Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 49
Culture of peace

Comoros, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Philippines: draft resolution

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,


Recalling also its resolution 63/22 of 13 November 2008, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and the leading role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the preparations for the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

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1 Resolution 217 A (III).
Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to the enrichment of cultures and faiths as well as the deepening of understanding, promotion of tolerance and improvement of overall relations among nations,

Recognizing the various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, as well as the efforts made by the United Nations system, aimed at promoting and enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are all mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the various activities in commemoration of the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009,

Recognizing the need to further support activities aimed at promoting dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in order to enhance social stability and cohesion in diverse communities and to create, at the global level, an environment conducive to respect, mutual understanding and peace,

Welcoming the decision taken in resolution 47 adopted on 23 October 2009 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-fifth session, in which the Conference approved the preliminary action plan for the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010,

Affirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders in the interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at the various levels,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace,

1. Affirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;

3. Also takes note of the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on interreligious dialogue in the context of its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities

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3 Resolution 61/17.


5 A/64/325.
related to a culture of peace, and welcomes its focus on concrete action at the
global, regional and subregional levels and its flagship project on the promotion of
interfaith dialogue;

4. **Reaffirms** the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations
to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights
and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United
Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights\(^1\) and other instruments relating
to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and
freedoms being beyond question;

5. **Encourages** the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures
and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression,
and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and
responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall
be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or
reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public
health or morals;\(^6\)

6. **Encourages** Member States to continue to consider, as and where
appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and
levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,
tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the
High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and
Cooperation for Peace, held on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an
enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

7. **Encourages** Member States to consider adhering to the 2005 Declaration
on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace,\(^7\) and takes note of the fourth
Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, held on
25 September 2009 in New York;

8. **Requests** the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session
to hold an interactive thematic debate on interreligious, intercultural and
intercivilizational understanding and to invite leaders of the world’s major religions
and representatives of faith-based organizations to participate;

9. **Calls on** Member States, following the commemoration of the
International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, to further promote reconciliation to help
ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory
measures such as forgiveness and compassion;

10. **Encourages** the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization, as the lead agency for the International Year for the Rapprochement of
Cultures, to promote the action plan for the celebration of the Year, and encourages
Member States and all organizations, institutions and civil society working to
promote the rapprochement of cultures, to join in the celebration of the Year in order
to demonstrate their firm commitment to interreligious, intercultural and
intercivilizational dialogue;\(^4\)

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\(^{6}\) See article 19, paras. 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
(resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

\(^{7}\) See A/60/383.
11. **Requests** the Secretary-General to organize a special event to launch the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in the General Assembly, within existing resources;

12. **Calls** for the strengthening of the focal point role played by the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to allow it to further interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process;

13. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a comprehensive report on the different initiatives on interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue, including those that have not been included in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session,\(^5\) and, in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the possibility of proclaiming a United Nations decade for interreligious and intercultural dialogue and cooperation for peace, building on the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General\(^5\) and the relevant initiatives to be taken in the course of 2010.