

Communique

Commemoration of “International Day of Human Fraternity”

The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN, Geneva, the Permanent Observer Mission of the UN University for Peace, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Council of Churches, the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities and the Higher Committee on Human Fraternity underline the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and of education in the promotion of tolerance and cultural diversity.

On February 4th, 2019 His Holiness Pope Francis, arrived in Abu Dhabi, becoming the first pontiff ever to visit the Arabian Peninsula. During this momentous visit, Pope Francis met with His Eminence Grand Imam Sheikh of al-Azhar Dr. Ahmed al-Tayyib. The two religious leaders signed the *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together* at the Founder’s Memorial in Abu Dhabi.

On August 19th, 2020 the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity was established. It is composed of international religious leaders, scholars and cultural leaders who have been tasked with executing the universal objectives of *the Document on Human Fraternity*. One of the Committee’s first initiatives is the establishment of the Abrahamic Family House.

Under the leadership of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2020 the resolution 75/200 entitled “International Day of Human Fraternity” by which it “decided to proclaim 4 February as the International Day of Human Fraternity” and “invited all Member States to further promote the culture of peace to help ensure peace and sustainable development”. The resolution represents a global response based on international solidarity to overcome divisions. To this end the elimination of discrimination is necessary, underlining the importance of interreligious dialogue to achieve this goal.

To mark the very first commemoration of the “International Day of Human Fraternity” the abovementioned participants all joined their voices through a video ([link](#)) to call for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability and to create at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to mutual understanding.

They also express their deep concern regarding acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of human fraternity and respect for diversity.