



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 September 2019

Dear Nabeel Rana,

Thank you for your kind offer and invitation for me to come and speak at the 39th World Religious Conference taking place at the University of Waterloo on 22nd September 2019.

Unfortunately, my term in office as President of the UN General Assembly 73rd Session concludes today, otherwise I should have gladly accepted your invitation for me to bring greetings to the audience at the opening session.

However, I should be very happy for the following written message to be shared;

‘Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, please be assured of my best wishes and hopes for a successful 39th World Religious Conference. I am sorry not to be able to join you in person, but my period in office is coming to an end and my successor is about to take up the reigns of office. I applaud the WRC and your long and distinguished record in campaigning against injustice and promoting multi-faith dialogue and action. In recent years we have seen an increase in hate crime against those of all faiths and the United Nations is determined to help reverse and finally end this tide of intolerance. In June I presided over a memorable special meeting of the UN General Assembly on ‘Combatting Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Racism and Hate – The Challenges of Teaching Tolerance and Respect in the Digital Age’. In order to create a ‘Just Society’, tackling the root causes and effects of racism and hate that can be often found in social media has to be one of our top priorities.’

I wish you all the best for a successful Conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MESPINOZA".

Maria Fernanda Espinoza
President of 73rd Session General Assembly
United Nations.

Mr. Nabeel A. Rana
Even Co-ordinator
World Religions Conference