

The Singapore Declaration of Freedom of Religion or Belief

At the third International Parliamentarians' Conference on 'Upholding a Rules-Based System for Freedom of Religion or Belief', held from 30 to 31 October 2019 in Singapore, the undersigned parliamentarians and legislators from around the world:

Recognize that the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief (henceforth, freedom of religion or belief) is one of the pillars of human rights grounded in the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of every member of the human family;

Recognize that threats to freedom of religion or belief are constantly evolving and the international community is witnessing contemporary threats and challenges to freedom of religion or belief which require greater political commitment and advocacy resources;

Reiterate that we need to strengthen and promote freedom of religion or belief as a universal and non-derogable human right, as set out in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that 'everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.';

Recognize that the international community, including parliamentarians and legislators need to find innovative and sustainable ways to confront and overcome patterns of existing and emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief;

Recognize that parliamentarians and legislators have a special public role to advance freedom of religion or belief around the world owing to their political influence, public legitimacy and advocacy skills;

Recall that the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB) which was formalized in November 2014 at the Nobel Peace Centre in Oslo, Norway, was established to advance the right to freedom of religion or belief for all;

Reaffirm the Oslo Charter for Freedom of Religion or Belief (November 2014), the New York Resolution for Freedom of Religion or Belief (November 2015), Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

In the light of the above, now, in Singapore, on 30 and 31 October 2019, the signatories commit to pursuing efforts in the following fields:

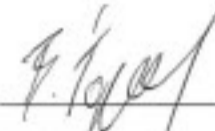
- Ensure that places of worship and religious sites and their congregations are protected. The recommendations of the 2019 United Nations Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites provide some guidelines for achieving this;
- Advocate for abolishing blasphemy and apostasy legislation. Such legislation is in conflict with universally recognized human rights. Blasphemy and apostasy laws inter alia discriminate against vulnerable members of communities and severely curtail the right to freedom of religion or belief;
- Ensure the prohibition of the advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence on the basis of religion or belief in accordance with the guidance provided by the Rabat Plan of Action;
- Strengthen efforts and encourage increased resources to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief while preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism; and to ensure that preventive measures in this context are not used as a pretext to suppress the right to freedom of religion or belief;
- Promote and strengthen cooperation amongst governments, members of parliament, civil society organizations, faith or belief actors, technology companies, and other relevant stakeholders to prevent violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief and other associated human rights both in the physical and digital spaces; and
- Engage with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders to promote respect for non-discrimination and non-coercion, two crucial components of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

The following parliamentarians support this resolution in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their government, political party or any other body.

Name and country

Signature

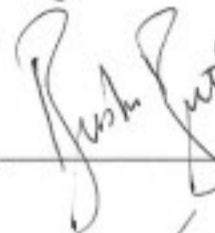
VLADIMIR GJORCHEV (MACEDONIA)



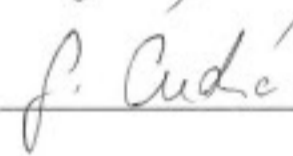
ANTHONY (SINGAPORE)



BUSHRA ANJUM BUTT (PAKISTAN)



Jabina Čudić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



ANGEL KHANTILE (SOUTH AFRICA)



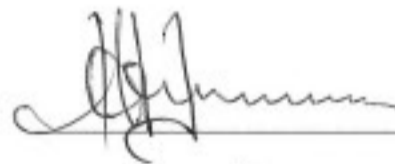
KASIT PIROMYA (THAILAND)



SULEMAN ABADU SANI (GHANA)



KANTSIWA ALICE MOSOTHGANE



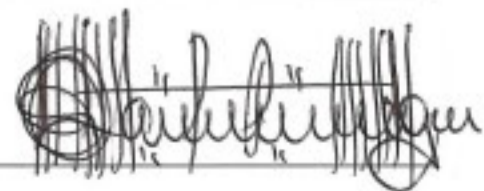
Martijn van Helvert (Netherlands)



EUGENE TAN (SINGAPORE)



BIYIKA LAWRENCE SONGA (UGANDA)



Name and country

Signature

KNADIJA ELATRI (MOROCCO)



