
THE CONTRIBUTION BY RELIGIONS TO THE CULTURE OF PEACE

A meeting organized by UNESCO and the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya with the support of the Catalan Government

Barcelona, Spain, 12-18 December 1994

FINAL REPORT

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**THE CONTRIBUTION BY RELIGIONS TO THE CULTURE OF PEACE
FINAL REPORT**

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Background

In our violence riven world, peace-building has become imperative. In response to the challenge of peace-building contained in the United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace, UNESCO has assumed a new and dynamic role, aimed at encouraging and reinforcing a culture of peace in post-conflict, especially pre-conflict situations.

In the past, wars and violence were considered natural and inevitable. Today we know that more rational and human alternatives for resolving conflicts are available to us. But we do not yet have the ideas, beliefs, symbols and methods we need to orient culture as a whole towards peace. In many respects, finance and industry are designed by war, science is committed to developing weapons and the media provide coverage of war and fail to explain the paths of peace. The role of culture needs to be reorientated and a new consensus reached on the possibility of peace, the foundations of peace and the responsibility of peace. UNESCO wants to provide the setting, the drive and the consensus for reflections on the culture of peace. A culture of peace is the process of building trust and co-operation between peoples. Its basic tenet is that the efforts of the whole of international community must be mobilized in a way that the governments and the people are imbued with a new culture to fight social injustice and that their resources are devoted to social progress and peace-building. It postulates new behavioural pattern based on tolerance, mutual understanding and respect, and solidarity.

In order to contribute to the creation of a culture of peace, UNESCO initiated a dialogue with the religious traditions and peace research centres during the 1992 - 1993 biennium. Following the decision of the Twenty Sixth General Conference, a collaboration was established with the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya, Barcelona (Spain) and a meeting was organized under its auspices in co-operation with UNESCO and with the support of the Government of Catalunya from 13 - 18 April 1993 on « The Contribution by Religions to the Culture of Peace ».

The event brought together nearly fifty representative figures from the religious traditions and from peace research centres. The aim of the Meeting was to look at the relationship between religions and the conflicts taking place in the world today and stimulate reflection on the possible contributions by religions to the creation of a new culture of peace. Judging from level of participation, the quality of the ideas and the testimonies presented, the Meeting was very successful, especially, as regards the spirit of peace in which it took place. Although there were people from highly conflictive areas like the Balkans, the Middle East, Cambodia and Tibet, all the participants benefited from very sincere and very fraternal communi-

cation. The papers presented to the Meeting were published by the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya in February 1994. The recommendations and proposals put forward during the meeting, were conveyed to UNESCO.

Importance of following up the dialogue began in Barcelona received wide recognition, especially in appreciation of its potential for contributing to the creation and strengthening of a culture of peace. UNESCO and the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya decided to hold another meeting on this important subject with the intention of continuing the dialogue begun in Barcelona.

Objectives

The main objective of this dialogue is to concentrate on cultural aspects of peace and on the relationship between the culture of peace and the wisdom of the great religious traditions. For many human beings, peace is still an impossible dream. In 1993 and 1994, the war has continued against Croatia and Bosnia, violence has been unleashed in Rwanda and many countries have suffered, publicly or in silence, the effects of intolerance, discrimination and military occupation.

Many eminent religious figures from over a dozen religious traditions, as well as several renowned peace researchers, prominent educators, social workers and political personalities, were brought together in the meeting organized by the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya in co-operation with UNESCO and with the support of the Catalan Government, at Barcelona from 12 - 18 December 1994 (Annex I is a list of participants in the Meeting).

As a continuation of a dialogue among and reflection by religious traditions of the world, initiated in 1993 the relationship between religions and the conflicts taking place in the world today needed to be examined more closely in order to stimulate thinking on the possible contribution by religions to the creation of a new culture of peace.

