



Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: *Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future* 19-21 June 2025, Rome

Programme with Speakers (Draft 9 June 2025)

Panel composition aims to reflect the diversity of the Conference delegates in terms of religion or belief, profession, geopolitical group, and age. Panels aim for gender parity.

Day 1: 19 June

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Thematic working session 1: 09:30 – 11:00 (90 minutes)

Promoting peaceful coexistence

Moderator: **Ms. Deepika Singh**, Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace – USA

Panellists:

- **Ms. Natalyia Kiselova**, Speaker of the National Assembly – Bulgaria *tbc*
- **Mr. Abdulla Almanai**, Executive Director, King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance – Bahrain
- **Mr. Bhai Sahib Mohindra Singh Ji**, Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, Co-President and Trustee, Religions for Peace – UK/ India
- **Ms. Radi Lamia**, Founding President, Foundation Mémoires pour l'Avenir – Morocco
- **Mr. Issa Toha Shamsou**, Founder and Executive Director, African Students for Interfaith Tolerance – Ghana

Respondents

- **Mr. Leo Igwe**, Board Member, Humanists International – Nigeria
- **Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace** - *tbc*

Thematic working session 2: 11:30 – 13:00 (90 minutes)

Lessons from the Marrakesh Declaration (2016): upholding the rights of religious minorities

Organised by the IPU with support from Religions for Peace, the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

Moderator: **Mr. Mohamed ElSanousi**, Executive Director, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Commissioner – Sudan

Panellists:

- **Ms. Irine Yusiana Roba Putri**, Member of the House of Representatives – Indonesia *tbc*
- **Mr. Cheikhna Al- Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah**, Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace – United Arab Emirates
- **Ms. Nejat Mehdi Oumer**, Women and Youth Focal Person, The Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue, and Action (Religions for Peace national affiliate organization) – Ethiopia
- **Ms. Katherine Marshall**, Senior Fellow, the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Board Member of the G20 Interfaith Forum – USA

Respondents

- **Mr. Munib Younan**, Bishop Emeritus, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; Honorary President, Religions for Peace – Palestine
- **Ms. Vinu Aram**, President, Shanti Ashram; Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace* – India - *tbc*

OPENING CEREMONY: 14:30 – 15:30 (60 minutes)

Speakers:

6-7 minutes each

- **Mr. Lorenzo Fontana**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament
- **Mr. Ignazio La Russa**, President of the Senate of the Italian Republic
- **Ms. Tulia Ackson**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania

4-5 minutes each

- **Mr. Francis Kuria**, Secretary General of Religions for Peace – Kenya
- **Mr. Rino Fisichella**, Archbishop, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Responsible for the 2025 Jubilee, Vatican
- **Mr. Pier Ferdinando Casini**, Senator, Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, President of the Italian IPU Group

7-8 minutes

- **Ms. Khalidah Bakr Khalaf**, Bellwether International – Iraq *Youth speaker, religious minority*

High-level panel: 16:00 – 18:00 (120 minutes)

Countering hatred based on religion or belief: deescalating polarisation, preventing dehumanisation and religious weaponisation

Co-Moderators:

Mr. Maurizio Lupi, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Vice President of the IPU Group – Italy

Ms. Şafak Pavey, Special Envoy, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, former member of the Grand National Assembly – Turkey

Panellists:

- **Mr. Cardinal George Jacob Koovakad (H. Em)**, Cardinal, Prefect of the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue – India
- **Mr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi**, Chairman of the Manara Center for Coexistence and Dialogue and Member of the Federal National Council – UAE
- **Mr. David Rosen**, Chief Rabbi, Special Interfaith Advisor at the Abrahamic Family House; Co-President, Religions for Peace – Israel
- **Mr. Anba Angaelos**, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London – Egypt
- **Mr. Yahyâ S. Y. Pallavicini**, Chairman of the European Muslim Leaders' Majlis (EULEMA); Member of the European Council of Religious Leaders-Religions for Peace – Italy
- **Ms. Nazila Ghanea**, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and Professor of International Human Rights Law at Oxford University – Iran/UK
- **Ms. Uswatun Hasanah**, Eco Bhinneka Surakarta – Indonesia *Youth speaker*

Day 2: 20 June

General Debate: 09:00 – 12:30; 14:00 – 17:00

Parliamentarians in dialogue with religion and belief: Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future

5 minutes each

Chair:

- The General Debate will be chaired by one of the three presiding Speakers: the IPU President and the Speakers of the Italian Parliament

Opening remarks:

- **Ms. Tulia Ackson**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Speaker of the National Assembly – Tanzania
- **Mr. Miguel Moratinos**, High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations; former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, former Member of Parliament – Spain
- **Ms. Simona-Mirela Miculescu**, President of the 42nd UNESCO General Conference – Romania
- **Mr. Ioannes Tsafaridis**, Archbishop of Zambia and Mozambique, Orthodox Archdiocese of Zambia and Mozambique – Greece / Zambia
- **Mr. Jawad El Khoei**, Sayyed, Secretary-General of the Al-Khoei Institute – Iraq

