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Association Internationale
POUR LA DÉFENSE DE LA LIBERTÉ RELIGIEUSE
International Association
FOR THE DEFENCE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

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ante las Naciones Unidas de
Ginebra



Side-event at the 37th session of HRC

“RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FREEDOM’S INFLUENCE ON PEACE AND SECURITY”

**On the 5 of March, 4:30-6:00 pm, Room VIII,
Palais des Nations - Geneva**

MODERATOR

H.E. Ambassador Beatriz LONDOÑO SOTO, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Liviu OLTEANU, Organizer of the side-event, Secretary General of the AIDLR, Representative at the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the OSCE

H.E. Belén ALFARO, Ambassador-at-Large, Alliance of Civilizations and Inter-Religious Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Spain

Ms. Diane ALA'I, Representative to the United Nations, Bahá'í International Community - United Nations Office

H.E. Dr. Ibrahim SALAMA, Head Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR

Dr. Bruno VERTALLIER, former President of the AIDLR, missionary and professor, Switzerland

Dr. Cole DURHAM, Law Professor at Brigham Young University, Founder of the International Centre for Law and Religious Studies

H.E. Dr. Ahmed SHAEED, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief FoRB of the United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR

Extracts from the Concept Note:

Member States, international and regional organizations and civil society play a fundamental role in fostering human rights, religious freedom and freedom of expression, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

Three Objectives

The main objective of the Side-Event organized by the AIDLR on “**Religion/Religious Freedom’s Influence on Peace and Security**” is to see the positive role that must/ have to focus all religions – and concretely the ‘Dialogue Five’ actors (diplomats, politicians, religious leaders, academia, civil society (media, NGOs) – and looking specially on the importance of religious freedom in favour of peace and security, and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular Goals 16 and 17, which call for “Peace, justice and strong institutions”, and to “Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”

Important question the Side-Event will aim to debate

How to avoid the manipulation and the misuse of religion, how to foster religious liberty internationally, and how to improve cooperation and coordination among all categories of actors in order to foster peace and religious freedom and prevent violence?

Second objective. At the 70th Anniversary of the UDHR, and at the 70th Anniversary of the first “Conscience et Liberté” magazine published by the AIDLR in 1948 by its founder Dr. Jean Nussbaum with the support of Eleanor Roosevelt, the first President of Honorary Committee, **the AIDLR launches the book “Religious Freedom’s Influence on Peace and Security”**; the book has keynote-addresses delivered at the Global Summit on “Religion, Peace and Security” co-organized by the AIDLR and the UN Office of Genocide Prevention and co-sponsored by the EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, World Council of Churches and others, and held in Geneva on November 2016.

Third objective. Also this side-event inform the audience on the preparation of the **II Global Summit** expected to take place on November 2018. A Steering Committee will work on the program of this next summit. The proposed topic is: “**At the 70th Anniversary of the UDHR: How to Protect (Religious) Minorities and Refugees by Fostering Human Rights, Peace and Security**”.

