

Shiraz Declaration

Fifth Silk Road Mayors Forum

Shiraz, Islamic Republic of Iran

19-21 May 2010

Meeting together adjacent to Persepolis, one of the most ancient Civilizations in history, at the beautiful city of Shiraz; the hometown of internationally known great scientists, poets and philosophers such as Sibo-veih, Saadi, Hafiz, Mola-Sadra and many others.

We, the representatives of 26 nations and 48 cities, hereby express our gratitude and sincere appreciation for the well-known Persian hospitality to Shiraz Mayor and City council as well as Shirazi citizens to provide us with comfortable stay and feel at home atmosphere.

This gathering of the Silk Road Mayors Forum, in the world severely shaken by political turbulences and deep Economic crises, has obviously strengthened our will and desire to come together, hear each other and look deeply into the ways and means that our forefathers have successfully accomplished in the brilliant Silk Road era. Therefore, it is up to us to change all those ups and downs to successes by translating them into the modern requirements of our time. As such, we strongly request the following actions being considered:

1. We, the participants of the 5th Silk Road Mayors Forum in Shiraz, the cradle of the Achemenain Empire and one of the first world governing powers for peace and justice for all, express our commitment again to peace and justice for all. We believe that only through honoring the civilizations, respecting the global and recognizing the diversity of cultures and values by preferring multilateralism to unilateralism, we can expect better life and well-being for the mankind.
2. Considering the paramount role that World Citizens' Organization (WCO) has played for SRMF in the national, regional as well as global arenas, we request UN, UNWTO, UNDP, UNESCO, ECO, to recognize the great potential of SRMF and assist to promote and proliferate the spirit of peace, unity and cooperation among the Silk Roadians, in particular and in the world, in general.
3. We urge the member cities of the Silk Road to consolidate their efforts to reach the goals as stipulated in the previous declarations and request the secretariat of the forum to assist them in an appropriate manner such as formulating the action plan for development Silk Road and the issue of regional Silk Road Visa.
4. We fully recognize the importance of developing transit roads including air, sea, rail and highways to the cities of all members which could play a significant role on boosting the intra-Silk Road tourism and contributing to enrich cultural, economic and trade exchanges and people to people contacts. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the city mayors of Silk Road spare no effort in fulfilling and facilitating the above-mentioned goals.
5. We strongly recommend prevalence of sister-hood relationship in SR cities and believe that, cultural exchanges, establishing ties among the relevant universities, scientific centers, cultural and health institutions can be established and strengthened, with the aim of revitalizing the Silk Road objectives.

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6. As regards to the readiness expressed by the director of the Cultural Institute of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) for establishing and expanding the cultural ties with the Silk Road city mayors, we urge the member cities to use this opportunity to expand this sort of relationships by welcoming this idea and offering and expressing their readiness to the said organization.
7. We hope that, this forum in Shiraz will open a new chapter of our activity where we move from short term incidents of discussion and interaction within S.R. community to more permanent forms such as Silk Road network of universities.
8. We recommend, UN agencies especially UNESCO to convene, on the occasion of the international year for the "Rapprochement of Cultures" roundtables, conferences or forums with the support of regional organizations and bodies on "The Role of Silk Road in the Rapprochement of Cultures". Therefore, we encourage the member cities to actively participate and contribute to such events.
9. With the emphasis on taking positive action on cultural and economic exchanges, with the observation of sustainable development principle, we urge all the international, national and local authorities to encourage conducting mutual researches, transfer of technology and knowledge, scientists, and student exchanges among Silk Roadians to promote peace, friendship and hospitality.
10. Silk Road Mayors express their concern regarding whatever endangers sustainable peace and security in the world. We encourage all instances at national, regional and global levels to promote peace, security and stability and encountering all forms of terrorism.
11. We suggest a roundtable or forum to be convened to discuss the feasibility of establishing a multi-national airline called Silk Road Air Lines in Shiraz, Iran with the support of all parties in this respect.
12. We recommend that in all city members, an urban park to be established as Silk Road Park, decorated with symbols of all member cities.
13. We also recommend that an urban arterial or boulevard being named as Silk Road in all member cities.