



**Global Dialogue  
Foundation**  
Unity in Diversity

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

*Bridging cultures, civilizations & ethnicities  
towards peace & prosperity*

## **Developing ‘Unity in Diversity’ with participants at the UNAOC Doha Forum**



Photo with The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP, colleagues & friends at the 4th UNAOC Forum in Doha, Qatar

24 December 2011

At the 4th UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum which was held in Doha, Qatar on 11-13 December 2011, Global Dialogue Foundation was represented by Vice Chairperson Maya Shahani, CEO Peter (Pece) Gorgievski and Assistant Director-General Vasan Srinivasan.

More than 2,500 participants, including political and corporate leaders, civil society activists and faith communities gathered to discuss how to improve relations across cultures, combat prejudice and build lasting peace.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged members of the Alliance of Civilizations to combat extremism and promote tolerance at a time when universal values are being tested in many parts of the world, particularly in countries undergoing political transitions.

"Again and again, we are reminded that our differences are nothing compared to our shared humanity," Mr. Ban said in his remarks to the opening session.

The UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations H.E. President Jorge Sampaio highlighted the importance of linking “cultural diversity” to “development” and called on all leaders to achieve growth and prosperity where citizens are bound by rights and equality.

Australia's Foreign Minister The Hon. Kevin Rudd MP summarised his presentation with: "How do we get Diversity, Dignity and Dialogue... 1. Through laws - become Australian naturally and not by force or assimilation, 2. Unfold new political and social forces and leadership, 3. Education, and 4. Allow civil society organisations to flourish." To watch the presentation video, please [click here](#).

The general consensus during the conference was that peace was a precondition for sustainable development and that looking at issues of difference in permanently diverse and globalised societies, along with civil society participation, was a necessity.

Global Dialogue Foundation's Vice Chairperson Ms. Maya Shahani shared the stage during the 2nd. plenary session with the former UK Prime Minister Mr. Gordon Brown, Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Beşir Atalay, HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Immigration Museum Victoria Manager Ms. Padmini Sebastian and others.



Ms. Maya Shahani during the 2nd plenary session - 4th UNAOC Forum Doha, Qatar

Ms. Shahani who is also the Chairperson of Centre for Management and SAGE Foundation spoke on ‘Trust and Tolerance to Advance Development Goals’. To watch the presentation video, please [click here](#).

Global Dialogue Foundation was also one of the Partners of the UNAOC Forum Sessions and presented on, "*Towards the creation of a UNAOC civil society movement : Learning from the Australian and Indian experiences.*" Presentation links: Mr. Gorgievski, please [click here](#) Mr. Srinivasan, (also President Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria), please [click here](#).

The lab session provided a platform for civil society organisations to exchange experiences and to discuss establishing new UNAOC civil society country chapters around the world.

For videos of the event, please [click here](#).