The Millennium World Peace Summit took place August 28-31, 2000 in New York City. The Summit opened at the UN with Secretary-General Kofi Annan addressing the leaders and
continued with the religious leaders engaging in working group sessions to devise ongoing initiatives to address regional conflict, poverty and environmental problems. In addition to the signing of *The Commitment to Global Peace*, another outcome of the World Peace Summit is the formation of an “Advisory Council” of religious leaders who would be available as a resource to the United Nations in its conflict prevention and resolution efforts.

The Summit represented the first time in history that religious and spiritual leaders of the world’s diverse faith traditions came together to discuss forging a partnership of peace with the United Nations and to identify ways that the worldwide religious communities can work together on specific peace, poverty and environmental initiatives.

*The Commitment to Global Peace* condemns all violence in the name of religion and makes a strong appeal to all religious, ethnic and national groups to seek a cessation of all hostilities. The signing of the Commitment signifies an unprecedented collaboration among religious and spiritual leaders to commit to cooperate in building peaceful societies.

*The Commitment to Global Peace* was developed with the contribution of the Summit’s International Advisory Council and with input from the Scholars Group at Harvard Divinity School and other Summit strategic partners in the months preceding the Religious Summit. It was then circulated among religious leaders for their input and changes. The Commitment includes input from all the major religious faiths.

**Participants:**

Very Reverend William McComish - Dean of St. Pierre Cathedral  
Gary Vachicouras – For Monseigneur Damskinos, Metropolitan of Switzerland and Exarch of Europe  
Rabbi Fancois Garai – Liberal Synagogue – CIL of Geneva  
Imam Yahia Basalamah – Imam of the Mosque in Geneva  
Hafid Ouardiri – UN Representative of the Islamic Cultural Foundation  
Mme Nimat Mardam-Bey – Foundation de l’Entre Connaissance  
Joel Stroudinsky – Eglise protestante de Geneve  
Jean Claude Basset – Plateforme inter-religieuse  
Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – The Vatican representative to the UN  
Reverend EPPF Dwain – Director of International Affaire, World Council of Churches  
Gonsar Rinpoche and Yeshe Sangpo – Tibetan Center Rabten Choeling  
Sue Nightingale – Acting Chaplain, The Church of England  
Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp – Hope Foundation, Netherlands  
Bertrand Piccard – Winds of Hope  
M. Comelio Sommaruga – President of Moral Rearmement Foundation & President of Geneva International Center for Human Demining  
Elena Ponomareva – Chief Public Relations, UN Information Service  
Francoise Buffat – Board Member, Foundation pour Geneve  
Tatjana Darany – Secretaire Generale, Foundation pour Geneve