

International Conference: Contributions of religion to build a culture of peace in an interconnected world.

September 15th, 2023. Room XIX, Palais des Nations. UN - Ginebra

"We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind"

Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Overview

Freedom of religion or belief is a human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other instruments of international law, and is extensively recognized in numerous constitutions around the world. It is also substantially linked to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a vital part of the realization of the principle of equality and non-discrimination, a pillar of democracy and a condition for a sustainable and lasting peace.

Religious leaders have played key humanitarian, educational, social cohesion and peacebuilding roles in countless communities around the world, including in contexts of crisis, conflict and transition. Interfaith dialogue has been a key tool for these purposes in the most diverse cultural contexts and at all levels. On the other hand, the digital era has represented an opportunity to enable religious freedom in diverse contexts, as many religious groups have used cyberspace to develop their religious practices, promote the cohesion of their faith communities, and provide support for the spiritual well-being of their members, among other purposes.

In order to highlight the centrality and contributions of religious freedom, religious leaders and interfaith dialogue for peace and development in a multicultural and interconnected world, Association Miraisme International (AMI), Ziu Association International and Zion International University are organizing the International Conference: Contributions of Religion to build a Culture of Peace in an Interconnected World.

The event will bring together leaders from academia, politics, multilateralism and civil society to build knowledge around the global landscape, progress, challenges and successful practices for the fulfillment of freedom of religion or belief in practice.

Objectives

The Congress will be a space for interreligious, intersectoral and intercultural dialogue around the centrality of freedom of religion for peacebuilding and development, in a globalized and interconnected world. Speakers will address the challenges and successful practices to promote the advancement of religious freedom worldwide and in a variety of contexts, including migration. The Congress will be an opportunity to recognize the diverse contributions of religious leaders and groups for advancing the 2030 Agenda, and to build and inspire bridges of common understanding.

Methodology:

The event will commence with an inaugural presentation intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of religious freedom on a global scale, while also highlighting distinctive regional trends. Following this, the agenda will feature three distinct thematic panels:

The discussion will take place in three thematic panels:

- Towards a global citizenship in peace. This panel will address the importance of the realization of religious freedom as a fundamental element for building and maintaining peace in the context of globalization and to advance the 2023 Agenda. Participants will address how global interfaith cooperation and dialogue are key to deepening the potential of religion for peace, development and building more just and inclusive societies.
- Progress and recommendations to guarantee religious freedom for a peaceful coexistence. Speakers will share good practices, strategies and recommendations for advancing successful public policies and developing the potential of social dialogue, specifically interfaith dialogue as pillars for peaceful coexistence in multicultural contexts.

- Opportunities of religion in the digital age for nonviolence. The Internet represents an important driving force for a multiplicity of social and developmental processes. In this panel, religious leaders will address the potential of the internet and global connectivity to foster the fulfillment of the right to religious freedom, inclusive governance strategies and public policies that can be implemented to ensure the protection of this right in cyberspace.


The panels will have a moderator each, who will introduce the speakers, invite their reactions to follow-up questions, and briefly present the main ideas to close the respective panel. Each panel convenes a particular sector. Thus, the first panel will feature academic leaders around religious freedom and peacebuilding; the second will be comprised of international and country political actors who will share advances and good public policy practices to foster religious freedom in practice; and the third panel calls on religious leaders to offer their perspectives on religious freedom in the context of the digital age and globalization.

Program:

10:00 - 10:30	Welcome and opening of the conference Dr. Ángeles Santana , President of ZIU Association International. Dr. Enrique Montes Perez , President of the Association Miraisme International (AMI)
10:40 - 11:00	Opening Conference: “Global restrictions to religious freedom, 2007-2020” Ms. Samirah Majumdar , Pew Research Center
11:00 - 13:00	Panel: “Towards a global citizenship in peace” This panel will address the importance of the realization of religious freedom as a fundamental element for building and maintaining peace in the context of globalization and to advance the 2023 Agenda. Participants will address how global interfaith cooperation and dialogue are key to deepening the potential of religion for peace, development and building more just and inclusive societies. Dr. Brian Adams Co-founder of the G20 Interfaith Forum Chair, Board of Trustees of ACWAY (A Common Word Among the Youth). Former Director of the Centre for Interfaith & Cultural Dialogue at Griffith University (Australia)

