



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 October 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to draw your attention to a request by Saudi Arabia (attached) to hold a high-level meeting of the General Assembly under agenda item 45 "Culture of peace" in order to inform the General Assembly of the process initiated at the World Conference on Dialogue held in Madrid on 16-18 July 2008 and invite the UN member countries to engage in said process.

I wholeheartedly agree with this proposal. As I stated at the opening of the 63rd session of the General Assembly, "I am convinced that all of us, in our respective religious, cultural and ethical-philosophical traditions, find strong grounds for and summons to embrace the logic of love and solidarity. We must all jointly endeavour to turn this summons to solidarity into the main propelling force for Humanity and for the United Nations."

I am therefore pleased to inform you that, on 12-13 November 2008, the General Assembly will hold a plenary meeting under agenda item 45, and to invite your delegation to participate in this important meeting at the highest possible level. In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to the Madrid Declaration adopted at the World Conference on Dialogue (A/63/311).

In its resolution 62/90 of 17 December 2007, the General Assembly decided to hold, inter alia, a high-level dialogue and/or informal interactive hearing with civil society in 2010 on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace. I trust that our meeting in November will also serve as a useful preparatory step towards the 2010 event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers to the
United Nations
New York

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



المملكة العربية السعودية
والإسلامية الحرة

The Honorable President of the General Assembly

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia firmly believes in the importance of the role played by the United Nations in bringing together peoples of different religions and cultures. In recent years, the General Assembly has adopted several important resolutions, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations has issued a number of reports on dialogue between religions and cultures.

In this context, I have the honor of drawing your attention to the World Conference on Dialogue held in Madrid between 16 to 18 July 2008 under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, and King Juan Carlos I of Spain. Participants of the World Conference on Dialogue agreed in Madrid to reconvene periodically to promote dialogue and cooperation among religions and cultures. The Council of the League of Arab States, composed of the Foreign Ministers of the 22 Member States, has recently adopted the Madrid Declaration and requested its adoption by both the UN and UNESCO.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is eager to encourage dialogue, understanding and cooperation between religions and cultures, thereby promoting peace and harmony. In this spirit, my Government would like to request the convening of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, during its 63rd session, under item 48 "Culture of Peace", in mid November to inform the General Assembly of the process initiated in Madrid and to provide the World Conference on Dialogue with the necessary support from the international community in order for it to be successful and productive. Such a high-level meeting would further the purposes of the United Nations in respect of dialogue between cultures and religions.

A copy of this letter is also sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Saud Al-Falsh

Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia