

THE SECOND WORLD FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF JUST PEACE

“LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE”

Valetta, Malta
3-4 March, 2022

“Addresses and Recommendations”



Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation

The Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace
"LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE"

Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation
Tel : + 965 22415172
Fax: + 965 22455039
E-mail: info@albabtaincf.org

Kuwait
First Edition
2022

Contents

- Foreword, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain	5
- Program	9
• OPENING SESSION.....	11
- Introduction of the forum, Dr. Touhami Abdouli	13
- HE. George Vella , President of Malta	19
- HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim , Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait	23
- Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain , Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation	28
- HE. Antonio Guterres , Secretary General of the United Nations (written message)	30
- HE. Abdallah Shahid , President of the United Nations General Assembly. (videotaped message)	32
• SESSION 1 : THE ROLE OF WORLD LEADERS.....	35
- HE. Ilir Meta , President of Albania.....	37
- HE. Vjosa Osmani , President of the Republic of Kosovo	41
- HE. Stjepan Mesić , Former President of Croatia.....	46
- HE. Armen Sarkassian , Former President of Armenia	51
• SESSION 2 : THE ROLE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	55
- HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf , Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.....	57
- HE. Taieb Baccouche , Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union	62
- HE. Salim M. AlMalik , Director General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	65
- His Honor. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf , Former President of the International Court of Justice.	68

- HE. Khaled Khalifa , Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.....	71
- HE. Mohammed Alshafee , Representative of the League of the Arab States ...	74
- Prof. Alfred J. Vella , Rector of the University of Malta.	77
• SESSION 3 : THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS	83
- Chairperson: HE. Anglu Farrugia , Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta.	85
- HE. Mohamed Nasheed Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives.	89
- HE. Behgjet Pacolli , Member of the Parliament of Kosovo (Former President).	93
- Mr. Abdesselam Lebbar , Head of the ‘Isteqlal’ (Independence) Parliamentary Group at the House of Councilors of Morocco.	97
- Mr. Struan Stevenson , Former Member of the European Parliament.	101
- Mr. Jesmond Saliba , Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Malta.	105
- Mr. Jean -Christophe Bas , CEO of Connectors for Peace.	108
• CLOSING SESSION	113
- Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain , Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation.	115
- HE. George Vella , President of Malta.	118
- Conferring Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain the Title of “Doctor Honoris Causa” by the Mediterranean University of Albania.....	125
- Recommendations of The Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace ..	135
- Photos from the forum.....	141

Foreword

In 2019, I directed to organize the «First World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace» through Abdulaziz Saud Albabatin Cultural Foundation, and it was held on June 13, at the Headquarters of the International Court of Justice, Peace Palace of The Hague, at the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The forum was held in the presence of a number of Heads of State, Ministers, Parliamentarians, and many officials concerned with the forum's theme, «Just Peace Education for the Protection of Cultural Heritage.»

The participants emphasized the necessity to make more efforts to achieve a sustainable just peace, which serves as the basis for the Culture of Just Peace. They also highlighted their commitment to work on the protection of the cultural heritage, particularly in countries that have witnessed ethnic turmoil or destructive wars, considering that this heritage is a property of all the mankind.

Following the first forum, we started working actively and perseveringly to prepare for the «Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace» in the Republic of Malta at the request of His Excellency President George Vella. However, we were unable to hold the forum as scheduled in November 2020 due to the health restrictions that many countries have put to prevent and control the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic, including; travel bans, in-countries restrictions and many other health procedures. Then we managed to organize the forum in March 2022. It was a perfect organisation and a distinguished qualitative gathering under the auspices and with presence of His

Excellency the President of the Republic Dr. George Vella, who spared no effort in making the forum's activities a success, affirming his belief in our goal and the State of Malta's commitment to defending just peace.

In this forum, we invited Heads of State, Speakers of Parliaments, Parliamentarians, Ministers, General Directors of International Organizations, Representatives of Educational Institutions, Ambassadors, media and Journalists from nearly 27 countries. The significant increase in the number of world leaders participating should be noted, as during the first forum, we were honored with the presence of His Excellency President of Malta, His Excellency President of the Central African Republic and many former presidents as mentioned in detail within the book of the first forum. In the second forum, a number of presidents were present among us, including; His Excellency Dr. George Vella President of Malta, His Excellency Ilir Meta President of Albania, Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani Sadriu President of Kosovo, His Excellency Stjepan Mesić Former President of Croatia, His Excellency Armen Sarkissian Former President of Armenia, who participated via a videotaped speech. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented others from being among us at the forum, including; His Excellency president of Portugal, His Excellency president of Montenegro and His Excellency Vice-President of Kenya. In addition, His Excellency Abdullah Shahid President of the United Nations' General Assembly also participated via a videotaped message, while His Excellency Antonio Guterres the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the attendees at the forum through a special written letter that was read during the opening session.

The Parliamentary presence was of much significance, as the forum was attended by His Excellency Anglu Farrugia Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, His Excellency Marzouq Al-Ghanim Speaker of the National

Assembly of Kuwait, His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives, His Excellency Hanno Pevkur First Vice-President of the Estonian Parliament, His Excellency Abdesselam Lebbar Head of the Block of «Isteqlal» Independence at the House of Councilors of Morocco, and His Excellency Struan Stevenson Former Member of the European Parliament.

All participants highlighted the significance of what we do and how we contribute to our activities, which range from spreading the Culture of Just Peace to drying up the sources of injustice everywhere.

After this forum was over, I felt absolutely certain that, despite the challenges and obstacles, we will succeed in our efforts and that achieving just peace is a collective goal that will be reached with patience, persistence, strong faith, and sincerity.

Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain

President of Abdulaziz Saud
Albabtain Cultural Foundation



Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain; the founder and promoter of the World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace



HE. George Vella, President of Malta

Program

10:30 - 11:15 OPENING SESSION

- **HE. George Vella**, President of Malta
- **HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait
- **Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain**, Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation
- **HE. Antonio Guterres**, Secretary General of the United Nations (written message)
- **HE. Abdallah Shahid**, President of the United Nations General Assembly.(videotaped message)

11:30 - 13:00 :SESSION 1: THE ROLE OF WORLD LEADERS

Chairperson:

- **HE. George Vella**, President of Malta

Speakers:

- **HE. Ilir Meta**, President of Albania
- **HE. Vjosa Osmani**, President of the Republic of Kosovo
- **HE. Stjepan Mesić**, Former President of Croatia
- **HE. Armen Sarkassian**, Former President of Armenia

10:00 - 11:45 : SESSION 2 : The Role of Intergovernmental Organizations

Chairperson:

- **Dr. Omar Grech**, Director, Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution at the University of Malta.

Speakers:

- **HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al Hajraf**, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
- **HE. Taieb Baccouche**, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union
- **HE. Salim M. AlMalik**, Director General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

- **His Honor. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf**, Former President of the International Court of Justice.
- **HE. Khaled Khalifa**, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- **HE. Mohammed Alshafee**, Representative of the League of Arab States
- **Prof. Alfred J. Vella**, Rector of the University of Malta.

12:00 - 13:30 : SESSION 3

The Role of the Parliamentarians and Civil Society Organizations

Chairperson:

- **HE. Anġlu Farrugia**, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta.

Speakers:

- **HE. Mohamed Nasheed** Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives.
- **HE. Hanno Pevkur**, First Vice-President of the Parliament of Estonia
- **HE. Behgjet Pacolli**, Member of the Parliament of Kosovo (Former President).
- **Mr. Abdesselam Lebbar**, Head of the ‘‘Isteqlal’’ (Independence) Parliamentary Group in the House of Councilors of Morocco.
- **Mr. Struan Stevenson**, Former Member of the European Parliament.
- **Mr. Jesmond Saliba**, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Malta.
- **Mr. Jean -Christophe Bas**, CEO of Connectors for Peace

CLOSING SESSION

- **Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain**, Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation.

Closing speech:

- **HE. George Vella**, President of Malta.



THE SECOND WORLD FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF JUST PEACE

“LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE”

MALTA MEETING 2022
3 - 4 MARCH

OPENING SESSION

- **HE. George Vella**, President of Malta
- **HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait
- **Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain**, Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation
- **HE. Antonio Guterres**, Secretary General of the United Nations (written message)
- **HE. Abdallah Shahid**, President of the United Nations General Assembly.(videotaped message)



The distinguished guests stand in respect of the Kuwaiti and Maltese national anthems.



Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain delivering the opening speech at the Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace

Introduction of the forum, Dr. Touhami Abdouli

Just Peace; these are words that are unlike any other words; in fact, they are greater than the most of words.

There is me, you, and all of us together engaged in that Just Peace; the multi-one with numerous identities all integrated in one, which is the human identity; the very identity that is unified and combined in a possible world.

A human and a poet arrived from the far east of the Arab world with a burning desire to achieve a higher, loftier, and nobler aim. He arrived from Kuwait, the world's Center of Humanitarian Work, a country small in size but outstanding in achievement. He arrived to an island that is likewise small in size, the country of Malta, but it is a hub of civilizations in the heart of the Mediterranean as well as a melting pot of identities; when we visit it, we find ourselves wherever we turn our faces in it, despite our difference.

Your destiny, you two small countries, is to be greater than the greatest by making the history of the Just Peace, not the peace we can only envision or think about, but the one we should achieve.

Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, imbued with hope, love, and justice in every breath, joined a man who extended his hand to him, President George Vella, a man who embodies Mediterranean wisdom and long-term vision in his political experience; George Villa, the man who raises his head in the Mediterranean sky and sees nothing but the justice of heaven; the justice of our Creator.

Together, they vowed to serve the human being, from whom will emerge a leader of Just Peace and for the sake of Just Peace.

Perhaps you are totally new with George Vella and Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, but if you are aware with the Just Peace, you will recognize them as the two men who vowed to beat the drums of justice since they are the only drums they know; the drums of joy.

In the name of all of us, I say to them, «We appreciate you more than any known appreciation for the rest of our lives.»

May God bless you with a long life, for the great never stand still, and the just peace always lives above the earth rather than beneath it.

Honorable brothers, as mentors of just peace, they deserve to be recognized by us by rising as a sign of respect.

Is it so long to see the Just Peace tomorrow! Today, in this forum, we do not wish to wait too long for tomorrow's just peace.

With these two words, Just Peace, which are unlike any other words, I announce the opening of the Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace, Malta Meeting 2022.

Thank you.



HE. George Vella

President of Malta



**Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,
Presidents,
Speakers of National Assemblies,
Excellences,
Dear Participants,**

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome you to Malta for the “Second World Forum for the Culture of Peace”.

Today we come together to discuss various aspects of leadership for Just Peace.

I want to express my gratitude to Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation for choosing Malta to hold the “Second World Forum for the Culture of Peace”, and it is a most important opportune moment to discuss an agenda of peace.

What the world is witnessing at the moment is an atrocious attack on all notions of democracy, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity; the world is witnessing a complete disregard of agreements and international institutions.

I am sure that this conference joins me in hoping for a quick ceasefire, a return to the negotiating table and finding diplomatic solutions.

The humanitarian tragedy unfolding in front of our eyes is unacceptable.

Indeed it is a sad moment for Europe and for the international community as a whole.

Let me at the outset state and repeat that what we are witnessing on the European continent is a threat to global stability and a direct affront to humanity.

With heavy hearts, one observes that this is not an isolated case; from around the world, human beings continue to face persecution, threats, military violence and the constant dissolution of harmonious existence.

These events have unfortunately brought us face to face with the very dire consequences of war; something that Europe had thought was something that we had relegated to the past.

The classical Roman poet Virgil was right to state in the Aeneid, "War, horrid war".

These harrowing events, bringing poverty and death to millions of innocent people and other destructive state-sanctioned foreign and domestic policies. There is no space for aggression and defiance of international law and human rights treaties at this day and age.

In a post-pandemic recovery period, we should not be talking about war, but about the dialogue, about social justice and peace, and this exactly why most of you have travelled long distances to join us here in these exchanges. In this audience here, we have many countries represented from around the world and many people from different walks of life. Over the next two days, we will exchange and debate on how we can all be promoters of just peace, irrelevant of nationality or status.

If we analyze the history of civilizations, we come to a stark reality that most often, peace has been unjust, and what was projected as justice was more hostile and aggressive than peaceful, where the victors imposed their idea of peace without consultation with the affected peoples and describe the resultant situation as peace. Very often, this resulted in an imposed temporary end to violence and the creation of a feeling of dissatisfaction in most or in all parties.

Emmanuel Kant, in his book “Perpetual Peace”, had already stated that “...peace agreements should avoid clauses that carry the seeds for the outbreak of further war...” Kant, very famously, stated as well that “...there is a moral obligation to peace...”

Some immediate questions come to mind; what do we intend by peace? How does one make it just? and above all, how does one make it last?

Professor John Galtung, who is a leader in contemporary theories of peace, suggested that “...defining peace is a never ending task...” There is a lot of truth in this phrase; the definition of peace has been evolving since time in memorial, we have moved from the concept that “peace is just the absence of war or violence or is a political situation that is the opposite of war”. By just peace, contemporary scholars understand that it is “a social state of well-being, in which all relationships are in harmony”. Just Peace addresses both structural violence and direct violence as it embraces restorative justice, trauma healing, conflict transformation and peace building strategies that put the human being at the centre, it also puts an equal balance between peace and justice. This nexus between peace and justice is at the core of the functioning of the United Nations. In fact, the United Nations Declaration on the “Right to Peace” states that peace is not only the absence of conflict, but also requires a positive, dynamic and participatory process, where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and social economic development that is ensured.

Furthermore, the United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a culture of peace, adopted on September 1999, describes a culture of peace as a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behavior and ways of life. These are to be based on respect for life, ending of violence and the promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation.

Excellences, Dear Participants, whose definitions and theories help us understand the process, we need to uptake and also the new tools

that we have to develop to aim for peace, we also have to have realistic overview of the situations on the ground.

It has been said that the link between justice and peace is often overshadowed by more immediate concerns, like; security and stability. Very often, the semantics change to accommodate our interest, our own interest, and the spirit of common good dies out. It is on this point that we have to work together as leaders, parliamentarian, academics and civil society.

We cannot have just peace if we still live in a world of inequalities, big or small. There cannot be peace when people are hostile to each other just because they are different or treated differently. There cannot be peace where there are social injustices, where there are chronic industrial disputes. There cannot be peace where there is racism, where there is xenophobia and ostracism. Pacifism is also very dangerous; we cannot turn a blind eye on those who are living in poverty or in other vulnerable situations, we cannot ignore the plight of those affected by disabilities, by chronic unemployment, by addiction, by criminality; these are some of the areas that we need to tackle in this regard.

The role of women and girls, in all aspects of life, needs to be reinforced and sustained through active and meaningful participation in societal life. Women make up half of the population of the world and their contribution is indispensable to ensure a just and peaceful existence. We have woken up to this reality rather late, but that does not justify not changing our old habits. On the contrary, this should spare us on to make up for all the time that has been lost in not putting to best use the latent capabilities in women and girls.

We also need to listen more to the voice of young people; they are not the future, they are a living present and our actions will influence theirs in the coming years.

We need to understand that the involvement of many talented young people will help in the development and transformation of better systems that possibly will make our world a more just one.

Another important consideration is creating an environment of peace and dialogue and the respect of different beliefs. Too often, beliefs are used as excuse to start conflicts. More tolerance and more acceptance will build trust and reduce fears of imposition from one group over another. Hence, fostering a sense of understanding and reducing to the minimum the need to resort to violent practices.

The change in climate, including food and energy security, is another area that deserves our attention; the well-being of many people depends on them. Drastic changes in the natural environment forces displacements and the search for a better life and opportunities. Drought, crop failure, desertification; these are some of the environmental conditions that could disrupt whole societies and end any existing peace.

Another concern, which I am sure many of us would share, is the easy access to small arms and light weapons. It is with such weapons that most conflicts, big or small, are fought. Better controls on the distribution of small arms and light weapons would reduce, in no small way, violent and aggressive activities, which lead to conflicts, to the displacement of whole populations and, subsequently, to humanitarian emergencies at times even that due to hunger, if humanitarian aid and medicines fail or are prevented from arriving.

Excellences,

Dear Participants,

We can all make a difference in promoting a culture of just peace. The global pandemic has taught us all how international cooperation and multilateral solidarity are essential in ensuring that no one is left behind.

United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals set 17 criteria to have a more just and equitable world; it is up to us to determine their fulfillment, and may I point out that 2030 is only 8 years from now. We have the responsibility to continue working on a local level to achieve these aims. I also felt this urgency to contribute here in Malta to foster our national unity. To this effect, in the coming weeks,

the Foundation will be set up to see that dialogue and understanding continue across all future presidencies.

On a multilateral level, Malta is aiming to be elected to United Nations Security Council later on this year. As a small neutral country placed strategically in the middle of the Mediterranean, Malta has always acted as a bridge between nations of the northern and southern shores. Our aim is to continue being propagators of peace, even more so within the structures of the United Nations.

Excellences,

Dear Participants,

I look forward to hearing the debates and the views on how leadership can promote a culture of just peace in the next two days, and I do hope that you have a good stay here in Malta. I want to share with you an observation from Graham Simpson, who is a lead author on youth, peace and security and was tasked by the Secretary General of the United Nations to carry out a progress report as mandated by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security; he said that "Justice and peace are a part of a continuum", meaning that we need to work on their balance every day to ensure that just peace is transformed into a sustainable and lasting peace.

I conclude by expressing my full support to the thoughts expressed by his Excellency Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain in his book "Contemplations for Peace" for all mankind to embrace peace as a value, a goal and a way of life.

Thank you for your attention.

HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim

Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait



In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful

Praises be to Allah; Lord of all creation, and blessings be upon his most honorable messenger; our prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, upon his family and upon his companions.

Your Excellency George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta,

Our dear uncle Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation,

Your Excellency Anglo Farrugia, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta,

Excellences,

Honorable Participants,

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you

At the outset, I feel it necessary to convey my heartfelt appreciation to our dear uncle Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain for his generous invitation and sincere letter. I would want to express my gratitude for the cultural events you are conducting and the world knowledge forums you are hosting, which are of a great importance, and please be sure that we much appreciate all you are doing in this regard. Bringing together such political and cultural figures from throughout the world, and connecting these intellectual elites to critical concerns that cut over continents, religions, and races, is no simple task. I understand that it takes a lot

of dedication, work, and energy, much like the ones you have and are so envious of, so please accept our heartfelt gratitude. I hope to God to bless you in everything you do, to guide your feet as you go, and for Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation to continue to be a beacon, light, and role model.

The thanks and appreciation also goes to the Republic of Malta; His Excellency the President and the Maltese People. Your Excellency, your patronage and hosting of this significant forum demonstrates your and Malta's aspiration to embrace all that bridges cultural divides between peoples in the world and consolidates the culture of peace and harmony.

Why not, and Malta, which lies in the heart of the Mediterranean, has been the scene of ancient nations and civilizations that passed through the region, including the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, and dozens of other civilizations and cultures, since ancient times, despite its small size. It was certainly a witness to and an embodiment of human cultural diversity, so thank you, Your Excellency the President, for your warm welcome and hospitality, as well as the friendly people of Malta.

Dear Participants,

As I read the term "the Culture of Just Peace," which has been given a name to the Forum since its first edition in The Hague in 2019, a question came to mind: Does peace require a culture? Is there, as a result, a culture of war and conflict as the precise opposite of peace? Yes, in my opinion, because racism, sectarianism, discrimination, narrow partisanship, the desire for expansion, and colonial tendencies are all cultural themes and they are all raw materials nourished by a systematic cultural system, with the end result always being wars, conflicts, and mutual phobia. Therefore, the notion of peace is primarily a cultural concept before it becomes a political term; in other words, the human tendency towards peace and reconciliation cannot be a tactical aim, nor must it be the result of your incapacity to go to war or gain time. Peace, on the other hand, must be a strategic goal, an ultimate goal, a way of life, or in some other words, a culture. In order to achieve this, we must always foster the culture of human unity based on respect for diversity,

the culture of integration and collaboration, rather than exploitation, penetration, and racial or religious superiority.

Dear Participants,

Because I am speaking at this forum as a parliamentarian, with a group of distinguished parliamentarians from all around the world, I will stress the importance of parliaments and parliamentarians in spreading and consolidating the culture of peace, and since the Parliament is the voice of the people, people are naturally inclined towards peace; they are worried about food, decent housing, security, education, and access to basic public services, among other natural human needs.

As for those with power and influence, who are obsessed with expansion, profit, and control, they are the actual beneficiaries of these wars, while the normal people, on the other hand, are the fuel for such wars and conflicts; once in the name of religion, once in the name of motherland, once in the name of race, and so on. Therefore, the true duty of parliaments should be one of enlightenment, or so should it be. However, this role turns to be very dangerous when these parliaments become platforms for the perpetuation of populism and demagoguery, fuelling emotions and primitive instincts, as well as all kinds of political savagery.

I say this because, by nature, peace is a matter of investing in the future rather than the present, because it is an eternal way of life rather than an emergency situation, and because - as I stated at the first edition of the Forum in The Hague three years ago - building peace requires many rational people, whereas war, on the other hand, sometimes requires only one foolish person to initiate it. The necessity of rational parliamentary practice is highlighted here; a practice that fosters civic peace and community security even at the expense of personal losses.

On a personal level, and after a 16-year parliamentary career, I am sorry to say that, with the exception of a few, many parliamentarians around the world are working for the next elections rather than the next generations, even if the path to the next elections requires a psychopathic and tense discourse; a discourse that divides people rather than bringing

them together, a discourse that is emotional and thrilling rather than becoming rational and quiet.

Peace, my brothers, requires patience, wisdom, maturity, sanity, forethought, and the ability to evaluate other people's point of view from many perspectives. Peace requires a discourse of understanding rather than skepticism, a language of promise rather than threat, a discourse of the future with all of the foresight, responsibility, and honesty that it necessitates. This is the real challenge for every parliamentarian in the world: adopting wisdom instead of tickling emotions, frankness instead of procrastination, and working for the future instead of draining the present with all its precariousness, and I can see now in front of me a lot of distinguished people who understand exactly what I mean by my words.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, investing in the culture of peace is not a luxury, idle talk, or a sort of entertainment, but rather the only strategic choice we have, because all its alternatives are troubling, destructive, and catastrophic, if not now, then certainly later; history tells us that all wars are lost at the end, and that all conflicts have devastating effects, both immediate and long-term, and that peace is the basic and only condition for achieving development and progress.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to Abdulaziz Albabtain Cultural Foundation for having provided this opportunity, which brought together many prominent names on both a political and intellectual level, as well as to the esteemed uncle Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, who is making an important enlightening effort and making a difference in dealing with urgent human issues at a time when the world is overwhelmed with costly conflicts on the humanitarian level, the majority of which could have been avoided if reason and wisdom were given a room.

I would also like to convey my sincere gratitude to Malta; His Excellency the President, the Maltese Leadership and people.

Thank you very much,

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain

*Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud
Albabtain Cultural Foundation*



**In the Name of Allah most
Gracious, most Merciful**

**Your Excellency President
of the Republic of Malta, Dr.
George Vella,**

**Your Excellency President of the
Republic of Albania, Ilir Meta,**

Your Excellency President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani

Your Excellency Speaker of the Parliament of Malta, Anglu Farrugia,

**Your Excellency Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait,
Marzouq Al-Ghanim,**

**Your Excellency Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives,
Mohamed Nasheed,**

Excellences the Presidents,

Excellences the Vice-Presidents of Parliaments and Parliamentarians,

**Excellences the Secretary Generals and Director Generals of
International Organizations, Representatives of Educational
Institutions and Civil Society Organizations,**

Excellences the Ministers, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all,

Within the framework of the cooperation between Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation and the Presidency of the Republic of Malta, I am pleased to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Dr. George Vella for hosting the "Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace", which is held under his auspices and with his presence. This confirms his belief in our orientations and his commitment to defending the just peace.

I also would like to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for sending a written message of support to the honorable attendees in this Forum, which will be read after a while, as well as to His Excellency Abdullah Shahid, President of the United Nations General Assembly, who agreed to come but was unable to do so, so he sent us a videotaped speech, which will be shown later.

It is also my pleasure to welcome you all and thank you for your attendance and participation, which will undoubtedly be of qualitative value. I also apologize to the presidents who agreed to attend and committed to do so, but the COVID-19 and the health regulations followed in travelling prevented them from doing so, and they are Excellency Milo Đukanović, President of the Republic of Montenegro, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan and His Excellency the President of Portugal, Marcelo Repalo de Sousa, who apologized at the last moment for compelling reasons. As well as His Excellency William Ruto the Vice President of Kenya and His Majesty Rukirabasajja Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, King Oyo, the reigning Omukama of Toro, Uganda. They are not among us here today, but they are present in our hearts, so they have our full appreciation.

Our efforts are continuing to implement our initiative, in which we believe, on “The Culture of Just Peace for the Security of Future Generations”, which we have introduced at two consecutive meetings to the United Nations General Assembly on September 7, 2017 and on September 5, 2018, with the aim to teaching the principles of the Culture of Just Peace among students, starting from nursery to the university level, and which have been approved and adopted by the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

The first Forum in the International Court of Justice in The Hague in the Netherlands was a first step on teaching the Culture of Peace and the protection of the Cultural Heritage. During that, we focused on Iraq and Yemen in regard of protecting the cultural heritage in these two countries, as well as on the Central African Republic to bring peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our meeting today in Malta, in the capital, Valletta, within the framework of the “Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace” entitled “Leadership for a Just Peace”, acquires two special symbolism. The first one is the symbolism of the place; the island of Malta, which is a symbol of coexistence between peoples. It is a beautiful mix of cultures and civilizations; Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Norman, Spanish, French and English, all in one place where all religions coexist. It also has a unique unifying identity and a distinct national unity, so it is an example to be followed.

As for the second symbolism, it is the unanimity of one common goal and a noble aim, which is “Just Peace.” This good gathering of brothers and friends, from about 30 countries and 5 continents, with the

participation of leading institutions in the world in the three sessions, represented by the Head of States, Governments, Parliaments, and international and civil institutions. It is a high-level engagement that demonstrates that there is an unparalleled unanimity on what we do and what we want to achieve, which is among what I have made in my book "Contemplations for Just Peace", a fifth tool, which I call Interactive Engagement. With such unanimity and interaction, we will continue our course of action with great confidence and steadfastness. We must be very aware; we all believe in the values of just peace, but the belief itself is insufficient unless it is accompanied by action, so we must together move forward a great achievement for the protection of human being's humanity and values, first by spreading the culture of just peace, then drying up the sources of injustice, and finally by achieving harmony.

At this point, I suggest that you to form a delegation of world-renowned figures among you to mediate in what is happening now of killing and destruction of cultures and the cultural heritage that we inherited from our ancestors and which is being destroyed today before our eyes. Therefore, I believe we should form a delegation that will go and mediate between these two warring countries in an effort to calm things down and end this war, which only leads to havoc, destruction and that terrible impact on humanity.

Honorable Political Leaders, Representatives of institutions, high-level experts in intergovernmental bodies, Civil Society Organizations and intellectuals, you are gathered today and tomorrow to have a sincere debate on how to push the international community into a course of cooperation to prepare the project of "Leadership for Peace and the

establishment of a global platform for that”. This requires that you, as Leaders of Just Peace, motivate all concerned parties at the political, social and educational levels to work institutionally and collectively for the sake of the security and future of the world.

It is our common journey for a Just Peace and for the establishment of its culture, awareness of its necessity and victory for it. We must not stop, we must always remind others and try again and again because in the end we will succeed, God willing.

May God grant us all success, thank you, Your Excellency President George Vella, and thank you honorable leaders, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you to the sisters and brothers present and many thanks to the dear people of Malta.

May Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all.

HE. Antonio Guterres

Secretary General of the United Nations (written message)



I am pleased to send my greetings to the 2nd Edition of the World Forum for Culture of Peace.

Thank you for coming together to explore institutional mechanisms, educational programmes, tools and action plans to foster “Leadership for Just Peace”.

Our world is in turmoil. Conflicts are spinning out of control. Geopolitical divides are deepening, hindering efforts to find peace.

Mistrust and division are driving people apart.

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc everywhere and inequality and poverty are on the rise.

The climate crisis is worsening, exacerbating vulnerabilities and escalating humanitarian needs.

Our response to all these challenges must be rooted in solidarity and centred on effective multilateral cooperation.

The concept of a culture of peace provides an intellectual frame and political impulse for action.

It embodies the yearning to make peace a way of life. Peace must be our goal and our guide.

Dignity, hope, progress and prosperity all depend on peace, but peace depends on us.

It is at the heart of the United Nations Charter and all that we do. Let us commit to a culture of peace today and every day.

I wish you a successful Forum.

HE. Abdallah Shahid

President of the United Nations General Assembly. (video-taped message)

**Your Excellency Dr. George Vella,
President of the Republic of Malta,**

**Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,
President of Abdulaziz Saud
Albabtain Cultural Foundation,**

Colleagues and friends,



We started the new year confronting many challenges, old and new; heightened international tension, socio-economic and political instability, compromised global supply chains, climate change, refugee and humanitarian crises and a continuing COVID-19 Pandemic loomed over our existence. Together, these challenges threaten the multilateral order that has underpinned our world and preserved its stability since the Second World War; they foster resentment and mistrust, threatening to undo the painstaking work we have done over the decades to shape a global regime of cooperation and peace.

Now, more than ever, we need to recommit to a culture of peace and strengthen the multilateral architecture necessary for that peace to thrive.

To succeed, we must be inclusive, shape a multilateral system that benefits us all; a system that addresses the challenges faced by marginalized communities is underpinned by strong institutions, and invest in youth that will one day be its stewards.

Excellences,

As the pandemic has demonstrated, it is often marginalized and overlooked communities that bear the brunt of human costs of global crises. The pandemic has also compounded the many indignities they were already enduring; poverty, exclusion, discrimination, inequality and human rights violations. These indignities fuel resentment and potential strife, that is why the United Nations must work alongside all stakeholders, including; local actors and civil society, to identify and address the challenges faced by the global south, in particular; LDCs (Least Developed Countries), LLDCs (Landlocked Developing Countries) and the SIDS (Small Island Developing States).

We must mobilize to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on time, and in an inclusive and holistic manner, that is how we will ensure that global recovery benefits everyone and alleviates the socio-economic conditions that gives a rise to collective anxiety and conflict.

Under no circumstances should the post-pandemic future see a portion of the world better off and another portion worse off than they were before all of this started, this will never lead to a positive outcome.

Excellences,

To cultivate and maintain a culture of peace, we need individuals, communities and governments to proactively pursue it through a strategic process that builds the right circumstances for it to thrive.

Building a culture of peace is an active process; it involves bottom-up approaches aimed at preventing, reducing, transforming and assisting people to recover from all forms of violence.

At this critical point in history, it is vital that we strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms, and to that end, I fully concur with the Secretary General's call for greater global investment in peace building. The global community now recognizes the invaluable role of peace building in helping countries to uphold peace of their own accord through strengthening their institutions and governance.

In line with the twin-resolutions of the 2020 Peace Building Architecture, I look forward to convening a high-level meeting of the General Assembly to advance, explore and consider options for adequate, predictable and sustained peace-building financing. I also concur with the Secretary-General's view that we must facilitate greater youth engagement and invest in the young leaders who will one day take our place.

Through supporting education, that instills the values of international cooperation in our youth, and by providing them avenues to shape global affairs, we will secure the continued future of global multilateralism.

It was in this spirit that I launched a Youth Fellowship Programme for Young Diplomats from Underrepresented Countries; through that fellowship, these diplomats will work in my office and gain valuable insight into the functioning of the United Nations.

They will take back the lessons they learn here and, hopefully, be better equipped to support their nations to engage with multilateral systems. Alongside their peers, I hope that they will become important and influential advocates within that system, champions of multilateralism that will use their insight, experience and network to build partnerships and resolve common issues.

Excellences,

Throughout my tenure as the President of the General Assembly and beyond, I will continue to be guided by the knowledge that global peace and multilateralism are deeply linked. I draw upon the conviction as I call on the international community to cherish cooperation and strengthen bonds of friendship.

Together, let us march forward, meet the challenges of our times and secure a just and lasting peace.

I thank you.



THE SECOND WORLD FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF JUST PEACE

“LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE”

MALTA MEETING 2022

3 - 4 MARCH

SESSION I The Role of World Leaders

Chairperson

- **HE. George Vella**, *President of Malta*

Speakers

- **HE. Ilir Meta**, *President of Albania*
- **HE. Vjosa Osmani**, *President of the Republic of Kosovo*
- **HE. Stjepan Mesić**, *Former President of Croatia*
- **HE. Armen Sarkassian**, *Former President of Armenia*



A photo from the first day showing a number of distinguished guests of the Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace

HE. Ilir Meta

President of Albania

Thank you very much, President George Vella for this great event that you are hosting together with the honorable Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain. It is a great pleasure to be here with Her Excellency President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, President Stjepan Mesić, and also in front of this audience of honorable personalities from different countries, institutions, academics and also civil society, because what we are going to discuss today is very important for humanity.



While we speak now, rockets and missiles are thrown to Ukrainian cities, hospitals, schools and homes, and many civilians have lost their lives and many are injured.

This is a dark period, not only for Ukraine, but also for the entire world, and it demonstrates that all the world leaders and all the leading actors in policy making at home and international arena must be alert and never take peace for granted. We all live under the same sky, but we see different horizons; we are seeing one of the founders of the European Union, and true leadership involves vision and determination to see ahead to a brighter future serving to the people, to the country and protecting peace.

True leadership is being able to foresee any potential danger and act ahead, working tirelessly and always inspiring the people to the path of tolerance, inclusion and harmony among citizens and different nations.

True leadership is true examples, not just words and opinions, and the true leaders work for and protect peace at all times, and they can prevent conflicts only by building also more democracy for their nations. Only democracy can prevent war and build trust between nations. If governments provide democracy and prosperity at home for their citizens, then will be mutual respect among nations and among their citizens, regardless of their origin, religion, ethnicity, strength and size.

There are many conflicts in the world today provoked by irresponsible leaders and from exclusion and violence; non-democratic leaders oppress their people, divide the nations and give rise to expansionist ambitions, causing conflicts and threatening peace.

The world today is experiencing the rise of populist, nationalist and extremist currents, which nostalgically support expansionism, the revival of nation-state concepts, ethnic divisions and even the changing of territorial borders unfortunately.

The recent events in Ukraine must be lessened and be an alarm bell for all the world leaders and democratic alliances; a wake-up call for the attempts of territorial experiments in other regions. Therefore, further efforts must be made and stronger mechanisms must be built to ensure peace in other regions of the continent and of the world also.

Preservation of peace in the Western Balkans also is essential for the peace of Europe and the world, as we have seen also in the past.

Albania is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2022 and 2023 term, and we are doing everything to promote peace and also to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine and in other areas, where we still have unresolved conflicts. In fact, I am glad for the great support of the UN Resolution yesterday when 141 countries condemned this Russian invasion to Ukraine.

We are committed in strengthening even further the good neighboring relations and policies in our region, in order to consolidate peace in the Balkans and to make it a good example how peace can prevail and can guarantee sustainable development and prosperity for all our citizens.

Preservation of peace in the Mediterranean region is also crucial for the present and the future of many countries, but also of different continents, because the Mediterranean region is the cradle of civilizations, and this beautiful and fascinating region has served for thousands of years as a cultural, historical and commercial bridge between the Mediterranean countries and different continents.

Malta is a great witness and example of that; a fascinating mosaic on different cultures and peoples, so rich in the past and present history, values and traditions that make the Mediterranean civilization so unique and impactful in the world heritage, in international affairs and a great potential and contributor to the world peace in the future.

This region is blessed with great civilization and cultural diversity, different histories, religions, nations, natural resources, tourism and a wonderful and hospitable people. It is a real world treasure that should be treated as a common heritage that should unite the peoples rather than divide them. The Mediterranean region has a challenge, not only preserving and strengthening peace, but also protecting the environmental cultural heritage, resolving any current conflicts, taking measures against the different climate effects and focusing on the education of the youth and their prosperous future, which should be always based on peace.