The Meeting in December 1994 was conceived to be a logical and necessary development of the first Meeting. Further reflexions on the themes discussed and ideas expressed were undoubtedly vital, in order to enhance their impact and see the results bear fruits tangibly. The reflexions and discussions at the Meeting in December 1994 were, therefore, oriented towards elaboration of a Declaration on the Contribution by the Religions to the Culture of Peace. In addition to such a focus, it was also opportune to provide a forum for the expression by the religious traditions of their keen interest in tolerance, mutual understanding and respect. The 1994 Meeting therefore, proved to be unique opportunity for the great religious traditions to strengthen activities of UNESCO in

the context of the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1995) and to contribute to the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the United Nations and UNESCO.

Deliberations

Major themes discussed during the meeting were: reflections on the culture of peace; theories of peace; culture of peace and religions; possibility of a global spirituality.

Annexe II furnishes information as to the themes discussed and the presentations by the key speakers.

In his opening address, Prof. J. Symonides, Director of the Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO, alluded to certain problems and challenges facing international community. Elucidating a broader concept of culture, marked by tolerance and a spirit of mutual understanding in daily life, he underlined the role of religious education in the context of consolidation of peace. UNESCO expects from the religious traditions and peace-makers the healing touch so much needed in the present day world. The world needs rebirth through spiritual and ethical values.

Joining Prof. J. Symonides in welcoming the participants, Doctor Felix Marti, Director of the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya, raised some key issues for the deliberations. Accepting pluralism so that no tradition claims a monopoly over truth, we must respect our different beliefs. The balance between local cultures and universal cultures must be preserved. We must also respect the specific message each religious tradition carries for justice and freedom. There cannot be peace if we construct a world that fails to respect the dignity of all cultural traditions. The contribution the religious traditions can make to peace must be appreciated. We need a new horizon - a more humane future.

Welcoming the participants on behalf of the Catalan Government, His Excellency Joan M. Pujals, the Education Minister of the Catalan Government threw light on the historical peace initiatives and peace concerns of the Catalunya region even in the periods of conflicts.

The Meeting was characterized by very active interaction among all the participations, and by very rich interventions and presentations, and addresses by the religious dignitaries, by the renowned peace researchers and academicians and by the educators.

Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who was specially invited to address the Meeting, dwelt on the richness of each culture and of the importance of cultural interaction among people for mutual respect and for promoting values of a peaceful world.

Major issue is preservation of peaceful culture. Sad events occur daily, and the prime need is for prevention, as well as for «internal disarmament», to eradicate internal elements of anger hatred and intolerance. Idea of religious pluralism is very healthy development and we must promote activities such as joint pilgrimage for peace-building.

Meeting was also addressed by Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel who underlined the need for supporting the efforts of each people, conducive to a culture of peace in contemporary history and international relations and solidarity with those who have been victims of violence and of racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism.

Dr Johan Galtung elucidated peace potential of religions and the notions of «hard» and «soft» religions, (even as we have «hard» and «soft» liberalism, «hard» and «soft» democracies). Religion has not been revealed once for all; we have only its partial glimpses. It is for us to emphasize and create ideologies that are both soft, unifying peaceful, world encompassing, yet pluralist.

The importance of community level action for building a culture of peace, of personal involvement in living the principles in local level was highlighted by Dr. Elise Boulding. She advocated the need for transforming embattled communities through inward struggle into the communities of believers, living at peace. The challenge we face is one of developing specific peace making resolution, recognizing women as partners in peace and global peace services.

Rather than big global conflicts, it is the internal and social conflicts that Dr Louis Edmond Pettiti wanted a culture of peace to eliminate. We must reflect over the responsibility of the religions and of even the non-tolerance of religions themselves. International peace is a matter for the States and international conventions.

Inner and other aspects of peace and non-violence, were presented by Dr Paul Smoker. This is a dimension which deserves greater attention of peace researchers. Religions can in the future contribute to a more peaceful world.

According to Dr Raimon Pannikar, we must propose action for fostering peace, while recognizing cultural pluralism. For building peace, we have to change not only individual behaviour but collective structures.

