

**A Statement Promoting Interfaith Dialogue
and Embracing the Interfaith Harmony Week**

Whereas all the peoples of the world are bound together by their common humanity and their common planet earth, and by love of God and love of one's neighbor, or love of the good and love of one's neighbour;

Whereas achieving true peace and reconciliation in the world requires harmonious relations and understanding between adherents of the world's religions, faiths and beliefs;

Whereas 85 per cent of the world's population belongs to one faith or another, and recognizing that extremists exacerbate tensions and spread misunderstanding and mistrust between adherents of these faiths;

Whereas there is a central and essential common ground of love, compassion, acceptance and tolerance among all religions, faiths and beliefs, however different they may be;

Whereas the efforts of H.M. King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein of Jordan led to the historic Amman Message in November 2004 and the 2007 initiative "A Common Word;"

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/Res/65/5 of 20 October 2010 established the World Interfaith Harmony Week;

We, participants of the initiative entitled "Dialogue on Faith, Peacebuilding & Development", join this declaration and affirm that,

We will continue to promote interfaith dialogue within the United Nations System to foster mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among all peoples;

We will continue to promote and commemorate the World Interfaith Harmony Week every year in all the United Nations capitals, to spread the message of harmony and tolerance among the followers of all the world's religions, faiths and beliefs;

We welcome initiatives that endeavor to ease religious tensions, which pose a serious threat to our collective security, including the most recent initiative of the United Nations Secretary General on a Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism;

We denounce violent extremism as one of the barriers to our collective efforts towards maintaining peace and security, fostering sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and taking humanitarian action;

We call upon all Member States of the United Nations to join efforts in spreading the message of interfaith harmony, mutual understanding and good will to combat violent extremism, and to unite to achieve true peace and reconciliation in the world.

Geneva, Palais des Nations, 5 February 2016