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DIALOGUE AMONG PEOPLES

TIRANA AND HANOI DECLARATIONS

SUMMARY

This document contains the two recent declarations adopted at conferences on dialogue among civilizations held under UNESCO auspices. The Tirana Summit Declaration on Inter-religious and Inter-ethnic Dialogue in South-East Europe resulting from the Regional Summit on “The Development of Inter-religious and Inter-ethnic Dialogue – a Significant Factor for the Stability and Progress in South-East Europe”, held in Tirana (Albania), on 9 and 10 December 2004. The Hanoi Declaration elaborated during the “Asia-Pacific Conference on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development”, held in Hanoi (Viet Nam), a recipient of UNESCO’s City for Peace Prize, on 20 and 21 December 2004. This document is provided as supplemental information to document 171 EX/40, “Report of the Director-General on the promotion of Dialogue among Peoples”.



SAMITI I EUROPE'S JUG-LINDORE
SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN SUMMIT



**THE TIRANA SUMMIT DECLARATION
ON INTER-RELIGIOUS AND INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE
IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE**

Tirana, Albania – 10 December 2004

We, Heads of State and Government and other distinguished participants, hailing from all countries of South-East Europe, in the Regional Summit on “The Development of Inter-religious and Inter-ethnic Dialogue – a Significant Factor for the Stability and Progress in South-East Europe”, held in Tirana, Albania, on 9 and 10 December 2004, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Albania, H.E. Mr Alfred Moisiu, and the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, hereby adopt the following “Tirana Summit Declaration”:

1. We are united by the desire for a peaceful future based on shared values. To this end, we are committed to releasing ourselves from the disputes of the past and to overcoming them by practicing a culture of dialogue within and among our countries. Peace is indivisible from dialogue. The challenge we face every single day is to replace fear with acceptance, harassment with tolerance, and hatred with respect.
2. We are committed to building and sustaining good mutual relations. We hold that dialogue must be conducted on a platform of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and dignity of the individual. Any form of totalitarianism is incompatible with dialogue.
3. Following the High-level Conference on Strengthening Cooperation in South-East Europe, convened by UNESCO in Paris in April 2002, the Regional Forum on Dialogue among Civilizations, held at Presidential level in Ohrid on 29 and 30 August 2003, was a significant event. It set the stage for concrete dialogue actions in education, science and culture, designed to deepen mutual understanding and trust in the region.
4. The Tirana Summit is a further step in that process highlighting the intrinsic value of the religious and ethnic dimensions of the dialogue in South-East Europe. Both dimensions are interlinked and help create a spirit favoring social cohesion beyond the sphere of verbal declarations into everyday living. Without an open dialogue there can be no true reconciliation. Celebrating, protecting and safeguarding the cultural heritage and exercising the freedom of religion, of speaking one’s own language and of respecting traditions are among the basic rights of every human being.
5. South-East Europe has suffered from the ravages of the last wars of the 20th century in Europe, also as a consequence of inter-ethnic and inter-religious tension, hatred and violence. Today, the region is rebounding, leaving the wounds of the past behind and responding to the desire of its peoples for reconciliation, exchange and cooperation, especially among the youth. Ensuring freedom of movement in the region will be an important practical step. In the present post-conflict period, there is an undeniable need to face up to the truth of the past as

the region is not yet free from the seeds of divisions and confrontations of a religious or ethnic nature.

