



MAURITANIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC
OF MAURITANIA**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Agenda Item 45
"Culture of Peace"**

**DELIVERED BY
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AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,
Your Majesties and Highnesses
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, allow me to express our deep thanks and gratitude to you for convening this all important meeting, we also wish to express our appreciation to the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdallah Ibn Abdel Aziz Al Saud, for this bright initiative which reflects his sincere commitment to promote the Culture of Peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This High Level Debate of the General Assembly acquires special significance to our world, as it comes amidst theories of the inevitability of the clash of civilizations and cultures, and the ideas that seek to deepen the differences between nations and erode the foundations of peace and co-existence between peoples.

Muslim countries attach special importance to this meeting as an opportunity to project, and from this Universal Forum, the true and noble message of Islam. It is the message of toleration. Islam neither preaches nor condones terrorism and extremism. Indeed our Prophet, Peace and Prayers Be Upon Him, says in the Holy Tradition "I was sent with a tolerant faith", and "Allah loves the tolerant faith of truth". It is a universal message, to mankind, not to one single race, ethnic group or nation. In the Holy Quran Allah Almighty says: "We have sent you to all mankind, to convey to them glad tidings and warn them" and "We have only sent you as a mercy to the world". Islam honors mankind as human-beings and does not discriminate on basis of color, sex or ethnicity. "We have honored the Children of Adam". The Messenger of God, stood for a funeral procession, someone said to him, the dead one is not a Muslim, the Messenger of God, Peace an Prayers Be Upon him, replied "Isn't it a human-being".

This is the nature of Islam, a culture that is open to all cultures and civilizations, it interacts with them. Islam rejects cultural hegemony and respects the rights of other religions minorities within its domain, freely practice their rites. It is an open culture willing to interfaith with other cultures and civilizations on basis of clear principles including:

- ✓ Mutual respect between all religions without denigrating the beliefs of others or: "Do not insult those who do not believe in God, so that they would not insult God" (HOLY QURAN)
- ✓ To refrain from aggression on others "Allah does not forbid you from befriending those who did not attack you or expel you from you homes" (HOLY QURAN)
- ✓ To consolidate that which unites peoples and religions "O people of the scriptures come to a world that is just between us and you" (HOLY QURAN)
- ✓ To observe the rules of dialogue and respect the other "Allah does not like the public mention of wish except by one who has been wronged". "And argue with people of scriptures in decency and respect" (HOLY QURAN)
- ✓ "Deal justly with all, even if they disagree with us" "When you Judge between men, Judge with Justice" (HOLY QURAN)
- ✓ The recognition of the human heritage and its development, by establishing and consolidating the noble values and high morals. As the Tradition says: "I was sent to uphold and compliment the ethical values". Thus, Muslims believe and revere all Prophets and Messengers of God. The Holy Quran says: "The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and so have the believers, All believed in Allah and His Angels and His Books and His Messengers, saying, we make no distinction between any of his Messengers".

If the dialogue is conducted on these bases, it would lead to deepening the understanding among peoples and promote human values, consolidate social peace, and open the door to combat injustice and aggression, and lay down the principles of truth, Justice, respect of the human dignity, all aspects of our environment, its fauna and flora.

Mr. President,
Your Majesties and Highnesses
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Dialogue between cultures and its contributions to International Peace is hampered by several factors, including the inequality in opportunities, the different standards of living. Many peoples and cultures, feel that they are marginalized, victims of exclusion and double standards, unjust policies, and the negative positions of others towards their issues, the pre-conceived attitudes and dangerous generalization based on few isolated incidents to deliberately mystify and obscure the truth and promote the false.

Muslims had their share of such attitudes, the image of their religion and culture, have suffered as a result of such distortions. It is thus, time to redress this wrong and do Justice to them. It is time to listen to them, address their grievances and solve their problems, so that they can contribute to the realization of the deserved world peace and actively participate in the dialogue and taking the Madrid Declaration of the Conference of Dialogue its recommendations, as a solid basis for the various cultures and civilizations to agree on common strategies to serve humanity, noting specially the following facts:

- ✓ This diversity of cultures and civilizations is one of God's post nits and signs, and it is a cause for the progress of humanity.
- ✓ Dialogue is essential for life, it is important to know others, co-operate and exchange with others, to find the truth that contributes to the happiness of mankind.
- ✓ To respect religions and beliefs, their symbols and to condemn any insults to the religions symbols and to combat the exploitation of religion to incite racial discrimination.
- ✓ All cultures and religions call for peace, respect of the other, and the acknowledgment of their rights to peace and freedom.

Mr. President,
Your Majesties and Highnesses
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

International Community must combat extremism and terrorism, by addressing the misguided ideological, political concepts and the economic and social problems that give rise to such tendencies, by adopting comprehensive integrated strategies based on an educational and cultural approach that resources hatred extremism and terrorism and encourage co-existence and open dialogue and communication with other civilizations.

Mr. President,
Your Majesties and Highnesses
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which throughout its history, has abided by the principles and values of tolerance and was a link of fruitful contacts between cultures and civilizations, stands ready today to continue this role and to support all the efforts to lay down the basis for a culture of peace, co-existence and stability.

I thank you