

The Third World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations Finished

With the adoption of the Declaration in Skopje tonight, the third World Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations finished, which this year was dedicated to the topic of freedom and dignity-basic human values, interreligious and intercultural relations.



In addressing the participants, President Ivanov said that in the past six years, Republic of Macedonia organizing three world conferences, has demonstrated it can bring the different religions to the same table.

- Just as the work is derived of thought, I anticipate from this dialogue forward to derive concrete works for the good of our children. But, cooperation as with dialogue will not come by itself. There's a lot of work, said Ivanov.

He stressed that Macedonia has centuries-long tradition of coexistence and religious tolerance and is one of the few European countries where Muslims and Orthodox Christians celebrate God under the same roof. Those, he said, are places where religions not only meet but also overlap in space and time, said the head of state.

Having regard to the fact of the deep tradition of tolerance, he said he did not feel comfortable that representatives of IVZ for the first are not participating in this conference and stressed the need to communicate because those who communicate also integrate.

The Minister for Culture, Elizabeta Kancheska-Milevska expressed her satisfaction that throughout the third conference spiritual, social, religious and cultural issues plaguing the world today were considered.

- The world has long been plagued with so-called recession, economic crisis. But we were interested in how much and how it affects the spiritual and cultural conditions of humanity, humanism and the fundamental values of modern civilization. The second key question that emerged was whether all of us who belong to different religious, cultural, ethnic, political entities can contribute something so that the crisis can be

overcome at least in the spiritual sphere and through dialogue and understanding, lead to a harmonious course of action ? The answer I get the impression of the conference was beneficial and positive. Let's do something together in that direction, said Minister Kancheska-Milevska.

She expressed satisfaction that the Declaration of the Second Conference on Dialogue among Religions and Civilizations held in Ohrid in 2010, for which all major international organizations were informed, had a very positive reception. She also expressed confidence that the Declaration of the third forum will contribute towards promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue that builds understanding, goodwill, and relations among religions, cultures and religions and encourage peace and security.

Otherwise with the declaration, participants have called for increased interaction and partnership between governments and religious communities in addressing violence and all forms of terror, and dedicated work for peace, development and human dignity. It states that respect for common heritage, cultural diversity and dignity of each individual are fundamental values of intercultural dialogue that allows us to prevent ethnic, religious and cultural divisions. Also expressed is commitment to further promote interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

- We believe that education can play a significant role in promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation for the peaceful resolution of interfaith conflicts and promote education in all its aspects. Human dignity of each individual is the foundation of society and every religion and culture. Our cultural and religious values are based on the principles of dignity, equality and respect for all individuals. The Declaration states these values should be extended in all walks of life.

The third world religious conference was attended by over 250 foreign and domestic visitors from all continents, religious officials and professors-theologians. The conference celebrated three anniversaries: 1700 years of the Edict of Milan - gaining freedom for Christianity; 70 years since the Holocaust and 10 years since the Summit of Heads of State of South East Europe Dialogue among civilizations within the framework of UNESCO and the Ohrid message of peace, initiated the late President Boris Trajkovski in 2003.

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