

Panel Discussion

“The Role of Religious Leaders in Peacebuilding in the Middle East”

A follow-up of the 2016 Alicante Summit of Religious Leaders for Peace in the Middle East

Tuesday, 18 July 2017

Conference Room 3, UNHQ New York

Programme

(as of 17 July, 2017)

15:00-15:45 Opening Session

- H.E. Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
- H.E. Mr. Alfonso María Dastis, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain (*tbc*)
- H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- Sheikh Imad al-Falouji
- Rabbi Michael Melchior
- Patriarch Theopilos III, Greek Orthodox Church
- Moderator : Ms. Nihal Saad, Chief-of-Cabinet, UNAOC
(short video during a brief pause for a podium change)

15:45-17:45 Panel of Religious Leaders

Muslim:

- Sheikh Imad al-Falouji, Chairman of the Adam Center for Dialogue of Civilizations in Palestine. He served as the Minister of Post and Telecommunications in the Palestinian unity Government in 1996-2002. In 2009, President Abbas appointed Sheikh Imad al-Falouji as a member of the Islamic-Christian commission for patronizing Jerusalem and the holy sites. (*via video conference from Ramallah*)
- Sheikh Raed Badir, leading Islamic law (Shari'a) arbitrator and member of the southern branch of the Palestinian Ulama Council, Israel
- Dr. Nassr Al-DinAl-Shaer, Professor Al-Najah University (TBC) (*via video conference from Ramallah*)

Jewish:

- Rabbi Michael Melchior, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1999 - 2002), Minister for Social Affairs and Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sports (2005), community Rabbi in Jerusalem, President of the Mosaica Religious Peace Initiative
- Rabbi Avraham Giesser, Rabbi of Ofra and Council Head for the state religious educational system of Israel
- Dr. Adina Bar Shalom, Head of an academic institution for ultra-orthodox women in Israel, an activist for coexistence and peace, and a public figure of public debate, awarded the Israel Prize in 2014 (daughter of the former Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel – Obadia Youssef - and the oldest sister of the present Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel), Tel Aviv

Christian:

- Patriarch Theopilos III, Greek Orthodox Church

17:45-18:00 Closing Session

- H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations