

# Holy Wisdom

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Peace: Showing that Others Matter!

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Publication of the Syrian Orthodox Church in America on United Nations Affairs. In fulfilling the UN Mission of SOCA, both Orthodoxy and Ecumenism are involved. SOCA is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. This publication is disseminated to the entire membership of the Church throughout the world on a quarterly basis. Please bring this information to the attention of your parishioners and all those under your care. The Earth is holy and a manifestation of God. Pray for peace and the UN.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: It is necessary through the collaboration of NGOs to raise awareness among communities as we promote peace. If you will, the need for community consciousness is a way we can connect parties and others. It is important at this time that all parties begin to realize that they are a part of a larger picture, that they are in it together and they have common concerns. If there is a conflict all parties have contributed to the conflict and they have the power to come together to develop a non-violent intervention to result into a resolution. It is time for us as people to acknowledge that there is something more that exceed our own individual positions and needs. The United Nations, religious institutions and NGO can be an avenue to promote community consciousness to encourage global consciousness, clear and realistic decisions as they promote non-violent solutions to conflicts!

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## Our Work at the United Nations

### CRNGO Meeting October 23

**Oct/23/2018, Tuesday 3:30 - 5:00pm @ Baha'i Office General Membership CRNGO meeting**

The Bureau and General Membership of the Committee of Religious NGOs met at the offices of the Baha'i International Community on October 23, 2018 from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Present Jillian Abballe, Joni Carley, Victoria Edmonds, Leslie Gatan, Debra Gill, Apst Dr. Diana Gray, Kenneth M Kinelski, Marilyn D. Kinelski, Ken Kitatani, Carl Murrell, Darcy Neill, Carol Nixon, Doyeon Park, Kusumita Pedersen, Monica Willard, Denise Scotto, Dileepkumar Thankappan, Dominic Zmarlicki,

Report on Recent CRNGOs President's resignation

Kusumita reported that at the end of August, a letter was sent to the general membership by the Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer informing them that at the end of July Swami Parameshananda had resigned from the office of President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN, as he had decided to devote himself to the humanitarian work of his monastic order, the Bharat Sevashram Sangha.

The Bureau met on Sept. 4th to discuss how we want to govern the committee. Today the Bureau would like to propose that Carl Murrell be Interim President until next June. This is a motion by the bureau. The motion is unanimously approved: **Carl Murrell is now the Interim President of CRNGO.**

As Swami Parameshananda became a member of the Bureau by virtue of being elected President, his resignation leaves a vacant seat on the Bureau, which can have nine people. We are proposing that the Bureau continue as a de facto nominating committee. The Bureau invites recommendations (which is different from actual nomination) for this one seat that remains open. If someone is recommended then they should be asked if they are willing to serve. One can recommend oneself or someone else. The Bureau has to consider gender balance, religious traditions, and so forth. This person will serve until June 2019. We will elect the 9<sup>th</sup> Bureau member at our next general meeting.

**Please send us your recommendations by 16<sup>th</sup> of November to (religiousngo@gmail.com).**

Discussion of Future Programs

At the September Bureau meeting, it was decided that that CRNGO does not have to do a program every month. We can do fewer programs but in more depth on major issues; for instance, we can focus on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10), World Interfaith Harmony Week (February), and the CRNGO Annual Luncheon (June). We can still be active with other programs with co-sponsorship.

Report on Parliament of World Religions by Kusumita

The next Parliament of the World's Religions will take place in November 1 - 7, 2018 in Toronto It is the world's largest and most inclusive interfaith gathering. There six Task Forces: 1) Women's Task Force, 2) Countering War, Hate & Violence Task Force, 3) Indigenous People's Task Force, 4) Climate Action Task Force, 5) Justice Task Force, 6) Next Generation Task Force. There will be almost 1,000 programs along with morning meditation, spiritual observances, performances and plenaries.

Discussion on CRNGOs' vision and work Q. What unique space do you think this committee holds? What kind of work would you like to see/do? There was a wide-ranging discussion. All agreed to continue this conversation.

December Program: Universal Declaration of Human Rights We will check with Rev. Dionne for her program (Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>) and see if we can do something together.

Next Meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup>



Headed by Christopher Casais and Dominic Zmarlicki, Youth Representatives of Syrian Orthodox Church in America, NGO, attend meeting of Religious NGOs

### [Prayer Service for the United Nations Community at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral](#)

On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, an evening prayer service was held for the United Nations Community at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York City. The prayer service was hosted by the Archdiocese of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch for the Eastern United States and offered by the Standing Conference of Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. In attendance from the Standing Conference of Oriental Orthodox Churches was Archbishop Mor Bionysius John Kawak of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho of the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church, Very Reverend Father Daniel Findikyan of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Very Reverend Father Gregory Saroufeem of the Coptic Orthodox Church and Very Reverend Father Amde Tsion-Durden of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. From the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America there was present Archbishop

Demetrios the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Metropolitan Joseph the Patriarchate of Antioch, Bishop Irinej the Patriarchate of Serbia and Metropolitan Tikhon of the Orthodox Church in America.