6. The experience of the region has demonstrated that the matrix of values and the underlying ethical, cultural and spiritual foundations are a major determining factor for the resilience of the social fabric and the vibrancy of each society.
7. We salute the accomplishments of our host country, Albania, which has succeeded in establishing a multiparty democracy. The country also offers a valuable experience in terms of successful inter-religious co-existence, which manifests itself in harmony among people adhering to different religious groups under one societal roof.
8. Our commitment to dialogue among cultures and civilizations is also a commitment against terrorism, reinforcing our determination to cope with new vulnerabilities in an era of globalization. We realize that no religion preaches terror, nor are there national interests or reasons that would justify terror. Terror rests always and everywhere upon prejudices, intolerance, exclusion and, above all, on the rejection of any dialogue.
9. We reaffirm that mutual respect, rooted in open dialogue and nourished by multi-ethnicity, multi-culturality and multi-religiosity is indispensable for the preservation of peace, stability and the resolution of conflicts.
10. In a world, where no country is entirely homogenous, demands for recognition and accommodation of different ethnicities, religions, languages and values are increasingly arising. There is an urgency of developing a sense of respect for the Other that will provide a basis for mutual reference, friendship and learning. Minorities can constitute bridges of connection and understanding between peoples and countries. If left unattended, struggles over cultural identity may quickly deteriorate into a source of instability both within states and between them.
11. Cultural diversity and heritage are vectors of identity and tools for reconciliation. Cultural heritage – in both its tangible and intangible forms – is indivisible and embodies the symbolic values of cultural identities. The protection of heritage, and its preservation, presentation and transmission to future generations, are not only ethical, but equally legal imperatives. States need to find ways of forging national unity amid ethnic and religious diversity, while individuals must be prepared to shed rigid identities if they are to become part of diverse societies. We therefore welcome the Regional Forum on Cultural Corridors which President Georgi Parvanov will convene together with the Director-General of UNESCO at summit level in Varna in May 2005.
12. Relations among religious communities in the region have often been strained causing grievances and tensions. Religion must not be part of the problem, but part of the solution. Preserving space for diverse religious faiths is one of the preconditions for enjoying cultural diversity.
13. We recognize the need to protect the right to freedom of religion for all citizens. Religion is of profound importance to people's identities, but religious differences should never be seen as insurmountable. There exists an underlying thread of unity connecting the great religious traditions. They each propound basic spiritual truths and standards of behaviour that constitute the very basis of social cohesion and collective purpose. The religions should, therefore, be able to dialogue and contribute to societal dialogue in an effort that honours their

deepest truths and holds promise for humanity. Indeed, dialogue must be at the core of continued inter-religious cooperation and collaboration in the region.

14. All faiths convey a message of peace, justice and human solidarity. All religious leaders, like other civil society and community leaders, have the potential to exercise a moral and positive influence on how people in society understand each other and interact. Reconciliation of religious views is an increasingly significant challenge of our age. This also entails the need to create more awareness among peoples and government authorities about the need to respect the traditions of the use of religious symbols, images and expressions.
15. We recognize that religious beliefs and practices as well as ethnic values and traditions have a fundamental influence and impact on education systems and their quality. Thus, we commit ourselves to the education of a new European generation in the spirit of inclusiveness, instilling a feeling of forgiveness instead of hatred, promoting tolerance, understanding and coexistence rather than conflict and violence, reinforcing civic education and observing human rights. We are committed that our schools foster respect, understanding and consideration for Others. We are committed to ensuring that our schools foster a sense of community and solidarity. We are committed to teaching our children to cross ethnic and religious barriers.
16. Learning to live together again requires that we undertake a renewal of curricula, improve and revise educational materials, organize youth fora as well as re-orient the training of our teachers – in short, we are committed to promoting quality education.
17. Advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) have an unprecedented ability to bring together diverse communities, cultures, civilizations and different faiths. We must capitalize on ICTs and their innate potential to advance freedom of expression, which is the cornerstone of any democratic society and has its corollary in the freedom of the press.
18. The overarching goal of all countries in the region is to secure integration into Euro-Atlantic structures in a unified Europe, which for 60 million people holds the promise of stability and prosperity free of inter-religious and inter-ethnic conflicts.
19. Regional cooperation is becoming the natural way to tackle shared problems and to move towards progress. International and regional organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, the European Union and the Stability Pact, should consider it their responsibility to continue assisting the countries in the region.
20. We express our sincere appreciation to President Alfred Moisiu and to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, for having convened this important Summit. We thank the Government and the people of Albania for their generous hospitality and contribution. We also are grateful for the valuable support extended by the Governments of Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

21. We all are committed to making use of dialogue as the only way to achieve full stability and overall progress in South-East Europe, leading to a successful completion of the European integration process in the entire region.



