



General Assembly

First Session

Ad Hoc Committee on the Alliance of Civilizations

Alliance of civilizations regarding education, integration of cultures, freedom of speech, and reform of the high-level group

The Committee on the Alliance of Civilizations,

Recalling the proposal by the governments of Spain and Turkey regarding the creation of an Alliance of Civilizations,

Recognizing its resolutions 52/15 of 20 November 1997, by which it proclaimed the year 2000 as the “International Year for the Culture of Peace”, 53/22 of 4 November 1998, 54/113 of 10 December 1999 and 55/23 of 13 November 2000 entitled “United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations” and its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001 entitled “Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations” as well as all other resolutions concerning culture of peace,

Commending the efforts of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on promoting education including respect for cultural and linguistic diversity,

Emphasizing that the basis of this Ad Hoc Group was to promote an open and culturally diverse dialogue between different peoples,

Underlining that this proposal has been put forward with the aim of eradicating hatred and international terrorism,

Replacing ignorance, intolerance, and misunderstanding of the other which causes fear of the unknown with knowledge, acceptance, and tolerance of the other,

Promoting constructive and positive dialogue within the different sectors of the civil society, specifically aimed at fighting social exclusion against women, immigrants and the young populations,

Provoking a culture of dialogue between media groups from all around the world with a view of maintaining the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations,

Expressing its appreciation of the Spanish initiative “Forum de las Culturas” which spreads the ideas of universality and tolerance,

Taking into consideration the initial ideas presented by the High-Level Group,

Believing that the reform of the High-Level Group would substantially improve its possibilities to encourage worldwide understanding and peace,

Concerning the possibility for a country to have several representatives,

Noting with deep concern the lack of specific criteria concerning the current election procedures,

Desiring a correct and well-functioning High-Level Group,

Realizing the proposal through which educational systems can foster knowledge and understanding of other cultures,

1. Develops an independent working group to aid Member-States to implement this resolution;
2. Ensures access to education by increasing current efforts to fight poverty,
3. Establishes exchange programs and links in order to foster diversity and understanding of the world’s people, involving
 - a. Students of all ages,
 - b. Teachers/Professors;
4. Strongly suggests the creation of a fund in which voluntary donors will contribute by providing financial, logistical and legal support to the above mentioned initiative;
5. Constructs a House of Cultures in different countries which is an institution formed by different groups from various countries and regions of the world to inform the immigrants and the natives for developing mutual understanding within the countries;
6. Introduces Cultural Fairs in which various minorities of a country will be encouraged to display their culture to the public;
7. Puts forward the creation of an annual conference of international media organizations:
 - a. To facilitate the exchange of ideas;
 - b. To explain the purpose and aims of the Alliance of Civilizations;

8. Expresses the firm determination to make the High-Level Group permanent;
9. Invites the General Assembly to evaluate the High-Level Group after 6 years of functioning regarding necessary changes;
10. Requests the extension of the High-Level Group to thirty members voted into power for three years;
11. Suggests a geographically based annual rotation system for one third of the members of the High-level Group with the exclusion of permanent members;
12. Recommends a rotation system for the chairs as well as the co-chairs and a limit of one delegate per country;
13. Calls for the creation of specific criteria for the election of the delegates;
14. Proposes to give the High-Level Group the following powers;
 - a. The right to submit reports or opinions directly to the General Assembly;
 - b. The right to invite other countries to be heard in front of the High-Level Group;
 - c. The right to freely allocate the funds;
 - d. Set up conferences and programs encouraging the dialog between civilizations;
15. Implements a conference to address the aforementioned proposals regarding the reform of the High-level group;
16. Strongly supports biannual conferences and seminars in all Member-States aiming at the active participation of the civil society for the promotion of the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations,
17. Invites States, international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to develop appropriate ways and means at the local, national, regional and international levels to further promote dialogue and mutual understanding among civilizations and to report on their activities to the Secretary-General,
18. Welcomes the United Nations system to continue to encourage and facilitate dialogue among civilizations and formulate ways and means to promote dialogue among civilizations in at the activities of the United Nations in various fields,
19. Requests the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms for the Global Agenda and fort he present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its next session;
20. Strongly suggests the creation and adoption of a further resolution to define freedom of speech and to work out a larger structure under which the above mentioned “culture houses” can function.