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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

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STATEMENT

Introduced by

International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (IADRL)

Liviu Olteanu, Secretary General

at United Nations Office Geneva, on 27 November 2013

How to promote the constructive interfaith dialogue, consultation and exchange?

Madame Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (IADRL) is ensuring that human rights, religious freedom and religious minority have a view of *equality and without discrimination to all people*.

Article 4, paragraph 2 of the *Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities - 1992*, provides that States "will adopt the necessary measures to ensure that persons belonging to minorities can *express their characteristics and develop their culture, traditions*."

We ALL PEOPLE, can do a lot promoting constructive *interfaith dialogue*, and appreciating the *culture* of other.

We all people want to live in a world with peace, liberty and security.

We don't have to be afraid of the *diferencies*' other. The *diversity* has a creative value for all of us.

The Nations of the world and all the actors, have to give a special attention finding solutions against discrimination which affects specially the **women and the girls**. Also the **young people** which belong to religious minorites have to receive protection against every form of discrimination « direct or indirect, multiple or combined ».

Congratulation to all the women from this Room XX at the Palace of UN and to all the women of entire world for all their efforts in favor of peace, armony and better world.

Positive solutions, EFFICIENT MEASURES

1. **Training programs on human rights, religious freedom and religious minorities, carried out in two directions:** a) on the one hand **for public and Governmental officials**, aiming to know and update on the rights of minorities, and b) on the other hand, **for religious minorities**, in order that they know their rights.
2. **Social awareness and constant "interreligious - intergovernmental - academic - and civil society" dialogue.**

We are conducting these activities, periodically organizing training conferences, with the cooperation of parliaments and ministries of foreign affairs, justice, education, and culture, with religious leaders and universities.

Examples of recent events of this type:

- In June 2013 we organized together with our Romanian partner, several events: *A Festival with the purpose of social awareness, religious freedom and interfaith dialogue through culture*, with the presence of the "Madrigal" chorus in Bucharest, hosted at "Ateneul Roman" Hall. A second event organized was an *International Symposium at the Romanian Parliament*, attended by: HE Romanian Minister of foreign affairs, Minister of culture, cults, former prime ministers, parliamentarians, religious leaders, and academics.
 - On **January 2014** we planned to organize in the **Reign of Spain**, the same event on: *"interreligious - intergovernmental - academic - and civil society" dialogue*. For different reasons, the Reign of Spain can receive congratulation and can be an positive example for many other Nations, regarding how its legislation is inclusive one for the religious minorities.
3. ***Conflict prevention and eradication of religious hatred, through the disclosure of materials that focus values, human rights, religious freedom and knowing of the Other.***

Our organization, with the purpose of contributing to ***the prevention of conflicts and violence related to religion and minorities***, and in order to provide information and open a forum for debate on human rights and religious freedom, **publishes since 1948 the Conscience and Liberty** magazine in three languages: *French, English and German*, being a training instrument and a special approach for the political leaders, diplomats, religious figures, and treating topics of present interest.

- The 2012 edition of *Conscience and Liberty* has addressed the topic: "**Universality of Human Rights**".
- The special edition of 2013 **evokes the importance of the Edict of Milan since 1700 years ago (313), for human rights and religious freedom**. The main topic of this special issue is: "**Human rights and religious liberty: a new balance or new challenges**". The authors of this book are ambassadors, religious leaders, judges and professors, evoking *religious freedom* in an inclusive, positive and comprehensive manner.

We consider that all of us could combine our efforts with the purpose of contributing to *Peace and understanding* between persons, minorities and nations.

We believe that all Nations represented at the United Nations **are important** for what they are doing and can do for peace, human rights, religious liberty and understanding in entire world.

We promote and support the Resolutions and the Documents of the United Nations, Human Rights Council.

Dr. Bruno Vertallier, president of the IADRL rightly observed: « *Freedom of conscience and religion remains in a fragile balance* »

Madame President, ladies and gentlemen,

Mr. Ban Ki-moon today is still asking us:

“ ...how do we build communities rooted in “coexistence” – living together in peace, based on trust and mutual respect? The process of building inclusive societies must itself be

inclusive. It takes each and every one of us. After all, peace and reconciliation cannot be imposed. They are seeds, planted by people, nurtured by communities. Day, after day, after day. »

Excelencies, thank you so much for your attention.

Thank you Madame President.