The best of our national values, love for the country and people, tolerance for one another, faith in God and respect for human integrity must connect the countries and the citizens and serve as a core of the peace and unity. «Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be obtained through understanding.» Said Ralph Emerson.

Therefore, there must be no place for violence, including religious extremism. Interreligious harmony and coexistence have been achieved many times in the past and can become a reality for every nation. Albania is such an example to the world and for centuries remains a model of peace and harmony between religious communities. All faiths in Albania unite the people even more under the love of the country, and this makes us proud.

Here, I have to thank you also for the great contribution of the Archbishop George Frendo from Malta in Albania, who was leading our catholic church and who was serving our country and our nation as a real Albanian, and was also contributing to further consolidate our great interreligious harmony in the country. We should not forget that Albania, and for 50 years under communist regime, was a country where believing in God was prohibited by the constitution; something that did not happen even in former communist countries in Europe.

Governments must invest more in education and youth, which are the fundamentals of tolerance in society, the prospect of the future and the very foundation of the architecture of peace. Educating children at school with a culture of peace and tolerance, raising them to avoid the language of hate without discriminations of race, religion and ethnicity, and they should be committed in promoting tolerance and harmony, intercultural cooperation, educating the new generations with the values, historical and cultural reaches of the other people and the other nations.

True leaders must combat poverty, inequality and exclusion because they bring about social conflicts that can ignite radicalism and pose threats to domestic and regional harmony and stability.

Honorable guests,

Peace always remains fragile and threatened, so we must work for it every second and every minute. It is not a gift, but it must be worn and protected at all times, and if we are negligent and not vigilant in peace, one day we will awake at war. The mission of every leader and the aspiration of every nation must revolve around peace and prosperity, and to do that, it should be our way of thinking and of our kids and youngsters; it should be our way of acting and it should be our way of living.

Thank you and excuse me if it was a little bit long.

HE. Vjosa Osmani

President of the Republic of Kosovo



Dear Mr. President George Vella,

President Ilir Meta,

President Stjepan Mesić,

Speakers of Parliaments,

All of you that are present here today,

Dear respected organizers, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,

Dear Participants of the Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great to be here today in the beautiful Valletta, and I thank you all for choosing peace as a uniting force, because peace indeed is what brings people together.

I am honored to have the opportunity to speak to you here today and to represent a peace-loving nation; the people of the republic of Kosovo at this Forum.

Peace, respected participants, is something that my people hold dearly because we know the direct opposite of it. We understand that absolute devastation that comes when there is absence of peace, we understand and cherish freedoms and democracy, but above all, the people of Kosovo respect human values and human rights.

Every single person on this planet, not only deserves, but has the absolute right to peace, and I believe there is much more, as world leaders but also as individuals, that we can do to contribute to it through listening to one another and through dialogue and mediation.

To quote the Former First Lady, diplomat and activist Eleanor Roosevelt, *"It isn't enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it, and it isn't enough to believe in it, one must work on it"*. We must work on it because peace and security are an essential factor of human life; a peaceful and secure environment is critical to every society since it affects all aspects of economic and social development in a country.

With that in mind, it would be remiss of me to stand here today talking about peace when it is being violated in such a flagrant manner as we speak. The European continent is in a state of emergency. As we gather here today to discuss «Leadership for Just Peace», the people of Ukraine are facing aggression, terror and serious violations of their human rights once more after almost 80 years since the end of World War II and 23 years after the end of war in Kosovo, Europe is being shaken by what we promised to never happen again.

Dear friends, what is happening right now in Ukraine and in many parts around the world will not merely stop from happening, nor will what happened in the past ever stop from repeating itself as long as the language and a practice of appeasement towards dictators is invoked. In situations like these, remaining silent or choosing to stay silent makes one an accomplice because in the face of injustice, in the face of war crimes and crimes against humanity, we have to raise our collective voice, for humanity and for justice and peace.

As Ukraine faces an unprovoked war and as the rest of the world witnesses it as it unfolds in front of our eyes, we cannot stop but wonder; what is indeed the role of world leaders? While to many this might sound like a grand rhetoric, the answer to it might actually determine the fate of our societies and the fate of the history of our days.

During these dark hours for our continent, we must be reminded of an essential truth; if peace in Ukraine does not prevail, global peace risks failure as well, and if world leaders fail to unite and stand up to aggression and hegemonic appetites of modern day autocrats, it is democracy that might fail next.

It is great to see that in these moments the democratic world is more united than ever; clear language, the language of truth, compassion, support for each other, as well as actions that are aligned with that language, are the best tools we have to defy the forces standing on the other side.

The only way we can preserve peace is through understanding and communication, while it might seem challenging or even impossible at times, it is our best chance to thrive.

Your Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the immense progress that we have made as a country, and indeed as a continent, today we are all reminded that threats to peace and security are constant and active, and while I am delighted to look back at Kosovo's progress with pride and remain overwhelmingly optimistic for our future as a sovereign and independent nation, I have to mention that flagrant assaults on sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine by Russia has rightly shocked the world, as it has indeed shocked our part of the world; it has shocked us because it shows that the battle between democracy and hegemony that is playing out is in fact about so much more than just one country and an aggressive neighbor, it is ultimately and utterly about clash between values, an active attack on the values standing firm at the foundations of our continent and the Union. However, what these darkest moments also teach us is the need to stand together and the value of humanity, peace and of democratic freedoms. When our way of peaceful life is being threatened in such a deliberate matter, we must work together for a brighter and more peaceful future.

At these difficult times for humanity, let's all pledge to be the voice of innocent people that are facing aggression, who are being attacked by

aggressors that no limit to their hegemony. Let's unite our voices so that collectively we can be heard when we say that peace and democracy shall once again prevail. They have prevailed in Kosovo back in 1999 and they will prevail in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world now in 2022, and while we jointly fight the Russian propaganda, let us not forget that coordination and communication, without a doubt, is the core pillar to that brighter more prosperous and peaceful future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to take a moment to say that this is our chance to demonstrate to our children and to future generations that a world where culture unites people and it crosses over divisions, a world where countries' rights no matter how big or small they are, are protected in a world where peace, just peace, thrives is indeed a possible world.

With the ever-increasing disinformation trends, fake news and the phenomenon of trolls, we are constantly being exposed to different realities, fake realities that are customized to trigger emotional, impulsive and at times non-rational reactions. It is the immense power of disinformation and the fake news that is threatening democracies and shattering factual-based realities, but for this as well, there a cure and there is a sustainable solution. The answer to this is simple; we need to use our collective voices, we need to use social media precisely with the purpose of unmasking this negative reality, we need to work hard to make sure social media works to our benefit, to the benefit of truth instead of the opposite, we need to put social media at the service of peace, and in the face of these developments, world leaders cannot stand still, they must not stand still; it is our moral and constitutional obligation to make sure that the suffering and the loses of our citizens are put to an end, and equally so to fight injustice and inequality a claw across all areas of life.

It is all our ultimate responsibility to speak out the words of truth and to call things what they truly are, and as we strive to do that, let's make sure that we pass a clear message to our people, our countries and the world, let's make sure to commit and always choose peace first.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's world events are precisely why we need to cherish peace and work towards it, because the opposite is death and destruction. The people of Kosovo have known the opposite of peace for way too long, and now they know very well the pains and sufferings that the opposite of peace and democracy cause, which is why I am so proud to represent such a peace-loving nation that has worked for peace for its entire history. For that reason, our commitment and active engagement for peace, security and stability in our region, the Western Balkans but also beyond, is more than just a job. It is a sacred duty that we owe to future generations so that they never have to go through what we had to go through.

Peace is harmony, and harmony is solidarity, it is freedom that is they are so connected to one another. Peace is unity and a joint commitment to make the slogan never again a reality and not just words, but long-term peace is only possible when there is justice, and long-term peace is always possible when women are also included at the table of peace and dialogue.

Let us work together to make it possible, let us join forces and voices to show true leadership during these devastating times, so that a brighter, better and more peaceful future awaits us all, and as we stand here today and once we go back to our respective country, let's make sure that we always keep a listening heart, an open mind and commit to preserving and nurturing constantly the will to engage for the greater good.

Thank you all.

HE. Stjepan Mesić

Former President of Croatia

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished participants and guests,**



We are talking about a topic that is extremely important, especially in today's world. But talking about it is not only a matter of the moment, of the now, the needs of the moment, but also as a debt to the responsibility that everyone bears, be it the current leader, be it the former. Namely, everyone who has ever, thanks to the trust of the citizens, held a high office not only can, but must speak of peace, just peace, but must, and it would be better to say: he should appeal to those who, based on their positions in the international arena, are predestined to decide.

As part of the Second World Forum on the Culture of Just Peace, today's session is dedicated to the role of leaders in achieving such peace. I would not be so presumptuous, so that from the position of someone who was the president of the state, I give ready-made recipes to those who are today.

No recipes, no tips.

My approach to the topic will be somewhat different. I have decided to share with you my thoughts on what it means to be a leader and what that leader must be like in order to achieve what is expected of

him. In other words: to be able to contribute to building, establishing and maintaining a just peace. And just peace in itself is the peace achieved by the agreement of the interested parties, the agreement in which everyone participated equally and the agreement that does not jeopardize the legitimate interests and security of either party.

Leader! The word itself signifies someone who leads. And already here we have come to a serious clash between the fundamental meaning of words and the characteristics of most of those who in the modern world are adorned with this term. I don't mean anyone in particular, but I will allow myself to say that most of today's world and national leaders are not really leaders! Consequently, we cannot expect from them what we could and should expect from true leaders.

Today's so-called leaders, whether they are state or national, do not lead. If it sometimes seems like they are leading, then it is usually in the wrong direction. They are just more or less skillful charge d'affaires, people who have mastered the technique and skill of performing daily tasks and who, not insignificantly, have learned how to subordinate all their activities to one, single goal: staying in power or gaining it again. None of them think in a time span longer than four, five, or a maximum of seven years. In this rhythm, namely, parliamentary and presidential elections are held.

A leader, however, is someone who thinks long term, someone who has vision, strategy and tactics. I always remember a fairly well-known Western European politician who once said that he would send anyone who told him he had a vision for a prompt scheduled medical examination. Of course, it was not a very successful joke, he interpreted the term «vision» as «apparition». But I'm not talking about that. I am talking about the need for the one who is a true leader to think beyond the time limit or frame of the next elections, to think in broader categories, to have in front of his eyes an elaborate plan to achieve the desired

goal, so to know how he will realize his vision, in what timeframes and in what way. And, which is extremely important, to be aware that he cannot and must not realize his vision in such a way as to endanger the interests and needs of others.

At the very beginning, among the instruments of realization of the vision, the leader - if it is a leader who strives for just peace - must exclude war or any use of either force or threat of force. Namely, these are the methods and means by which a just peace is not achieved. It is possible, however, to impose peace, but such is the imposed peace as a rule of limited duration, and at its very core it contains the very seed of its doom.

A just peace can be achieved only by equal agreement of those interested, respecting the needs and interests of all, whereby particular interests and needs must always be subordinated to one common, general interest - peace.

I know that history is full of post-war peace agreements and hardly any of those agreements have been fair, which does not mean that I should give up the vision, and that is the vision and it is not an illusion, of permanent, lasting and just peace. I will say something, at the risk of not being misunderstood. I think that humanity is more ready to achieve a just peace than those who call themselves leaders, whether they are democratically elected or leaders of authoritarian regimes.

The humanity does not want to live in constant war, war psychosis or under the threat of war. People, ordinary people, sincerely want peace, because they know that without peace there is no progress, and without progress for them, the vast majority, there is no better, better life.

And in order to create the preconditions for such a thing at all, we must - not in words but in deeds - return to something that was very important during the first Cold War: active, peaceful coexistence. We

must accept as a universal approach to relations between states and peoples that we are not all equal, that everyone has the right to choose the system in which to live, and to change it, that diversity is not a hindrance but a wealth, if someone else is not trying to change image and opportunity 'and that - finally - different peoples and states can and must cooperate with each other for mutual benefit, and on the basis of full equality and without any discrimination whatsoever.

It may seem outdated to someone what I am saying, but I think I am talking about the concept of the future. Because, hegemony, whoever's, has no future over anyone. Imposing, no matter by what means, what one considers values to another for whom they are not, has no future. Redrawing the world at the will of just one great power, or several of them, also has no future.

We only have one world. And we are doomed to live in it.

It is, therefore, the responsibility of the leader to contribute by his actions, actions and initiatives to the awareness of not only necessity, but: literally inevitability, mutual cooperation in conditions of equality to extend to all meridians and parallels.

Generally speaking, today's leaders are not able to do that. Hardly any of them can rise above current, short-term interests in the first place of their own, then their party, and only then their state or people. And that, I repeat: above current, short-term interests.

And the fingers of one hand are too many, if I wanted to count those who do not fit the stereotype, I will use that expression once again, charge d'affaires. We do not, however, live in a world where we can and must be satisfied with charge d'affaires in leadership positions. We live in a dangerous world, full of challenges and uncertainties.

Such a world is imperatively looking for leaders committed to the ultimate goal of achieving just peace. He is looking for leaders who will

show responsibility, not only in relation to their immediate voters, but also to the generations to come.

I would conclude, therefore, by stating that today's world lacks those who would have the right to call themselves leaders. A leader, I conclude, is one who has vision, strategy and tactics, and the ultimate goal: just peace in the world!

Thank You for listening to me!

HE. Armen Sarkassian⁽¹⁾
Former President of Armenia



Good morning Your Excellences,

**Dear friends, Participants of
the important conference; the
Second World Forum on the
Culture of Just Peace.**

First of all, let me extend my gratitude and thanks to His Excellency Dr. George Vella, President of Malta, for inviting me to this conference, and the thanks also goes to the organizers of this very important conference, special thanks to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Chairman of the Foundation, again thanks for the invitation. Unfortunately, I was planning to be present personally, but my health did not allow me, or does not allow me today to travel, so I am addressing you in a video address.

The conference is very timely; it is important; speaking about peace and especially just peace and how to achieve that in this very unpredictable, difficult, both politically and diplomatically, world is utmost important.

I do believe that we have to have a long-term, full and deep discussion about the future of the international relations and international politics, because the world has changed; this is not the classical world that

(1) He sent a videotaped message.

we lived 20 or 30 years ago, with the dominance on international diplomacy with the United Nations or the European Union or any other International Organization, with clear understandings or confrontations or ideologies or systems, be that economic or social. The world has become quite unpredictable; the world has become very interconnected and interdependent, so I call that world a «Quantum World.»

Probably you do not know, but in my first life, I was a professor of theoretical physics, astrophysics and mathematics, so years ago, I was thinking about what is happening in the world and what are the changes related to that new wave of huge technological advances.

In fact, the source of that technological advances are in the quantum revolution that happened around a hundred years or more than a hundred years ago with the discovery of quantum physics, the rapid fantastically, the quick development of the technology that creates completely new interconnections, completely new environments for our activities with that business, scientific, cultural and also political has changed the world.

In fact, it has huge impact on our politics and real politics exercises these days. I think that is why a lot of people worldwide have this feeling of unpredictability, instability and basically the absence of old theories or understandings or comfort of running politics, so that is why years ago I came up with a theory that describes, not only the technological advances of today that only generally how the world has changed, but how specifically international relations and politics have changed, so I called this «Quantum Politics», and we do see today the results of the change.

I think a lot of political events that are happening today, at this

moment, we could not imagine them happening several years ago, because we believed in systems, classical politics, institutions and organizations, but things are accelerating very fast; a lot of them are unpredictable, and that is why they give a lot of discomfort to those who are engaged, not only politicians, not only those who are analysts or journalists and others, but also to the general public worldwide, so it is the time that matters and issues of world peace; matters of leadership in this new world; leadership in the changed world, leadership in this new quantum world. Definitely that leadership is not going to be the same tomorrow than it is the same today or indeed yesterday.

The usual weapons of politicians; be that in war or in peace, are changing with the time; they look at the conflicts worldwide and they think that these conflicts are based not only on international relations, understandings or misunderstandings, but they are also ending decades of conflicts. It is not only about just ordinary weapons or military power, but it is also about public opinion, about the media, about real and fake news and so on, and everything changes daily and every move; be that political or non-political one, has a huge impact worldwide, so this one has changed and it has changed to the better or the worst, I leave that to you, dear colleagues, to judge during discussions, but the one thing that is clear is that it is not the same that it was before.

Of course the 5 minutes, being away from you, will not be enough for me to consider going into the explanation or the basics of the quantum politics or the politics in the new quantum world, but one message is clear; we live in a completely different world, which is much more faster, interconnected, interlinked, in many ways unpredictable. In order to start understanding and navigating this new world and create

new leaders that can lead nations and the world to Just Peace, we have to have a serious discussion where we are now, and where we are now is a world, which is a quantum world with quantum behavior, starting from social, technological, cultural, military and political, so I take this opportunity to thank you again the organizers; special thanks to His Excellency the President of Malta, Dr. George Vella and all the other colleagues; I wish all of you success and I hope that the next conference on the third one I will be healthy to participate.

Have a good day and a successful one.

Good-bye.



THE SECOND WORLD FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF JUST PEACE

“LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE”

MALTA MEETING 2022

3 - 4 MARCH

SESSION II

THE ROLE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Chairperson:

- **Dr. Omar Grech**, Director, Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution at the University of Malta.

Speakers:

- **HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al Hajraf**, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
- **HE. Taieb Baccouche**, Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union
- **HE. Salim M. AlMalik**, Director General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).
- **His Honor. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf**, Former President of the International Court of Justice.
- **HE. Khaled Khalifa**, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- **HE. Mohammed Alshafee**, Representative of the League of Arab states
- **Prof. Alfred J. Vella**, Rector of the University of Malta.



A photo of a number of distinguished guests from the second day of the forum.

**HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak
Al Hajraf**

*Secretary General of the
Cooperation Council for the
Arab States of the Gulf.*

**In the Name of Allah, most
Gracious, most Merciful**

**Your Excellency Dr. George
Vella, President of the
Republic of Malta,**

**Our dear uncle Abdulaziz
Saud Albabtain, Chairman of
Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation,**

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Participants,

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you,

I believe I should start my speech by extending a well-deserved appreciation to a thought pioneer, cultural icon, and farewell advocate for peace and security. I am thankful to you, Uncle Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, for your sincere belief in the message of culture and just peace.

