

Bahrain Declaration

“Civilizations in the Service of Humanity”

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

7 May 2014

The participants in the “Civilizations in the Service of Humanity” conference - international organizations, political personalities, religious leaders, thinkers and representatives of different religions, beliefs, sects and groups throughout the world,

- Meeting in Manama, the capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain during the period from 5 to 7 May 2014 upon a gracious invitation and a wise initiative by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, with the view to building a civilizational alliance that brings together humanity within a frame of common values to confront fanaticism, hatred, extremism and terrorism, in order for the world to continue building balanced human relations based in their core on the human being, as a person and a value, not only in his or her individuality, but also in his or her belonging to a country, a nation and the world
- Having discussed all the working papers presented at the conference and the issues they raised as well as their suggestions supporting the culture of dialogue for the sake of the alliance of civilizations to achieve co-existence between all human beings, regardless of their diversity and the multitude of their cultures and their intellectual, religious and spiritual choices
- Recalling all the previous efforts, and initiatives launched by many personalities and institutions with the view to promoting the culture of common living, mutual respect, and acceptance, based on mutual understanding and rapprochement among individuals, cultures, religions and civilizations to promote the values of justice and peace, within the rule of law and the reference to the United Nations instruments as a comprehensive framework for international relations
- Appreciating the efforts of the United Nations through its various structures and forums for the Alliance of Civilizations in a service to humanity in all areas that promote a culture of dialogue, communication,

understanding and openness between the followers of a multitude of religions, cultures and civilizations,

Declare the following:

- Humanity is the common origin of all human beings, regardless of their different colors, ethnic backgrounds, languages and intellectual, cultural, religious and spiritual attitudes.
- Dialogue constitutes the basis and the tool that assume the responsibility of consolidating the unity of humanity within the context of its diversity, multiplicity and plurality with the view to achieving peace, security, justice, development, equality, freedom and democracy.
- Encouraging the culture of dialogue and mutual knowledge by all available means is at the core of the aspired civilizational alliance.
- All forms of hatred discourse are practices contrary to human rights, contradict civility and challenge civilization. They emanate from a relationship with the other that ignorance transforms into hatred. It leads only to exclusion and discrimination, inciting intolerance, extremism and terrorism, and calling for reclusion instead of dialogue, violence instead of peace, and animosity instead of cooperation and alliance.
- The political exploitation of religions and civilizations by encouraging the consecration of factional, violent and intolerant mentalities leads to disrupting the dialogue necessary for all the efforts of solidarity between civilizations under the banner of common values. It also leads to interference in the internal affairs of communities and sovereign states, to disruption of development, and to the shutting of the doors to the natural political development of communities by imposing the logic of inflexibility

and aggressiveness and the issue of political allocations rather than the logic of tolerance, cooperation and common allegiance to the country.

- It is required that the cultural, educational, and media policies, in all their legitimate formulas, be promoted, within the field of belief, a spirit of moderation and a culture of common living within the scope of respect for the safety of the homelands, the relationship between all human beings be strengthened within the context of the divine requirement to honor all human beings.
- Human rights, as the legal and moral framework for relations among nations and peoples, cannot be efficient or effective unless they are within the unified standards in the practical application among all civilizations.
- In consideration of these lofty goals and to ensure their achievement, it is important to support national and local policies throughout world , through programs of education, culture and development approaches based on human rights, and through legislative systems and public policy development, in the light of mutual respect between nations and peoples to be compatible with the goals of civilizational dialogue in the service of humanity, and particularly the principles of human significance and dignity, regardless of the color , race , language , belief , sex, and with the need to respect religions and to prevent their distortion or derision or contempt , and with the principle of individual freedom of belief and the right to practice rituals according to civil liberties , as well as the principles of human rapprochement , acceptance of others, common living , mutual respect , and equality in the context of the spirit of citizenship and the rule of law.
- It is important to emphasize the importance of supporting the efforts of the United Nations and various regional organizations to concretize the value of

civilizational dialogue in the service of humanity and as an irreplaceable way of common living in our world.

- States and civil society organizations working in the areas of development , in its comprehensive concept , should use, in their endeavors, the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013 - 2022) , and its related Action Plan , which was prepared within the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as the relevant plans and programs, and which were approved in the framework of the Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations and relevant regional organizations .
- Participants in the Conference urge the international community, the United Nations organizations, international and regional institutions, and the relevant civil society institutions, to take the aforementioned recommendations into account with the view to energizing the principle of civilizations in the service of humanity.