

# MIND FOR PEACE

Proceedings of International Conference



Secretary-General of the UN  
**H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres**

Dear friends,

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations falls in the middle of a global pandemic. Our founding mission is more critical than ever.

To promote human dignity.

Protect human rights.

Respect international law.

And save humanity from war.

When the pandemic hit, I called for a global ceasefire.

In our world today, we have one common enemy: COVID-19.

Now is the time for a stepped-up push for peace to achieve a global ceasefire. The clock is ticking.

We must also make peace with our planet.

The climate emergency threatens life itself.

We must mobilize the whole world to reach carbon neutrality - net zero emissions of greenhouse gasses by 2050.

A growing number of countries and companies have already pledged to meet this goal.

Around the world, we must do more to end human suffering from poverty, inequality, hunger and hatred - and fight discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender or any other distinction. The months of pandemic have seen a horrific rise in violence against women and girls.

We must build on progress. A remarkable global collaboration is under way for a safe, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for all.

The Sustainable Development Goals give us an inspiring blueprint for recovering better.

We face colossal challenges. With global solidarity and cooperation, we can overcome them.

That's what the United Nations is all about.

On this anniversary, I ask people everywhere to join together.

The United Nations not only stands with you...

The United Nations belongs to you and is you: "we the peoples".

Together, let us uphold the enduring values of the United Nations Charter.

Let us build on our advances across the decades.

Let us realize our shared vision of a better world for all.



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Kazakhstan  
**Mr. Ashikbayev Yerzhan**

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, let me welcome the participants of the high-level international conference “Mind for Peace”!

It is a great honor for me to speak at today's event organized by the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the UN Alliance of Civilizations, and other international organizations.

In this year we celebrate the 1150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Al-Farabi and the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Abai. These events coincided with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN this year.

Studying the inheritance of the great thinkers Abay and Al-Farabi, it noted that their noble ideas once again prove that their ultimate basis is connected with the unity and cohesion of the country. Abay leaves his formulation "Full man" and Al-Farabi left a will Abay leaves his formulation "Full man" and Al-Farabi left a will “Society, citizens of which help each other to achieve happiness, is a good society”, where basic human rights are dominated. The wise legacy of justice and charity left by Abay and Al-Farabi is combined with the modern concept of the Head of State K. Tokayev “Listening State”.

The task of preserving the rich cultural and historical heritage of our country has one of the priority places in the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On October 19, to the closer attention towards this direction it was decided to hold an international conference of UNESCO Harmony of civilizations along the Silk Road", which was dedicated to the legacy of Al-Farabi, the results of which has generated a wide positive resonance.

Earlier, on October 15 this year the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Central Asia and Russia made statements on strategic directions for cooperation and agreed within the framework of the International Decade of convergence of cultures, which was proclaimed by the United Nations, continue to jointly preserve and promote multiculturalism, cooperate and provide mutual support in the field of studying and protecting the cultural and ethnographic heritage of the region.

One of the priorities of the modern stage of international relations development is prevention of polarization of the world along civilizational criterion. Our country has centuries-old traditions of peaceful coexistence and cooperation between different nationalities and confessions. We strongly condemn the persecution of believers, insulting their feelings, any discrimination on religious grounds.

We believe that we must ensure the development of such cooperation within the framework of the United Nations, taking into account the universal characteristic, opportunities to promote and coordinate intercivilizational dialogue through broad interaction between representatives of States, civil society, religious, cultural and media figures. The 75<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly is a clear confirmation of this.

Kazakhstan fully supports discussion of issues of interreligious and intercultural as well as interreligious dialogue in the UN General Assembly framework, and on the platform of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Kazakhstan is proud to be among creators of this organization. And still, as during the past 16 years, we are supporting the activity of the Alliance of Civilizations for it to reach high goals that the UN General Assembly has set for the Alliance.

In this regard we consider that it is important to widely involve representatives of the Alliance, as well as other UN agencies in the preparation of the VII Congress of Leaders of the World and Traditional Religions set for 2022 in Nur-Sultan city.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperates closely with NGOs in the framework of the UN. We also search for wider representation of the Kazakh non-governmental players in activities of the UN bodies.

