

CASCAIS DECLARATION ON THE TENTH GLOBAL FORUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

***“United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future ~
Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity”***

**Cascais, Portugal
25-27 November 2024**

We, the Heads of State and Government, Heads of Parliament, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of States belonging to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,

Together with the Director-Generals and other Heads of Delegation of international organizations also members of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,

On the occasion of the Tenth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Cascais, Portugal, on 25th - 27th November 2024, entitled “United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future ~ Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity”,

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also other relevant international instruments such as the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,

Recalling further the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/64/14, of 10 November 2009, and A/RES/69/312, of 6 July 2015, which reaffirmed continued support for the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,

Taking note of the designation by the General Assembly of June 10 as the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations and acknowledging the valuable role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and its High Representative in promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, and in this regard, encouraging all relevant stakeholders, together with UNAOC to facilitate the observance of the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations,

Encouraging UNAOC to continue to promote moderation as a universal value for attainment of peace, security, human rights and development,

Acknowledging all relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions as well as all relevant United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, on the right to freedom of religion or belief and on the follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,

Welcoming the United Nations Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and the United Nations Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, also called the Fez Plan of Action as well as encouraging Member States, the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites,

Taking note of the designation of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as the United Nations Focal Point to Monitor antisemitism and Enhance a system-wide response in 2020, as well as the request contained in General Assembly Resolution 78/264 on “Measures to Combat Islamophobia” to appoint a United Nations Special Envoy to combat Islamophobia,

Paying tribute to the eminent personalities who contributed to the launch of the Alliance of Civilizations, and *appreciating* the contribution of the High-level Group,

Reaffirming our support to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and its High Representative,

Acknowledging the leadership and contributions of the members of the Group of Friends,

Acknowledging also the leadership and contributions of Spain and Türkiye as the Co-Sponsors of the Alliance of Civilizations,

Expressing appreciation to previous host countries of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forums held to date, in Spain (2008), Türkiye (2009), Brazil (2010), Qatar (2011), Austria (2013), Indonesia (2014), Azerbaijan (2016) and Morocco (2022),

Recognizing with appreciation Portugal as the host country of the 10th Global Forum,

Acknowledging the valuable work implemented by UNAOC over the past two decades, which contributed to the promotion of dialogue between many cultures and religions as one humanity as a response to the challenges of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism,

Mindful of the increasingly complex context of today's global challenges and the multidimensional nature of conflicts requiring a new approach to conflict resolution and conflict prevention, which should be supported by efforts to rebuild trust, strengthen solidarity and deepen international cooperation, including through the intensified use of diplomacy,

Reaffirming the obligations of States to protect, respect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

Emphasize that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing; and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing the diversity of the world and the fact that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind,

Recognizing that the dialogue among civilizations can play an important role in the promotion of common grounds among civilizations and cultures, inherent dignity and equal rights of all human beings, facilitating the vision of the world as one humanity,

Recognizing also that inter-cultural engagements can play an important role in promoting peace and harmony between different cultures, dignity and equal rights of all human beings, facilitating the vision of unity in diversity,

Encouraging tolerance, mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

Mindful of the importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue in promoting

tolerance and reconciliation in matters relating to peaceful coexistence between cultures, religions and beliefs,

Underlining our firm commitment to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, religious intolerance and all other forms of intolerance and discrimination,

Alarmed by the global spread and proliferation of disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, both online and offline,

Reaffirming that there is no justification for violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, whatever the motivation, and that extremism, in all its forms and manifestations, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Strongly deploring all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines, which are in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Reaffirming the importance of achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, including in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Recognizing the important role that youth play in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in combatting violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism,

Encouraging and *supporting* youth-led organizations, particularly through capacity-building workshops and strengthening intergenerational dialogue,

1. *Reiterate* our political commitment to the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, its goals and principles;

2. *Welcome* the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations across its five priority areas, namely youth, education, media, migration and women as peace mediators, commend the work done in those areas, emphasizes its constructive role in promoting the values of conflict prevention, mediation and reconciliation;

