

SUMMARY

AISA International NGO organized a workshop at UNESCO House in Paris on May 19, 2017 to draft and adopt a declaration to promote the “**International Day of Living Together**” (JIVE).

The workshop brought together well-known personalities and international experts, political and religious representatives, academics, members of the UNESCO delegations of (Algeria, Egypt, Spain, United States of America, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Montenegro, and Nigeria), Heads of International NGOs and representatives of regions.

The program was organized around 4 themes of reflection:

- Terrorism, prevention of radicalization, security and living together**
- Sustainable development, well-being, human rights, and living together**
- Education, cultural diversity, social inclusion and living together**
- Globalization, economic and cultural inclusion, new technologies and living together**

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, Honorary President of AISA International NGO, associated the notion of “living together” with that of “doing together” by repositioning the centrality of humanity that he considers to be one and indivisible. For



him, in a world in perpetual change, everyone must participate in knowledge and assets without feeling wronged. Each person must be like a living cell participating in the well-being of the body made up of an assembly of cells. He invited us to rethink our vision of the world by no longer associating it with a pyramid but with a circle where each point that composes the circumference is at an equal distance from the centre. He reminded us of the statistics of the war budget, \$1400 billion, or 13 per cent of the world economy, and deplored the fact that absolutely nowhere was there an “Academy of Peace” capable of nurturing hope and love.



Ms Angela Melo, UNESCO representative, in her introductory discourse stressed the need to live together with the youth and the urgent need for a political will to promote peace and sustainable development. She recalled the primordial role of the media and in particular of the Internet that they must not become a forum for violence.



Driss Djazaïri, former Ambassador of Algeria, certain interpretations of the sacred texts (Old Testament, Qur’an) can be misused by taking them out of context and manipulating them for obscure purposes. He believed that violence had always existed but that its nature had changed. He proposed a 6-point approach to understanding and overcoming this violence:

- Recognize that this is a universal phenomenon, with a consequence that is itself universal.
- Seeking to understand the genesis of extremism does not amount to excusing it.

- Do not confuse radicals with terrorists because freedom of opinion and expression should not be challenged.
- To accept that there is no universal panacea and that each State must find its own specific solutions.
- Reversing the semantics conveyed by the media.
- To make known and recognize that every civilization is a universal confluence and that if there is a difference, it relates only to the sequence.



Dominique Reynié, Director of Fondapol (Foundation for Political Innovation), terrorism and radicalization have a variety of causes and crises that lead to the current situation. He reminded us that the world is upset and that depending on the point of view this could be good or bad news because in fact the world is unified for the first time in its history. According to him, it is because we are more and more together that we have difficulties with “living together” but that is still good news. This new world upsets situations on the one hand; but on the other hand it opens up opportunities. He pointed out that fewer people are currently

undernourished than in 1950; that we have never been more numerous but that we live better and that access to communication has never been so developed. Mr. Reynié stressed the link between the terrorist actions that have developed and the Islam that has been misled by some, reminding us that this did not affect the intrinsic nature of the latter. He defended the idea that youth should be allowed to fully participate in the model of living together and to not give up on what are our deepest convictions.



Mr Ibrahim Salama, Director of the Treaty Division at the UN High Commission for Human Rights, said that living together had to become a concrete project after being a recommendation and then a commitment. It is rather “how to live together?” That our efforts must be carried out, the means being as important as the objective. He insisted on the need to have recourse to an adapted pedagogy that must be fully relayed by civil society.



Mrs. Marie-Luce Lafages, General Secretary of the NGO Planet Action 21, indicated that for “living together” the discourse of the heart must prevail, leaving technocratic speech behind and improving how we meet each other. She contrasted the culture of the “I” with that of the “we” by inviting the measurement of the positive impact that the latter could have on all. She defended the idea that “living together” takes its root in a virtuous circle of “each for the other”, recognizing, and indeed respecting, this alterity that may be contrary to us, pushing us into our most profound entrenchments but inducing us to tolerance.