The prayer service opened with a processional hymn led by the choir from St. Mark's Syriac Orthodox Cathedral and was followed by the Trisagion Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, an opening prayer and a Supplication of Saint James and of Saint Ephrem. Following the prayers and hymns, remarks were made by the hierarchs and dignitaries in attendance. The central theme for this year's prayer service was the ongoing conflict in Iran and Syria. H.E. Mher Margaryan, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations spoke of the ongoing conflict in Iran and Syria and cited the mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which works for the protection of all human rights for people everywhere by giving priority to addressing the most pressing human rights violations, especially those that place lives in imminent danger. Armenia being one of the countries who receive the most Syrian refugees throughout the world, it was apt that this year's annual prayer service for the United Nations community was held in St. Vartan's Armenian Cathedral as well as held remarks by Mher Margaryan. In conclusion, the prayer service and remarks reminded all of the growing need for interfaith dialogue as well as the promotion of human rights, such as religious tolerance, and the dialogue between religious communities and the United Nations and other members of authorities, such as other governing agencies.

Christopher Casais

Youth Representative, 11/13/2018



Dominic Zmarlicki, Youth Representative, Archbishop Titus, MSOC, Christopher Casais, Youth Representative











### [Joint Orthodox Prayer Service for the United Nations](#)

Diplomats from the United Nations gathered alongside Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Christians for the annual Joint Orthodox Prayer Service for the UN Community, at New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral on Tuesday, November 13.

This year's prayer service was hosted by the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch and conducted according to its rites, as led by Syriac Archbishop Jean Kawak.

Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Church, and Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Archdiocese, were among the dignitaries from the ecumenical and diplomatic fields in attendance.

Diocesan Primate the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, welcomed guests and reflected on the 50-year history of the cathedral.

The evening's guest speaker, Armenia's UN Ambassador Mher Margaryan, reflected on the refugee situation and Armenia's humanitarian outreach to vulnerable populations. Mr. Kwabena Osei Danguah, presidential chief of staff of the UN General Assembly, was also in attendance.

Organized by the Joint Commission of Oriental and Eastern Orthodox Bishops, the annual prayer service gives Orthodox Christians an opportunity to engage with United Nations dignitaries.

Click on the following links to [read more](#) and [view a photo gallery](#).

[Sport as an enabler of sustainable development](#)

### **Seventy-third session**

Agenda item 12

### **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2018**

[*without reference to a Main Committee (*[A/73/L.36](#) *and* [A/73/L.36/Add.1](#)*)]*

#### **73/24. Sport as an enabler of sustainable development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [58/5](#) of 3 November 2003 and [59/10](#) of 27 October 2004, its decision to proclaim 2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education to strengthen sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace, and its resolutions [60/1](#) of 16 September 2005, [60/9](#) of 3 November 2005, [61/10](#) of 3 November 2006, [62/271](#) of 23 July 2008, [63/135](#) of 11 December 2008, [65/4](#) of 18 October 2010, [67/17](#) of 28 November 2012, [69/6](#) of 31 October 2014 and [71/160](#) of 16 December 2016,

*Recalling also* its resolution [67/296](#) of 23 August 2013, in which it proclaimed 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace,

*Recalling further* its resolution [72/6](#) of 13 November 2017 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal, and all of its previous resolutions on this matter,

*Recognizing* the contribution of sport to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, as declared in its resolutions [60/1](#), and [65/1](#) of 22 September 2010,

*Recalling* that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> *inter alia*, sport is recognized as an important enabler for sustainable development,

*Acknowledging* the importance of holistic approaches to health and well-being through regular physical activity, including sport and recreation, to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and promote healthy lifestyles, including through physical education, as reflected in the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* that sports, the arts and physical activity have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviours, as well as to inspire people, break down racial and political barriers, combat discrimination and defuse conflict, as reflected in the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018,<sup>3</sup>

*Recognizing also* the benefits of sport for the health of older persons, as outlined in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,<sup>4</sup>

*Recalling* article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> outlining a child's right to play and leisure, and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",<sup>6</sup> stressing the promotion of physical, mental and emotional health through play and sports,

*Recalling also* the political declaration<sup>7</sup> and outcome<sup>8</sup> adopted at the five-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>9</sup> and the commitments made therein to ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in recreational and sports activities, as well as in participation in athletics and physical activities at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, training, competition, remuneration and prizes,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [73/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [73/1](#).

