



AFS DECLARATION OF ACCRA

October 13, 2017

We the Board of Trustees of AFS Intercultural Programs, the National Boards and staff of 60 AFS Network Organizations and 50,000 AFS volunteers worldwide call upon government leaders, educators, civil society organizations and concerned citizens to reject extremism, inequality and forces that impede peace. On the occasion of our 2017 annual meeting held in Ghana, we ask that you join AFS in the “learn-to-live-together” movement to advance intercultural understanding for a more just and peaceful world.

We are deeply concerned that the world has become more and more divided, as nations and societies that previously encouraged cooperation are moving toward greater isolation.

AFS was created by volunteer ambulance drivers who experienced the ravages of both World Wars—and sought to prevent future conflicts by bringing together people through international exchange programs and intercultural learning opportunities for young global-minded leaders.

Today, AFS honors this noble mission by making a public commitment: *To empower people of all ages and all backgrounds with the intercultural knowledge, skills and understanding required to take action and make a positive difference at home and around the world.*

After 100 years of building bridges across cultures, we are also proud to partner with organizations and individuals of like mind to accomplish this commitment in support of United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals.

We recognize that our work is needed now more than ever. The great turmoil and conflict we witness across the globe require AFS to be more courageous and purposeful in everything we do—bringing together people, cultures, worldviews and beliefs through life-changing study abroad opportunities, volunteerism, public forums, partnerships and learning journeys.

With more than 1 million active global citizens in 90 countries, we pledge to harness our energies, our resources and expertise to advance our mission through these three strategic impact goals:

- 1. Develop Active Global Citizens** of all ages and backgrounds through intercultural learning and volunteerism to participate in the “learn-to-live-together” movement.
- 2. Help Globalize Schools and Institutions** to deliver programs that build global competence and enhance collaboration.
- 3. Expand Access to Intercultural Education** to ensure that more people from diverse and underserved communities participate in and benefit from AFS programs and initiatives.

We believe a just and peaceful world is only possible when the global community respects diversity, embraces inclusiveness and works together to address the world’s most pressing challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vassilika Meleni'.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal line.