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King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz
International Programme for
a Culture of Peace and Dialogue



مركز الملك عبد العزيز
للحوار الوطني
King AbdulAziz Center for
National Dialogue

Youth Volunteering and Dialogue



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia • 3-5 December 2013

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This publication is produced under the direction of:

Hans d'Orville
Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning
UNESCO

Edited by:

Ann-Belinda Preis,
Senior Programme Specialist
Bureau of Strategic Planning

and

Cristina Stanca-Mustea
Consultant
Bureau of Strategic Planning

In collaboration with Dr. Fahad Al-Sultan, Deputy Secretary General of the KACND and his team.

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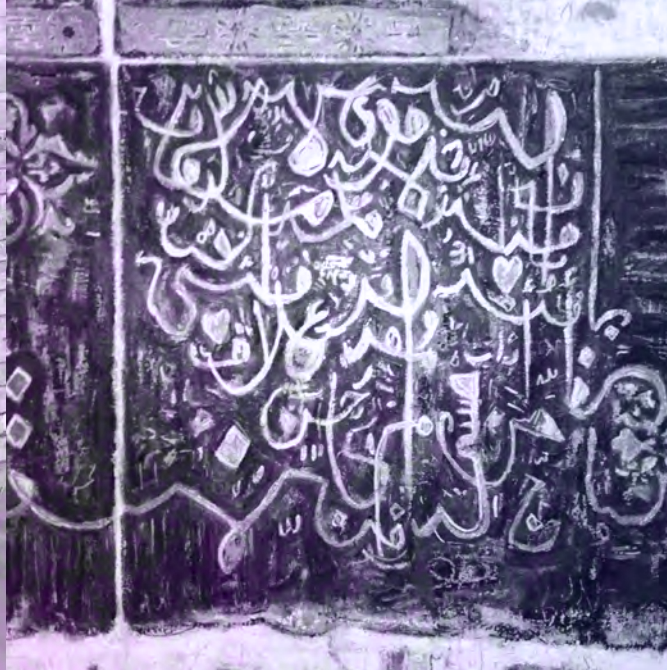
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Youth Volunteering and Dialogue

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia • 3-5 December 2013





In memory of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for his generous support and sponsorship

Foreword

The International Conference “Youth Volunteering and Dialogue,” held in Jeddah in December 2013, was a ground-breaking event, bringing together over 300 youth participants from Saudi Arabia and 39 other countries - representing volunteer groups, civil society, the private sector, governments and international Organizations from all regions of the world.

Organized by the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue and UNESCO, the three day Conference invited participants to identify and develop new and innovative approaches to youth-volunteering through dialogue.

Our broader aim was to chart new avenues to respond to the aspirations and developmental needs of young people, while, at the same time, enabling them to grow with opportunities that foster hope, success, civil engagement and ultimately peace.

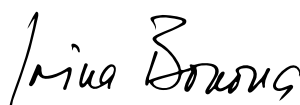
Through a variety of platforms, this unique gathering provided an opportunity for the young volunteers, practitioners and experts to share a rich array of experiences and display new ways of understanding the diversity of volunteer actions undertaken across the world, with a view to releasing its ‘transformative power’.

The Jeddah Youth Declaration on Volunteering and Dialogue was unanimously adopted by the young participants at the Conference - in fact, on International Volunteer Day (5 December) - and it pledged “to integrate dialogue at all levels of volunteering as fuel for creative change”. The Declaration expressed concern at “the current multiple crises which compromise our chances as future leaders to make the world better than we found it” and it called for dialogue as a “catalyst for enabling lasting cooperation, promoting the sharing of experiences and fostering solidarity within and among communities, cultures, faiths, generations and nations”.

This is all the more important as most countries today, especially in Arab world, are faced with an important challenge, which is also an immense opportunity - young people form a majority of their population. This is a dynamic starting point for building global citizenship through youth empowerment and fulfilment of their aspirations.

In celebrating youth, their energy and willingness to invest selflessly in the well-being of others, the Conference was a call for support for the wider goals of paving the way for a new youth civic engagement in the 21st century. More than ever, we believe we must place trust in the abilities of youth to lead and to act as full-fledged partners, who can make change happen.

We are deeply pleased to have been part of this outstanding event in Jeddah, and we stand ready to partner with young people in their many future initiatives to foster volunteering and dialogue for peace.



Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO



HRH Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud

Table of contents

FOREWORD	5
Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud, Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
JEDDAH YOUTH DECLARATION ON VOLUNTEERING AND DIALOGUE	8
WELCOME STATEMENTS	11
Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud, Minister of Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	12
Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO	14
Faisal bin Abdurrahman bin Muammar, Secretary General of the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)	16
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT	25
Ziad bin Abdullah Aldrees, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO	26
Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	27
Abdullah Hamad Mohareb, Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)	29
Hans d’Orville, Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning, UNESCO	31
Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth	33
Hamad Mohammed Al Sheikh, Deputy Minister of Education, Saudi Arabia	34
Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed, Chief of the Partnerships and Communications Division, United Nations Volunteers	36
John Geoghegan, Director, World Scout Foundation	38
WORKSHOP SESSIONS	43
Youth Volunteering and Promoting a Culture of Dialogue	44
Rapporteur: Amélie Mackré (France) May Almutairy (Saudi Arabia) Sarah Mohammad Al Ghazou (Jordan) Mohamed Mesic (Bosnia-Herzegovina) Tatjana Boicovia (Latvia)	
Youth Volunteering, Peace-Building and Humanitarian Assistance	46
Rapporteur: Gloria Esther Velázquez Rios (Mexico) Lujain Al Obaid (Saudi Arabia) Lucy Brewah (Sierra Leone) Takudzwa Machirori (Zimbabwe) Waleed Alkhamees (Kuwait) Munir Ahmed Bhuiyan (Bangladesh)	

Volunteerism, The Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development	48
Rapporteur: Roun Thangdy (Cambodia) Abdullah Aljumah (Saudi Arabia) Hasina Reine Rakotondraina (Madagascar) Marc Torbey El Helou (Lebanon) Mohamed Faizoul (Guyana) Lama Alshareef (Saudi Arabia) Cem Arslan (Turkey)	
How to Promote Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue	50
Rapporteur: Anne-Cécile Antalík (France) Batool Al Moteab (Saudi Arabia) Amélie Mackré (France) Ahmad al Allouch (Tunisia) Marie Louise Ycossié (Ivory Coast)	
The Role of Information Technology and Communications in Promoting Volunteering and Responsible Citizenship	52
Rapporteur: Birutė Taraskevičiūtė (Lithuania) Abdulaziz Allothman (Saudi Arabia) Máire Fitzgerald (Ireland) Pierre Arlaud (France) Eduardo José Barreto Barroeta (Venezuela)	
CONCLUSION – MESSAGES AND STATEMENTS	61
Message from Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day	62
Message from Richard Dictus, Executive Director of the United Nations Volunteers, on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day	63
Statement by Abdulaziz Al Sebail, Key adviser, Ministry of Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	64
Statement by Katerina Stenou, Coordinator of the Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO	65
Message from Scott Teare, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement	66
Statement by Amal Almoallimi, Head of the Women Section, King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue	67
Statement by Fahad bin Sultan Alsultan, Deputy Secretary-General of the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)	68
PHOTO GALLERY	71
ANNEX	85
List of Participants	86
Agenda of the Conference/Programme	89
Background Paper	94

Video

“The Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Program for a Culture
of Peace and Dialogue”

Youth declaration

The Jeddah Youth Declaration on Volunteering and Dialogue, adopted at the International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
30 Muharram – 2 Safar 1435 / 3-5 December 2013

WE, the youth gathered at the “International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue” in Jeddah, organized by the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the KACND (King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), within the framework of the “Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue”, adopt the following declaration on this International Volunteer Day (5th December):

WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE the efforts of the hosts and organizers of this Conference to make the voices of the world’s youth heard in global fora, to bring our messages across and to allow us to take part in platforms in which we can connect and exchange our views;

WE ARE CONCERNED, by the current multiple crises which compromise our chances as future leaders to make the world better than we found it;

WE RECOGNIZE that volunteering and dialogue, which are guided by our shared aspiration to unite people around common causes, generate


mutual benefits and transform the lives of all those involved in this process;

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE that dialogue is the catalyst for enabling lasting cooperation, promoting the sharing of experiences, and fostering solidarity within and among communities, cultures, faiths, generations and nations;

WE PLEDGE to integrate dialogue at all levels of volunteering, as fuel for creative change;

WE APPLAUD young volunteers for their on-going contributions to efforts benefiting communities worldwide, in areas such as humanitarian or peace-building initiatives, heritage conservation, post-conflict/disaster assistance, environmental protection, health-related programs, the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, entrepreneurship; and therefore call upon all relevant stakeholders to support and promote these efforts;

WE ENDEAVOUR to work with the world’s leading organizations for youth with the aim of establishing sustainable partnerships benefitting young volunteers, and promoting a culture of dialogue and mutual understanding;



WE AFFIRM the need to cultivate an ethos for volunteering and dialogue rooted in solidarity, empathy, self-confidence, critical thinking, respect and appreciation for diversity (especially to break prejudices and cultural stereotypes), the spirit of initiative and teamwork, disinterested action, patience, perseverance, the art of listening, and meaningful participation and recognition;

WE EXPRESS our concern about the gap between ideas and their implementation, and believe that this gap can be bridged by a joint, networked, upstream and community-based sustainable effort of all involved;

WE REAFFIRM our commitment to creating open, welcoming spaces to improve the exchange of experiences, and to establish new forms for sharing mutual learning, youth civic engagement and intercultural dialogue – all the while avoiding the risk of systematic framing and standardisation;


WE URGE governments, local authorities, the private sector as well as global and regional

organizations, such as United Nations entities, ISESCO and ALECSO, to integrate volunteering and dialogue as critical components of youth development, both personal and professional, and to create an enabling environment and platforms in which youth volunteering can flourish;

WE COMMIT to building on the experiences shared by all the organizations present in this Conference, including the United Nations Volunteers programme, the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service, and the messages contained in this Declaration to increase the number of young men and women engaged in volunteering globally;

WE COMMIT to sharing the contents of this Declaration with our current and extended networks, and to harness social media in our efforts to foster global, active and responsible citizenship;

WE CALL UPON the youth of the world to join us in our endeavour.





A large, abstract teal splatter graphic is centered on the page. It consists of a large, irregular teal shape with many smaller, scattered teal spots and streaks around it, creating a dynamic and artistic background for the text.

STATEMENTS OF WELCOME



Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud

Minister of Education, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

We are gathered today at a very short distance from Makkah, the birthplace of the Prophet Mohammed, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, and the place where the divine revelation was given, from which emerged a unifying, eternal message and the seal of divine prophecy. I refer to the message of Islam, the message of love and peace and the message which calls for rapprochement, mutual understanding, harmony and acceptance of the other.

Fifteen centuries ago, the Holy Quran addressed itself to all mankind, reminding it of a great celestial message. The Quran states, "O mankind, we have created you male and female and made of you peoples and tribes so that you may know one another. The most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you". Today's gathering and the fact that you represent so many peoples and cultures are in perfect harmony with the eternal Quranic call.

On the basis of this call and as it has the great honour to host the Islamic holy places, the Kingdom has taken upon itself the responsibility of working for mutual understanding and rapprochement among peoples and cultures throughout the world.

This approach is driven by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who has decided to put into practice the global message of Islam by working to achieve peace in the world and spread the culture of cooperation and dialogue in order to further mutual understanding among peoples.

King Abdullah has translated these ideas from theory into practice and from word into deed by his support for many local and international initiatives to achieve this goal. We are meeting today as part of an initiative by the King Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace

and UNESCO. I am delighted at the presence of Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and I take this opportunity of congratulating her on behalf of all of you on her re-election as Director-General for a further term.

Within the context of the efforts by the Kingdom's leadership and its persistent endeavour to stress the importance of dialogue and voluntary work, I might draw attention to several projects that are international in scope, oriented toward this approach and consistent with the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

One such project is the founding of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, which you will visit. It is a scientific research university, offering study grants to male and female students of more than 60 nationalities and a variety of cultures. They study and carry out research together to solve common problems that beset our world. Among the most important of these are poverty, food shortages, alternative sources of energy, pressing water-availability crises and environmental problems which threaten the present and future generations.

A special initiative is the Messengers of Peace Programme, the idea of which was broached during a meeting between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah, and an international delegation of boy scouts, when he told them: "You are the messengers of peace". The expression was picked up and transformed into a major project enthusiastically received by His Majesty King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden, Honorary Chairman of the World Scout Foundation. The project was launched officially in September 2011. Some twenty million boys and girls are associated with this programme, communicating with each other on the basis of voluntary work and dialogue and exchanging practices and ideas on personal, social and environmental matters.

During its short life since it was launched from the campus of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, which hosts 4,500 young men and women from more than 80 countries representing many cultures and regions, the programme has sought to establish cultural dialogue, its historical and scientific bases, as well as its role in interpreting and analysing social, political, economic and environmental problems, strengthening the role assigned to young people in spreading the values of peace and cooperation. More than 21 million combined working hours of dialogue and voluntary work to help others have been documented.

On this occasion, I call upon you all to join this programme and foster it in your own countries. It is a programme that is in direct harmony with this conference and enjoys considerable support from the Ministry of Education.

Messengers of Peace is a programme based on carrying out voluntary work to help to develop people and places,

adopting dialogue as its working method in all its activities. The project logo is a dove in flight, its body formed of Arabic letters, and holding an olive branch symbolizing the spread of peace, harmony and development in all countries.

The most significant of these projects is the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, launched by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in partnership with the Kingdom of Spain and Republic of Austria. It was decided that the Secretary-General, Faisal bin Muammar, will speak about the duties and mission of the Centre. How pleased I was to attend one of its events at the end of last month where the "image of the other" was discussed, and during which the Ministry of Education proposed an initiative that involved building a practical framework designed to highlight the cultural values that countries and nations share in order to create a world reconciled under the banner of tolerance and peace!

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, young people represent the largest percentage of the population and we are firmly convinced that it is they who make the future. We shall grant them further opportunities to highlight their talents and capabilities in order to achieve their most ambitious, most deeply rooted and most sustainable vision, one which is founded on a scientific base and on profound awareness combined with accurate understanding of the requirements of life, while benefiting from the experience and wisdom of those who preceded them. I am confident that, with God's will, this generation will be capable of achieving all that has been designed for it.

I thank Your Excellencies, representatives of international organizations and all young people who have come from all parts of the world, believing in and convinced of, the importance of joint action. I call upon my brothers and sisters, sons and daughters from among Saudi youth to provide all facilities to enable our guests to achieve the goals of this Conference by collaborating constructively in the service of our societies and development of our homelands.

