Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly

Civilizations and the Challenge for Peace: Obstacles and Opportunities

10 and 11 May 2007 Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations

Thursday 10 May

10.00 AM-10.30 AM

- Opening Statement by the President of the General Assembly
- Statement by the Secretary General of the United Nations

Panel 1 - Respect for Cultural Diversity is a prerequisite for Dialogue 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

- Dr. Ghassan Salame
 Professor of International Relations at Sciences Po University, Former
 Minister of Culture of Lebanon
- Rev. Canon Dr. Trond Bakkevig Pastor of the Lutheran Church of Norway
- Ms. Fatemeh Keshavarz-Karamustafa
 Professor of Persian and Comparative Literature
 Chair, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages & Literatures
 University of Washington
- Ms. Regine Boucard Moderator
 West African Museum Program, former President of the World Bank Art
 Society

Panel 2 – *Religion in Contemporary Society* 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

- Mr. Mohamed Arkoun Emeritus Professor of the History of Islamic Thought at the Sorbonne
- Mr. Manish Kasliwal National Chairman, Young Jains of India
- Ms. Mary Ann Glendon
 Learned Hand Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
- Dr. Hune Margulies
 Director, the Martin Buber Institute for Dialogical Ecology

 Mr. Robert Thurman – Moderator Chair, Department of Religious Studies, Columbia University

Friday 11 May 2007

Panel 3 – *The Responsibility of the Media* 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

- Ms. Robin Mansell
 Professor of new Media, Head of the Department of New Media and
 Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Dr. Mohamed Al Rumaihi Professor of Political Sociology, Kuwait University
- Ms. Mona Siddiqui Professor of Islamic Studies and Public Understanding, University of Glasgow
- Mr. Warren Hoge Moderator
 New York Times, United Nations Bureau Chief

Panel 4 – Civilizations and the Challenge for Global Peace and Security 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

- Mr. Souleymane Bachir Diagne Northwestern University
- Mr. Amre Moussa Secretary-General, League of Arab States
- Ms. Karen Armstrong Author on religion, television broadcaster
- Mr. Shashi Tharoor Moderator Author and Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

Concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly

SIDE EVENT:

Roundtable Discussion on the Arts - How can the UN better use the arts in further developing strategies to bridge the gaps between cultures?

Date: Friday 11 May 2007 Time: 1.15 pm -3.00 pm Venue: Conference Room 6

Panelists:

Mr. Richard Gluckman
Gluckman Mayner Architects

Mrs. Karen Brooks Hopkins President, Brooklyn Academy of Music

Dr. Lisa Koenigsberg
Founder and President, Initiatives in Arts and Culture

Dr. Paul LeClerc
President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Public Library

Mrs. Gail Dexter Lord
President, Lord Cultural Resources

Moderator:

Mr. Michael Kimmelman Chief Art Critic, The New York Times