Thanks are also due to the organizers of the “*Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace*”, as represented by Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation, for their kind invitation to us to participate in this important forum. The forum that comes at a time when we are all in



desperate need of someone who reminds us that security and peace are blessings that require preservation, a preservation that requires us all to believe in them, work for maintaining them and underpinning them for the sake of humanity.

I would also want to commend the outcomes of the First World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace, which was held in The Hague in 2019. The very outcomes that emphasized teaching the values and principles of peace through the educational curricula, working on raising an aware generation in a safe environment of peace and respect, the integration of the national awareness that preserves the cultural heritage, and spreading the culture of peace among societies. These outcomes also highlighted enhancing cultural richness and identities of regions, enhancing the values of tolerance and communication among the components of a society, developing strategies needed to prevent armed conflicts, and strengthening preventive diplomacy, especially in light of the ongoing conflicts, turmoil, and constant threats to international security and stability that the world is witnessing.

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace comes today with the theme «Leadership for a Just Peace,» so my speech will focus on two aspects; the first is the efforts of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf in promoting the Culture of Just Peace, and the second is the importance of mobilizing and integrating efforts to consolidate the Culture of Just Peace.

In terms of the efforts of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf to promote the Culture of Just Peace, the Council has and continues to play a major and pivotal role in promoting security and stability in the region and around the world since its founding on May 25, 1981, and for four decades. It has become a pillar of and a believer in just peace, seeking to maintain and preserve it, and calling for dialogue

as a means to resolve disputes under the umbrella of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Law.

The Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf also recognized the importance of the Culture of Just Peace and the necessity to improve peace concepts and collective action in order to achieve it. «May God protect them,» their Majesties and Highnesses, the Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council States, pay special attention to preserving the cultural identity and making it a cornerstone of strategic and development plans aimed at building both the state and the individual.

They have adopted, may God protect them, the Cultural Strategy of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf 2020-2030, which affirms that cultural engagement is the right for every citizen to produce, benefit from, interact with, and critique, and to work to absorb the spirit of the age by using science and technology in cultural fields and engaging them in dialogue with other cultures to promote the values of peace as an essential component of human civilization, focusing on the principles of tolerance, coexistence, dialogue, respect for others, and the rejection of manifestations of violence, intolerance, and extremism.

The cultural security side also focused on promoting the values of moderation, tolerance, dialogue, coexistence, and respect for the law among society's components, as well as supporting freedom of thought and creativity and protecting society, particularly children, from a culture that incites violence.

From this perspective, the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf seeks, through fostering its participation in international forums and events, to build and activate strategic partnerships with countries, institutions, and international organizations, and to benefit from their experiences in supporting, encouraging, and establishing the Culture of Peace among the spectrum of society, as well as to participate in anything that adds to and enriches the concept of peace. Building the Culture of Peace is a shared duty that necessitates joint worldwide efforts, standing

together in the face of intellectual extremism, renouncing violence, and raising the future generations on virtuous values, tolerance, and respect for human rights.

The Culture of Peace is also a concept that includes a set of positive values that are translated into actions and behaviours that lead to changes and outcomes within society by creating conditions conducive to establishing peace, whether at the level of interaction between individuals or groups, or at the national and international levels. In this context, the Culture of Peace may be understood as a methodology as well as a way of life, a global aim, and a necessity for survival.

As a result, the Gulf Cooperation Council States, as peace-loving countries, have paid special attention in all of their strategic and development plans and future visions to involving all segments of society in the Culture of Peace, particularly women, who constitute half of the society, and young people, who represent the backbone of our future and account for more than 60% of our society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Participants,

The second axis, about the need to mobilize and combine efforts to consolidate the Culture of Just Peace, is based on what we have heard over the previous two days during this forum's sessions about the tremendous efforts being made at all levels to promote the Culture of Just Peace.

Using the World Peace Forum platform, which was adopted by Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation, as a global platform that brings together decision-makers, thinkers, civil society, universities, specialists, and those interested, may represent a historic opportunity to mobilize and integrate global efforts to consolidate the Culture of Just Peace through the initiative and Leadership for the Just Peace. All of our efforts to promote the Culture of Just Peace, as a way of coexistence and necessary need to ensure a better future for all, will remain incomplete when achieving their objectives unless they take into account all of the threats to that just peace and all of the factors that undermine and reduce it.

Today, as we discuss efforts to foster the Culture of Just Peace, the world is living in unprecedented turmoil; with the drums of war beating in multiple places and disasters and crises that man is facing, which we now have to see here and there with their ugly face of destruction, horrific famines, bloody explosions, and natural disasters.

While we hope to promote the Culture of Just Peace, there are millions of displaced families and millions of children who have been deprived of education due to wars, disasters and conflicts, and who are easy targets for extremist ideology and terrorism. While we are working to promote the Culture of Just Peace, there are organized actions against that to happen, through some media and some social media platforms, which aims to fuel conflicts, disputes and terrorism.

At a time when we are mobilizing forces and efforts to promote the Culture of Just Peace, millions of young people in many parts of the world have lost hope and surrendered to despair and frustration, causing the spark of optimism and hope to fade. The thing that I feel necessary that all of us, as a voice for peace and out of our full belief in the need to promote the Culture of Just Peace, should include these threats in the goals of collective action and to give young people, wherever they are, hope for a better tomorrow.

To conclude, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to encourage all parties involved at the social, political, and scientific levels to focus on policies of moderation, tolerance, and coexistence among different generations, cultures, and races in order to ensure the world's future security.

I also want to thank everyone who contributed with the preparation, organization, and participation in this forum, as well as the Republic of Malta, His Excellency the President, the government, and the people for hosting the forum in this beautiful country.

Thank you for listening.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

HE. Taieb Baccouche

*Secretary General of the
Arab Maghreb Union*



Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To begin, I would like to express my appreciation to Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation for organizing the “*Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace*”, themed “*Leadership for the Just Peace*”, which is being kindly hosted by the Republic of Malta under the auspices of His Excellency President Dr. George Vella.

I am delighted to speak about the second axis of the Forum, which is the «Role of Intergovernmental Organizations» in embodying the concept of «Leadership for the Just Peace.»

I will proceed in this regard, not from the theoretical, philosophical, social, or jurist aspects, but from my personal experience as Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union, who, prior to taking on political responsibilities, held positions in Civil Society Organizations, whether they were jurist organizations, trade unions organizations, or Intellectual Organizations.

During the last five years, in which I assumed the responsibility of the General Secretariat of the Maghreb Union, I was fortunate to have concluded an agreement of understanding with the African Union, from which the General Secretariat was absent, unlike the previous seven continental groupings that had signed the Memorandum of

Understanding since 2008, so we managed to join them after ten years, specifically in the year 2018.

One of the most important African structures, in which we have fully and effectively integrated, is the Peace and Security Structure, which has developed a peace system to prevent terrorism and has organized numerous seminars and workshops with the goal of silencing guns, disarming light and heavy weapons and confronting their flow, reforming the security sector and establishing border governance, reducing disaster risk, and regulating migration to curb illegal migration, which opens the door wide to smuggling migrants, labor and human trafficking. This illegal migration also started to expand and included goods smuggling, which has become something much connected with terrorism. If we take a look, we will find that some groups finance such activities, while others do the protection issues, until we reached that point when we see that organized crime, drug trafficking and money laundering have become security concerns.

Given the complexity and interdependence of these issues, in addition to capacity building, early warning units were established to prevent these pests, at the African

In view of the complexity and interdependence of these issues, early warning units for the prevention of these pests have been concentrated along with capacity building at the African and then the Maghreb level.

Within the framework of the continental program for the peace and security structure «ABSA 4», the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union, in collaboration with the African Union and sometimes with the support of the European Union, implements activities aimed primarily at spreading a culture of peace and security and non-violence at the regional and continental levels, and urging adherence to international human rights principles, international treaties, and international conventions.

In the same context, these activities fall under three main indicators: first, improved conflict management within the framework of the APSA programme, with a focus on effective early warning systems and the African Standby Force. Second, improved cooperation within the framework of the APSA work programme and related activities (including civil society organizations); and third, increased inclusion of youth and children within the framework of this programme.

During the previous five years, the General Secretariat of the Maghreb Union participated in around forty of these events, which included summits, sectorial ministerial councils, expert and senior official seminars, and joint African-European initiatives in the framework of 5 + 5.

However, experience has shown us over and again that official organizations are insufficient. Rather, regional organizations that connect the governmental and civic sectors must be involved, because people are the greatest victims in the absence of security and peace.

That is why we worked on coordination among Maghreb municipalities, with some of them cooperating with the International Organization of Francophone Municipalities (Association Internationale des Maires Francophones "AIMF"), as well as with youth organizations, pioneering women, universities, and banks through the Union of Maghreb Banks.

There is no doubt that investment, creating jobs for young people, making profits, raising the level of production, and equitable distribution of the product of growth by translating it into comprehensive sustainable human development are all tributaries to stability, human security, and a just peace that is expanding from the national to regional, continental, and international frameworks.

Finally, because it is one of the values related with the principles of justice, security, and peace, it is vital to spread the culture of work and human rights.

Thanks for your attention.

HE. Salim M. AIMalik

Director General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

I have the pleasure of greeting you with the great peace greetings on one of the few days of peace embodied in this promising international conference, so Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you.

We gather today in this forum, which demonstrates seriousness, rationality, and responsibility in the midst of some extremely complicated world circumstances, to deliberate and share opinions and wisdom on the matter of the hour, and of every hour, which is peace. Peace, which always requires intellectual and practical support, since international mobility has no value unless peace is maintained by the desires, wills, and the great actions of peace.

Greetings to their Excellences the honorable Presidents of Malta, Albania, and Kosovo, Excellences, and to all of the distinguished attendees, for whom I know how grateful they are to those in charge of this conference, which requires us to be enlightened implementers of the steps of peace and faithful bearers of its torches in a world witnessing transformations that seek everything that achieves stability, which is the foundation of development, because there is no development without stability, and no stability without peace.

While calls in the name of peace have proliferated recently, both institutionally and theoretically, the concept of just peace remains the most important aspiration that our societies look forward to and await as they wage a war against backwardness, poverty and ignorance; a war mainly caused by the injustice of man to his fellow man.



Believing in every effort made to promote peace as a crucial life value, the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), has been working to consolidate the foundations of peaceful thought and to avoid extremism, fanaticism and hatred, in order to stimulate the spirit of intercultural dialogue and with the certainty that dialogue is the foundation of peace.

Following the same approach, ISESCO has taken a practical step forward by establishing the «ISESCO Ambassadors for Peace» programme, through which it aspires to develop young leaders from various countries around the world who will carry the banner of peace, thereby making the world a more spacious space for creative human coexistence in the fields of science, arts, sports, and literature.

With the same vision, the Organization recently established a specialized Center for Civilizational Dialogue, dedicated to promote the concept of civilizational dialogue within member states and adjacent communities, in addition to the organization's endeavor to integrate peace into basic education curricula, with a focus on making artificial intelligence applications in the service of peace concepts, and emphasizing the need to limit the growth of the phenomenon of using electronic games among young people, with all the misconceptions these games hold, which lead to the spread of violent crimes and deadly racism.

Thus, ISESCO does not stop at saying "No to War", but rather says "Yes to Peace", and it also aspires, through the Leadership for Peace program, to see its five hundred young ambassadors wandering the world by the year two thousand and twenty-five.

Excellences,

Dear Participants,

It is an efficient strategy when we consider giving culture the attention it deserves, because peace perceptions, which include priceless relics that help to embody the wonderful humanitarian diversity with all of its variations, are a source of power and richness, rather than a source of hatred and hostility, as some people believe.

It is in this spirit that this conference must agree on a vision that will pave the way for groups eager for a spirit of peace to prevail in the world, which will spare humanity the vow of ruin and support the paths of creative reconstruction.

Let the baths of peace flutter, the locomotive of security move towards their noble goals and the human and humanitarian rights win, these rights that always seek extraordinary pioneering figures that recognize well the meaning of peace, adhere to its principles and bear the huge sacrifices required by its challenging path.

Civil Society Organizations hold a great amount of responsibility for the consequences of spreading the Culture of Peace, especially in circumstances where many formal government organizations fail to fulfil these responsibilities. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation demonstrates a great example of the ability to advance and protect the foundations of the Culture of Peace. Therefore, I would want to express my gratitude to this Foundation, which is deeply committed to culture and intellectuals, for the excellent organization of this conference. Thank you also to the Maltese government for their great hospitality in this wonderful part of the world, which has promised to be a Land of Peace.

From here, from the Malta of Peace, and from this Conference, which has put the justice of the Culture of Just Peace in our souls and spirits, I announce the launch of the second session of the programme «Leadership in Peace and Security», and I call on young people from all nations of the world to come forward to apply and join this promising programme.

I would like to conclude my speech by quoting this verse from the Holy Qur'an that glorifies the importance of peace that our God Almighty has taken as His name; *“But if the enemy incline towards peace, do thou (also) incline towards peace, and trust in Allah: for He is One that heareth and knoweth (all things)”*.

May God bless you, and peace be upon you again and at all times.

HH. Abdulaqawi Ahmed Yusuf
Former President of the International Court of Justice

President George Vella President of Malta

Mr. Abdulaziz Albabtain,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen



I look at the theme of this forum, and I am reminded of the mission of our Court, the International Court of Justice: Peace and Justice. This mission was entrusted to the Court by the United Nations Charter. It is carried out by the Court through the settlement of all disputes submitted to it in accordance with international law.

The greatest innovation of the UN Charter, 75 years ago, as compared to the League of Nations Covenant was the prohibition of the use of force. Instead of recourse to the use of force, the Charter introduced the peaceful settlement of disputes as one of the cardinal principles of the Organization.

Through this undertaking in the UN Charter, mankind had finally come to the realisation that the old system which had made war permissible to right wrongs was not only barbaric and brutal, but fundamentally unjust. "Might is right" has never helped humanity to live together in peace or in harmony.

In the past 75 years, the International Court of Justice has proudly assumed its role as a guardian of the international rule of law. It has

substantially contributed to the avoidance of war among States. As was stated by St. Thomas Aquinas already in the 13th Century: “peace is the work of justice indirectly insofar as justice removes the obstacles to peace.” That is what the Court does: it removes the obstacles to peace among nations. That is what the Court will do next week when Ukraine and Russia will appear before it.

The action of the Court is based on the consent of states. The parties in dispute must be willing to accept, or must have accepted in advance, the jurisdiction of the Court to resolve their dispute peacefully. In other words, they must have faith in the rule of law, and in the capacity of an independent judicial body to interpret it and apply it. The good news is that this faith has substantially increased in the past 75 years. More trust is placed today in the work of the Court than ever before.

The pre-eminent role of the rule of law as a factor for harmony and security in any society cannot be questioned. However, the law is always an instrument and never constitutes an end in itself. The end is the well-being of human society and the promotion of the greater good. Peace, stability and justice are the most important symbols of such greater good.

We have to acknowledge that there are many disorders and disputes, which by their very nature, may elude the grasp of the law, and hence the courts. Even the laws of the most advanced societies cannot cover everything in society. The law cannot claim, by virtue of its instrumental dimension, to apprehend all aspects of life and of social reality.

The peace-making role of a court, be it at the municipal level or the international level, may thus encounter its first limitation on the degree to which the law permeates social relations and on its effectiveness. The extent of this limitation depends on a given social milieu with its societal values, its ethical imperatives as well as the political, economic cultural and other factors.

That is the reason why, in the search for peace and justice, such factors need to be taken into account. They can complement the role of the law to bring about peace and harmony in the society. I am referring here to education, to shared cultural values, to the marshaling of moral solidarity and to the imperative of social and economic justice, and of course climate justice. That is where the contribution of institutions such as the Albabtain Foundation and the World Forum for Culture of Peace is most needed.

I will conclude with a few words on the theme of the conference "Just peace". Peace and Justice are indivisible. They are intrinsically connected. It is by cultivating justice that peace can best be harvested. Just peace cannot be one nation's or one group's own kind of peace. Peace is a shared value. Just peace is that which encompasses moral and ethical imperatives. A peace which ensures social and economic justice, and the protection of human rights.

Just peace is not the opposite of Just war. There is no just war. War can never lead to justice. The UN Charter did the right thing for humanity in prohibiting the use of force in international relations. We must now find a way to banish the use of violence and armed conflict as a means of settling disputes in all organized human societies. I personally believe that it is not an impossible goal. We should strive to achieve it.

Thank you.

HE. Khaled Khalifa

Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Adviser to the High Commissioner for Islamic Finance

Excellency President of Malta, Dr. George Vella,

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, President of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation,



Honorable Heads of State, Parliamentarians, Representatives of International Organizations and Civil Society Institutions,

Your Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen...

It is a great pleasure to be with you today in the second edition of the World Forum for a Culture of Peace, launched by Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation, in light of such time when the culture of peace is mostly needed.

By virtue of the roles and responsibilities entrusted to me by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; I witness on daily basis the impact of missing peace and its implications on the lives of thousands of vulnerable families and individuals who were forcibly displaced in search of safety, security and a decent life. The Global Trends report we launched late last year shows that forced displacement continues to rise to break new records, with more than 84 million

people fleeing violence, insecurity and climate change, the majority of whom are women. Coupled with the pressing psychological effects of the absence of peace, especially in light of protracted conflicts, which often leave a major impact on children and growing feelings of fear and anxiety in a painful reality among refugees and displaced persons, while draining energies and squandering the dreams of generations on which the future depends.

Building a culture of peace and maintaining its sustainability in societies torn by conflict is one of the most difficult challenges, as it requires concerted local and international efforts in various sectors, and the inclusive involvement of various segments of society to develop practical plans to ensure stability and create an environment for building a secure and prosperous future.

UNHCR's mandate is indeed a living example of that. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established in 1950, and its tenure was scheduled to end after three years. However, with the emergence of new conflicts and the increase in humanitarian needs, UNHCR resumed its tasks and expanded its activities in pursuit of humanity in a journey that extended for more than 71 years, during which it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice in recognition of its efforts in the service of humanity and peace. Allow me to quote the High Commissioner's words: *"on UNHCR's 70th anniversary, my challenge to the international community is this: put me out of a job. Make it your goal to build a world in which there is truly no need for a UN refugee agency because nobody is compelled to flee. Don't get me wrong: as matters stand, our work is crucial yet the paradox is that we ought not to exist"*. This confirms the position of UNHCR on the necessity of establishing peace.

It is only possible to establish a culture of peace through the generation of leaders, because our reality today shows with deep regret that we

have failed to achieve it, and we must invest in efforts to establish it through targeted educational programs at various stages, to include the principles of brotherhood and altruism and to highlight the importance of diversity and enhance the spirit of community citizenship and the unity of destiny, to reach a bright future for all with a culture nurture diversity as it prevails, and not disputes.

Among the initiatives taken by UNHCR is the establishment of the Council of Multi-Religious Leaders in cooperation with the Religions for Peace organization, with the aim of supporting the joint efforts of religious leaders in different regions and of all faiths to address the root causes, by supporting global efforts to mobilize support, prevent conflict, enhance reconciliation initiatives, peace building and social cohesion.

In conclusion, we value the deep partnership we have with the esteemed Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation, represented by Professor Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, which aims to support efforts to promote peace around the world for groups that need it the most. We must always remember that we are still facing many challenges in our world today, and that peace has become a luxury for many people and turned into a dream for others. Our duty today is to affirm that peace is a right that can only be achieved through concerted efforts.

Thank you.

**HE. Ambassador
Mohammed Alshafee**

*Representative of the
League of Arab States*



**In the Name of Allah, most
Gracious, most Merciful**

**Your Excellency Dr. George
Vella, President of the
Republic of Malta,**

**Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,
Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud
Albabtain Cultural Foundation,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you,

I am delighted to be here today as the representative of His Excellency, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, and to take part in the "Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace," organized by Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation in collaboration with the Government of Malta.

To begin, I would like to convey to all of you the sincere greetings of His Excellency the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit's, wishing the activities of this international conference success and achievement of the targeted objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Convening of this forum comes at a very delicate time, given the rise of hate speech, high rates of discrimination and xenophobia, and the spread of extremist ideas. The rapid increase of these phenomena

confirms the urgent need for dialogue as the only way to enhance respect and mutual understanding among different peoples, and as one of the ways to contribute to the consolidation of the Culture of Peace and the values of peaceful coexistence among peoples, by enshrining the culture of multiculturalism and religious pluralism as an enriching factor rather than a source of sedition.

Peace is a positive participatory process that is linked to the achievement of democracy, justice, and society development in a way that respects diversity and encourages dialogue. Building the Culture of Peace requires comprehensive educational, social, and civic work, as it is a set of values, traditions, customs, behavior patterns, and ways of life that express respect for human beings and their rights while rejecting all forms of violence, as well as the recognition of human rights to; freedom of expression, upholding to democracy, justice, development, tolerance, and understanding among nations.

In light of the rising rates of terrorism, extremism, and racial discrimination, and the United Nations' awareness of the dangers of these phenomena and their negative repercussions on various political, economic, social, and intellectual levels, the United Nations General Assembly declared the year 2000 as the "International Year for the Culture of Peace" by resolution 52/15 on November 20, 1997.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 2 on December 8, 2017, declaring May 16 as the "International Day of Living Together in Peace."

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the efforts of all international and regional organizations in spreading the Culture of Peace and tolerance among peoples and nations, as well as confronting the phenomena of extremism, terrorism, and racial discrimination based on colour, religion, race, or gender.

In light of the current challenges, the League of Arab States is working with all its might to urge member states, on the one hand, to cooperate and coordinate with all regional and international organizations and civil society institutions, to engage in peaceful dialogue and manage

differences within a democratic framework that preserves dignity, freedom, and human value, and, on the other hand, to work toward achieving the "Sustainable Development Goals 2030," particularly the sixteenth goal, which calls for work to be done to create cohesive, inclusive, and peaceful communities in order to ensure justice for everyone and to develop effective and responsible institutions at all levels

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States also works to develop communication bridges between different communities, cultures, and religions in order to enhance understanding and promote peaceful coexistence between the generations of today and tomorrow.

Realizing that international and regional institutions are the main players in advancing development alongside governments, the Arab League has been keen to build partnerships with many institutions in this field, including the "Al-Azhar Al-Sharif" Foundation, "Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation", the "Global Council for Tolerance and Peace", the "Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures" and the "Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations", in order to promote dialogue between followers of various civilizations and cultures and spreading the values of tolerance and acceptance of the other, supporting mutual understanding and respect between different nations and peoples, spreading the Culture of Sustainable Peace and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of this important forum, and we hope that it will contribute significantly to efforts to promote the Culture of Sustainable Peace, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among societies, as well as to combat intolerance, violence, and discrimination.

May God grant us all assistance for the good of nations and peoples.

Professor Alfred J. Vella
*Rector of the University of
Malta*



Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen...

Firstly, I would like to thank HE. President Vella and Mr. Albabtain, Chairman of Albabtain Foundation, for the invitation to address this prestigious event, now in its second edition. I am delighted to associate the University of Malta with this initiative.

On behalf of the University, I would particularly wish to record my appreciation to Albabtain Cultural Foundation for supporting the work of our Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution. In recent months, Albabtain Foundation has established an endowment for peacebuilding within the Centre, which I am sure will bear considerable fruit.

Before focusing on my remarks on the relevance of higher education and universities within higher education and peacebuilding, I want to express my solidarity to all of the people of Ukraine who are currently the victims of a horrific military aggression that is causing havoc, destruction and the loss of many lives. In particular, I think of the Ukrainian students, academics and teachers at all levels, whose lives have been shattered and whose educational journey so brutally interrupted by

bombs. The University of Malta currently hosts 13 Ukrainian students who are studying with us on campus and nine staff members from that country; besides we have an important number of Ukrainian alumni, who I hope are keeping safe in this terrible context.

In my brief remarks today, I will share some thoughts on why Universities should engage in peacebuilding and also suggest some of the ways in which we can do so. In this context, I will first offer a few reflections on the purposes of Universities and why their mission must necessarily include the building of peace.

The Role of universities in peacebuilding

Firstly, I ask: What are universities for? Universities and higher education institutions more generally, should not simply be viewed through a drably utilitarian lens of their contribution to the economy, industry or the labour market. Universities' role is far more multifaceted and goes beyond the purely utilitarian or economic one. As the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten, has remarked universities serve the future by shaping the citizens who will create that future. If we are doing our job well we shape citizens by passing not just knowledge and skills but also a commitment to civic engagement and ethical behaviour that will affect communities and the broader world around us.

It is incumbent on universities to encourage students to consider and actively engage with notions of citizenship and public ethics. Anyone who has attended university should have a basic understanding of and a positive disposition to the rights and duties associated with citizenship, the principles of sustainability as well as the different aspects of justice such as intergenerational and social justice.

Peace and Justice

Indeed, it is noteworthy and commendable that this event is titled ‘Leadership for Just Peace’. It is nowadays accepted that there can be ‘no peace without justice’ and in this context, universities have a special role to promote justice as a fundamental value. The link between peace and justice unpacks numerous perspectives: the need for equality between states and between individuals, the need to respect fundamental rights and freedoms including the right to self-determination for nations as well as the right to be free from discrimination of any kind for every community and every individual.

Achieving these objectives is an extremely urgent but also complex endeavour. It requires efforts across the globe and across societies not just at the level of governments and political leaders but especially, I would argue, in the educational sector, the place where citizens and leaders are formed.

One of the most distinguished educationalists of the twentieth century Maria Montessori in her collection of essays titled «Education and Peace», stated unequivocally “Establishing a lasting peace is the work of education. All politics can do is keep us out of war”. This is not to minimise the role of political and national leaders in the sphere of high politics and diplomacy, but as we are witnessing today and as we have learned throughout the ages, while political leaders may be crucial in negotiating cease-fires to stop armed conflict or bring about de-escalation to avert conflict when it is brewing, the deep-rooted causes of war, be they structural, cultural or psychological, will not be resolved simply by negotiation, diplomacy, legislation or political diktat. The root causes of conflict need exploration, analysis and addressing and education is pivotal in such processes.

The realities which Montessori highlighted in 1949, i.e. that real peace is more than the absence of war, were confirmed by the founders of conflict resolution and peacebuilding as distinct academic disciplines. Pioneers like Johan Galtung and John Burton developed ideas which helped us better understand the nature and types of conflict as well as develop processes through which conflicts may be addressed.

Johan Galtung developed and expanded the concept of positive peace. He argued that the mere absence of physical violence (which he termed negative peace) is an insufficient conception. What conflict resolvers and peace builders needed to focus on was addressing structural and cultural forms of violence. Structural forms of violence, according to Galtung, occur when societal structures oppress groups and communities or even entire nations and continents. Racial or religious discrimination, unfair and unequal economic structures as well as patriarchal structures are examples of structural violence. Only when these structures that cause violence and conflict are re-imagined and reformed can positive peace be achieved.

John Burton, on the other hand, developed the 'human needs' theory of conflict which postulates that one of the key drivers of conflict is unmet human needs. These needs range from the basic need for food to that for recognition, equality and respect. Unmet human needs, according to Burton, cause disruptive and conflictual responses. An appreciation of the needs of others is another critical perspective, which universities should foster.

In this context, it seems self-evident that higher education has a pivotal role not only in leading peace research but also in forming citizens who are attuned to the requisites of peace and justice.

Interuniversity Cooperation

Universities are unique spaces where, often, all of the actors in peacebuilding which this conference brings together meet and interact.

National leaders, in most cases, have been educated within university structures as have parliamentarians and protagonists from civil society. Indeed, it is common for today's political and civic leaders to have been involved in university activism as students where they would likely have played leadership roles. Universities are thus spaces where such leaders may experience how ideas are formed and challenged; and where they learn and acquire values that remain embedded in their psyche and mindset to later influence behaviours that permeate national and international life.

If universities take this responsibility of promoting a culture of just peace seriously, the dividends could be enormous. This requires universities to be given the resources to fulfil their mission but also have their academic independence sustained and protected.

Cooperation amongst institutions engaged in higher education is another invaluable aspect of the peacebuilding agenda in academia. We need more cooperation not just regionally but also across regions and globally. Such cooperation yields fruits in numerous ways; academically, scientifically and economically because when universities pool their resources they can more effectively develop new knowledge, procedures and products, which can improve our quality of life and wellbeing as well as contribute to economic development.

Interuniversity cooperation creates bonds of friendship between academic communities and contributes to a better understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions and cultures. When such cooperation is extended to students, the multiplier effect of such connections is even more impressive. In this context, I would argue that one of the European Union's most successful and impactful projects has been the Erasmus exchange programme. I hope the EU will continue in its efforts to extend this programme wider and deeper to include as many students from across the world (not just Europe).

Concluding Thoughts

I would like to conclude my intervention by reiterating the commitment of the University of Malta to contributing towards peacebuilding. This commitment is two-fold: firstly by promoting positive values such as social justice, environmental ethics, human rights, equality and cultural dialogue; and secondly by cooperating in peacebuilding initiatives with likeminded academic institutions as well as governmental and non-governmental actors.

Let me here refer to an observation by Professor Juliet Milican, which I find particularly apposite and worth reflecting upon:

“Universities are complex institutions with specialists in many areas, invariably separated into different disciplinary silos. A cross-institutional or interdisciplinary response, in which researchers, practitioners and students from all disciplines work together to address the triggers behind conflict, may be the most viable approach to managing and minimising conflict in the longer term. We need a structured, systemic approach to recognising the existence of conflict and the responsibility of higher education to address it”.⁽¹⁾

I fully subscribe to this view of the role of universities in resolving conflict and building positive peace. Our University is certainly committed to this vision and we look forward to working with others to contribute to positive peace based on justice. I sincerely hope that the peacebuilding platform being created through the excellent efforts of the Albabtain Foundation will accord due importance to the potential of universities to be a crucial pillar in this noble venture.

Thank you

(1) Juliet Milican, Pedagogies for peacebuilding in higher education: How and why should higher education institutions get involved in teaching for peace?



THE SECOND WORLD FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF JUST PEACE

“LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE”

MALTA MEETING 2022

3 - 4 MARCH

SESSION III

THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Chairperson:

- **HE. Anglu Farrugia**, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta.

Speakers:

- **HE. Mohamed Nasheed**, Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives.
- **HE. Behgjet Pacolli**, Member of the Parliament of Kosovo (Former President).
- **Mr. Abdesselam Lebbar**, Head of the ‘‘Isteqlal’’ (Independence) Parliamentary Group in the House of Councilors of Morocco.
- **Mr. Struan Stevenson**, Former Member of the European Parliament.
- **Mr. Jesmond Saliba**, Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, Malta.
- **Mr. Jean -Christophe Bas**, CEO of Connectors for Peace



A photo from the third session of the Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace on "The Role of Parliamentarians and Civil Society Organizations"

HE. Anġlu Farrugia

*Speaker of the House of
Representatives of Malta*

**Your Excellency George Vella,
President of the Republic of
Malta,**

**Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,
Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud
Albabtain Cultural Foundation,**

Honorable Members of Parliaments,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,



I am truly honored to be present in this World Forum for the Culture of Peace, and it is indeed, I would say, an additional privilege for me to open this session, in which we will examine the role of parliamentarians as being leaders for peace.

We are currently living in what I call «Insta-World»; we want everything to happen instantly and immediately, instant coffee, instant photographs, instant noodles or porridge. Through Instagram, which by the way is a portmanteau of instant camera and telegram, we have found ourselves in a new world of influencers, sensationalism, following people and people being followed. Instagram is a window into many stories, and since the telegram days, of course I remember those days most certainly, before one can say that parliamentarians have been always at the forefront of such personal stories through first-hand

experience and their respective constituencies being leaders in their own, I would say, respects; people listen and of course people follow.

Our leadership in our respective community may influence our way of formulating our thinking process while also of course legislating and militating towards just peace.

We, and I say we in the Maltese political setting, build relationship with constituents in a very personal approach and manner, we experience moments of sincerity, vulnerability, sometimes sorrow, sympathy and also tears, especially in the light of the military invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. I personally fear that this attack may have further foraging consequences, which may affect world peace and security. I have already expressed my solidarity with the people of Ukraine in such a difficult moment, and an hour ago, I was addressing the European Parliament online in the presence of other members from all over Europe and Ukrainian Parliament, and I hereby reiterate my appeal for restraint and for the resumption of diplomatic dialogue to reach a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Well, today, we can see the rampage of the consequences of the war in real time through social media, thus rather than self-promotion or promoting what have been now become petty political agendas, we must come together, we must join forces, but we must produce solutions for the greater good now more than ever.

Additionally, of course, we cannot not mention the COVID-19 pandemic that has put us all into overdrive to manage all the crises it posted, and it is very easy to become jaded by the horrors of what is happening and becoming pessimistic, pessimism that may lead to an action, and an action that eventually gives way to inattention. Auschwitz victim and saint (Auschwitz was the largest of the Nazi concentration

and death camps in Poland), whom I have to refer to, Maximilian Kolbe, said and I quote, “*The most deadly poison of our times is indifference*”, and that is what we should fight, we should fight together indifference.

And yes, the essential role that we, namely the parliamentarians and NGOs and the journalist, who are here today, must together all play is to stop ourselves from ever simply turning away, but we must also continually confront stakeholders, including the governments and the United Nations Security Council with individual faces and stories of injustice, civilians who are undergoing political turmoil and take action immediately, so it is very apt that today’s forum is being held here in Malta; it’s a long standing vocation for dialogue and peace in this region, and this, I would say was evidence also during 1975. I have to recall that the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at that time (CSE), whereby it was upon Malta’s insistence that European leaders realized the validity of dialogue and the imperative need to include all the Mediterranean countries, so it was included in the Mediterranean Chapter in the final act as you know. At that time, Malta argued that there could not be peace in Europe without having peace in the Mediterranean. Today, Malta continues to hold dearly to this vocation and through various institutions and organizations on endeavors to promote dialogue and peace as a means towards attaining more security, stability and of course complementing with prosperity.

Allow me to touch also upon the establishment of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, which was established also in parliament recently in 2017, and it actively contributed to raise awareness on the importance of promoting tolerance and peace whilst facilitating dialogue between various stakeholders and parliamentarians.

It is interesting to mention that the scope and function of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace is complemented also, as I said, with

the work of the International Parliament for Peace, bringing together numerous members of parliaments and directly contributing to this global movement for peace and acceptance.

Let us thus be, and I quote the word that I use in my original speech today "*Let us be influencers for peace, for political justice and security everywhere*". I am confident that the distinguished speakers that we have in this session and the discussion that will follow will certainly diverse perspectives of how best to promote and sustain peace.

Peace education should become an essential part of our curriculum, it is only through education that the necessary mentalities, the necessary attitudes and preparedness can be achieved to provide further and proper fertile grounds for peace and to thrive.

Thank you very much.

HE. Mohamed Nasheed

Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives

In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful,

All praise due to Allah, the Cherisher of the world, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, on his family and all his companions,

Excellency President of Malta,

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,

Excellency President of Albania,

Excellency Former President of Croatia,

Excellency Former Prime Minister of Jordan,

Members of Parliaments,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I understand that this conference is about peace, and how best we may be able to achieve that, but before I start, I have to mention the poem «Intimations of the Desert», written by our founder, which is his first book, and then his «Songs of the Desert» again by the founder of the Foundation; Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation. Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain has written amazing amount of poetry and



I must mention that they are excellent and we should all have a look at them.

I am, as mentioned, from the Maldives; we sit in the middle of the Indian Ocean, 1000 miles from north to south, 600 miles from east to west, we occupy the navigable parts of the Indian Ocean.

Al-Mas'oudi and Al-Bairouni, and all the historians from the 10th and 11th centuries, had all written about the Maldives and how the country was governed in the 10th century. Arab travelers, when they discovered the trade winds, started visiting the Maldives and route to further east. Trade winds were such they had to spend another five, six months in the Maldives before they proceeded further east because the winds would change. In the Maldives, of course, they got married and had children. Traders started settling down in the Maldives. The Vedic Maldives Kings thought that this was a brilliant idea that we should ask certain sections, some islands, to convert to Islam so that there will be more trade. Ibn Battuta, he was a Chief Judge for four years, had written extensively about the Maldives. Poems of Al-Sofia (Sufism), these are navigational poets, they mentioned a navigational instrument called the «Kamal». Now this man «Kamal» apparently was a Maldivian navigator who found a more effective way of looking at the stars and how to travel.