*In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
young people represent the
largest percentage of the
population and we are firmly
convinced that it is they who
make the future.*



Irina Bokova

Director-General of UNESCO

I wish to thank His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud and the *King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue* for this initiative.

It is a special pleasure to be here. Jeddah is a vibrant, modern city – it is also the region’s historical gateway, an ancient cross-road of trade and cultural exchange and dialogue. This Conference is part of the cooperation agreement signed in 2010 with His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud in support of the *Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue* – to celebrate diversity, to deepen the culture of peace, to promote ‘learning to live together’ in schools, universities, the media.

This work is essential today. We are living in times of great change, when we need every opportunity for dialogue – especially with young women and men. Young people are not only the leaders of *tomorrow* – they are the leading actors of *today*. Half of the world’s population is today under 25.

Some have access to quality education and opportunities – many do not and suffer from discrimination or conflict. Millions are unemployed.

How can we nurture the values of solidarity, tolerance and dialogue in circumstances of uncertainty?

This is the question we have gathered to address, and I know some of the answers are here, in this room today. Your voices count.

We heard this loud and clear at the *8th UNESCO Youth Forum*, held on 29-31 October at UNESCO Headquarters. Part of our 37th General Conference, the Forum brought to Paris over 500 young women and men from more than 135 countries, to explore the theme of *Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development*.

Youth Delegates, some of whom are present today, developed strategic recommendations for UNESCO’s work – for the first

You are not the beneficiaries of support - you are our full partners in making change happen for the benefit of all.

time, 15 projects were awarded the *UNESCO Youth Forum Label*, including initiatives to encourage volunteering and inter-cultural dialogue.

This expresses UNESCO's approach to young people.

You are not the subjects of change – you are its greatest leaders, with the greatest ideas.

You are not the beneficiaries of support – you are our full partners in making change happen for the benefit of all.

These ideas underpin UNESCO's new *Operational Strategy on Youth* – to support young women and men as agents of change, social transformation, peace and sustainable development.

You are calling for opportunities to participate in society, in decisions that affect your lives – UNESCO will support your engagement and leadership and help craft more inclusive public policies.

For this, we draw on our global network of Associated Schools, whose 60th anniversary we celebrate this year, on the 199 National Commissions working with civil society, on our collaboration with non-governmental organizations across the world, and on such outstanding initiatives as *World Heritage in Young Hands*.

In all of this, UNESCO works with partners both inside and outside the United Nations system – with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, with *United Nations Volunteers*, with the *King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue*.

Societies are more connected than ever – but this does not mean there is more understanding.

This is why volunteering and social service are so important – to bridge the gaps emerging within and between societies, to create new platforms for dialogue around shared values, to develop new forms of youth engagement and leadership.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said “*We must use time creatively in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.*”

The time is, indeed, *now* for volunteering and for dialogue – especially today, when the world is calling out for greater solidarity and empathy, for deeper mutual understanding and respect.

Volunteering takes different shapes across the world, reflecting varied needs and diverse cultural contexts – this Conference

provides an opportunity to hear a rich array of experiences and to consider new ways of sharing ideas and knowledge.

Volunteering is much more than action to complete a task.

It is about the bonds that bring people together, that strengthen society.

It is about forging trust, about reinforcing a sense of shared destiny.

It is about crafting new and meaningful forms of dialogue, especially intercultural dialogue – that go beyond exchanges through social networks, that engage personal responsibility, with the willingness to listen and learn, to understand and change one's own views, to adapt to new challenges.

This is essential for building the new forms of global citizenship the world needs today, to respond to humanitarian crises and build peace, to forge new approaches to sustainable development, to make the most of humanity's great cultural diversity.

This is why volunteering and dialogue go together – they reinforce each other, guided by the common goal to unite people around a common cause.

We meet at an important juncture.

Countries across the world are accelerating to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. At the same time, States are shaping a new global sustainable development agenda to follow 2015.

The voices of young women and men are essential for all this.

Your engagement, through local initiatives, through volunteering of all kinds, is essential.

Your ideas for new forms of dialogue are essential.

This is why this Conference is so important – because you are today's thinkers, problem-solvers and advocates, for justice and dignity, for lasting peace.

Your energy and spirit – which we can see in the global contest, *Pathways to a Culture of Peace* – is changing the world.

We will move forward with you.

This is UNESCO's commitment and my pledge to you.

And my message to you all today is – stay bold and never let challenges stop you.

As the great Irish writer George Bernard Shaw once said, “*People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.*”

Let's keep doing it!



Faisal bin Abdurrahman bin Muammar

Secretary General of the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)

I extend my greetings and appreciation to you and I am delighted to welcome you all to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, host to the International Conference on Youth Volunteering and Dialogue.

This Conference brings together young people from all over the world, representing 33 countries, alongside their partners from entire Kingdom to discuss a subject of vital importance, one in which the spirit of cooperation and collective action both find expression: volunteering and dialogue. We shall discuss and seek inspiration from their values and morals within the framework and under the auspices of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue, in collaboration with UNESCO. The Conference has been organized by the Ministry of Education, King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue and UNESCO to review effective and successful youth volunteer programmes and projects, and exchange local and international knowledge and experience of

innovative youth volunteer initiatives based on dialogue among young people. Furthermore, it will devise new ways of meeting the need for increased youth involvement based on opportunities that offer hope, success and commitment to the concepts of dialogue and peace.

The human desire, individual or collective, to extend a helping hand to the needy, the weak and the poor has been a feature of all human societies throughout history, regardless of religion, culture, civilization and system. This is an expression of one of the simplest forms of volunteering in life. Young people, who make up the largest group in our societies, have a cultural and dialogue-oriented awareness, and special knowledge that they have acquired as well as successful experiences that they can offer. All this qualifies them to engage in exchange of knowledge and achieve the goal for which God created us: mutual understanding, cooperation, communication and dialogue, promotion of the values of coexistence and understanding, providing help

through volunteer work, highlighting the knowledge that contributes to the shaping of the character, development of self-worth and self-confidence and of a constructive, critical sense, awareness of the value of collective, voluntary work, a sense of and trust in the other and respect for difference and diversity, a sense of social responsibility, acting as role models for the values of cooperation, participation, team spirit and voluntary work, displaying the life skills and capacities which contribute to psychological and social development and endeavouring to develop skills that will be all the more dazzling, significant and vital, if they are given support and priority attention of governmental and private organizations.

The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue was launched with UNESCO in order to prepare training programmes, provide incentives and hold events to spread the culture of peace and dialogue among peoples, make these a way of life, correct the misunderstandings which prevail in some societies and enrich the cultural life of peoples throughout the world.

In this context, I should like to draw attention to the national dialogue project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the founding of the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue, which has given concrete expression to the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud. This richly endowed project has, within the space of ten years, become a noticeable force for disseminating the culture of dialogue and its manifold values in society, so that they have become aspects of life, culture, thought, custom and tradition. This is the Centre's essential role, in which it relies upon a number of tools, including youth participation and broad intellectual approaches to discuss issues of national importance with governmental and private sectors in order to achieve its stated goal of spreading the culture of dialogue and consolidating the values of modesty.

The Centre's efforts have been crowned by a strengthening of the culture of dialogue within the country. In the belief that, where human interaction is concerned, dialogue creates cooperation and unity in achieving goals through a common endeavour – in addition to placing a new brick in the edifice of world peace – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in particular the city of Makkah, launched the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz initiative for interfaith and intercultural dialogue, which has had an impact worldwide and been embraced by the international community. In Madrid, it has received support and backing, while in New York it has received the blessing of the United Nations General Assembly. Geneva and Vienna have supported

We believe that voluntary work contributes to enhancing opportunities for dialogue, increasing cooperation among individuals, highlighting the human face of social relations.

efforts to put it into practice. These efforts bore fruit with the founding of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, with wide international participation, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Austria and Kingdom of Spain, and with the Holy See as an observer, to strengthen the values of cooperation and coexistence, cultural exchange and the endeavour to achieve peace, security and stability among the peoples of the world.

Our role as individuals and organizations consists in working to strengthen the culture of volunteering and dialogue which are essential aspects of human culture. We have gathered here for no other reason than to consolidate the values of this culture and highlight the shared human values that unite us all by establishing an effective dialogue during the conference between youth participants. We believe that voluntary work contributes to enhancing opportunities for dialogue, increasing cooperation among individuals, highlighting the human face of social relations and encouraging self-sacrifice in giving of one's own free will for the sake of the happiness of others.

Once more, I repeat my welcome to you. I hope that you will have a pleasant stay and that you will have the opportunity to learn something about Saudi culture at first hand.

In conclusion, I should like to extend my most profound gratitude and deepest appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and the Second Deputy Prime Minister. I thank Your Highness for your sponsorship and attendance. I extend my gratitude to the Director-General of UNESCO. Furthermore, I extend thanks and appreciation to the organizing committees, the Ministry of Education, UNESCO, King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue and, in particular, to the young men and women who volunteered their labour during the past days and months to organize and prepare for this conference. I extend my thanks and appreciation to them all.

Highlights from the opening session,
the “Pathways to a Culture of Peace” contest,
and the Exhibition





International Youth Commission on Volunteering and Dialogue









The winners of the
“Pathways to a Culture of Peace”
contest







HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERING
BACKGROUND: DIALOGUE IN ACTION



Ziad bin Abdullah Aldrees

Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO

Ziad bin Abdullah Aldrees, Ambassador,
Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia to UNESCO

Many thanks to the Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia and to our beloved organization (UNESCO) and also to King Abdulaziz Center for Dialogue. I should not forget also to thank the permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO for organizing the valuable event about dialogue and youth. Of course, as you already know, this is a conference for you; I am not sure if we are all youth, or post-youth, but still we will find a way to appear youthful, to participate and contribute.

Before we start this session, I just want to remind ourselves that in two weeks time we will be celebrating the international Day for Arabic Language with the participation of Ms Bokova. Regarding this matter, I would like to raise a question to the youth: Do you know what the best language in the world is? It is not English, not French, and not Arabic – it is your language, your own mother tongue. This is what UNESCO calls for: to encourage people to have identity and recognize the importance of linguistic diversity.

Based on this, I will now turn to my beloved language: Arabic.

*Do you know what the best
language in the world is? ...
it is your language,
your own mother tongue.*

I would like to welcome the distinguish guests on the stage, the session will be organized as follows: each speaker will be given five minutes. We – post-youth so to speak – will speak less and we will listen to the youth. We are eager to listen to their hopes and aspirations for the national and international organizations. Therefore, we will start immediately, five minutes for each speaker, and after we will go directly to questions and concerns to obtain your visions for enabling lasting cooperation, promoting the sharing of experiences, and fostering solidarity within and among communities, culture, faiths, generation and nations.

Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri
Director-General of the Islamic Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri,
Director-General of the
Islamic Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization (ISESCO)



*International youth volunteering
is ... the natural starting point
for the dialogue among cultures,
civilizations and communities
from all religious traditions.*

It gives me immense pleasure to address you at the working session on “International Youth Volunteering Background: Dialogue in Action,” held as part of the “Youth Volunteering and Dialogue” International Conference organized by King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue, the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNESCO, as part of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue.

But let me first of all express my appreciation of the choice of the important theme, which is the key topic of this international conference. In fact, ensuring a targeted care for the youth, while granting access to education based on the values of dialogue and tolerance, and giving them ample opportunities to integrate into the labor market and contribute to the welfare and development of society, constitute together the groundwork for shaping the bright future we are all aspiring to – one where peace, dialogue, understanding and mutual respect prevail.

In this general context and through this broad perspective, the choice of International Youth Volunteering as the theme of this conference is a wise choice, which reflects a deep

understanding of the dimensions of volunteering as one of the lofty values advocated by the heavenly religions and asserted by the human culture. Volunteer work, in its broad sense, is a genuine instance of benevolence, which emphasizes the crucial importance of supporting governments’ actions to promote communities and serve the supreme interests of the people.

This wider concept of volunteering emanates from the predilection for unconditionally caring for others and attending to their needs, so they can lead a decent life in harmony and tolerance and accordingly contribute to their societies’ progress and prosperity.

Our religion and our civilization abound with instances, which confirm that volunteering is an intrinsic value of our Islamic culture and our traditions that have been handed down by generations as a distinctive component of the moral values of our Muslim societies.

So, motivating young people to engage in volunteering is a shared responsibility of the family, the school, the university, the media and all communication outlets. It is a practical method to harness youth’s potentials for the good of society and channel their capacities into promoting a model of comprehensive sustainable development, with benefits to be reaped by the present and future generations in full equality and opportunity with no discrimination whatsoever.

International volunteering and its countless benefits will only serve the common interests of peoples. It is a realistic method to promote a culture of tolerance, dialogue and peace since it provides young people from different countries with opportunities for fruitful cooperation, beneficial integration

and collective involvement in voluntary work that benefits human communities.

Certainly, integration and joint work are a vital catalyst for dialogue among the youth, harmonious coexistence and mutual respect. This is a great blessing for humanity and a good platform for dialogue of people from different cultures and civilizations.

International youth volunteering is indeed a significant contributor to strengthen the dialogue among youth, and it is the natural starting point for the dialogue among cultures, civilizations and communities from all religious traditions. Anchoring the values of volunteering, abnegation and dedicated work beyond any personal gain is the best way to inject new energy into the human community at large.

In asserting these principles, ideals and values, we have in view the youth, with their energetic and vibrant will to engage in volunteering for all people regardless of differences of

nationality, race, religion, culture and language. Our aim is to provide the opportunity for youngsters to actively share in serving humanity, in a spirit of community volunteering and compassion for all.

Fully appreciating the assumptions and concepts underlying these values, ISESCO, since its inception in 1982, has shown complete dedication to empower the youth of the Muslim world. As well as holding focus-area conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops, ISESCO published a large number of studies to advance the youth and think of practical and effective solutions to the problems which hamper their ability to serve their communities at all levels. The ultimate objective of ISESCO is to imbue the youth with a powerful motivating force to fully serve their communities, join the effort to foster sustainable and comprehensive development, and open up to the rest of the world.

Abdullah Hamed Muhareb

Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)



Abdullah Hamed Muhareb,
Director-General of the Arab
League Educational, Cultural
and Scientific Organization
(ALECSO)

We have gathered today at the generous invitation of His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud to discuss one of the most important issues of our time, namely youth. Permit me to tell you my thoughts and feelings on this matter. Most of the crises, revolutions and false views of the future from which we suffer, have their origin in our neglect of youth and the marginalization of their role. We believe that we know more than they do about the affairs of the world but is their world more than it is ours. True Arab culture at all times urges us to support the role of youth in society as an ancient Arab proverb says: "Seek the counsel of youth, for they produce an opinion neither impaired by time nor seized by decrepitude."¹ I shall discuss the role of youth along a number of themes.