Panel 1: 09:30 – 10:45 (75 minutes)

Advancing inclusive societies, ensuring freedom of religion or belief

Moderator: **Ms. Tanya Awad Ghorra**, Senior Trainer on Diversity and Inclusive Citizenship and Board Member at Adyan Foundation – Lebanon

Panelists:

- **Ms. Fernanda San Martín Carrasco**, Director of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief, former member of Parliament – Bolivia
- **Mr. Ahmed Shaheed**, Professor of International Human Rights Law in the School of Law and Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, former UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief – Maldives/UK
- **Mr. David Saperstein**, Rabbi, former Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, US Department of State – USA
- **Ms. Bani Dugal**, Representative to the UN for the Baha'i International Community; Co-President, Religions for Peace – India/USA
- **Mr. Michael Wiener**, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section – Germany

Respondents

- **Ms. Susan Kerr**, Senior Advisor on Freedom of Religion or Belief, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – UK
- **Mr. Reuben Emmanuel**, Advocacy Officer, Tearfund - Nigeria *Youth speaker*

Panel 2: 11:15 – 12:30 (75 minutes)

Promoting ethical leadership at all levels, investing in education for peace

Moderator: **Mr. Fadi Daou**, Executive Director of Globethics – Lebanon/France

Panelists:

- **Ms. Karen Bradley**, Dame, Member of the House of Commons – UK
- **Ms. Simona-Mirela Miculescu**, President of the 42nd UNESCO General Conference – Romania
- **Mr. Ibrahim Negm**, Senior Advisor to the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Secretary General of the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide – Egypt
- **Mr. Chinmay Pandya**, Chairperson, South Asian Institute of Peace and Reconciliation, Prov Vice Chancellor at the Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya – India
- **Ms. Joy Muthoni Gitau**, Executive Director, Amani Communities Africa – Kenya *Youth speaker*

Respondent

- **Mr. Jawad El Khoei**, Sayyed, Secretary-General of the Al-Khoei Institute – Iraq
- **Mr. Elias Szczytnicki**, Secretary General & Regional Director – Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean – Peru

Panel 3: 14:00 – 15:15 (75 minutes)

Interfaith dialogue for the inclusion of women in public life

Moderator: **Ms. Nihal Saad**, Director, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations – Egypt

Panelists:

- **Ms. Cynthia López Castro**, President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Senate – Mexico
- **Ms. Aminatou Ngangoube**, Member of the Senate – Cameroon
- **Mr. Mohammad Bechari**, Secretary General, World Muslim Communities Council – Morocco / UAE
- **Mr. Thiago Alves Pinto**, Lecturer in Legal Studies and Diplomatic Studies, Director of Studies in Religion and Theology, Oxford University – Brazil / Finland
- **Ms. Stella Attah**, Peacebuilding Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Tearfund – Nigeria/UK *Youth speaker*

Respondents

- **Ms. Jagbir Jhutti-Johal**, Professor of Sikh Studies, co-founder of the Women's Faith Forum; member of the ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief – UK
- **Mr. Michael Driessen**, Professor, Director of the Rome Summer Seminars John Cabot University – United States of America
- **Ms. Jasmin Mausolf**, Women's and Equality Officer, Faculty of Theology, Humboldt University of Berlin – Germany

Panel 4: 15:45 – 17:15 (90 minutes)

Fostering solidarity and action for people in vulnerable situations (including migrants, refugees, displaced and stateless persons and minorities)

Moderator: **Ms. Claire Thomas**, Executive Director of Minority Rights Group – UK

Panelists:

- **Mr. Gerardo Fernández Noroña**, President of the Senate – Mexico - *tbc*
- **Ms. Sharon Rosen**, former Director of Religious Engagement, Search for Common Ground – Israel
- **Ms. Michèle Bowe**, Head of the Representative Office of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the State of Palestine – USA
- **Mr. Khushwant Singh**, Head of Secretariat for PaRD – the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development – India/Germany
- **Priestess Beatriz Schulthess**, President, Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council and member of the UNHCR-Religions for Peace Multi-religious Council of Leaders – Costa Rica

Respondents

- **Mr. Libasut Taqwa**, Research and Advocacy Officer, the Wahid Foundation – Indonesia *Youth speaker*
- **Mr. Munib Younan**, Bishop Emeritus, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; Honorary President, *Religions for Peace* – Palestine

Closing ceremony: 17:30 – 18:30 (60 minutes)

Speakers:

- **Mr. Martin Chungong**, IPU Secretary General
- **Reports** from each of the panels will be delivered by **panelists**
- Presentation of the **outcome document** of the Conference by a **delegate Youth speaker**
- The **IPU President** offers concluding remarks
- One or both of the **Speakers of the Italian Parliament** close the session

Day 3: 21 June

Audience with Pope Leo XIV for all delegates

See Conference programme for information about the audience and transfer.