Thank you very much to the Organizers for inviting me to this panel on behalf of Global Dialogue Foundation.

Our presentation today is in 2 parts:

Part 1 will highlight innovative projects that make ‘culture’ central to sustainable development...

Last October, with our valued partners and under the auspices of the Alliance of Civilizations, we held the inaugural Unity in Diversity Forum in Melbourne, Australia.

Thank you very much to the Alliance Secretariat for your support.

The main purpose was to connect the Asia Pacific region to the Alliance’s mission and the global intercultural dialogue agenda and... and to make ‘civil society organizations’ a key factor.

Participating countries included Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia and India.

Alongside high-level speakers and roundtables, 20 of the most innovative civil society organizations were selected from an open call to the Marketplace of Ideas... inspired by the 3rd Forum of the Alliance in Rio.

The 20 civil society organizations presented their solutions to further intercultural understanding and cooperation at the community level, including local and international development.

Each organization shared their specific needs in order to replicate and scale up and called on new partnerships to work across these four main areas:

1. Integrating Migrants - New Settlements
2. Challenging Stereotypes - The Role of Media
3. Education for Intercultural Citizenship
4. The Role of Religion Faith and Traditional Faith in Peace and Human Development
Every session engaged audience interaction, among which were representatives from local, state and federal governments, the private sector, academics, youth and media.

New partnership and new momentum for the Alliance in the region was the main result.

Following the success in Melbourne, the second Unity in Diversity Forum was held in Kerala, India, this past February with participation from several South Asian countries, including India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand and Japan.

Again, the key goal was to connect local civil society organizations to the Alliance, share best practices and continue to develop momentum towards assembling a global network of aligned civil society organizations working at the grassroots level.

This time, we still had roundtables and eminent speakers, but the parallel sessions were a slightly different format. They were workshops rather than presentations.

The sessions focussed on similar topics as mentioned earlier, but the primary purpose was to come out of the forum with concrete tasks around which participants were passionate and could work together to develop.

Since the India Forum, small teams are now pursuing several concrete initiatives, including:

1. Establishing a Unity in Diversity online Blog for intercultural dialogue and development
2. Creating Unity in Diversity Gardens to bring people together across cultures and provide a place to retreat, meditate and relax. The first Garden is in the making in Mumbai, being lead by Joe Rodrigues, who is at this pre-Forum and will be presenting in the Lab session tomorrow. He or I would be delighted to speak with you if you have an interest to create a Unity in Diversity Garden in your city.
3. Also, building a Unity in Diversity Forum in Kashmir in the early part of 2012. Some of the partners are also here, including PeaceWorks and Meta-Culture. If you are interested in joining this initiative, you may join us for lunch tomorrow in the restaurant.
4. With some more time, we are working towards this activity spawning into branding and developing Unity in Diversity Cities. Actually, we have very recently recruited a city branding specialist and currently preparing a list of possible pilot countries. If you would like to your country to be part of this extremely exciting initiative, that will aim to build unity in diversity as a fundamental characteristic of humankind, please come and see us.

Unity in Diversity is the modernized name for Universal Brotherhood of Mankind.
This leads me into the Second Part of this presentation to respond to the question of
“creating a positive environment to help societies resolve crises and engage in
development”

________________________________________________________________________

ESTABLISHING A CIVIL SECTOR
AS A NUCLEUS FOR A
WORLD CIVIL SOCIETY
IN THE FRAME OF THE UN/UNAOC
________________________________________________________________________

Some background
Global Dialogue Foundation is based on the long-term activities of its Founder,
which among other achievements, are responsible for initiating the “Dialogue of
Civilizations”, officially starting in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-
Ohrid, during the early 1990’s and contributed significantly to global progress.

It was followed by the Global Dialogue Initiative, closely connected with the MDG’s.

What is now called the “GDF model” for civil society, is part of a bigger project for
gradual transformation and modernization of UN, world and humankind.

It involves UN having 3 main “units”/sectors that operate separately, but well inter-
coordinated:

In brief,
Just as there is a UN General Assembly which belongs to the States/Governments,
following the same terminology, we will state that an “Assembly” needs to be
established for:
1. Faiths / Religions Sector
2. World Civil Society/ Citizen Sector
Since Faiths and Religions are almost organized, they need little more than to assemble and pull together themselves without any interference.

Establishing the Civil Society Assembly requires guidance.

GDF’s model for civil society as a concrete solution has a proven 20-year track record.

It was first implemented (under a different name) as a means to strengthen integration of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonian people and communities from other origins in their new home/ countries.

It mainly involved Australia, but also other developed countries to which people migrated, built their own communities and settled without assimilation.

This model is largely responsible for averting the anticipated atrocities, including war and terror, associated with Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the Balkan region. Ongoing progress is evident not only through absence of war, but through the achievements of FYROM on the global stage today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Civilizations</th>
<th>United Nations</th>
<th>United Religions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Citizens Assembly</td>
<td>States Nations Assembly</td>
<td>Traditional Faiths, Beliefs, Religions Assembly</td>
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<td>General Assembly Fields</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sectors/Sub-sectors</td>
<td>Councils and Sec-Gen = CEO</td>
<td>Councillors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sections/Sub-sections</td>
<td>Chief Executive Coordinator</td>
<td>Based on specific needs and belief systems;</td>
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<td>E.g., Family, Health, Cultures...</td>
<td>Councils</td>
<td>Maintaining their identity and dogmatic approaches...</td>
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<td>Made up of organizations &amp; councils to coordinate and organize activities of/with:</td>
<td>Executive Coordinative Council</td>
<td>until the time comes for revising, as per their knowledge, slowly entering the process of dialogue with each other and dialogue among faith and reason, i.e., religion and science...</td>
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<td>Individual and combined fields</td>
<td>Security Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>The other two Assemblies (General assemblies of United Nations and United Religions)</td>
<td>Environmental Council</td>
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The objective now is to implement the civil part of this model globally, proposed to become a part of the UN, i.e UN Alliance of Civilizations.

A correlation can be made with the World Bank’s “World Development Report 2011”, which says; “More emphasis should be placed on building stable civic institutions, otherwise efforts to meet other targets such as health and education will be in vain”.

This is a unique solution to a fragile world in need.

It is sophisticated and provides the right platform according to humankind needs across all major sectors of civil society and to build a collaborative Civil Sector.

It has a defined implementation plan with schematics that lend to some minor adjustment, available and/or as required for next steps.

More information is available at www.globaldialoguefoundation.org.

I would like once again to thank the Organizers and all participants for allowing me to present Global Dialogue Foundation’s recent activities and a serious proposal for strengthening United Nations system of global governance, establishing a ‘Civil Sector’ as a nucleus for a ‘World Civil Society’, determined to catapult the Alliance of the Civilizations to become a major force for development and progress towards the MDG’s.

Thank you very much for your attention.