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Ad Hoc Committee Alliance of Civilization

Submitters: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Egypt, the Holy See, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland and the United Kingdom.

Co-Sponsors: Burkina Faso, Bosnia Herzegovina, China, Croatia, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Spain and the Netherlands.

Deeply convinced of the importance of cultural liberty and religious freedom in achieving the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC);

Acknowledging fundamental human rights and freedoms of all;

In understanding that freedom of expression is upheld and not restricted to individual rights, religious expression and freedom of speech;

Requesting the member states involved to commit themselves to respect each culture and religion in order to promote a more unified world;

Underlining the fact that at this moment in time the international community is facing numerous conflicts of a cultural and religious nature, the AoC urges member states to take the steps necessary in finding a global solution;

Stressing the importance of the youth and its potential in creating a peaceful and harmonious international community;

Recognizing that education, youth, migration and media are the main areas of action for the AoC;

Deeply convinced that the United Nations has to stress the humanist scope in the process of bridging the divides between peoples;

Highlighting the role of local governments and non governmental organizations in fostering intercultural dialogue;

Calls for the implementation of the subsequent clauses:

1. Education

Proposing education as the key solution for challenges the world is facing with cross-cultural tensions;

Calling for two main paths to be followed:

- Exchange programs between high-schools, universities and professions;
- Promote intercultural and multi-religious education at a primary school level;

Decides, concerning the exchange programs that:

- Exchange programs should be supported by member states through broadening the scope of these initiatives, not only at the geographical level but also on the thematic level. The representatives of concerned parties have to be brought together to exchange ideas and common goals, not only culturally, but also professionally, which could help in increasing the knowledge of each profession;
- Special efforts have to be made to enhance the popularity and recognition of existing programs which are less known within the international community;
- Initiate a joint effort by leaders of existing, smaller programs to bring these programs to a global scale;
- Funds have to be made available by the AoC Youth Solidarity Fund. A petition to increase funding by member states in cooperation with the Group of Friends (GoF) has to be made;
- Member states, civil society and other stakeholders shall be called upon to increase their active support of these schemes;

Decides, concerning cultural and religious education that:

- Member states have to be encouraged to introduce education programs on the major cultures and religions focusing on both their respective and other religions;
- The member states focus at a primary school level on fostering cultural and religious tolerance and understanding starting at the initial stage of the educational path;

Proposes the creation of a Documentation Centre of the AoC inside the Bibliotheca Alexandrina co-funded by the Alliance's Solidarity Fund and the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Furthermore *encourages* all universities and libraries to cooperate with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina to create an internet-based network to promote knowledge of cultural and religious subjects;

Encourages the realization of field trips at all levels of education with an emphasis on visiting sites of different cultures and religions in all member states;

2. Youth

Emphasizing the significance of establishing an intercultural youth project to enhance understanding between cultures and religions, the AoC *encourages* different nations and communities to take active part on the following proposals:

- The creation of an intercultural sports event with an appropriate fund-raising action for endorsing sport facilities and the travelling of the youth, emphasising the use of the already existing knowledge of organisations;

- To find global ambassadors to make the program familiar to the greater public;
- The creation of an interregional youth convention of different youth associations;
- The creation of local community projects to emphasize the aspect of cultural respect for others;

Deciding to promote a treaty to fight against youth unemployment as a global problem;

Proposing a financial global project and all member states agreeing upon a compromise to make social policies in order to finish with youth unemployment;

3. Migration

3.1. Immigration and emigration

Acknowledging the unsolved problems relating to the increasing streams of immigrants around the world;

Strongly emphasizing the crucial role of the country of origin as the source of the stream of disillusioned and desperate migrants; therefore *recommending* to strengthen the development aid in these countries;

Realizing globalization as a catalyst for the increasing amount of migration;

Facing increasing challenges posed by worldwide immigration, the international community proposes to establish the following measures:

- A special status for economical immigrants.
- A national-controlled integration programs.
- Fostering the international collaboration to control illegal migration and to check the appliance with Human Rights (Interpol, ICC)

