fact that as the High Level Group recommended, education has a critical role in order to develop a sense of respect to other religions and understanding different cultures,

observing the important impact of exchange programs on students who have an opportunity to interlink with different cultures and therefore have a better understanding of other societies other perceptions,

further emphasizing the need to create a generation of well-qualified individuals who carry out the aforementioned tasks,

- 1) **Encourages** that all states will improve their legal environment in order not to have boundaries for NGOs to be created and to be operative and thereby ensuring that NGOs who are contributing to the establishment of the goals of the High Level Group, work in accordance with the guidelines stated in the High Level Group Report;

Education

- 2) **Calls upon** all governments and civil societies to ensure that their primary and secondary educational systems provide for a balance and integration of national history and identity formation with knowledge of other cultures and religions with respect of religious freedom and human rights;
- 3) **Urges** all nations to recognize the universal right to education and to take measures to implement this right without the slightest form of discrimination
- 4) **Encourages** the foundation of cross cultural centres in accordance with the UN to improve international tolerance by:
 - a. integrating people with different cultural backgrounds to the society
 - b. organizing teacher training programs
 - c. organizing festivals, conferences, seminars, workshops allowing the access to free cultural information

- 5) **Requests** the creation of self-organized Alliance Committees at national, regional and/or local levels to promote the widespread participation, involvement and integration of civil society;
- 6) **Suggests** the promotion and development of exchange student programs in order to create a more tolerant and integrated future;
- 7) **Further suggests** the creation of associations, workshops, within the network of churches, mosques and other religious communities, since not everyone has the same chances to access appropriate education,
- 8) **Underlines** that this need is to be fulfilled by knowledgeable people;
- 9) **Urges** further development of a joint public-private sector fund to support cross-cultural projects, as established in the Report of the High Level Group.;
- 10) **Emphasizes** the importance of education in and awareness of a country's ethnic, cultural and religious roots.

Migration

- 11) **Encourages** governments, specially those with significant immigrant populations, to expand incentives and mechanisms to support the integration of the migrant community;
- 12) **Calls for** a greater cooperation between the national governments and the civil society in charge of migration processes;
- 13) **Strongly suggests** that the countries of high emigration flows should also have the responsibility to inform the potential emigrants;
- 14) **Strongly urges** UN member states to combat illegal groups trafficking persons by enforcing border controls;
- 15) **Requests** public and private donors to promote support in the process of integration of migrants.
- 16) **Encourages** the implementation of an Action Plan concerning specifically migration issues by:
 - a. creating a special fund for these issues,
 - b. promoting initiatives through arts and culture with the aim of mutual understanding (cinema, theater, expositions, literature, music, food).
 - c. Simplifying the immigration process system by stimulating national immigration organizations so that they provide more fair opportunities to promote incorporation of immigrants.

17) **Urges** governments to integrate people by not suppressing the original cultural and religious backgrounds of the immigrants.

18) **Encourages** all the UN Member States to protect above all human, civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights of any kind of migrant population;

Media and freedom of information and expression

19) **Calls upon** the High-Level Group to develop the White Book on the role, rights and responsibilities of the media, the framework of which we hereby introduce; the White Book will assess the role of media in the international sphere, education, arts and culture and religions;

20) **Requests** that in the international sphere the following is promoted

- a. full access to all national and international press and media, including internet,
- b. the growing independence of media agencies, free from coercion of states and lobbies
- c. the recognition of the freedom of speech

21) **Agrees** in the matter of education to

- a. create programs such as documentaries, prepared by professionals of the UN to reach out to the public;
- b. promote the consciousness among their citizens on the impact and subjectivity of media and other information transmitters;
- c. introduce a course which teaches the journalists the foundations of and differences between cultures and religions;

22) **Further recommends** in the matter of arts and culture,

- a. transnational media creations promoting mutual understanding and which counter prejudice among cultures and religions and avoid productions that promote negative stereotypes,
- b. the promotion of policies that stimulate the very values of multiculturalism, religious tolerance and human dignity that the AoC seeks to pursue, and this through cross-cultural exhibitions and art manifestations;

23) **Finally asks** that all the states will submit an annual media evaluation report on the current situation of, a committee of experts will also issue a report concerning these subjects;

24) **Encourages** all member states to spread the spirit of Alliance of Civilizations among public and private media, publishing firms and all other kinds of arts involved in communication, as they should both be aware and also provide awareness of it;

- 25) **Recommends** the creation of a new instrument, within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations, that will offer an institutional environment where these conflicts can be resolved peacefully and where objective criteria can advise and try to repair the damages caused by un-respectful use of freedom of expression. The body will:
- a. Consist of members of different nations selected by the High Level Group, representing a broad range of religions and cultural identities,
 - b. Evaluate the educational value of the document in question,
 - c. Attend the complaints of the citizens based on infringement freedom of expression and religion and potential harm to cultural identity,
 - d. Elaborate an annual report about the value of information in each case.