Kazakhstan is firmly committed to building a culture of peace as an essential tool for preventing conflicts and establishing international cooperation for peace and development.

I wish success to the participants of the conference. Thank you for your attention!



UN Under-Secretary General  
**H.E. Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond**

Warm greetings from United Nations headquarters in New York!

My name is Fabrizio Hochschild and I am the Special Adviser serving the Secretary General this year to lead the unique initiative with which he wanted to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.

It is a pleasure for me to be with you today. I had the honor to visit Kazakhstan at the beginning of this year and I still have many warm and nurturing memories of the days I was able to spend in your wonderful country. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being marked at a unique time in history.

We have this pandemic, a tiny microbial bacteria, that has brought the whole world and the mightiest of nations to its knees. And this microbe has reminded us just how interconnected and interdependent we are. It also exacerbated and brought to the fore many preexisting challenges and global inequalities. The pandemic has not hit all equally and in many parts of the world population that were already marginalized or discriminated against have been much harder hit. People who do not have access to digital technologies and hence the ability to continue schooling their children or continue with their jobs were also harder-hit. And although one would think that this pandemic would bring the world closer together, we've also seen how this has exacerbated rivalry and confrontational rhetoric between the superpowers. And it's added to the burden of global challenges the world face. I am thinking in particular of climate change and destruction we wrought over the past 50 years to our environment. It's against this backdrop of a growing number of truly global challenges for global cooperation, that the Secretary-General already last year chose this unique way to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

He sought to go back to people across the world especially young people like you to hear

from them what they saw as the priorities for the next 25 years from now and what they see as the biggest threats to the realization of their priorities and what their expectation is of international cooperation. By listening again to peoples across the world also on priorities for post COVID recovery, we hope to find new inspiration and new strength to revitalize international cooperation. We've conducted UN 75 dialogues in well over 80 countries.

We've surveyed well over a million people in all 193 Member States. We have we've undertaken independent surveys. We've done AI analysis around these questions about people's hopes and fears for their future, their priorities for post COVID recovery and their expectations of international cooperation. What we found is that the world is remarkably united in their hopes and their fears and remarkably united in their expectations for international cooperation. People want to see better access to basic services like affordable health care, quality education, and modern sanitation. People want to see better solidarity with the most affected communities and the most affected countries. People want to see economies that do not make some people super rich while leaving another group of people far behind.

They want to see more inclusive economies and with regard to the long term overriding concern is everywhere is the destruction we are doing to our climate and to our environment. And people have very high expectations of international cooperation.

People want to see it revitalize, but they also want to see better, more inclusive, more effective international cooperation. So, we have a lot to do. These findings will feed into to very concrete proposals that the Secretary General is drawing up or how to innovate and renovate international cooperation. But we need you, we need your voices to continue to contribute to push for change. So please join our initiative, help us. You are the United Nations. The United Nation is not some alien body, you're part of it, so be the change. Let me say by concluding that I was very strucked giving this talk, as while we are marking our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, you are commemorating a 1150 years since the birth of the most famous Kazakh citizen, Al-Farabi, and of course that makes our 75 years very modest in in comparison. But, in reading more about him I was strucked and I would like to think that if he lived still today, he would work for the United Nations or certainly guide us. This was a man who was a bridge between worlds, who was one of the first scientists ever, who worked on the basis of science and facts, and who translated thoughts from one part of the world and brought it to another. He took ancient wisdom of the ancient Greek philosophers and brought it into the Muslim world.

That exactly what we need today. Those bridge builders. Kazakhstan has a distinguished history of building bridges and we need more of that today. There is plenty of confrontations, but if we are to secure a better future for you, for your children and for those who come after us, we need to re-find our way to unity.



UN Under-Secretary General  
High Representative for UNAOC  
**H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos**

Your Excellences, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, My dear friends:

It is my great pleasure and honor to participate in this special occasion dedicated to the 1,150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great thinker Al-Farabi.

It is no coincidence that your esteemed university is named after this unique philosopher, who was a bridge-builder between civilizations.