Valuable experience of inculcating and nurturing a culture of peace through home education and through educational processes was presented by His Majesty Ganyonga III, Fon of Bali.

The participants in the Meeting underlined that the

culture of peace is shared aspiration by the entire humanity for a better future through the settling of conflicts by non-violent means, and the establishment of reasonable, just and harmonious conditions for people of different culture to live together. Basic affirmations of the culture of peace are very related to the fundamental contents of cultural, ethical and religious traditions of humanity. During the discussions, it was emphasized that for creating a culture of peace, pluralism and the diversity must be recognized for promoting harmonious living among multicultural societies. Normative bases of a culture of peace need to be elaborated based on a set of principles and values common to all humankind. At the same time, we must respect the originality of each culture and its specific values and reassert that each of all cultures contributes to universal values.

As members of different religious traditions and peace research centres involved in the effort of international community to build, peace, the participants in the Meeting expressed their conviction that the religious traditions and all human communities must contribute to the creation of a new culture of peace in which the individuals and communities of today's world can live together in peace and harmony. All religious traditions contain inspirations, ideas and practices that can contribute to the culture of peace and that the entire human community should be made aware of the principles, the wisdom and the energy in our traditions and their contribution to peace.

Religious traditions can be enriched by values of democracy, pluralism, equality between men and women, freedom of expression and in general a willingness to present doctrines and practices in the light of present and future challenges.

The participants in the Meeting pledged to teach the value and the importance of human dignity, so that loving relations between individuals and peoples are built and all people can inhabit the earth respectfully and harmoniously. For this sake, high importance was given to encouraging conducts marked by compassion, wisdom, tenderness, generosity, charity, serenity, willingness, solidarity and love, at the same time encouraging everyone to choose the path of freedom and responsibility.

In order to contribute to peace building process, the different religious traditions must offer guidance to the faithful and to those who accept the moral authority of our traditions. Non-violence must be recognized as an absolute ethical necessity.

Committed fully to the mobilisation of all forces in the fight against the growing manifestation of racism, xenophobia, new forms of discrimination and national aggressiveness, the participants in the Barcelona Meeting called upon their fellow brothers and sisters belonging to differ-

ent religious or cultural traditions to join hands together in an endeavour towards creating lasting conditions for a culture of non violence, mutual understanding, tolerance and social harmony. They emphasized that it is incumbent upon every one to work towards and contribute to a global ethics, which, drawing upon the true spirit of all religions, can give strength and momentum to peace-building and to a culture of universal peace and solidarity.

The Barcelona Declaration

A small, open-ended group of participants examined a draft of a Declaration on the contribution by religions to the culture of peace, presented by Mr Daniel Gómez Ibáñez and Dr Raimon Panikkar. As a committee, this group worked elaborately on the final draft of a Declaration. Further discussions on this draft in the plenary session resulted in a number of valuable suggestions and observations. Taking duly all these into consideration, the final version of the Declaration was unanimously adopted during the Meeting.

In his presentation, Dr K. Singh, Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, UNESCO commended the way the Declaration reinforced UNESCO's ethical mission. As the Declaration showed, peace was at the heart of both UNESCO and religious traditions. In deference to the wishes expressed by several participants, Dr Singh apprised them of the key activities of UNESCO for the UN Year of Tolerance (1995).

The deliberations at the Barcelona Meeting led to a Declaration on The Role of Religion in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace. Exhibiting the seriousness of dialogue among different religious traditions for contributing to the creation of a culture of peace, the Declaration was signed by the eminent religious figures and all the participants during a public ceremony at the Parliament of Catalunya and presented to the Director-General of UNESCO.

Expressing the kernel of deliberations, the Declaration is the first of its kind for a culture of peace, exhibiting in unequivocal terms, collective determination and personal commitment of all the participants for a culture of peace. What is remarkable was that members of so many different religious traditions participating in the Meeting undertook fully their responsibility to do all that is possible for encouraging and promoting a culture of peace and for spreading a message of peace, enshrined in this Declaration.

