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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

13TH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION

**REPORT ON KENYA’S PARTICIPATION IN THE 1ST
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) GLOBAL INTER-
FAITH DIALOGUE, HELD IN MARRAKESH, MOROCCO,
FROM 13TH TO 15TH JUNE, 2023.**

	
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 24 FEB 2026	DAY: TUESDAY
TABLED BY:	HON. PETER KIVONGI, MP (MEMBER OF DELEGATION)
CLERK-AT THE-TABLE:	IMZSPV MURAGE, HCU

The Clerk’s Chambers
The National Assembly
Main Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI.

February, 2026

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

- IPU - Inter-Parliamentary Union
MP - Member of Parliament

FOREWARD

Honourable Speaker,

The Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue themed “***Working together for our common future***” took place from 13 to 15 June 2023 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The Conference was organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco in cooperation with Religions for Peace, and with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Mohammadia League of Religious Scholars.

The theme of the conference was key in addressing issues of inclusion and coexistence as an important part of the IPU’s mandate to promote peace and understanding through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action. The IPU’s 2012 Quebec City Declaration on Citizenship, identity and linguistic and cultural diversity in a globalized world recognized the importance of balancing respect for diversity with social inclusiveness and cohesion as a means of building trust within and among societies and as a precondition for progress, prosperity and a high quality of life. The 2017 St. Petersburg Declaration on Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue recognized that dialogue with faiths, cultures and ethnicities is essential to peace and cultural pluralism and that, as representatives of the people, the world’s parliaments are committed to strengthening normative processes and legal frameworks conducive to more open and inclusive societies.

The Conference brought together Speakers and members of parliament, religious leaders, representatives of civil society and other experts to engage in dialogue and share good practices around key issues standing in the way of sustainable co-existence and to jointly explore action points for building more peaceful and inclusive societies. It will also aim to develop a roadmap for joint action ahead.

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Honourable Speaker,

The Kenya National Assembly sent a delegation consisting of Members of Parliament and staff to the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith and Dialogue as follows -

1. Mr. Peter Irungu Kihungi, MP - Member and Head of Delegation;
2. Mr. Paul Odalo Abuor, MP - Member;
3. Ms. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP; and
4. Mr. Peter Ochieng Orero, MP.

The delegation was accompanied by Ms. Miriam Atabo Modo, First Clerk Assistant.

Honourable Speaker,

The delegation is most grateful to the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the necessary support and arrangements made to facilitate the delegation to travel and participate in the said conference. I can confirm to you that the National Assembly was adequately represented.

Finally, I wish to extend my most sincere gratitude to my fellow delegates for their active participation and their dedication to our program throughout the proceedings.

On behalf of the delegation, it is my pleasant duty and privilege, to present the Delegation's Report summarizing the proceedings and resolutions of the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, held in Marrakesh, Morocco from the 13th to 15th June, 2023.



.....
THE HON. PETER KIHUNGI, MP
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION

DATE: 19/02/2026
.....

BACKGROUND

The world is at a turning point in history. It is confronted with existential threats and multiple major crises, including the climate emergency, unsustainable over-consumption and the plundering of resources, spiking inequality, as well as growing intolerance driving xenophobia and bigotry towards other groups. The ongoing struggles for gender equality are suffering new setbacks. The global youth population was growing exponentially whilst lacking mechanisms to fully participate in society. Oppressive regimes are curtailing civil rights and physical and ideological wars rage world-wide. Waves of suffering and displacement emerge as a collective result.

The humanity future, which is intertwined within these various fragile, complex and interconnected systems, hangs in the balance, and immediate and concerted action is required. In this spirit, parliamentarians and religious actors who share the common goal of serving their communities and promoting their wellbeing, could be valuable allies.

Parliaments are the guardians of the rule of law, human rights and justice in societies, through their key functions in law-making, budgeting, representation and oversight. There is a strong correlation between peace, justice and strong institutions, as reinforced by Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), and parliaments stand at this nexus.

Religion and belief constitute an important dimension of the identity, values and decision-making processes of individuals and communities. They can influence how people participate in society, how they exercise their civic and political rights, and how they view their allegiance to the state. Religious institutions are often important service providers in the areas of education, social welfare and humanitarian aid. In some contexts, religion and belief are also reflected in political and other governance structures. They are an integral part of the social fabric of all societies – albeit in different ways.

Involving religion and belief in dialogue has emerged as an important avenue to address common challenges, especially those with an ideological or identity-based dimension. Dialogue between religions and beliefs can take a number of forms:

1. Interfaith dialogue, which engages with people from different religious backgrounds;
2. Intra-faith dialogue, which engages with people from different traditions within the same religious community; and
3. Inter-belief dialogue, which engages with people with different world views, including those who do not hold any belief or are not affiliated to any specific tradition.

These dialogues are largely based on respect for the other, the acceptance of difference and on the premise that what unites us is stronger than what divides us. The base line of all dialogue is that respect should be extended to all participants and building this is an important entry point into different types of cooperation.

An important area in which parliaments and religion and belief intersect is their common interest in building resilient societies, where all members of society feel included. Here, it is important to navigate between ensuring that rule of law is maintained, as the basis of strong institutions, while guaranteeing that the rights and freedoms of citizens, regardless of their religion or belief, are upheld. Where this balance exists, the different spheres of authority – secular and religious – can exist in harmony. 1 Under religious actors we understand: religious leaders, faith-based organizations or other organizations that engage actively in religious issues, and religious scholars.

The Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue aimed at bringing together political and religious leaders, along with representatives of faith-based and civil society organizations, think tanks, research bodies, scholars of religion and belief and subject matter experts, to engage in dialogue and share good practices around some of the key issues threatening societies worldwide which engage both the religious and political spheres. They will jointly explore action points aimed both at alleviating issues standing in the

way of sustainable co-existence and at promoting respectful and inclusive societies and a more peaceful and just world.

Main objectives of the Conference

As the international organization of the Parliaments of sovereign States, the IPU for many decades has been providing a unique and inclusive platform for parliamentarians of all nationalities, faiths and beliefs to work together addressing the major challenges confronting our world. The Conference will therefore aim to:

- i. Celebrate cultural and religious diversity in all its forms.
- ii. Help combat all forms of discrimination, related intolerance, hatred, extremism and acts of violence against people on the basis of their ethnicity, skin colour, religion or belief.
- iii. Promote the inherent dignity and human rights of all individuals, including through freedom of religion or belief, gender equality, youth empowerment, as well as the protection of national minorities and other vulnerable groups.
- iv. Reaffirm and consolidate our common values and principles of peace, humanity, fraternity and cooperation between cultures, religions and nations.
- v. Emphasize education and science as an important foundation for peace and as a means to combat the various forms of intolerance.
- vi. Encourage genuine and effective dialogue and cooperation between political and religious leaders and other actors, with a view to translating shared values and principles of mutual respect and acceptance of differences into national policies and religious teachings.

Outcome of the Conference

The Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue on the priority theme “***working together for our common future***” unanimously adopted the Marrakesh Communiqué by consensus. They committed to hold a Global Interfaith Dialogue Conference in Italy, Rome, in 2025. The resolutions of the Conference as adopted are incorporated for action in the Appendix to this Report.

CHAPTER 1

1.0 BACKGROUND

The IPU facilitates parliamentary diplomacy and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development around the world.

The IPU's strategic objectives aim to make parliaments more effective, representative and innovative so that they can take action to improve people's lives in the following policies areas:

- i. climate change;
- ii. democracy, human rights, gender equality; and youth participation;
- iii. peace and security; and
- iv. sustainable development for all.

The IPU facilitates parliamentary diplomacy and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development around the world.

IPU WORK ON INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Religion and belief play a significant role in our States and societies. Over 100 States refer to God in their constitutional or similar instruments, and religion and belief are often present in different branches of government or are interwoven into a state's self-understanding. The right to freedom of religion or belief is enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The IPU believes in the central role of parliaments in guaranteeing the rule of law and justice and also in contributing to more inclusive societies. Its strategy encourages parliaments to view themselves as part of broader ecosystems with which they must engage for the promotion of peace, democracy and sustainable development for all.

Interfaith dialogue is increasingly recognized as a valuable tool for peacebuilding and diplomacy. It acknowledges the central role of religion and belief in many people's lives, and the influence of religious leaders and

institutions in shaping communities and providing spiritual and material support.

In an era of growing intolerance and polarization, interfaith dialogue can help parliamentarians promote peaceful, inclusive societies and uphold human rights.

In 2022, IPU launched an initiative to explore the intersection of political institutions with religions and beliefs, aligned with our 2022-2026 Strategy to encourage parliaments to engage with their broader social and cultural context.

WHY INTERFAITH DIALOGUE MATTERS

- a) Global relevance: over 80% of people worldwide identify with a religion or belief. Religious actors often play key roles in community support and social services.
- b) Human rights: Freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental human right under international law.
- c) Societal impact: Religion and belief shape values, civic engagement and voting behaviour.
- d) Peace and conflict: Many conflicts have a religious dimension, and religious actors can also be powerful advocates for peace. A faith-sensitive approach should be part of parliamentary diplomacy and peace-building.

It was against this backdrop that the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue was initiated by the IPU and will lead to subsequent meetings in future. The IPU took pride in convening the first Conference in Marrakesh in 2023 which resulted in the Marrakesh Communiqué and the Second one was earmarked for the year 2025 in Rome, Italy. IPU equally capacity builds Members of Parliament through podcasts and articles on opportunities to learn and exchange experiences on countering intolerance, upholding human rights and promoting peaceful coexistence. On matters Parliamentary diplomacy, IPY fosters dialogue between parliaments on the religious dimensions of conflict and the role of religious engagement in fostering peace.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue took place in Marrakesh, Morocco from 13th to 15th June, 2023 under the priority theme '***Working together for our common future***'. The theme whirled around the aspect of interfaith dialogues in promoting understanding, respect, and cooperation among people of different faiths. These dialogues are instrumental in building bridges, reducing prejudice, and fostering peaceful coexistence. Through these dialogues, participants can share their beliefs, learn from each other, and address common challenges. This can lead to greater social cohesion and help in tackling issues that affect multiple communities, like social justice and environmental concerns. Additionally, interfaith dialogue can counteract misinformation and stereotypes, fostering more accurate and nuanced perceptions of different religious traditions.

A mix of events and broad range of topics were discussed during the three-day programme including discussions on various topical issues under the priority theme. At the end of the Conference, participants usually commit to choose a topic and venue of the next conference under the auspices of the IPU.

2.1 OPENING SESSION

The inaugural ceremony of the First Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue was held in the Auditorium des Ministres of the Palais des Congrès in Marrakesh, Morocco, on Tuesday, 13th June 2023.

2.1.0 Remarks by Mr. Rachid Talbi El Alami, President of the Chamber of Representatives

The President of the Chamber of Representatives, Mr. Rachid El Alami, read a message from His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, in which he noted that the Conference was, for the first time, bringing together parliamentarians, religious leaders, scholars and experts to exchange views on the important issue of interfaith dialogue. Humanity was facing not so much a clash of religions or civilizations, but a "clash of ignorances". The Conference must put words into action, revisit the concept of interfaith dialogue and improve

collective awareness of the importance of peaceful coexistence and of the perils represented by fanaticism and introversion. The IPU should set up a mechanism to make interfaith dialogue a common goal for the entire international community.

He reiterated that building on its centuries-long history of religious and cultural diversity and pluralism, Morocco was keen to remain a model State, in which the followers of different religions could coexist in an environment of fraternity and security. His own belief in the importance of coexistence and dialogue was second only to his commitment to moderation and tolerance, and to the rejection of all forms of prejudice, hatred and extremism. He welcomed delegates to Morocco and wished them every success in their deliberations.

2.1.1 Remarks by Mr. Duarte Pacheco, IPU President

In his opening remarks, the IPU President, Mr. Duarte Pacheco, states that the world was facing many conflicts and suffering from a crisis of solidarity. Parliamentarians and religious leaders had different mandates but shared the common goal of serving their communities, promoting well-being and working for social justice and peace. The Conference had brought together a truly diverse group of people to engage in meaningful dialogue, anchored in a respect for human rights and a desire to create a world in which no one was left behind.

2.1.2 Remarks by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

In his opening remarks, the IPU Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong, said that the IPU had a long history of promoting dialogue and conflict resolution, using parliamentary diplomacy to work towards more peaceful and democratic societies with strong institutions and values. He introduced part one of the Parliamentary report on religion and belief, and invited those present to share their own experiences, which would be included in the second part of the report, due for publication in 2024. Emphasizing that interfaith dialogue could be an important enabler of peace, he encouraged delegates to build on what they had in common, namely a shared belief in human dignity, in order to secure a peaceful, inclusive and just future for the next generation.

