

Forum on Minority Issues, Eleventh Session, 2018

The statement of Cultural diversity and Sustainable Development for Peace



Dear President and participants,

Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development for Peace -CD4Peace-, wants to express its concern regarding the situation of minorities, women, children and nomadic communities about statelessness. The case of children born in ISIS territories, which are stateless areas, remains problematic. In these countries, women cannot transmit the citizenship to their children because of national law.

In the context of nationalism that followed the multiplication of “nation states”, statelessness is used to “purify” gradually the composition of the “national” population. CD4Peace wants to reaffirm the importance of promoting inclusive dialogue and effective cooperation to achieve the goals of UNHCR’s Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024.

Another challenge to deal with is the situation of nomadic communities in the Middle-East. The way of life of Bedouin groups impeded their access to citizenship, especially in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. During the period of state formation, they failed to register for citizenship and without it, they are unable to register their marriages, enroll in the public education system and seek medical treatment.

In conclusion, our main recommendations are:

- to fulfill the gaps in nationality laws and to implement gender equality for mothers;
- to encourage governments to respect the conventions on statelessness and children’s rights;
- to adhere to the principles of *jus soli* as the sole criterion for the acquisition of nationality;
- to encourage countries to make statelessness more visible during the UPR and the other UN mechanisms.

Thank you for your attention.

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