The Declaration gives expression to the unease felt by representatives of religious traditions, peacemakers, educators and social actors towards the phenomenon of

tolerance, violence, racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, the denial of human rights and exclusion. Damaging ethnic conflicts and civic strifes afflicting the world call for necessary measures to counter tendencies towards fanaticism, characterized by a loss of orientation in ethics and religion. It is of paramount importance to reinforce basic knowledge in religious ethics and values for people of different faiths, and their values and ways of life.

The Declaration is a demonstration of firm commitment of religious traditions and peace makers to place highest priority on activities in favour of the encouragement of understanding, solidarity and tolerance between people, between ethnic, social, cultural and religious groups, and between nations.

The Declaration acknowledges that «in the course of human history religious traditions and ethical ideals have frequently been used to justify wars and injustices, but we believe that the real message behind religious and ethical beliefs is unerringly directed at peace and fraternity.» It is a powerful statement, disowning those groups who are fanatical in the name of religious traditions, who become extremists and often justify violence in the name of religion.

Noting that even religiously-motivated «political regimes may do serious harm to religious values as well as to society,» the Declaration's signatories pledged that «we will remain mindful that our religions must not identify themselves with political, economic, or social powers. We should distinguish fanaticism from religious zeal.»

The Declaration expresses solidarity with all non-violent peace-makers and pledged to «favour peace by countering the tendencies of individuals and communities to assume or to teach that they are inherently superior to others.»

The Barcelona Declaration is a solemn statement made by all the participants with one voice that they condemn violence wherever it occurs, specially violence perpetrated in the name of religion. It is equally opportune in the context of the decision of the UNESCO Executive Board taken during its 145th Session in Oct.-Nov. 1994 on the «Necessity to promote knowledge of and dialogue among religions» and to «highlight the fact that peace is the ultimate purpose of all UNESCO's activities».

The text of the Barcelona Declaration is presented in Annex II.

The Director-General of UNESCO, who addressed the public at the signing ceremony rendered homage to all the religious traditions. Appreciating their so valuable contri-

bution to UNESCO's constitutional mandate for peace, he very warmly welcomed the momentum for building a culture of peace through shared religious action and declared that he would be presenting the Declaration to the UNESCO Executive Board and that the Organization will fully support its dissemination and follow-up.

The Director-General also addressed the closing session of the Meeting and commended the partnership for peace being forged with religious traditions and peace-makers. He said it is time to contemplate misfortune of humankind and limit what is not tolerable. Challenge lies in our responsibility for the future. We must attach high importance to the practice of values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Culture is a way to understand and convey the values.

The closing session was also addressed by the Director of Extra-European Area and Cooperation of the Catalan Government, Hon. Jaume Giné who expressed the support of the Catalan Government and the people to UNESCO's peace mission and its activities for the UN Year for Tolerance (1995). He pointed out that three spheres of civilization face each other across the Mediterranean and that Europe is characterized by diversity which must be preserved as an element of balance and this implies the defence of human rights and fundamental liberties.

Unique Features

A unique feature of the Meeting was ecumenical prayer each morning before the beginning of the day's session. These 'prayers for peace' by different religions were demonstrative of the path for inter-religious understanding and mutual respect.

The Barcelona Meeting showed high interest in the inter-relationship between human rights and peace. The participants clearly recognized the need for educational and other measures for ensuring respect for human rights. The educational dimension is also vital with respect to the concept of tolerance. What is appreciable is that during the Meeting, the need to perceive tolerance in a larger spirit - encompassing respect for the other - was brought in limelight. It was clear from the discussions that the vision of tolerance must be broad enough to connote mutual understanding and comprehension. Such a large perspective has definite value for carrying further UNESCO's work as a coordinating agency for the UN Year for Tolerance (1995).

The importance the religions have in human life - in influencing cultural perceptions and behavioural patterns - received full appreciation during the Meeting. It was felt that full recognition must be given to the role of religious leaders as peace-builders, and to the relationship

between culture of peace and great wisdom of religious traditions.

