

2007 High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Interreligious and Intercultural Cooperation and Understanding for Peace

On 25 May 2007, the General Assembly adopted draft resolution A/61/L.60 entitled "High-Level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace". The Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly has convened a 'Task Force' of civil society representatives to help ensure the effective participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the High-level Dialogue, scheduled to be held on 4 and 5 October 2007.

The Task Force will report to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and seek to provide a key link to relevant civil society networks and organizations globally. Task Force representatives will be asked to work with the UN to facilitate the optimal engagement of civil society in the High-level Dialogue, taking into account the constraints of time, budget, and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

I Mission of the Civil Society Task Force:

The Civil Society Task Force will help support the Office of the President of the General Assembly in key decisions relating to civil society's input into the High-level Dialogue, in particular as regards the participation of civil society in the interactive hearing of the General Assembly with civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to be held on the afternoon of 4 October 2007.

II Composition of the Civil Society Task Force:

The members of the Civil Society Task Force represent:

- Networks specialized in interfaith dialogue
- Networks specialized in intercultural dialogue
- The private sector
- The media
- The Committee of Religious NGOs

III Criteria for the selection of Task Force Members

Task Force members were selected following consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations. This group sought to ensure that collectively the Task Force members:

- equitably represent stakeholders in all regional groups of the United Nations
- represent various religions and cultures
- are experts and have actively engaged in interreligious and intercultural dialogue

- constitute a gender balanced group
- include a youth / children's perspective

Task Force members were selected on the understanding they can commit to volunteer the appropriate time and effort from June to October 2007.

In addition, Advisers have been asked to support the Task Force, acting as an interface with the broad NGO groupings affiliated to the United Nations that they represent, as well as other relevant civil society constituents that may not be directly represented on the Task Force.

CIVIL SOCIETY TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Alexander, Ari (Mr.)
Co-Executive Director
Children of Abraham

Aram, Kezevino (Dr. /Ms.)
Director
Shanti Ashram

Avdovic, Erol (Mr.)
UN Correspondent
Deutsche Welle

Sakurai, Hiro (Mr.)
Former President
Committee of Religious NGOs

Sarre, Katy (Mrs.)
Chief Executive Officer
INFOGEST

Van Osdol, Judith (Rev.)
Coordinator for the Women and Gender Pastoral
Latin American Council of Churches

ADVISERS:

Bloem, Renate (Ms.)
President
CONGO (Conference of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations)

Boehle, Josef (Dr.)
Coordinator

UNESCO Chair in Interfaith Studies, University of Birmingham, UK

Kirby, Joan (Sr.)

Chair

NGO/DPI Executive Committee

Vendley, William (Dr.)

Secretary General

Religions for Peace

EX-OFFICIO:

ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

DESA NGO Section

DGACM

DPI

GLOBAL COMPACT

OPGA

UN-NGLS

UNEP

UNESCO

UNFPA

UNICEF