3. *Extend our support* to the High Representative in his efforts and initiatives to advance the programming of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and to continue promoting the vision of an Alliance for Peace and of living together as one humanity;

4. *Encourage* the High-Level Advisory Council of the UNAOC High Representative that includes, *inter alia*, eminent figures, political leaders, thought leaders and corporate sector figures which provides advice and recommendations to the High Representative;
 5. *Welcome* the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' efforts in strengthening and broadening its engagement with other entities in the broader United Nations system as well as with its global network of partners, such as other international and regional organizations as well as the private sector, academia and civil society, namely religious leaders and faith-based organizations;
 6. *Welcome* the new members of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
 7. *Stress* the ongoing need for the timely and regular replenishment of the Voluntary Trust Fund of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
 8. *Underline* the importance of implementing the goals of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations at the regional, national and local levels, namely through the design and implementation of action plans, which fully include the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders;
 9. *Underline also* the added value of UNAOC Global Forums as useful and inclusive platforms to share experiences and best practices towards advancing the goals and principles of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
 10. *Emphasize* the need to combat all forms of religious intolerance;
 11. *Acknowledge* the central role of inclusive, quality and transformative education in promoting dialogue, peace and human rights;
 12. *Recognize* the role that religious leaders can play in conflict mediation and development cooperation;
 13. *Underline* the positive impact that safe, orderly and regular migration can have on countries of origin and destination, including through promoting cultural pluralism and encourage the creative vision of young people to prevent xenophobia and highlight positive narratives about cultural diversity, social inclusion and mobility;
 14. *Take note* of the adoption of the Pact for the Future which recognizes the role of reinvigorated multilateralism and the importance of the voice of religious leaders and
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faith-based organizations in promoting a culture of peace;

15. *Stress* the importance of intergenerational dialogue for peace, sustainable development and human rights;

16. *Note* the contribution of sports diplomacy as a tool for promoting dialogue;

17. *Emphasize* the need to support and strengthen the role of women as negotiators, mediators and peacemakers;

18. *Note* the potential use of artificial intelligence as a tool to advance intercultural and interreligious dialogue;

19. *Stress* the importance of combatting disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, while strengthening information integrity;

20. *Welcome* the engagement of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations with the private sector to strengthen the capacity of innovative projects implemented by civil society that connect people and cultures, fostering dialogue and understanding across global, regional, and local levels;

21. *Welcome* the results of the stock-taking exercise carried out at the Tenth Global Forum about the two decades of existence of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations as well as the ongoing reflection about the path forward;

22. *Stress* the importance of encouraging the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites and *call upon* the implementation of recommendations and commitments made at the United Nations Global Conference on Safeguarding Religious Sites, convened during the 10th UNAOC Global Forum in Cascais;

23. *Extend our gratitude* to the Government and people of Portugal, in particular to the city of Cascais, for hosting the Tenth Global Forum, on 25 - 27 November 2024;

24. *Call upon* the full implementation of the announcements and commitments made in Cascais;

25. *Express* our conviction that the Cascais Forum has achieved its main objective of making the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations a truly global undertaking, with universal aims.

Addendum

1. *Acknowledging* the importance of the initiative taken by Kazakhstan in 2003 to convene a Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana every three years which has translated into commitments by religious leaders to prevent violent incidents caused by hatred and intolerance, including the promotion of interreligious and interfaith dialogue to build a conflict-free world;

2. *Acknowledging also* the work of the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized biannually by the Republic of Azerbaijan, in cooperation with UNAOC, UNESCO, WTO, Council of Europe and ICESCO, as a key platform for promoting intercultural dialogue, and note the agreement between UNAOC and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the implementation of "Peace4Culture" Global Call Action Plan 2022-2027 to strengthen, promote, develop and enhance cooperation in the fields of intercultural dialogue, protection of cultural and religious heritage, promotion of peace and cultural diversity.