The Barcelona Meeting demonstrated beyond any doubt that peace is possible, that peace movement can be built by inter-religion and inter-faith dialogue and that spiritual strength of religious traditions can be mobilized in giving UNESCO a helping hand for creating and promoting a culture of peace. The Meeting made it clear that peace lies at the heart of all religions, seen in their true spirit, and that the eminent religious figures are well disposed to support UNESCO's ethical and peace mission.

The Barcelona Meeting thus provided a common forum for great religious traditions, renowned peace researchers, prominent educators and social actors, political figures and various non-governmental organizations as well as media personnel to dedicate themselves to a culture of peace. It underlines the importance religions have in human life, in cultural perceptions and in behavioural patterns. The dialogue with eminent religious figures and members of a vast range of religious traditions opens up new vistas for UNESCO's endeavour for a culture of peace. Though UNESCO cooperates with several non-governmental organizations, (including some having religious affiliation) which have a consultative status with the Organization, it is for the first time that great religious traditions from all over the world have given expression to collectively support and strengthen UNESCO's peace mission.

The momentum built at Barcelona, indeed, provides UNESCO a unique opportunity in getting strength from spiritual forces of immense potential in its endeavour to create a culture of peace.

Conclusions and Further Work

The message of peace conveyed in the Barcelona Declaration is being disseminated throughout the world. The public interest it is evoking would significantly contribute to UNESCO's work for the creation and strengthening of a culture of peace.

In appreciation of this, the Director General of UNESCO, Professor Federico Mayor has brought the Barcelona Declaration to the attention of the Members of UNESCO's Executive Board, soliciting their support in strengthening this encouraging initiative.

He has also requested all the National Commissions for UNESCO as well as all the Permanent Delegations of the Member States for mobilising all efforts to disseminate the message of peace in intellectual and scientific community and for arousing wide public interest in this noble endeavour.

All concerned non-governmental organizations have also been approached by UNESCO, so that all those interested could adhere to the Barcelona Declaration and that non-governmental organizations could take measures for making the Declaration widely known and for spreading message of Peace.

The follow-up work discussed by the participants preceding the closing session was very encouraging. Summing up the discussion on this point, Professor J. Symonides, UNESCO Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, noted a number of proposals on which consensus was reached. They included, inter alia: the organization of the follow-up conference in 1996/97, the publication of the conference documents and, preparation of a special monograph on the role of religions in the promotion of a culture of peace. The Centre UNESCO de Catalunya was asked to play, in co-operation with UNESCO, a coordinating role in the implementation of a follow-up programme.

The Barcelona Meeting should be seen as an appeal to the whole international community - states and international organizations, to emerging global as well as to national civil societies, to social groups and communities, religious, political, cultural and professional organizations, associations, unions and parties, scientific bodies, popular movements, youth and women, education and media personnel, and to all individuals to contribute fully to nurturing the culture of peace. Preventing violence wherever it occurs and uproot the causes of conflicts before they take root, the Participants in the Barcelona Meeting felt that it was imperative to develop a culture to which these are alien, and which can be the rallying point for solidarity and for intercultural vision of the future.

Further Information

Copies of the Barcelona Declaration in any of the official United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) can be obtained from:

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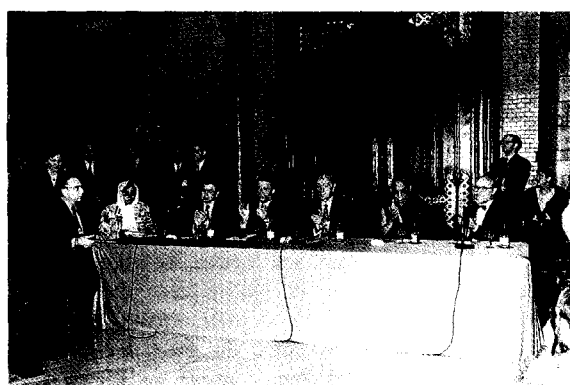
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Inaugural session at the Palace of the Catalan Government presided by Professor Janusz Symonides, Hon. Joan Maria Pujals and Professor Fèlix Martí



The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Israel Meir Lau, shaking hands with Giorgio Filibeck, member of the Vatican Council for Justice and Peace during the session presided by Maître Pettiti, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights.



