

EXPO MILANO 2015

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS OF CULTURE

July 31- August 1, 2015

Culture as an Instrument of Dialogue among Peoples

DECLARATION

The Ministers of Culture, meeting in EXPO Milano on July 31 and August 1, 2015 at the Conference on *Culture as an Instrument of Dialogue among Peoples*, consider the following:

Cultural heritage is the mirror of history, civilization and of the society which is expected to protect it;

Cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, is also the essence of identity, the memory of peoples and their past and present civilizations. It expresses, at the same time, universally recognized values of tolerance, dialogue and mutual understanding;

Taken into consideration that the work of man and his extraordinary talent must be protected and preserved for the benefit of future generations:

The Ministers of Culture address an appeal to the United Nations and UNESCO to ensure that the principles of intercultural dialogue, the strengthening of tolerance and mutual respect among peoples and diverse cultures are kept in the focus of the international community.

The Ministers, indicating Culture as a tool for dialogue, solidarity, growth and sustainable development, express their strongest condemnation of the use of violence against the world's cultural heritage and they urge respect and mutual understanding as instruments of dialogue among peoples. They also express their solidarity with the countries affected by natural disasters. Therefore, they urge that the international community work towards the protection and recovery of Cultural heritage.

Milan, August 1, 2015