THE HANOI DECLARATION

adopted at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development

Hanoi, Viet Nam – 20 and 21 December 2004

We, Ministers, representatives of governments, scholars, experts and cultural practitioners from more than 30 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, participating in the Asia-Pacific Conference on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development, held in Hanoi, a recipient of UNESCO's City for Peace Prize, on 20 and 21 December 2004, hereby adopt the following **Hanoi Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations for Peace and Sustainable Development**:

1. *Convinced* that peace in the twenty-first century is inextricably linked with sustainable and inclusive development, human security and a dialogue based on shared human values,
2. *Celebrating* the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region in terms of cultures, tangible and intangible cultural heritage, artistic expression and creativity, religions and languages which makes it one of the most dynamic and diverse areas of the world,
3. *Highlighting* that diverse and abundant natural resources, eco-systems and biodiversity complement the rich cultural diversity of the region,
4. *Aware* that throughout history a dialogue among cultures and civilizations in various forms has enriched the diversity of each culture, and strengthened cultural diversity overall;
5. *Stressing* that all cultures and civilizations are equal and that dialogue should be based on commonly shared values and ethical principles, such as tolerance, respect for Others, mutual understanding, respect for cultural diversity, and adherence to non-violence and the principles of peaceful co-existence,
6. *Conscious* that dialogue needs to be rooted in democratic practices, the rule of law, respect for human rights and the dignity of the individual as well as in justice and equity,
7. *Emphasizing* that a commitment to dialogue among cultures and civilizations is also a commitment to fight terrorism, as terror rests always and everywhere upon prejudices, intolerance, exclusion and, above all, on the rejection of any dialogue,
8. *Recognizing* that, especially in the context of globalization, dialogue has the potential to become an engine for bolstering peace and security, reconciling conflicts, reinforcing cultural diversity and advancing sustainable development;
9. *Inspired by* the Global Agenda on the Dialogue among Civilizations – adopted by United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/6 of 21 November 2001 – which states, *inter alia*,

that dialogue among cultures and civilizations is a process aimed at attaining justice, equality and tolerance in people-to-people relationships,

10. *Guided by* resolution of the UNESCO General Conference on “New perspectives in UNESCO’s activities pertaining to the dialogue among civilizations and cultures, including in particular follow-up to the New Delhi Ministerial Conference”, adopted at the 32nd session in October 2003 (32 C/Resolution 47), which calls for a translation of global approaches into regionally relevant recommendations and concrete initiatives,
11. *Commending* UNESCO for its pioneering role in promoting a broad range of discussions on the subject of dialogue at global, regional and subregional levels,
12. *Welcoming* the Declaration on Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations, adopted by the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in October 2004 in Hanoi,
13. *Stressing* the need for people everywhere to acquire a basic level of knowledge and understanding of other civilizations, cultures and religions as the best way to overcome lingering ignorances,
14. *Underlining* the important role policy-makers, governments, parliamentarians, actors of civil society, the academic and scientific communities, the private sector and professional associations, the media, religious and faith-based communities can play in initiating and conducting effective dialogue both within each country and within the region,
15. *Determined* to make dialogue a central feature of interaction in all walks of life, we resolve to adhere to the following set of specific commitments:
16. *To enhance* human security in the region by tackling with a sense of urgency – and in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the challenges of poverty, trade and economic development, hunger, education and gender equality, child health and diseases, agricultural development, water and sanitation, urban development and environmental degradation,
17. *To promote and to practice a culture of dialogue* among nations and peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, thus increasing knowledge, appreciation, respect and compassion for “Others” and different cultures,
18. *To accord* a pivotal role to education in general and to the six Education for All (EFA) objectives in particular, which in the pursuit of quality education will entail renewal of school curricula, improvement and revision of textbooks and educational materials as well as re-orientation of the training of teachers,
19. *To promote* inter-cultural understanding, through both formal and non-formal education and through other means, such as the media and faith-based organizations,
20. *To propose* the selection of “dialogue among cultures and civilizations” as one of the major themes of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and *inviting* UNESCO, as the lead agency for this Decade, to design and implement specific activities in that regard,
21. *To intensify our joint efforts* in support of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), for which UNESCO also serves as

lead agency, by undertaking more effective and visible dialogue-focused initiatives, especially at the community level, during the second half of the Decade,

