

COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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*Le Président*

*The President*

11 September 2014

By E-MAIL:INFO@WORLDRELIGIONSCONFERENCE.ORG

Dear Mr. Rana,

I write in response to your letter of 13 August 2014, in which you kindly invited me to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> World Religions Conference, which will take place on 28 September 2014 in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. I am pleased to have received this kind invitation and I thank you for reaching out. Unfortunately, due to my other commitments I am not in a position to attend the Conference.

That said, I am most pleased to send you a message of support and encouragement on the occasion of the 34<sup>th</sup> World Religions Conference, which will take place in Guelph, Ontario, Canada on 28 September 2014. What is more, the theme of the Conference is a particularly rich one: 'Pathway to Peace'. As the President of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, an institution dedicated to the pacific settlement of international disputes, the promotion of the international rule of law, and the maintenance of international peace and security, it is no secret that this theme is near and dear to my heart. I am particularly happy to know that it will feature prominently in the upcoming Conference.

In many ways, therefore, this is not only a propitious event to reflect and meditate on contemporary challenges and future prospects in the fields of peacekeeping, peace-building and peacemaking, but also an apt moment to consider how the World Religions Conference can contribute to the advancement of pacific avenues and peaceful dialogue in our fast-evolving global community. I would be most grateful if the World Religions Conference could further promote the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through judicial proceedings, among its constituencies.

Mr. Nabeel A. Rana  
Chief Planning and Coordinating Officer  
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There is every indication that the 34<sup>th</sup> World Religions Conference will be a resounding success. The Conference theme will provide an ideal opportunity to reflect upon the many contributions that multi-faith coalition-building, understanding and intercultural sensitivity can provide in identifying peaceful resolutions to global crises and challenges; always in concert with multilateral institutional processes, pacific settlement of disputes, development of international legal rules, and so on. I have no doubt that this Conference will bring together an impressive roster of panelists, scholars, political leaders, members of the media, and governmental representatives, all commonly invested in addressing present-day challenges posed by our interconnected and interdependent world.

Indeed, the Conference promises to further contribute to the ongoing dialogue over the role that multi-faith sensibilities can play in our shared conscience, with a view to identifying viable and peaceful avenues forward when addressing difficult questions and global challenges. I have no doubt that this event will generate thought-provoking and enriching exchanges among participants. After all, it is only by standing together, celebrating our differences of thought, religion and belief – but remaining resolutely united in our shared defence of the international rule of law, equality for all and peaceful resolution of any dispute – that we can truly make the world a better place. To my mind, that is the very spirit of your Conference, and you should be commended for that shared vision and progressive worldview.

Let me take this opportunity to extend my warmest salutations to all participants at the Conference. I wish the event organizers and interlocutors all the success they deserve so well, as they take part in what will undoubtedly be a productive and memorable World Religions Conference.



Peter Tomka