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Humanity at the threshold of the third millennium can witness globalization – the world is getting smaller, distance and time are disappearing, there is a greater amount of interaction among both individuals and civilizations. The globalization process, out today's interdependent world, has underscored the historic relevance of the dialogue among peoples of all cultures and civilizations more acute than ever. The events of one small country in one part of the planet will impact on a powerful one in another part. A small problem on a Spratly Island can lead to losing balance among powers.

To gain knowledge about other civilizations, to participate in empathetic discourse with them, to learn to both talk and listen to one another, to rebuilding the world with justice, peace, security and prosperity, to share more equally among all peoples, to better prepare for the challenges of tomorrow, to provide our children and youth all over the world with extensive positive and negative experiences – these are the purposes of initializing global interaction. People have perceived it as both threats and opportunities for development. They react in different ways. “What does it mean to be White? Black? Colored? Our society is preoccupied with classifications.” “I grew up in a multi-cultural society, and I can personally testify that if one respects another's culture, conflicts will not arise”, etc. Having more opportunities and problems, which previous generations were unaware of, it is difficult for us to orient in the new world environment. Difficulties are caused by cross-cultural communication. How can we adapt to them, make the process less painful, and teach others why, how what, what for...

How do I envision the contribution the Dialogue among Civilizations can make to better prepare the peoples of the world, especially the youth, for the challenges of tomorrow? To answer the question I need to define possible challenges. They may be positive and negative, constructive and destructive. Demographic recession, ethnic tensions, outbreak of armed conflicts, dying out of rare species of animals, global warming, depletion of natural resources, brain leak, terrorism issues, possibility of the Third World War and others – we have to take urgent measure to try to cope with these hot problems.

The concept of relations among different countries is similar to those among individuals. To live in peace and harmony we should understand that the idea doesn't exist, we should be tolerant of one another, talk, listen and hear, and try to enhance mutual understanding. The same works for civilizations as well.

First, I agree with the idea that people need to be tolerant of diversity. Despite globalization, most of humankind grew up in a mono-cultural environment. Now the “mono” is being replaced with “multi”. With the development of television, the Internet, and tourism, we see how different we live and think. The result of bringing countries closer together in a shrinking globe was unknown which could produce either harmony or

conflict. Today also knows these consequences. Events in the Balkans had raised the question of whether the world would move into the twenty-first century with the luggage of the past century. Then, people should get accustomed to quick changes taking place nowadays to the current pace of which has never been experienced before in human history. But to be in a hurry doesn't mean to be tolerant, does it? Finally, in today's great volume of information brought with history and globalization, people need to be tolerant of learning how to seek and to possess some right data about each other.

The second thing we should make to be better prepared for the challenging future is mutual understanding, ability to talk and hear. Every civilization with its history, culture, mind, problems, like every person, is different from another. Without having mutual understanding and making compromises, any dialogue among individuals, countries, and civilizations would be futile. But does "to listen" mean "to hear"? A dialogue without any response is dead dialogue.

Third, we should make decisions after having analyzed the issue with references to the lessons of the global history, the album of vast human experience, and think about next generations of humankind, especially children and youth. World civilizations have a great amount of rich and sad experience, and bringing that in mind we should provide for the benefits of future generations, civilizations and individuals. We, the passengers of the same boat, cannot be indifferent to such burning issues as brain leak, demographic recession, global warming, terrorism acts, possibility of the Third World War, etc. We can't live cat-and-dog life and know that a lot of rare species of insects, birds, animals are being died out forever and ethnic tensions are taking place because one part has taken the decision not to make a compromise. It is our children and youth who will have responsibility for historical decisions on their shoulders.

It is becoming increasingly clear that every individual has an important role in shaping contacts among civilizations. To find the planet in peace, security, justice and prosperity in the future, we must devote joint efforts to achieve primary goals for human beings. Without commitment to the universal forms of ethnic and moral principles, any hope for constructive dialogue among all the peoples in the world would fail. Without recognizing equal political rights for each other, parties might never enter into really fruitful dialogue aimed at better preparation for the peoples of the world, especially the youth for the challenge of tomorrow. It is no exaggeration to say that we need to capture the hearts and minds of peoples as soon as possible.