2.1.3 Remarks by Sister Agatha Ogochukwu Chikelue, Chair of the Religions for Peace International Women's Coordinating Committee,

Sr. Agatha stated that the world was at a turning point, having witnessed the tragic consequences of collective failures to prevent violations of human rights and uphold the rule of law. Africa was carrying the greatest burden of the world's social vulnerabilities and needed global attention for the ultimate good of humanity. Religions for Peace acknowledged the need to work with partners, notably governments and parliaments, as reflected in the subtitle of the Conference Working together for our common future. Delegates needed to ensure that dialogue continued in the interests of respect for diversity, inclusion, trust, cohesion, peace and justice within and among all communities.

2.1.4 Remarks by Mr. Ildephonse Niyokindi, Global Peacebuilding Officer, Tearfund Burundi

Mr. Ildephonse in giving the first of two speeches from a youth perspective, spoke about losing his own mother due to conflict in his country, Burundi, and how it had inspired him to become a peacebuilder. He noted that, although different religions shared much common ground, the differences between them led to jealousy and mistrust. Religious leaders had considerable influence in their communities and it was vital for political leaders to engage with them. He called on both groups to use their influence positively and respond to the expectations of the population for a more peaceful world. People needed to be educated about peace and dialogue from an early age and the voices of young people needed to be heard in the decision-making process.

2.1.5 Remarks by Ms. Heela Yoon, Founder and CEO, Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace Organization,

Ms. Heela Yoon, giving the second speech from a youth perspective, reminded delegates that it had been almost two years since the Taliban regime had closed the doors of schools and universities to girls in her country. Millions of people had been killed in Afghanistan or had fled as a result of decades of conflict. Her organization had been able to support many families by engaging

with all stakeholders in communities in the country and encouraging tolerance and listening. The religious and political leaders present at the Conference needed to provide more spaces for dialogue and increase the involvement of young people. Mr. Ildephonse Niyokindi (Global Peacebuilding Officer, Tearfund Burundi) and Ms. Heela Yoon (Founder and CEO, Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace Organization)

Mr. Naam Miyara, President of the House of Councillors, welcomed participants to Marrakesh and officially declared the Conference open.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSIONS

The Conference conducted two high level panel discussions on two broad thematic areas as indicated below;

- i. Panel one focused on working together for the promotion of the rule of law: Good practices and challenges; and
- ii. Panel two focused on the Promoting regional and global peace through intra-faith dialogue.

High-level Panel 1: Working together for the promotion of the rule of law: Good practices and challenges

Overview

Upholding the rule of law is a pre-condition for preserving statehood and guaranteeing the rights of citizens, including the right to freely exercise thought, conscience, religion or belief. The State is able to limit the expression of freedom of religion or belief for legitimate reasons, such as when certain expressions compete with other rights. Illegitimate limitations of the right to freedom of religion or belief also exist in many States. These often target marginalized communities. This panel will focus on the role of parliaments in protecting freedom of religion or belief. It will explore examples of where religious freedoms have been limited or have prevailed vis-à-vis other rights, and the role and responsibility of legislators in reconciling competing rights in order to ensure that the rule of law is maintained, while guaranteeing that the rights and freedoms of citizens, regardless of their religion or belief, are upheld.

The first high-level panel, moderated by Dr. Nazila Ghanea, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, discussed “**Working together for the promotion of the rule of law: Good practices and challenges.**” Panellists agreed that the rule of law runs counter to any arbitrary exercise of power and calls for the accountability of all institutions, individuals and groups to the same standard. The rule of law also assumes adherence to international law and human rights standards.

The first panellist, Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher, the Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, said that religions and beliefs played a fundamental role in setting moral standards alongside the rule of law. He also highlighted the challenges in successfully legislating to allow freedom of religion or belief.

Secondly, Dr. Fadi Daou, Executive Director of Globethics, said that the rule of law was the basis for peaceful societies but was not enough on its own. The world was facing a crisis of mistrust and the challenge for both religious leaders and politicians was to rebuild their ethical authority. Laws could protect freedom of religion or belief but societies needed to believe in their added value for the common good.

Ms. Fernanda San Martin Carrasco, Director of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief and former Member of Parliament in Bolivia, explained that her organization supported MPs in their own initiatives to advance the human right of freedom of religion or belief. She noted that building democracy was the joint task of politicians and civil society and that it was vital to nurture cooperation between the actors from different religions and beliefs around the world.

Ms. Meritxell Batet, Speaker of the Congress of Deputies of Spain, said that the rule of law enabled peace and coexistence in communities. The State was responsible for protecting the community and needed to work with religions or beliefs to do so, while remaining impartial. The law also needed to protect religious freedom, giving people the space in which to grow and prosper, and to counter discourses of hate and discrimination.

Mr. Bahouba Norbert Tankoano, Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel Interparliamentary Committee, spoke about how the rule of law provided a framework in which everyone was treated on an equal footing. Parliaments had an important role to play in promoting and preserving the rule of law, particularly amid security crises such as in the Sahel. Interfaith and intra-faith dialogue could foster development on a global scale.

The final panellists were Imam Salahuddin Barakat and Rabbi Moshe David HaCohen, the co-founders of the Amanah organization in Sweden, which works to counter antisemitism and islamophobia. They spoke about the recent burning of the Qur'an in their country. Their organization was engaging with the Parliament of Sweden to find appropriate and even-handed solutions to this expression of hatred, calling for multiple lines of action not confined only to legal responses.

The discussion was then opened to the floor and participants spoke about the representation of different religions and beliefs in their parliaments or States, successes in building societies in which people of many religions and beliefs lived in harmony, the role of global bodies as forums for interfaith dialogue, and the importance of religious education. Participants also highlighted good practices with regard to youth issues, responses to blasphemy, the blessings and burdens of diversity, the necessity to include non-believers and non-citizens in dialogue, and the recognition and registration of religion and belief communities. All participants agreed that parliamentarians had a responsibility to uphold the rule of law and that the cooperation of parliaments with religious leaders and civil society was beneficial.

High-level panel 2: Promoting regional and global peace through intra-faith dialogue

Overview

The world today is a witness to many conflicts with a religious dimension which impact local, regional and even global dynamics. Many of these conflicts are intra-faith in nature, meaning that the conflicting parties come from within different traditions, confessions, legal schools or schools of thought of the

same religious or belief community. Conflict lines can be theological, intellectual, cultural, ethnic, historical, political, geographical and economic, and conflict can be manifested directly or by proxy. This panel will bring together religious leaders, parliamentarians and experts with first-hand experience of intra-faith conflict to consider its impact on the political establishment and the specific contribution that parliamentary dialogue with religious actors can make in mediating sectarian conflict and promoting peaceful coexistence.

The second high-level panel, moderated by Dr. Ahmad Abaddi, Secretary General of the Mohammadia League of Religious Scholars, discussed ***“Promoting regional and global peace through intra-faith dialogue.”*** As a starting point, the panellists agreed that, on the one hand, religious texts were a valuable resource to guide responses to the major challenges facing the world, but on the other hand could be interpreted in toxic and venomous ways, leading to tensions within religions and beliefs. Intra-faith dialogue represented an opportunity to build bridges within religions and beliefs to counteract these extremist interpretations.

Ms. Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, spoke about the contrast between traditional views and the more inquisitive outlook of the younger generation within certain religions and beliefs. The United Republic of Tanzania had established interfaith committees at the national and local levels, but these also served as forums for intra-faith dialogue. She also noted that societies were not homogeneous, and care should be taken to understand that non-believers also had an influence on the discourse on religious issues.

The panel also included Senator Garret Ahearn from Ireland, who explained how intra-faith dialogue had been key to the Northern Ireland peace process. Religious leaders had firmly rejected the idea that different faiths represented a hierarchy of humanity, which had created a foundation for political discussions. The Parliament of Ireland held regular events for representatives of all faiths and churches for consultation on public policy. Ireland also had

policies to encourage immigrants to the country to integrate into society without relinquishing their cultural identity.

Senator Farooq Hamid Naek from Pakistan spoke about how intra- and interfaith dialogue could be used as a vehicle for regional and global peace, and highlighted how such dialogue had frequently offered solutions to conflicts which were not themselves triggered by religious divisions. Religious leaders should recognize their role as the custodians of the shared values of all religions and refrain from promulgating messages of intolerance. The cooperation between parliamentarians and religious actors was a two-way street and presented opportunities to inform policymaking on the prevention of violence.

The fourth panellist, Mr. Hayder Al-Khoei, Director of the Al-Khoei Institute in Iraq, noted that sectarianism was as old as Islam itself. He encouraged religious and belief leaders to constantly reevaluate their traditions with a view to making it harder for extremists to hijack divisions for their own aims. Intra-faith dialogue was an opportunity to reach out to others and understand their fears, hopes and legitimate grievances. In Iraq, dialogue between Sunnis and Shi'at had begun as an exchange of angry recriminations but had blossomed into friendship.

The final panellist, Ms. Ligia Matamoros, a youth activist from Costa Rica, emphasized the need for solidarity within religions and beliefs to fight against broader injustices. People in religious communities were best placed to know their own needs and, in Latin America, there were countless examples of faith-based communities working to address subjects as diverse as environmental issues and health care needs. Religious communities should focus their work on vulnerable populations, including women, youth and the poor.

The discussion was then opened to the floor and participants spoke about: initiatives in their own parliaments and organizations to encourage interfaith and intra-faith dialogue; the importance of recognizing and accepting difference; the unique convening power of parliaments and governments; partnerships between secular and religious actors; the need to change mindsets and not just focus on legislation; the value of international

agreements and declarations to build human fraternity; and the negative impact of damage to religious artefacts and cultural heritage. Participants agreed on a belief that peace could be achieved through dialogue; that harmony within religions was a prerequisite for good relations between religions; that most human values were common to all religions; and that broad-based religious education from an early age was essential for better understanding. Intra-faith dialogue involving parliamentarians, religious leaders, civil society, and particularly young people, was essential for the long-term stability of religions and beliefs. A calm and open-minded approach to dialogue was essential for identifying clear-sighted solutions. Security and stability were crucial to the well-being of all.



Photo: Panel Discussions ongoing

CHAPTER 3

3.0 GENERAL DEBATE

On Wednesday, 14 June 2023, parliamentarians and representatives of religious and faith-based organizations participated in a General Debate entitled Parliaments and religious leaders: Promoting dialogue, working together for our common future.

Overview

Religion and belief are infused into the fabric of all societies. This begins with freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief as a universal human right that the different branches of government and civil society are tasked with upholding. It extends to how different religions or beliefs find expression in areas such as the constitutional text, sources of legislation, national values or the demographic profile of society. A number of policy areas have a religious or belief dimension where the interests and work of parliaments, representatives of religions or beliefs, and civil society often intersect.

While parliamentarians and leaders of religions or beliefs have different mandates, they share the common goal of working together for the well-being of their societies and communities. Parliaments work to promote and uphold the rule of law, human rights and justice. Representatives of religions or beliefs are influential community members and can have an impact upon how people participate in society in the exercise of their civic and political rights and how they view their allegiance to the State. They can also advocate on behalf of their communities.

There is great benefit to be had from dialogue between parliaments and representatives of religions or beliefs to build more just, inclusive and peaceful societies, and to jointly tackle common challenges. Where this dialogue does not exist, competing interests, rights abuses and social fractures can emerge.

The General Debate accompanies the two-track objective of the conference, looking at the role of interfaith dialogue in promoting rule of law, on the one hand, and peace and inclusion, on the other. To make the General Debate as meaningful, concrete and action-oriented as possible, speakers were invited to address the following questions:

1. *What role can interfaith dialogue play in guaranteeing the rule of law and promoting peace and inclusion?*
2. *What good practices exist where parliaments are engaging with representatives of religions or beliefs and/or civil society to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies?*
3. *What shared challenges to peace, inclusion or the rule of law are being faced by parliaments, representatives of religions and beliefs and civil society at the national, regional or international level?*
4. *How can parliaments cooperate better with representatives of religions and beliefs and civil society to address common concerns?*

A. General benefits of Religious–Parliamentary Dialogue

Moderator: Dr. Nazila Ghanea (United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief)

There was widespread consensus that dialogue between and among religious and parliamentary organizations and practitioners was of great value, and that it could contribute significant benefits, both to particular groups and communities, and to society as a whole. Participants frequently called for such dialogue to be practised and promoted by international institutions, national parliaments, governments, sub national entities, civil society, and individual citizens.