22. *To highlight* the role of cultural diversity and heritage – in both tangible and intangible forms – as vectors of identities and as tools for reconciliation, and *to emphasize* the need for the protection of heritage and its preservation, presentation and transmission to future generations;
23. *To record* intangible heritage, whenever possible, in various forms to prevent its destruction or loss;
24. *To strengthen* the role of museums and other cultural institutions in fostering inter-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,
25. *To introduce* an explicit gender perspective into activities promoting the dialogue and a culture of peace as well as *empowering* women fully, beginning with an expansion of universal basic education for girls and working for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) calling for gender equality at all levels of education by 2015,
26. *To promote* broad-based networking in support of dialogue for peace and poverty alleviation, involving the sharing of knowledge and best practices and providing a source for learning and teaching at all levels,
27. *To make full use* of the various global networks under UNESCO auspices, such as the National Commissions for UNESCO, the Associated Schools Network (ASPnet), and the University Twinning and Networking Scheme (UNITWIN)/UNESCO Chairs Programme, as well as the regional networks like the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID), the Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU) and the Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE) for the purpose of strengthening dialogue in the region,
28. *To utilize* information and communication technologies (ICTs) to bring together diverse communities, cultures, civilizations and different faiths, to advance freedom of expression and freedom of the press, and to broaden the outreach and quality of education,
29. *To strengthen* policies and mechanisms for regional cooperation as the natural way to tackle shared problems and to achieve sustainable development;
30. *We, therefore, call*, as part of the dialogue agenda, for concrete and tangible actions steeped in regional, national and local realities:
 - (a) to intensify people-to-people cultural and scientific exchanges and partnerships in the region, involving scholars, teachers, people in religious authority, students and media practitioners;
 - (b) as part of national education reforms to adapt educational programmes to the exigencies of quality education, in line with the precept of “learning to live together” and, to that end, to review and renew curricula, textbooks and educational materials;
 - (c) to develop a comprehensive statement on values education for the interrelated areas of peace, human rights and sustainable development which shall include provisions for integrating values in curricula, developing appropriate teaching resource materials and providing teacher support and training;

- (d) to integrate intercultural components and approaches into teacher training;
- (e) to strengthen the Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) with a view to developing more educational modules supporting dialogue, such as “Heritage in Young Hands”, and concrete intercultural exchanges on a sustained basis, such as the *Mondialogo* Partnership;
- (f) to develop jointly other teaching and learning modules, in particular for education for sustainable development (ESD), education for international and intercultural understanding (EID) and human rights education, which should also be made available online;
- (g) to promote interconnectedness through education for global citizenship and civic responsibility, particularly by imparting values and peace education;
- (h) to encourage regular exchanges on curriculum development among universities and institutions of higher education in the region;
- (i) to introduce ICTs at all educational levels and in all communities for information exchange, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building and dialogue on educational challenges in the region and to provide content in multilingual form;
- (j) to use ICTs for dialogue by students both within universities and across different cultural areas, especially with a view to enhancing appreciation of the contributions by indigenous and traditional cultures to scientific and technological progress;
- (k) to establish a variety of new *channels and modalities for intercultural dialogue and partnerships*, especially among youth, to enhance mutual understanding, to share ideas and knowledge, to support creativity and to exchange scientific and technological information;
- (l) to that end, to intensify all types of networking, especially among the National Commissions for UNESCO in the region;
- (m) to promote the designation of new cultural routes and other mechanisms – such as an “*earthenware and ceramics route*” in the region – so as to highlight the value of cultural diversity, interaction and exchange;
- (n) to foster dialogue along recognized cultural routes, such as the Silk Road or the Slave Route, thereby universalizing the inherent unity in human diversity;
- (o) to develop responsible cultural and eco-tourism, which may contribute to the sustainable development of local areas and economies while fostering dialogue and respect for cultural diversity and heritage;
- (p) to set up regional and interregional networking mechanisms linking museums as repositories of cultural heritage and to organize traveling exhibitions, artistic performances and professional exchanges;
- (q) to explore the feasibility of and modalities for creating a “Regional Forum for Dialogue” bringing together all stakeholders, including representatives of women’s and youth organizations, and for organizing festivals of local and traditional performing arts throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

31. We call on all governments of the region, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and intergovernmental and international organizations to contribute to the implementation of the Hanoi Declaration;
32. We invite in particular UNESCO to assist – in its areas of competence – in the pursuit and realization of the various proposals made at the Hanoi conference, thereby creating the conditions for an effective dialogue among cultures and civilizations in the Asia-Pacific region and for interaction with other parts of the world;
33. We enjoin all countries of the region to ensure an early ratification of the Convention on the Protection of Intangible Heritage, which is an indivisible part of cultural heritage as a whole, and we support the early finalization of new standard-setting instruments, such as the Convention on Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions;
34. We are thankful to the Government of Japan, to UNESCO, the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO and to L'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie for having contributed to the arrangements for the Hanoi Conference;
35. We express our sincere gratitude to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and to the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, for having organized the important Hanoi conference and we thank profoundly the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Hanoi People's Committee for their gracious hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made.