



Global Consular Leaders Unite in Marrakech for FICAC's 14th World Congress

200 delegates representing 87 countries reaffirm diplomacy's role in bridging nations as President Margaropoulos is re-elected to lead the World Federation of Consuls.

MARRAKECH, MOROCCO – November 1, 2025 – The World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) successfully concluded its 14th World Congress of Consuls in Marrakech, Morocco, marking a significant milestone in global consular cooperation. Hosted by the Union of Honorary Consuls in Morocco (UCHM) at the Es Saadi Resort from October 29 to November 1, the Congress brought together more than 200 participants representing 87 countries for four days of strategic discussions, leadership elections, and cultural exchange.



The Congress opened with a welcoming reception hosted by Hon. Atman Haloui,



President of UCHM, and Hon. Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos, FICAC President, in the Es Saadi Palace's Salle des Lions. Distinguished speakers formally opened the Conference, beginning with H.E.



Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, former President of Croatia, followed by Mr. Mohammed Idrissi, representative of the city of Marrakesh, Mr. Mohamed Benjelloun, representative of the Moroccan Agency for Investment and Export Development, and concluded with Mr. Fouad M. Ammor, Vice President of the Moroccan Council for Foreign Affairs, who delivered a compelling address on "African Unity: Between the Weight of the Past and the Constraints of the Future." These opening addresses set the tone for the strategic discussions that would follow throughout the Congress.



Two comprehensive panel discussions brought together FICAC leadership and board members to address contemporary challenges in consular work. The first panel, "Bridging Nations in Modern Times," examined the multifaceted role of consular diplomacy in fostering understanding and collaboration across borders. Discussions explored trust-building between nations and communities, the strategic importance of consular engagement in economic partnerships, the power of cultural dialogue as a diplomatic tool, youth education and future leadership development, humanitarian engagement in times of crisis, and the vital role of regional cooperation in addressing shared challenges. The panel featured compelling perspectives from Hon. Asif Chowdhury (FICAC Vice-President), Hon. Karim Qubain (FICAC Treasurer), Hon. Aykut Eken (FICAC President Emeritus), Hon. Denis Van den Weghe (FICAC Board Member), Hon. Nathalie Mimoun (Chairwoman of the FICAC Women in Diplomacy Committee), Hon. Dikshu C. Kukreja, and Hon. Cameron McKenzie, each bringing unique regional insights and expertise to the conversation.



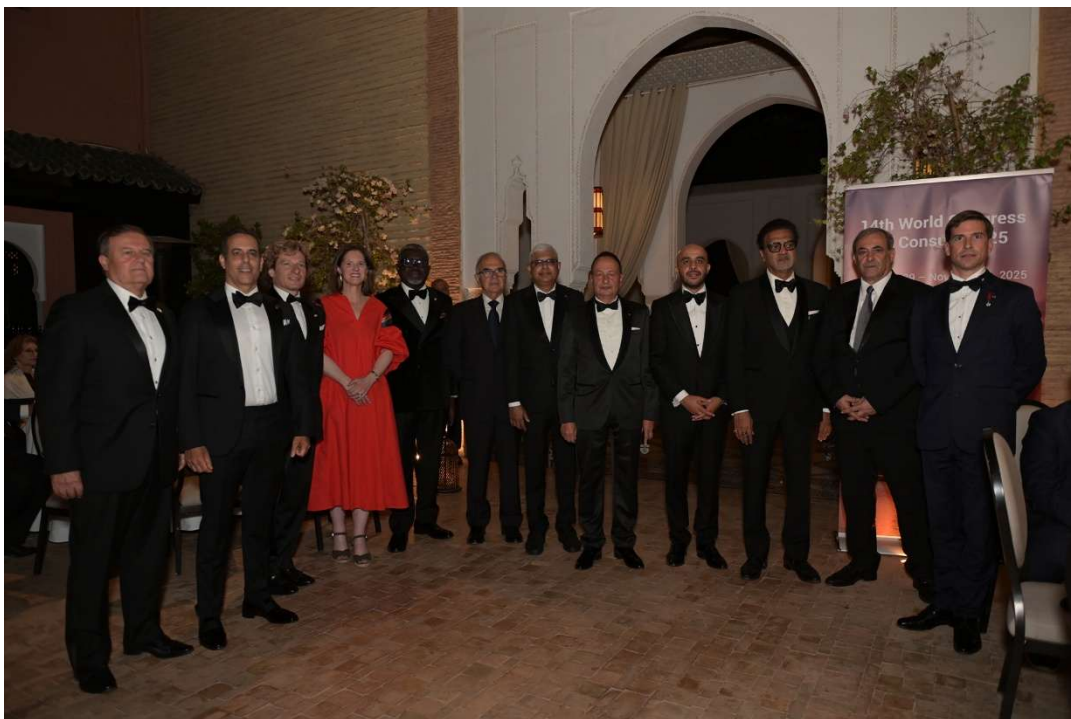
The second panel, "Navigating Modern Diplomacy," delved into the complexities of diplomatic practice in an era of rapid transformation. Participants examined the shifting dynamics of diplomacy in a multipolar world, the emerging field of health diplomacy and pandemic preparedness, crisis management and rapid response protocols, the integration of technology and digital pathways in consular services, enhanced citizen protection in an age of global mobility, sustainability and climate diplomacy as urgent priorities, and the growing threats posed by cybersecurity challenges. This dynamic discussion featured Hon. Purrshottam Bhaggeria (FICAC Secretary General), Hon. Raja Aghzadi (Chairwoman of the FICAC Health Committee), and FICAC Board Members Hon. Stelio Campanale, Hon. Ami Orkaby, Hon. Kwame Acquah, Hon. Fatma Gonul Oray-Eken, and Hon. Louis J. Vella. The diversity of speakers, representing continents from Africa to Asia, Europe to the Americas, underscored the truly global nature of the challenges being addressed and the collaborative spirit required to meet them.



Leadership and Vision for the Future

In a significant vote of confidence, delegates re-elected Hon. Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos, Honorary Consul of the Philippines in Greece, as FICAC President for another three-year term. Hon. Asif Chowdhury, Honorary Consul of Chile in Bangladesh, was re-elected Vice-President.

The newly elected Board of Directors represents FICAC's truly global reach and includes Hon. Kwame N. Acquah (Honorary Consul of the Republic of Seychelles in Ghana), Hon. Purrshottam Bhaggeria (Honorary Consul of the Republic of Guinea and Bissau in India), Hon. Stelio Campanale (Honorary Consul of Greece in Italy), Hon. Alessandro Giuliani (Honorary Consul of Poland in Monaco), Hon. Ami H. Orkaby (Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Korea and Mongolia in Israel), Hon. Charlotte Piers (Honorary Consul of Tunisia in Belgium), Hon. Karim Elias Wadie Qubain (Honorary Consul General of Japan in Honduras), Hon. Denis Van den Weghe (Honorary Consul of Belgium in Kazakhstan), and Hon. Louis J. Vella (Honorary Consul of Malta in the United States).



In his presidential address, Hon. Margaropoulos outlined a transformative three-year tenure that has fundamentally strengthened FICAC's global presence. Since the 2022 Congress in Limassol, Cyprus, the organization has welcomed 11 new member countries, expanding its reach across Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Indian Ocean region, and now counting over 100 members worldwide.

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Constitutional Amendments Approved

In a significant development, the General Assembly approved key amendments to the FICAC Constitution on October 31, 2025, modernizing the organization's governance structure.

Article 8(k) - Presidential Eligibility Requirements

The amendment clarifies that candidates for President must have served on the Executive Committee for a full term in one of the last two administrations, streamlining the eligibility pathway while maintaining institutional experience. The two-term presidential limit remains in place to ensure leadership renewal.

Article 8(o) - Executive Committee Meeting Standards

New attendance requirements establish that Executive Committee members may not be absent from two consecutive meetings without review. Previously requiring at least three meetings annually, this amendment strengthens accountability while the Executive Committee evaluates legitimate reasons for absence.

New High Advisory Committee

A High Advisory Committee is established, comprising of all former FICAC Presidents and Vice Presidents. This body will provide guidance and ensure institutional continuity, leveraging the wisdom and experience of FICAC's distinguished alumni.

Momentous Achievements and Strategic Partnerships

The President highlighted several groundbreaking initiatives that define FICAC's renewed mission. The organization has organized five major regional conferences in Ghana, Honduras, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, and Greece, bringing consular training and networking directly to diverse regions. FICAC has signed 11 Memoranda of Understanding with universities worldwide, from the International Hellenic University to Nazarbayev University, creating pathways for diplomatic education. A historic partnership with the International Chamber of Commerce now recognizes honorary consuls as vital bridges in global trade and economic development.

Among the defining achievements is the launch of the Executive Diploma in Diplomacy in collaboration with Anatolia American University, providing specialized training for 21st-century



consular practice. The organization has also published "**Contemporary Diplomatic and Consular Relations**" with Springer publishing house, with digital volumes available at no cost to over 1,000 academic libraries worldwide. To ensure sustainable support for its mission, FICAC has established the FICAC Foundation in the United Kingdom to support scholarships, peace research, and humanitarian initiatives.

"We have proven that honorary consuls are not merely ceremonial figures. We are bridges between nations, advocates for peace, facilitators of prosperity, and champions of human dignity," stated President Margaropoulos. "The world needs FICAC now more than ever."

Women in Diplomacy and Sustainable Development

The Congress emphasized FICAC's commitment to gender equality in diplomacy, highlighting the work of the Women in Diplomacy Committee and the organization's participation in the 69th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The newly established Energy Diplomacy Forum was also recognized for its role in addressing climate change and energy transition through diplomatic solutions.

Throughout the Congress, FICAC continued its symbolic tradition of planting a Tree of Peace, with a ceremony held in Marrakech joining similar initiatives in Ghana, Honduras, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, and Athens—living symbols of the organization's commitment to sustainable diplomacy and conflict prevention.



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The Congress concluded with a Black-Tie Gala Dinner at La Mamounia, one of Marrakech's most iconic palaces. In a scene reminiscent of a bygone era of grand diplomacy, delegates departed the Es Saadi Hotel in a procession of traditional horse-drawn carriages, traversing the illuminated streets of the Medina. The enchanting journey through Marrakech's historic quarter set the tone for an evening that seamlessly blended Morocco's timeless elegance with the spirit of international



fellowship. Against the backdrop of La Mamounia's magnificent gardens and ornate architecture, delegates celebrated not only the achievements of the Congress but also the enduring friendships and diplomatic bonds that transcend borders. The evening served as a fitting tribute to Morocco's gracious hospitality and FICAC's mission of building bridges between nations through the art of diplomacy.



About FICAC

The World Federation of Consuls (FICAC) is the global network connecting consular associations and honorary consuls worldwide, dedicated to promoting consular excellence, international cooperation, and diplomatic education. Founded in 1982, FICAC represents consular corps and associations across six continents, facilitating dialogue, building trust, and advancing the professional development of consular representatives globally.