11:00 - 13:00	<p>Dr. Jocelyne Cesari (Pregrabado y no presente debido al Rosh Hashaná o Nuevo Año Judío) Visiting Professor at Harvard Divinity School and Chair of Religion and Politics at the University of Birmingham. resident of the European Academy of Religion and Member of the Executive Board of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR).</p> <p>Dr. Nadine Maenza Chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). President of the Secretariat of the International Religious Freedom Roundtables - IRF</p> <p>Dr. Iván Darío Moreno Piraquive Director of Zion International University.</p> <p>Dr. Aurore Schwab Université de Genève, GSI - Global Studies Institute - UNIGE, Senior Lecturer</p> <p>Moderated by: Dr. Javier Martinez-Torrón Professor of Law, Complutense University of Madrid; President of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies - ICLARS; President and founder of LIRCE (Institute for the Analysis of Freedom and Religious, Cultural and Ethical Identity).</p>
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch
15:00 - 16:45	<p>Panel: “Progress and recommendations to guarantee religious freedom for a peaceful coexistence” Speakers will share good practices, strategies and recommendations for advancing successful public policies and developing the potential of social dialogue, specifically interfaith dialogue as pillars for peaceful coexistence in multicultural contexts.</p> <p>Dr. Fernanda San Martin Director of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB). Member of the Parliament of Bolivia (2015-)</p> <p>Dr. Carlos Alberto Baena General Pastor of the Church of God Ministerial of Jesus Christ International and was Deputy Minister of Social Dialogue, Equality and Human Rights of the Ministry of the Interior of Colombia and appointed High Commissioner for Peace.</p>

15:00 - 16:45	<p>Dra. Damaris Moura Sub-Prefect of São Paulo and Former State Deputy. Author of the First Law of Religious Freedom in Brazil.</p> <p>Dr. Manuel Virquez President of MIRA political Party, Colombia. Parliamentarian of Colombia 2022-2026, representing the MIRA Political Party</p> <p>Dr. Dennis P. Petri International Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom IIRF Executive Director of the Foundation Platform for Social Transformation.</p> <p>Moderated by: Dr. Enrique Montes Perez Member of the group of experts of the United Nations Network on Migration and President of the International Mirasme Association</p>
16:45 - 17:50	<p>Panel: "Opportunities of religion in the digital age for nonviolence." The Internet represents an important driving force for a multiplicity of social and developmental processes. In this panel, religious leaders will address the potential of the internet and global connectivity to foster the fulfillment of the right to religious freedom, inclusive governance strategies and public policies that can be implemented to ensure the protection of this right in cyberspace.</p> <p>Dr. Maria Luisa Piraquive World Leader of the Church of God Ministry of Jesus Christ International.</p> <p>Ms. Kahina Bahloul French-Algerian jurist and islamologist. First woman Imam of France, co-founder of "The Mosque of Fatima" which promotes liberal Islam. Author of the book "My Islam, my freedom".</p> <p>Dr. Ganoune Diop Secretary General of the International Religious liberty Association - IRLA. Director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.</p> <p>Moderated by: Mr. Jhovany Rojas, Pastor of the Church of God Ministry of Jesus Christ International and a member of the Research Group in Psychology of Religion and Spirituality at Zion International University.</p>
17:50 - 18:00	Closure of the conference.



Enrique Montes

Director of the Association Miraisme International



Iván Darío Moreno

Founder and Rector of Zion International University



Angeles Santana

Director of ZIU Association International

La Asociación Miraisme International (AMI), es una ONG enfocada en promover el desarrollo sostenible, los derechos humanos y la construcción de paz. Desde 2014, la AMI contribuye al diálogo social transversal, multisectorial e interreligioso en diversos mecanismos internacionales. AMI es una ONG con estatus consultivo ante el Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas (ECOSOC) desde 2015.

Σion International University (ZIU), es una universidad virtual sin fines de lucro. ZIU busca formar personas con un enfoque integral, objetivo y humanista que puedan trabajar junto a personas de diversas creencias y prácticas religiosas en un ambiente multicultural.

ZIU Association International, es una organización académica sin fines de lucro dedicada a difundir investigaciones y proyectos que generen un impacto positivo en la sociedad. Adaptándose al contexto actual para lograr una comprensión más amplia, reconociendo que la ciencia y la religión se complementan en lugar de oponerse entre sí.