



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: *Working together for our common future*

Palais des Congrès, Marrakesh, Morocco
13–15 June 2023



Kingdom of Morocco

The Parliament



Manara Center for coexistence

Building bridges of understanding: Fostering interfaith coexistence and inclusive communities

Side Event

Concept Note

Wednesday 14 June 2023, 13:00-14:30 (Fès 2 Hall)
Languages : Arabic, English, Hebrew and Hindi

Introduction

By bringing together religious leaders from different faiths, this session aims to explore the different strategies used to promote coexistence and tolerance among diverse communities, while shedding light on collaborative approaches to adopt interfaith coexistence and overcome obstacles to create an inclusive and tolerant society.

Executive summary

Interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance are significant tools in the development and adaptation of inclusive communities. Religious leaders and parliamentarians can engage in joint efforts to influence peace and coexistence, and collaborative efforts to establish interfaith initiatives. Efforts to build interfaith dialogue and foster interfaith coexistence are major tools in overcoming religious intolerance. This panel will bring together faith leaders and parliamentarians to explore such joint efforts and discuss how can they contribute to promoting coexistence within their communities.

About the Manara Center for coexistence

Launched in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in March 2023, the main purpose of the Manara Center for coexistence is to be a best-in-class organization devoted to promoting coexistence in the region. The Manara Center is built on and supports core UAE values and tolerance initiatives, such as the Year of Tolerance, the Abraham Accords and the Abraham Family House. Drawing on expertise in youth engagement across the region, the Center also works to dispel stereotypes among diverse peoples, while fostering greater social inclusion and acceptance.

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Agenda and guiding questions

1. Welcoming remarks and introduction
2. The contribution of parliaments to encouraging coexistence through laws, policies and advocacy for strategy changes.

How can religious leaders and parliamentarians harness their status to promote values and acts of tolerance, peace and coexistence?

How can parliaments capitalize on and endorse policies to encourage values of peace and support coexistence initiatives?

What role can parliaments play in establishing channels to facilitate dialogue and encourage communication between different religions?

How can parliamentarians highlight their role as supporters of policies of inclusivity and acceptance?
3. How can interfaith dialogue be used to counter misconceptions, build bridges and combat religious intolerance?

How can open and inclusive dialogue be used to refute common misconceptions and stereotypes?
4. Success stories of collaborative efforts between religious leaders and parliamentarians in establishing peaceful dialogue and helping to promote interfaith coexistence and upholding international human values.

Examples of joint efforts between religious leaders and parliamentarians in creating and promoting interfaith conversations and inclusivity.

Case studies on joint actions towards religious tolerance and interfaith coexistence.