



## **Tentative Conference Program (October 3 & 4 2016)**

### ***Global Dialogues***

#### ***Is peaceful coexistence possible after polarization?***

The diversity among human beings and the diversity of cultural expressions of our humanity is the most important heritage that must be cared for. This assumption requires developing societies that care for the “other”, in particular the “other” who lives and thinks differently. Such care is the indispensable step for generating a type of public culture that privileges a form of social interaction that can be called “learning in difference.” It is not enough to tolerate, a word that carries a sense of distance and closure in the face of the ideas and practices of the “other.” A society is culturally poorer if the possibility of dialogue, of sharing and learning from those who are different, is closed off.

The recognition of the other as an interlocutor and the openness toward his or her reasons become necessary practices. How can they be achieved in societies polarized by conflict? How can we find points of encounter when different visions of the world clash? What are the best practices of dialogue and reconciliation? The conference will tackle these questions, exploring patterns of intercultural dialogue that can build bridges between groups as well as the elements of extremism that render impossible recognition of, and openness to, the other.

**Location:** Casa Rosada, Salón de los Pueblos Originarios  
(Balcarce 50)

#### **Day 1: Monday October 3**

9.30-10.00: Registration

10.00-10.10: Welcoming statement by Secretary for Federal Integration and International Cooperation, Iván Petrella

10.10-10.20: Welcoming statement by Minister of Culture of Argentina, Pablo Avelluto

10.20-10.30: Welcoming statement by Chief of Cabinet of Ministers, Marcos Peña

10.30-12.00: Panel 1: Experiences for National Reconciliation

**Paulette Regan** / Senior Advisor, Reconciliation at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (University of Manitoba)



**Charles Villa-Vicencio** / Emeritus Professor (University of Cape Town)

**Manuel Ramiro Muñoz** / Founder and Director of the Institute of Intercultural Studies (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana)

12.00-13.15: Panel 2: Cross-Regional practices for intercultural dialogue

**Belén Alfaro Hernández** / Ambassador at Large for Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain.

**James Patton** / Executive Vice President, International Center for Religion and Diplomacy

**Najeeb Michael** / Director of the Digital Centre of Oriental Manuscripts

13.15-15.00: Lunch Break

15.00-16.15: Panel 3: Dialogue as a tool for peace and development

**Mike Hardy** / Executive Director of the Centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations (Coventry University)

**Patricia Balbuena Palacios** / Former Vice-Minister of Interculturality in the Ministry of Culture of Peru

**Nihal Saad** / Chief of Cabinet & Spokesperson for the High-Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

20.00: Welcoming Dinner

## **Day 2: Tuesday October 4**

9.30-10.00: Registration

10.00-10.45: Reintegration strategies in Colombia

**Joshua Mitrotti Ventura** / Executive Director of the Colombian Reintegration Agency

10.45-12.45: Dialogues among panelists and final commentaries.

12.45-13.00: Closure



## Speakers

### **Belen Alfaro Hernandez**

Ambassador at Large for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain. Previously, she was a Minister Counsellor at the Mission of Spain to the United Nations and a Senior Counsellor for foreign policy with the Middle East and Mediterranean countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has also served as a Deputy Head at the Embassy of Spain in Pakistan, as a Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union, and in several other positions in the Spanish government. Ms. Alfaro holds a Master's degree in Law from Complutense University in Madrid.

### **Patricia Balbuena**

Former Vice-Minister of Interculturality in the Ministry of Culture of Peru, previously she was General Director of Intercultural Citizenship at the Vice Ministry of Interculturality. She holds a Phd in Social Sciences with a focus in Anthropology from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, a Masters degree in Social Policy from the same university and a Law Degree from the Catholic University of Peru.

She is a university professor, and holds over 20 years experience in social policies which promote access to justice for vulnerable populations, protection and defense of human rights focusing on women's rights and indigenous populations, the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural mediation in conflictive scenarios.

### **Mike Hardy**



Professor Mike Hardy CMG OBE FRSA is a founding and Executive Director of the Centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University, UK. Following overseas postings in the Arab world and Asia, and as member of the British Council Senior Management Team, Mike framed and lead British Council's global programme in intercultural and interfaith dialogue. He was active in policy advocacy in international affairs and public diplomacy, most notably in Muslim majority countries and headed the European arm of the EU-Government of Jordan sponsored 'Promotion of the Amman Message Project' from 2012-2014. Mike is active with UNESCO and the UN Alliance of Civilizations; he is special advisor to the Government of Republic of Azerbaijan and to the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, the World Peace Forum in Indonesia and directs the RISING Global Peace Forum at Coventry. Professor Hardy has been twice honoured, awarded the OBE in 2001 for his peace-building work in the Middle East, and appointed a Companion of Honour of St Michael and St George in the Queen's Birthday Honours, June 2010, for his work internationally in Intercultural Dialogue. Mike is a trustee of 3FF the leading interfaith charity in the UK and a board director of the US-based International Leadership Association.

