



INVITATION

GLOBAL SUMMIT

on

RELIGION, PEACE AND SECURITY

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies by fostering religious freedom and preventing violent extremism and atrocity crimes

Your Excellency,

We are writing to invite you to the Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security that will take place from 23-25 November 2016 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Recent years have seen an increase in the perpetration of atrocity crimes in situations around the world, both by States and non-State armed groups. At the same time, we have witnessed the spread of violent extremism, which misuses religion to justify brutal violence against civilians. In parallel, we have also seen how these phenomena - which in many situations represent threats to international peace and security - can easily be manipulated to justify limitations of fundamental rights and freedoms, including the rights to freedom of religion and belief and freedom of expression and opinion.

In these difficult times, it is important that international, regional and national actors, including Member States, international and regional and civil society – in particular religious leaders, academics and the media - coordinate their responses to these phenomena in order to foster respect for fundamental freedoms, prevent and respond to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that could constitute atrocity crimes, and prevent and counter violent extremism, with the objective of protecting populations and promoting international peace and security, as well as peaceful and inclusive societies.

For this purpose, the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect are convening a Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security. The purpose

of the Global Summit is to discuss how different actors can work together effectively to implement strategies that can foster peace and security and share best practices. The Global Summit will aim to establish an international platform on “Religion, Peace and Security” in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and Goal 17 on the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development.

At the conference, the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty will also launch the “International Award on Liberty and Peace - Jean Nussbaum & Eleanor Roosevelt”. The award aims at recognizing efforts made by individuals and organizations that have played, or are playing, a particular role in promoting human rights, in particular the right to freedom of religion and belief, preventing atrocity crimes and violent extremism based on the abuse of religion and fostering peaceful and inclusive societies.

The Summit, which marks the seventieth anniversary of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty, will include an official dinner and concert in honor of the participants.

We would be most honoured if you would accept our invitation to participate in the Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security. To confirm your participation, or if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Mercedes Fernandez Mercedes.Fernandez@aidlr.org

We look forward to our collaboration on this event and on other matters relevant to my mandate.

Yours sincerely,

Adama Dieng
Under Secretary-General
United Nations Special Adviser to the Secretary-General
on the Prevention of Genocide

Liviu Olteanu
Secretary General
International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (AIDLR)
United Nations Representative, with Participatory Status at the Council of Europe,
European Parliament and the OSCE