



Breakout Session 6: “The Silk Road: A Route to Peace”

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 20 November 2018
15:00 - 17:00, Conference Room 8

THEME AND POINTS OF DISCUSSION

The theme of Breakout Session 6 is *“The Silk Road: A Route to Peace”*.

Date & Venue: 20 November 2018 from 15:00 to 17:00. Conference Room 8, UNHQ

Format: interactive discussion with short presentations from the speakers highlighting good practices on the theme. The last 20 minutes will be dedicated to interventions from the floor.

BACKGROUND

Since time immemorial, human beings have moved from place to place and traded with their neighbors, exchanging goods, skills, and ideas. Throughout history, the Silk Road formed the first bridge between East and West. These overland and maritime routes have facilitated interaction between peoples and civilizations, offering insights into the past and shedding light on the future, while highlighting the shared heritage that links the peoples of Eurasia. In his opening remarks at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in 2017, UN Secretary General António Guterres underscored that “While the Belt and Road Initiative and the 2030 Agenda are different in their nature and scope, both have sustainable development as the overarching objective. Both strive to create opportunities, global public goods and win-win cooperation. And both aim to deepen ‘connectivity’ across countries and regions: connectivity in infrastructure, trade, finance, policies and, perhaps most important of all, among peoples”.

This **Breakout Session is co-organized with the Silk Institute to present an innovative initiative: “The New Silk Road on Peace Routes”**. The aim of the session is to enhance our shared understanding and cooperation among peoples in countries along the ancient Silk Road in order to prevent crisis and conflict.

SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR

- Fernando Molina Pons, President of the Silk International Institute
- Francesc Colomer Sánchez, Regional Secretary of Tourism of the Generalitat Valenciana
- Sungdon Hwang, Secretary General of Silk Road University Network (SUN)
- Nasharudin Mat Isa, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Wasatiyah Centre For Peace
- Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Former Director General of UNESCO (by video message)

Moderator: Enrique Gaspar, Vice-President of Silk International Institute.