Kanu Simon Nigeria



Sos Avetisyan Armenia



DRITAH ABAZOVIĆ



ATAHAR KAMAL



Nichlas Jaines, England

+Nichlas Leeds

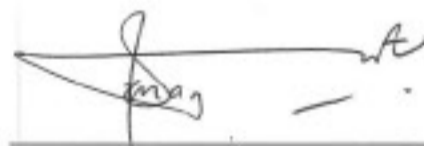
Umira Bishwakarma Nepal



Anjama Bishankhe NEPAL



Melty Magdalena Ussu, Indonesia



HERI BERTI HIRTE, GERMANY

Heri Bert Ker

Pheea Mshilele, Lesotho



Name and country

Signature

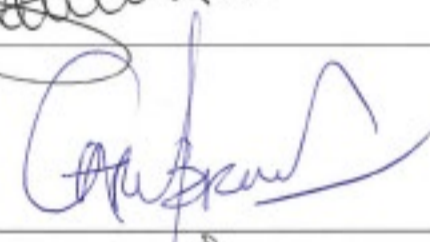
KOMAKECH WANDRO UGANDA



HON SHAKEL SHABIR AHMED
M.P. KENYA



Carl Breeveld (Suriname)



Anna Aziz BAROVI (CHAD)



HON STEVEN BABA MALONDERA (MALAWI)



Mardi Seng, Cambodia



Bobby A Rizaldi, Indonesia



Kyaw Min San (Myanmar)



HALIMA DAUD (MALAWI)



MERCY CHEBENI



Zurab Tchiaberashvili
(Georgia)



Name and country

Signature

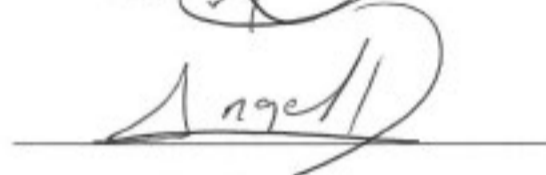
VEION BERISHA-KOSOVO



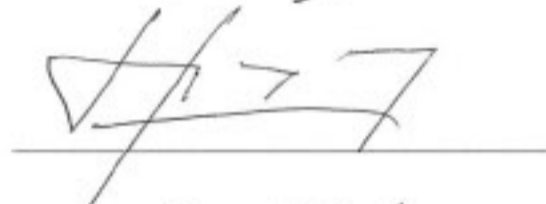
FERNANDA SAN MARTIN



Angel Alvarado-Venezuela



JUAN MIGUEL MATHEUS



DRITAN ABAZOVIĆ



ABDULREHMAN SPENDARI



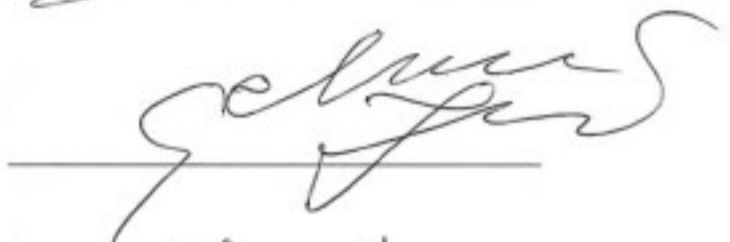
JHOVANA JORDAN



EDISON BROCE
(PANAMA)



Gelman Jurew (KOSOVO)



Hm. MUSAMBA FREDDY (DR. CONGO)



Joël Voordewind (Netherlands)



Name and country

Signature

Hon. Muhammed Ndow

The Gambia

~~Hon~~ Ndow

JAMSHED THOMAS

PARISIEN

Markus Gröbel MdB, Germany

Markus Gröbel

Mania Angelina L. Sacramento - Timor Leste

Mania

António de sa' Benevides - TIMOR LESTE

Uma Bishwakarma - NEPAL

Uma

POENURITA DR. MAGNO Timor Leste

KASHURI PATTO - MALAYSIA.

Kashuri

VESNA MARKOVIĆ - SERBIA

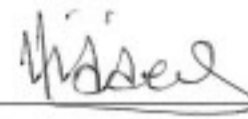
Vesna Marković

Kevin Anderson - Australia

Peter van Dalen - NL


Name and country

Signature

Hon. Toyideen A. Obasa Nigeria 

MARIA BEATRIZ MARTINEZ VENEZUELA 

Nqabayenzi Cwikel, South Africa

Def Oel CANADA 

Kamsor S 

Sos Antisya 

LAVA PRLIĆ
Bosnia and Herzegovina 

Kolkeu Germany
Kauder



HON AMADOU CAMARA THE GAMBIA 