<sup>4</sup> *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution [S-27/2](#), annex.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

<sup>9</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

*Recalling further* articles 1 and 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>10</sup> in which States parties recognized the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport, and recognizing that the active involvement of persons with disabilities in sport contributes to the full and equal realization of their human rights, as well as respect for their inherent dignity,

*Acknowledging* the revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport, as proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-eighth session, in November 2015,<sup>11</sup> as well as the Declaration of Berlin and the Kazan Action Plan adopted at the fifth and sixth International Conferences of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, held, respectively, in Berlin in May 2013 and in Kazan, Russian Federation, in July 2017,

*Recognizing* the important role played by the International Convention against Doping in Sport<sup>12</sup> in harmonizing the actions taken by Governments in the fight against doping in sport, which are complementary to those undertaken by the sporting movement under the World Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency,

*Acknowledging* the recommendations contained in the report of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group entitled “Harnessing the power of sport for development and peace: recommendations to Governments”, and encouraging Member States to implement and further develop those recommendations,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen and further coordinate efforts, including multi-stakeholder partnerships, at all levels to maximize the potential of sport to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities,

*Acknowledging* the major role of the United Nations system and its country programmes as well as the role of Member States in promoting human development through sport and physical education,

*Acknowledging also* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport and the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, including the declarations that it has adopted, in promoting the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and in forging commitments and recommendations in this regard,

*Recalling* the proclamation by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at its thirty-eighth session, of 20 September as the International Day of University Sport,

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<sup>10</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-eighth Session, Paris, 3–18 November 2015*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 43.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2419, No. 43649.

*Recalling also* the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the opportunities that it provides within its mandate for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in and through sport, and welcoming the continued advancement of women and girls in sports and sporting activities, in particular the support for their progressively higher participation in sport events, which provides opportunities for economic development through sports,

*Acknowledging* the Olympic Charter, and that any form of discrimination is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic movement,

*Welcoming* the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in April 2014, in which a call was made to strengthen efforts around sport-based initiatives that encourage social and economic development, as well as to strengthen the many partnerships that United Nations organizations have established with the Committee,

*Affirming* the invaluable contribution of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in establishing sport as a unique means for the promotion of peace and development, in particular through the ideal of the Olympic Truce, acknowledging the opportunities provided by past Olympic and Paralympic Games, including those held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in 2018, as well as the Youth Olympic Games held in Buenos Aires in 2018, welcoming with appreciation all upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, in particular those to be held in Tokyo in 2020, in Beijing in 2022, in Paris in 2024 and in Los Angeles, United States of America, in 2028, as well as the Youth Olympic Games to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2020, and calling upon future hosts of such Games and other Member States to include sport, as appropriate, in conflict prevention activities and to ensure the effective implementation of the Olympic Truce during the Games,

*Recognizing* the role that the Paralympic movement plays in showcasing the achievements of athletes with disabilities to a global audience and in acting as a primary vehicle to promote positive perceptions and greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and society,

*Recognizing also* the importance of international, continental and regional sport events, such as the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships, the Special Olympics World Games, the Deaflympics, the World Indigenous Games, the European Games, the Games of La Francophonie, the Pan American Games and the Parapan American Games, the All Africa Games, the Asian Games, the Pacific Games, the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, the World Nomad Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Universiade, for promoting education, health, development, peace and solidarity among nations,

*Highlighting* the importance of continuing to reduce barriers to participation in sport events, particularly for participants from developing countries,

*Recognizing* that major international sport events should be organized in the spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, tolerance and inadmissibility of discrimination of any kind and that the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected,

*Reaffirming* the importance of Member States, including those that will host such Games and other sporting events in the future, as well as relevant sport-related organizations, federations and associations, as appropriate, enhancing measures to address the risks of corruption related to such

events, and in this regard welcoming the conference on safeguarding sport from corruption, held in Vienna in June 2018,

*Emphasizing* the critical role of productive public-private partnerships for funding sport for development and peace programmes, institutional development and physical and social infrastructures,

1. *Reaffirms* that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and recognizes the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace”,<sup>13</sup> reviewing progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and proposing an update to the Action Plan aimed at outlining a system-wide approach to leveraging sport for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> and for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the growing attention by the international community to exploring and leveraging the role of sport and physical activity in the attainment of development objectives and the enjoyment of human rights, and in this regard acknowledges the endorsement by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Kazan Action Plan and its sport policy follow-up framework, adopted at the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, as a voluntary, overarching reference for fostering international convergence among policymakers in the fields of physical education, physical activity and sports, as well as a potential tool for aligning international and national policy in these fields,<sup>14</sup> and the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030;<sup>15</sup>

4. *Encourages* Member States, the entities of the United Nations system, including its peacekeeping missions, special political missions and integrated peacebuilding missions, sport-related organizations, federations and associations, athletes, the media, civil society, academia and the private sector to draw on these frameworks, as appropriate, in a coherent and integrated manner, to advance the consolidation of sport in cross-cutting development and peace strategies and the incorporation of sport and physical education in international, regional and national development and peace policies and programmes, on the basis of standards, indicators and benchmarks, as well as to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of such strategies, policies and programmes;

5. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, acceding to and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>5</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [A/73/325](#).