In terms of benefits, several speakers recalled the central role played by religious or faith-based organizations in reconciliation processes, from the restoration of good relations between individuals or organizations, to the prevention and resolution of large-scale or long-lasting conflicts.

Equally, many speakers posited that religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue contributed to increased levels of respect, tolerance, and understanding of others' perspectives within society. In turn, participants also felt that such circumstances tended to result in more resilient, peaceful, secure and prosperous societies, in which religious and other majority and minority communities could coexist cohesively, and where political, socioeconomic and other rights could be developed and improved for all.

Some argued that specific initiatives led by individuals or organizations engendered a sense of responsibility that helped prevent communities living in isolation from each other (including isolation from sub-sections of one's own community) and that encouraged the exchange and adaptation of ideas between different parts of society.

A few participants highlighted the value of various sorts of contemplation and prayer across different belief systems. Both religious and traditional leaders were also described as being able to provide useful longer-term perspectives during religious and secular debates relating to values and beliefs.

B. Proposals for action

Various participants advocated for specific actions to be taken that could strengthen religious parliamentary dialogue and derive some of the benefits described above.

a) Harness the social advantages of religious or faith-based organizations

Parliamentarians and religious or faith-based organizations should jointly raise awareness of, harness, and fully utilize the advantages that such organizations bring to societies, including as: a repository of wider spiritual insights into fundamental concepts and long-standing traditions; networks of specialist expertise and experience; a route to reach out to and understand the needs of marginalized groups in society; advocates for social change with a range of viewpoints that should be meaningfully considered at the consultative stages of policymaking and legislative work; proactive service providers to wider society including in education, care of the elderly and vulnerable, and in humanitarian work; partners ready to share burdens and

tackle cross-cutting challenges, such as climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

b) Enable people to enjoy their rights in a tolerant society

Parliamentarians and religious or faith-based organizations should work in partnership so that citizens can exercise their universal and fundamental rights, such as the right to freedom of religious or faith-based expression, human dignity, and a life under the rule of law. That partnership should also allow citizens to live in a culturally plural, inclusive, diverse and tolerant society, where all members are represented and listened to, including minorities or marginalized groups. To realize those partnerships, MPs and religious or faith-based organizations should combine their respective strengths, including legislative and oversight powers, moral guidance, and the chance to convene and find common ground between those with opposing views. Some speakers felt that the global situation called for the continued generous resourcing of legislative activity to promote freedom of religion and prevent anti-religious hate speech. Such legislation should include provisions to discourage any religion from discriminating against or marginalizing another, as well as guarantees for religious minorities to be able to live peacefully, including in countries containing large religious majorities.

c) Implement existing plans; devise and implement new projects

To translate general statements into concrete actions, MPs and religious or faith-based organizations should individually and collectively devise roadmaps for rolling out and implementing current plans relating to religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue. These roadmaps should set out how to make a reality of relevant resolutions of the IPU and the United Nations, G20 initiatives (such as the 2022 Bologna Conference), Council of Europe declarations, and the recommendations of other interfaith conferences, whether international or local.

d) Establish permanent structures and regular follow-up

- i. The IPU should establish an institutional mechanism that would monitor delivery of the Marrakesh Conference outcomes and eventually

become part of the IPU's regular work programme. The IPU should also ensure that it: maps best parliamentary practices about religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue; develops guidance on such dialogue; and supports the formation of regional parliamentary networks designed to advocate for freedom of religion and the prevention of anti-religious hate speech, through meetings, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among network members.

- ii. To increase the consistency of religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue over time, bodies or initiatives should be established that could: promote the peaceful coexistence of different social groups; facilitate regular consultation and coordination across society through religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue; and enable joint initiatives, capacity-building and resource-sharing. Some speakers suggested MP-only structures, such as parliamentary committees or caucuses, or amending MPs' responsibilities under their internal Codes of Conduct to include duties relating specifically to religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue. Others advocated hybrid bodies comprising parliamentarians and representatives of religious or faith-based organizations, which could be consulted during relevant policymaking, legislation or implementation activity. Ongoing parliamentary diplomacy was also identified as a powerful tool in this regard.

e) Educate and raise awareness

Awareness should be consistently raised about religious, faith-based and cultural diversity. Such work should begin in the early years of formal education and continue throughout all adult continuing education, as well as through public communications campaigns by local and national authorities.

C. Complementarity

While making the proposals outlined in section B, many speakers also discussed the complementary nature of the work of parliamentarians and religious or faith-based organizations. They noted that the additional strength and well-being of a country that could derive from good communications

between MPs and religious leaders was contingent on three factors. MPs and religious or faith-based organizations should first understand each other's strengths and limitations. They should then use that understanding to join forces in the most effective way. And as a result, a powerful alliance of mutual assistance could ensue, with the capability of promoting understanding, cooperation and a sense of shared humanity. To exemplify these points, some speakers pointed to parliamentarians' access to national levers of power, or the focus of MPs on the practical and material well-being of their constituents, alongside the complementary facets of religious or faith-based organizations, which included: a proximity to their adherents' personal and private lives; long experience in tending to their moral and spiritual concerns; and the power to unite and mobilize communities around a given goal through a sense of shared identity and values.

D. More unity than difference

Other speakers posited that, despite sometimes high levels of outward difference between religious and parliamentary groups, their core objectives tended to be similar. For example, participants suggested that both groups aimed, or should aim, to prevent hatred, reject bigotry, promote tolerance and inclusive institutions under the rule of law, develop community cohesion, and support peace at all levels, among others

A number of other participants felt that the scale and globalized nature of the challenges facing many countries meant that complementary working and close partnerships between religious and parliamentary institutions and individuals were nothing short of a requirement of contemporary life. It was therefore crucial that religious or faith-based organizations were consulted alongside other parts of civil society during policy and lawmaking processes.

D. Sharing good practices

E. Sharing Good Practices

In addition to advocating specific and complementary actions such as those above, many participants explained their own country's good practices in fostering religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue. This allowed

fellow participants to consider the potential for adapting such practices to their own needs and context.

1. Bodies and representation

Speakers described a range of governmental and parliamentary bodies mandated to promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue in their countries. These included: a ministry of religious affairs; parliamentary committees tasked with fostering religious-parliamentary and similar types of dialogue; and a number of interfaith councils set up outside parliament, but with parliamentary involvement. Other participants noted that, in their countries, seats in various legislative or consultative bodies were specifically reserved for representatives of certain religions.

2. Constitutional, legal and acknowledged rights and freedoms

Speakers recalled the rights enjoyed by citizens of their countries to freedom of religious expression, including the right to worship freely, establish religious or faith-based organizations, and provide religious education. These rights were variously enshrined in national constitutions, guaranteed by national or sub-national law, or recognized by declaration or convention. Other participants outlined their countries' laws that separated the State from any religion or faith, and which helped ensure the equal treatment of all religious or faith-based organizations.

3. National and international declarations and agreements

Delegates presented agreements and declarations instigated by their countries' governments about promoting religious or cultural diversity, or about tackling religious or faith-based discrimination.

4. Conferences, meetings, action and initiatives to promote interfaith dialogue

Participants described a range of such work in their countries, including: building faith-based centres of excellence and research facilities; preserving religious and related monuments; advocating for policy or legal changes to religious or faith-based areas of public policy; commissioning and disseminating relevant research, opinion polling and expert-authored or peer-to-peer toolkits to support religious-parliamentary and similar types of

dialogue; running public awareness campaigns, often in conjunction with religious festivals or national days of celebration; commissioning religious or faith-based organizations to deliver outreach services to minority communities, and provide domestic and international humanitarian support; governments committing to involve religious or faith-based organizations in public consultations and other elements of national decision-making.

A few participants called for the international community to take action in response to alleged violations of universal rights and freedoms taking place in their countries as well as in other countries. A side event on 'Our Common Future' organised by the Mohammadia League of Religious.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Six (6) Panel Discussions were conducted on various thematic areas as indicated below;

- i. *Panel 1 - Religion and belief in different secular systems: Examples from around the world.*
- ii. *Panel 2 - How can parliamentarians cooperate with religious communities and faith-based organizations to mobilize society for greater moderation, solidarity and inclusion.*
- iii. *Panel 3 - Clarifying the relationship between the rule of law and freedom of religion or belief to preserve statehood and citizenship.*
- iv. *Panel 4 - Different mandates, common goals: Religious actors and parliamentarians as allies for promoting gender equality and youth participation.*
- v. *Panel 5 - Promoting trust and mutual recognition: Contributions of religious actors and parliamentarians to counter hate speech, incitement to violence and digital challenges to democracy.*
- vi. *Panel 6 - Legislators and religious leaders as bridge builders: Promoting rights and fundamental freedoms for more just and cohesive societies.*

Panel 1: Religion and belief in different secular systems: Examples from around the world

Overview

Broadly speaking, secularism describes a form of governance which aims to keep the State and religious spheres of authority separate and autonomous, both to guarantee the neutrality of the State and to protect religious institutions from outside interference. There are different cultures of secularism and models of interpreting it. These address areas such as where to draw the line between separating spheres of influence, understanding that, historically, religious and State institutions have been intertwined in many societies. There are also different attitudes towards religion and belief in secular systems: some view them as a public good and encourage their expression in public spaces, whereas in other contexts the State attempts to guarantee equality by limiting some expressions of religion or belief in public spaces.

The panel focused on the meaning of secularism in different parts of the world, discussing the relationship between States, parliaments and religious institutions, freedom of religion and belief at the national and international levels, and possible areas of tension.

The main takeaways about the various examples of secularism around the world were:

- i. Secularism in Austria has helped ensure that migrant communities are protected and treated equally regardless of their religious or non-religious affiliation.
- ii. Azerbaijan values diversity through funding the construction of mosques, synagogues and churches.
- iii. In Argentina, the Constitution describes the links between religion and the State as positive and collaborative while also distinguishing between the two. Secularism in Argentina also means a wide recognition of religion individually and in communities, an acknowledgement of the autonomy of religious communities, and the independence of religions from the State.

iv. In Mali, secularism is enshrined in the Constitution, but interfaith dialogue, agency and inclusion are crucial to reduce misinterpretations, achieve peace and promote tolerance.

The discussion also identified the challenges ahead and the potential collective work required to address them:

- i. Antisemitism, nationalism and hate speech, which threaten security and peace. Parliaments can take concrete measures to combat these challenges by strengthening and implementing legislation protecting the rights of religious minorities.
- ii. Religious conflicts as a threat to global security. Parliaments need to increase mutual respect and comprehension between religions to prevent such conflicts.
- iii. Religion should be seen as a positive force that makes many contributions to the world. Diversity is a gift and unity must be a priority.
- iv. Interfaith dialogue and consultation with various actors, particularly young people, are crucial to achieve peace.

The discussion concluded by reiterating that the objective should be to go beyond what was enshrined in fundamental laws and national constitutions. Parliaments must work towards creating a framework in which different communities could live peacefully together and must take advantage of the diversity of different religious communities to achieve social cohesion, respect and appreciation.



An Iranian Delegate following conference proceedings

Panel 2 - How can parliamentarians cooperate with religious communities and faith-based organizations to mobilize society for greater moderation, solidarity and inclusion.

Overview

Approaching parliamentary work through a systemic lens in an attempt to make it more inclusive involves considering the broader set of actors and dynamics that influence parliaments. One such actor is civil society, which is an important bottom-up channel for the peaceful expression of constituents' interests, needs and perspectives. In many societies, faith-based organizations are active as service providers in the areas of education, social welfare and humanitarian aid, or through advocacy. They can complement or sometimes act as a corrective to the top-down institutional approach. Like other civil society organizations, they are an important agent of accountability for the State, acting as a litmus test for whether the duties towards citizens are being fulfilled and their rights met.

The panel provided a space for a rich discussion between a wide range of actors, parliamentarians, religious leaders and practitioners, on how they could make the world a better place. Various projects from around the world were presented, which all had in common the aim of fighting fear of the Other and ignorance, and involved both faith organizations and politicians. The

panel also discussed how faith-based organizations, religious leaders and politicians, as representatives of the people, could complement each other's work for the benefit of all, with examples of joint actions where faith-based organizations could help government to assist the most vulnerable and reach out to the most remote.

The main takeaways from this panel were:

- a) Trust is the main principle that guides dialogue and there cannot be any meaningful and constructive discussion or cooperation without it.
- b) In order to build trust, there is a need to create an environment of mutual respect, where values and principles of equality and inclusiveness, mutual understanding and solidarity are encouraged and upheld.

