

Source: <http://www.htcampus.com/article/thadomal-shahani-centre-management-collaboration-unaoc-launch-unity-diversity-world-civil-society-india/>

## **Citizens in India working with the United Nations to build intercultural, inter-religious, inclusive & sustainable societies**

**14 March 2016**



On 15-16 March 2016, the Shahani Group India and Global Dialogue Foundation Australia, in collaboration with UN Alliance of Civilizations and NGO DPI, will launch Unity in Diversity-World Civil Society, India.

Taking place in Mumbai, representatives from NGO's, private business, government, religious and spiritual organizations will come together to align efforts towards building inclusive societies.

Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society is the nucleus of a planetary citizen's assembly, which aims to establish collaboration by Citizens with Governments and Religions, at local, regional and global (UN) levels.

The Mumbai event will focus on projects that strengthen communities and support people from all cultural background to better integrate with society while maintaining their cultural identity and heritage.

Dr. Hanifa Meziou (Senior Advisor to United Nations Alliance of Civilizations) stated, "I will welcome any NGO ready to hear what is happening right now at the UN, what are the new priorities under the SDGs. How can Civil Society make the difference? We are going from commitment to results!!

The welcome session will be held on Tuesday 15 March, starting at 5:00pm, at KC College Auditorium, Churchgate Mumbai 400020.

The event continues on Wednesday 16 March, from 9:30am to 3:30pm at Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management, 257 SV Road, (next to Shroff Eye Hospital, Bandra, Mumbai 400050). From 4:00pm to 5:00pm, the Unity in Diversity Peace Garden will be inaugurated at Muktanand Peace Garden, off Linking Road, Mumbai 54.

Akhil Shahani (Managing Director, The Shahani Group) said, "Our institutions have always encouraged our students to have an inclusive mindset that allows them to work well with people from other backgrounds. Our work with the United Nations and Global Dialogue

Foundation enables us to extend our educational reach to promote this mindset in civil society at large.”

Objectives of the India launch event:

- To form a “National Steering Committee” in India; which will coordinate continuous collaboration among civil society, private business sector, governments, religions, spiritual organisations, and work towards building inclusive societies
- To establish a grassroots “Community Leadership Team; which will work with local communities in creating and implementing projects to strengthen civil society via dialogue and understanding
- To lay the foundation of the Policy of the Indian Unity in Diversity - World Civil So-ciety Assembly and to create the first action plan based on this policy
- To establish collaboration between the UN Alliance of Civilizations India Focal Point, UN associated organisations and the India civil society; in order to contribute to reaching the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals