

# **2012 HC's Dialogue on *Faith and Protection***

## **Oral Update**

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# Facts and Figures

- \* **Total:** 403 participants
- \* ***Breakdown:***
- \* **UN Member States + Observers:** 82 + 3
- \* **IGOs:** 8
- \* **UN Agencies:** 7
- \* **NGOs and Faith-based orgs:** 52
- \* **Faith leaders and experts:** 38

# Objectives

1. Explore how asylum and the protection of stateless persons and IDPs are reflected in religious values and traditions
2. Identify practical ways to better engage with faith-based organizations (FBOs) to protect and assist refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, and improve protection space
3. Examine how to deepen cooperation between UNHCR and humanitarian partners with FBOs, including those whose primary activity is to support the religious life and holistic development of its adherents.

# Achievements

- \* Confirmation of convergence and complementarity of international protection/humanitarian principles and precepts shared by all major faiths
- \* **Key principles: humanity, impartiality, non-discrimination, respect for beliefs of others, diversity, empowerment, equality, and protection against any form of conditionality**
- \* Deeper appreciation of how religion and spirituality shape the lives of persons of concern
- \* Recognition of valuable contributions to protection of faith organizations and communities

# Follow-up

Four work streams:

1. Compiling good practices on engagement between UNHCR and Faith-based organizations (FBOs) to yield protection outcomes
2. Developing a code of conduct for Faith Leaders
3. Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities
4. Developing guidance for UNHCR staff on 'faith literacy'



***Thank you!***