

Joint Statement on the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance

December 1st, 2020

New York

“Mister President,

We are proud to address the General Assembly on behalf of member countries of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance (the Alliance) who have signed this statement.

The Alliance is a network of like-minded countries fully committed to advancing freedom of religion or belief around the world, complementing existing work of the UN and other relevant organizations. The work of the Alliance is based on the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated. Launched in February 2020, this growing group is composed of 32 states from different regions, whose people follow a wide diversity of faiths and beliefs.

The countries of the Alliance have recently held its first annual Ministers’ Forum on November 17, 2020, on the margins of the III Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief, hosted by Poland.

We renewed our commitments to a shared vision for advancing freedom of religion or belief for all in a world where, as studies indicate, more than 80% of people live in countries with restrictions on the free practice of faith and beliefs.

Freedom of religion or belief is an integral part of the international framework for human rights. It matters, for everyone, everywhere.

For that reason our countries will remain engaged and speak out for freedom of religion or belief for all, which includes the right of individuals to hold any belief or none, to change religion or belief and to manifest religion or belief, either alone or in community with others, in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

The Alliance invites members of the United Nations who are committed to upholding the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to join us in our fight against persecution and hatred. This can only contribute to the promotion of the inherent dignity and worth of all, as well as to foster a worldwide culture of peace and understanding.

Thank you.”