At the Parliament of Catalonia, the President of the Parliament, Joaquim Xicoy, surrounded by UNESCO's Director-General and the Dalai Lama applauding after the reading of the Declaration by Saleha Abedin and Daniel Gómez Ibáñez.



Sixteen representatives of the different religious traditions will sign the Declaration during this solemn ceremony: (from left to right) Samdhong Rinpoche, M. Aram, Maha Ghosananda, Ehud Bandel, Ganyonga III and Mahmoud Zakzouk.



Federico Mayor's speech at the closing session, sharing the presidency with Fèlix Martí, Joan Albaigés -president of the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya- and Jaume Giné, Director of Extra-European Area of the Catalan Government.



Farewell excursion to the famous and symbolic monastery of Montserrat, an occasion for a last joint prayer.

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ANNEX 2

DECLARATION ON THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE PROMOTION OF A CULTURE OF PEACE

We, participants in the meeting, "The Contribution by Religions to the Culture of Peace," organized by UNESCO and the Centre UNESCO de Catalunya, which took place in Barcelona from 12 to 18 December, 1994,

Deeply concerned with the present situation of the world, such as increasing armed conflicts and violence, poverty, social injustice, and structures of oppression;

Recognizing that religion is important in human life;

Declare:

OUR WORLD

1. We live in a world in which isolation is no longer possible. We live in a time of unprecedented mobility of peoples and intermingling of cultures. We are all interdependent and share an inescapable responsibility for the well-being of the entire world.

2. We face a crisis which could bring about the suicide of the human species or bring us a new awakening and a new hope. We believe that peace is possible. We know that religion is not the sole remedy for all the ills of humanity, but it has an indispensable role to play in this most critical time.

3. We are aware of the world's cultural and religious diversity. Each culture represents a universe in itself and yet it is not closed. Cultures give religions their language, and religions offer ultimate meaning to each culture. Unless we recognize pluralism and respect diversity, no peace is possible. We strive for the harmony which is at the very core of peace.

4. We understand that culture is a way of seeing the world and living in it. It also means the cultivation of those values and forms of life which reflect the world-views of each culture. Therefore neither the meaning of peace nor of religion can be reduced to a single and rigid concept, just as the range of human experience cannot be conveyed by a single language.

5. For some cultures, religion is a way of life, permeating every human activity. For others it represents the highest aspirations of human existence. In still others, religions are institutions that claim to carry a message of salvation.

6. Religions have contributed to the peace of the world, but they have also led to division, hatred, and war. Religious people have too often betrayed the high ideals they themselves have preached. We feel obliged to call for sincere acts of repentance and mutual forgiveness, both personally and collectively, to one another, to humanity in general, and to Earth and all living beings.

PEACE

7. Peace implies that love, compassion, human dignity, and justice are fully preserved.

8. Peace entails that we understand that we are all interdependent and related to one another. We are all individually and collectively responsible for the common good, including the well-being of future generations.

9. Peace demands that we respect Earth and all forms of life, especially human life. Our ethical awareness requires setting limits to technology. We should direct our efforts towards eliminating consumerism and improving the quality of life.

10. Peace is a journey -- a never ending process.

COMMITMENT

11. We must be at peace with ourselves; we strive to achieve inner peace through personal reflection and spiritual growth, and to cultivate a spirituality which manifests itself in action.

12. We commit ourselves to support and strengthen the home and family as the nursery of peace.

In homes and families, communities, nations, and the world:

13. We commit ourselves to resolve or transform conflicts without using violence, and to prevent them through education and the pursuit of justice.

14. We commit ourselves to work towards a reduction in the scandalous economic differences between human groups and other forms of violence and threats to peace, such as waste of resources, extreme poverty, racism, all types of terrorism, lack of caring, corruption, and crime.