The panel strived to put the second of those points into practice. All panel members decided to sit among the other participants and speak from the floor, rather than from the podium. In doing so, they showed their readiness to engage in dialogue, to start on an equal footing and to take into account all voices.

Participants pointed out that, in a dialogue between parliamentarians and religious communities or faith-based organizations, everyone should be treated fairly, in the same way and no less favourably than others. All contributions mattered and should be heard, regardless of whether they came from the political or religious sphere.

Finally, participants also emphasized the importance of mutual understanding and solidarity. Parliamentarians and faith-based actors shared common challenges and common goals, but their approaches were different. It was essential to witness, understand and talk about each other's work to learn from it and share good practices.

Panel 3 - Clarifying the relationship between the rule of law and freedom of religion or belief to preserve statehood and citizenship.

Overview

Parliaments are the guardians of the rule of law, human rights and justice in societies, through their key functions of law-making, budgeting, representation and oversight. There is a strong correlation between peace, justice and strong institutions, as reinforced by Sustainable Development Goal 16, and parliaments stand at this nexus. Religious actors can be important allies in promoting the rule of law; as influential community leaders, they influence how people participate in society, how they exercise their civic and political rights, and how they view their allegiance to the State.

The panel discussed the relationship between the rule of law and freedom of religion or belief. First, the panellists and the moderator provided working definitions of the concepts.

The rule of law safeguards the social order so that all individuals in a given society abide by the same laws and benefit equally from their protection. The rule of law is therefore rooted in a social contract between members of a community – i.e. the citizens, in a broad sense. This idea contrasts with divine sovereignty, embedded in the notion of God’s authority over creation. Freedom of religion or belief is a human right that should be respected regardless of an individual’s religious adherence, country, gender, age, ethnicity, etc. Difficulties can emerge at the intersection between the rule of law and freedom of religion or belief:

- a) Where the expression of religion or belief based on divine sovereignty competes with other rights enshrined by the rule of law – including the freedom of religion or belief of other individuals – thus challenging the social contract.
- b) Where authorities illegitimately seek to limit freedom of religion or belief, often targeting marginalized groups.

In these cases, the rule of law must be maintained to preserve the social contract from which statehood and citizenship derive.

The panel discussed situations in which those that do not share the religion of the majority had been persecuted. In that regard, upholding the rule of law to guarantee freedom of religion or belief was also critical to the realization of an inclusive interfaith dialogue. Intra- and interfaith dialogue should be understood as an exercise of equals in which multiple truths could coexist and in which one person's freedom of religion ended where another's began.

In conclusion, the panel agreed that the momentum should be sustained and encouraged all participants to engage in further dialogue. The panel also invited the IPU to consider the development of a self-assessment toolkit and model legislation for parliaments to gauge their religious sensitivity and uphold the rule of law, guaranteeing freedom of religion or belief for all members of society.

Panel 4 - Different mandates, common goals: Religious actors and parliamentarians as allies for promoting gender equality and youth participation.

Overview

Parliamentarians and religious actors, while having different areas of jurisdiction, share a common interest in building resilient societies, where all members feel included. Most parliaments and religions, however, fall short of promoting gender equality and meaningfully including youth. The global proportion of women parliamentarians stands at around 26%, whereas the proportion of parliamentarians under 30 is less than 3% (even though this age group comprises over 50% of the world's population). The fact that decisions are made by parliaments about the future, in which men and women will be equally affected and youth have the greatest stake, means this situation must be urgently addressed. Religions have varying understandings of gender equality. In most faiths, leadership positions have been traditionally reserved for men, and women have less opportunity to participate in a formal manner. Regulations relating to gender roles also provide a barrier to gender equality. This is often countered with rhetoric reinforcing the fact that women and men are equal but have different roles to fulfil. Youth are often excluded from decision-making mechanisms within religious institutions, leading them to complain about being on the menu, rather than at the table.

The panel addressed the issue of religious actors and parliamentarians as allies for promoting gender equality and youth participation. Panellists discussed existing barriers to the meaningful participation of women and youth and ways to overcome them, and also addressed cooperation between parliaments and religious actors to encourage this much needed participation.

The discussions emphasized the need for more and better education and faith literacy. Education was described as a powerful, if not the most important, tool for empowerment. Both politicians and faith-based organizations must be engaged and committed to establish frameworks and provide the necessary resources that would deliver strong education.

The panel also discussed the fact that participation by women and youth should not just be a passing trend but should lead to their active participation in decision-making. While quotas and nominations were a good idea on the surface, other good practices could be put into practice to start the ball rolling, namely:

- a) Reduce the age of eligibility so that Parliaments include more youth members (align with the voting age).
- b) Facilitate/advocate for more youth and women in leadership positions.
- c) Focus on issues that are of interest to youth and women to encourage them to engage.
- d) Encourage Parliament to set its agenda to include women and youth issues in broader policy areas.
- e) Address gender-based violence and sexism as well as youth exclusion within political parties themselves to change the culture of parliaments.

Finally, the participants in the panel discussion agreed that the active involvement of youth and women in politics would help rebuild trust in democracy and establish a more inclusive society.

Panel 5: Promoting trust and mutual recognition: Contributions of religious actors and parliamentarians to counter hate speech, incitement to violence and digital challenges to democracy

Overview

Hate speech, disinformation, conspiracy theories and xenophobia are on the rise and often target communities on the basis of their religion or belief. The digital space has become an important platform for their expression: it provides a cross-border and often anonymous arena for exchange and even coordination of action, where misinformation is rife, media literacy weak and content moderation a constant challenge. Individuals and groups that use the online space to organize around common hate of religion or belief can threaten democratic principles and violate human rights. Parliaments are challenged to delineate the boundaries around freedom of speech and where it becomes incitement to violence, and find ways to translate this to the digital space. They must also identify the root causes driving hate speech that lie within their jurisdiction.

The panel tackled the issues of hate speech and violence and addressed the new digital challenges to democracy. Part of the discussion questioned the relationship between freedom of religion or belief on the one hand and freedom of expression on the Other. Participants especially emphasized the necessity to rebuild trust, to promote education on these issues, and to advocate for constructive cooperation between parliamentarians and religious actors to counter narratives of hatred.

Throughout the discussions, participants acknowledged the main challenges posed by the new digital era, which was causing society to lose sight of solidarity and suffer from a lack of human interaction. The functioning of social media tended to amplify disinformation, misinformation and hate speech, which would have remained small-scale in a real-life setting. Anonymity on the Internet encouraged people to make statements that they would not have made otherwise.

Participants also proposed and shared recommendations to better address these challenges and be able to counter narratives of hatred. Acknowledging

the lack of fruitful interaction between people, the panel emphasized the need to:

- a) Rebuild trust in each other and strengthen human ties by promoting values of solidarity and compassion
- b) Reflect on the notion of otherness and promote equality.

With regard to education, the panel advocated:

- a) Education to equip youth with critical thinking skills for them to be able to recognize and deconstruct hate speech.
- b) Education on digital tools and the challenges posed by them.

To encourage constructive cooperation between parliamentarians and religious actors, the panel recommended:

- a) The participation of faith groups in helping parliaments to deliver policy aims
- b) That parliamentarians and faith-based organizations work together on global norms: establishing a clear and international definition of hate speech and making sure that Parliaments align their national legislation with international standards.
- c) Bringing religious leaders into parliaments for hearings/advisory boards to influence legislation.

Panel 6: Legislators and religious leaders as bridge builders: Promoting rights and fundamental freedoms for more just and cohesive societies

Overview

Both legislators and religious leaders can function as mediators within their societies: parliamentarians are elected by the people and have a responsibility to reflect and represent their interests and needs to ensure that parliamentary work is relevant and inclusive. Religious leaders are both trusted by and close to their communities, catering not only to their spiritual needs but also in many cases to their material needs, and also advocate for those needs in the

public sphere. A dialogue between these two important social actors can lead to better informed parliaments doing more relevant work to uphold the rights of all. Religious leaders can further support this process by helping their communities understand parliamentary work and especially citizens' rights and how to access them.

The panel explored the different ways in which legislators and religious leaders serve as bridge builders between different sectors of society to promote the rights of all citizens. Based on the views of experts from the parliamentary and religious spheres and grassroots organizations, the panel discussed why legislators and religious leaders should work together and the benefits of doing so.

Legislators and religious leaders should work together to preserve fundamental freedoms and ensure the gradual development of societies. In Bahrain, cooperation and dialogue between legislators and religious leaders were essential in the drafting of legislation addressing the personal status and the economic situation of low-income households. In Malawi, religious leaders held legislators accountable when their political discourse turned into hate speech and they work together as agents for peace and stability. In Benin, legislators had ensured that religious communities could celebrate religious holidays according to their beliefs. Legislators are the interpreters of the heartbeat of their constituents, while religious leaders have the capacity to inspire their followers to achieve nobility. Together, they have a unique opportunity to restore trust.

However, for this cooperation to work, dialogue between legislators and religious leaders should be sincere, realistic and pragmatic. They should set aside their political and religious differences, as collaboration leaves no room for competition. Legislators and religious leaders should also shoulder their respective responsibilities whether they are in a secular society or not. Religious leaders should ensure that religious discourse is used intentionally and should remind all sectors of society that human existence is governed by social and moral laws of cause and effect.

Legislators, on the other hand, should work with all religions, not only the ones they support or follow. Finally, legislators and religious leaders should ensure that their collaboration is inclusive and involves all relevant stakeholders, particularly women, young people, tribal leaders and minorities. Legislators and religious leaders need to ensure that the basic requirements to include women, youth and minorities are met in order to enable these groups to participate in a meaningful manner in interfaith dialogue. At the international level, the flow of information needs to reach the local level. At the regional and local levels, the international community, State actors, and other relevant stakeholders should be encouraged to support local and regional coalitions, including those led by women and young people. It is also vital to empower women and young people as active participants in interfaith dialogue.

CHAPTER 4

SIDE EVENT

The Kenyan Delegation that participated in the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue attended side meeting organised by the Members of the House of Councillors (the Senate) on Tuesday, 14th June, 2023. Sen. Justice Stewart Madzayo, led the Kenyan team in spearheading discussions that focused on matters of mutual interest between the Kenyan Senate and the House of Counsellors (Senate House in the Moroccan Parliament). The meeting emphasized on the importance of African integration specifically, integration of Africa's economic and political systems.



Photo: Meeting of the Kenyan Delegation with Members of the House of Counsellors from the Moroccan Parliament.

CHAPTER 5

CLOSING SESSION

At the closing session on Thursday, 15th June 2023, rapporteurs from the two high-level panel discussions and six other panel discussions presented their reports.

The outcome document of the Conference, the Marrakesh Communiqué, was introduced by Ms. Ayantu Taye, Deputy Commissioner of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission, and Mr. Rachid Talbi El Alami, President of the House of Representatives of Morocco. The Marrakesh Communiqué was adopted by consensus by the parliamentarians present.

In closing remarks on behalf of the IPU President, Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General, thanked the Moroccan parliament, under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, for its capable and generous hosting of the Conference. He also thanked the more than 700 parliamentarians, religious leaders and representatives of civil society, and especially the representatives of the IPU's partner organizations, who had made the Conference a resounding success.

He emphasized three messages he personally would be taking away from the Conference. First, that the protection of freedom of religion was a collective responsibility for all, including parliaments. Second, echoing the words of His Majesty the King of Morocco, that the world was experiencing a “clash of ignorances”, which could only be addressed through respect and education about the Other. Third, that parliamentarians and religious leaders had many things in common, especially the goal of serving their communities to promote solidarity and equality, counter intolerance and uphold the rights of all.

Closing the Conference, Mr. Naam Mayara, President of the House of Councillors of Morocco, said that the message from His Majesty the King conveyed at the start of the Conference had been an illuminating introduction to the theme under discussion, emphasizing Morocco's longstanding commitment to peaceful coexistence and tolerance. Parliaments and religious leaders needed to recognize each other's influence and continue their

constructive coordination on interfaith dialogue at a global level in order to continue the fight against discrimination and radicalism.

He thanked the many participants in the Conference, whose contributions had demonstrated the commitment of both the parliamentary and religious communities to interfaith dialogue, as well as highlighting the common ground on which they could build to advance such dialogue.

CHAPTER 6

ANNEXTURES

Annex I

The agreed Conclusions by the participants of the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue

Marrakesh Communiqué

13–15 June, 2023

We, parliamentarians from around the world, have gathered with representatives of religions, beliefs, faith-based and civil society organizations, and international experts, at the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Marrakesh, Morocco, organized by the Inter Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, in cooperation with Religions for Peace and with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Mohammadia League of Religious Scholars.

