



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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

Palais des Congrès, Marrakesh, Morocco
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Kingdom of Morocco
The Parliament

Marrakesh Communiqué

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

- Ensure that all religions, beliefs and faith-based organizations are treated equally and without discrimination under the law.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Develop global parliamentary codes of conduct to ensure respect for the right to freedom of religion and belief and the prevention of hate speech.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.