



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 April 2007

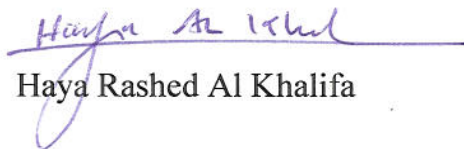
Excellency,

I have the honour to bring to your attention the program for the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on 10 and 11 May 2007, on *Civilizations and the Challenge for Peace; obstacles and opportunities*.

The program includes the list of confirmed panelists for the four interactive panel debates. Please be advised that short bios of the panelists can be accessed on the President's website:

<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/thematic-dialogue.shtml>.

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


Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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

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

Panel 1 - *Respect for Cultural Diversity is a prerequisite for Dialogue*

10.00 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
- Mr. Riz Khan
News Reporter and Interviewer, Al Jazeera English
- Ms. Mona Siddiqui
Professor of Islamic Studies and Public Understanding, University of Glasgow
- Ms. Sheila Coronel - Moderator
Professor of Professional Practice and Director of Stable Center for Investigative Journalism, Columbia University

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

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