<sup>14</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-ninth Session, Paris, 30 October–14 November 2017*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. IV, resolution 30.

<sup>15</sup> See World Health Organization, document WHA71/2018/REC/1, resolution 71.6.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution [66/138](#), annex.



the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>10</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women<sup>17</sup> and the International Convention against Doping in Sport;<sup>12</sup>

6. *Calls upon* the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to strengthen and systemize inter-agency collaboration, in line with the updated United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, to maximize the potential of sport and physical activity to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and national peacebuilding and State-building priorities;

7. *Encourages* Member States to effectively use all the opportunities offered by sport and by its values in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals;

8. *Encourages* the relevant stakeholders to emphasize and advance the use of sport as a vehicle to foster sustainable development and, inter alia, strengthen education, including physical education, for children and young persons, including persons with disabilities, promote health, prevent disease, including non-communicable diseases, and drug abuse, realize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, foster inclusion and well-being, promote healthy and active ageing, ensure the participation of everyone without discrimination of any kind, promote tolerance, mutual understanding and respect and facilitate social inclusion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

9. *Encourages* Member States to provide institutional structures, appropriate quality standards, policies and competencies and promote academic research and expertise in the field to enable ongoing training, capacity-building and education of physical education teachers, coaches and community leaders in sport for development and peace programmes;

10. *Invites* Member States and international sport organizations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources for the development of sport-based programmes;

11. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders, and in particular the organizers of sport events, to use and leverage such events to promote and support sport for development and peace initiatives and to strengthen existing and build new partnerships, coordinate common strategies, policies and programmes and increase coherence and synergies, while raising awareness at the local, national, regional and global levels;

12. *Encourages* Member States to adopt best practices and means to promote the practice of sport and physical activities among all members of society, and in this regard welcomes initiatives to adopt dedicated education, health, youth and sport days, including specialized sport days, at the national and local levels, as a means to promote physical and mental health and well-being and cultivate a sport culture in society;

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<sup>17</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

13. *Supports* the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and of the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement;

14. *Notes* the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Member States and civil society for the observance of the Olympic Truce, and encourages future hosts of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games and other Member States to support the effective implementation of the Truce;

15. *Encourages* relevant entities involved in delivering mega sport events to respect applicable laws and international principles, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,<sup>18</sup> noting other ongoing initiatives in this regard, at every stage of the event life cycle, to safeguard the many societal benefits that hosting such events can contribute;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance their efforts to prevent and fight corruption in sport and, in this regard, stresses the importance of robust legislative and law enforcement measures, and also calls upon Member States to improve cooperation and the coordination and exchange of information in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems;

17. *Encourages* Member States, in particular those committed to promoting sport as a tool for development and peace, and other stakeholders, such as international sports federations, organizers of sport events, sports clubs and leagues, foundations and the private sector, especially businesses involved in the sports and development sector, to continue and intensify their support for the work of the United Nations system on sport for development and peace, including through voluntary contributions and the establishment of innovative partnerships to advance policy and programme development in the field of sport for development and peace;

18. *Also encourages* Member States to actively participate in the Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an informal group of permanent missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva serving as a platform to promote dialogue and exchange of views and information, including on ongoing initiatives, programmes and partnerships, between Member States and all relevant stakeholders, as well as to facilitate and encourage the integration of sport to support the achievement of the United Nations goals and objectives;

19. *Further encourages* Member States, with the support of the United Nations system, within existing resources, and other relevant stakeholders, to explore ways and means to integrate sport into various development objectives in the review and follow-up processes of relevant development frameworks and agendas, including the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>9</sup> the reviews of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the achievement of the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,<sup>19</sup> the follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth,<sup>20</sup> the follow-up processes of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the review and follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and

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<sup>18</sup> [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

<sup>19</sup> Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

<sup>20</sup> Resolution [50/81](#), annex, and resolution [62/126](#), annex.

the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;<sup>2</sup>

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing a targeted review of the contribution of sport to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with particular attention to the annual high-level political forum on sustainable development, when it convenes under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Sport for development and peace”.

*44th plenary meeting  
3 December 2018*

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## Postponement: UDHR Program

Greetings!

