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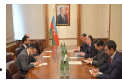


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`Int'l stability, settlement of conflicts and inclusiveness supreme goal of UNAOC`

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International stability, settlement of conflicts, and inclusiveness is the supreme goal of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, French Minister of State for European Affairs Harlem Désir said.

He was addressing the plenary session on "Platforms and Partnerships for the Prevention of Violent Extremism" held as part of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum in Baku Apr. 26.

Respect for various cultures and faiths will contribute to the resistance movement against violent extremism, he said. "We believe an effective and sustainable solution will be found."

Addressing the plenary session, former Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero said Azerbaijan in itself is an alliance of civilizations.

The prime minister said he had made an effort for the creation for the Alliance of Civilizations in 2005.

The reason behind the diversities in the 21st century is the differences between religions and cultures, he said, noting that for the sake of unity, it is necessary to unite under the name of the UN.

"We have to be a herald of peace in the word. The name religion is abused in terrorism, while religion calls for peace and cooperation against violence," he added.

Former French PM and FM Dominique de Villepin said in his turn that the world does not fully realize the essence of violent extremism.

"This is a big trap we have fallen into over this last decade. And our response to violent extremism has been military force, unfortunately," he noted.

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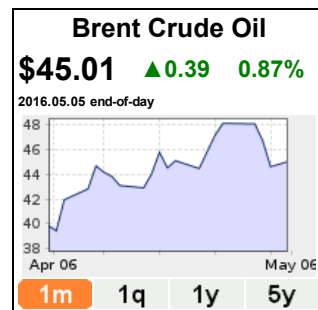
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