This is Islam; the Islam that came to the Maldives through very, very peaceful means. With the traders came the Sufi Poets and Imams, and they taught us about the Arabic culture and the Islamic Religion. The Islam that you find in much of South Asia is a synthesis of Vedic beliefs and Islamic ideals, and I am afraid it is that culture that is now being challenged by a very narrow-minded version of Islam. This is why this Foundation, which is again so important, that we must spread tolerance and acceptance.

As I moved to my speech, although this conference is about peace, it is difficult not to start by mentioning war, namely, the war raging not too far from here, in Ukraine. Watching from afar in the Maldives, it has

been impossible not to be impressed by the bravery and heroism of the Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine.

In spite of the overwhelming and unprovoked aggression, he rose to the moment, leading his country and urging his people to defend their homeland, which they have so bravely been doing so.

I think we have to go back to Winston Churchill to find a national leader who has so brilliantly understood what it means to be a war president. If you need any more evidence why we must strive forward of democracies, surely it is this appalling war in Ukraine. This is the cold hard truth of politics; dictators start wars, fight against their own people and then against their neighbors.

This brings me onto the main point I wanted to make today, and that is the imperative need for organized peaceful and comparative politics. By organized politics, I mean political parties, freely able to operate and complete in free and fair elections. To my mind, free and organized politics is the only way to bring peace within a country and for that matter for the peaceful coexistence of countries internationally.

From my own experience in the Maldives, the development of political parties was fundamental to the development of democracy and peace. Political parties are the key institutions of democracy and are paramount in the struggle for democracy. They provide a vehicle for which we can organize politics. It is from the political party that you can organize peaceful street protests, develop manifestos and contest elections, and ensuring a strong political party with its own internal elections and rules means, you have a robust political vehicle, which can last a lifetime.

The Maldives was run by an authoritarian for 30 years before we managed to bring about a multi-party system with free elections. My party, the Maldivian Democratic Party, was established while the Maldives was still a dictatorship and parties were officially banned, and

of course, we paid for it; I spent a good half of my life in prison, but now the Maldivian Democratic Party is a formidable election-fighting machine. We had our first multi-party elections in 2008, and since then, the Maldives has changed its government three times all through multi-party elections.

Much of this success in peacefully transferring power is because we have managed to develop institutions of democracy, political parties being one of the most important, also fundamental is that there is room for dissent, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly. These are the basic tenants of any well-run society.

As well as being the head of my party, I am also, now, the Speaker of the Parliament as pointed out, and the role of parliaments is also central to good governance and well- functioning democracies. Parliament is where members of successful political party end up sitting as elected representatives of the people. The Speaker of the Parliament of Malta pointed out that he has personal interactions with his constituents; we have the luxury of doing it because we are a very small population, but even in big populations and countries, I believe that it is possible to have personal interactions with your constituents.

Members of Parliament have two crucial roles; to hold the government accountable and to make laws. Making laws, in a sense, is the end of a political process that starts with parties; a party contests and elections, put forward a manifesto for the people to vote on, and it is elected into government, can then convert these promises into laws that hopefully bring out the desired change. So when we think about a just peace, we need to think about the conditions necessary to bring that just peace.

To my mind that is fundamental political freedoms, a democratic system, in which politics can be contested peacefully and with strong political parties.

Thank you.

HE. Behgjet Pacolli⁽¹⁾

*Member of the Parliament of
Kosovo (Former President)*



Your Excellency President Vella,

Your Excellency Mr. Albabtain,

Excellences,

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are meeting in a different landscape in Europe. Much more different than some days ago. I had thought to deliver a different speech, but the event unfolding in Ukraine, have made me to change.

Whilst Ukraine is far away from us, we are following the crisis with grave concern. Its economic effects can already be felt here, for example, in rising electricity and petrol prices. But these are not the principal reason the situation in Ukraine is important to us.

A world order based on “*might is right*”, or where “*the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must*”, such a world order would be profoundly inimical to the security and survival of small states. We cannot accept one country attacking another without justification, arguing that its independence was the result of “*historical errors and crazy decisions*”. Such a rationale would go against the internationally recognized legitimacy and the territorial integrity of many countries, including Kosovo.

That is why we are a staunch supporter of international law and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. The sovereignty, the political independence and the territorial integrity of all countries, big and

(1) He sent a written speech.

small, must be respected. Kosovo must take any violation of these core principles seriously, whenever and wherever they occur. This is why Kosovo and all of us have strongly condemned Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

It is heartbreaking to see the heavy casualties and the loss of many innocent lives, resulting from this unjustified attack and act of war. I strongly urge Russia to cease this offensive military action immediately, and to work for a peaceful settlement in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. We also call for safe and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and all those in need.

There are important lessons for us to draw from this current Ukrainian crisis:

First, whilst international law and diplomatic principles are essential, they are not sufficient. But agreements are only meaningful if the parties respect them, and if they can be enforced. This is the acute reality for all small countries, and Kosovo is no exception.

You cannot depend on others to protect your country. Thus, we must never lose the ability to defend and look after ourselves.

Second, it is all too easy for a small country to be caught up in the geopolitical games of big powers. Small countries must avoid becoming sacrificial pawns, vassal states or "cat's paws" to be used by one side against the other. Julius Nyerere, the late-President of Tanzania, had said, "*When elephants fight, the grass suffers*". This is why we work hard to maintain good relations with all our neighbours and with the big powers. When situations arise, our assessments and our actions are based on clearly enunciated and consistently held principles, that are in our own long term national interests.

Third, as a young nation, it is vital for us to maintain domestic unity and cohesion, bearing in mind how easily internal divisions can be exploited by adversaries, especially in this internet age and the advent of hybrid warfare. Dividing and weakening an opponent internally, overtly and covertly, has become the standard complement to conventional warfare. Therefore, our domestic politics must stop at our shores.

Fourth, safeguarding one's sovereignty and national interests often requires some sacrifice and pain. The Ukrainians are paying the ultimate price for freedom with their lives and livelihoods. The rest of the international community that is taking a stand against naked aggression through sanctions will also have to bear some pain and pay a price. We must be prepared to deal with the consequences, to bear the pain, to help one another, and to stand up together.

Let me point out that in the past two decades we are witnesses of the transformation of relations between countries and peoples in the Western Balkans. This transformation of relations is measurable and visible. We can see a clear transformation from hostile relations to peaceful relations, from an instable to a stable region. The interaction between governments, people, and commerce has increased. There is more connectivity than before. All these changes are signs of stability and of a promising future.

These changes have been possible thanks to the remarkable support that the EU has provided to the region through the enlargement process, technical assistance, development and financial aid, and other political support. The EU deserves credit for making the region a more peaceful area, improving regional cooperation, and facilitating the peacefully resolution of many outstanding bilateral issues. But we see the enlargement has stalled. It is time for the EU to set a clear date for Western Balkans when to join the European Union.

There is no doubt that the EU-facilitated Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia for the normalization of relations can be considered a distinct achievement in our region. The First Agreement reached in April 2013 was truly a historic agreement, but this is only the beginning of a historical process rather than the end. The full normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo is far from being a done deal. The First Agreement was a game-changer with regard to easing of political relations, but we should take it with sufficient dose of optimism, because many challenges remain.

From our perspective, we think there should be immediate implementation of all agreements reached so far. We are ambitious with

regard to the topics and the future of dialogue. We consider this Dialogue as a win-win, and not a zero-sum process. Based on this understanding, we have been ready to move forward.

To be more precise, we are ready that during the next four years to resolve all outstanding issues between Kosovo and Serbia, and this will be the time when there will be no domestic elections in Serbia, Kosovo, or in the EU to delay and complicate this important process. But what it is important is that the Dialogue should not be conducted endless and without clear end goal. For Kosovo, reaching a legally binding agreement in the end of this process is something possible, which leads to mutual recognition and unblocking Kosovo's path to EU, NATO and other international organizations.

As I have said in the past, the most sustainable way for building durable peace between Kosovo and Serbia is to sign a peace treaty, which should include the recognition of Kosovo sovereignty, encouragement of Kosovo's membership of international and regional organizations, including the UN, and the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.

Indeed, merging the EU integration process with the full normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo is the best way to ensure that the process has credibility and produces results. So, we count on EU's support in the future in facilitating this important Dialogue between our two States.

And I think the situation in Ukraine has shown, there is no time to waste, we need a Peace Treaty between Kosovo and Serbia.

This is a time for us to come together and to stand up for principles, uphold principles which are core to our survival, our existence as an independent sovereign nation.

Thank you!

Mr. Abdesselam Lebbar

Head of the Isteqlal (Independence) Parliamentary Group at the House of Councilors of Morocco



In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful,

All praise due to Allah, the Cherisher of the world, and peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, on his family and all his companions,

Excellency President of the Republic of Malta,

Excellences,

Dear brothers the Parliamentarians,

Distinguished attendees; each in his name and honorable capacity,

Also the due respect and consideration go to His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation, that always fosters the Just Peace, so I believe we should congratulate ourselves on that loud voice coming from afar; the voice coming from a hermitage, calling for a return to the path of righteousness, to peace and to just peace, we need such rare voices in our time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have received with much passion, love and appreciation the invitation from Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation to attend

this forum, and I was so eager to have the honor of being here among you as a parliamentarian coming from Morocco of North Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our meeting today is a successful one, in both form and content. It is successful because we were able to speak out the truth and return our world to the righteous path. That is why it has succeeded by all standards. Therefore, we should thank Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation for its great efforts to raise the voices of peace, justice and truth, which is one of the names of our God «The Truth».

Peace will continue to prevail as long as there are voices calling for peace and a return to the path of righteousness. Therefore, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this meeting; the people behind the scenes who do their utmost efforts concerning organizing, directing, and guiding in this forum. I also extend my appreciation and gratitude to the Republic of Malta, His Excellency the President, the Parliament, and the people of Malta for their warm hospitality and reception, as well as for creating a conducive environment for meaningful and serious discussions.

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather today, as we witness a globe rife with conflicts, to ask ourselves; has the dialogue solution ended in failure? Do we need a new way of thinking? or as our God says in the Qur'an, "*Is there not among you a single right-minded man?*" Hereby, I find it necessary to draw the attention to the outcomes of this forum when its organizers decided to form a committee that facilitates and encourages dialogue between the currently conflicting parties, whose dispute has seized the attention of the entire world and people of all ages. The thing that has made our

world follow everything that is taking place during this war; the killing and destruction, the very same war where there will be no winners, so whoever thinks he will be a winner, he will not be. On the other hand, whoever believes he will lose this war, he will not be the only loser, but the whole world will lose this war or any other war that may come as well.

In this world, which could not overcome these disputes between the conflicting parties, everyone's heart beats with fear whenever we remember wars wherever they exist, whenever we remember their worries and consequences, whenever we remember how many homeless people, refugees, children, women and elders are out there and are compromised to be lost in such a world and feel sorry and even regret for being here in such a horrible life.

Man is created to live a life of dignity, and our God stated in the Holy Qur'an, "*Blessed is He in whose hand is dominion, and He is over all things competent, [He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving*". That is why the world of today should be good in deeds; its deeds should be aimed towards peace, because our world, if I may say, is a small piece of land, a small village, a small city and even a small house, and our life is too short to be fighting, so why should we? Why should there be any bloodshed? What legacy will this war leave? Do you know what the answer is? Well, it will leave a lot behind; orphans, victims, and even more than that; it will leave behind the destruction of humanity, destruction of what had been successfully achieved by humanity, of the social exploits and, of course, of our culture.

Today we live in the shadows of what our ancestors left for us, but consider what we will leave for those who will come after us; what legacies we will be leaving for them; fighting and wars? Destruction? All causes of conflict, whether they were about water, land or any

natural resources are nothing compared to man's life and existence, for man should live today and not otherwise. Here, I would like to thank all the peoples who have opened their boundaries and made the whole world gathered in a small cup. We all seek happiness and joy, and none of us seeks destruction or the killing of innocent people.

We are sorry; who among us does not feel this way today, when the eyes desire what the hands cannot reach? So all we can do today is intensify our efforts; as parliamentarians, governments, and civil society, because when war breaks out, it means we have failed; we have failed to agree, failed to spread love and brotherhood, which is why I see Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation at the forefront of those calling for a return to the path of righteousness and away from the path of injustice, hatred, and aggression. Therefore, let us all work for our peoples; encouraging non-discrimination between men and women, and opposing oppression, contempt, arrogance, bullying, and excessive selfishness, all of which contribute to this destruction. Long live the happy and active nations.

Who among us now would want to die before his time? None of us, even if a straight person attempts to kill himself, he will be unable to do so since an inner power in our bodies prevents us from dying, but what about those people who devise lethal weapons? Let us all work together to put an end to all forms of the armaments trade.

Malevolence and hatred only generate enmity, which leads to fighting, war, and destruction. Today, as parliamentarians, we must endeavor to shape or frame our peoples and our institutions with projects that spread love and appreciation. I conclude with the verse that God Almighty stated in the Qur'an, *"I only desire reform as much as I am able, and my success is only by God, upon Him I rely, and to Him I repent"*.

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Mr. Struan Stevenson

Former Member of the European Parliament

Your Excellency President Vella,

**Your Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz
Saud Albabtain,**

**Your Excellences Presidents,
Ministers, Law Makers,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,



It is my great honor to have been invited to address this outstanding forum.

Against the tragic background of a new war, we need your leadership for just peace and this remarkable effort to promote the Culture of Peace, so this is the perfect stage to tell you about a new global initiative to introduce an international treaty to ban the political use of religion.

The mission captures the spirit of this forum; it is a natural part of the incredible effort of President Vella, Mr. Albabtain and all those who aspire for just peace. Everyone knows that one of the main messages of all religions is to be kind to one another, but unfortunately, religion has often been used as a weapon. When we look at the world today and in the last few decades, we see that the abusive mixing of religion and politics has been the main root cause of the worst conflicts; there have been thousands of attempts to solve this problem, but very often, they end up doing more damage than good by giving ammunition to the extremists.

I believe that we now have the ultimate solution to set global rules to disarm religious extremism. An initiative led by, the London-based NGO, BPUR International ban the political use of religion. Unlike all previous attempts, this historic mission comes from the utmost respect for all religions with a unique understanding of all sensitivities surrounding this minefield, and how to build a global and respectful consensus.

The proposed treaty represents a new approach to introduce clear, simple and indisputable international rules to ban all political uses of religion that undermine human equality, all religious discrimination in rights and duties, all religious exclusion and all restrictions to freedom of religion and belief. These simple terms will apply to all violations without any clashes with religious beliefs.

One of the central points of this initiative is the fact that we cannot single out any specific religion or any specific country. There is no solution for this problem on any national stage. We need fair global rules for a global problem.

Now this is not separating religion and politics. On the contrary, we believe such a separation is, not only irrelevant, but it is also impossible, even in most of the Western nations, let alone other parts of the world. We only need to stop the political abuse of religion and all religious discrimination.

This initiative is building phenomenal support worldwide because it is indisputable; no responsible government or person can refuse such fundamental fair rules, no one can say, «No, I want to use religion to discriminate between people.» We believe that this non-confrontational approach is the only way to build global consensus to help the international community eliminate the root causes of religious extremism, and deal with most of the current and future conflicts.

The evidence is here, the support for this initiative is accelerating rapidly among distinguished leaders, officials, lawmakers, philanthropists, influential people, royalty, UN officials, religious leaders from all over the world and international organizations. The roadmap of this historic mission is to secure governmental adoption to table the proposed treaty at the UN General Assembly, and we are very close to achieving that objective.

Malta, Kuwait and all your countries can certainly make history by leading this mission to eliminate the political abuse of religion. We have advanced agreements and engagements with many governments; large groups of parliamentarians have already asked their governments to adopt this initiative, especially in Morocco, in Bangladesh, Italy, Austria, Pakistan and most recently the United Kingdom, where 27 cross-party parliamentarians have asked the Prime Minister to adopt the initiative, how and why could he say no? and that is only the tip of the iceberg as we have different levels of support in more than 60 other countries, including many of your countries.

In May, we are organizing an international conference in Morocco with seven Moroccan NGOs and the National Human Rights Council, more than a hundred lawmakers, officials and religious leaders will meet to coordinate the international efforts to enact this significant UN treaty.

Your Excellences,

We are getting very close to a new era, where all mankind agrees to stop all political abuses of religion, and I believe it is a great opportunity for your countries to take leading positions in this historic mission.

It is very easy for any government to say, «Yes to adopting this initiative,» because it is unthinkable to say no, it would be very rewarding for any government to lead the world to a better future. The proposed

treaty would certainly make a massive difference to the lives of billions and serve all international humanitarian objectives by eliminating the root causes of many intractable conflicts and a long list of violations of human rights. It would subsequently enhance stability and open the door for sustainable development.

Many of the conflicts bin the world today could be solved if we all speak with one voice, every corner of the world will benefit from this treaty, not only the countries which are imprisoned in the cycle of religious violence. You could ask, «Why did we miss a simple solution like this for so long?» If we have had this treaty 70, 50, or even 20 years ago, we could have prevented the destruction of so many countries, we could have saved millions of lives and livelihoods. This treaty would also reflect on every aspect of life by creating functioning and responsible societies worldwide.

Your Excellency President Vella,

Your Excellency Mr. Albabtain,

Your Excellences Presidents, Ministers, Law Makers,

This initiative is an interpretation of your admiral effort and a natural part of your remarkable leadership for just peace, this is your initiative because your leadership would make a crucial difference to this effort to enact a significant UN treaty that would certainly make the world more tolerant, more fair and more peaceful.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Jesmond Saliba

Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations in Malta

**Thank you honorable
Farrugia,**

**Your Excellency President
Vella,**

**Your Excellency Mr.
Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,**

Your Excellences,

Distinguished Guests,



Thanks for the privilege to address this forum. It was said many times and I repeat; we are living in really dramatic times. I come from a generation, who in their teens, witnessed and welcomed with a certain euphoria the historic fall of a wall and lived the process of unification of a continent on the ideals of peace. I remember it was a time to dream and hope.

