



The Asian Regional Tolerance Across Cultures Conference

November 16, 2020

The opening speech of His Excellency Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Al Qassimi

Member of Board of Trustees of The International Foundation for Tolerance

At the outset, I have the pleasure to welcome everyone, and I wish you a valuable contribution in this important conference. Further, I'd like to thank everyone who planned and contributed to this conference, as convening such conferences that unite the world's efforts towards enhancing tolerance and coexistence among different cultures, religions and peoples, with mutual respect and continuous support, is an important indication that we are on the right course to combat extremism, racism and terrorism, in all its various forms.

In the United Arab Emirates, we are always and clearly embracing the principle of tolerance and coexistence. Not only that, but we tackle all ideas and actions that undermine the same. The UAE has shown to everyone its realistic role in this issue, since founding of the State up to date, as it embraces more than 200 nationalities, dozens of languages, cultures, religions and sects. Not only they coexist in peace and brotherhood, but also, they participate in various activities and initiatives that contribute to the UAE prosperity and enhancing of its welfare and progress.

The continent of Asia is the largest continent in the world, it is the cradle of religions, cultures and civilizations. Hence, it is the one who will lead the world according to future prospects, spiritually, economically and culturally. For such reasons, Asia has great responsibilities in enhancing tolerance and ensuring coexistence among all, to achieve prosperity and progress.

Our conference comes at a critical time when the world is going through radical transformations, due to rapid developments in human life styles, the ease of communication and transfer of knowledge and information, and the effects of (Covid-19) Pandemic, in various fields, as well as the spread of racist and terrorist



ideas. Therefore, all such matters require us to intensify our efforts, to inculcate common human values among all, and the first of these values is tolerance.

The UAE has invested plenty in the field of tolerance, allocated an entire federal Ministry therefore, and organized more than 250 conferences and major events during the past two years. Likewise, the UAE participates in all regional and international efforts to enhance tolerance and coexistence.

Dear/ Ladies, Gentlemen and Attendees

Humanity is a single- family and the world is a small village. The cultural, ethnic and religious diversity among humanity is an important source for civilized development and human integration. Also, tolerance is a common principle among all and acts in everyone's best interest.

We should all make tolerance as a daily culture for our children and for all segments of our societies. Besides, each of us must ensure respect for the other's culture.

I reiterate my thanks to you, and I am pleased to be an earnest listener in this wonderful conference, and be acquainted with the best practices and experiences through you.

Thank you