We have decided to dedicate much of our 2019 programming to the continuation of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thus, we have postponed our Interfaith Commemoration program which was scheduled for tomorrow, Dec. 12th to February 2019. The gathering will be held in the Tillman Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations during the Interfaith Harmony week of events. *We will send a save-the-date flyer before the Christmas holiday* so that all may begin to share widely in your respective organizations.

The work of peacemaking and seeking equal rights for all of humanity is a daily endeavor. May the hand of the Divine continue to guide us on our journey together.

## Inside Major UN Actions & Events

### UNAI October Update

**Dear UNAI Members and Friends,**

Please find below the latest updates from the United Nations Academic Impact and its members, as well as of other parts of the UN System.

In this issue you can check out our [Behind the Scenes Series on the United Nations General Assembly](#), in which we interview individuals from various UN departments and learn what makes the UNGA such a unique time of the year. You can also learn more about the recently launched [UN Youth Strategy](#), test your knowledge with our latest UNAI quiz on Principle Ten of the UN Charter: [Sovereign Equality](#), and

see how our members are working to promote [Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions](#) in their communities!

Enjoy the read,  
Your UNAI Team

### [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty \(17 October\)](#)



#### **What is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty?**

Extreme poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 1990, yet one in five people in developing regions still live on less than \$1.90 a day. End poverty in all its forms everywhere is the first of the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) of the United Nations. The [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#), established in December 2002 by UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/47/196](#), is observed every year on 17 October to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, and presents an opportunity to make their concerns heard.

### [UN Academic Impact Launches New SDG Hubs!](#)

#### **What are the UNAI SDG Hubs?**

[United Nations Academic Impact](#) (UNAI) is pleased to announce our new SDG Hubs - 17 UNAI members selected for their innovative engagement related to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)! These institutions have been designated for three-year renewable terms and will serve as resources for best practices for the UNAI network, currently composed of over 1,300 universities and colleges in some 140 Member States.

#### **The Role of Academia in Sustainable Development**

The crucial role of academia in ensuring the well-being of mankind and the ideals pursued by the United Nations can be traced back to the founding of the Organization in 1945. As incubators of new ideas and innovative solutions, universities are crucial to achieving the SDGs on their campuses, in their communities and beyond. "Scholarship does good, students deliver goods," notes UNAI Chief Ramu Damodaran. "Nowhere has this combination worked more effectively, indeed dramatically, than in university engagement with the SDGs."

### Where can I learn more about the SDG Hubs?

The UNAI SDG Hubs were selected for their innovation, dynamism and commitment to educating future generations about sustainability. In the coming weeks, we will be profiling each of the schools and sharing more information on their activities and research for their respective SDGs. The full list of SDG Hubs can be found [here](#).

### UNAI November Update

Dear UNAI Members and Friends,

Please find below the latest updates from the United Nations Academic Impact and its members, as well as of other parts of the UN System.

In this issue we are happy to share more on our recently launched [SDG Hubs](#) - 17 of our UNAI members selected as resource hubs for their innovative engagement related to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). You can also learn more about some of our fantastic UNAI member projects, including University of Turabo's research project on [Global Citizenship](#) and University of Malaya's [Zero Waste Campaign](#). To wrap things up, why not test your knowledge with our latest UNAI quiz on Principle Six of the UN Charter: [UN Principles and Non-Member States](#)?



Enjoy the read,  
Your UNAI Team

### Syrian Orthodox Church In America - UN Outreach In Guatemala

Rev. Padre Petro Martinez, Assistant NGO SOCA REP.

Como un mecanismo de prevención ante la situación social que en estos tiempos está padeciendo El Salvador. La Asociación Cultural ADECCSAL en la cual, participo como promotor de la misma, ha realizado este evento en vías a la prevención de la juventud a no involucrarse en pandillas. Así como también evitar la migración en la cual ponen en riesgo su vida.

Las alternativas expuestas son la creación de espacios culturales en vías de zonas de arqueología acerca de piezas de cerámica, piedra y obsidiana de origen precolombina. Esto conlleva a la creación de una casa museo y a una implementación de turismo local e internacional.

Obteniendo becas de estudios y tecnicaciones para crear proyectos sostenibles en la zona. Todo esto aporta a la creación de una cultura de paz y convivencia. Induce a un entendimiento mejor de ¿quiénes somos en la sociedad centroamericana? En el mismo evento se ofreció la novela Kaibil un discurso poético, escrita y publicada gracias al apoyo de QCC Art Gallery-CUNY. Esperamos obtener más apoyo en esta labor de bien común y de paz en las comunidades centroamericanas.