Youth and sustainable development

The Arab world is experiencing what might be called "the leap of youth", with young people now a majority in the Arab world. According to the *Arab Human Development Report* (2010), 60% of the population of the Arab world is under the age of 25. However, the highest rates of unemployment are among young people, too. How can we conceive of a job market in the future and of a production from which young people have been excluded? How can promising young people not be involved in formulating plans for the future, when youth are the ones most concerned with and affected by it?

Youth and revolutions

It is not surprising that young people are fuelling the revolutions now gripping the world. Young people today are enduring some of the most serious problems that human beings in general can face. By that, I mean the closure of horizons. Faced with the economic challenges confronting governments, even those of the developed countries, young people today can no longer do anything but crudely express their frustration and lack of hope in the agenda for the future. They can do nothing but go on to the street to vent the feelings burning inside them. And not only that. Globalization, in its endless endeavour to dilute identity and ethnicity and impose a one-sided view on the world as the optimum model for humanity, has created among many of these ambitious yet despairing young people feelings of dejection and defeat. Moreover, they believe that they must compensate by holding on, ever more tightly, to their identity and ethnicity. Within these frameworks of character, extremism and fanaticism have become a dominant feature, especially for young Arab men, because there is no other compensation. There is now a tendency to seek revenge against an oppressive present that offers no viable opportunities.

However, we can still transform these negative tendencies into renewable energies to help us to formulate a better vision for our world.

¹ Al-Mawardi, *Adab al-dunya wa'l-din* [Ethics of this World and of Religion], p. 11

Volunteering and dialogue

Perhaps the most prominent aspect of this Conference is its adoption of the concept of volunteering as a noble human value. There are many examples from our rich Arab and Islamic heritage to spur us on, and provide us with shining models of the meaning and practice of volunteering. What distinguishes volunteering as an idea associated with action – i.e. it is only realized if realized in practice on the ground – is its incompatibility with the stereotypical nature of human behaviour, which endeavours at all times to obtain recompense, usually material. Furthermore, anyone (male or female) who reflects upon the concept of volunteering, and who seeks to engage in it, finds that most volunteers are young people and that the volunteer, by virtue of his or her inclination, is more likely than others to give up something that he or she owns (time, effort, money) in exchange for making someone else happy or helping someone. We are thus faced with models of humanity, characterized and motivated by altruism with which to engage in practical action. These are people who, in my view, show more acceptance of the other and are more ready to engage in dialogue. Here, the practices of volunteering and dialogue necessarily meet.

However, how can we instil these human values in our children? They will only become part of their characters through education. Consequently, curricula at all levels must be developed to foster such an orientation among young people. Accordingly, I should like to see your distinguished conference seeking to foster the role of volunteering and develop it as an effective tool to expand the role of dialogue and take dialogue to higher levels of coexistence and mutual understanding.

I hope that the Conference will take this into consideration when preparing the list of recommendations. How many

As an ancient Arab proverb says:
*“Seek the counsel of youth, for
 they produce an opinion neither
 impaired by time nor seized by
 decrepitude.”*

recommendations have been adopted over dozens of years! International organizations have convened Conferences and Forums, and recommendations have been formulated like essay topics, filled with dreams and hopes, none of which have ever been achieved. The proof is that we in the Arab world are still in a pit of backwardness. Had we achieved the goals set in those recommendations, we would not be in this position now. As such, I hope that the recommendations will avoid a high style and wishful thinking, and instead be rooted in reality and with the possibility of being put into implementation at once, in stages, with costs accounted for and within a predetermined time frame.

Permit me on this occasion and from this platform to express my great appreciation for the outstanding initiatives undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to extend my profound thanks to the King, the Government and the people for these achievements. These outstanding initiatives, which have opened the horizons for Arab citizens everywhere, include the establishment of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue and the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue. In addition, there is, the Public Education Evaluation Commission, which I call upon all Arab States to follow and emulate in order to address the issue of poor education in the Arab world.

Hans d'Orville
Assistant Director-General for Strategic
Planning, UNESCO

Hans d'Orville, Assistant
Director-General for
Strategic Planning, **UNESCO**



First of all, let me share with you that my mother tongue is not only German, but it is also “Frankonian”. Nevertheless, today I will speak in English. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Aldrees looked very sharply at us to see if we qualify as youths or not. This reminds me of what my wife tells me in more relaxed moments. She says: “wake up, you are not that young anymore! You are soon going to retire, no more youth for you!”. And I say, well, you are as young as you feel you are and you are acting as young as you feel you should.

So, I think this is a good motto for the older ones to engage with the younger ones.

Let me begin by thanking His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud, Minister of Education, for the splendid support you have extended to UNESCO. I think that the programme which we put together is very successful. As a matter of fact, I believe it is one of the most successful programmes in intercultural dialogue that we have at UNESCO. This reminds me that there are two values, which are often not emphasized enough: one is confidence and the other one is trust. You have shown confidence and trust in us to implement this programme, and I thank you for this. We hope that what we are bringing to the table today is also satisfactory to you.

When we address youth and youth issues today, there are a few striking perspectives which merit our attention:

First, the hard and sad fact of youth and youth related unemployment. We know that global youth jobs crisis and the queues for available jobs have become longer and longer in recent years. The global youth unemployment rate

It remains true that when words fail, violence begins, and this is why dialogue is doubly important.

is estimate at 12,6 per cent at present, and as many as 73 million young people are estimated to be unemployed right now. The economic and social cost of unemployment, long-term unemployment, discouragement and widespread low quality jobs for young people continues to rise and undermine the economic growth potential. Skills mismatch on the youth labour market has become a persistent and growing trend. Over-education and over-skilling coexist with under-education and under-skilling, and increasingly with skills obsolescence brought about by long term unemployment. Something has gone wrong in matching our education systems with the exigencies of the labour market. Youth unemployment and its current effects are particularly prevalent in three regions, in the developed economies in the European Union, in the Middle East and in North Africa. Now this is the negative perspective.

If you look at the more positive perspective, you see that the Arab Spring has shown us that the demands of the young people today are more than about materialistic advancement, more than employment and more than personal welfare, no matter how fundamentally important these are. Dignity is a very important concept, which has gotten lost in the last years. Contemporary youth, as far

as I can see, wants a different globalized world, a world marked by different values than those we have seen in the past; you basically want to create a planetary community driven by a different set of principles and this is of course supported by the power of communication and information technologies. You seem to be calling for less hierarchical and more horizontal structures that foster collaborative governments and in which youth-led movements can feel a sense of agency and can play a role as genuine partners instead of only as passive recipients. Inclusivity has become a central concept in this quest for involvement. Ms Bokova mentioned earlier that our Youth Forum, held about a month ago in UNESCO, has really focused on this inclusivity issue.

Evidently, the need for formal and non-formal education at national and international levels is very important, particularly given the above-mentioned dire figures of unemployment. We also need to develop a conscience and a concept of what global citizenship means for the development of knowledge and technological skills across all countries, and for the elimination of social, cultural and economic factors that contribute to and propel oppression and inequalities.

In short, there is a call for a new basis for dialogue and collaborative opportunities between decision-makers and youth. If we now turn to volunteerism, the third element and another positive development – in whatever domain

it is been undertaken – it has been supported by the same aspirations, driven by the same values and principles, and hence it is part and parcel of a world governed by a genuine feeling of belonging. And to belong, one has to give, listen, share and especially learn from each other. A renewed pact of human solidarity, the contours of the new civil society – this is the vision which we may pursue. For sure, UNESCO with its deeply-rooted experience with intercultural dialogue and fostering of the rapprochement between cultures must insist on the integrity of otherness, the dignity of the other. Dialogue is and remains key in this undertaking.

Genuine dialogue implies active listening and a willingness to be challenged. Dialogue means also that the other might be right and not you. It includes a multiplicity of voices and roles and respect for dissent. Only then can we achieve a truly collaborative argument in the pursuit of knowledge, and maybe even what could be called truth. At least it remains true that when words fail, violence begins, and this is why dialogue is doubly important. This is nowhere better formulated than in UNESCO's Constitution: "Since wars begin in the minds of men (and women) it is in the minds of men (and women) that the defences of peace must be constructed."

I hope that around this framework we will have a very exciting debate and I am looking forward to your contributions.

Ahmad Alhendawi
United Nations Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth

Ahmad Alhendawi, United
Nations Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth



*The question of ensuring jobs
is one of the most important in
fulfilling our pledges to the youth.*

I would like to extend my thanks to your Royal Highness, Prince Faisal Al Saud, Minister of Education of Saudi Arabia, for the hospitality and the efforts to make this Conference a success. I also wish to thank Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO for all the youth work undertaken within the United Nations. UNESCO's recent Youth Forum was a most successful one; for the first time we pushed for support to youth initiatives, to be carried out for and by youth themselves.

Returning to the topic of this Conference, I come to think of the great increase in the number of youth in the world. We are talking about 800 millions of young men and women. If we look at the population in the world, half of this population is below the age of 30. By any standards and by any account, we are impressed by the reality of the population, by the demographics. There is a force in these demographics.

Here in Arabic region, two thirds of the population is made up by youth and this represents a good chance for development.

I always say that in the Arab region, it was the wealth of the petroleum that pushed the economic development. However, now, in this region, the real wealth, the real "oil" is the youth, who will push the development. In the Arab region, the unemployment rate is really the highest in the world, 26 percent among the youth. One among several paradoxes is that there is

an increasing level of female high education, and at the same time a high level of female unemployment.

The question of ensuring jobs is one of the most important one in fulfilling our pledges to the youth.

With 75 million young people in the world today, we cannot talk about addressing the unemployment crisis without looking at volunteering, seeing how we can bridge the gap between volunteering and the labor market. On one hand, we know that there are certain skills that you acquire when you volunteer; skills that you would not otherwise be able to acquire. I will share my personal experience: I started volunteering when I was 15 years old, and I volunteered in different kinds of youth organizations. While I was volunteering I thought I was giving. I was giving time, energy, skills. But when I looked back, I realized that I had certainly given my time and energy, but what I got back in terms of skills and understanding of others, was way more.

Volunteering is extremely important, but one of the crucial aspects is how to make the labor market understand its value and give more recognition to volunteering institutions. I keep calling all Governments and all volunteering organizations to support the United Nations Volunteering Programme in order to bridge this gap between the volunteering world and the labor market. It is extremely important to realize that bridging this gap and addressing the unemployment crisis is in a sense as important as cultural dialogue and the understanding of different cultures.

I look forward to more volunteering and to more dialogue.



Hamad Mohammed Al Sheikh

Deputy Minister of Education, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Hamad Mohammed Al Sheikh, Deputy Minister of Education, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Education is pleased and honored to have participated in the organization of this Conference which brings together young people, men and women, from different continents and cultures. They are working with enthusiasm to change in the world around them, in order to save it from the realities of wars, suffering, selfishness, discord and backwardness, into a world ruled by mutual understanding, cooperation, peace and benevolence towards people, by virtue of the two mainstays without which these goals cannot be reached, namely dialogue and volunteering.

The Ministry of Education is fully convinced by these two pillars of growth and social development and is therefore working to implement them within its curricula and programmes as a directive and programme of the State. As His Excellency the Minister of Education indicated in his speech, with the unification of the various parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the initial major concern was for education to be the most important mainstay of the modern State. Then the State moved on from the foundation of the education system to the stage of expanding it to all regions of the Kingdom. It thus built a sufficient number of schools everywhere, no matter how remote or how difficult the task. The focus of the present stage, on the principle of quality, is considered to be the most challenging, the most difficult to implement and also the most beneficial. I am therefore directing my attention to teachers, to the establishment of rules for appointments and work to disseminate programmes for curriculum development, training and upskilling. I am devoting particular attention to the school environment and have endeavoured to develop curricula to match the

challenges of the twenty-first century based on the most modern cultural resources.

With regard to the subject of the Conference, the Ministry has worked to establish advisory councils for teachers in the regions and governorates, where they study together the issues that concern them and put forward their views on education in academic dialogue. This is reflected within the education administration and the Ministry with regard to the implementation of what the teachers regard as essential for the purposes of teaching. The Ministry has also organized the setting up of school councils which bring together principals, teachers and students within a framework for dialogue and governance.

Among the volunteer projects emanating from the Ministry is the Fina Khair programme which conveys the notion of social responsibility and volunteer work to students and teachers with the participation of a number of national institutions concerned with social work. The project has educational content and goals studied by students in their curriculum and is conceptually linked to the world of work. The students participate in volunteer activities promoting good practices in regard to integrative work in the service of society, employing innovative methods based on a set of ethical values on which society is founded. Of these the most important is a concern for the school environment reflected in a voluntary programme enjoying great interest among the students, thus confirming their desire to contribute to volunteer work. This programme started here years ago in the Jeddah governorate and has grown and spread. We hope that it will come to include all the schools in the Kingdom, God willing. Activities involving dialogue and volunteering are

not restricted to the school day: a programme of district school clubs has been launched which covers many districts in towns and governorates. There are now 200 and the target for the end of this year is 1000 clubs in these schools, working in the evenings. Students, teachers and all other members of the community carry out a variety of activities there based on cooperation and dialogue. Many of these activities rely on volunteer work and on the seasonal clubs which function during the summer. These numbered 610 last year, occupying young people's free time and providing them with an opportunity to learn about and profit from the community.

Since the Kingdom today has nearly 33,000 schools with more than 5 million students, both male and female, we can imagine the enormous influence that the project of dialogue and volunteering in schools could exert on the fabric of society as a whole.

Peace be upon you.

I am devoting particular attention to the school environment and have endeavoured to develop curricula to match the challenges of the twenty-first century.



Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed

Chief of the Partnerships and Communications Division, United Nations Volunteers

Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed,
Chief of the Partnerships and Communications Division,
United Nations Volunteers

I am delighted to be in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and I am honored to have been invited to play a role in this important Conference on youth. On behalf of Richard Dictus, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our gracious hosts - Ministry of Education, UNESCO and the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue.

This *International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue* coincides with International Volunteer Day on 5 December, which is the United Nations day, held each year, to raise awareness and recognition of volunteers and volunteering organizations. This year, the International Volunteer Day focuses on Youth.

This conference has brought together so many young leaders, experts, practitioners, to discuss approaches and best practices with regards to volunteerism. We are confident that it will strengthen meaningful youth engagement in the future.

The United National Volunteers Programme (UNV) has been working for over forty years with partners, many of whom are in this room, to enhance youth participation in global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism.

In 2012, UNV signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Federation for Voluntary Activities under the patronage of the League of Arab States. Together, UNV and the Arab Federation for Voluntary Activities are working to strengthen youth volunteering in the Arab States and to increase partnerships at the Arab country and regional

levels. Through this partnership, we are also working together with the Association of Voluntary Work in Saudi Arabia.

