**Breakout Session**

Thursday/ 02 May 2019/ 16:30-18:00/ Baku Convention Centre

*Stop Islamaphobia, deconstruct stereotypes and manage complex diversities through interreligious training*

**THE BACKGROUND:**

Institutional and civil concern regarding the spread of ideological and political movements that call the historical heritage of the exchange between civilisations and the sciences into question is growing in Europe. Foreigners, women, the elderly, young people and religious minorities are the subject of a vulgar caricature, psychological aggression and discriminatory slogans that serve to create obstacles to their full participation as citizens without double standards.

In recent years, the United Nations, the OSCE, the European Commission and the Council of Europe have invested in the defence of fundamental rights by monitoring, condemning and raising governments awareness regarding the respect of the basis of any authentic democratic responsibility. The danger of cultural regression and social disintegration can only be avoided by an updated alliance between Academic Institutions and the religious and cultural representatives present in society, promoting the development of a “universal” cultural conscience rather than one that is “approved” in accordance with certain violent and artificial interpretations.

Since the Baku Process was launched in 2008, the key words have been Peace, Dialogue, Sustainable Development, Respect for Cultural Diversity, Social Inclusion and Shared Security, foresightedly anticipating the intellectual crisis that the international community has to face.

This year, the 5th World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue focuses on a topic of great importance and relevance: *Building dialogue into action against discrimination, inequality and violent conflict*. ISESCO intends to present the results of three international multidisciplinary programmes that have been able to develop interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an effective antidote to the ignorance and exploitation of identity against the value of pluralism.

The international network of ISESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, among which we have the honour to include the First Lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan HE Mehriban Aliyeva, the Supreme Council for Education, Science and Culture for Muslims outside the Islamic World and FUIW, the Federation of Universities of the Islamic World, will be participating with some of their senior representatives at a round table to discuss pilot projects carried out in this recent two-year period in Albania, Finland, France, Italy, Russia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the USA, denouncing discrimination and providing academic training regarding awareness and interreligious collaboration for social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and human development.
**Moderator:** Yahya Pallavicini, ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Rome - Italy

**Panelists:**
- **Mohd Hasbi Abu Bakar**, President of Jamiyah Singapore, Singapore
- **Sooad Onniselkä**, Coordinator of School book series for basic education in Islamic education in National Board of Education, Finland
- **Agil Shirinov**, Vice rector on Science and Innovation, Azerbaijan Institute of Theology
- **Ramiz Zekaj**, Director of Institute of Education, Heritage & Tourism, Tirana – Albania
- **Yacine Hilmi**, Director of Institute of Hazes
- **Antonio Romero**, Director Cultural Association Azzagra, Spain

**Org: ISESCO**
Yahya Pallavicini, ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Rome- Italy

President and imam of the COREIS Italian Islamic Religious Community, one of the principal organisations of institutional representation of the Islamic religion in Italy with a vocation for theological training, ecumenism and intercultural education (www.coreis.it).


Actively collaborates, since 1997, with ISESCO, Islamic Organisation for Education, Science and Culture, the most prestigious Institution of 54 Islamic States with headquarters in Rabat in the Kingdom of Morocco. Nominated in 2014 as ISESCO Ambassador for Dialogue between Civilizations (www.isches.org.ma).

Presenter on Islam at the NATO College in Rome. Lecturer on the Quran and its commentaries for the Master of Religions of Abraham at the Catholic University in Milan, on Knowing Islam and the Muslim world for the Master of Intercultural Communication at the Swiss Italian University of Lugano and on Interreligious Dialogue in the prevention of radicalism for the Master in Economic, Geopolitical and Intelligence Security of the SIOI, Italian Society for International Organization of Rome.
Mohd Hasbi Abu Bakar, President of Jamiyah Singapore, Singapore

Prof (Adj) Dr Mohd Hasbi Abu Bakar is President of Jamiyah Singapore since September 2012, and the Supreme Council Member and Regional Representative for Asia-pacific at Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) since 2012. He is also advisor at the Community Leaders Forum (CLF) Singapore since 2013. Dr Mohd Hasbi is also Chairman for Singapore Secretariat of World Malay Muslim Organizations since 2014. He sits in the Bursary Award Committee of the Singapore Buddhist Lodge since 2012.

