



7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
Baku, Azerbaijan, 25-27 April, 2016

Breakout Session “Global Citizenship Education”

Introduction: The Paradox of Globalization

The globalization of the economy and communications at the dawn of the new century generated an overwhelmingly optimistic vision of humanity's future. Added to the positive feeling resulting from the end of the Cold War, this optimism led to the assumption that those left out of the system (economically, politically, ethically) would be gradually absorbed into this One Bright World. However, there seems to be a consensus that the reality today is quite far from this idealized vision of living together. Our reality is increasingly marked by exclusion (economic, political, ethical), tension, conflict and fear. The number of those who do not or cannot “buy into” the system is increasing dangerously around the world, in both developing and developed countries. In this alarming context, how can we realistically achieve, through education in all its various forms, a common sense of belonging to a shared system?

Points of Discussion

- In a divided world, what are the interests that we all share and that could serve as building blocks for a new global citizenship education?
- The role of the United Nations (and particularly the institution of Secretary-General) as an instrument of truth and justice;
- Negotiating accommodation inside nations: the role of governments and civil society institutions;
- How can formal education prepare young citizens to live and work together to achieve a common future?
- Digital communications as the new equalizer;
- Literature's role in the formation of inclusive societies.