1. We affirm that interfaith dialogue that is grounded in support of fundamental rights and freedoms is an essential tool for promoting inclusivity and peaceful coexistence, upholding the rule of law and encouraging collective efforts to achieve a better society. Representatives of Hindu and Sikh religions participating in the General Debate
2. While religions and beliefs of various types may inform us about the world and our fellow citizens, our first responsibility as legislators is to the people we represent, helping to secure the material circumstances of a good and healthy life for all. It is our responsibility to uphold the rule of law and all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief (henceforth “religion or belief”), freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. We also affirm the importance of ensuring that such rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all, without discrimination.

3. As the world emerges from three years of pandemic, we are facing a surge in armed conflicts, geopolitical tensions and environmental degradation, which reinforce existing inequalities, economic instability and humanitarian crises. We are witnessing the shrinking of civic space, increasing ideological polarization and the growth of politically motivated violence in many contexts. Disinformation and hate speech are becoming more prevalent, often amplified by social media. Feelings of insecurity are high and citizens' trust in their institutions is waning in many regions.
4. Intolerance towards minority or marginalized groups, including communities of religion and belief, is on the rise. These trends especially impact women, who already face challenges accessing equal rights and experience diverse forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, with religion or belief sometimes serving as a pretext. The voice of youth, a ballooning demographic, remains sidelined.
5. No religion or belief should be identified with the discrimination or marginalization of another community, nor should it condone violence against another community. We further reaffirm that terrorism and violent extremism, as major ills threatening peace and security, should not be associated with any particular religion, belief or ethno-religious community.
6. We highlight the importance of moderation when resolving religious or belief-based conflicts and the significant role of dedicated mechanisms or institutions for conflict and dispute resolution.
7. We further express our concern at the backsliding of the global state of democracy, the deterioration in human solidarity and the weakening of the moral compass in politics and societies at large that can be seen in countries and communities around the world.
8. Addressing these issues requires concerted and decisive action from all of us: from parliamentarians with their legislative power, as well as from all parts of society, including official institutions, religious and belief

communities, faith-based and civil society organizations, and academia. Times of crisis and uncertainty especially call for solid leadership to bring people together around a common vision of the future.

9. We believe strongly in the need for a social contract that reinforces the common dignity, fraternity and equality of all. As parliamentarians, we share a commitment to building resilient societies in which all people feel equally included. We encourage a culture of dialogue in parliaments as an essential tool of peace and inclusion. We commit ourselves to respectful conduct towards all people, as well as to the avoidance of divisive rhetoric around religion or belief to serve a political agenda.
10. We acknowledge that leaders of religious and belief communities, including traditional leaders, are often influential public figures with wide outreach. Religious and belief networks transcend constituencies and national borders. They are often the first responders in emergencies and provide an important safety net to people in need. We are also deeply inspired by the many initiatives of religious and belief communities aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence and equal rights among all people.
11. Our work as parliamentarians can benefit from greater awareness of the influence and importance of religion and belief, and of their contribution to the welfare of humankind. We must engage these networks as allies in our common cause for social justice and coexistence.
12. Today, we add the voice of the parliamentary community to this call for coexistence, based on equality and dignity for everyone. We affirm our commitment to working together for peaceful coexistence, inclusion and strong institutions in full respect of the rule of law.

We encourage our parliaments to commit to carrying forward the following actions:

- a) Ensure that all religions, beliefs and faith-based organizations are treated equally and without discrimination under the law.

- b) Include representatives of religions, beliefs and faith-based organizations alongside other civil society representatives in all their diversity, in ongoing efforts to secure the implementation of national legislation and international commitments, and the promotion of social cohesion.
- c) Engage with religious or belief leaders and communities to help build solidarity and effectively address the major challenges of our time, such as poverty and inequality, climate change, conflict and war, as well as widespread addiction, overconsumption, and digital technologies, including the negative uses of artificial intelligence.
- d) Develop parliamentary groups or committees within national parliaments on interfaith and intercultural dialogue for peaceful coexistence and social inclusion, and enable cooperation between these groups or committees.
- e) Promote greater cooperation between religious and belief representatives and national authorities in combating crimes such as human trafficking, domestic servitude, domestic violence and forced labour, and protecting the victims thereof.
- f) Develop global parliamentary codes of conduct to ensure respect for the right to freedom of religion and belief and the prevention of hate speech.
- g) Promote, from an early age, the principles of inclusion and diversity, including education about the Other, as well as respect for all religions and beliefs, as the foundation of peaceful and inclusive societies.
- h) Advocate for public education and awareness-raising focused on promoting respect and understanding between individuals and communities across religions and beliefs, upholding the dignity of all.
- i) Resolve to counter hate speech or contempt for individuals due to their religious or belief affiliation, and robustly address discriminatory treatment, including through legislative initiatives.
- j) Encourage the IPU to map best parliamentary practices in support of diversity, tolerance and dialogue, upholding citizenship and the rule of law, and to provide guidance to parliaments accordingly.
- k) Encourage leaders of religions and beliefs to promote inclusivity, fundamental human rights and gender equality within their

communities, in line with national legislation and international commitments.

- l) Deepen interaction with the United Nations, other international bodies and civil society, and explore avenues for the implementation of United Nations strategies and resolutions on interfaith and intercultural dialogue and to address implementation gaps at the national level.
- m) Ensure that national holidays and other official acts to commemorate occasions important to a religion or belief reflect the diversity of religions and beliefs in the country concerned.
- n) Establish an institutional mechanism within the IPU to build on the outcomes of this Conference, which would examine good practices, monitor progress and formulate proposals in this area. This mechanism should continue to incorporate the voices of parliamentarians, representatives of religions and beliefs, and civil society.
- o) Encourage the IPU to also integrate the outcomes of this Conference into its regular programme of work and to submit this document to the 147th IPU Assembly in October, 2023. We welcome the invitation by the Parliament of Italy for the Inter-Parliamentary Union to organize a global interfaith meeting in Rome in 2025.

We thank the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this unique gathering and express our gratitude to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, who granted his patronage to this Conference.

In conclusion, we encourage all participants to carry deep into their respective communities the spirit of solidarity and dialogue that we experienced during these three days here in Marrakesh.

Annex 2
PROGRAMME



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: *Working together for our common future*

Palais des Congrès, Marrakesh, Morocco
13–15 June 2023



Kingdom of Morocco
The Parliament

Provisional Programme

Tuesday, 13 June

- 11:00 – 12:30 **Opening session** of the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 – 16:00 **High-level panel** – Track 1 (The rule of law)
Working together for the promotion of the rule of law: Good practices and challenges
(Royal Hall)
- 16:30 – 18:30 **High-level panel** – Track 2 (Peace and inclusion)
Promoting regional and global peace through intra-faith dialogue
(Royal Hall)
- 19:00 – 20:30 Inaugural cocktail

Wednesday, 14 June

- 09:00 – 13:00 Opening of the **General Debate**: *Parliaments and religious leaders: Promoting dialogue, working together for our common future*
(Royal Hall)
- 09:30 – 11:00 **Panel** – Track 1 (The rule of law)
Religion and belief in different secular systems: Examples from around the world
(Fès 1 Hall)
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Panel** – Track 2 (Peace and inclusion)
How can parliamentarians cooperate with religious communities and faith-based organizations to mobilize society for greater moderation, solidarity and inclusion?
(Fès 1 Hall)
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

- 14:30 – 18:30 Continuation of the **General Debate: Parliaments and religious leaders: Promoting dialogue, working together for our common future**
(Royal Hall)
- 14:30 – 16:30 **Panel – Track 1 (The rule of law)**
Clarifying the relationship between the rule of law and freedom of religion or belief to preserve statehood and citizenship
(Fès 1 Hall)
- 17:00 – 18:30 **Panel – Track 2 (Peace and inclusion)**
Different mandates, common goals: Religious actors and parliamentarians as allies for promoting gender equality and youth participation
(Fès 1 Hall)
- 20:00 Cultural evening
- Thursday, 15 June
- 09:00 – 13:00 Continuation and closing of **General Debate: Parliaments and religious leaders: Promoting dialogue, working together for our common future**
(Royal Hall)
- 09:00 – 11:00 **Panel – Track 2 (Peace and inclusion)**
Promoting trust and mutual recognition: Contributions of religious actors and parliamentarians to counter hate speech, incitement to violence and digital challenges to democracy
(Fès 1 Hall)
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Panel – Track 1 (The rule of law)**
Legislators and religious leaders as bridge builders: Promoting rights and fundamental freedoms for more just and cohesive societies
(Fès 1 Hall)
- 13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Closing session**
Panel reports
Adoption of the outcome document
(Royal Hall)



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue:
Working together for our common future

Palais des Congrès, Marrakesh, Morocco
13–15 June 2023



Kingdom of Morocco
The Parliament

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Mr./M. Duarte Pacheco
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Rachid TALBI EL ALAMI
President of the House of Representatives
Président de la Chambre des représentants

Mr./M. Naam MAYARA
President of the House of Councillors
Président de la Chambre des conseillers

Mr./M. Martin Chungong
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS - MEMBRES

ANGOLA

Ms. Emilia DIAS	Member of the National parliament
Mr. Nvunda SALUCOMBO	Member of the National parliament
Mr. Silvestre SAMY	Member of the National parliament
Ms. Nildeice BARRICA	Adviser

ARMENIA – ARMÉNIE

Ms. Heriknaz TIGRANYAN	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Standing Committee on Labour and Social Affairs
Ms. Elinar VARDANYAN	Member of the National Assembly Member, Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport
Ms. Zabela GHAZARYAN	Senior specialist of the Foreign Relations Department, National Assembly

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

Ms. Christine SCHWARZ-FUCHS	Member of the Federal Council Chairwoman, Foreign Affairs Committee Deputy Chairwoman, Justice Committee
Mr. Harald TROCH	Member of Parliament of the National Council Deputy Chairman, Committee on Human Rights
Mr. Hubert FUCHS	Member of the National Council Deputy Chairman, Budget Committee Deputy Chairman, Subcommittee of the Budget Committee: Budget Execution
Mr. Matthias MATUSCHEK	Adviser

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr. Adil ALIYEV	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Chair, Youth and Sports Committee
Mr. Jeyhun MAMMADOV	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee for Public Associations and Religious Institutions Member, Science and Education Committee
Mr. Mahir ABBASZADE	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee for Economic Policy, Industry and Enterprising Member, Youth and Sports Committee
Mr. Elvin ALIYEV	Adviser
Mr. Nazim SAMADOV	Ambassador

BAHRAIN - BAHREÏN

Mr. Ahmed ALMUSALAM	Speaker of the Council of Representatives
Mr. Abdulnabi SALMAN	Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives
Ms. Jehad ALFADHEL	Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council
Ms. Mariam ALTHAIN	Member of the Council of Representatives Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security

Mr. Hasan IBRAHIM	Member of the Council of Representatives Member, Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs
Dr. Basam ALBINMOHAMMED	Member of the Shura Council Member, Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs
Ms. Hala FAYEZ	Member of the Shura Council
Mr. Rashed ABUNAJMA	Member, Committee on Services
Mr. Adel KHADEM	Secretary General of the Council of Representatives
Mr. Mahmood ALSIDDIQI	Coordinator, Council of Representatives
Ms. Hanadi ALENEZI	Parliamentary Affairs Supervisor, Shura Council
Mr. Mohammed ALJABRI	Senior Parliamentary Relations Development Specialist, Council of Representatives
Ms. Sara ALBADRI	Director, Council of Representatives
Ms. Khulood ALAJLAN	Head of E-media Section, Council of Representatives
Ms. Yaseen ALMSHEEK	Adviser, Council of Representatives
Mr. Almadi ELKEHEL	Staff Staff

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

Mr. Denis ZVIZDIĆ	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Head of IPU delegation	Head of delegation
Ms. Ermina SALKIČEVIĆ-DIZDAREVIĆ	Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs Member of the House of Representatives Member, Committee for election and monitoring over the work of Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption
	Member, Committee on Foreign Trade and Customs Member, Joint Committee on Economic Reforms and Development
Mr. Mladen BOSIĆ	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs Member, Joint Committee on Economic Reforms and Development
Ms. Sabina CUDIC	Member of the House of Representatives
Mr. Kenan HODŽIĆ	Head of Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of PABiH
Ms. Amela MULAVDIĆ	Adviser to the Speaker of the House of Representatives PABiH
Ms. Dzenana LEPER	Adviser
Secretary of IPU delegation	House of Representatives
Ms. Amila KLIČIĆ	Interpreter House of Representatives

BRAZIL - BRÉSIL

Mr. David SOARES	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Pastor Member, Committee on Communication Member, Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
------------------	--