During my first visit to this beautiful Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we are also looking forward to developing partnerships with the Government, civil society and youth-involving organizations for the promotion of youth volunteering for peace and development.

Youth participation is crucial to enhance civic engagement, social integration and sustainable human development. Furthermore, young people are important actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and in addressing climate change. Without youth participation, not only are youth voices excluded, but we also risk becoming irrelevant as young people increasingly develop their own solutions to global challenges.

Indeed, it was in response to youth movements in the Arab region, where in recent years we saw many young people articulating their desire to engage in society as agents of change, that the United Nations Volunteers programme launched our Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future Programme last year.

This programme recognizes that only by improving the participation of young men & women in the achievement of local, national and global human development goals, can we find solutions that are sustainable, and this is something that I am sure we all agree on.

UNV's regional Arab Youth Volunteering programme is part of our global UN Youth Volunteer programme, which we initiated following the United Nations Secretary-General's

call in his 2012 Five-Year Action Agenda, to facilitate the engagement of youth in global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism, bring the voice of youth into the development process and help young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential.

UNV is ready and willing to strengthen our partnerships with governments, UN entities such as UNESCO, universities, youth and community organizations and civil society, to strengthen youth engagement through volunteerism.

I know that many of us here today share the conviction that volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development, and that everyone, especially young men and women, can contribute their time, energy and aspirations towards peace and development.

The power of volunteerism, which we have seen time and time again, especially through our engagement with young people, is that it can inspire not only the communities that it benefits, but also the youth volunteers themselves. For us, that truly captures the power of volunteerism to bring about lasting change and make a life-changing impact on young people. This is an exciting time for you - young men and women. There is a growing awareness that for any peace or development result to be meaningful, young people MUST be engaged as development actors. Volunteerism is a viable mechanism for you to do this.

We, at the United Nations Volunteers programme, together with our partners, are ready to do everything that we can, to work with you.

*There is a growing awareness
that for any peace or
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actors.*



John Geoghegan

Director, World Scout Foundation

John Geoghegan, Director,
World Scout Foundation

I have a “problem” with Saudi Arabia. They say that your biggest export is oil. I say that your biggest “export” is dialogue. And Director General, I hope that when you were talking to the Secretary General he realized that you have the most important job in the United Nations. Because in your hands are the dreams and the hopes of young people around the world and you are making the future of this planet.

It seems strange that a man of my age would come to a youth Conference and speak. However, I would like to speak not as a young person but as a witness; a witness to the impact youth can have and is having on the world today. My first experience with dialogue happened almost forty years ago in Ireland when, as a young catholic, I went from the South of Ireland to the North of Ireland and linked up with protestant scouts. This was my first experience that the “other” was my brother. I found that in fact dialogue is much more powerful than anything that politicians or men with arms can actually do. The other is my brother.

Dialogue is 40 years old in the Scout movement, because the first camp that was set up by Baden Powell was in fact a dialogue camp. What he did was to have half of the camp with young men from very rich families, and the other half of the camp with young men from very poor families. This was an experiment. And you know what? It worked! The other is my brother!

The first Jamboree, the first gathering of Scouts from different countries took place two years after the First World War, where young men from United Kingdom, Germany, Turkey, France were brought together. They were all people who

had fought two years ago in a horrific war, and they got on...and guess what? It worked! Because the other is my brother!

Prince Faisal mentioned a programme of Messengers of Peace and we really have to thank the Custodian of the Holy Mosque, King Abdullah, for inspiring the work of millions of Scouts throughout the world.

Thanks to King Abdullah, just in one year, we have recorded 21 million hours of volunteering service in local communities. And these are only the hours that have been recorder; there are probably ten times as many. Again, this is something that is happening because of King Abdullah and thank you very much indeed for the work that he has done.

What we have learned from this programme, as a first thing, is that training in leadership, in the Scout Movement or in any Organization, is vital. A lot of people need the opportunity to learn and to practice leadership.

The second lesson is that young people need to be trusted. They need to be in charge of the different activities because they are in charge in the Scout movement and all the Organizations we have been talking about.

We have also learnt that training in dialogue is vital and the King Abdullahiz Center has helped the Scout movement, and we have done a lot of work in this area. We are very grateful for that. Because dialogue is vital for everybody, not just in conflict times, like the experience I had in North Ireland, but if I want to work in my community, and I go with a solution for that community without having a dialogue first, my solution is rather off.



Yet another key lesson we learnt in scouting is that connectivity or connection around the world is vital. We live in a social media world and the Messenger of Peace Programme has helped scouting to become connected across the world. Young people in Southern Europe talk to young people in Hong Kong who are working in prisons. Kids in Northern Ireland talking to kids in Rwanda about crossing the divide of culture and conflict.

I would like to end on one last point. We have a very interesting man here called Esben, from Denmark who is leading the scout group here. I would like to encourage everyone to reach out to Scouts in the group or to Scouts back home, because Scouting is not trying to run its programmes alone. Scouting is trying to reach out to the community and work with every Organization that exists, to do good. So please, if you need “boots” on the ground, if you need help, if you need other people, talk to the scouts. We are here to help, we have got a smile on our face.

Thank you very much for welcoming us here and I hope that the results of this conference are going to spread around to as many people as possible around the world.

I found that in fact dialogue is much more powerful than anything that politicians or men with arms can actually do. The other is my brother.

High-level participants in dialogue









WORKSHOP SESSIONS

First Session

Youth Volunteering and Promoting a Culture of Dialogue

Rapporteur

Amélie Mackré (France)



Moderator

Esben Holager (Denmark)

This first of the conference workshops "Youth Volunteering and Promoting a Culture of Dialogue," aimed at drawing up a framework for discussing peace, dialogue, youth and intercultural exchanges. Sharing their personal volunteering experiences, the panelists underlined important connections between these themes and exchanged with other participants on their commitment to volunteering and dialogue.

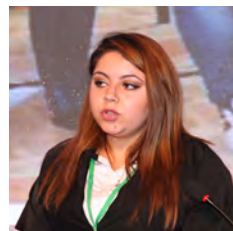
May Almutairy (Saudi Arabia) referred to her participation in the KACND Dialogue Caravan initiative by quoting Cornel West "When we dare to love and serve, we will be willing to speak, act, dialogue, write, fuse, share, laugh,



and love with others whom we can inspire and who can inspire us". She described how, in 2010, KACND started a project involving 47 trained volunteers, who focused on reaching out to youth in rural areas. The first phase of the Dialogue Caravan project

was implemented in the localities around Riyadh and saw the volunteers leaving the city every Wednesday to camp in the surrounding areas. Their targets were schools, families and mosques in which they aimed to promote dialogue. By the end of the first phase, the programs designed by the Dialogue Caravan had been carried out in 11 towns, 3841 people had been trained, and thousands were reached by Friday Prayer, speeches and distribution of booklets. In her

intervention, May underlined the intensity and the impact of this volunteering experience for all involved. The main conclusion drawn by the participants to the "eye-opening exploration" was that "dialogue and tolerance are the only way for peace and unity" and that through perseverance and a selfless attitude, volunteers can build more cohesion among diverse people.



Sarah Mohammad Al Ghazou (Jordan), has gathered essential experience in this field. In her intervention, she retraced her steps of promoting a culture of dialogue, from the first encounters with volunteering in her home country, Jordan, to working at an international level. Ms Al Ghazou underlined the fact that there are, at the present, over 3000 NGOs and initiatives aiming at the promotion of dialogue. She currently collaborates with UNV, organizing summer camps on various social issues, street polls or Ramadan missions in order to reach a larger audience. One of the most important aspects of her work is the creation of team spirit between local and foreign volunteers committed to promote understanding and dialogue. She also underlined the importance of having both locals and foreigners work together on different projects.



In his intervention, **Mohamed Mesic** (Bosnia-Herzegovina), emphasized the essential role of volunteering as a key contributor to peace building in his country, encouraging and supporting inter-ethnic, inter-religious and

inter-generational dialogue at all levels, especially in local communities in North-Eastern Bosnia, along the former front lines.

Mr. Mesic underlined that the joint volunteering actions started by young people from all ethnic groups in Bosnia, who cleaned up and rebuilt schools, playgrounds and community centers destroyed during the war, have given them the necessary space not just to play and learn, but also to interact through dialogue, share the sometimes very painful experiences and learn from and about each other. In this way, Mr. Mesic highlighted the importance of dialogue for the building of a peaceful society and of volunteering as an ideal tool in this regard. The youth participating in the programme have become recognized leaders in their communities and their actions have fostered inter-ethnic dialogue at different levels.

In his speech, Mr. Mesic emphasized the idea that peace cannot be defined uniquely through the absence of war. Peace implies a shared sense of responsibility towards building diverse communities, who rely on dialogue as an essential tool of negotiation. In his opinion, volunteering for peace building is valuable not just for countries that have suffered political crisis or outright war but also for societies in which there is an increased need for inter-generational exchange, as it enables youth to play a more pro-active role in society. The Bosnian example therefore included the case of young people often but not exclusively from families torn up by the war who were helping old people left behind

in Bosnia, when their children and grandchildren had emigrated abroad.

In this case, dialogue had started with action, as the idea behind the action. These projects were necessary to overcome the traumas of the war and as an attempt to build a peaceful post-war society. In 2004, growing togetherness in Bosnia and Herzegovina allowed for the founding of different forums, in which people could gather and share their experiences from the past and discuss about possible futures for the region.

Her experience as a volunteer for the World Heritage Youth Programme convinced **Tatjana Boicovia** (Latvia), to search for more opportunities to experience cultural exchanges in a world characterized by diversity. She is now active in a WHV project in China, in a truly international, multicultural environment, where she contributes to the



enhancing of dialogue and exchanges in local communities as well as to the work of UNESCO's World Heritage Programme. In her speech, Tatjana underlined the importance of opening a sincere dialogue with the local communities, offering support

in dealing with global issues. She also mentioned the importance of inspiring through examples. In her opinion, volunteers can function as models for global citizens. She also underscored the role of volunteers in challenging cultural stereotypes through special initiatives and cross-cultural exchanges.

All speakers stressed the fact that the attainment of peace does not represent the finality of the peace-building process, but the moment where strong social initiatives need to be taken, in order to achieve personal well-being, social cohesion and personal safety.

Second Session

Youth Volunteering, Peace-Building and Humanitarian Assistance

Rapporteur

Gloria Esther Velázquez Ríos (Mexico)



Moderator

Ms. Lujain Al Obaid (Saudi Arabia)

The second workshop “Youth Volunteering, Peace-Building and Humanitarian Assistance” opened with the contribution of **Lujain Al Obaid** (Saudi Arabia), who was also the workshop’s moderator. Lujain has a rich experience in community initiatives in her country. In her message, she encouraged the participants not to underestimate the power of determination that can lead people to create a series of small positive actions that eventually can change the world.



Originally from Sierra Leone, **Lucy Brewah** aptly described her involvement in humanitarian aid as a volunteer in her country. One of her main tasks has been to work as a Zonal Supervisor on National Immunization Days focused on a anti-polio vaccine and vitamin ‘A’ Supplementation campaign. Sierra Leone aims at eradicating poliomyelitis; therefore the timely distribution of anti-polio vaccines is essential. Lucy underlined some of the main challenges faced by immunization volunteers, from weather conditions to mistrust from local communities. In order to achieve her goal of reaching 100% of the children in the zone she was responsible for, she had to gain the trust and support of the parents and of the community leaders. Her volunteer work has had an important educational aspect as well as an essential healthcare impact. Giving “something back to the community” was the main motivation behind her actions.

Lucy ended her presentation by asserting that every human being has the right to health and a healthy environment.

Inspired by the words of King George VI “The highest distinction is service to others” **Takudzwa Machitori** (Zimbabwe), described his volunteering experience in running community projects focused on girls’ education and promoting equal educational opportunities for all. In his work, he encouraged youths from different social, ethnic, religious and national



backgrounds to work together to develop and implement their ideas towards creating a better future for all. Takudzwa underlined the fact that through work camps and volunteer involvement, the Zimbabwe Workcamps Association (ZWA) supported local communities in developing self-help projects by using the available resources, thus raising their social-economic and cultural standard of living. Takudzwa invited the youth participants at the conference to subscribe to the definition of volunteering as “acting out of self-initiative without seeking material reward,” hence a method and a statement for social change. He invited youth volunteers not to be discouraged by challenges and limitations in their work, but to focus on their strengths and abilities. He pointed out that humanitarian assistance essentially meant service to others, and called for joint effort towards building a future with decent work for young people. Finally, he stated that the voice of the youth should be taken into account throughout the development process.



Waleed Alkhamees (Kuwait) shared his experience in becoming an advocate for the social, political and economical empowerment of people with disabilities. Discussing some of the challenges encountered Waleed

showed videos of the people he had been working with. He underlined the fact that it was essential to make able-bodied people understand that disability is not an inability. He pointed out that, like many organizations, the Training Gate International (TGI) faced a number of challenges when it came to realizing its objectives, and emphasized the importance of strategizing in order to anticipate and overcome potential obstacles. In his opinion, without proper planning, volunteer work becomes abstract and unattainable. Mapping out and considering all factors is essential, as well as building a team of diverse interests and skills. Waleed mentioned that the ability of valuing past mistakes was also very important - the key lies in realizing that making mistakes was just as important as getting things right. However, the meeting in Jeddah offered a very bright perspective of volunteer work and made him reiterate his motto: "There are no obstacles, only challenges."



Coming from Bangladesh, **Munir Ahmed Bhuiyan** joined the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 2003. Over time, he has been involved in a multitude of volunteering and humanitarian aid actions focusing on interventions in the

case of natural and man-made disasters. He described how, through volunteering, he was able to offer relief and support to survivors and their families, while building regular community development assistance following major man-made incidents. Bangladesh has recently fallen victim to a series of catastrophes and accidents, and swift intervention

on the volunteers' side has been very much needed. Besides clear actions of search and rescue, as well as blood donations, first aid and hospital service, Munir pointed out that empathy and support at the individual and community level remained essential. In order to attain their goals, the Scouts build partnerships aiming to improve their standing as disaster "first respondents" in Bangladesh, while also helping many people through their humanitarian actions.

In conclusion, all speakers expressed their gratitude for having been invited to the Conference and they stressed the fact that the event in itself was an eye-opening experience, which enriched their knowledge about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its culture.

