

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is a great pleasure and honor to be here this afternoon and have the opportunity to speak at this working session.

Last year's initiative by the Government of Spain and the Government of Turkey to launch the **AoC**, can be considered as the personification of a covenant between forces of politics and culture. It is here, that we must not only congratulate Turkey and Spain, but fully support their great initiative and vision, because deliberations among academics, politicians and clergy at **AoC**, will yield great results and would be a great impetus for the future of peace, coexistent, democracy and human rights in the world.

- In order to accelerate the consolidation of international partnership for the **AoC**, at the basic level, I strongly believe that through people to people contact, tolerant and acceptance and discursive Exchange, we can achieve alliance amongst civilizations. In this context the main question is, behind the abstracts Phenomenon Human, which common values bring us to gather? I strongly believe the values such as human rights, democracy, peace and social justice are our common values. Therefore, we must use current established mechanisms such as regional cooperation forums, region to region contact forums and multinational and transnational corporation's settings to put emphasis and even prioritize membership to the AoC. This will also provide an opportunity and the space for the full participation of peaceful political or cultural groups, whether religious or secular in nature. At this juncture, I would also like to support the call for a forum that should be established for the AoC under the United Nations auspices to provide another regular venue for representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector toward strengthening **AoC's** stance.
- Potentially destructive impact of inflammatory language sometimes used by politics circle is the primary means of communication causes prejudice, intolerance, hatred, and can go as far as the legitimization of genocide and terrorism. It is also worth mentioning that not only the misuse of Islamic tenets, but also the fundamentalists Movements and ideology and using religion as instruments of expansionist policy can led to cultural conflict around the world. Instead, in Afghanistan we have allowed and encouraged those religious leaders that truly interpret and practice Islam accordingly to deliver religious Fatwas in order to denounce terrorism; suicide bombings; abduction; narcotics production trafficking and its use; forced marriages; widow and women burning; domestic violence; and promote education.

- As the UN has indicated, we must encourage the mass media to act responsibly, particularly when dealing with religious and cultural symbols and icons. As I indicated earlier on the potential destructive impact of inflammatory language used by political and religious leaders and the effects that language can have when amplified by mass media. Instead, in Afghanistan through mass media, specifically through religious Fatwas and used religious icons to denounce terrorism and suicide bombings. Furthermore, through mass media we have been able to promote various aspects of democracy such as citizen's duty to vote, freedom of speech, fight against corruption, pursue of education and higher education for men and women and respect and acceptance for another culture and civilization
- Based on the aforementioned approaches and recommendations, Afghanistan is fully committed to proactively endorse **AoC's** initiatives and share our 'know how's'. I hope that our current and future deliberations at **AoC**, will lead to three things: **First**, give us a more accurate understanding of terrorism as multi causal phenomenon; **second**, finding ways and means of predicting future developments and preventing disunity and hatred; and **third**, pursue the most effective paths, models and case studies to achieve the Alliance of Civilizations.

Thank you very much for your attention and May Peace Be upon All of Us.