### **Najeeb Michael**

Father Najeeb Michael is a native of Sanat in norther Iraq, descendant from a Chaldean Catholic family. He became a Dominican monk in Lille, France, in 1980, and priest in Strasbourg in 1987. He is professor of Pastoral Theology and Communication at the Faculty of the Babel College in Baghdad and in Ankawa, Erbil since 1990. Father Najeeb Michael has been the head of the Dominican Order in Mosul since 1988. He was a member of the ecumenical commission of bishops of the Nineveh Governorates from 2001 to 2012, and the Director of CNMO "Digital Centre of Oriental Manuscripts", based in Mosul since 1990. He digitized several thousand manuscripts and an important archive of the Iraqi churches and saved in-extremis this heritage from destruction by Da'esh in August 2014. He is the Founding-Director of the "Dominican Research Centre for Oriental Manuscripts" in Erbil (2016). Today, he lives as a refugee in Kurdistan together with 130.000 Christians driven out of Mosul and Nineveh by the Islamic State. He is involved with humanitarian activities and leads two centers for Christian refugees and Yezidis in Erbil. Father Najeeb Michael is a PhD student specialized in "Yezidism" at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and graduated of the "Higher Institute of Oil" in Baghdad in 1977.

### **Joshua Mitrotti Ventura**

Executive Director of the Colombian Reintegration Agency since November 2014. Mr. Mitrotti Ventura has more than 14 years of experience in the management of social, community, economic and political projects. He has worked in the Ombudsman's Office, the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá, the Ministry of Interior and Justice and the Presidency of Colombia.

His specialties are: Citizen and Community Participation, Participatory and Result Oriented Budget, International Relations, Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and design, implementation and evaluation of public policies, among others.

Previously, he worked in the former Presidential High Advisory for Reintegration, as Coordinator of the Unit of Cooperation and Foreign Relations, where he conformed Colombian public policy in reintegration to international standards, and as Manager of the Community Work Unit, in the design and implementation of reintegration policies in communities in over 90 municipalities in Colombia.

Between 2010 and 2011 he lead the Presidential High Advisory for Reintegration until the creation of the Colombian Reintegration Agency. Later he was Programmatic Director for Reintegration, leading the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the reintegration process and policy. He has also worked in the private sector in global communications and public affairs.

### **Manuel Ramiro Muñoz**

Founder and Director of the Institute of Intercultural Studies at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Cali, Colombia.

He has a degree in Philosophy and a Masters Degree in University Teaching from the Javeriana University. He holds a Phd in Education from the University of Barcelona and a degree in University Management. Dr. Muñoz is a specialist in Investigation for the University San Buenaventura of Cali.

He is a Member of the Scientific Committee of the Superior Education Conference of GUNI (Global University Network for Innovation), an international network created in 1999 and supported by the UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP)

Dr. Muñoz has authored various publications on: Higher Education, Interculturality and Community processes of indigenous and afro-descendants in Colombia.

He hold over 28 years experience in formative processes and strengthening of indigenous communities, afro-descendents and farming communities

He is an Invited Professor in the University of Barcelona for 5 years.

### **James Patton**

Executive Vice President International Center for Religion and Diplomacy. He has worked designing, implementing and monitoring multi-stakeholder programs to promote economic development and mitigate violent conflict since 1994. He has lived and worked in nine countries on three continents, and has broad experience in building teams and consensus with the entire range of social and political actors in complex conflict environments.

He was Deputy Regional Director for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Quaker organization, the American Friends Service Committee. As a Foreign Affairs Officer at the United States Department of State, he worked with the Special Envoy for Sudan. Later, he was assigned to support the work of USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation.

He holds a Master of Law and Diplomacy from Tufts University's Fletcher School and a Master of Divinity focusing on social justice theology from Harvard Divinity School.

### **Paulette Regan**

Senior Advisor, Reconciliation at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, University of Manitoba since September 2015. From 2007 to 2015, she worked for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, where she was the senior researcher and lead writer for the Reconciliation Volume of the TRC's Final Report. She holds a BA (1984) and MA (1991) in History from the University of British Columbia and a PhD in Indigenous Governance (2006) from the University of Victoria.

### **Nihal Saad**

Nihal Saad is Chief of Cabinet & Spokesperson for the High- Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). Prior to that she was the Spokesperson for the President of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly.

With more than twenty two years of experience in Journalism, Ms. Saad was the Head of the Press & Information Bureau at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN. Before moving to New York, she was Senior Political Correspondent and TV host for Egypt's TV. She holds a Masters degree in TV Journalism from the American University in Cairo and a Diploma in Linguistics from Ain Shams University in Cairo. She has moderated several panel discussions in international and regional meetings. Ms. Saad has appeared on several TV shows as a commentator on International affairs, with Larry King (CNN), Al Arabyia TV, France 24, Egypt's TV and other media outlets.

### **Charles Villa-Vicencio**



Ministerio de Cultura  
Presidencia de la Nación

Emeritus Professor, University of Cape Town. Theologian (Rhodes 1968) and political scientist (Natal 1970) he holds a Master's degree from Yale University and a PhD from Drew University. He was highly involved in the struggle against apartheid, between 1996 and 1998 he was National Research Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which paved the way for a peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa. In the year 2000 he founded the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa, of which he is a Senior Research Fellow. He is also a Visiting Professor at Georgetown University. He has used his insight and expertise to advise numerous countries dealing with the challenges of rebuilding their societies after periods of internal strife, including Peru, Colombia, Sri Lanka and various African nations.