## General Assembly resolutions issued at United Nations Headquarters on Monday, 24 December 2018

[A/RES/73/127](#)

Posted: 23 Dec 2018 04:00 PM PST

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MULTILATERALISM AND DIPLOMACY FOR PEACE: RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 12 DECEMBER 2018

[ [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) ]

[A/RES/73/128](#)

Posted: 23 Dec 2018 04:00 PM PST

ENLIGHTENMENT AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE: RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 12 DECEMBER 2018

[ [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) ]

[A/RES/73/129](#)

Posted: 23 Dec 2018 04:00 PM PST

PROMOTION OF INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION FOR PEACE: RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 12 DECEMBER 2018

[ [Arabic](#) | [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish](#) ]

## Religious News From Around The World

### October 2018 Religion and Foreign Policy Bulletin

What Is Happening to Our Country?

Writing in response to the recent Pittsburgh synagogue shooting and mail pipe bombs, CFR Senior Fellow **Max Boot** urges Americans to remember that “political terrorism and sectarian bloodletting” have no place in the United States. [Read more »](#)

The Real Terrorist Threat in America

The main terrorist threat now facing America is no longer foreign jihadist groups, but domestic online radicalization of individuals with ready access to guns, sustain **Peter Bergen** and **David Sterman** of New America. [Read more at ForeignAffairs.com »](#)



## Mail Bombs, Hate Crimes, and the Meaning of Terrorism

The recent mail pipe bombs and synagogue attack have reignited a discussion in the United States on the definitions of hate crimes and terrorism, writes **Bruce Hoffman**, the Shelby Cullom and Kathryn W. Davis visiting senior fellow for counterterrorism and homeland security at CFR. [Read more at CFR.org »](#)

## U.S. Must Shed Its Illusions About Saudi Arabia

In responding to the recent murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, CFR President **Richard N. Haass** writes that the United States should distinguish between strategic support for Saudi Arabia and an “unconditional embrace” of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. [Read more at CFR.org »](#)

## The Empty Throne

The United States under President Donald J. Trump is abdicating its important leadership role in the current world order, argue **Ivo H. Daalder** and **James M. Lindsay** in their new book, *The Empty Throne: America’s Abdication of Global Leadership*. [Read more about the book at CFR.org »](#)

