

**The Cultural Museum of African Art -**

**The African Artifacts and Historical Collection**

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Mohammed Nurhussein

Chairman United African Congress

Dear Mohammed,

Thank you so much, and President Sidique Wai of the United African Congress for inviting me, and having put forward and produced this incredibly rewarding “World Interfaith Harmony Week” “Building Bridges Across Boundaries”! event of February 4, 2016 at the United Nations. I also want to thank the participants and sponsors: Nusantara Foundation, Gordon Tapper of Give Them A Hand Foundation, Buddha’s Light International Association, the International Association of Applied Psychology, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia, the Permanent Mission of Indonesia and the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations.

It is quite remarkable, and enriching to reflect upon the talks of H.E. Ambassador Muhammad Anshor, DPR of Indonesia, the Mission of Jamaica, the Mission of Ethiopia, the deeply felt words of Rabbi Dr. Alvin Kass, Rev. Dionne Boisierre of the UN, Dr. Uma Mysorekar, Hindu Temple of New York, Youwang , Buddhist Light International Association (BLIA), and the amazing chants of Kevin Ka’nahsohon Deer, of the native American Iroquois Mohawk Nation. It brought to mind why we all exist in this world. What was so captivating and profound was the common thread and linkages to what makes us all human, realizing we share the same values, and have the same dreams as expressed in our beliefs and our religions, that we have so much in common. That is what is so important about this conference.

Attending guests, along with myself felt that the messages put forth during the event, about the truly positive attributes of man and womankind, as expressed in the world response to the “Ebola Crisis” video, and discussion on the UN agenda for the 2030 sustainable development goals to empower women, and to achieve heightened development of people throughout the world, are messages that we need to carry forth throughout all our communities that we touch.

The theme of linking the universally common belief and goal: to “Build Bridges Across Boundaries” through faith, peace, and harmony is absolutely synonymous with our mission statement of the Cultural Museum of African Art which is to enhance mutual understanding, assistance, respect, and dignity through knowledge of, and, to all people of the world. I and my fellows believe that this conference accomplished this immensely! Continue the great work!

 My very best,

 Eric Edwards

 Executive Director, Collector, and Founder