Mr. Abdelwahid Temmar, the Wali de Mostaganem (Algeria), said that the realization of “living together” needed a “plan of action” in order to act concretely and achieve an effective result, while recalling the urgency of the need in the fields of education, employment and town planning.



For **Father Christian Delorme** of the Archdiocese of Lyon, there is no good living without esteem for others and for oneself, and self-esteem is a condition for the esteem of others. Non-esteem is a breeding ground for radicalism and populism. In order to work for self-esteem, he proposes the implementation of urban planning policies that generate dignified and rewarding housing, education and access to employment for all. Paraphrasing Pastor Martin Luther King, he reminded us that “we have no other future than to live as brothers, otherwise we will all die like idiots.”



Professor Mohamed Nadir Aziza, President of the Med 21 Program, considered that talking about living together poses two dangers:

- The formulas that are too consensual,
- The cynical disillusionment, political reality.

He invited us to question the means to be implemented in order to arrive at living together. Professor Aziza proposed identifying and becoming aware of differentiating factors from a very young age (boy-girl, myself ...), and mentioned several oppositions in contemporary societies, such as neighbourhood against the neighbourhood, nation against nation ... He advocated for living together through the transmission of a foundation of values, through actions of compassion and sharing. He recalled the duty to be cognisant of the climatic, nuclear weapons, terrorists, mafia threats or even the exacerbation of inequalities, without distinction and without borders, in order to delay the opening of the Pandora's Box or at best to seal it definitively. He concluded his speech by quoting the poet Hölderlin: "But where the danger is, also grows the saving power."



For **Patrick Busquet** of the Foundation Hironnelle, we live a continuous rhythm of exchanges thanks to digitization and robotization, which has led us to switch the present into a snapshot. New technologies, especially social networks, have created an awareness of a collective world life that sometimes generates uncontrollable fears. We have all become media (companies, states, foundations, associations, universities, citizens...) and we produce content.

Mr. Patrick Busquet made a proposal of 3 points for a better living together:

- Civil society stakeholders build and deliver answers;
- Public stakeholders set them up to a collective dimension;
- The media installs and disseminates them by animating a global and positive social coaching for an information enrichment of the population.

At the end of the day, a round table was held with **Lakhdar Brahimi**, Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General, **William Heinzer**, former journalist for Radio-Télévision Suisse, **Bernard Montaud**, founder of ARTAS, **Leïla Zerrougui**, former Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, **Mustapha Abbani**, representative of the Embassy of Algeria at the United Nations.

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes delivered the synthesis speech and handed in the proceedings of the workshop to the present assembly as well as the text of the "Declaration of Paris".



Round table with, from right to left: Bernard Montaud, Lakhdar Brahimi, Mustapha Abbani, William Heinzer, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, Leïla Zerrougui, Hamid Demmou.
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Presentation of the «Paris Declaration»,
 May 20, 2017, Pavillon Wagram, Paris.
 From right to left: Mustapha Abbani,
 Mohamed Benkhalifa, Sheikh Khaled
 Bentounes, Hamid Demmou.
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The next day, May 20, 2017 a public reading of the “Declaration of Paris” and a debate were organized at the Space Wagram (Paris) that brought together more than 300 people (citizens and association officials, religious and political leaders).

The Declaration of Paris is a fundamental step in the process of filing a request for resolution at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2017 at New York. This resolution will focus on the proclamation of an “**International Day of Living Together**” which will be the starting point for bringing the human family around this project through actions that will be carried out in all parts of the world and in compliance with the 17 Sustainable Development Objectives (SDO) of the United Nations. The informal network “**Synergy 17 SDO**” created by AISA International NGO in the Declaration of Paris will be the means to call on everyone to participate in this momentum towards a society where dignity, justice, respect, fraternity and freedom are not just empty words but a reality constructed together with each other and not one against the other. AISA International NGO has been working for these objectives with many partners for several years. **The Festival of Living Together in Cannes** is a case in point, as is the **House of Peace** created in 2016 in Almere (, or the numerous citizen actions in the different countries where AISA has national branches.



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