Al-Farabi University has embraced the legacy of this great humanist by advocating for global citizenship.

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) is also proud of its partnership with your esteemed university and the shared values we continue to promote together.

Al-Farabi was fascinated by human perfection.

Man was the center of the Universe, and only an intelligent man can understand happiness.

His influence and teachings have closed many gaps and eliminated many misunderstandings between civilizations.

After his passing, and through the Middle Ages, Al-Farabi's teachings influenced the minds of Arab leaders throughout the Muslim world both on the meaning of life and on the future of Mankind.

Therefore, his teachings and influence have contributed to a genuine philosophical rapprochement and mutual understanding between civilizations, which lasted until modern times.

We have to retain that, over the centuries, his work symbolized the most valued humanistic qualities of love, tolerance, understanding, and respect of the other no matter what belief or color.

“Knowledge without upbringing, without a moral beginning, can bring harm, not good.”

This quote from the philosopher Al-Farabi is the essence on which Global Citizenship Education Programs all over the world can lean on.

We all continue to be inspired by this great thinker and influencer of his time and beyond, especially today, as the world is in turmoil due to the pandemic.

COVID19 has brought unprecedented educational disruption, with 1.2 billion students and youth across the planet affected by school closures.

This figure amounts to almost 60 percent of the world's student population.

Amid this pandemic, Global Citizenship Education is even more relevant than before as we see a surge in stigma, polarization, racism, and hate speech against vulnerable communities.

While traditional education remains vital by focusing on improving literacy and

facilitating the transmission of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next.

There is a growing need for transformative education such as Global Citizenship Education, which nurtures shared values and respect for diversity.

UNAOC is committed to achieving the goals of global education, particularly since education and youth are two of the four pillars of our programming.

For UNAOC, education is a vital component of developing tomorrow's leaders.

Concluding, I salute the great Islamic thinker Al-Farabi and all the partners who have gathered today to celebrate his wisdom and knowledge.

Thank you very much from New York.



Director of UN Academic Impact Program  
**Mr. Ramu Damodaran**

I am happy to see all of you again here. Thank you and greetings! What a confluence of anniversaries this is.

Starting with the 1150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Al-Farabi, coming down to our contemporary anniversaries, which you are observing today at the start of this international decade for sustainable development.

We are very proud at the United Nations of our association with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University which have been nurtured by the distinguished Rector and Vice Rector and many individual professors.

And we are particularly proud that the theme of our focus, that of cooperation on sustainability, relates so vividly to the theme you have chosen for this conference 'mind for peace'. It is really about that, it's about sustainability because this earth cannot be sustainable unless you bring the power of the human mind.

Al-Farabi had many qualities, he was a thinker, he was a philosopher, he was a musician, and he was a physicist. And as a physicist, the one point of research that he had a look at was that of a vacuum. How do you deal with a vacuum?

And I think that this was the question 75 years ago today, on the eve of the creation of the United Nations, because we had a vacuum in the global community and, to cite the phrase of Al-Farabi 'a state which is built by love must continue with justice.' So it is with the UN. It was a built on the premise of love between peoples, love of peoples for each other and for the ideals of a United world.

But as the UN grew, the imperative became to go beyond love as Al-Farabi said, to justice and that is what sustainability is all about. I also want to share with you one of the unfortunate features of UN today, which is that so many ideas are put forward by rich minds, but not all of these ideas have been translated into action, either because events overtook us, or because we did not have the resources for them. But having said that I hope that the mind will continue to provide those ideas for the world to reflect upon and to consider.

Let me give you a few examples from Kazakhstan itself. Speaking at the General

Assembly this year by video conference His Excellency President Tokayev made a number of proposals, which really came from the intellect of a human mind. He talked about the pandemic we are in now and asked: should we not have an international agency for biological safety? That is mind for peace. He talked about a national year for volunteers in Kazakhstan and said should we not have an international year of volunteers for development? That is mind for peace. He talked about the Islamic organization for food security convened by Kazakhstan and said should this not be the precursor for international organization of food security even as we prepare for the world food safety summit next year? That is mind for peace. He talked about the conference for interaction and confidence building in Asia and thought of that as a model for something more global, more universal. That is mind for peace.

