

ROUND TABLE

Imad Karam  
Presentation Ghislaine Alajouanine  
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Thank you all.

I would like to say just a few words of introduction to Mme. Alajouanine.

If it is right to say in English, but she has multiple personalities. She is an economist, but also a dreamer. A poet and a visionary. When I asked Jacques for her CV, which he sent along with what you have seen in your pack: her book and her poem, her CV was longer than her poem, but perhaps it said more about who she is than her long CV. She is an apostle, not of any particular faith, but of what in every faith leads towards living together in peace: Convivence. A word, which she contributed to introducing to the everyday French spoken language. She did this through the book I have just mentioned, which is in your welcome pack, and the book is titled *Plaidoyer pour la convivance*, which translates as “a plea for convivance”, which is the title, the subject of this morning panel. Mme Alajouanine also helped translate the book from French to English, for this Forum, so that we all could share her enthusiasm for convivance.

I am truly honoured to give the floor to Mme. Alajouanine.