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First Standing Committee  
Peace and International Security

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**ENSURING RESPECT FOR AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN ALL RELIGIOUS  
COMMUNITIES AND BELIEFS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD**

***First batch of amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted by the  
delegations of France and Spain***

**PREAMBLE**

Preambular paragraph 1

Amend to read as follows:

(1) *Affirming* that ~~tolerance~~ **for acceptance of** cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for respect, peaceful coexistence and cooperation among individuals and people in their diversity of belief, culture and language, while neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity,

(France)

Preambular paragraph 7

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Commending* the valuable contribution of various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels, such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the Bali Declaration on Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, the Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures, the strategy of Enlightened Moderation, the Informal Meeting of Leaders on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, **the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace** and the Islam-Christianity Dialogue, which are all mutually inclusive, reinforcing and interrelated,

(France)

Preambular paragraph 8

Amend to read as follows:

(8) *Recognizing* that religions **often** play a central role in society in terms of their contribution to shaping social and family organizations and internalizing fundamental values that can and must help us build a more tolerant and respectful society,

(France)

Preambular paragraph 11

Amend to read as follows:

(11) *Emphasizing* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations should primarily focus on what they have in common at the practical level instead of what divides them at the doctrinal level, and serve the purpose of resolving practical problems while avoiding the entrenchment, or even creation of artificial ethnic, cultural or religious identities or fault lines within society and between societies, **insisting on the use of non-violent and democratic means through dialogue and respect for human rights,**

(Spain)

Preambular paragraph 12

Amend to read as follows:

(12) *Stressing* that a focus on dialogue between civilizations and cultures must not be invoked to justify discriminatory laws and practices within cultures and civilizations, especially regarding women, and that respect and tolerance for other cultures and civilizations must always be rooted in the overarching principle of respect of human rights, which protect the individual human being, regardless of sex, race, religion or political affiliation, **or other elements such as sexual orientation, the right not to follow any religion, and the right to abandon the religion in which you have been raised or to change your religion or beliefs,**

(Spain)

Preambular paragraph 18

Amend to read as follows:

(18) *Underscoring* the particular obligation of parliaments and their members to defend and promote the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, cultural and religious minorities, thereby creating a society in which every individual enjoys all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, **freedom of worship,** under democratic principles and conditions, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

(France)

Preambular paragraph 19

Amend to read as follows:

(19) *Reaffirming*, at the same time, that persons belonging to minorities **that in practice enjoy State protection and the aforementioned rights and liberties** should exercise their rights in good faith and with loyalty to the State in which they live, without prejudice to the principle of the sovereignty and integrity of States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

(France)

Preambular paragraph 24

Amend to read as follows:

(24) *Reaffirming that only the rule of law guarantees the correct balance between rights for all and the rights of the individual, and that freedom of expression should be exercised responsibly so as not to incite* **cannot justify incitement to** hatred, racism, xenophobia and the violation of human rights,

*(Spain)*

**OPERATIVE PART**

New paragraphs 4bis and 4ter

Add two new paragraphs, after operative paragraph 4, to read as follows:

**4bis. *Underscores* that religious freedom and freedom of worship are fundamental human rights that should be guaranteed by adequate legislation;**

**4ter. *Reaffirms* that to profess or not a religion is a matter of personal choice and therefore *calls on* Parliaments to ensure that such a choice is not penalized and, in particular, shall not lead to any conviction;**

*(France)*