

## **UN DAY CONCERT 2018**

**Statement by**

**Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin  
Permanent Representative**

24 October 2018

**Excellencies,  
Secretary General Guterres,  
Distinguished guests,**

Every year, on 24th October, we gather to celebrate one of the modern world's greatest collaborative endeavours – the coming into being of the United Nations.

Every evening of the 24th October, in this common house, we showcase musical traditions in the belief that music is fundamental to what makes us all human.

Music has evolved in different ways in different regions, yet it transcends borders and connects us all. Music helps us forget our troubles, as well as remember our glorious moments. Music uplifts and heals. These are all requirements that we desire more of during these troubled times.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

India's musical heritage is a blend of many influences. It depicts the diversity of our culture. Reflects our values of mutual understanding, tolerance and of living together in harmony.

This year on 2nd October, India commenced year-long celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. We were privileged to host Secretary General Guterres in India on that day, which also marks the International day of Non- Violence. This performance is a part of India's year-long focus on the Mahatma's legacy of Peace and Non-Violence.

Today's lead artiste Sarod Maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan is a charismatic virtuoso. He represents the sixth generation of the long and distinguished Bangash family lineage. He has enthralled audiences and gathered accolades the world over.

Amjad Ali Khan is joined by his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. They are inheritors of a long musical heritage and are highly accomplished Sarod artistes. Accompanying them on the Tabla is Amit Kavthekar.

A unique feature of this event is the collaboration of the Indian artistes with the Refugee Project Orchestra conducted by Ms Lidiya Yankovskaya. This represents a confluence of musical traditions from the East and the West.

The effort is to portray the world the way it is meant to be, not the way the world as it unfortunately is.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

One of modern India's greatest poets Rabindranath Tagore described such a world as one:

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from the depth of truth;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action;  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, I thank all of you for joining this celebration of the common values of humanity.

Let me end by placing on the record the support extended by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the State Bank of India in the conduct of today's event. We are grateful to them and the many colleagues from the United Nations Secretariat for the

arrangements made for all of you to enjoy this evening of music. We hope you have a pleasant evening of music.

**Thank you very much.**