

**Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nikos Dendias’  
intervention at the online Ministerial Meeting of the  
Alliance for Multilateralism  
(Geneva, 24 February 2021)**

Your Excellencies,

It is with great pleasure that I am taking part in yet another meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism.

I strongly believe that, especially at this critical period, multilateralism constitutes one of the most important achievements of the international community.

The most crucial issues of our time transcend borders by their very nature.

This has been clearly emphasized by COVID-19.

The pandemic has posed a threat not only to public health, but also to the very foundations of democracy.

We strongly believe that strict adherence to human rights norms is the way ahead.

Another issue of capital importance is climate change, which the Secretary General recently described as “*the defining issue of our time*”.

Acknowledging the extreme severity of the problem, Greece undertook the initiative to convene in June 2019, in Athens, an International Conference entitled “The Impacts of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage”.

Furthermore, we are prepared to host a High-Level meeting on the same issue, as soon as the pandemic shall permit.

As far as the matter of the digital age is concerned, we must all agree that digital technology has already brought many benefits.

Nevertheless, the potential risks are also huge.

Consequently, we must ensure that digital issues will not have an adverse impact on human rights, including freedom of expression.

Bearing in mind that global challenges require global solutions, we will continue addressing these challenges from a human rights perspective.

And this, by taking all necessary steps to ensure that the rights of all people around the world are respected and that no one is, indeed, left behind.

Thank you for your attention.