Third Session

Volunteerism, The Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development

Rapporteur

Roun Thangdy (Cambodia)



Moderator

Mr. Cem Arslan (Turkey)

The third workshop focused on the connection between volunteerism, the culture of peace and sustainable development. The participants - **Abdullah Aljumah** (Saudi Arabia,) **Hasina Reine Rakotondraina** (Madagascar,) **Marc Torbey El Helou** (Lebanon,) **Mohamed Faizoul** (Guyana,) **Lama Alshareef** (Saudi Arabia,) and **Cem Arslan** (Turkey) underscored the importance of volunteerism in promoting spaces with no war. One of the main messages of the speakers was that by bringing people together and focusing on peace messages, youth can find new ways to live in harmony. They underlined that peace-making is the responsibility of every citizen and hence encouraging people to volunteer for a common cause is essential.

The panellists discussed how peace can be instilled among young people by organizing exchange sessions and education campaigns. It was acknowledged that conflicts often take place in societies where people do not have access to education. Therefore, providing educational and awareness raising activities concerning different cultures and ways of life can lead to specific peace building initiatives. Youth volunteering programmes have led to the transfer of non-violent concepts into the daily lives of people, especially youth, around the world. One of the speakers mentioned that volunteering platforms, established for better coordination of synergies at the local and national level, are very important and tend to encourage exchange activities involving youth organizations, civil society, public and private sectors.

The parable of the person, who does not need to be offered a fish for a day but to be taught the skill of fishing for life was

used as a metaphor to illustrate the dangers of development aid without support for local industries and communities. It was agreed that to make development sustainable, education remains the most important tool, especially in small and rural communities. Vocational training was recognized as an asset of general education and it is being encouraged by volunteering programmes. The participants underlined that the lessons of sustainable development must be also extended to the field of natural resources, since the livelihoods of many people depend directly on their availability. In the same vein, the participants mentioned that Social Entrepreneurship programs should be designed for those who need support in dealing with the challenges of development. These programmes ensure income generation and provide jobs.

The speakers pointed to some of the most important challenges encountered by the volunteers, such as the social and political situations in the individual countries. However, most participants agreed that with adequate support from the international volunteering networks and organizations, combined with enthusiasm, this type of social engagement can be successful and welcomed in all regions of the world.

The participants finally emphasized that building a culture of peace and promoting sustainable development are crucial priorities for young people and their Governments. They concluded by inviting Governments to support and develop the accomplishments initiated by youth. The speakers underscored that peace starts from within, and living in a melting pot of cultures means that each person must be able to express and share his or her culture. The participants also underlined the importance of cooperation, dialogue and understanding in achieving the goals of sustainable development.



Abdullah Aljumah



Marc Torbey El Helou



Lama Alshareef



**Hasina Reine
Rakotondraina**



Mohamed Faizoul

Fourth Session

How to Promote Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue

Rapporteur

Anne-Cécile Antalík (France)



Moderator

Mr. Eduardo Javier Laríos Calva (Mexico)

A Saudi Arabian citizen, **Batool Al Moteab** is the youngest Saudi female

employed in United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She is currently involved in multicultural projects and manages meetings, which gather people from a multitude of cultures and backgrounds. She also conducts workshops centred on cultural diversity with the aim of promoting common shared values. To date, around thirty two cross-cultural meetings have been held, with many more planned for the future.



She also participated in the UNESCO Youth Forum held in Paris in October 2013 as a Saudi Delegate. This event represented an opportunity to discuss ways in which youth can be involved in social inclusion actions, encourage civic engagement, and evaluate the need for policy making and skills acquisition.

At the UNESCO Youth Forum, Batool introduced the *Educational bus tour* project led by a very diverse team. Driving in Europe and visiting schools, children centres and universities, the Educational Bus Tour aimed to promote dialogue through music and videos. She underlined the fact that the partners and sponsors were determined to further promote these projects in order to reach more people.

Furthermore, during the Startup weekend event, a global grassroots movement gathering active entrepreneurs,

an activity led by Saudi Arabia, named SEED (Solutions Empowering Environmental Development), received the first place. For the first time, Startup Weekend partnered with the United States Department of State to promote entrepreneurship and social business to young people from around the world, in connection with the 8th UNESCO YOUTH FORUM.



As an active member of the Scout Movement **Amélie Mackré** (France) underlined that the vision of scouting is to create a better world by offering the educational tools for improving the lives of the people. She emphasized the fact that that the Scouts share

and agree on volunteering methods based on respect for others in everyday life, on the attachment to nature, and mutual teaching/learning. As Messengers of Peace, the Scouts organise events around the world to promote cultural dialogue. They meet and live together during their volunteering activities. An important example in this programme has been "Live my camp" initiative, which gathered Muslim, Jewish and Christian scouts during two weeks' summer camps.

Amélie emphasized the fact that an important part of the scouting activities center on partnership. One of the best examples is the youth for youth association named "Coexister." The association uses interfaith dialogue as a tool to promote and foster mutual understanding and social cohesion. The focus is on five fields of interaction for intercultural dialogue: dialogue, solidarity, raising awareness activities, training,

traveling. One of Coexister's most important projects is entitled the Interfaith Tour, which gathers five young people of different backgrounds (Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Atheist and Agnostic), who travel around the world (50 countries until now) to meet interfaith leaders and actors and establish networks between them. The project aims to demonstrate that youth is an important factor in promoting change. It also contributes to "positive globalization" through meetings and the creation of interfaith connections.



Ahmad al Allouch (Tunisia) spoke about his extensive experience in volunteering with the Scouts, especially in the fields of sports events and humanitarian assistance in Libya. In his presentation, he underlined the importance of international sportive events, such as the

Olympic Games, in promoting diversity and intercultural dialogue. The space of the "Olympic village" is a place of interactions and exchanges between very diverse people.

Furthermore, Ahmad also offered a series of recommendations for volunteers and policy-makers, in support of the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. Among these were:

- Strengthen the area of internal dialogue between individuals and improve the culture of dialogue and awareness in the local community and national levels
- Communicate and build bridges of positive cooperation between individuals and the establishment of dialogue relations, in terms of shared cultural participation
- Integrate culture as a strategic element in national development policies and international development cooperation efforts
- Put an emphasis on respect for religions, cultures, civilizations and at the same time advance the interaction between them.

- Promote an impartial media coverage concerning the importance and advantages of diversity and dialogue as well as support media's role as mediator in stimulating global awareness for peace.



Marie Louise Ycossié is a national coordinator in the Scouts movement in the Ivory Coast. In her intervention, she highlighted some of the main ideas guiding the Scouts activities, among which acceptance, tolerance and respect for diversity, including religious diversity, were the most

important ones. By understanding cultural diversity as a source of enrichment and not a barrier, the Scouts aim to promote intercultural dialogue by connecting people from around the world through programmes such as the *Messengers of Peace*.

Her volunteer work has focused primarily on peace-building initiatives through dialogue. Marie Louise underlined the fact that taking the multi-ethnic environment in the Ivory Coast into account, which is home of more than sixty ethnic groups, the promotion of dialogue and peace initiatives among youth is essential. Marie Louise emphasized that dialogue is a key component of reconciliation. During the recent parliamentary elections in the Ivory Coast, her team chose the city of Bouaké, a former war zone, in order to raise awareness about the importance of dialogue for peaceful elections. Youth went door to door to exchange about tolerance and both youth and adults participated in a roundtable with representatives of religious and ethnic communities and local NGOs on the subject of dialogue and living together.

Working to bring young people together to raise their awareness about diversity, as well as the need for tolerance, acceptance and dialogue, remain the most important feature of her volunteer work. Marie Louise ended her intervention by pointing out that the Conference in itself was very effective in building bridges between different youth around the globe and it would contribute to the spiritual enrichment of everyone present.

Fifth Session

The Role of Information Technology and Communications in Promoting Volunteering and Responsible Citizenship

Rapporteur

Birutė Taraskevičiūtė (Lithuania)



Moderator

Hamed Ibrahim Hamed (Egypt)

Abdulaziz Alothman (Saudi Arabia) described the different ways in which dialogue is transformed and redefined by social media. He pointed out that cultural diversity and international initiatives create and influence the understanding of other nationalities and religions. The last decade has shown that the mass media audience is shifting towards social media, since it provides an opportunity to communicate outside regional and national borders. In his opinion, social media can be regarded as an excellent opportunity for finding a peaceful way to communicate among highly diverse communities.



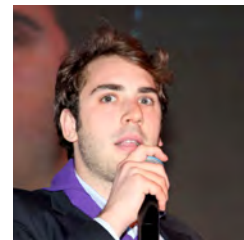
Máire Fitzgerald, member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in Ireland, began her speech by asking a very relevant question in the context of the international volunteering landscape: How can we inspire

people to create a better world, while still remaining focussed on contributing to their local community? She used her experience in scouting to underline the importance of communication, both internal and external, with one of the main platforms being social media. She pointed out that in the age of widespread internet access social media is used

for promoting projects, initiatives, sharing ideas, engaging young people. In her view, communication is always about connection, about building a bridge and walking towards the other person.

Furthermore, Máire showed how communication and especially online communication can strengthen responsible citizenship. In her words, responsible citizenship can be defined as the citizen contributing to society while avoiding to harm other individuals, organisations or the environment. She believes that by encouraging people to engage through social media, one can start changing people's attitudes, and even inspire them to join volunteerism projects and directly contribute to the building of responsible citizenship. Máire concluded by stating that for the IT in communication to be truly effective, there is a need to use social media as an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas.

Pierre Arlaud (France), also a member of the Scouts organization, underlined the idea of using social media and the ICTs as tools to spread a message of peace, involvement and solidarity among youth. He



pointed out that given the centrality of technology to young people's role as citizens in the twenty-first century society,

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have a key position in the content and delivery of citizenship education. In addition, the ubiquity of digital technologies, and in particular, the ease with which they allow young people to access ideas, information, and people outside their immediate geographic and cultural surroundings, is seen as especially important for the strengthening of citizenship and civic engagement among young people. Pierre described his efforts to encourage young people to take part into volunteering programmes, to foster active digital citizenship at the international level and to develop a network of youth organizations at the international level. He concluded by highlighting that using ICTs to promote volunteering and responsible citizenship can be seen as a tool for empowerment. Outreach through ICTs is a multi-stage promotional catalyst for the visibility and recognition of volunteer actions and for expansion of ideas as well as recognition and identification of new network opportunities.



Edvardo José Barreto Barroeta (Venezuela) concluded the workshop by addressing the issue of new technologies as open spaces for dialogue.

Exchanges on “best practices”
in volunteering across the world

















CONCLUSION

MESSAGES AND STATEMENTS

Message from Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day

Delivered by Katerina Stenou, Coordinator of the Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO

On International Volunteer Day (IVD) we recognize the contribution of volunteers to peace and development worldwide. Today, we are highlighting the millions of young volunteers around the world who are acting globally for social change.

There are more than 1.2 billion youth in the world today, with incredible potential to tackle challenges and act as agents of change. When young people volunteer, the opportunity provides them with valuable life and job skills; it strengthens their capacity to lead and become engaged in their communities and global society.

I am especially grateful to the nearly 1,000 young UN Volunteers who are supporting the work of the United Nations for peace, sustainable development and human rights. UN Volunteers work alongside UN staff to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable populations in the world. They will continue to play a key role in accelerating our work for the Millennium Development Goals, combating climate change and shaping and implementing the post-2015 development agenda.

Volunteerism is a two-way street. Even as volunteers help generate positive change for others, their own lives are often transformed by the act of volunteering itself. On this International Volunteer Day, let us renew our commitment to offering young people diverse and meaningful volunteer opportunities to become active and confident contributors to global change.



Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Volunteerism is a two-way street. Even as volunteers help generate positive change for others, their own lives are often transformed by the act of volunteering itself.

Message from Richard Dictus, Executive Director of the United Nations Volunteers, on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day

Delivered by Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed, Chief of the Partnerships and Communications Division of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Every year on 5 December, International Volunteer Day, the world celebrates one of the most basic expressions of solidarity and societal cohesion, volunteerism. Often arising out of long-established traditions of sharing and reciprocal exchanges, volunteerism is a universal phenomenon that transcends boundaries, religions and culture divides. This year, on this very special Day, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is highlighting the contributions that youth volunteers are making to build the future we want.

There are more than 1.2 billion youth in the world today, the largest group of young people in history with incredible power and potential. At the same time this large group faces unique vulnerabilities and challenges: Youth in general are disproportionately affected by extreme poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, and lack of access to education and other basic social services.

Today we celebrate and recognize that young people are ready to tackle challenges and are increasingly acting as transformational agents of change in society. All over the world, they are calling for institutions to be responsive, not just to their own needs, but to national or global concerns – and providing the energy, creative ideas and determination to drive reform. The global rise in prominence of young people has been accelerated by the rapid advances in technologies, connecting them across geographical, social, religious, gender, and economic barriers.

Volunteerism is one of the best ways to harness this energy and creativity of youth towards peace, the eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. On this Day, and every day, I encourage youth from around the world to get involved and volunteer for the betterment of their communities.



Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed, UNV, delivering the message on behalf of **Richard Dictus**, Executive Director of the United Nations Volunteers

There are more than 1.2 billion youth in the world today, the largest group of young people in history, with incredible power and potential.

Statement by Abdulaziz Al Sebail, Key adviser, Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

During the last three days, this conference has successfully identified and developed new and innovative approaches to youth through volunteering and dialogue, which have been reflected in Jeddah Youth Declaration. This event, gathering over 300 youth participants from 40 different countries, will contribute effectively to the sustained efforts to bridge the gap between diverse ideas and beliefs.

I have been deeply impressed by youth's capacity full of ambition, hope, energy and dynamism. Despite all the disputes, atrocities and conflicts that the world is witnessing, youth will continue to be the bright face of future. I believe that you, the young people, are the ones who will resolve these tragedies and will be able to lead and act as full-fledged partners.

The diversity in culture, beliefs, and ethnicity has enriched this meeting with new experiences, and has provided significant understanding of today's crises. Dialogue is the catalyst for achieving our goals in terms of promoting sustainable peace, security and social justice. In addition, integration is an advantage to build a network of mutual learning, which will develop further capacities to break prejudices and cultural stereotypes.

I am pleased to see the highly positive attitude among the participants from different cultures and backgrounds, sharing and working together, taking steps towards deepening the dialogue.

I felt so proud seeing young Saudi men and women participate voluntarily in organizing this event, including my daughter who has expressed that the program was an inspiring, enriching and motivating experience.



Abdulaziz Al Sebail, Key adviser, Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Dialogue is the catalyst for achieving our goals in terms of promoting sustainable peace, security and social justice.

Finally, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, I would like to thank you, my dear young friends, for being an integral part of this occasion. I convey my sincere gratitude to the UNESCO and King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue for their great cooperation as well as all their efforts. We are looking forward to increasing our efforts to encourage and support the youth to achieve their fullest potential towards a prosperous and sustainable future.

