

Your Highness, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai

Your Highnesses,

Your Excellencies,

Esteemed Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is tolerance in the United Arab Emirates – a concept that is nurtured and strengthened throughout our entire country thanks to our wise and sincere leaders and to our peaceful and tolerant people who are keen on achieving human, social and economic progress associated with tolerance and peace. The people of the UAE have a strong bond with their leaders in a country where all institutions of society come together to fight extremism and intolerance and to promote human values and principles that are shared by people everywhere.

It is one of God's blessings for people in the UAE that its leaders have always been wise and sincere, beginning with the nation's founder, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan. He was, along with the other founding fathers, open to the world, dealing positively with all. Sheikh Zayed was totally committed to the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and equality in front of the law. He was extremely proud of our Arabic-Islamic heritage. The values and traditions associated with that proud heritage have enabled us to engage positively with all diverse elements of our population. Sheikh Zayed was a role model for justice, compassion, knowing the other, and courage in carrying out his responsibilities. We are blessed that our country's commitments to these values and principles have continued under the leadership of His Highness the President, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, who is strongly supported by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai and by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Commander of the Armed Forces, as well as by all other leaders of the United Arab Emirates.

Your Highness: Welcome to this World Tolerance Summit which is honored that you are its patron, and welcome to all our esteemed guests. I stand before you today, ladies and gentlemen, as the Minister of Tolerance in the United Arab Emirates and as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Tolerance Institute, which is one of the initiatives of Mohammed bin Rashid International. I stand before you as the embodiment of my country's commitment to tolerance as an essential component of society. I stand before you as living evidence of our continuing belief that tolerance requires hard work by all. Tolerance thrives on education and knowledge, all forms of communication, and the creation of local and global partnerships that enhance hope in the future and promote peace, prosperity, and a dignified life for all.

This World Tolerance Summit, Your Highness, is an important declaration that we, in the United Arab Emirates, are eager to join with other countries and international organizations in support of tolerance, pluralism, and peaceful and mutually beneficial

relations among individuals, communities and groups inside and outside the country. We are completely ready to share our positive experience and to gain from others a wider understanding of the universal power of tolerance. This wonderful summit gives us that opportunity. It will provide a prominent forum for positive and sincere dialogue among people of diverse cultures and beliefs and will strengthen their ability to exchange ideas and experiences, to listen to one another, and to live together in peace and harmony.

I hope that this World Tolerance Summit, inspired by our successful experience in the UAE, will be a place where we can work together to develop our collective capacity to achieve tolerance and peace in the world. I call on you, ladies and gentlemen, to work together to help promote the positive participation of all regions in the world in the progress of humanity. I call on you to work together to eradicate misunderstandings about different religions and cultures. I call on you in this summit to help make tolerance an area of entrepreneurship, innovation and initiative and a cause for joint action and effective participation of all for the benefit and prosperity of all. I call on you to agree with us that pluralism within diverse human societies must become a positive and creative force for development and stability in those societies around the world.

Your Highness:

The United Arab Emirates, thanks to your enlightened vision and that of our other exulted national leaders, is a country known for its temperament, moderation, and sound ideas and behavior. It is a country that is intelligently open to the entire world and enjoys good relations with all other countries of the world. The UAE is now a global beacon for civilized behavior and a place for interaction and cooperation among world cultures. The UAE is a wonderful model in the service of humanity. We are blessed by being a country able to innovate and take useful initiatives in all fields. We are a country that provides a living environment characterized by peace and harmony. This makes the United Arab Emirates an international leader in cultural cooperation and a country totally qualified to become a prominent global center, focused on promoting all positive aspects of the relationships between global cultures and civilizations in a way that can contribute to nurturing the values of love, compassion and coexistence among nations and peoples.

This World Tolerance Summit, Your Highness, being held here in Dubai and in the United Arab Emirates and under your gracious patronage, is a real embodiment of all those values and considerations.

It is now my honor and privilege to announce that the Ministry of Tolerance, in cooperation with the International Institute of Tolerance, is totally committed to the title of this summit which focuses on prospering from pluralism and embracing diversity through innovation and collaboration. I am honored to announce that the Ministry of Tolerance is undertaking two important initiatives:

The First Initiative: Is the launch of the National Research Project on Tolerance. This is a continuing project for the coming years and will promote creativity and innovation of researchers, inside the UAE and throughout the world, in examining factors, conditions and work plans that help strengthening tolerance among individuals, families, local

communities and the entire world. This project will produce proposals and plans for spreading tolerance, coexistence, and happiness in human societies.

The Second Initiative: Is the establishment of the Global Tolerance Alliance for promoting tolerance throughout the world. The Global Tolerance Alliance will be launched from the UAE and will become a global coordinator for cooperation and joint effort among individuals, organizations, research centers, private enterprises, and other interested institutions. The purpose is to help spread peace and tolerance in the world.

Through these two initiatives, Your Highness, the global dimension in the work of the Ministry of Tolerance and the International Tolerance Institute will be affirmed. The initiatives will affirm as well, your vision, and that of all our national leaders, that only successful pluralism, supported by useful research and positive dialogue, can guarantee a peaceful future in the world.

I pray that this World Tolerance Summit will be a great success, and that it will become a true expression of the strong commitment in the UAE, under its wise leaders, to promote the values of tolerance, coexistence, and mutual respect among all for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