## Religions for Peace Launches Historic Movement for Rainforest Protection

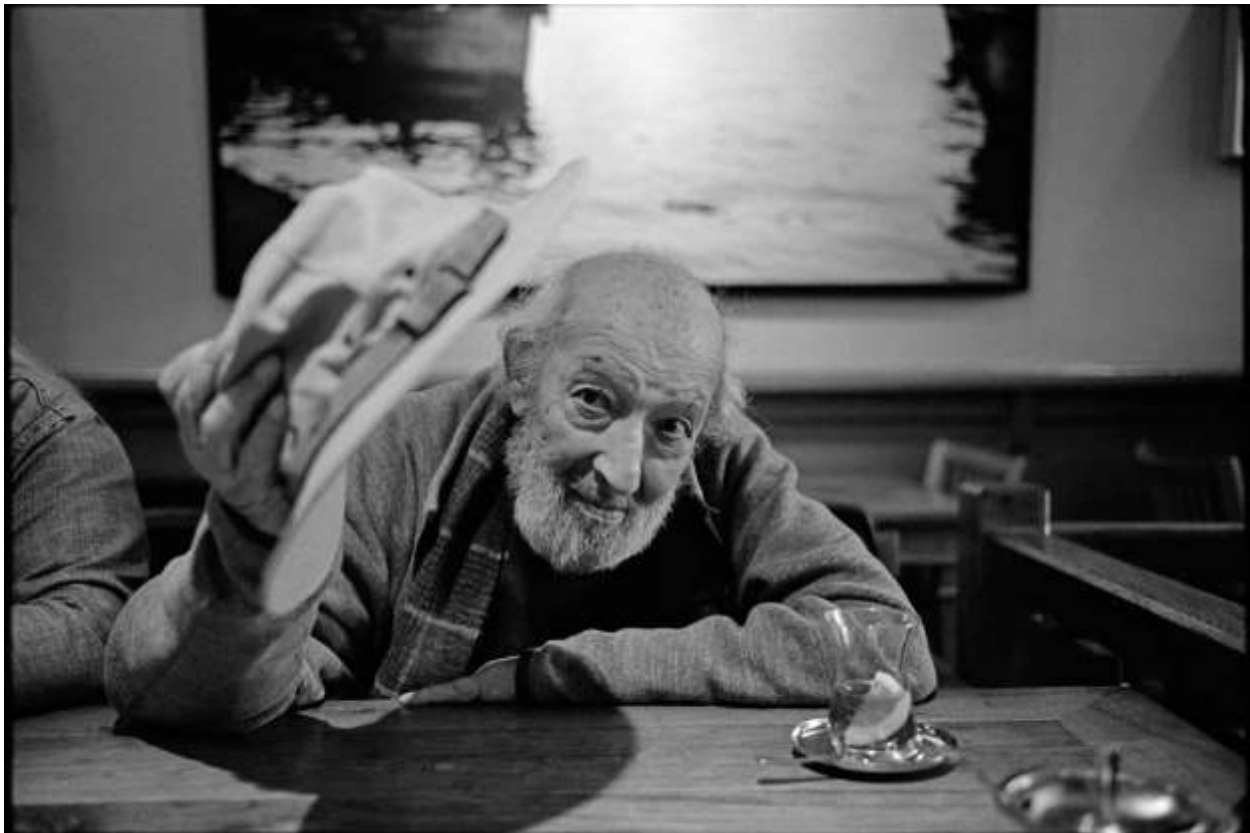


Religions for Peace Launches Historic Movement for Rainforest Protection

Rainforests sustain all life on the planet, provide 1.6 billion people with the necessities of life, store millions of tons of carbon, regulate the global climate, and create cooling air and rains that support life on Earth. They are home to indigenous peoples and forest communities that have served as their guardians for many generations. If protected and restored, rainforests can provide an indispensable contribution to sustainable development. Instead, they are at grave risk.

We are losing rainforests at a perilous rate. Extractive industries and land conversion for agricultural products like beef, soy, palm oil, and pulp and paper are driving tropical deforestation. These drivers are exacerbated by corruption, weak governance, inefficient land use and unsustainable patterns of consumption. Each year, an area of tropical rainforests the size of Austria is leveled to the ground. It undermines sustainable development, hastens climate change, drives species extinction and threatens planetary survival.

### Armenian Church Around The World



#### **“Bolis” Through the Eyes of an Armenian Photographer**

Writing in the *New York Times* this week, Nobel Prize-winning novelist Orhan Pamuk pays tribute to the late Armenian artist, Ara Guler. He writes: “Ara Guler, who died on October 17, was the greatest photographer of modern Istanbul. He was born in 1928 in an Armenian family in Istanbul. Ara began taking photographs of the city in 1950, images that captured the lives of individuals alongside the city’s monumental Ottoman architecture...”

In an essay expressing his respect and love for his departed friend, Pamuk—a Turkish writer who has defied the strictures of his native society to speak openly about the Armenian Genocide—touches once more on the unspoken, dark history the country holds for its Armenian inhabitants. “Ara had hoped for a democracy where individuals could speak freely of their murdered ancestors, or at least freely weep for them. Turkey never became that democracy.”

The print edition of Pamuk’s piece is titled “The Man Who Showed Us Istanbul”; but it is well worth looking up the online version, which is splendidly illustrated with Ara Guler’s gripping black-and-white photos, taken over the course of his long life.

To view them, and read the article, [click here](#).

### The Future of Orthodox Christianity in Ukraine



December 4, 2018 | 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Georgetown University, [Berkley Center Third Floor Conference Room](#)

RSVP Required

[In October of 2018](#), the Orthodox Church’s Istanbul-based leader, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, announced that he will grant autocephaly (independence) to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has been under the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church. As religious tensions between the newly established Kiev Patriarchate and the Moscow Patriarchate develop, the future of the Orthodox Church remains uncertain. Panelists will discuss the political, theological, historical, and geopolitical dimensions of these recent events in their commentary, as they assess the current status and future opportunities for the church in Ukraine.

## Featuring Center Co-Directors George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou

Also featuring:

José Casanova, Georgetown University

Shaun Casey, Georgetown University

Nadieszda Kizenko, SUNY Albany

### Church Leaders Plead for Mideast Christians

“Thousands of Christians and people of other religions in the Middle East face persecution daily,” said four American religious leaders in a letter to U.S. President Donald Trump, on November 16.

The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, joined his fellow church hierarchs Archbishop Demetrios (of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America), Archbishop Dionysius John Kawak (Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese for the Eastern U.S.), and Cardinal Timothy Dolan (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York) in the letter pleading for support in the “upholding of religious freedom and the preservation of pluralism and diversity” for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East.

Writing as Christian leaders representing American communities with strong historic ties to the Holy Land, the signers decried the ongoing “genocide and forced migration of millions...on the grounds of their religious and/or ethnic identities.”

[Click here to read more.](#)

### U.S. Downgrades Pakistan on Religious Freedom List

The U.S. State Department [added Pakistan](#) to a list of countries it accuses of engaging in or permitting “systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom.” Pakistan’s Foreign Office [called the designation \(Dawn\)](#) politically motivated and said Washington should examine the “exponential rise” of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in the United States.

**TURKMENISTAN:** President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov [granted pardons \(RFE/RL\)](#) to nearly eight hundred prisoners to mark a state holiday celebrating the country’s neutrality, according to state media.