And you bring it from that level, from the level of the presidency of this great country to the vibrant campus where we are upon virtually today and I have had the privilege to physically be. I think of a young woman called Saule Torokul. She devised an App of COVID tracker at Al-Farabi University, which allows every individual in Kazakh and Russian and eventually other languages as well, to trace what her or his potential risk for COVID is.

Professor Mutanov has made a career in so many distinguished aspects of sciences, but the one area I know he has excelled himself is that of risk management. And, today, we need it more than ever. Because the risk we face as a species, as a planet, challenge the entire premise on which the United Nations is founded. That phrase in its Charter, about the dignity and worth of a human person. If that dignity is put at risk, if that worth is put at risk we are doomed as a species even before we are overtaken by the virus. And that is why we need minds, that is why we need peace, and that is why the United Nations is grateful to institutions like Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. And to the minds of men and women, like Al-Farabi himself, who has shown us that the future is possible. Thank you!



Director of UNESCO Cluster Office for  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and  
Uzbekistan  
**Ms. Krista Pikkat**

Happy to participate in today's meeting on behalf of UNESCO.

As the United Nations Specialized Agency for education, sciences, culture and communication and information, UNESCO is part of the United Nations system, which celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

As you may know, the UN75 initiative launched in the framework of the anniversary celebrations seeks to promote dialogue and action on how we can build a better world despite the many challenges we face today. This dialogue places special emphasis on youth and those whose voices are too often marginalized or not heard in global affairs. As such, your meeting today also contributes to this dialogue and reflection on how to build a more peaceful, stable and sustainable future.

UNESCO is pleased to be associated with the celebration of the 1150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of



the birth of Abu Nasr Farabi (Al-Farabi), scholar and philosopher (870- 950). This celebration was included in the list of anniversaries with which UNESCO will be associated in 2020-2021 jointly by Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support of Iraq, Russian Federation and Turkey.

Al Farabi's teachings resonate strongly with UNESCO's mandate to "build peace in the minds of men" and women, given that Al-Farabi recognized that human mind has the greatest potential to build the ideal society, especially through education. The prominent thinker and philosopher put education as the most important social phenomena, because it is "the acquisition of values, knowledge and practical skills by the individual, which help them become a member of the society".

Sustainable development is based on the similar principles, skills and competencies that are needed for individuals to live in a just and peaceful societies.

Global Citizenship Education (GCED) is at the heart of UNESCO's response to today's global challenges, including human rights violations, inequality and poverty that threaten peace and sustainability. It works by empowering learners of all ages to recognize the global nature of these challenges and to become active promoters of more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure and sustainable societies.

GCED is a strategic area of UNESCO's Education programme, which builds on the work of Peace and Human Rights Education. It aims to instill in learners the values, attitudes and behaviours that support responsible global citizenship: creativity, innovation, and commitment to peace, human rights and sustainable development.

UNESCO's work in this area is grounded in its Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Education 2030 Agenda and Framework for Action, notably Target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

As Al-Farabi put it, "knowledge without morality becomes a threat to humanity", this is the core notion of GCED as well. Therefore, education systems, including all education institutions and universities are the ideal hubs for instilling these 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that are necessary not only for preparing the future leaders, but also, each individual members of the society, to be ready to take responsible actions and decisions for sustainable development. The leadership of the Kazakh National University is crucial in this regard.

As the UN agency with a mandate in the field of education and in its role as the coordinator of SDG 4, UNESCO calls on all education stakeholders to mainstream these values, attitudes and behaviours that support responsible global citizenship among learners in line with the teachings of Al Farabi!

Let me thank the organizers of this important meeting and wish all the participants fruitful and meaningful exchanges.

Thank you for your attention.



Representative  
of the UN Department of Global Communications  
in Kazakhstan  
**Mr. Vlastimil Samek**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends and colleagues!

H.E. Rector of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University,  
H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev,  
Excellencies, colleagues, friends, representatives of academia!