Having the economical impact of the migration streams in mind, the international community stresses the need for a consistent strategy in handling and integrating successfully incoming labor forces;

Bearing in mind every individual has the right to choose their country of residence;

Emphasizing the necessity of ensuring social and cultural integration of migrants by the destination countries, in order to relax cross cultural tensions, exclusion and discrimination while promoting multiculturalism;

Recommends to the Regional International Organizations to make an effort in creating a unified space for migration and labour rights;

To improve relations between governments involved on migration processes;

To develop a migration policy that would encourage legal migration and will combat illegal migration and other problems that derive from illegal migration;

To include every bilateral, multilateral or regional accord on migration or mass media cooperation within the seal of the AoC initiative in order to popularize it around the world;

To promote approaches of understanding between local city councils, Non-Governmental Organizations and other local organizations;

To provide further protection to political immigrants;

To foster the proper integration of the social immigrants;

3.2. Refugees

Recalling the Hague Convention on Refugees of 429 (v) 14 December 1950

Also recalling Art. 14, Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- *Recognizing* the pressing need to address the influx of refugees on burden states;
- *Defining* the difference between refugees and immigrants, responding to their needs;
- *Realizing* the need of educational programs for cultural awareness to promote understanding and the elimination violence;
- *Facilitating* procedures and reuniting refugee families;
- *Proposing* that as an international obligation for member states to divide the responsibility of accepting refugees from conflict countries;
- *Strongly invites* Member States within the AoC to further inspect the implementation of the Hague Convention on Refugees of 14 December 1950

3.3. Immigrant Workers

Taking into consideration the specific needs and types of migration that each country demands and offers, the AoC proposes the observing of these issues and thus operating according to those circumstances;

Acknowledging fundamental human rights and freedoms of each human being;

Emphasizing that immigrant workers contribute to the economy of the recipient country as well as their home countries;

Recognizing that each country has its own national background and policies;

Calling upon each member state to establish an integration program for immigrant workers in order to:

1. Protect the rights of immigrant workers
2. Obtain and improve the working conditions of these individuals including equal and minimum salary, pensions and social security in general;

Decides that this program should include for example the following measure:

- To draft temporary contracts with immigrants for specific work and time;
- To launch training programs for immigrant workers to improve their professional and social skills;

4. Media

Cognizant of the social impact media presents in society and bearing in mind the globalization of mass media corporations;

To respect the freedom of expression as a basic social right;

To promote multicultural initiatives on mass media in order to combat stereotypes and cross cultural tensions;

To encourage the work of the *UN Media Monitor*, conceived on the 2007-2009 Implementation Plan by creating a prize for publications, TV programs, series or channels, radio stations or web sites which promote social understanding;

To popularize the *Clearinghouse* web site of the UN;

5. Women's Issues and Rights

Decides that

- Women ambassadors have to be appointed;
- Each woman has the right to receive an equal education as men;
- Maternity deaths in the Third World countries needs to be reduced;
- A national fund should be established (microcredits, cooperatives);
- Women have the right to receive loans in member states;
- An "AoC women's forum" as an annual women's forum needs to be created;

Emphasizing the crucial importance of the family for social and cultural harmony;

Convinced that this can only be realized if all member states of the AoC endorse the following project;

Urging communities to "think global and act local";

Emphasizing the crucial role of money for the ideas and goals proposed in this Resolution and *stressing* the need to control money flows to the intended goals, the international community represented by the Alliance of Civilizations *proposes* the following measures:

- Cooperate with the existing development funds in the UN and align their initiatives with our proposed actions. Especially promoting the Voluntary Trust Fund.
- Imposing a review board to oversee the spending on behalf of the proposed measures.
- The only financial institution proposed to be created by this resolution is a Microcredit Fund in purpose of establishing cooperatives and small businesses.

Stressing the international aspect of this resolution and taking into consideration the implementation of an active participation at a local level.