



**PRESS RELEASE ON
THE 5TH WORLD FORUM ON INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**
(Baku, 2-3 May 2019)

Around 500 participants from over 100 countries and international or regional organizations attended the 5th edition of the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue (WFID), held in Baku on 2 - 3 May 2019. The WFID which is an important platform for enhancing and revitalizing global partnerships was held this year with a theme to examine the role of Intercultural Dialogue in addressing the challenges of discrimination, exclusion, and violent conflict.

The event was opened by the speech of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This was followed by statements from Mr. Miguel Angel MORATINOS, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Ms. Nada AL-NASHIF, Assistant Director General for Social and Human Sciences (UNESCO), Mr. Yousef bin Ahmad AL-OTHAIMEEN, Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Ms. Gabriella BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Mr. Abdulaziz Othman ALTWAIJRI, Director General of ISESCO.

In addition to a number of panels and numerous breakout sessions, there was a High Level Ministerial Panel with the subject of "Mobilizing intercultural dialogue for concrete transformative action". BSEC PERMIS First Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Selim YENEL participated and made a statement during the Panel which was chaired by Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main goal of the Ministerial Panel was to identify the preconditions for successful ICD, to examine the societal preconditions for its success between people and communities, and the important inter-connected role of regional, national and local governments. The Panel was a platform for the governments and intergovernmental organizations to discuss how to establish a shared agenda and agreed approach for the promotion of intercultural dialogue among diverse communities and between countries. It was stated that the responsibility for creating positive conditions for intercultural dialogue must be shared across different levels of governments, media, industry, religious leadership and grassroots organizations. The panel further discussed how social inclusion could be utilised at the global and local level by multi-stakeholder partnerships.