**Statement by Katerina Stenou,
Coordinator of the Intersectoral Platform for a
Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Bureau of
Strategic Planning, UNESCO**

Expressing one's feeling during this closing ceremony at a moment where emotions and facts melt is a real challenge for me. We do not need to start the debate again, for sure. I do believe we have witnessed a challenging volunteering agenda for future implementation. It is highly innovative, because it brings together concepts that used to be dealt with, or addressed, separately. It is the first time that we assemble the following four notions – and not the easiest: youth volunteering, citizenship, diversity and dialogue. What binds all these concepts together? This might be difficult to evaluate, but later on, when you will recall your experiences and your concerns expressed during these two and a half very rich days of debate, you will feel more skilled and hence enriched. Personally I do feel it.

I am convinced that your intercultural competences have been strengthened and deepened. What makes the difference “before” and “after” Jeddah is that your intercultural competences have increased so as to make the prejudices you may have had disappear, whether from Saudi Arabia or from abroad. Allow me to say how impressed I am to find here so many talented, beautiful, intelligent and highly educated women. And I know that my personal view is shared by many others. We all share the powerful, vital resource of volunteering and dialogue as a real capital for change. Volunteering and dialogue is about speaking and acting while also expressing concerns and aspirations. Thus, the linkage of these two concepts creates new energy and hope.

Let me conclude with a special message of congratulations to the winners of the *Global Contest for Mutual Understanding, Pathways to a culture of peace and non-violence*, who came from all over the world to showcase, through concrete artistic creations, the way they practice peace on a daily basis, the new paths they follow to understand and cherish diversity. Let them be cheerfully thanked for coming from so far away.

Finally, I would like to ask you to make a note in your diaries on how to create synergy - a sort of “virtue cycle” - between the concepts that we have addressed during each session of our conference. To share a common aspiration to a culture of peace is neither automatic, nor straightforward. This also applies to diversity and dialogue, even though it might appear as spontaneous “ethos” as stated in the



Katerina Stenou, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO

We all share the powerful, vital resource of volunteering and dialogue as a real capital for change.

Jeddah Declaration. However, these concepts cannot be easily grasped unless underpinned by internal reflexivity that seeks to build a critical view of our own, and not only of other cultures. In other terms, it is not only about the “others”, it is first and utmost about “us”.

The second aspect to be encouraged in order to create this “virtue cycle” is our own capacity to live together in conviviality, and not back to back. This is why the Declaration speaks about respect for, and appreciation of, diversity. Respect is important, but it is only the first step. We have to create a new art of listening to, and perceiving “otherness” in a fair and critical manner.

The third aspect relates to our willingness to engage in creative adaptation and anticipation. This is why volunteering efforts and commitments are so important; they are expressions of spontaneous intercultural solidarity.

Thank you for your energy, freshness and strength which you have shared with us. As the Minister rightly said, your commitment and enthusiasm are a real source of encouragement and inspiration for future actions.

Message from Scott Teare, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement

Delivered by Esben Holager, Youth Adviser to the World Scout Committee

In the spirit of Scouting, please allow me to quote our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell. Talking of volunteering, he said, “the most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others”.

It is no coincidence that your conference comes to a culmination today: the International Day of Volunteering. Volunteering plays a significant role in a Scout's life and in every community for that matter. Our goal is to enable young persons to take up leadership and create positive change in the society, and it would not be possible without the support of millions of our volunteer Scout Leaders helping empower young people every single day of the year! More importantly, our 40 million + Scouts, the young members of the Movement are volunteering through community service every day and every hour of their life.

World Scouting is perhaps the first global intergenerational organization, where millions of volunteers, adults and young people alike, serve their communities on a daily basis for more than 107 years. We have a substantial, and positive impact, in the daily life of millions of people belonging to those communities. The Scouts who have participated in your Conference have told me that they have been fully engaged through sharing of experiences on youth volunteering and dialogue. They also value the great hospitality of Saudi Arabia.

Our Scout participants also appreciated the intercultural experience of sharing rooms with young people from Saudi Arabia. UNESCO and UNV are our highly valued partners and we are grateful for their roles in making this Conference possible.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement would like to take the opportunity to thank our friends in Saudi Arabia for their continued support to promote a culture of dialogue. The Royal Family and the people of Saudi Arabia have been at the forefront of supporting the growth and expansion of Scouting through our 10 year flagship initiative: the Messengers of Peace. Through Messengers of Peace we have already enabled hundreds of thousands of Scouts from around the world to take positive action and actively contribute to ensuring peace in their communities. We will continue to do our part by raising the amount of service hours from 21 million to 50 millions and more in the coming year.

Let me take this opportunity to say that Messengers of Peace initiatives and projects are not only for Scouts, but every young person around the world is invited to join as Messengers of Peace. In a truly diverse world we need to recognise the

More importantly, our 40 million+ Scouts, the young members of the Movement, are volunteering through community service every day and every hour of their life.



Esben Holager Delivering the message on behalf of Scott Teare, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement

continued need for everyone to actively contribute to peace building and peace keeping. Peace is not given – it needs to be nurtured in order to survive. And, it cannot be achieved by one person, or a small group, or even 40 million people, everyone needs to be committed to the cause of peace.

All of us can together achieve true and lasting peace for our world. I encourage you to look around you and think about what partnerships you are able to start in order for us all to improve collaboration and to achieve goals together. It is a great advantage of volunteerism to use local, regional, national or even international levels for common work. Let all of us commit to creating an enabling environment for individuals to engage in volunteering activities and to promote the well-being of volunteers, in Scouting and in the wider society.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the ministry of Education, to UNESCO and to the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue for making this conference a success. It would not have been possible without your support and I trust that we can continue our joint work in the areas of youth volunteering and dialogue.

I assure you that more than 40 million scouts around the world will continue to adhere to their Scout Promise of doing their duty by helping others at all times through service and volunteering, promote a culture of dialogue through rich exchanges every moment of their Scouting life and eventually contribute to making the world a better place. On that note, I urge every single one of you to go home and find the Scouts in your community and make them your partners in your efforts to strengthen youth volunteering and dialogue.

Statement by Amal Almoallimi, Head of the Women Section, the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue

Good morning – a morning of youth, beauty and vitality, a morning filled with the great and profound feelings generated during the last three days in which we have gathered here in the city of Jeddah, city of love, tolerance, brotherhood and peace and a city that has been open to different civilizations and in contact with the “Other” throughout time.

Although delighted at the success of this conference, we are nevertheless sad at your departure from this fine country. Our only consolation is that, God willing, we shall stay in contact and that you will take with you a positive message of the Kingdom and what you have seen and experienced in recent days, back to your own countries and colleagues, wherever you may be from.

At the outset, I should like to thank all official and governmental bodies that have contributed to the success of the conference. However, allow me to express particular thanks to the male and female volunteers from the city of Jeddah who took part in organizing the conference. Furthermore, it is my pleasure to thank my colleagues from the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue who comprised the unknown army of those who provided supervision, technical support, general services, communications, public relations, reservations and so on. We appear in the picture but it is they who are behind us, supporting us.

I should like to stress that we have met for three days in Jeddah to appeal for common human values to be affirmed everywhere throughout the world. This has been the goal of man’s creation since the beginning of time. However, in this age of global openness, we must stress the importance of civilizational dialogue that brings people together in love and peaceful coexistence free from conflict and strife. We

*We live on the one planet,
which we share together, and
your initiatives to protect the
environment will have an impact
on everyone, in all parts of
the world.*



Amal Almoallimi, Head of the Women Section, the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue

must reinforce the points where cultures meet and bridge the gaps between them for the sake of a better life, a happier tomorrow and the sake of future generations. To those who desire and long for change, we say that it is best to call for a balance between high-minded endeavour and ambition, taking into account the knowledge and experience of those who came before us so that we might begin where others ended.

It is important for us to recognise that human civilization is the product of collective experience. This means that we need initiatives but also need a link between past experience and future initiatives.

We live on the one planet, which we share together, and your initiatives to build the planet and protect the environment will have an impact on everyone, in all parts of the world. We strive to develop political, cultural and social systems to keep pace with the modern age and achieve the aspirations and ambitions of the young. Through your efforts, we shall work to create a better tomorrow, God willing.

The wonderful thing it is that, although we have our own identity and character of which we are proud, we have all come together. It is more wonderful, however, that we are open to the identity of the “Other”, that we get to know the “Other” and communicate in a positive way, to bring about the desired civilizational contact.

In conclusion, permit me to borrow a phrase from an article by my colleague, the writer Mouna Hamdan, published in today’s *al-Madina* newspaper: “Your entire life is the moment in which you are in. Make the best use of it you can.”

**Statement by
Fahad bin Sultan AlSultan,
Deputy Secretary-General of the King Abdulaziz
Center for National Dialogue (KACND)**

I bid you welcome to the conclusion of the International Conference on Youth Volunteering and Dialogue. I would like to thank both the Ministry of Education and UNESCO for their participation in the organization of and preparations for the Conference, within the framework of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue.

I trust that the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue has helped to make your stay during the last few days a pleasant one. We have gone to great lengths to ensure that these three days will be remembered fondly, also for the cultural and social activities, which were organized during this time.

I would like to extend gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, for his generous support and sponsorship of this important project, which has brought us together today. We hope that this conference will be the beginning and not the end of this world-wide human assembly, and that such conferences and forums will further develop in the future.

I would like to thank Mr Ban Ki-moon for his message and his support for the Conference, particularly as today is International Volunteer Day.

Thanks are due to our colleagues in UNESCO, who have worked with us over the past months to prepare and make the arrangements for the Conference. I would like to extend special thanks to Ms Ann-Belinda Preis, who has been unable to attend for health reasons. I wish her a heartfelt speedy recovery.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my colleagues at the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue who have worked over recent months to prepare for this Conference. Special thanks are due to the young volunteers who did such a



Dr Fahad bin Sultan AlSultan, Deputy Secretary-General of the King Abdulaziz Centre, for National Dialogue

It has pleased me to see young Saudis offering such an excellent example of interaction and dialogue with their peers from other societies.

great job and for which we are indeed grateful. We shall be pleased to honour them at the end of the Conference.

It has pleased me to see young Saudis offering such an excellent example of interaction and dialogue with their peers from other societies. I was pleased at the developed level of communication and friendship which they have presented in recent days.

In conclusion, thanks are also due to the young people who contributed to the drafting of the Jeddah Declaration, with which we have sealed this Conference.



جدة - المملكة العربية السعودية
30 محرم - 2 صفر 1435 هـ

مؤتمر الشباب الدولي للتطوع والحوار
International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue



PHOTO
GALLERY

Culture dinner, Folklore dances, and art exhibition

Hosted by Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

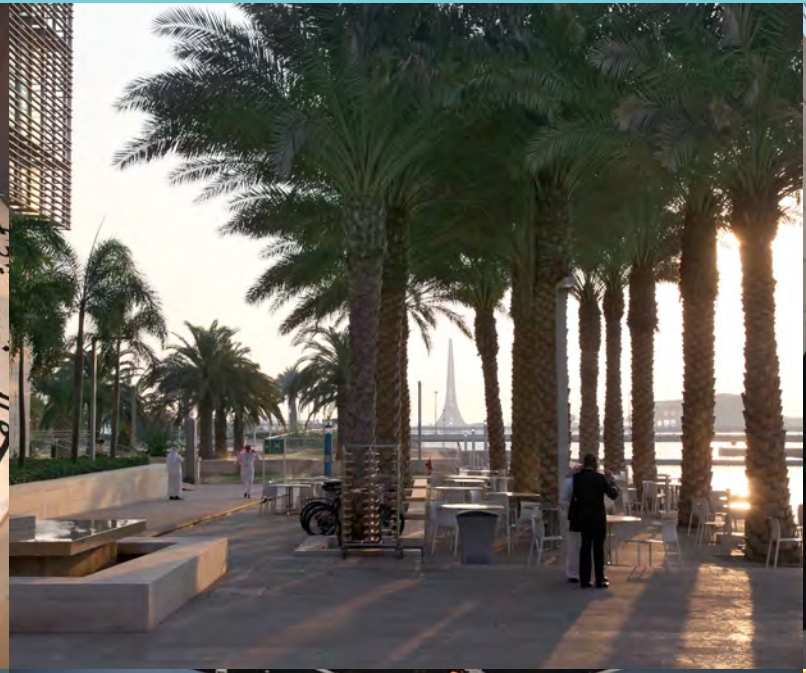
Abruq Ar Rughamah





Visit to King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Dialogue Coffee 'Experiences on Cultural Exchange'

Dinner Hosted by KACND (King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue)



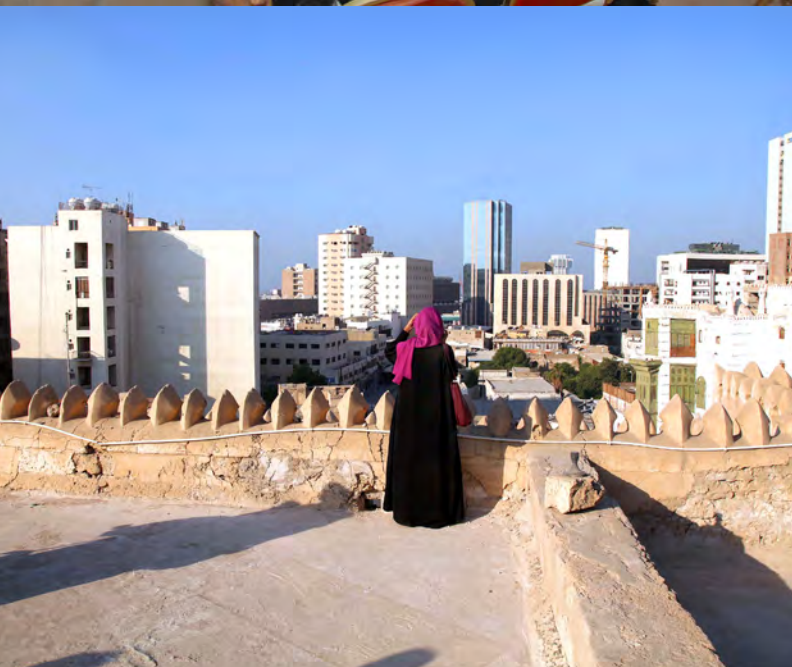






Traditional breakfast and visit to Naseef Historic House

Old City of Jeddah















ANNEX

List of participants

Ministry of Education, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud, Minister of Education

Hamad Mohammed Al Sheikh, Deputy Minister of Education

Abdul Aziz Al-Subail, Key adviser, Ministry of Education

Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO

Ziad bin Abdullah Aldrees, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO

Tariq AlMohiza, Cultural Consultant, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO

High-Level Representatives

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director-General of ISESCO

Abdullah Hamed Mohareb, Director-General of ALECSO

Hans d'Orville, Assistant Director-General, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO

Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Envoy for youth

John Geoghegan, Secretary-General, World Scout Foundation

Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed, Chief of Partnerships and Communications Division, United Nations Volunteers