Great pleasure and honor to be here today with you. Because I think our participation in this online conference is already kind of demonstrating our support to the team of the conference “Mind for Peace”. Saying that we do mind about peace and I’m grateful to all the participants who have already expressed their views. How accurately they have interconnected the thoughts of great thinker Abu Nasr Al-Farabi and the present times in respect of the intentions to achieve peaceful and sustainable development of world.

Indeed, it is very important that when we talk about the sustainable development we also talk about the inclusiveness and logically the fact than no one should be left behind. In this respect the universal international organization United Nation I think is fulfilling its mandate and celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary without the world experiencing any major global war is an evidence that the organization is delivering to the extent possible.

Indeed, throughout the decades, centuries the humankind has always been challenged by pandemics, by wars, but always that was about the human minds that actually worked together to overcome this troubled moments and to move forward and I think this is a message that came from old times of Al-Farabi throughout the centuries and is reaching out to us today just to remind us that our present world is facing a new challenges but we also have the ways how to address then and we have the young people who actually the future chariots of fire to guarantee that our world will be developing peacefully, successfully and sustainably.  
Thank you very much!



Coordinator of UNAOC in Turkey  
Founder of MEDAR international center  
**Dr. Bekir Karliga**

The UNESCO's declaration of 2020, as the Year of Farabi, due to the 1150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the great Turkish-Islamic philosopher Farabi, is extremely important and meaningful not only for Kazakhstan, but also for the whole world, particularly for Turkish and Islamic parts of the world.

Farabi, is not only one of the greatest philosophers of the humanity, but also is the first and only thinker in human history who revealed the Philosophy of Civilizations with all aspects and depths. He revealed the reality of civilization which is the most valuable and persistent of all high-quality activities of humanity, over a thousand years ago, in a more progressive way than its meaning today.

Farabi is the first and only philosopher who wrote 3 different books entitled with the word "civilization" directly, *The Virtuous City (el-Medinetü'l-Fâdila)*, *Civilized Politics (es-Siyasetü'l-Medeniyye)* and *Civilization Topics (Fusulü'l-Medeni)*

The Kazakhstan lands which he was born; Otrar, Farab and Turkistan, is one of the two main civilizations basin of the world where the reality of civilization has flourished, developed and spreaded throughout the whole world.

His birthplace was in an intersection point of Indian, Chinese and Central Asian civilizations as well as being one of the main centers of the ancient Silk Road which was starting from the Great Wall of China, passing through Western Asia and reaching to the inner parts of Europe.

Farabi, after internalizing the ancient civilization accumulation in this center, passed through Maveräü'n-Nehir, Horasan and Iran, than settled in Baghdad where the universal civilization heritage gathered and the heart of the Islamic Civilization beats at that time.

Here, the great thinker met the ancient cultures of Sumer, Babylon, Hebrew, Suryani and Keldani, than lived in Harran, near Şanlıurfa of South Eastern Turkey for a short time which was the homeland of the Sabii cult and culture at that time.

In the beginning of the golden age of Islamic Civilization, this great Turkish scientist and philosopher has created many works on different disciplines, from theology to metaphysics, from ontology to logic, from ethics philosophy to philosophy of politics, physics, astronomy, psychology and music. He also carried the ancient philosophy from middle ages to this day.

Farabi's inclusive and extensive civilization approach has deeply influenced the civilizations of the three major religions flourished in these lands; Islam, Christianity and Judaism. He also influenced the civilizations in Anatolia, Syria, Africa, Byzantium and western civilizations thus contributed a universal perception of civilization reaching to present day.

This versatile effect and contribution is still continuing today. For this reason, we can accept Farabi as a westerner as well as an easterner, as a muslim as well as jewish and christian, as the pioneer of classic and at the same time modern philosophy. He is also the founder of Islamic Philosophy, the symbolizing personality of civilization philosophy and the mastermind of UN Alliance of Civilizations.



Vice-Chancellor for Internationalization of  
University of Castilla-La Mancha  
**Dr. Fatima Guadamillas**

Dear Participants of the Conference!  
Distinguished guests and colleagues!

