



International Association  
of Peace Messenger Cities

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Grad Sarajevo  
City of Sarajevo



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES VILLES MESSAGÈRES DE LA PAIX  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACE MESSENGER CITIES

## DECLARATION OF SARAJEVO

We, the members of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, gathered on the 22nd General Assembly, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the city that has preserved its multi-ethnicity and the spirit of togetherness among different ethnic, religious and national communities in spite of historic pressures, affirm the importance of building shared societies, more important than ever for the future of democracy.

In the world where there is no society without ethnic, racial or religious minorities, its diversities cannot and must not be barrier in building a democratic society, but it's precondition.

Therefore shared societies represent the future of humankind, in which we include the best of our heritage without regard to ethnic, religious and racial affiliation, without losing sight of common norms, such as respect for the democratic process, shared life and reaching out to each others.

Further, we want to highlight the importance of local governments, municipalities and cities in building shared societies, encouraging trust among different ethnic, religious and racial communities, as the first and foremost moderator in the continuous dialogue which characterizes every democratic society.

At the same time, we condemn nationalism, racism and all kinds of extreme ideologies to which diversity represent platform for conflict, rather than starting point of dialogue among civilizations and cultures and call upon all states and governments to engage in the struggle against causes of extremism.

Sarajevo as city of meetings and dialogues of culture for many centuries represents the best environment for the beginning of a dialogue of a new kind, a dialogue between cultures and civilizations for peaceful and prosperous 21st century. This centre of dialogue, whose final destination will be construction of a shared society, a society without poverty, exploitation of the less powerful, and injustice, a society at peace.

Adopted in Sarajevo, on October 27, 2009.