Intercultural Dialogue for Peace and Development
21 May World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
Thursday 31 May, 2018 | 15:00 - 18:00 | CR-2, UNHQ

Background

Today, the world is more integrated, dynamic, and globalized than ever before. The technology revolution has removed the constraints of geographical location and time and have diversified the new innumerable possible combinations for expression and self-identity. Historically, cultural exchanges have led to the mutual enrichment of humanity and to the interconnectedness between cultures and now expand far beyond neighboring States or regions. Cultural diversity has provided enrichment of our cultures and is a source of the renewal of ideas and societies, through which we open up to others and craft new ways of thinking.

The weakening of traditional ties between cultures and geographical location and the rapid expansion of intermingling of cultures have placed greater importance, especially for national governments and the international community as a whole, to safeguard the manifestations of cultural diversity while recognizing the tangible and intangible opportunities offered by the co-existence and exchange of cultures and practices. As these are important pillars for sustainable development, integrating culture diversity into development frameworks and policies are critical. The international community has consistently reaffirmed the importance of cultural diversity within the human rights framework, conventions, and reaffirmed by the United Nations with World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development declared in UNGA Resolution 57/249.

There are still considerable challenges with our globalized world as evidenced by three-quarters of the world’s major conflicts having a cultural dimension. Civilizations, societies and cultures, like individuals, exist in relation to one another; therefore, bridging the gaps between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. Promoting intercultural dialogue to foster tolerance and understanding is an essential foundation to promote harmony and discover the features that are common within our humanity. Thus, dialogue to utilize our cultural diversity unites us all.
Member States have the primary responsibility for building and maintaining peace, but all stakeholders must be integrated within this process. All sectors of society are benefited by investing in intercultural dialogue and encouraging cultural diversity as a key instrument for the effective exercise of universal human rights and the strengthening of social cohesion.

**Objectives**

To commemorate the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, this side event aims to:

- Share experiences, challenges, and opportunities to ensure the promotion of cultural diversity and its potential to drive peace and development through intercultural dialogue;
- Reinforce international cooperation to ensure intercultural dialogue is a foundation for the effective exercise of universal human rights;
- Identify the areas and the role of key actors in international cooperation, including the role of the United Nations in promoting intercultural dialogue.

**Format**

The two hour side event will be divided into four parts, with an opening segment to introduce and frame the topic, an intervention to diversify opinions and ask questions, a panel session to discuss the intervention content, and a final segment to expand and close the event.