My children's maternal Polish grandparents, in their teens, however witnessed the horror and destruction of war. This morning, like other mornings since last week, I had once again to explain to my twelve-year-old girls what is going on at the doorstep of their homelands when just only a few months ago, we were speaking about the process which led their both homelands, Malta and Poland, be part of a project which was born from the ashes of war.

Explaining what is going on to children is a difficult and daunting task for any parent, let alone how tragic it is to flee from war when you

are a child whose children need safety, they need to feel in a safe world and they do not always understand why this safety is hindered by greed.

Children to me are the essence and personification of common good; an ocean which we often mention, but hardly see, put at the center of our activities, because if we really believe in the common good, if we strive for the common good, we would all do things more different.

The famous Schumann's Declaration, which inspired the creation of what today is the European Union, states that world peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it, and here we are.

What we are witnessing in Ukraine shows like what we witnessed in the previous years and decades in the Balkans, Middle East and the Gulf that peace is threatened and endangered, and the danger is real when we ignore the common good and greed takes over and the safety and freedom of people is threatened. How shall we respond to this? and as Commissioner of Voluntary Organizations and Civil Society Organizations, what role Civil Society has in all this ask? We have to dare to dream of a world where peace prevails, but we have a responsibility to act too to make the dream a reality and we all have a role in this.

Civil Society Organizations has the power to be an enabler of social cohesion, promoters of active citizenship and safeguards of the common and greater good in society through their special characteristics and values, yet recently researchers internationally have shown that globally many voluntary-based organizations, cooperatives, associations, mutual funds, philanthropic organizations, transnational advocacy group and the more recently social entrepreneurs have purposes closely related to their particular interest and, as such, are not necessarily directed towards a common good, so we all have a responsibility.

This reality comes from the fact that also Civil Society Organizations have also to deal with an array of stakeholders with that have expressed

different and even sometimes divergent claims in their recent times. Donors, funders, beneficiaries, workers, regulators and most importantly the volunteers, which are the hearts of any Civil Society Organization, have different interests in and representations of the performance and the identity of an organization, so being accountable to all of them, which is one strategy among others to regionalize an organization's being and doings, might just be an impossible task, but also a source of opportunities as there is no clear-cut hierarchy among them and no obvious common ground.

The concept of just peace has several defining elements; it rests, however, on specific understanding of the word «peace». One of the definitions of Just Peace says that *“it is a social condition of harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility, it is a state of social and societal well-being in which all relationships and which the basic needs of people are met”*. This can easily be seen as the common good; embodied as defined earlier in children and future generations.

The well-being of society of the future needs active citizens; this is fundamental, as politics in Liberalized Market Economy increasingly become an exercise in creating institutional structures for the pursuit of sectional self-interest, so we need to make every commitment together to living for the common good.

At this very particular period in the history of humanity; in this very sad chapter of world history, we have a call, which we need to answer together; political leaders, civil society, and active citizens. Yes, together we all have an obligation to make every commitment to living and strive for the common good. Each sector should not view itself independent from other sectors. Together with all our ideas, values and diversity, we can make a difference; we put the common good as our goal to attain just peace.

Thank you.

Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas
CEO of «Connectors for Peace»

**Thank you Mr. Chairman
for your gracious words of
introduction,**

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. It is a great pleasure to be here. Also I am well aware that being the last speaker in the last session on the last day of this forum, and on top of that, right before lunch, that my task is certainly impossible to expect to be heard, but nevertheless, I would like to say a few words of gratitude and to thank Albabtain Foundation and the Republic of Malta for their hospitality and organizing this very timely forum.

I would like to express my gratitude to Chairman Albabtain, President of Malta, and Dr. Touhami Abdouli also for putting together this event, and also to all speakers; this morning and yesterday. I say I learned a great deal these were very inspiring words and it is good to and also reassuring to see that today and yesterday we were all together as champions for peace.

In a way, I would also like to stress how much I was inspired last night to read this book (Contemplations for Just Peace) of the Chairman Albabtain and I think this book should be almost mandatory in schools



around the world and probably the world would be a better place if everyone would read this book, and Mr. Chairman as you have been using this beautiful image of just peace being a candle; be assured that we are certainly all committed here to maintain this flame alive and vibrant, and even so we are in very difficult circumstances. There are still people committed to peace and that peace will prevail.

Let me be very briefly because I know time is very short. May be that is my privilege being the last speaker of this session, to introduce a perspective based actually on research and academic evidence, and even so, since last week, we are living in a very different world; the reality of the Post-Cold War, as shown by research, by UNESCO, but also by the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflicts, shows that most conflicts in the world today are not conflicts between member states, but they are within countries, and what we are witnessing again, based on those researches, is that two-thirds or even more of the conflicts today are rooted in culture, in cultural divide, in ethnic divide, and in a way identity. In a way, it is quite striking to see that most conflicts today are domestic conflicts and opposing different people from different cultures and identities.

In a way, we see more and more countries in different parts of the world that are coming closer to a sort of civil war. There is a situation that we have never been witnessing in the recent time; we see increasingly societies that are fractured, that are divided; the dividing line, which used to be during the Cold War and until a recent time, the ideology is now between identities, so we have moved from dividing lines that were based on ideology to identity, and you know of course we can take multiple examples.

At the «Connectors for Peace,» we have developed this sort of theory or observation of two major dividing lines; one that we call the vertical dividing line, which is between the globalist and the localist; two groups of people who are having very different perspectives, those are having exclusively the global perspective who are very agile, speaking languages, navigating the global world and who are losing the sense of their roots and culture. At the other side of the spectrum, you have the people; the localist, who are profoundly and deeply entrenched in their culture and tradition.

Those two groups are increasingly moving in opposite directions, dismissing each other and hating each other. Then you have the horizontal divide that is between the secular and the religious; those who consider that religion has nothing to do with society or public policy and it is purely a private thing, and then you have, at the other side of the spectrum, those who consider that we, as individuals, are nothing but the emanation of a transcendental spirit and religion and that religion should take over public policies and also the public space. These, again, are two tribes or two groups who are going increasingly in opposite directions. Then you have multiple of those dividing lines between the LGBT and the family oriented group, between the abortions and pro-life, between the climate activists and those who refuse or ignore, between the vegetarians and the carnivore. These are multiple topics that are fracturing our societies and that are leading, as we see again in many parts of the world countries that are converged to collapse or where societies are so divided, that there is almost nothing left in terms of a common denominator, also with social media, also sometimes with the decline of the role and the power and the influence of politicians.

Hate speech and fake news are giving even more voice to those who are at the extreme, and we are seeing societies that are increasingly polarized, but in a way, the reality of our societies is not at those extremes. Those extremes are very much heard because of social media that are, in a way, de-multiplying their voice, but the reality of our society is in between those groups of people, who oscillate between those extremes, and that is what we call the silent majority of the moderates, and one, if not the major imperative for political leaders, for the civil society, for media and for everyone, is to strengthen the voice of the moderates, because in a way, and that is the topic today, is that governments can play a tremendous role through public policy and regulation to prevent or to mitigate the risk of tensions, but the reality is that you do not touch the mind and the heart of people with public policy and this where comes into place the «Connectors». «The Connectors» are a whole range of groups and activities whose core business is to connect people.

I know my time is short, but I would just like to make my point in one minute if you allow me. If you take sports, if you take music, if you take entertainment, if you take the arts, if you take a whole range of sectors, they are convening and connecting people, regardless of their belief, regardless of their identity. If you and I are going to stadium or a music arena or wherever, we do not ask our neighbor what is his or her political, sexual, food or religious orientation. We are in the stadium because we are willing to share our passion for sport, and this is a way of building common societies. Therefore, what we are doing at «Connectors for Peace», working very closely with the UNESCO and a wide range of partners around the world, is really to make those connectors; sport federations, art, entertainment and film industry aware of their role, of their role and their capacity because they are touching the mind and the

heart of people that they can be peace changers and they can be the peace advocates, so this is what we are doing. Unfortunately, the time is too short to go into details, but I just would like to say that our goal is really to create a world coalition of like-minded organizations, to give voice and to support again the politicians and governments, whose role is indispensable, but not sufficient to promote peace and cohesion of society, so we need really to create this coalition and to engage all those economic, arts and cultural sectors to become the peace advocates, and in that respect, we are certainly very keen to work with Albabtain Foundation and to join forces, because I think the task is so huge that if we really want to have an impact, we need to work together and we need to join forces.

Thank you very much.



THE SECOND WORLD FORUM FOR THE CULTURE OF JUST PEACE

“LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE”

MALTA MEETING 2022

3 - 4 MARCH

CLOSING SESSION

- **Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain**, Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation

Closing speech:

- **HE. George Vella**, President of Malta



Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain delivering his speech within the closing session of the Forum.

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain

*Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud
Albabtain Cultural Foundation*

**In the name of Allah, most
Gracious, most Merciful**

**Excellency President of Malta,
Dr. George Vella,**

**Excellency President of Albania,
Ilir Meta,**

**Excellency President of Kosovo,
Vjosa Osmani,**

**Excellency Speaker of the
Parliament of Malta, Anġlu Farrugia,**

**Excellency Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives, Mohamed
Nasheed,**

**Excellencies; Presidents, Vice-Presidents of the Parliaments,
Parliamentarians,**

**Excellences Secretary-Generals and Director-Generals of the
International Organizations and Representatives of Educational
and Civil Society Institutions,**

Excellences the Ministers,

Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen the Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen attending,

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you,

It is my pleasure to express my highest heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the success of the activities of this «Second



World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace.» This shared accomplishment and success is the result of everyone's honesty and willingness to work together constructively to achieve our noble goal. I also extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the team of the Presidency of the Republic of Malta, led by His Excellency President George Vella, the team of our Foundation, and everyone who contributed in one way or another to organize and make the Forum a success.

I listened attentively and gladly to all of the distinguished world leaders and representatives of International Organizations, Parliaments, and Civil Society, all of which are crucial in terms of analysis, future vision, and positive proposals, and I came to three fundamental conclusions:

The first is that just peace is the right of all humanity, or rather the right that embraces all human rights, and anybody who wishes to understand this all-embracing right - that is, just peace - must first understand its essence, which is justice.

The second is that creating leaders of Just Peace from the young and future generations and empowering them to its culture is an urgent historical humanitarian necessity that we must undertake immediately and without delay, because every delay has dire consequences for humanity's future.

The third is our efforts to achieve this are collective, shared, and interactive efforts peculiar to diverse governmental, international, and civic institutions, and we agree on this collective pursuit. Therefore, a shared mechanism of action for coordination, training, and preparation of leaders is necessary, which is the «Global Platform for Just Peace» that we must seek to establish technologically in all countries.

To conclude, I reaffirm my commitment, via my Foundation, to found this «Global Platform for Just Peace» and to collaborate with you

to make it comprehensive for the majority of the world's countries and peoples, as well as my commitment to continue investing in the Culture of Just Peace.

Thank you Your Excellency President George Vella.

Thank you all for your attention.

May Allah bless us all.

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you.

HE. Dr. George Vella
President of Malta



Excellences,

Dear Guests,

First of all, to extend my warm thanks to all of you who made it to this forum for the culture and peace in Malta possible. I start with Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain and his team for the cooperation extended to my office before and during this event. Also I heartily thank His Excellency Ilir Meta, Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani Sadriu and His Excellency Stjepan Mesić for their presence and their very inspiring participation. This was very clear sign that against a backdrop of a pandemic and an ongoing war happening on European soil, people want to come together and to talk about a peaceful and just coexistence.

It gave me great satisfaction to meet with some of you informally during this forum as I could feel the engagement of important agents for peace first hand.

Peace is not only the task of elected politicians; it finds roots and strength in the daily work of multilateral organizations, ambassadors, academics, civil society, NGOs, voluntary organizations students and tutee. This is what enriched the value of this forum; it was inclusive and had a comprehensive approach.

From a proud national perspective, I very much feel that this forum continues to strengthen Malta's international profile as a promoter of dialogue and mutual understanding. As has been remarked by our distinguished speakers, this has been Malta's mission along the centuries. It is this mission; this vocation I would even say, is one who will continue to nurture, not only in our immediate neighborhood in the Mediterranean with our partners in Europe and the Arab World, but also on a global level when we are elected to the United Nations Security Council this June for the terms 2023-2024.

I was very impressed by some of the observations made over these two days.

First of all, I refer to the compliment paid to Malta by Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain himself, where it described my country as a rich mosaic of cultures, with the long-standing record of inter-cultural dialogue. I agree fully with him as he insists on the need to remain unified in pursuing our common objective of peace. Equally correct is the statement that merely believing in peace is not enough, we have to tangibly promote and apply it in practice. Our collective efforts need to be geared at finding a path to mutual cooperation.

I highly appreciated the message passed on to us by His Excellency Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, who referred to and I quote, «...wisdom of the Mediterranean...», it would be good for us, countries of the region, to reflect on this phrase and assess where the wisdom could be put to better use.

I also wish to thank President Ilir Meta for his very interesting intervention and reflections on what is actually happening in Europe and around us. Excellency, I found your thinking of the link between true leadership and democracy is very fitting in the present circumstances.

As the President rightly pointed out, expansionism and ethnic division continue to threaten stability in our shared region of the Mediterranean as well as the Western Balkans. I thank the President also for the reference made to the strong bonds that exist between people to people, which developed between Malta and Albania throughout the years.

President Vjosa Osmani Sadriu also had a very inspiring and heartfelt speech; it was very much reflected and expressed and was expressing our common feeling for the citizens of Ukraine, our sympathy and our sorrow. The punch line there one we should all carry in full view is that every individual has an absolute right to peace, which is an observation which is very pertinent to today's world. We were reminded of the huge importance in today's world of the correct use of social media. Those of you who follow my work locally and abroad know how strongly I feel about the way on the use of social media for the benefit of society, and not for its disruption.

Yesterday, we also had the pleasure of listening to Former President Stjepan Mesić, who focused on the qualities we, as political leaders, should put to good use in the promotion of just peace. Allow me to add that at this particular juncture in European history, we can all witness what a true leader stands for; this requires a sense of self-sacrifice for the common good and to the benefit of their brethren. President Mesić stated an evident truth that "*...we sometimes all underestimate...*", and the vast majorities, he said, "*...all people around the world want peace...*"

Then we had two sessions of very interesting interventions, which I do not have the time to go into detail of what each and every speaker said. Obviously, we had the session on the role of governments and international organizations as well as the role of parliamentarians and civil society, but if you allow me, I can pick some notes, which I put down which impressed me.

For example, having said the Secretary General of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) saying that we have to be moderate and that we have to have the freedom of thinking and also to denounce violence and terrorism and advocate, at the same time, tolerance and acceptance.

His Excellency Taieb Baccouche told us about the cooperation that is necessary between institutions, and Salim Al-Mlaik from ISESCO spoke about that there is no development without stability; these are the essence of what has been said in these very important interventions.

Ahmed Yusuf, who is a Former President of the International Court of Justice, talked about the prominent role of the role of law and also the role of education, cooperation and mutual respect.

Our colleague from UNHCR, His Excellency Khaled Khalifa, spoke about the need and that we have to deal with the consequences of the absence of peace, because it is not just about the absence of peace, but we have to deal with the consequences of that, and that peace has become a dream and a luxury for millions of people around the world.

Our colleague Mohammed Alshafee from ECLASLO (European Commission and League of the Arab States Liaison's Office based in Malta) spoke about the need for dialogue and mutual understanding and respect to dignity of the human being.

Professor Alfred J. Vella spoke about why universities should engage in peace building, repeating that education helps achieve peace and that whatever he quoted from well-known world authorities on the definition of peace and absence thereof has to be implemented.

Then we come to the third session, which was monitored by my friend and colleague Dr. Anġlu Farrugia, who spoke about the role of parliamentarians to maintain peace, but then we had very interesting

and emotional, I would say, interventions by His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed to start with about the free and fair political parties and elections, the need for that and the peaceful transfer of power.

Equally emotional was our colleague Hanno Pevkur from Estonia, and we can understand because he is coming from a country, which has a border with Russia and, which I was supposed to visit next week and I had to cancel because of the ongoing circumstances. He spoke about the future of democracy, Human Rights Charters and reflections on the dangers of dictatorship.

His Excellency Abdesselam Lebbar spoke again also passionately and with heartfelt emotions about telling the truth; telling that we have to say the truth with a very strong voice and that we have to denounce war under any circumstances.

Then we had His Excellency Struan Stevenson, who spoke about the ban; that we have to agree on the ban of the political use of religions.

My colleague Jesmond Saliba looked at the attainment and maintenance of peace and the role of voluntary organizations. I was struck by the fact that his children and his wife who is Polish have got to try to understand what is happening in the country of their grandparents.

Finally, there was Monsieur Jean-Christophe Bas, who spoke about the nature of modern world divisions between countries and within countries themselves.

So I think that from all of this, we have to somehow bring ourselves down to some sort of decisions that we must have taken after these two days of discussions, and I am going to mention some points not in the order of importance.

It has been underlined that we need the involvement of NGOs and regional organizations to maintain cultural peace, as well as university think tanks. We reflected on the responsibility of ensuring effective role of responsible leadership to bring harmony and peace in our societies. We reflected on our commitment to reinforcing preventive diplomacy in order to maintain the global culture of peace, as well as ensuring gender empowerment and the effective role of women, who constitute 50% of societies and also to them more importance in all aspects of life.

We repeatedly heard the appeal for more directive involvement of world leaders and institutions in achieving a just peace, and we definitely have heard that we have to make sure that youth have an effective voice; that we have to cultivate respect of multi-faith societies in different countries, and the very important consideration of the control of the distribution of small arms and light weapons.

This meeting has clearly underlined the need of accentuating the power of dialogue because peace cannot be simply taken for granted. The necessity of identifying and eliminating the root causes of conflict and of physical violence, as well as the promotion of the dignity of every human being, and the recognition of the values of understanding, dialogue as well as solidarity.

Finally, we have to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals relating especially to Goal 16 about peace, justice and strong institutions.

In conclusion, dear Mr. Albabtain, Presidents, Speakers, Excellences and distinguished guests, I thank you all for your valuable contribution to this global discussion on peace. It is very important that, precisely because of the persistent aggressions, the breaches of human rights, the threats to sovereignty, the oppression of entire nations, we, the

international community, continue to press for democracy, for justice and for peace.

