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When taking part in the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at UN-headquarters in New York on 28 - 31 August 2000, I also participated in drafting of the “Commitment To Global Peace” which was delivered by the summit.

Its preface states “Humanity stands at a critical juncture in history, one that calls for strong moral and spiritual leadership to help set a new direction for society. We as religious and spiritual leaders recognize our special responsibility for the well-being of the human family and peace on earth.”

Truly, the time has come for the religious and spiritual leaders to contemplate seriously and objectively the disturbed current situation of the world, and we have to recognize our huge responsibility toward the general deterioration in values and ethics from which most of the human communities are suffering, to know the reasons of dangerous deterioration of security which threatens life, human dignity and the world stability just as it threatens the environment. In front of our religious duty we must work together to correct and guide the temporary civilization march to become a march of justice, peace, stability, orthodox development and safe co-existence among human communities.

How can we achieve this noble and stately goal? Undoubtedly it is a difficult and complicated question! But it is an inevitable one and it is our duty to deal with it because the Almighty has commanded us to build the life on Earth and to bring justice, peace and prosperity to all people. Actually, we have answered this question through our commitment in 2000: “Whereas the United Nation and the religions of the world have a common concern for human justice and peace.” Also, we affirmed that the true culture of peace must be founded upon the cultivation of the inner dimension of peace and that the religious and spiritual values must be the core source of the realization of a better life for the human family and all life on Earth, as it has been mentioned by the tenth and eleventh paragraphs of the preamble of the commitment.

On behalf of the World Muslim Congress and the International Islamic Forum for Dialogue which co-ordinates more than one hundred international Islamic organizations throughout the world, I would like to affirm our co-operation with the UN and to appeal all GOs and NGOs on the regional and international levels to work seriously and sincerely to put an end to the reasons of defective security and civilizational and ethical deterioration. Furthermore, we will work together to bring about justice, security, peace and the world stability as they are urgently requested to achieve an orthodox sustainable development and bring prosperity and safe co-existence to the international communities through dialogue to build a deep-rooted culture for peace and development founded on:

- Respect of the human family and its benefits
- Affirmation of the holiness of justice
- Respect of human life and dignity
- Respect of freedom of faith and worship
- Respect of religious and cultural diversity and particularities
- Respect of human rights
- Affirmation of the sanctity of the environment
- Respect of the right of possession and the mutual usufruct
- Emphasis that man and woman are equal in life responsibilities
- Assuring that injustice is the source of corruption on Earth
- Fighting terrorism and double standards of justice
- Fighting weapons of mass destruction
- Respect of right to self-defense and self-determination
- Fighting on all kind of discrimination.

¹ Source: *Justitia et Pax: Act Now for the Millennium Development Goals. Appeals from Religious Leaders and Scholars*, The Netherlands, 2005, www.justitiaetpax.nl; reproduced with permission.