

NGO Preparatory Meeting for the Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding

11 June 2006, Almaty
Ablai Khan Room, mezzanine of the Ankara Hotel

Purpose of the Meeting

- To give NGOs an opportunity to exchange information, share best practices and formulate recommendations for the Tolerance Implementation Meeting on Promoting Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding on 12-13 June 2006;
- To explore the role of civil society and especially of youth organisations in facilitating inter-cultural, inter-faith and inter-ethnic understanding and in particular their role in preventing conflicts and promoting reconciliation, as well as in promoting tolerance in public discourse;
- To facilitate coalition-building across diverse cultural and religious communities and civil society groups.

Agenda of the Meeting

9:00- 9:30 Welcome and opening remarks

- Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan (TBC)
- Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship
- Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director of the ODIHR

9:30 – 11:00

Session I: The role of civil society in facilitating inter-cultural, inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue as a mechanism for conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation

Moderator: n.n

Speakers:

- M. Igor Rotar, Forum 18, Central Asia Correspondent, Kazakhstan
- Ms. Saodat Olimova, Leading Researcher, Sharq, Tajikistan

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45

Session II: The role of civil society in supporting inter-cultural, inter-faith and inter-ethnic partnerships as a tool to counter stereotypes and prejudice and to promote mutual respect and understanding in public and political discourse

Moderator: Ms. Ninel Fokina, Chair of the Almaty Helsinki Committee, Kazakhstan

Speakers:

- M. Ahmed Younis, National Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council, United States of America
- M. Mikael Danielyan, Chairman, Helsinki Association, Armenia

12:45 – 14:00 Luncheon

14:00-15:30

Session III: Beyond inter-cultural, inter-faith and inter-ethnic partnerships: Coalition building as a way to promote tolerance in multicultural societies

Moderator: Rabbi Andrew Baker, Director International Jewish Affairs, American Jewish Committee

Speakers:

- M. Gidon Van Emden,
- M. Valeriu Nicolae, General Secretary, European Roma Grassroots Organization, Brussels

15 :30-15 :45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15

Session IV: The way forward: The role of youth in promoting dialogue and understanding in multicultural societies

Moderator: Ms. Khatuna Tsindsaze, Executive Director, Century 21, Georgia

Speakers:

- Ms. Stasya Denissova, President, Youth Group for Tolerance "Ethics", Russian Federation
- M. Maxime Cerutti, Policy Officer for Employment and Social Inclusion, European Youth Forum, Brussels

17:15-18:30 – Closing Session: Recommendations