## Abp. Aykazian Among Religious Leaders at White House Ceremony



Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director, was among the religious leaders present in the Oval Office on Tuesday, December 11, as U.S. President Donald Trump signed the “Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act.” The act seeks to redress crimes committed by the militant ISIS group, and provides relief to Christians and other religious groups targeted for extermination in those lands.

President Trump said the act directs U.S. assistance to those persecuted groups, and allows government agencies to aid in the investigation and prosecution of the “horrifying atrocities against religious and ethnic minorities in Syria and Iraq, including Christians, Yazidis, Shia and other groups.”

Click on the link to view [CSPAN’s footage of the signing ceremony](#).

In a White House luncheon following the ceremony, Archbishop Aykazian delivered the invocatory prayer. “For us, our challenge is to stand with these Christian communities in their time of trial,” he said; “to speak up on their behalf; and to act to preserve the ancient Christian enclaves in the Middle East. Our objective is to ensure that the rights of religious groups will be preserved; that faith remains respected; and that people of faith remain free to perform their obligations without impediment.”

## Local Ecclesiastical News

### OCSC Co-Directors Offer Expert Commentary on Ukraine

The Orthodox Christian Studies Center of Fordham University is internationally known for its intelligent, sophisticated understanding of Orthodoxy. Professor Aristotle Papanikolaou and Professor George Demacopoulos are often interviewed for their expert commentary on Orthodox history, theology, and

culture. As tensions persist between His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, media outlets around the world turn to the Orthodox Christian Studies Center co-directors for their analysis of the Ukrainian autocephaly crisis.

### **Co-Directors' Expert Commentary on Ukrainian Autocephaly**

["Orthodox Church Leaders Duel Over Ukraine, Meet With Pope Francis"](#)

*National Catholic Register* (27 Jun 2018)

["Ukrainian Orthodox Church wants independence from Russian Church Amid Regional Conflict"](#)

*Newsweek* (31 Aug 2018)

["Ukraine Orthodox Church seeks spiritual split from Russia"](#)

*Deutsche Welle* (31 Aug 2018)

["An Independent Church in Ukraine: Peace-maker or warmonger?"](#)

*Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien* (19 Sept 2018)

["Tensions between Russia and Ukraine spill over to Byzantine world of Orthodox church"](#)

*Washington Post* (10 Oct 2018)

["Ukraine's Spiritual Split From Russia Could Trigger a Global Schism"](#)

*The Atlantic* (11 Oct 2018)

["What do tensions among Orthodox believers mean for modern Christianity?"](#)

*Angelus* (12 Oct 2018)

["Moscu confirma el cisma en la Iglesia ortodoxa: Rusia y Ucrania convierten su conflicto en una guerra religiosa"](#) ["Moscow confirms the schism in the Orthodox Church: Russia and Ukraine convert their conflict into a religious war"]

*BBC News Mundo* (12 Oct 2018)



[“Ablösung von Moskau: Die orthodoxe Kirche spaltet sich, mit Folgen für Europa”](#) [“Replacement of Moscow: The Orthodox Church is splitting, with consequences for Europe”]

*HuffPost DE* (16 Oct 2018)

[“Эксперт: никто, кроме РПЦ, не разорвет общение с Константинопольским патриархом”](#) [“Expert: no one except the ROC, will break off communication with the Patriarch of Constantinople”]

*ГОЛОС АМЕРИКИ* (16 Oct 2018)

[“Orthodox Christianity faced with a political divide”](#)

*PRI* (19 Oct 2018)

[“Developments in the Orthodox Church”](#)

*The Greek Current* (podcast, 20 Oct 2018)

[“Moscow move threatens to split Orthodoxy”](#)

*Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly* (24 Oct 2018)

## Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation Meets

Clergy of the Eastern Diocese took part in a meeting of the U.S. Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation on November 7-8. Bishop Howard Hubbard of the Roman Catholic Church and Archbishop Dionysios Jean Kawak of the Syriac Orthodox Church co-chaired the event at the Bishop Molloy Retreat House in Jamaica, Queens.

This year marked the 40th anniversary of the dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the family of Oriental Orthodox churches: the Armenian, Coptic, Syrian, Ethiopian, and Malankara (Indian) churches. Over the past 40 years, participants have annually discussed the centuries-old relations among the churches in the context of theological and pastoral issues facing both traditions, periodically issuing statements of common understanding.

The Armenian Church delegation was led by Diocesan Primate the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, and included the Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian, the Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, and Dn. Eric Vozzy.

A significant presentation was made by Catholic Fr. Columba Stewart of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library in Collegeville, MN. Fr. Columba has spearheaded a project which scans manuscripts

from various eastern Christian traditions for online accessibility. The library, found at [www.vhmml.org](http://www.vhmml.org), is invaluable for research and for the preservation of ancient manuscripts which might otherwise suffer physical deterioration.

## Other Related News

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