

Permanent Observer Mission
of the Holy See to the United Nations

Symposium



*to Commemorate
the First Anniversary
of the Address of
Pope Benedict XVI
to the General Assembly
of the United Nations*

**Thursday, April 16, 2009
3:00–5:00 pm
United Nations Headquarters**

Permanent Observer Mission
of the Holy See to the United Nations
and
The Path to Peace Foundation

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“Human rights are increasingly being presented as the common language and the ethical substratum of international relations”

Address of Pope Benedict XVI to the UN General Assembly on 18 April 2008

“Recognition of the unity of the human family, and attention to the innate dignity of every man and woman, today find renewed emphasis in the principle of the responsibility to protect. This has only recently been defined, but it was already present implicitly at the origins of the United Nations, and is now increasingly characteristic of its activity. If States are unable to guarantee ... protection, the international community must intervene with the juridical means provided in the United Nations Charter and in other international instruments. ...Indifference or failure to intervene ... do the real damage. What is needed is a deeper search for ways of pre-empting and managing conflicts by exploring every possible diplomatic avenue, and giving attention and encouragement to even the faintest sign of dialogue or desire for reconciliation.”

“Human rights, of course, must include the right to religious freedom, understood as the expression of a dimension that is at once individual and communitarian. The activity of the United Nations in recent years has ensured that public debate gives space to viewpoints inspired by a religious vision in all its dimensions, including ritual, worship, education, dissemination of information and the freedom to profess and choose religion. It is inconceivable, then, that believers should have to suppress a part of themselves – their faith – in order to be active citizens. It should never be necessary to deny God in order to enjoy one’s rights.”

PROGRAM

Welcome Message

from

H.E. Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Greetings

H.Em. Edward Cardinal Egan

Archbishop Emeritus of New York

Keynote Speech

The Hon. Mary Ann Glendon

Former Ambassador of the United States of America to the Holy See

Address

“Responsibility to Protect”

The Hon. Terje Rød-Larsen

President of the International Peace Institute

“Interreligious Dialogue”

The Hon. Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

Moderator

The Hon. John K. Menzies

Dean, The Whitehead School of Diplomacy & International Relations, Seton Hall University



**H.E. Mr. Ban
Ki-moon**
Secretary-General
of the
United Nations

"Your Holiness, welcome to our common home. In so many ways, our mission unites us with yours. You have spoken of the terrible challenge of poverty afflicting so much of the world's population, and how we cannot afford indifference and self-centered isolation. You have encouraged the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and called for progressive and agreed-upon nuclear disarmament. ... You have called for an open and sincere dialogue, both within your Church and between religions and cultures, in search of the good of humankind. Finally, you have called for trust in, and commitment to, the United Nations."

18 April 2008

"Holy Father, your pastoral visit is for all of us gathered here in New York a blessing for which we are all grateful. It is an extraordinary privilege to be allowed to tell you what a deep and appreciated grace your presence is for all of us."

21 April 2008



**H. Eminence
Cardinal Edward Egan**
Archbishop Emeritus
of New York

"Pope Benedict XVI's message touched on the meaning of human rights; the responsibility to protect as the requisite basis for the authority of each government or administration; and dialogue among persons of various cultures and religious diversity. The whole message was grounded upon the common recognition of the dignity of every person and human group."

22 April 2008



**H.E. Archbishop
Celestino Migliore**
Permanent Observer of the
Holy See to the United Nations

Keynote speaker



The Hon. Mary Ann Glendon

Ambassador Glendon is the former U.S. ambassador to the Holy See and the Learned Hand Professor of Law at Harvard Law School where she teaches and writes on bioethics, constitutional law, property, and human rights in international law. Ambassador Glendon is the first female President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and is the author of the books *Rights Talk*; *A Nation Under Lawyers*, and *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

Moderator

The Hon. John K. Menzies

Ambassador John K. Menzies was the former U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the 16th president of Graceland University, a liberal arts institution in Lamoni, Iowa. He participated in the Dayton Peace Talks and oversaw U.S. post-war assistance. In the early 1990's, Menzies founded the American University in Bulgaria and was later a top adviser to the President and Secretary of State on Balkan policy.



"Responsibility to protect"



The Hon. Terje Rød-Larsen

Ambassador Terje Rød-Larsen is the President of the International Peace Academy and concurrently serves as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559. Mr. Larsen has served as Special Adviser for the Middle East Peace process to the Norwegian Foreign Minister, and as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority.

"Interreligious Dialogue"

The Hon. Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

Ambassador Hilario Davide has been involved in public service throughout his entire life. Now as the Permanent Representative of the Philippines Mission to the United Nations, Ambassador Davide remains committed to being a leader in public service. As the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, Ambassador Davide has been instrumental in bringing greater attention to the issue of interreligious dialogue through the Tripartite Forum as a means for achieving greater peace and respect for people of all religions.