Dr Mohd Hasbi Abu Bakar obtained his Bachelor degree in Computer Systems from University of Toledo, Ohio, USA. Whilst his Master of Science in Computer Information Systems was obtained from Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA. He then obtained his Doctorate in Business Administration from South Australian University, New South Wales, Australia. Dr Mohd Hasbi is a Professor Adjunct at Islamic College-University Melaka, Malaysia and was the Principal of Jamiyah Business School (1999-2011). He is also a Ministry of Education, Singapore approved trainer on Information Technology and Business Studies.

Dr Mohd Hasbi’s research interest is in Non-Profit Management, Strategic Planning for Non Profit Organizations, Resource planning and Development for Non Profit Organizations, Fundraising for Non Profit Organizations and Organizational Planning and Development for Non Profit Organizations. Attended several conferences and seminars in Asia, America, Africa and Europe and presented papers in the area of Non-Profit management, Inter-faith harmony and dialogue.
Agil Shirinov, Vice rector on Science and Innovation, Azerbaijan Institute of Theology

Agil Shirinov received his B.A. in Theology and Arabic from Baku State University. In 2003, he completed his M.A. in the History of Islamic Denominations at Marmara University, Turkey. He received his PhD in Theology from the same University. His primary research interests concern the Medieval Islamic Philosophy, History of Islamic Denominations, in particular, the roots and causes of religiously motivated radicalism.

Soaad Onniselkä, Coordinator of School book series for basic education in Islamic education in National Board of Education, Finland

Working as Head Teacher in Vesala Comprehensive School in Helsinki, Finland. She is teacher trainer in Education Department in city of Helsinki in STEAM -subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). She has been working as curriculum developer. She has written current national curriculum texts for Islamic education: basic education 2014, general secondary education 2016. During spring 2018 she was working as Senior Technical Advisor in UNESCO Kabul’s Afghanistan’s national curriculum project in Islamic education for grades 1-12. Currently she is nominated in two national curriculum teams for secondary level for year 2021. The first team is Religious Education and the second team is Transversal Competences and Values. At the same time she is involved in national evaluation work for basic education curricula 2014. She is also a member of the Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture for Muslims Outside the Islamic World in ISESCO (Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture). She has been coordinating Islamic schoolbook series in basic education for grades 1-9 in Finnish National Board of Education. Books of grades 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 are published and 7-9 is going to be published in summer 2019. Books 1-2, 3-4 and 5-6 are translated in Swedish and book 1-2 also translated in Tatar language in April 2019.
Yacine Hilmi, Director of Institute of Hozes

Yacine HILMI is the president of the Hozes Institute (www.hozes.fr), specializing in the secular training of religious leaders, including imams and mosque president. Yacine Hilmi is graduate of Emouna L'Amphi des religions, a program initiated by the Paris Institute of Political Studies (SciencesPo Paris), with the aim of promoting intercultural dialogue. He also has a Master 2 degrees in business administration from the Université Lyon 3 Jean Moulin.

He collaborates with the ISESCO (Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture) as a member of the Supreme Council of Education, Science and Culture for Muslims Outside the Islamic World, Yacine HILMI co-hosts the radio show Spi-Cu-Ni (Beur FM) which promotes the dialogue of cultures and religions in France.

He is also invested in popular education. He helps youth on issues of education, guidance, culture, entrepreneurship and living together.

Yacine HILMI also collaborates with the European Commission: The Radicalization Awareness Network (RAN). The RAN brings together practitioners from around Europe working on the prevention of radicalization.
Antonio Abd al-Samad Romero, Founding director of the cultural association Azzagra in Granada, Spain

Prof. Antonio Abd al-Samad Romero is the founding director of the cultural association Azzagra in Granada, Spain. He studied in Makkah where he specialized in Arabic language and Islamic teaching methods. Then he obtained his doctorate in Sociology from the University of Sarajevo. From 1996 to 2010 he participated in many international conferences for ISESCO as a senior advisor for the Cultural Commission. In 2004 he was involved with the OHCHR and in 2005 with the Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace in Brussels. Prof. Romero is also involved in national and international ecology movements and he is Vice-President of the Andalusian Committee of Ecological Agriculture.