



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
15 December 2014

Original: English

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**Sixty-ninth session**

Agenda item 14

**Culture of peace****Letter dated 12 December 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the First International Conference on A World against Violence and Violent Extremism (see annex), held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 9 and 10 December 2014, in which foreign ministers, former high-ranking officials, members of parliament, scholars, researchers and representatives of civil society of more than 50 countries participated.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) G. Hossein **Dehghani**  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 12 December 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Declaration and Plan of Action of the First International Conference on A World against Violence and Extremism**

**Tehran, 9 and 10 December 2014**

The Honourable Foreign Ministers, former high-ranking officials, members of parliament, scholars, researchers and representatives of civil society of more than 50 countries congregated for the First Conference on A World against Violence and Extremism, held on 9 and 10 December 2014, in Tehran,

*Guided* by the principles and values of the divine religions and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and on the occasion of the first anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013, entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism” and with the aim of taking a further step towards the realization of the lofty goals enshrined in that resolution initiated by the proposal of H.E. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

*Recalling* the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and other United Nations organs on combating violence and violent extremism,

*Alarmed* by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of any motivation,

*Convinced* that wars and armed conflicts can lead to radicalization and the spread of violent extremism and disrupt development of human societies and thwart the well-being of humankind,

*Recognizing* the importance of national and regional characteristics and diverse, historical, cultural and religious backgrounds of all States,

*Reaffirming* that violent extremism constitutes a serious common concern for all Member States, threatening the security and well-being of human societies, and convinced that there is no justification for violent extremism, whatever the motivation,

*Recognizing* the need for a comprehensive approach to countering violent extremism and addressing the conditions conducive to its spread,

*Recognizing* the nature, principle, values and objectives of monotheistic divine religions as a collection of guiding instructions in the spiritual, social, cultural and economic spheres of human life development, adherence to which will result in human salvation and happiness,

*Recognizing* that the nature, principles, values and objectives of the divine religions are inherently against all forms of violence and violent extremism and promote justice, peace, the equality of human beings and non-discrimination,

*Underlining* that violent extremism and violence is a global challenge and is not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, culture, race and ethnic group and therefore, the countering and elimination of which requires a firm determination and cooperation of all members of the international community,

*Expressing* grave concern that extremist and terrorist groups have begun to reach out to youth or deprived minorities by using the Internet and other modern technologies in an attempt to indoctrinate them with radical messages and to recruit them,

*Rejecting* the tactical and instrumental use of and financing of extremist groups for any reason,

*Underlining* the importance of the promotion of further understanding, awareness and tolerance through genuine dialogue, encouragement of the culture of peace and moderation and harmonization among cultures that can help the common efforts to counter violence and violent extremism,

*Stresses* that selective approaches to countering violence and violent extremism jeopardize the unity of the international community in combating such horrific phenomena,

*Have agreed* on the following Plan of Action:

1. Welcome the proposal made by H.E. Hassan Rouhani that the United Nations proclaim 18 December of each year as the day of “A World against Violence and Extremism”, and request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to recommend, in his report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, a recommendation to that effect;
2. Stress the importance of the public condemnation of all forms of extremism, violent extremism and terrorism by all States, religious leaders, politicians and scholars;
3. Emphasize the need for taking actions to eradicate poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment as the main sources of feeding extremism and its recruitment. In this context, assisting the countries that have been victimized by violent extremism is of vital importance to address the root causes of violence and terrorism;
4. Request the countries whose borders are used for transit by radical and extremist groups to take the steps necessary to enhance control over their borders including through enacting legislation or adopting administrative and law enforcement measures;
5. Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to address, in his report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, the efficient ways by which the United Nations could assist Member States, upon their request, to counter extremism including through generating public awareness about the dangers of intolerance, as well as in fostering understanding and non-violence;
6. Underline establishing and developing the culture of peace and tolerance through:

(a) Planning diverse policies and actions with the purpose of creating a better understanding and finding mutual grounds in order to deepen the culture of understanding and peace as the basic condition for countering extremism for future generations;

(b) Forging relations and institutionalizing regular dialogue among leaders of all divine religions;

(c) Promoting novel educational texts based on the culture of peace and friendship among various societies;

(d) Forging relations among intellectuals, think tanks and artists to promote peace and friendship among different societies;

(e) Considering that education at all levels is one of the most effective elements in every sustainable and successful strategy to counter extremism, therefore, requests all States to plan and execute policies and effective initiatives for promoting principles of tolerance, respect for others and their ideas and cultural diversity in their educational systems;

(f) Encouraging the inclusion of research programmes on diverse cultures, religions and various civilizations in university curricula, and also the exchange of knowledge, information, and scholarships among academics, researchers and students as providers of great capability with the purpose of deepening understanding and tolerance among different societies;

7. Underline that media should function as a mechanism for universalizing the idea of tolerance, respect for cultural diversity, the right to cultural development and promotion of human rights and values;

8. Underline the enhancement of the role and capacity-building of academics, religious scholars, academic institutions as well as research centres in order to promote public awareness of values regarding various cultures and respect for cultural diversity, to enrich intercultural dialogue, and respect human rights and prevent the development of fertile grounds for the growth of extremist, *Takfiri* and violent ideologies;

9. Take note of the need for establishing a research institute to study the global trends and developments on violence and extremism and plan the proper reaction to counter such horrific phenomena;

10. Stress the effective implementation of the present Action Plan and along that line welcome the follow-up Conference on A World against Violence and Extremism, to be held in Iran in 2015.

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