We may have not solved any conflicts or crises through our discussions, but we certainly gave a voice to those amongst us, whose freedom, well-being and, in some cases, their very existence is put in peril.

My very final words are reiteration of the message I conveyed yesterday on the ongoing war on European soil. Our ultimate collective hope is for credible and effective negotiations that result in a durable cessation of these appalling attacks and relief of the people of Ukraine from the harm, the anguish and the deep distress that they have been experiencing for days, yet the violence continues.

The world spoke out loud and clear at the United Nations General Assembly on the 2nd of March through the adoption of the resolution on the aggression against Ukraine with an overwhelming majority. I had my voice, and I am sure the general feeling of this conference to this resounding global condemnation of illegal and unprovoked attacks on a sovereign state and the immense suffering they are causing to the people. We need to stand together to safeguard and defend the rules-based international system, and we all have a role to play in our own professions; in our roles as politicians and in our activities. No country, large or small, should be threatened and endangered in this way; this is something that we cannot accept in this day and age for anyone anywhere around the globe. I ask you to take these thoughts with you back home and I urge you to be agents of tolerance and peace in all your actions.

Thank you for your attention.

**Conferring Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain
the Title of “Doctor Honoris Causa”
by the Mediterranean University of Albania**



Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain receives the honorary doctorate "Honoris Causa" from the members of the Academic Senate of the Mediterranean University in Albania



Members of the Academic Senate of the Mediterranean University of Albania deliver their recommendations for awarding Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain the honorary doctorate.

Prof. Dr. Greta Angjeli, Vice Rector of the University:

Thank you all that you are part of this ceremony, which is organized by the Mediterranean University of Albania.

First of all, Your Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,

Dear President of Albania,

Dear, I am told that His Excellency the Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker is here, so thank you for being part of this ceremony,

All the other distinguished guests,

Dear colleagues of the Senate of the Mediterranean University of Albania, and all the participants,

We are here with a great pleasure in this very important ceremony of conferring the Honorary Degree, Dr. Honoris Causa, to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Founder and Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation and the President of the Scientific Board of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation in the European Union.

I invite now the promoter, my colleagues, members of the Academic Senate of the Mediterranean University of Albania, Professor Ksenofon Krisafi, Dean of the Faculty of Law and International Relations, and the Professor Nevila Rama, Vice Rector of the University, to give their recommendations why we have decided to have that great honor giving this title to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, so the floor is yours.



Prof. Dr. Ksenofan Krisafi, Dean of the Faculty of Law and International Relations:

Thank you very much Vice Rector Angjeli,

Excellences,

Dear participants,

I am very pleased and honored to make this recommendation towards the title «Dr. Honoris Causa» by the Mediterranean University of Albania to His Excellency Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Founder and Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain Cultural Foundation.

Based on his valuable activities on the academic scientific level, and first of all, as a testimony of high gratitude for everything he has done for the peace and the future of humanity, I have proposed to the Academic Senate of our university for awarding Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain the honorific title «Dr. Honoris Causa», a proposal which was approved unanimously, thank you very much.

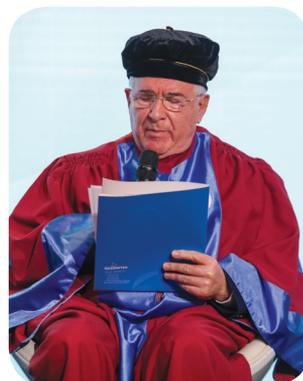
The full recommendation will be given to Mr. Abdulaziz for sure, but we do not want to take you longer here, both our colleagues are just speaking about the very crucial things, the key things, and not all the material, so sorry for not being long, but that is our thought about that ceremony.

Prof. Nevila Rama, Vice Rector:

Thank you very much.

Your Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,

I am honored to be part of this ceremony. My recommendation is: «Beside his engagement in world politics for Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, I have emphasized the importance of literature and poetry in his life, which led



to his remarkable initiatives to bring Arab Literature and Poetry to the world reader, and his efforts to establish a number of Chairs of the Arab Culture in several universities in Europe, United States of America, Asia and Africa. Therefore, it was my great pleasure to recommend to Mr. Albabtain, in the Academic Senate of the Mediterranean University of Albania, to be awarded this honorable title «Dr. Honoris Causa», a decision we are here today to confer.».. Thank you.

Prof. Dr. Greta Angjeli, Vice Rector of the University:

Thank you very much my dear colleague, and I would invite now the President of the Mediterranean University of Albania, Prof. Dr. Anastas Angjeli, Member of the Academy of Science of Albania, to award the title «Dr. Honoris Causa» to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain.



Prof. Dr. Anastas Angjeli, President of the Mediterranean University of Albania:

Thank you.

Your Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain,

Your Excellency Mr. President Ilir Meta,

Your Excellency Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait,

Dear colleagues from the Academic Senate of the Mediterranean University of Albania,

Distinguished guests,

It was my great honor to personally initiate the process of according, and now to be part of the ceremony of awarding the title «Dr. Honoris Causa» to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, on behalf of the Mediterranean University of Albania.



It is a very special event for us as it is the first time that the Mediterranean University of Albania organizes a ceremony of conferring an academic title outside its campus, as it is a special, the personal invitation of Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain for us to be part of the «Second World Forum for the Culture of just Peace», entitled «Leadership for Just Peace, Malta Meeting 2022.»

I will proceed now with the ceremony by reading the decision of the Academic Senate of the Mediterranean University of Albania; *Decision No. 13, Tirana, December 20, 2021. Based on the Law 1815 on Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania, the Statue of the Mediterranean University of Albania, the proposal of the President of the Mediterranean University of Albania and with the concern of the Ministry of Education and Sport of the Republic of Albania, the Academic Senate deliberated in his meeting on December 20, 2021 and decided to award the title «Dr. Honoris Causa» to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, with motivation, for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of the Culture of Peace in the international community, the building of common instruments of cooperation through the dissemination of culture, education and dialogue for the security of future generations.*

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, you are welcome in our family; the Mediterranean University of Albania now as an Honor of Senate.

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain:

Thank you very much. In fact, I am very happy with that award and your presence among us in this ceremony in a country with which we have remained culturally connected for centuries, demonstrating that this current generation certainly still remembers that strong relationship that brings us all together



through the Culture of Peace. I am very convinced that the outcomes of today's event will have a significant influence, God willing, in resolving the ongoing wars and conflicts.

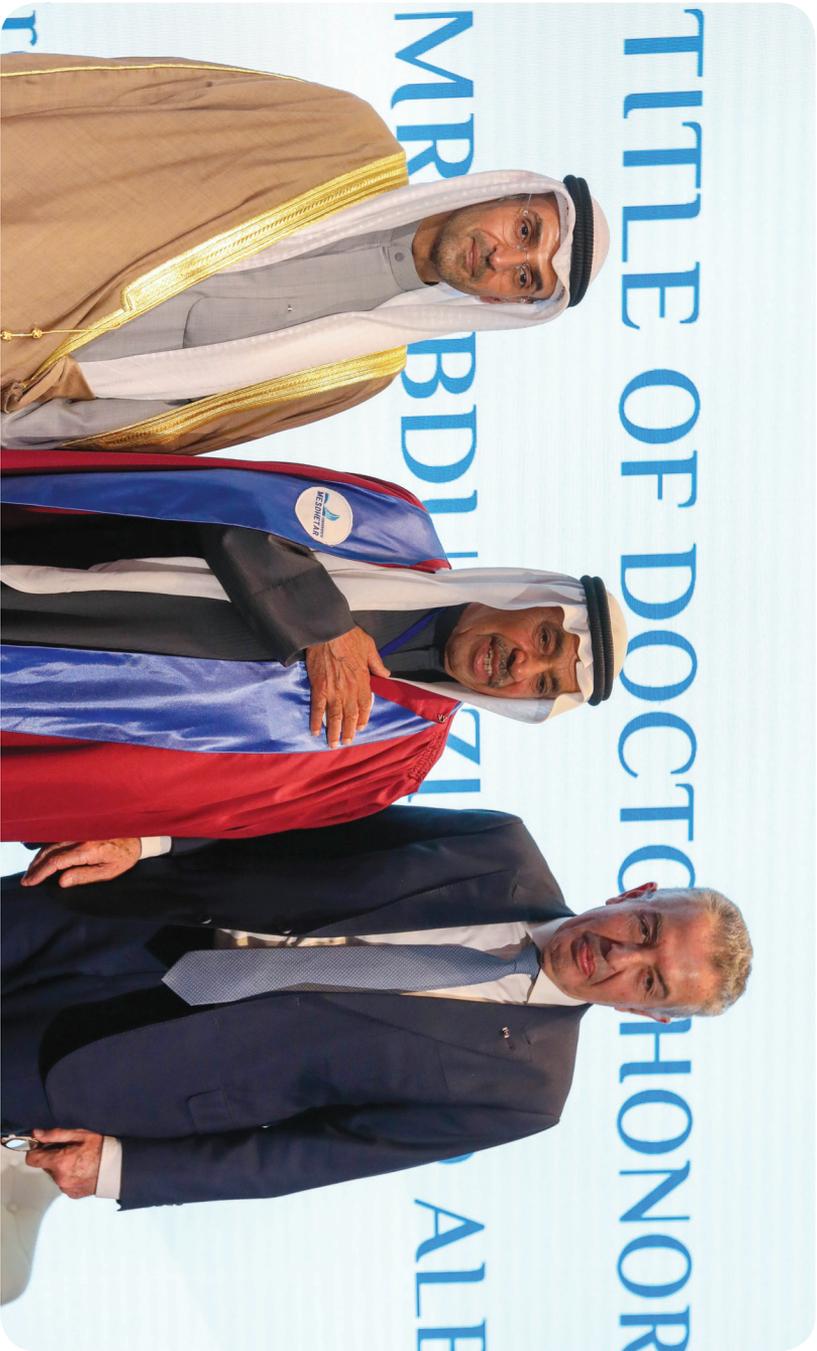
I would like to dedicate this Honorary Doctorate, number sixteen among the other doctorates I have received throughout my life and which I cherish with great pride, to the Kuwaiti People and the Kuwaiti leadership, who spared no effort in encouraging me to reach where I am now with you; this is something I have achieved thanks to God first then to our beloved Kuwait. Thank you all and the thanks goes also to the people of Malta.



A commemorative photo of Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain's brief speech after receiving the honorary doctorate with members of the University's Academic Senate.



A commemorative photo of Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain and the honorable Albabtain family after receiving the honorary doctorate from the Mediterranean University in Albania.



A commemorative photo of Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain with Mr. Tariq Al-Sharif President of the Kuwaiti-Tunisian Cooperation Council and H.E. Nayef Al-Hairaf Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, after receiving the honorary doctorate

The Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace
"LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE"

**Recommendations
of The Second World Forum for the
Culture of Just Peace**

The Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace
"LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE"

Recommendations

Following the first World Forum for Culture of Peace, held on June 13, 2019 in the Hague, Netherland, and whose main focus was the protection of Cultural Heritage in Iraq and Yemen, Abdulaziz Albabtain Cultural Foundation organized the Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace, 3-4 March, 2022, in cooperation with the Presidency of the Republic of Malta.

The Forum was under the auspices of His Excellency Dr. George Vella President of Malta, and with the presence of; His Excellency Ilir Meta President of Albania, Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani President of Kosovo and His Excellency Stjepan Mesić Former President of Croatia, and with the participation of His Excellency Antonio Guterres the UN Secretary General via a written message and His Excellency Abdullah Shahid the President of the United Nations General Assembly via a videotaped message, as well as Speakers of Parliaments; His Excellency Anġlu Farrugia Speaker of the Parliament of Malta, His Excellency Marzouq Al-Ghanim Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives and His Excellency Hanno Pevkur First Vice-President of the Parliament of Estonia, key parliamentary figures and civil society representatives.

The participants during the two-day forum pointed out that without institutional mechanisms, clear educational programmes, and tools for developing leadership competencies the Just Peace and sustainable stability for the people cannot be achieved.

The speakers were unanimous in stating that "We started the New Year confronting many challenges, old and new. Heightened international tensions, socio-economic and political instability, compromised global supply chains, climate change, refugee and humanitarian crises, and a continuing COVID-19 pandemic loomed over our existence.

They also emphasized that the war between Ukraine and Russia is unacceptable "we cannot achieve just peace if we still live in a world of wars."

The participants finally called for:

- **A more direct involvement of world leaders, NGOs, regional organizations and institutions maintaining the Culture of Just Peace as well as universities think tanks.**
- **Ensuring effective role of responsible leadership to bring harmony and just peace in societies.**
- **Reinforcing preventive diplomacy in order to maintain the global Culture of Just Peace.**
- **Gender empowerment of women and girls and assigning more importance to their role in all aspects of life, as they constitute 50% of our societies.**
- **Making sure that young people have an effective voice.**
- **The respect for different beliefs and multi-faith societies in different countries.**
- **The control on the distribution of small arms and light weapons.**
- **Accentuating the power of dialogue because just peace cannot be simply taken for granted.**

- **The necessity of identifying and eliminating the root-causes of conflict and of physical violence.**
- **The promotion of the dignity of every human being and the recognition of the values of understanding, dialogue as well as solidarity.**
- **Regarding the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, they called for an immediate ceasefire and diplomatic solutions to stop the war.**
- **Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda of sustainable development goals relating to goal 16 about peace, justice and strong institutions.**

The Second World Forum for the Culture of Just Peace
"LEADERSHIP FOR JUST PEACE"

Photos from the forum



A picture from one of the forum's sessions, showing from right to left: His Honor. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf Former President of the International Court of Justice, HE. Salim M. AlMalik Director-General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), HE. Taieb Baccouche Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union.



A picture of awarding Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain the Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) from the Mediterranean University of Albania. Standing from right to left: HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, Prof. Dr. Greta Angjeli, Vice-Rector of the University, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Prof. Dr. Anastas Angjeli, President of the University, HE. Ilir Meta President of Albania, Prof. Nevila Rama, Vice-Rector of the University.



Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain delivering his speech at the closing session, shown on the podium from right to left: Mr. Struan Stevenson Former Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Jesmond Saliba Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations in Malta, HE. Mohamed Nasheed Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives and HE. Anglu Farrugia Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta.



A commemorative photo before heading to the conference hall, featuring HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim President of the National Assembly of Kuwait with Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain.



A picture of HE. Dr. George Vella delivering his speech, shown from left to right: HE. Nabeel Alhamer Advisor of His Majesty the King of Bahrain, Prof. Dr. Anastas Angjeli President of the Mediterranean University of Albania and his spouse, HE. Michael Frendo Former Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, Mr. Jesmond Saliba Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations of Malta, Dr. Essa Al-Ansari from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature of Kuwait, Mr. Abdesselam Lebar Head of the Block of "Independence" at the House of Councilors of Morocco, Dr. Omar Grech, Director of the Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution at the University of Malta, HE. Samir Habbashah Former Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, HE. Tahir Al-Masry Former Prime Minister of Jordan, HE. Stjepan Mesic Former President of Croatia, HE. Marzoug Al-Ghannim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, HE. Ilir Meta President of Albania, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, HE. Vjosa Osmani President of Kosovo, HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, HE. Tareb Baecouche Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union and HE. Salim M. AlMalik Director-General of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).



A picture from the Opening Ceremony, showing from right to left: HE. Taieb Baccouche Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union, HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, HE. Vjosa Osmani President of Kosovo, HE. Dr. George Vella President of Malta, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, HE. Ilir Meta President of Albania, HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, HE. Stjepan Mesić Former President of Croatia.



A commemorative photo from the first day of the forum, showing Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain with HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf.



A picture from the Opening Ceremony, showing from right to left: HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, HE. Vjosa Osmani President of Kosovo, HE. Dr. George Vella President of Malta, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, HE. Ilir Meta President of Albania, HE. Stjepan Mesić Former President of Croatia, HE. Tahir Al-Masry Former Prime Minister of Jordan, HE. Samir Habashnah Former Minister of Agriculture of Jordan and Dr. Omar Grech, Director of the Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution at the University of Malta.



A commemorative photo of Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain with His Honor. Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, Former President of the International Court of Justice



A group photo during the meeting in the Presidential Reception Hall at St. Anton Palace, shown from right to left: Ms. Rosette Spiteri Cachia Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic of Malta, HE. Dr. George Vella President of Malta, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, Dr. Touhami Abdouli, Abdulwahab Saud Albabtain, Abdulkarim Saud Albabtain and Omar Khaled Albabtain.



A picture before heading to the conference hall at the «Westin Hotel», shown from right to left: HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, HE. Stjepan Mesić Former President of Croatia, HE. Dr. George Vella President of Malta, HE. Vjosa Osmani President of Kosovo and HE. Ilir Meta President of Albania.



HE. Dr. George Vella President of Malta welcoming the distinguished attendees in the conference hall of the «Westin Hotel» before starting the sessions, seen from right to left: HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim President of the National Assembly of Kuwait and Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain.



Photo from the third session of the Forum, showing from right to left: Mr. Jesmond Saliba Commissioner for Voluntary Organizations in Malta, HE. Mohamed Nasheed Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives and HE. Anġlu Farrugia Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta.



While heading to the conference hall, shown in the picture from right to left: HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, Abdullah Ababtain, HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim President of the National Assembly of Kuwait and Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain



A commemorative photo from one of the forum's sessions, showing from right to left: Abdulkarim Saud Albabtain, HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf and Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain.



A photo of the audience after the national anthem was played, from right to left: HE. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf, HE. Vjosa Osmani President of Kosovo, HE. Dr. George Vella President of Malta, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Albabtain, HE. Ilir Meta President of Albania and HE. Marzouq Al-Ghanim President of the National Assembly of Kuwait

The Foundation's Offices

Kuwait

P.O. Box 599, Al Safat, 13006

Tel: (+ 965) 22406816

(+ 965) 22415172

Fax: (+965) 22455039

Egypt

P.O. Box 509, Al-Dokki 12311, Al-Giza

Tel: (+ 202) 33027335

Fax: (+202) 33030788

Italy

Via Tuscolana 650, 00173 Rome

Tel: (+ 3906) 57335212

Fax: (+ 3906) 57335366

www.albabtaincf.org

info@albabtaincf.org