15. We commit ourselves to overcome all forms of discrimination, colonialism, exploitation, and domination and to promote institutions based on shared responsibility and participation. Human rights, including religious freedom and the rights of minorities, must be respected.

16. We commit ourselves to assure a truly humane education for all. We emphasize education for peace, freedom, and human rights, and religious education to promote openness and tolerance.

17. We commit ourselves to a civil society which respects environmental and social justice. This process begins locally and continues to national and trans-national levels.

18. We commit ourselves to work towards a world without weapons and to dismantle the industry of war.

RELIGIOUS RESPONSIBILITY

19. Our communities of faith have a responsibility to encourage conduct imbued with wisdom, compassion, sharing, charity, solidarity, and love; inspiring one and all to choose the path of freedom and responsibility. Religions must be a source of helpful energy.

20. We will remain mindful that our religions must not identify themselves with political, economic, or social powers, so as to remain free to work for justice and peace. We will not forget that confessional political regimes may do serious harm to religious values as well as to society. We should distinguish fanaticism from religious zeal.

21. We will favor peace by countering the tendencies of individuals and communities to assume or even to teach that they are inherently superior to others. We recognize and praise the non-violent peacemakers. We disown killing in the name of religion.

22. We will promote dialogue and harmony between and within religions, recognizing and respecting the search for truth and wisdom that is outside our religion. We will establish dialogue with all, striving for a sincere fellowship on our earthly pilgrimage.

APPEAL

23. Grounded in our faith, we will build a culture of peace based on non-violence, tolerance, dialogue, mutual understanding, and justice. We call upon the institutions of our civil society, the United Nations System, governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, corporations, and the mass media, to strengthen their commitments to peace and to listen to the cries of the victims and the dispossessed. We call upon the different religious and cultural traditions to join hands together in this effort, and to cooperate with us in spreading the message of peace.

Signed by the chairpersons of the session

JOAQUIM XICOY, *President of the Parliament of Catalonia*
FEDERICO MAYOR, *Director-General of UNESCO*

and the following participants

MASAO ABE, *Kyoto School of Zenbuddism*, SALEHA ABEDIN, *Institute for Muslim Minority Affairs*, ANTOINE ABIGHANEM, *Centre de Recherche sur les Droits de l'Homme et de la Famille, Byblos, Liban*, JOAN ALBAIGÉS, *Centre UNESCO de Catalunya*, AHMED SIDQI AL-DAJANI, *Arab Organisation for Human Rights*, M. ARAM, *World Conference on Religion and Peace*, EHUD BANDEL, *Rabbis for Human Rights*, JO BECKER, *Fellowship of Reconciliation*, JOAN BOTAM, *Centre Ecuménic de Catalunya*, ELISE BOULDING, *International Peace Research Assembly*, HANS BÜHLER, *Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten*, JOAN CARRERA, *Bishop of Barcelona*, MARIANI DIMARANAN, *Task Force Detainees of the Philippines*, ALI ELSAMMAN, *Association pour le Dialogue International Islamo-Chrétien*, JOAN ESTRUCH, *Centre de Recerca de Sociologia de la Religió*, ANGELO FERNANDES, *Archbishop Emeritus of New Delhi*, VICENÇ FISAS, *Centre UNESCO de Catalunya*, SIMONE FUOSS, *Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten*, GANYONGA III, *Fon of Bali*, GÜNTHER GEBHARDT, *World Conference on Religion and Peace*, MAHA GHOSANANDA, *Dhammayietra Centre for Peace and non Violence*, LAMAR GIBBLE, *World Council of Churches*, DANIEL GOMEZ IBÁÑEZ, *Peace Council*, LINDA GROFF, *California State University*, SOM RAJ GUPTA, *Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi*, TENZIN GYATSO, *H.H. the Dalai Lama*, DAG HEDIN, *Life and*