Today, I feel honored to share this platform with you and I would like to extend my highest appreciation to Al-Farabi Kazakh National University for such a remarkable opportunity.

The University of Castilla-la Mancha is a modern and dynamic university that is committed to the creation and transmission of science and professional skills based on promoting values such as solidarity, sustainability, efficiency, transparency and equality.

The relationship between our institutions has already exceeded from long-lasting strategic partnership to mutual reliable friendship. Yet it might create values unique to each of our countries, we are focused one common course.

Hence, as educational institutions, that nurture tomorrow's leaders, activist and Global Citizens, it is vital for us all to prove our commitment to building a better world with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through basic agreements between the political, economic, and social powers and acknowledging the necessity for a long-term vision and promotion of sustainability in its broadest sense.

Especially now, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit Spain so dreadfully we have felt it is an unprecedented wake-up call for realizing the significance of Sustainable Development Goals. It has mobilized all of our national, regional and local administrations, our citizens, companies, universities, research centers and organizations to face the great challenge of our time and protect the well-being of our nation.

It is a great privilege to attend this meeting, and to represent Spanish academic society. Spain along with Turkey stood at the forefront of creation of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization back in 2005 at the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations.

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations is an initiative that seeks to galvanize international action to face the challenges of the modern world as fighting extremism, building international, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and cooperation, defusing tensions between the Western and Islamic worlds.

We fully support the initiative of the United Nations of Global Citizenship. We do believe that as higher educational institution, we should be the first to answer the disturbing call of modernity. As today's conference's concise, yet comprehensive name declares we should, at the best of our ability, mind for peace and cultivate a generation of minds for peace.

Thank you very much for your attention!



Professor of National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athenes  
**Dr. Georgios Steiris**

Albeit been produced in a Muslim environment, Al-Farabi's (870-950) best known work *Mabādi' ārā' ahl al-madīna al-fāḍila* (The Principles of the Opinions of the People of the Virtuous City) is informed by the idea of the virtuous city. *Madīna* is a Quranic word and means the city in general and the city of the Prophet in particular (*Madīnat al-nabī*). Al-Fārābī reversed a strong imperial tendency in political thought during the late antiquity and brought forth *polis*. Like the ancient Greeks before him, he discusses the ideal polity inseparably from the city. Al-Fārābī's *madīna* signifies the polity, the citizens, and the area, a feature that sets him apart from the Greek tradition. The *polis* was an existing reality, while the *umma*, conceived of as a group of people who share common beliefs, was a universal term and had no direct political implications nor was it a political reality: Moreover, Al-Farabi's *Madīna* reflects his understanding of the Greek, Roman, and Persian political traditions and his Platonic readings. Although several scholars have emphasized the Platonic–utopian element in his political philosophy, we should bear in mind that *polis*, besides being a utopia, was also a political reality in the ancient world. The *polis* flourished among the Greeks and its legacy in the Christian and Muslim traditions was very important. I suggest that Al-Farabi deliberately distanced himself from the previous Muslim philosophers, such as al-Kindī (800-870) and al-Sarakhsī (d. 899), and theologians, such as al-Balkhī (850-934), who wrote political advice treatises, because he was better acquainted with Platonic philosophy and opted to go beyond the confines of Neoplatonism. As a reader and interpreter of the Platonic Republic, he relied on the Greek concept of *polis*. He could not have followed a different path.

Al-Fārābī, following Plato and Aristotle, contends that humans are unable to protect themselves from nature and the hostility of other humans outside an organized society. In addition, they cannot achieve perfection, their ultimate goal, without the aid of their fellow citizens and mutual cooperation taking place within human society (*al-ijtimā'*). The supreme happiness (*τελεία εὐδαιμονία*, *al-khayr al-afḍal*) -a very rare term in Greek philosophy- and theoretical and practical perfection, are achievable only in the city and not in smaller political associations. According to Al-Farabi there are three perfect political associations, depending on their size: large (*ma'mūra*) – the union of all the nations and associations of the inhabited part of the world-, medium – a nation (*umma*) situated in a certain land- and small – the city–state (*madīna*). The smaller societies, such as the village (*qarya*), the neighborhood (*maḥalla*), the quarter (*sikka*), and the household (*manzil*) are imperfect and inadequate. Although al-Fārābī accepts the validity and utility of political associations that are larger than the city in terms of providing the conditions for human happiness, the core of his political philosophy is the city. Perfection and felicity can only be attained in the perfect city. The excellent nation and the excellent universal state are actually unions of cities.

Al-Farabi's ecumenical state remained a utopia and the nation-state was not an existing reality during his lifetime. The Greek tradition, on which he extensively relied, offered him the necessary theoretical and empirical background that allowed him to substantiate his ideas about the preponderance of the city as the sum of the citizens and the perfect polity. Al-Fārābī seems to approximate the classical conception of the *polis* as the sum of the citizens when he

deliberately chooses the term ma'mūra in order to designate a larger political association, the inhabited world. The term refers to the inhabited part of the world and al-Fārābī refrains from the use of terms that signify global dominion or universal rulership. The core of politics is the people and the citizens, not vast uninhabited territories. Al-Fārābī does not share the enthusiasm of those kings and emperors who claim that they are masters of seas and deserts. For al-Fārābī the city is its people and the way they are organized and ruled.



Rector of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University  
**Dr. Galym Mutanov**

Dear guests and participants!

The topic of the conference is Mind for peace. Today, the humanity guided by reasoned mind, must unite in the name of peace to work together, to put aside differences, to overcome the costs of coronavirus, to reduce high geopolitical tensions and other global threats of our time.

In these difficult conditions, the words of a Great Scholar and Philosopher, the Second teacher of the mankind, Abu Nasr Al-Farabi become relevant. “Happiness can be reached only through the unification and mutual assistance of people and nations ... a man can obtain the perfection that he is destined to by nature...the whole earth will become virtuous if nations help each other to achieve happiness”.

The relevance of this idea is confirmed by the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: “In the current situation, either we will unite within global institutions that meet their purpose, or we will be crushed by discord and chaos”.

Thus, the future of the humankind depends on the fact if the humanistic transformation of the society based on creative and constructive mind happens. This idea of Al-Farabi has not lost its high relevance to this day.

Defining a man as a rational animal, Al-Farabi relied on the creative role of the mind. The force of mind can change the world for the better, restore moral and creative values. A mind is a powerful tool for the victory of good in the world. Therefore, the formation of intelligent citizens is a matter of primary importance for Al-Farabi.

*In this context, the role of universities is increasing; they are missioned to create intelligent citizens - the creators of sustainable human development.*

*It is the University environment that initially has a special strategic cross-cultural potential that can realize the tasks of educating young people. Based on the integration of knowledge and in the spirit of global citizenship. We believe that the supranational role of modern universities on the basis of instilling common human values allows to effectively build algorithms for joint actions and play a decisive role in the future development of society. Regardless our nationality or religious beliefs, we will be able to face the conflicts and hatred to join forces for peace.*

For a long time, we observed an intensive evolution of University activities.

Universities 1.0. – based on education, universities 2.0. –education and research, universities 3.0. – education, research, and knowledge commercialization.

Today, a new trend of University 4.0 is a demanded and promising model for modern universities. University 4.0 highlights its activities as a mission of forming not only professionals, but also the citizens of the world with high moral and civil attitudes, responsible for the future of humanity. They possess true virtues. Following the idea of Al-Farabi, we believe that our alumni, along with professional competencies, should be carriers of high values, which will make the world a virtuous place.

Reality shows us that all the key persons in the world politics have University degrees. This is an important circumstance that cannot be ignored, since the future of humanity depends on the intellectual and moral level, the rationality of these people. Therefore, universities should become the nucleus for the formation of not only competent specialists, but also future creators of a virtuous and sustainable world.

I think in this regard, it is very important to develop a plan to unite universities in order to achieve the next level of development of education and science, the purpose of which is a peaceful, prosperous coexistence of the world inhabitants in accordance with the UN "Global Citizenship" concept.