International Seminar
18th May 2010

Religions and the Building of Peace:
Fostering Intercultural and Interreligious Cooperation
and Action for a Culture of Peace

Geneva,
Palais des Nations
Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room
(Room XX)

Organised by:

Foundation
Culture of Peace

with the support of the Unit of Relations with NGOs of UNOG

In collaboration with:

In the context of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures – 2010
Programme

09:00-10:00 - Registration

10:00-10:30 - Opening Remarks: Federico Mayor, Foundation Culture of Peace

10:30-12:30 - 1st Plenary: Acknowledging and Promoting the Role of Religions in the Building of Peace

Moderator: Federico Mayor, Foundation Culture of Peace

Speakers: Vebjorn Horsfjord, European Council of Religious Leaders
Shanta Premawardhana, World Council of Churches
Teny Pirri-Simonian, European Project Interreligious Learning & ICAOC
Roberto Savio, World Political Forum

Respondents: Gary Vachicouras, Foundation for Interreligious Research and Dialogue
Enekelda Papa, Franciscans International

Main topics:
- Building on common values: the central role of religions and beliefs in the building of a culture of peace
- Stressing the preventive capacities of interreligious interaction
- Dealing with misperceptions and stereotypes, enhancing the visibility of interreligious cooperation and action for peace

12:30-14:30 – Lunch time

14:30-16:30 – 2nd Plenary: Fostering Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, Cooperation and Action for a Culture of Peace

Moderator: Manuel Manonelles, Coordinator of the Seminar, Foundation Culture of Peace

Speakers: Katerina Stenou, UNESCO
Yahya Pallavicini, ISESCO
Claudine Korall, Fondation Racines et Sources
John Taylor, International Association for Religious Freedom

Respondents: Lwarencia Kwark, Pax Romana –ICMICA
Cyril Ritchie, CONGO

Main topics:
- The links between intercultural and interreligious dialogue and action in the context of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures
- The United Nations General Assembly process on Intercultural and Interreligious Understanding and Cooperation for Peace.
- The proposal for a United Nations Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace
List of speakers & respondents:

**Rev. Vebjorn Horsfjord**  
Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace.

**Claudine Korall**  
Fondation Racines et Sources

**Lawrenzia Kwark**  
Secretary General, Pax Romana-ICMICA

**Manuel Manonelles**  
Coordinator of the Seminar, Director of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace

**Federico Mayor**  
President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and former Director General of UNESCO

**Imam Yahya Pallavicini**  
President of the ISESCO Council for Education and Culture in the West

**Enekelda Papa**  
Franciscans International, Geneva

**Shanta Premawardhana**  
World Council of Churches

**Cyril Ritchie**  
CONGO – Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC

**Roberto Savio**  
Responsible for International Relations, World Political Forum

**Teny Pirri-Simonian**  
Co-director, European Project for Interreligious Learning and Vice-President, Ecumenical, Interreligious Committee Armenian Orthodox Church, Catholisate of Cilicia

**Katerina Stenou**  
Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO

**John Taylor**  
International Association Religious Freedom (IARF) and Coalition for an Intl Decade on Interreligious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace.

**Gary Vachicouras**  
Foundation for Interreligious Research and Dialogue

Representatives from other institutions are going to be represented in the seminar, although their specific representatives are still to be confirmed. Delegates from the different Missions and International Organisations present in Geneva are also expected to participate, together with an important presence of Civil Society organisations based in Geneva.

**Working languages of the seminar: English & French**
PHOTOS OF THE EVENT