

Opening Statement by the President of the World Cultural Council

Award Ceremony

Ladies and Gentlemen, Esteemed Guests, Our Honored Laureate, and Friends from Around the World,

It is both an honor and a profound pleasure to welcome you to this year's Annual Award Ceremony of the World Cultural Council.

Today, we gather not only to celebrate individual excellence but to reaffirm our shared commitment to the advancement of culture, science, and education—pillars upon which the progress of humanity firmly rests. At a time when the world faces unprecedented challenges, it is vital that we recognize and elevate those who illuminate the path forward through knowledge, creativity, and compassion.

The World Cultural Council has long held the belief that the pursuit of wisdom, artistic expression, and scientific discovery transcends borders and unites us all. Our distinguished awardee, Prof. Mercuri Kanatzidis from Northwestern University, exemplifies this belief through his extraordinary contributions—whether by unlocking new frontiers of understanding the very basic character of the periodic table of the element or by opening vistas in harnessing the power of sunlight for creating clean energy.

Mercouri's mentoring of students from all over the world and over the years, reminds us that excellence is not an end, but a gift to be shared, a torch to be passed on, and a force to inspire generations to come.

We are also honored to celebrate this occasion, the 40th World Cultural Council Ceremony, in partnership with the Universidad Albert Einstein (UAE) of Mexico, whose educational mission closely reflects the values of the Council. UAE's visionary model, "Education for Peace from the Perspective of Human Development," emphasizes integrity, empathy, diversity, and ethical leadership — principles that resonate with the purpose and spirit of today's celebration.

Let this ceremony serve not only as a celebration of achievement but as a call to all of us—to continue building bridges across cultures, disciplines, and nations; to nurture curiosity; and to invest in the transformative power of education and creativity.

On behalf of the World Cultural Council, I thank you for being part of this special occasion. Let us honor this remarkable person who has dedicated his life to the betterment of humankind—and, in doing so, renew our own dedication to a brighter, more compassionate world.

Thank you.