King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)

Faisal bin Abdurrahman bin Muammar, Secretary General, KACND

Fahad bin Sultan Al-Sultan, Deputy Secretary General, KACND

Amal Almoallimi, Head of the Women Section, KACND

Representatives of Partner Organizations

Ibrahim Hussein, Development Division, Senior Portfolio Manager for the Arab States, United Nations Volunteers

Amina Said, Communication Specialist, United Nations Volunteers

Hany Abdulmonem, Director, Youth Programme, World Scout Bureau

Srinath Venugopal, Senior Unit Manager External Media & External Relations, World Organization of the Scout Movement

Youth Participants

World Organization of the Scout Movement

Pierre Arlaud, France

Eduardo José Barreto Barroeta, Venezuela

Munir Ahmed Bhuiyan, Bangladesh

Mohamed Imran Faizoul, Guyana

Máire Fitzgerald, Ireland

Esben Holager, Denmark

Eun Gyeong Lee, South Korea

Amélie Mackré, France

Ahmed Ameen Nimir, Sudan

Birutė Taraskevičiūtė, Lithuania

Marie Louise Ycossié, Ivory Coast

United Nations Volunteers

Cem Arslan, Turkey

Sarah Mohammad Ahmad Al Ghazou, Jordan

Lucy Brewah, Sierra Leone

Ghazoua Ouerghi, Tunisia

Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service

Anne-Cécile Antalík, France

Charlotte Béal, France

Roun Thangdy, Cambodia

World Heritage in Young Hands Project

Tatjana Boicova, Latvia

Eduardo Javier Larios Calva, Mexico

Takudzwa Machirori, Zimbabwe

Benedictus Pramudya, Indonesia

Hasina Reine Rakotondraina, Madagascar

Gloria Velasquez, Mexico

Bosnia Action for Peace

Muhamed Mesic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Peace Contest Winners

Ismail Ben Amor, Tunisia

Olga Katilé, Mali

Ho Rui You, Malaysia

Elena Karantagli, Greece

Mher Ghalumyan, Armenia

John Paul Usman, Nigeria

Slavina Nenkova, Bulgaria

Tanny Achar, Mexico

Regional youth representatives

Amine Rahal, Algeria

Benzaim Djemai, Algeria

Fatima Elsayed Niama Al Hashimi, Bahrain

Afanan Ahmad Mahmoud Abdel Rahman, Egypt

Hamed Ibrahim Hamed, Egypt

Montaser Housni Abdel Maged, Egypt

Diyaa Fathy Tabaza, Jordan

Esraa Salaheddine Abdalla, Jordan

Waleed K. Jumah Alkhamees, Kuwait

Marc Torbey El Helou, Lebanon

Angie Issa, Lebanon

Abdellahi Ahmed Mahmoud, Mauritania

Ammar al Khalfy, Morocco

Mohammed Serrou, Morocco

Haithem Mohammed Ahmad Al Jaady, Oman

Dafaalla Ibrahim Hamza Ali, Sudan

Razan Moutasem Bashir Nimir, Sudan

Ahmad AL Allouch, Tunisia

Slah Eddine Ben Rjab, Tunisia

Hamad Mohammed Ali, United Arab Emirates

Khawla Khalil Al Hosani, United Arab Emirates

Mohammed Ahmad Al Ansi, Yemen

Ola Abdo Maresah Ahmad Al- Azab, Yemen

Ashjan Ahmad Ali Hussein, Yemen

National Youth Representatives/ KACND

Abdulaziz Alaqil, Saudi Arabia

Abdulaziz Alshahrani, Saudi Arabia

Abdullah Aljumaah, Saudi Arabia

Abdullah Almajid, Saudi Arabia

Abdullah Almuntashiri, Saudi Arabia

Abdulrahman Jailani, Saudi Arabia

Abdulrahman Matar, Saudi Arabia

Aishah Alhozami, Saudi Arabia

Alaa Mousili, Saudi Arabia

Alanoud Alquraini, Saudi Arabia

Alanoud Basulajib, Saudi Arabia

Albaraa Jaber, Saudi Arabia

Albaraa Taibah, Saudi Arabia

Alhusain Noroly, Saudi Arabia

Amina Abdulhaq, Saudi Arabia

Ammar Shaweesh, Saudi Arabia

Anas Alghamdi, Saudi Arabia

Aoows Alhazmi, Saudi Arabia

Arwa Alquraini, Saudi Arabia

Bader Abdulqhani, Saudi Arabia

Badr Alamri, Saudi Arabia

Bashaer Bafarat, Saudi Arabia

Batoul Almeteb, Saudi Arabia

Danah Alsuqairi, Saudi Arabia

Eman Alfaqih, Saudi Arabia

Eman Amarifi, Saudi Arabia

Eyad Qutub, Saudi Arabia

Faisal Aldahash, Saudi Arabia

Hadeel Alsuraihi, Saudi Arabia

Haiham Qari, Saudi Arabia

Hammam Aljuraid, Saudi Arabia

Hatim Hariri, Saudi Arabia

Haya Alnafjan, Saudi Arabia

Kholoud Alamri, Saudi Arabia

Kholoud Bakr, Saudi Arabia

Lama Al-Ghalib, Saudi Arabia

Lamis Alhakari, Saudi Arabia

Lujain Al-Obaid, Saudi Arabia

Malik Alghanimi, Saudi Arabia

Manair Alsumali, Saudi Arabia

Maryam Alnahil, Saudi Arabia

Mhammed Hamza, Saudi Arabia

Moaid Alhumaid, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Alatiyah, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Albakri, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Albuqumi, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Alshammakh, Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Humrani, Saudi Arabia
 Mohammed Madani, Saudi Arabia
 Mohammed Qadhi, Saudi Arabia
 Mouath Alammr, Saudi Arabia
 Nada Almalki, Saudi Arabia
 Nouf Almowalad, Saudi Arabia
 Nourah Alhumaid, Saudi Arabia
 Rayan Samman, Saudi Arabia
 Razan Sindi, Saudi Arabia
 Roman Basulaiman, Saudi Arabia
 Samar Sukary, Saudi Arabia
 Sarah Baghdadi, Saudi Arabia
 Seraa Taj, Saudi Arabia
 Taha Alhazmi, Saudi Arabia
 Talal Alhafiz, Saudi Arabia
 Thekra Alattas Saudi Arabia
 Waad Aldosary Saudi Arabia
 Waad Almoshaiqeh, Saudi Arabia
 Waad Alsheddi, Saudi Arabia
 Yasir Ben Mahfouz, Saudi Arabia

KACND Secretariat

Hamam Bin Juried – (Moderator of Dialogue Coffee: “Experiences on Cultural Exchange”)

UNESCO Secretariat

Katerina Stenou, Director, Intersectoral Platform for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence

Amina Hamshari, Programme Officer, Bureau of Strategic Planning

Aurore Salinas, Bureau of Strategic Planning

Carmela Quin, Programme Officer, World Heritage Center

Naima Sedrati, Chief of the Section for Arab States

Bassam Mansour, Chief, Online Editorial, Arab Region

Jeff Jem-fong Lee, Social Media Coordinator

Agenda of the Conference/ Programme

International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue Jeddah • 3 – 5 December 2013

Tuesday, Dec 3rd

OPENING SESSION

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	DURATION
10:00	Introduction and Short film on <i>"the Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Program for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue"</i>		10mins
10:10	Opening speech	His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah Al Saud, Minister of Education	10 mins
10:20	Opening speech	Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO	10 mins
10:30	Opening speech	Mr. Faisal bin Abdurrahman bin Muammar, Secretary General of the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)	10 mins
10:40	<i>"The Global Contest for Mutual Understanding"</i> Awards		10 mins
11:00	Opening of the Exhibition: presentation of best practices		20mins

Tuesday, Dec 3rd

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT:

“INTERNATIONAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERING BACKGROUND: DIALOGUE IN ACTION” YOUTH AND LEADERS DIALOGUE

TIME	SPEAKER	DURATION
11:30	Adoption of the Agenda	5mins
11:35	Mr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri , Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	5mins
11:40	Mr. Abdullah Hamed Muhareb , Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)	5mins
11:45	Mr. Hans d’Orville , Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	5mins
11:50	Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi , United Nations Envoy for Youth	5mins
11:55	Mr. Hamad Mohammed Al Sheikh , Deputy Minister of Education - Saudi Arabia	5mins
12:00	Ms. Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed , Chief of Partnerships and Communications Division, United Nations Volunteers	5mins
12:05	Mr. John Geoghegan , Director of the World Scout Foundation	5mins
Moderator: <i>Dr. Zaid bin Abdullah Aldrees</i> , Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO		
13:15	Lunch Break	120mins

Tuesday, Dec 3rd

FIRST SESSION :

“YOUTH VOLUNTEERING AND PROMOTING A CULTURE OF DIALOGUE”

TIME	SPEAKER	COUNTRY	DURATION
15:00	Ms. May Almutairy	Saudi Arabia	5 mins
15:05	Ms. Sarah Mohammad Al Ghazou	Jordan	5 mins
15:10	Mr. Muhamed Mesic	Bosnia-Herzegovina	5 mins
15:15	Ms. Tatjana Boicova	Latvia	5 mins
15:20	Q & A		70 mins
Moderator: <i>Mr. Esben Holager</i>		Denmark	
16:30	Coffee Break		10 mins

Tuesday, Dec 3rd

SECOND SESSION : "YOUTH VOLUNTEERING, PEACE-BUILDING AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE"

TIME	SPEAKER	COUNTRY	DURATION
16:40	Ms. Lucy Brewah	Sierra Leone	5 mins
16:45	Mr. Takudzwa Machirori	Zimbabwe	5 mins
16:50	Mr. Waleed Alkhamees	Kuwait	5 mins
16:55	Mr. Munir Ahmed Bhuiyan	Bangladesh	5 mins
17:00	Q & A		70 mins
Moderator: Ms. Lujain Al Obaid		Saudi Arabia	

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

TIME	Activities	Venue	Duration
20:00	Culture dinner, Folklore dances, and art exhibition Hosted by Ministry of Education	Abruq Ar Rughamah	2hrs

Wednesday, Dec 4th

THIRD SESSION : VOLUNTEERISM, THE CULTURE OF PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TIME	SPEAKER	COUNTRY	DURATION
09:30	Mr. Abdullah Aljumah	Saudi Arabia	5 mins
09:35	Ms. Hasina Reine Rakotondraina	Madagascar	5 mins
09:40	Mr. Marc Torbey El Helou	Lebanon	5 mins
09:45	Mr. Mohamed Faizoul	Guyana	5 mins
09:50	Ms. Lama Alshareef	Saudi Arabia	5 mins
Moderator: Mr. Cem Arslan		Turkey	
11:00	Coffee Break		10 mins

Wednesday, Dec 4th

FOURTH SESSION : “HOW TO PROMOTE CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”

TIME	SPEAKER	COUNTRY	DURATION
11:10	Ms. Batool Al Moteab	Saudi Arabia	5 mins
11:15	Ms. Amélie Mackré	France	5 mins
11:20	Mr. Ahmad Al Allouch	Tunisia	5 mins
11:25	Ms. Marie Louise Ycossié	Côte d'Ivoire	5 mins
11:30	Q & A		70 mins
Moderator: <i>Mr. Eduardo Javier Larios Calva</i>		Mexico	

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

TIME	Activities	Venue	Duration
13:00	Visit to “King Abdullah University of Science and Technology” & lunch on Thule Beach or Umrah	Thule - Mecca	4hrs
19:30	Dialogue Coffee: “Experiences on Cultural Exchange” Moderated by Mr. Hammam Bin Juried	Hotel	1 hr
20:30	Dinner Hosted by KACND	Hotel	2hrs

Thursday, Dec 5th

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

TIME	Activities	Venue	Duration
7:00	Visit to Naseef Historic House and Traditional breakfast	Old City of Jeddah	3hrs

FIFTH SESSION : “THE ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS IN PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP”

TIME	SPEAKER	COUNTRY	DURATION
10:00	Mr. Abdulaziz Alothman	Saudi Arabia	5 mins
10:05	Ms. Máire Fitzgerald	Ireland	5 mins
10:10	Mr. Pierre Arlaud	France	5 mins
10:15	Mr. Eduardo José Barreto Barroeta	Venezuela	5 mins
10:20	Q & A		70 mins
Moderator: <i>Hamed Ibrahim Hamed</i>		Egypt	
11:30	Coffee Break		30 mins

Thursday, Dec 5th

CLOSING SESSION: "CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS"

TIME	TOPIC	DURATION
12:00	Adoption of the Youth Declaration on Volunteering & Dialogue	25 mins
12:25	Final Remarks <i>Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Volunteers on the occasion of the International Volunteer Day</i> <i>Ministry of Education – Saudi Arabia</i> <i>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</i> <i>World Scout Foundation</i> <i>King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue</i>	30 min
Moderator: Dr. Fahad bin Sultan Alsultan, Deputy of Secretary General of the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND)		
13:30	Lunch Break	105 min

Background Paper

«Youth Volunteering and Dialogue »

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

(Margaret Mead, anthropologist)

Introduction

In a world of globalization and inequality, which is simultaneously bringing people closer together and widening the divisions between them, listening to the voices of youth and engaging them in development processes has become a necessity. Today, youth everywhere invent, articulate, and reformulate the ‘lingua franca’ of globalization, through which their demands for inclusiveness, empowerment, prosperity and sustainability passes with a hitherto unknown intensity. Geographic and cultural borders have become more porous, leading to unprecedented encounters, exchanges and ‘togetherness’, and making instant connectivity a reality in many parts of the world through ICTs. Indeed, the advances in technology and innovation have radically changed the ways of communicating, networking, learning and participating as national and global citizens, and young people are at the centre of these new trends and developments.

Yet, as we know, the positive effects of globalization have so far been unevenly distributed, leaving many behind and even widening existing inequalities. The global financial crisis has highlighted the fragility of our social, financial and environmental systems, resulting in a deep sense of discontentment that reverberates around the globe, along with a call for a renewed solidarity and inclusiveness. Globalization, with its added weight in economic, environmental and demographic terms, has uncovered old and created new fault lines between and within countries, regions and continents, also giving way to new obstacles to social cohesion, lasting peace and sustainable development. There is the sense that our world is currently

experiencing a crisis of an intellectual and moral nature and that the involvement of youth in forging new narratives for the future will be essential.

