

Your Excellencies,
Dear distinguished guests of the UNESCO General Assembly,

It is an honor for me to participate to this NGOs intervention session, and as the World President of AIAP/IAA International Association of Art, I salute all of you in the name of all the artists associations that work as official partners of UNESCO around the world.

IAA exists in order to protect artist's rights and establish a worldwide solidarity among the artists of the World.

As we know, the world is unfortunately going through some chaos that brings war zones with clashes of religion, ethnicity and race. The best way for contributing to World peace in this world of prejudices, hatred and corruption, is establishing dialogues with art among nations, as the main tool for overcoming those heavy issues.

In these tempestuous times, the social role of art and enhancing the development of creativity in order to find solutions to the growing problems of our globe becomes a priority.

As a example among others, we were very happy to coordinate last year with our Korean National Committee, a large international Show in the city of Suncheon, "**The Suncheon Bay Environment Art Festival**" in order to push the solidarity on World consciousness in regards to ecology and environment protection, a subject of alarming importance in our World.

We have also contributed to the "**Education Towards Peace**", siding together with the children of the world, namely with two exhibitions, "**Children of the World Draw for Peace**" and "**Together for Art, for Peace, the Children Take Responsibility**". It was a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Also, we have accepted in Guadalajara, Mexico, as World artists in IAA, the proposal of Turkey, in 2011 for celebrating every year the birthday of Leonardo da Vinci, as **World Art day**, all around the World. This simultaneous celebration has raised a lot of voice and solidarity among nations and we hope UNESCO to follow all these worldwide events and hopefully declare **World Art Day**, April 15 in its official lists of World Days.

With all these efforts, we hope very much to extend the weight and value of art, beyond major western frontiers, as it has unfortunately being accustomed. The art scene and art history should be an arena with equal opportunities for the world artists tomorrow.

We are aware of the several problems UNESCO is facing with some major countries. It is our concrete consolation that among the countries that are to be added very soon to the IAA, now we also have the USA, where we have launched several **World Art Day** activities starting with California, in the past couple years.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As the IAA, we are proud to be a part of the UNESCO and we ask to each of you honorable member's growing contribution to all NGOs, as main veins of cooperation for peace and better world. We also hope that each UNESCO country will give their support to World Art Day and to their National Committees, member of IAA around the world. Thank you very much.

Bedri Baykam
World President
AIAP/IAA
International Association of Art –Official partner of UNESCO