Of ice of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Religions for Peace sign a partnership MoU, raising attention to the role of religious leaders in prevention

(5 November 2024, New York) Religious leaders, faith-based and interfaith organizations have a responsibility to contribute to the building of peaceful, inclusive and cohesive societies that are resilient to confict, violent extremism as well as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. This was underlined by the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, and the Secretary General, Dr. Francis Kuria, upon the signing of a dedicated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between and the Of ice of the Special Adviser at the sidelines of the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, on 27 September 2024.

The recognition of the invaluable role of religious leaders, faith-based and interfaith organizations as strong partners in prevention, is at the heart of the <u>Plan of Action for</u> <u>Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity</u> <u>Crimes</u>, also known as the Fez Plan of Action, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2017, implementation of which is at the focus of the signed Memorandum.

"As one of the world's oldest, largest, and most representative multi-religious organisations, Religions for Peace was directly involved in the development of the Fez Plan of Action in 2017. Today, with deep concern over the ris um. works through its Interreligious Councils in nearly 100 countries in six regions, along with women of faith and youth networks, at the local, national, regional, and international levels, and profoundly believes that every individual, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or background, deserves the fundamental human rights of peace and security.

The signed MoU between and the Of ice of the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide outlines collaboration at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels to maximize the implementation of the Fez Plan of Action, mindful