

1999 – 1st WORLD SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES  
Rome - Capitoline Hill April 21-22 1999

Final documents

- 1) Nobel Peace Laureates and the Kosovo War
- 2) New politics for the 21st Century

### 1) NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES AND THE KOSOVO WAR

The world cannot and must not look at the tragic scene of children, women and people of all age wandering in search of food and lacking any health care.

We, Nobel Peace Laureates, meeting in Rome on April 21 and 22 1999, ask for an immediate resolution of the conflict in the Balkans through compromise, the suspension of military activities and the immediate beginning of negotiations.

We believe that such compromise should deploy as follows:

- allow refugees from Kosovo to go back home;
- support adequate initiatives aimed at stopping the humanitarian disaster;
- recreate full autonomy for Kosovo populations;
- guarantee all the necessary help for the refugees themselves.

We are addressing to all those who are able to take up valid initiatives, including the actions which can allow to reach the results described above as soon as possible.

The implementation of such initiatives must be carried out using multinational forces under the direction of the United Nations and based on the decisions by the Security Council. We support the organization of an international conference for all the problems this region has. Its aim must be the Europeanization of the Balkans instead of the Balkanization of Europe.

We, participants in the Rome Summit, are ready to act through diplomatic channels to cooperate with the UN, with the Security Council and with the General Secretariat in order to solve the current conflict and prevent upcoming dangers. It is important to underline the importance of political decisions and the unacceptability of the use of force as an instrument to solve problems between states. We represent our will to continue our meetings to analyse and cope with all the emerging issues.

### 2) NEW POLITICS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

On April 21 and 22 1999 the first World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates was held in Rome, on the Capitoline Hill, on the initiative of Mikhail Gorbachev and the Mayor of Rome Francesco Rutelli. Participants in the meeting were: Frederik Willem De Klerk, Mikhail Gorbachev, Rigoberta Menchù Tum, Shimon Peres, Joseph Rotblat, David Trimble and Betty Williams.

The participants in the Summit, realising that the world has reached the end of the century in a state of extreme tension and concern, represented the following considerations.

The 21st Century requires different politics, a different world order: an order of humanism, peace and justice. This order must be based on human values and on the moral principles expressed - in particular- in the great universal religions and on the rules of international law, which still need perfecting on the basis of the changes that took place in the modern world.

Mankind is mature enough to solve conflicts in a peaceful way, with political means, balancing the interests of the different international subjects. The use of force must be banned, with the exception of defence from possible external attacks and of the cases decided by the UN Security Council. The acknowledgment and defence of human rights must be the touchstone of national and global order, as well as the criterion of democracy and political humanism.

The participants in the meeting vigorously declared that the underestimation of such an important international organization as the UN are must be overcome.

The new order should be much better at creating easier conditions for the resolution of the problems today affecting the life of millions of people, especially in the developing countries. This would, in turn, help the strengthening of peace.

The idea was expressed that intellectual development is more important than material wealth: education, culture, and not war, will be able to get mankind to progress.

The strategy of knowledge is stronger than the strategy of war.

It is essential to give young generations the chance to change the course of history and enter the new World with a spirit of global responsibility.

Moreover, those who took part in the Summit analysed the situation concerning the Kosovo war, approving a common document which was released separately.