Peace Institute, SOHAIL INAYATULLAH, World Futures Studies Federation, JOSEPH JOBLIN, Pontificia Università Gregoriana, ALEXANDER KOJA, Moscow Patriarchate. Interreligious Relations, MIRTA LOURENÇO, UNESCO, Culture of Peace Programme, FÉLIX MARTÍ, Centre UNESCO de Catalunya, GERALD MISCHÉ, Global Education Associates, PATRICIA MISCHÉ, Global Education Associates, MAXIMILIAN MIZZI, Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue, MAURICIO MOLINA, Pax Romana, MARY MWINGIRA, Pax Romana, RAIMON PANIKKAR, Fundació Vivarium, LOUIS-EDMOND PETTITI, Cour Européenne des Droits de l'Homme, JOSEPH RAJKUMAR, Pax Romana, HELGA RIEDL, Plum Village, KARL RIEDL, Plum Village, SAMDHONG RINPOCHE, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, BAIDYANATH SARASWATI, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, JACOBUS SCHONEVELD, International Council of Christians and Jews, PATARAPORN SIRIKANCHANA, The World Fellowship of Buddhist, KISHORE SINGH, UNESCO, Human Rights Unit, PAUL SMOKER, International Peace Research Association, MARIE-LAURE SOREL, Association pour le Dialogue International Islamo-Chrétien, JANUSZ SYMONIDES, UNESCO Human Rights, Democracy and Peace Division, JOHN B. TAYLOR, World Conference on Religion and Peace, WAYNE TEASDALE, Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, SUSANNA VILLARAN, Instituto Barlóme de las Casas, ANTE VUCKOVIC, Theology College in Makarska, ANDRZEJ WIELOWIEYSKI, Member of the Polish Parliament, MAHMOUD ZAKZOUK, Faculty of Theology of Al-Azhar University

ANNEX 3 SPEAKERS AND MAIN SUBJECTS TREATED

OPENING SPEECHES:

Janusz Symonides
Fèlix Martí
Joan M. Pujals

REFLECTIONS ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE:

Elise Boulding

THE CULTURE OF PEACE AND RELIGIONS:

Joan Estruch

PRESENTATION & DEBATE OF THE DECLARATION:

Daniel Gómez Ibáñez
Kishore Singh

PERSPECTIVE OF THE CULTURE OF PEACE:

1- SOCIAL ACTORS

Education:
Gerald and Patricia Mische
Hans Bülher
Politics:
Andrzej Wielowieyski
Mass Media:
Jean Paul Marthoz
Social Science:
Sohail Inayatullah
NGOs:
Mary Mwingira

2- RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Judaism:
Rabbi Israel Meir Lau
Catholicism:
Dr. Giorgio Filibeck
Zen Buddhism:
Ven. Masao Abe
Buddhism:
HH the Dalai Lama
Islam:
Cheikh Mahmoud Zakzouk
Animist tradition:
H.M. Ganyonga III

THE POSSIBILITY OF A GLOBAL SPIRITUALITY:

Wayne Teasdale

HARD RELIGIONS AND SOFT RELIGIONS:

Johan Galtung

THEORIES ON PEACE:

Paul Smoker and Linda Groff

CLOSING ADDRESSES

Joan Albaigés
Jaume Giné
Federico Mayor

ANNEX 4
FORM FOR SIGNATURE OF ADHERENCE

I,

FIRST NAME _____

FAMILY NAME _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

COUNTRY _____

PLEDGE MY SUPPORT TO THE DECLARATION ON THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE
PROMOTION OF A CULTURE OF PEACE

AND HEREBY SIGN

ON A PERSONAL BASIS ☐

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMUNITY/ASSOCIATION /GROUP I REPRESENT ☐

NAME OF THE BODY _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

TEL./FAX _____

IN MY QUALITY OF _____

cut here

Please write in capital letters and return this form (original, xerox copy or blank sheet) to:
Centre UNESCO de Catalunya - Mallorca, 285 - 08037 Barcelona, Catalunya - Spain



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Tel: (33.1) 45.68.38.18
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