The United Nations Development Group’s (UNDG) recent report “The World We Want” on the global consultations concerning the post-2015 development agenda has underscored the extent to which people and especially youth now demand to play an active role in shaping and changing their world. Due to widespread inequalities and insecurity, a sense of injustice is widespread, which affect marginalized, excluded and poor people the most. Also, the consultations have established a clear linkage between sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and enhanced governance. Due to the fact that the world’s realities and challenges are increasingly complex and interlinked, there is a need for a sustainable development agenda that is integrated, holistic and universal, applying to all countries and all people, especially the young, yet responsive to the complexities, needs and capacities of individual countries.²

Youth voices – a key to sustainability

Around the world, young women and men are driving change and claiming respect for fundamental freedoms and rights, opportunities to learn, and to work and participate

2 A Million Voices – The World We Want Report, <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/bitcache/9158d79561a9de6b34f95568ce8b389989412f6?vid=422422&disposition=inline&op=view> [EN]; <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/bitcache/29fe97019e2f62b68881025679d6b3be7ca66941?vid=423172&disposition=inline&op=view> [AR]

in decisions that affect them. Today, young people have become important partners of dialogue for governments and one of the strongest voices of civil society. Over the past few years the need to engage more effectively with youth has become the focus of numerous conferences, strategies, and future-oriented initiatives across the globe. The reasons are many and interlinked. First, the number of 12-24 year olds is set to rise to 1.5 billion by 2035³ and many regions are already confronted with a so-called “youth bulge”, where young people constitute a majority of the population. In the Arab world alone, 60 per cent of the population is less than twenty-five years old.⁴ Secondly, more than 75 million young people are currently unemployed around the globe; this is a record number, projected to remain at the same level at least until 2016.⁵ In fact, the actual global youth unemployment rate of 12.6 per cent dramatically overshadows the global adult unemployment rate of 4.8 per cent. About 152 million young workers live below the poverty line (US\$1.25 per day), a figure that comprises 24 per cent of the total working poor. Regions such as North Africa and the Middle East show unequal patterns of unemployment based on gender. And thirdly, besides unemployment, underemployment and working in the informal economy is a reality for 87 per cent of the world’s youth in developing countries.⁶

Behind these abstract numbers are millions of young people facing acute challenges that affect important aspects of their lives. Their expectations are defined by a limited horizon and the future does not appear to bring any options, clarity and/or relief. Turning their disappointment and disillusion into the ability to dream and act for a better world has therefore become a top priority, if the notion of “sustainable societies” is to be meaningfully realized in the future. Clearly, the youth represents a huge resource pool in terms of their potential contribution to sustainable development, peace and poverty eradication. This scenario becomes a reality when and if they engaged as responsible social actors and innovators and are considered equal and active players in developing and implementing sustainable development policies, and not only as mere passive beneficiaries. Young people are part of the solution and not of the problem.

Although they are far from a homogenous group, young people articulate in very clear terms the need for open and honest debate about what the future world should – and should not – look like. To this end, UNESCO’s Operational Strategy on Youth 2014 -2021 underscores the importance of creating an enabling environment for youth to fulfil their rights and responsibilities, to prosper as human beings, to be heard, engaged and valued as social actors and knowledge holders in specialized fields. Moreover, UNESCO acts towards ensuring that young women and men are engaged

in policies and programmes which affect their lives, and also lead action to promote peace and sustainable development in their countries and communities.⁷ UNESCO’s action continues to address a diversity of themes, disciplines and issues: from education to culture, sciences, humanities, communication and information. Strategic and economy of scale initiatives that are interconnected and address both the upstream (policy/governance) and the downstream (societal/grass-roots) level have proved more efficient than on-off, small scale projects which are disconnected from the overall policy environment on youth.

The UNESCO Youth Forum (8th edition), held prior to UNESCO’s 37th General Conference in November 2013, gathered young people from all over the world to share their experiences and ideas on the theme of “Youth and Social Inclusion: Civic Engagement, Dialogue and Skills Development” with a view to developing and expanding UNESCO’s strategy on youth. The recommendations of the Forum’s Outcome Document recognized that “young people in all countries are key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation”, and affirmed that “investment in youth development and education is crucial for sustainable social, economic and cultural development”. The Outcome document also underscored the importance of intercultural dialogue in discussions on the environment, the economy, health and education with a view to preventing conflicts and promoting a culture of peace and sustainable development.

Youth volunteerism – a unique resource

Volunteerism is one of the most basic expressions of human behaviour and arises out of long-established ancient traditions of sharing and reciprocal exchanges. At its core are relationships and their potential to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities. There is evidence that volunteerism promotes social cohesion and trust.⁸ Volunteerism is not only the backbone of civil society organizations and social and political movements, but also of many health, education, housing and environmental programmes and a range of other civil society, public and private sector programmes worldwide. It is an integral part of every society.

The recent UN resolution on “Integrating Volunteering into the Next Decade”, (adopted on February 13, 2013) underscored that volunteerism offers valuable opportunities for youth engagement and leadership to contribute to the sustainable development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing young people to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability.⁹ The resolution emphasizes that volunteerism is an important component

3 The World Bank World Development Report for 2007

4 Arab Human Development Report 2010, UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States, p. 12

5 ILO: “Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012”, May 2012, p. 13

6 ILO: “Global Employment Trends for Youth 2012”, May 2012

7 UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth, 2013

8 State of the World Volunteerism Report 2011, p.2

9 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 67/138 Integrating volunteering in the next decade, 13 February 2013

of any strategy aimed at poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, education, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, social integration, social welfare, humanitarian action, peace-building, and in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination. The Resolution calls upon stakeholders to do their utmost to strengthen policies relating to volunteering, including youth volunteering, at the local, national and international levels, as well as integrating volunteering in all relevant issues of the United Nations as main objectives for the next decade.¹⁰

Hence, the importance of volunteerism is manifold – and growing. Although volunteerism has always existed in different forms and manifestations, it is assuming increasing importance in today's globalizing world, because of the way in which it maintains, even "insists upon", the continuity of universal values such as solidarity and commitment. "At the heart of volunteerism lies a basic expression of human relationships".¹¹ By engaging in the life of communities and societies, volunteerism generates a sense of belonging and inclusion; through the direct involvement in change processes and support to new developments, it becomes a means of appropriating one's own life and of assuming responsibilities in this regard.

Indeed, at the core of volunteerism is the notion that "our own well-being is intrinsically linked to what we contribute to the lives of others".¹² Solidarity, compassion, empathy and cooperation run through all volunteering actions like a red thread. As these values are extremely relevant for strengthening the capacity of the most vulnerable by enhancing their physical, economic, spiritual and social well-being, volunteering can contribute to the reduction of exclusion. Social cohesion and trust thrive where volunteerism is prevalent. Hence, it has become clear that volunteerism should occupy its rightful place within any development consensus which has the enhancement of human well-being at its core.¹³

Volunteerism and Dialogue

While international volunteering is far from being a new phenomenon, it manifests itself in new ways, and has taken on new dimensions, in the context of globalization. Volunteer action does not happen exclusively in one domain, but rather permeates every aspect of life. At the same time, the expression of volunteerism is also influenced, even defined, by local cultural and social circumstances. In many societies, volunteerism is linked to long-established and deeply rooted traditions of sharing and reciprocal exchanges through which people apply their energy, talents, knowledge and other resources for mutual benefit.

Deeply ingrained in many communities around the world are systems characterized by solidarity, compassion, empathy and respect for others, often expressed through the giving of one's time. Volunteering also expresses the desire to act on one's feelings about justice and fairness in the face of inequality and to foster social harmony based on a shared interest in the well-being of one's community. In most languages, there are words to express the concept of volunteerism. There is mounting evidence that volunteer engagement promotes the civic values and social cohesion, which mitigates violent conflict at all stages and that it even fosters reconciliation in post-conflict situations.

In the Arab world, "volunteerism" and "civil society" are merely new names for age-old traditions, which are embedded in consultative councils and secular organizations aimed at combatting poverty and underdevelopment. Volunteerism in Arabic is (*tatawa'a*) which means donating something. It also means to commit to a charitable activity that is not a religious requirement. It originates from the word (*tawa'a*) which means compliance, smoothness and flexibility. It is of utmost importance to understand and build upon such different approaches to volunteerism and to respect their embodied diversity.¹⁴

In this way, volunteerism is much more than just undertaking and completing a given task. Volunteerism creates and sustains bonds of trust, societal cohesion, and helps to forge a common sense of identity and destiny. In the same vein, dialogue is more and different from mere communication, no matter how rapidly the new developments in digital technology are advancing and rather independently of social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

Dialogue, understood as the ability to listen to the other, to adjust one's views and standpoints, and hence to change position and adapt to a new, emerging situation, is a hitherto unexplored tool in the general understanding of, and approaches to, volunteerism. This merits our attention, since volunteering and dialogue can reinforce each other when the purpose is to unite people for a common cause. Hence, it is of utmost importance to understand and forge new and dynamic linkages through intercultural dialogue and towards rapprochement of culture drawing on related skills and principles.

The Conference

The international conference "Youth Volunteering and Dialogue" focuses on the scope and direction of volunteerism in a diverse global world, where the notions of "social service" are as different as the societies they serve. The initiative builds on UNESCO's vast experience in this domain and on the active promotion of volunteerism by the Saudi Arabian Government, both within the country as a social, ethical and humanitarian engagement, and

10 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 67/138 Integrating volunteering in the next decade, 13 February 2013.

11 State of the World Volunteerism Report 2011, p. xx

12 State of the World Volunteerism Report 2011, p. 89

13 State of the World Volunteerism Report 2011, p. 3-6.

14 State of the World Volunteerism Report 2011, 2/55.

as part of a wider strategy to strengthen dialogue and understanding among young people from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

The Conference takes on this challenge by gathering some of the most relevant actors involved with volunteerism and intercultural dialogue, as well as youth representatives from different countries across the world, to identify and develop new and innovative approaches to youth-volunteerism through dialogue. The aim is to chart future avenues that can satisfy developmental needs of young people and enable them to grow with opportunities that foster hope, success, civic engagement and ultimately peace.

“Youth Volunteering and Dialogue” is one of the 10 projects within the “Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue”, for which an Agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2010, also setting out the cooperation between UNESCO and the King Abdulaziz National Centre for Dialogue (KANCD).

During the 3-day event, the participating young volunteers, practitioners and experts will be provided with a variety of platforms for displaying and comparing the diversity of volunteerism and to jointly define ‘best practices’ in this important domain. Five workshops will be organized with a view to optimizing exchanges and knowledge-sharing:

- **Workshop 1: Youth Volunteering and the Promotion of a Culture of Dialogue**

This workshop will bring different approaches to volunteerism to the forefront in an open dialogue between its practitioners. Dialogue begins within the family, community and country. Dialogue among governments, corporate leaders, civil society organizations and the public, with the active participation of youth, can help promote good governance and accountability, and it can foster transformative approaches and processes. The workshop participants will be invited to explore the nature of youth “social engagement” from different angles and through concrete examples of volunteering.

Guiding questions: In the era of instant connectivity, how can communication provide ideas and support for youth volunteer work all over the world? What would be the features of an inclusive “culture of dialogue” in the domain of volunteering?

- **Workshop 2: Youth Volunteering, Peace-Building and Humanitarian Assistance**

One of the most well-known and visible ‘faces’ of youth volunteerism is humanitarian aid. Volunteers all over the world have a potentially important role to play in disaster risk management as well as in post-conflict situations, but there are special challenges for young volunteers. The participants in this workshop are invited to discuss how

local communities can play a role in the adaptation and mitigation of natural disasters when assisted and guided by well-informed, trained volunteers. Although a highly sensitive area, social contexts marked by conflict, communal strife, and even violence also benefit from volunteer interventions in the pursuit of reconciliation and peace.

Guiding questions: What are the most important obstacles to effective volunteering in the area of humanitarian assistance? What tools, skills and training are needed?

- **Workshop 3: Volunteerism, the Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development**

At the core of UNESCO’s mission is the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence. Because of the link between violence, poverty and low achievement of development objectives, sustainable development must be both inclusive and people-centred, at once benefiting and involving everyone. Devising an inter-generational pact, supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment, and reaching out to marginalized and excluded groups, are hence key factors in any future peace-building scenarios. The Workshop participants are invited to take up these issues when discussing how peace and sustainable development can be fully realized through new linkages between education and meaningful employment.

Guiding questions: What kind of relationship could be established between volunteerism, youth employment in the future? What could the concrete elements of a new, inter-generational “pact” be in this regard? How to ensure that it contributes to peace?

- **Workshop 4: How to Promote Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue**

Social transformations are giving rise to new challenges of deepening inequality, exclusion, and even tensions within societies, as globalization brings people with different cultures ever closer together. From this perspective, volunteering and especially youth volunteering can be a way to forge a connection between a rapidly developing world, on the one hand, and enhanced mutual understanding and cooperation, on the other. By promoting openness and dialogue, volunteering creates strong ties between different youth groups both nationally and internationally, also lending support to social inclusiveness. As volunteering has many facets and dimensions, a genuine appreciation of the richness of cultural diversity is required. This in turn presupposes the ability to be receptive and flexible while engaging in constructive dialogues around new forms of active social participation.

Guiding questions: How to ensure that dialogue leads to inclusiveness? What would be core principles underlying such an endeavour? What are the linkages between

cultural diversity and inclusivity; are they always mutually reinforcing?

- **Workshop 5: The Role of Information Technologies and Communications in Promoting Volunteering and Responsible Citizenship**

The rapid expansion of digital communication and virtual social platforms has had a strong influence on volunteering actions in the past years. ICTs have encouraged unprecedented connection and provided strength to the voices of youth seeking to articulate their desire for participatory democratic processes and civic engagement both at the national and global level. Volunteer-based campaigning and activism have been redefined in light of these advances in modern information and communication technologies, and new social networks have obtained an essential role in the instant spread of information and civic participation. Although it is not always easy to demonstrate a direct link, social media can play an important role in influencing social change.

Guiding questions: What is the impact of ICTs in the different areas of volunteering? In which ways can/do they encourage of responsible, local and global citizenship?

Adoption of Declaration

Today, volunteerism should be recognized as a powerful and universal resource and as a vital component of the social capital of every country. It has a potential to make difference in responding to many of today's complex global challenges with the active participation of young women and men contributing to peace and sustainable development, including in the context of the upcoming post-2015 development agenda.

A Declaration will be adopted by the youth participants at the end of the Conference, capturing the key features of an innovative volunteerism agenda for future implementation by partner organizations, networks, associations, and other relevant parties.

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE that dialogue is the catalyst for enabling lasting cooperation, promoting the sharing of experiences, and fostering solidarity within and among communities, cultures, faiths, generations and nations

WE URGE governments, local authorities, the private sector as well as global and regional organizations, such as United Nations entities, ISESCO and ALECSO, to integrate volunteering and dialogue as critical components of youth development, both personal and professional, and to create an enabling environment and platforms in which youth volunteering can flourish...

Youth Declaration on Volunteering and Dialogue
Jeddah, 3-5 December 2013.