Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.17/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

62/90. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,


Recalling also its resolution 61/221 of 20 December 2006, on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Taking into account that in its resolution 46, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 2010 the international year for the rapprochement of cultures,²

Taking note of the valuable contribution of various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels to enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).
cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

*Taking note also* of the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, with the overall theme of interreligious and intercultural cooperation for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and universal respect on matters of freedom of religion or belief and cultural diversity, held on 4 and 5 October 2007,

*Affirming* the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders in the interreligious, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at the various levels,

*Recognizing* the commitment of all religions to peace,

1. **Affirms** that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. **Takes note with appreciation** of the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on interreligious dialogue in the context of its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes its focus on concrete action at the global, regional and subregional levels and its flagship project on the promotion of interfaith dialogue;

3. **Reaffirms** the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

4. **Welcomes** the designation of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to play a focal point role, as requested in resolution 61/221, and pursuant thereto, to interact with United Nations system entities and to coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process, and looks forward to its effective functioning;

5. **Encourages** Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, through, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace;

6. **Emphasizes** the need to sustain the momentum generated by the High-level Dialogue in subsequent discussions;

7. **Encourages** the promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or

\[3\] See A/62/337, para. 27.
reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

8. Decides to declare 2010 the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, and recommends that, during the course of the year, appropriate events be organized on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, inter alia, a high-level dialogue and/or informal interactive hearings with civil society;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

74th plenary meeting
17 December 2007