Mr. Marx SIQUEIRA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Mr. Jefferson CAMPOS	Member, Committee on Health
	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
	Pastor
	Member, Committee of External Affairs and National Defense
	Member, Committee of Science, Technology and Innovation
	Member, Committee on Communication
Mr. Hugo Motta DA NOBREGA	Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Mr. Julio GLINTERNICK BITELLI	Member, Committee on Finance and Taxation
Mr. Rodolfo RIBEIRO	Ambassador
Ms. Gianina MULLER POZZEBON	Diplomatic corps
	Diplomatic corps

BURKINA FASO

M. Ousmane BOUGOUMA	Président de l'Assemblée législative de Transition
M. Salifou YADA	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Mme Sabine COMPAORE/OUEDRAOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
M. Irméan François OUEDRAOGO	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Mme Wendyelle Ambroise NIKIEMA	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
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M. Clément DAILA	Aide de Camp
M. Issouf BOUNDAOGO	Directeur de protocole
M. Tiraogo S. Ibrahim GUIGMA	DG communication et de RP
M. Abdoul Aimé Roland KONATE	Directeur de la coopération parlementaire

BURUNDI

M. Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA	Président du Sénat
M. Ferdinand NDAYISAVYE	Membre du Sénat
M. Nestor MUSAFIRI	Conseiller à la Cellule du Protocole

CABO VERDE

Mr. Austelino TAVARES CORREIA	Speaker of the National Assembly
Ms. Maria SEMEDO	Adviser, National Assembly
IPU Secretary of the National Group	
Ms. Stéphanie TAVARES	Interpreter
Mr. António SILVA	Protocol Director
Mr. José CORREIA	Ambassador

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN

M. Tabetando NDIEB NSO	Vice-Président du Sénat
M. Isaac Mbunka Xi FON CHAFAH	Membre du Sénat
M. Hamadou Alioum ALHADJI	Membre du Sénat
Mme Edwige Ursule MEDOUANE AWOLE épouse ETOGA	Conseillère Technique au Sénat

	CHAD - TCHAD
Mr. Maki MAHAMAT SALEH	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr. Djidda AHMED	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Moyade NAREDROUM KOUOUNANG	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Alghassim KHAMIS	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly
	CHINA - CHINE
Mr. Rubin JIN	Member of the National People's Congress
Mr. Minghai SHI	Member, Ethnic Affairs Committee
Mr. Ran YAN	Member of the National People's Congress
Ms. Yi ZHENG	Deputy Director
Mr. Zhicheng ZHOU	National People's Congress
Mr. Wei BAO	Adviser
Mr. Changlin LI	National People's Congress
	Ambassador
	Diplomatic corps
	Diplomatic corps
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M. Moustadroine ABDOU	Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union
Mme Hayda NOURDINE SIDI	Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée de l'Union
M. Said ASSANE MADI	Membre de l'Assemblée de l'Union
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M. Soulimane ABDOULHOUSSENE	Directeur de Cabinet du Président Assemblée de l'Union
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M. Joseph KIGNOUMBI KIA MBOUNGOU	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
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Mme Maman COULIBALY épouse OUATTARA	Membre, Commission de l'Evaluation des Politiques Publiques
M. Amani Sébastien KOUASSI	Membre du Sénat
M. Konan Yves N'GUESSAN	Membre du Sénat
Mme Marie-Christianne TANOË	Chef de Service
	Assemblée nationale
	Chef du Protocole particulier du Président du Sénat
	Chef de division à la direction de la coopération des collectivités territoriales et des Ivoiriens établis hors de Côte d'Ivoire
	CROATIA - CROATIE
Ms. Natalija MARTINČEVIĆ	Member of Parliament
Ms. Jasna MILETA	Diplomatic corps

CYPRUS - CHYPRE

Mr. Averof NEOFYTOU	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chairperson, House Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism Member, House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
Mr. Marios GAROYIAN	Member of the House of Representatives Member, House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
Ms. Avgousta CHRISTOU	Senior International Relations Officer

CZECH REPUBLIC - RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

Mr. Tomáš KOHOUTEK	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Member, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs
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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

Mr. Vital BANYWESIZE	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr. Lucain KASONGO	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Moussa KALEMA	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Jules César LBULA	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Gaël KAKUDJI	Adviser
Mr. Potin MADJALIWA	Adviser
Mr. Juvens MABAYA	Adviser
Mr. Laurent IMOTE	Adviser
Mr. Jules MALEWA	Adviser

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINÉE ÉQUATORIALE

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Mr. Tomás MECHEBA FERNANDEZ GALILEA	Member of the Senate
Mr. Casiano MOHABA MESSU	Deputy Director General of the Protocol Chamber of Deputies
Mr. Salomon NFA NDONG NSENG	Ambassador

ESWATINI

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Mr. Sibusiso Douglas DLAMINI	Member of the Senate
Ms. Zanele Zandile GAMEDZE	Assistant to the President of the Senate
Mr. Sipehelele WELCOME DLUDLU	Diplomatic corps
Ms. Nolwazy SIMANGELE MKHONTA	Diplomatic corps

GAMBIA (THE) - GAMBIE

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Mr. Amadou CAMARA	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Momodou A. SISE	Clerk National Assembly
Mr. Gibairu JANNEH	Director National Assembly
Mr. Ousman FT JATTA	Personal Assistant to Hon. Speaker National Assembly

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Ms. Shirley Joanna Rivera Zaldaña	President of the Congress of the Republic
Mr. Sergio David ARANA ROCA	Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic
Mr. Anibal Estuardo ROJAS ESPINO	Member of the Congress of the Republic
Mr. Osman Alexander LOPEZ RIVERA	Adviser
Mr. Leonardo Salvador RAMOS SURIA	Ambassador

GUINEA - GUINÉE

M. Seny CAMARA	Membre du Conseil national de la Transition Membre de la Commission Défense, Paix et Sécurité
M. Faya Samuel TELLIANO	Conseiller au Cabinet du Président chargé du dialogue citoyen et du plaidoyer
M. Fodé Lamine TOURE	Assistant parlementaire au Conseil national de la Transition (CNT)

HUNGARY - HONGRIE

Ms. Monika BARTOS	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee for Public Welfare
Ms. Katalin SOMFAINE ADAM	Member, Committee for Foreign Affairs Head of Hungarian IPU Office National Assembly

INDIA - INDE

Mr. GHANSHYAM TIWARI	Member of the Council of States Member, Committee on Rules Member, Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports
Ms. Himadri SINGH	Member of the Lok Sabha
Mr. Indra HANG SUBBA	Member of the Lok Sabha
Ms. Girija PRAKASH	Director Rajya Sabha Secretariat
Mr. Rajesh VAISHNAW	Diplomatic corps
Mr. Neeraj AGRAWAL	Diplomatic corps
Ms. Soumya Rajeshwaran NAIR	Diplomatic corps

INDONESIA - INDONÉSIE

Mr. Fadli ZON Head of delegation	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson, Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Member, Commission I on Defense Foreign and Information Affairs
Mr. Syaikhul ISLAM	Member of the House of Representatives Member of Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Member, Commission VII on Energy Mineral Resources Research and Technology Environmental Affairs

Mr. Syahrul Aidi MAAZAT	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Member, Commission V on Communications Telecommunications Public Works Public Housing Affairs Acceleration of Development of Disadvantaged Regions
Mr. Primus YUSTISIO	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Member, Commission XI on Finance National Development Planning Board Banking and Non-bank Financial Institution Affairs
Mr. Achmad Hafisz TOHIR	Member of the House of Representatives Vice-chair, Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Member, Commission XI on Finance National Development Planning Board Banking and Non-Bank Financial Institutions Affairs
Mr. Sukamta MANTAMIHARJA	Member of the House of Representatives
Mr. Beny Rahbandiyosa SABRI	Adviser House of Representatives
Mr. Tide Aji PRATAMA	Adviser House of Representatives
Ms. Endah Tjahjani Dwirini RETNOASTUTI	Director House of Representatives
Mr. Firdaus Panji PRABOWO	Secretary of delegation (Documentation) House of Representatives

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (RÉPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE)

Mr. Seyed Mahmoud NABAVIAN	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Vice-chair, Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation
Mr. Mojtaba REZA KHAH	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Member, Program and Budget and Calculations Commission
Ms. Elham AZAD	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Head of Legal Faction of Parliament
Ms. Shadi MAKI	International expert
Mr. Jalal ABOULHASSANI CHIMEH	Protocol

IRELAND

Mr. Garret AHEARN	Member of the Senate
Mr. Noel GREALISH	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Committee on Members Interests
Ms. Aisling HART	Adviser, Senate

ISRAEL

Ms. Yifat SHASHA BITON	Deputy Speaker of the Knesset
Mr. Elazar STERN	Member of the Knesset
Mr. Danny Ben Yosef DANON	Member of the Knesset
Mr. Dan Eliyahou Yaacov ILLOUZ	Member of the Knesset
Ms. Liat MARGALIT	Adviser Knesset

JORDAN – JORDANIE

Mr. Mefleh AL-RHIMI

Member of the Senate
Assistant of the President
Head of the delegation
Member of the Senate
Adviser
Senate

Mr. Ibrahim BDOUR

Mr. Adnan ALMASHAKBEEH

KAZAKHSTAN

Mr. Nartay SARSENGALIYEV

Ms. Saulekul SAILAUKYZY

Mr. Assemkan SMAGULOV

Mr. Rafael MAKHMUTOV

Member of the House of Representatives
Ambassador
Diplomat
Diplomat

KENYA

Mr. Paul ODALO ABUOR

Mr. Peter IRUNGU KIHUNGI

Ms. Fatuma HAMISI MASITO

Mr. Peter OCHIENG ORERO

Mr. Justice Stewart MADZAYO

Ms. Hamida KIBWANA

Ms. Miriam ATABO MODO

Ms. Halima MALUKI

Ms. Khadija ALI

Mr. Mazera Shadrock MWACHIRU

Member of the National Assembly
Member of the National Assembly
Member of the National Assembly
Member of the National Assembly
Member of the Senate
Member of the Senate
Parliamentary Staff and Secretary to the Delegation
Principal Research Officer, Senate
Public communication officer, Senate
Public communication officer, Senate

LESOTHO

Ms. Mamonaheng MOKITIMI

Mr. Khoabane Solomon THEKO

Ms. Mabataung Patricia MOKHATHALI

Ms. Makholu Lebohlang Mualle

MOSHOESHOE

Mr. Teboho Percy SEKESE

President of the Senate
Member of the Senate
Member of the Senate
Member of the Senate

Secretary

MALAWI

Ms. Catherine GOTANI HARA

Ms. Annie Aisha ADAMS

Mr. Kenny KANDODO

Ms. Esther JOLOBALA

Mr. Mphatso BOTI PHIRI

Mr. Victor MUSOWA

Speaker, National Assembly
Deputy Speaker, National Assembly
Member of the National Assembly
Member, International Relations
Member, Budget Committee
Member of the National Assembly
Member, International Relations
Member, Natural Resources Committee
Member of the National Assembly
Member, Public Appointments
Member, Education Committee
Member of the National Assembly
Member, International Relations
Member, Education Committee

Mr. Chipiliro Brian MPINGANJIRA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Agriculture Committee Member, Media Committee
Mr. Arthur CHIPUNGU	Member of the National Assembly Member, Health Member, Industry and Trade
Mr. Jeffrey MWENYEHELI	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly

MALTA

Mr. Ryan CALLUS	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Standards in Public Life Committee
Ms. Davina SAMMUT HILI	Member of the House of Representatives Member, Social Affairs Committee
Mr. Ian Paul BAJADA	Adviser

MOROCCO - MAROC

M. Rachid Talbi El Alami	Président de la Chambre des représentants
M. Enaam MAYARA	Président de la Chambre des conseillers
M. Ahmed TOUIZI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
Mme Khaddouj SLASSI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
M. Mustapha REDDAD	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
M. Hassan CHOUMAIS	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers
Mme Salma BENAZIZ	Membre, Commission des secteurs productifs
Mme Hanane ATERKIN	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
M. Kamal AIT MIK	Membre, Finance
M. Omar HEJIRA	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
M. Allal AMRAOUI	Membre de la Chambre des conseillers
M. Yassine OUKACHA	Membre, Commission des secteurs productifs
Mme Keltoum NAIM	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
Mme Meriem RMILI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
Mme Zima CHAHIM	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
M. Najib EL KHADI	Membre de la Chambre des représentants
M. El Assad ZEROUALI	Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants
M. Abdelwahad DRIOUICHE	Secrétaire général, Chambre des conseillers
M. Khalid ADENNOUN	Secrétaire administratif, Chambre des conseillers
M. Saad GHAZI	Conseiller du président, Chambre des représentants
M. Zakaria LAHNINI	Directeur, Chambre des conseillers
M. Anas EL FILALI BEN ABDELKRIM	Conseiller, Chambre des conseillers
M. Said SATRAOUY	Conseiller, Chambre des représentants
M. Ahmed CHAQRI	Secrétaire administratif du groupe marocain, Chef de la division des relations multilatérales, Chambre des représentants
Mme Nahid Bennani	Chef de cabinet du président, Chambre des représentants
M. Amal Belcaid	Conseillère générale Chambre des conseillers Directeur de la Direction des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération Chambre des représentants

Mr. Eduardo MULEMBWE
Mr. Narcisio MANJATE
Mr. José MADROBA
Mr. Mauricio CUMBE

MOZAMBIQUE

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Adviser, Assembly of the Republic
Adviser, Assembly of the Republic
Assembly of the Republic

Mr. Sarfraz Ahmed BUGTI
Mr. Anwaar-ul-haq KAKAR

PAKISTAN

Member of the Senate
Member of the Senate
Member, Human Resource Development
Member Overseas Pakistanis
Member of the Senate
Member, Foreign Affairs
Diplomatic corps

Mr. Farooq Hamid NAEK

Mr. Hamid Asghar KHAN

PALESTINE

Mr. Musa HADID
Mr. Ilias AOUANT

Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council
Member of the Palestinian National Council,
Christian religious figure
Ambassador
Secretary of the delegation
Muslim Religions Judge

Mr. Jamal SHOBAKI
Mr. Bashar SULAIMAN
Mr. Abdallah ISAILI

ROMANIA - ROUMANIE

Ms. Silvia-Monica DINICĂ
Vice-President of the Group

Senator
Chairperson, Committee for Science, Innovation
and Technology
Member, Committee for Education
Director, Senate
Adviser, Senate
Diplomatic corps

Ms. Cristina DUMITRESCU
Ms. Luminița TEODOREL
Ms. Maria CIOBANU

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

Mr. Matteo ROSSI

Member of the Great and General Council
Head of the delegation
Member of the Great and General Council

Ms. Sara CONTI

SAUDI ARABIA – ARABIE SAOUDITE

Mr. Abdullah ALSHEIKH
Mr. Nasser ALDEGHAITHER
Mr. Mobarak ALDOSARI
Ms. Zeinab ABOTALIB
Ms. Aljohara ALSAUD
Mr. Khalid ALTURKI

President of the Shura Council
Member of the Shura Council
Member of the Shura Council
Member of the Shura Council
Member of the Shura Council
Adviser
Shura Council
Adviser
Shura Council
Adviser
Shura Council

Mr. Fahad ALOMER

Mr. Fahad ALDUGHAITHER

Ms. Hanouf ALMATRAFI	Adviser Shura Council
Mr. Khalid ALMANSOUR	Adviser Shura Council
Mr. Abdulaziz ALAJALEEN	Adviser Shura Council
Mr. Abdulsalam ALBALAWI	Adviser Shura Council

SENEGAL

Mme Adji Diarra MERGANE KANOUTE	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
M. Malick Maguèye DIAW	Directeur de Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Mr. Amadou THIMBO	Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale
Mr. Gérard NZALY	Ambassadeur
Mr. Seydou GOUDIABY	Diplomate

SERBIA – SERBIE

Mr. Muamer BAČEVAC	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson, Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality
Ms. Danijela GRUJIĆ	Member, Health and Family Committee Member of the National Assembly Member, Culture and Information Committee Deputy member, Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality
Ms. Sandra JOKOVIĆ	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality
Mr. Miloš JANČIĆ	Adviser National Assembly
Ms. Ivana ĐURIŠIĆ	Interpreter National Assembly

SLOVAKIA - SLOVAQUIE

Mr. Ludovit GOGA	Member of the National Council Member, European Affairs Committee
Ms. Silvia GÁBEROVÁ	Deputy Director, National Council

SLOVENIA - SLOVÉNIE

Ms. Mirjam BON KLANJŠČEK	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth
Ms. Anja BAH ŽIBERT	Member of the National Assembly Vice Chair, Committee on Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Disability Member, Committee on the Interior, Public Administration and Local Self-Government
Mr. Aleksander PROSEN KRALJ	Member of the National Assembly Member, Committee on the Economy

SOMALIA - SOMALIE

Mr. Abdullahi Omar ABSHIR	Second Deputy Speaker, House of the People
Mr. Said Mohamed MOHAMUUD	Member of the House of the People Member, Resources & Environment Committee
Mr. Noradin OLUJOG	Member of the House of the People
Mr. Farah Moalim BISHAR	Member of House of the People Member, Information & Communication Committee
Mr. Mohamed Abdirahman IBRAHIM	Member of the House of the People
Mr. Ismail Eid MOHAMED	Member of the House of the People Member, Justice and Judiciary Committee
Ms. Zamzam Dahir MOHAMUD	Member of the Upper House
Mr. Bashir Ahmed HUSSEIN	Member, Resources & Environment Committee Adviser, House of the People

SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

Mr. Madala Louis David NTOMBELA	Member of the National Assembly
Ms. Yolande Mphomotseng ROMOTSAMAI	Executive Assistant

SOUTH SUDAN – SOUDAN DU SUD

Ms. Mary Ayen MAJOK	First Deputy Speaker of the Council of States Head of the delegation
Mr. Joseph Nyok ABIEL	Member of the Council of States
Mr. Nyabuony BOL WOUR DENG	Member of the Council of States
Mr. Hassan Adam GATPAN	Member of the Council of States
Mr. Vosca Martin KUMBOTI	Member of the Council of States
Ms. Geneva ELIABA	Member of the Council of States
Mr. Paulino LUKUDU	Member of the Council of States
Mr. Moullana Kwat MALUEL ADAGE	Legal Advisor
Mr. Paul Thomas SEVERIO	Secretariat
Mr. Hakim Jonthan MAYEN	Protocol
Ms. Emmanuella PRIMO	Media Officer
Ms. Gadisie HUSSEIN	Ex Director, office of Acting Speaker
Mr. Ahmed FARRIS	Support Staff, office of Acting Speaker

SPAIN - ESPAGNE

Ms. Meritxell BATET	President of the Congress of Deputies
Ms. Ana PASTOR	Vice-President, Congress of Deputies,
Mr. José Ignacio ECHANIZ	Member of the Congress of Deputies
Ms. Ana MARTINEZ	Senator
Mr. José CEPEDA	Senator
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Mr. Fernando CASTILLO	Adviser, Congress of Deputies
Mr. Javier MIERES	Head of Cabinet of the President
Ms. Elisenda GUARDINO	Director of Communication Cabinet of the President
Ms. María LÓPEZ	Director, Congress of Deputies

THAILAND - THAÏLANDE

Mr. Pornpetch WICHITCHOLCHAI	President of the Senate
Mr. Lertrat RATANAVANICH	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Local Administration
Mr. Prajin JUNTONG	Member of the Senate Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Higher Education Science Research and Innovation
Ms. Wiboonlasana RUAMRAKSA	Member of the Senate Second Vice-Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Industry
Ms. Natchtanun ROOPKHAJORN	Secretary to the Vice-President of the National Assembly
Ms. Boontarika JUNHANANDANA	Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives Secretary to the Delegations
Ms. Neeranan SUNGTO	Foreign Affairs Officer (Expert Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
Ms. Pimpa CHAIHAN	Foreign Affairs Officer (Practitioner Level) Secretariat of the House of Representatives
Mr. Adnan KAHONG	Diplomat
Ms. Penkhae INTARASUWAN	Diplomat
Ms. Rajae EL HILALI	Diplomat

TUVALU

Mr. Samuel Penitala TEO	Speaker of Parliament Chair, Parliamentary Rules Committee Chair, Parliamentary Privileges Committee
Ms. Puakena BOREHAM	Member of Parliament Chair, Public Accounts Committee Member, Tuvalu Constitutional Review Committee

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS

Mr. Saqr GHOBASH	Speaker of the Federal National Council
Mr. Marwan ALMHEIRI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Suhail ALAFARI	Member of the Federal National Council
Ms. Sara FALAKNAZ	Member of the Federal National Council
Ms. Naema ALMANSOORI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Saeed ALABDI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Ali ALNUAIMI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Tariq ALTAYER	Member of the Federal National Council
Ms. Maryam BIN THENEYA	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Adnan AL HAMMADI	Member of the Federal National Council
Mr. Omar ALNUAIMI	Secretary General Federal National Council
Ms. Afra ALBASTI	Deputy Secretary General Federal National Council
Mr. Juma ALMHEIRI	Director Federal National Council

Mr. Ahmad ALAQILI	Adviser Federal National Council
Mr. Sami ABOOUD	Deputy Director
Mr. Panakkat USMAN	Adviser
Mr. Saeed ALMHEIRI	Deputy Director
Mr. Ahmed ALSHAMSI	Adviser
Ms. Salama ALSHEHHI	Deputy Director
Ms. Khaseibah ALYAMMAHI	Adviser
Ms. Samyah ALHMOODI	Director
Mr. Saif AL SHAMSI	Adviser
Mr. Ahmed AL SHEHHI	Adviser
Mr. Hassan ALALI	Adviser

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

Ms. Karen BRADLEY President of Inter-Parliamentary Group	Member of the House of Commons Chair, Procedures Committee Member, Liaison Committee
Lord David ALTON	Member of the House of Lords Member, Human Rights Committee
Mr. Alex SOBEL	Member of the House of Commons
Ms. Rhiannon EDWARDS	Multilateral Programme Manager

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA – RÉPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

Ms. Tulia ACKSON	Speaker of the National Assembly Steering Committee
Mr. Joseph Kizito MHAGAMA	Member of the National Assembly Member, Steering Committee Member, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Mr. Elibariki Immanuel KINGU	Member of the National Assembly Member, Local authority account committee - LAAC
Ms. Esther Nicholas MATIKO	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Mathew N KILEO	Adviser National Assembly
Ms. Zainab Issa KIHANGE	Adviser
Ms. Ruth Stanley MAKUNGU	Deputy Director
Ms. Naimi Sweetie AZIZ	Director
Ms. Nenelewa Joyce MWIHAMBI	Secretary General
Mr. Michael Yohakimu MSOMBE	Information Officer
Mr. Emmanuel MBOGGO	Adviser
Ms. Martha O. LYAFUNYILE	Adviser
Mr. Davis KAFANABO BYARUGABA	Protocol Officer
Mr. Ibrahim Said MMBAGA	Foreign Services Officer, Counselor
Mr. Aggrey MEENA	Diplomatic Corps

VIET NAM

Mr. Viet Anh TRAN	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Tuan Phong DON	Member of the National Assembly
Mr. Duc Thien THICH	Member of the National Assembly
Ms. Thu Phuong BUI	Adviser

Ms. Thi Thu Ha DANG
Mr. Viet Hung NGUYEN

Diplomatic corps
Diplomatic corps

ZIMBABWE

Mr. Jacob Francis
Nzwidamilimo MUDENDA

Speaker of the National Assembly
Chairperson, Committee on Standing Rules and Orders

Mr. Mathias TONGOFA

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Portfolio Committee on Health and Child Care
Chairperson, Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture

Mr. Tawanda KARIKOGA

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Member, Portfolio Committee on Higher and Tertiary Education

Mr. Ability Gandawa MUSAVAYA

Member of the National Assembly
Member, Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Ms. Ellina SHIRICHENA

Member, Portfolio Committee on Budget, Finance and Economic Development

Mr. Shingirai Marlvin MAJERE

Member of the National Assembly

Ms. Rumbidzai Pamela CHISANGO

Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Ms. Martha MUSHANDINGA

National Assembly

Mr. Farai Nicholas MAKUBAZA

Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly

Mr. Frank Mike NYAMAHOWA

Principal Executive Assistant to the Hon. Speaker National Assembly

Director, National Assembly

Director, National Assembly

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Mir Rahman RAHMANI

Speaker of the House of the People

Mr. Mohammad Alam EZEDYAR

Deputy Speaker, House of Elders

Mr. Mohammad Rahim MIRZA

Member of the House of the People

Mr. Mohammad Asif SEDIQI

Member of the House of Elders

Mr. Mohammad Akabar STANIKZAI

Member of the House of Elder

Mr. Abdul Qader ARYUBI

Secretary General, House of the People,

Mr. Ferdous DEHQAN

Deputy Secretary General, House of the People

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBRES ASSOCIÉS

ARAB PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT ARABE

Mr. Adel AL ASOOMI, Speaker
Mr. Alaa ABED, Deputy Speaker
Mr. Yousry ELMOGHAZY, Member of Parliament
Mr. Ahmed MOHAMMED, Member of Parliament
Mr. Nadhim AL-SHIBLAWE, Member of Parliament
Mr. Kamel SHARWY, Secretary General
Mr. Abdelmomen RAMADAN, Protocol Officer

PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT PANAFRICAIN

Ms. Fortune Zephania CHARUMBIRA, Speaker
Ms. Lucia Maria MENDES GONCALVES DOS PASSOS, Deputy Speaker
Mr. Ndoutoume Francois ANGO, Deputy Speaker
Mr. Essissima NDI, Member of Parliament
Mr. Aurelien-Simplice KONGBELET-ZINGAS, Member of Parliament
Mr. Ndamuka MARIMO, Member of Parliament

III. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS – ORGANISATIONS PARTENAIRES

RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

Sr. Agatha OGOCHUKWU CHIKELUE, Member of the Board, Chair of the RfP International Women's Coordinating Committee
Ms. Deepika SINGH, Associate Secretary General, Director of Programmes

Ms. Ligia Elena MATAMOROS BONILLA, International Youth Committee Member
Ms. Lyka MTAMBO, Public Affairs Committee, Youth Representative
Mr. HedwCig VAN GUCHT (RfP Belgium)
Mr. Couchoro Corneille BALOGOUN, Chef religieux des religions endogènes (RfP Bénin)
Mr. Elias SZCZYTNIKI, Regional Secretary General (RfP Latin America and the Caribbean)

UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS – ALLIANCE DES CIVILISATIONS DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

Ms. Nihal SAAD, Director
Mr. Issam CHERRAT, Alumnus
Mr. Mouhiddine HAMMA, Alumni member

MOHAMMADIA LEAGUE OF RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS

LA RABITA MOHAMMADIA DES OULÉMAS

Dr. Abaddi AHMED, Secrétaire Général
Mr. Ahmed SENOUNI, Secrétaire Général adjoint
M. Courtney ERWIN, Experte en droit international des droits de l'homme et en droit islamique
Mme Rayhana MOUAOUIA, Manager d'artistes
Mme Jihad BNIMOUSSA, Psychologue, éducatrice en santé mentale
Mme Aicha HADDOU, Directrice du centre marocain de recherche et de formation interconvictionnelle et de consolidation de la paix
M. Bellarab YACINE, Chargé de mission auprès du Secrétariat Général
M. Mohsine MOHAMMED, Secrétariat particulier
Mr. Farid EL ASRI, Président du Centre d'études anthropologiques
Ms. Salma SAADI, Centre Ta'arouf
Mr. Patrice Brodeur, Professeur agrégé, Institut d'études religieuses

IV. OBSERVERS - OBSERVATEURS

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME (HCDH)
Ms. Nazila GHANEA, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Mr. Daniel CLONEY, Consultant

ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE
Mr. Fayez AL SHAWABKEH, Secretary General
Mr. Samir NIHAWI, Director, Parliamentary Relations

FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP- ICGLR)
FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)
Mr. Onyango KAKOBA, Secretary General
Ms. Violette KATYA, Administrative Assistant and Protocol

G5 SAHEL INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
COMITÉ INTERPARLEMENTAIRE G5-SAHEL
Mr. Bahouba Norbert TANKOANO, Executive Secretary

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENT ON TOLERANCE AND PEACE (IPTP)
PARLEMENT INTERNATIONAL POUR LA TOLÉRANCE ET LA PAIX
Mr. Ahmed bin Mohammed AL JARWAN, President of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace

INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY
ASSEMBLÉE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE SUR L'ORTHODOXIE (AIO)
Mr. Ioannis SARAKIOTIS, Member of the Greek delegation to the IAO
Mr. Evangelos PARRAS, Secretary

PARLIAMENT OF MERCOSUR (PARLASUR)
PARLIAMENT DU MERCOSUR (PARLASUR)
Mr. Tomas BITTAR, Member of Parliament
Mr. Rúben Anibal BACIGALUPE, Member of Parliament
Mr. Omar RODRIGUEZ, Advisor

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE (APM)
Mr. Pedro ROQUE, President of the Third Standing Committee on Dialogue among Civilizations and Human Rights
Mr. Sergio PIAZZI, Secretary General
Mr. Marco MURA, Programme Officer

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION MEMBER STATES (PUIC)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ÉTATS MEMBRES DE L'ORGANISATION DE LA COOPÉRATION ISLAMIQUE (UPCI)
Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi NIASS, Secretary General
Mr. Aliasghar MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Deputy Secretary General

SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA
ORDRE SOUVERAIN DE MALTE
Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Permanent Observer to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Mr. Jean-François KAMMER, Deputy Permanent Observer (Permanent Mission to the IPU and the UN in Geneva)
Mr. Yannick GALEAZZI, First Secretary

V. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS - RESPONSABLES GOUVERNEMENTAUX

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, UNITED KINGDOM

Ms. Fiona BRUCE, UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief
Ms. Sue BREEZE, Private Secretary to Fiona Bruce MP, UK PM's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief

ITALIAN MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS - FoRB PROTECTION AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Mr. Andrea BENZO, Special Envoy

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, MOROCCO

His Excellency Mohamed Aujjar, Minister of Justice

PRESIDENCY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Mr. Osama AL AZHARI, Advisor to the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt for Religious Affairs and Professor at Al Azhar Al Sharif University

HOLY SEE

H.E. Archbishop Vito RALLO, Apostolic Nuncio in Morocco

VI. RELIGIOUS LEADERS - CHEFS RELIGIEUX

ABRAHAMIC FAMILY HOUSE (AFH)

Mr. Abdulla ALSHEHHI, Director
Ms. Olivia BRUSSEL, Adviser

ALL WORLD GAYATRI PARIWAR

Mr. Chinmay PANDYA, Chairperson, South Asian Institute of Peace and Reconciliation

AMANAH

Mr. Moshe David HACHOEN, Director/Rabbi
Mr. Salahuddin BARAKAT, Co-Director/Imam

BAHA'I INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Ms. Bani DUGAL, Principal Representative
Mr. Hatem EL-HADY, Representative, Arab Countries

BHARTIYA SARVA DHARMA SANSAD

Mr. Goswami Sushil MAHARAJ, National Convenor

CONSEIL LOCAL DES OULÉMAS DE MARRAKECH

Mr. Mohamed Azzeddine MAYAR EL IDRISSE, President

EGLISE CATHOLIQUE AU MAROC

Mr. Cristobal LOPEZ, Archevêché

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE CARTHAGE AND NORTH AFRICA

Mr. Meletios Konstantinos KOUMANIS, Archbishop
Mr. Rafael PAPADOPOULOS, Priest
Mr. Dimitrios MichailStamatakis, Priest

INTERORTHODOX CENTRE OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

Mr. Sergios VOILAS, Chief Coordinator

ISRAELI SEMINARY FOR RABBIS AND ZION COMMUNITY IN JERUSALEM

Ms. Tamar ELAD-APPELBAUM, Founder and Leader

MJLC / CENTRAL COUNCIL OF MUSLIMS IN GERMANY

Mr. Abdassamad EL YAZIDI, Secretary General

MUSLIM JEWISH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Rabbi Alexander GOLDBERG, Council Member

PATRIARCHAL EXARCHATE OF AFRICA, RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Mr. Maxim MASSALITIN, Archpriest, rector of the Church of the Resurrection in Rabat

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Chifundo MATABWA, Member

Ms. Matilda MATABWA, Secretary General

ST. ANTHONY CATHEDRAL FOR COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

Mr. Bishop FAKHRY, Patron of the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Anthony

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Fr. Emanuel YOUKHANA, CAPNI (Christian Aid Programme Northern Iraq)

WORLD COUNCIL OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Mohammed BECHARI, Secretary General

WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

Mr. Thomas Paul SCHIRRMACHER, Secretary General

**VII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS-
ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES ET CONFESIONNELLES**

ADYAN FOUNDATION (Lebanon)

Ms. Tanya AWAD, Board member

AFGHAN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE ORGANIZATION

Ms. Heela YOON, Founder and CEO

ASSOCIATION MIRAISSME INTERNATIONAL (Switzerland)

Mr. Enrique MONTES, President

CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN CONFEDERATION OF RELIGIOUS WOMEN AND MEN

Ms. Liliana FRANCO, President

**ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMISSION (EECMY-DASSC)**

Ms. Ayantu TAYE, Deputy Commissioner

FAITHS FORUM FOR LONDON (United Kingdom)

Mr. Mustafa FIELD, Director

FEDERATION OF MUSLIM ASSOCIATIONS OF BRAZIL (FAMBRAS)

Mr. Mohamed HUSSEIN EL ZOGHBI, President

Mr. Ahmed FARES, Director of International Relations

GLOBETHICS (Switzerland)

Mr. Fadi DAOU, Executive Director

HUMANISTS INTERNATIONAL (Nigeria)

Mr. Leo IGWE, Board member

ISLAMIC WORLD EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Mr. Salim ALMALIK

INSTITUTE FOR INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IN INDONESIA (INTERFIDEI)

Rev. Augustina Elga Joan SARAPUNG, Director

THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CENTRE - KAICIID

Hem Emmanuel ADAMAKIS, Board of Director

Mr. H.E. Dr. Zuhair ALHARTHI, Secretary General

Ms. Dimitra MISSIRA, External Relations Officer

Ms. Andreia HENRIQUES, External Relations and Partnership Adviser

Ms. Samah KHOUAJA, Protocol Officer

Ms. Fatimah ABUSRAIR, Fellow

**INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF
IPPFORB**

Ms. Fernanda Elena SAN MARTIN CARRASCO, Director

KING ABDUL AZIZ CENTER OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE (Saudi Arabia)

Mr. Ibrahim ALASIRI, Deputy Secretary General

Mr. Abdullah ALSHABWI, Manager, Office of the Secretary General

L'AGEFI

Mr. Louis TELLIER

MANARA REGIONAL CENTER FOR COEXISTENCE

Ms. Carole ISRAELI, NA

Ms. Mouza ALZAABI, Admin

Ms. Bakhita ALREMEITHI, Chief of Staff

Mr. Yousef ALMARZOOQI, Logistics and Protocol Coordinator

Mr. Mohammed ALSHERYANI, Researcher

Mr. Matanya YADID

Ms. Noura ALSUWAIDI, communication and international affairs specialist

Mr. Mohanad MARAR, Logistics and administrative coordinator

Mr. Surender Singh KANDHARI

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND (USA)

Mr. Habibou BAKO, West Africa Policy Officer

TEARFUND (United Kingdom)

Mr. Ildephonse NIYOKINDI, Global Peacebuilding Officer

Mr. Daniel COULIBALY, Peacebuilding and Advocacy Officer

UNITED RELIGIONS

Mr. Akif GILALOV, Head of Congress

Ms. Tamara BEN SHLOMO, Special events manager

UNITED RELIGION INITIATIVE (USA)

Mr. Naoufal EL HAMMOUMI, Global Trusteer conceil member / North Africa liaison officer

WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

Mr. Matthias BOEHNING, Chief Diplomat to the Secretary General, Director WEA Sustainability Center

WORLD MUSLIM COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

Mr. Nasr Mohamed ARIF, Professor of Political Science (Egypt)

Mr. Hasan ALMARZOOQI, Assistant Secretary General (United Arab Emirates)

VIII. ACADEMIA - UNIVERSITAIRES

AL-KHOEI INSTITUTE

Mr. Hayder AL-KHOEI, Director

ASEAN SECRETARIAT, INDONESIA,

Ms. Desi HANARA, Former IPPForB in Academia

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Ahab BDAlWI

EUROPEAN NETWORK ON RELIGION AND BELIEF

Dr. Maryana HNYP, President

HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN

Ms. Jasmin MAUSOLF, Researcher and lecturer

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBIA

Mr. Jorge Enrique GONZALEZ, UNESCO Chairholder

PEKING / FUDAN UNIVERSITY

Mr. Moundhir Sajjad BECHARI, Professor of International Relations

Mr. Narjis YAGOUBI, Law Forum London

UNIVERSIDAD AUSTRAL

Mr. Alfonso SANTIAGO, Director de la Escuela de Política, Gobierno y Relaciones Internacionales

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Mr. Thiago ALVES PINTO, Director of Studies and Lecturer in the Department of Continuing Education

WORLD FAITHS DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE – GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Ms. Katherine MARSHALL, Executive Director

OTHER INSTITUTION

Ms. Kahina BAHLOUL