

***Professor Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis***

***President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organisation***

In 1985, after having dedicated twenty years to teaching and research in biology, Professor Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis founded the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.) to promote international cooperation and education for the environment. With Greece as its operating basis, B.I.O. has gained wide acclaim by scholars and decision-makers in 151 countries around the world, and has been granted special Consultative Status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Motivated by the feeling that humanity needs to move at a faster pace in order to prevent destruction and in strong belief that our future depends on groundbreaking reforms in education, she launched the International University for the Bio-Environment in 1990. In 1992, she proposed the revival of the ancient ideal of cease-fire during the Olympic Games and the award of Bios Prizes for excellence in environmental protection in all fields. Her proposal for cease-fire during the Olympic Games was adopted as a UN Resolution.

A graduate of Columbia University's Barnard College (B.A.), New York University (M.S.) and the University of Athens (Ph.D.), she worked as a researcher at the Museum of Natural History, in New York, at the University of California Berkeley, and at the University of Paris. She taught biology, biochemistry and human genetics at the Friends Seminary in New York, at the American Community Schools Academy in Athens and at the University of Maryland, and was Visiting Professor of Bioethics at Panteion University Athens. Her professional experience also includes the organisation of numerous international conferences, and the publication of over forty volumes of proceedings, hundreds of articles and monographs, and a plethora of textbooks and educational materials. Fluent in Greek, English, French and German, she is the author of poetry in Greek and English, which has been translated in French, Russian, Iranian and Japanese.

She is Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, Member of the Vienna Economic Forum, Vice President of the Executive Council of the World Society for Ekistics, Active Member of The Club of Rome, Founder and President of the Hellenic Chapter of the Club of Rome, Second Vice President of the Euro-Arab Cooperation Center, Member of the International Board of the European Generation Foundation in Romania, Founding Member of the Middle East Division of Learning Without Borders, Member of the Balkan Political Club, the Brussels-EU Chapter of the Club of Rome, the International Bioethics Society, the Scientific Committee of Greenaccord, the Academic Committee of the Regional Interdisciplinary Programme for Bioethics in Latin America, and the Advisory Board of the *Journal of Cleaner Production*. She has served as Trustee of the American University of Rome, Corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Founding Member of the Balkan Academy of Sciences, New Culture and Sustainable Development, Co-Founder of the International Science Foundation, Scholarship Trustee for the Hellenic Canadian Association, Member of the International Academy of Ecology, Human and Nature Safety Sciences, Transparency International, the

Hellenic Philosophical Society, the National Society of Greek Writers, and the Euro-American Women's Council, Vice-President of the International Bioethics Society, Member of the Board of the Alliance for Environmental Education, Co-Founder and President of the Columbia University Greek Alumni Association, President of the Greek Barnard Alumnae Association, Member of the Board of UNA Greece, Honorary President and Coordinator for the Mediterranean of the "Life in Space" project, Vice President of the UNESCO-MAB Hellenic Committee, and Goodwill Ambassador for the Greek Society for the Protection of Autistic People.

She has received numerous international distinctions, including: the 2004 Biopolicy Award by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Honorary Diploma by the Ukrainian Minister of Emergencies for her contribution to the elimination of the Chernobyl accident consequences, the Abdi Ipekci Peace and Friendship Prize, the Euro-Arab Cooperation Centre's Environmental Award, the Ain Shams University's Excellence Award, the Macedonian Prize by the Macedonian Prize Foundation, the Peace Through Tourism Award by the World Association of Travel Agencies, the Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal, Yildiz Technical University's Honorary Distinction, as well as repeated inclusions in the World Who's Who, the 5000 personalities of the world for service to science, the Europe 500 New Century Awards and the *Encyclopaedia Intelligentsia*.

Notably, she has been appointed *Doctor Honoris Causa* of Mendeleev University Moscow, Honorary Professor of St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, and Honorary President for Life along with Michael Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela and Maurice Strong, by UNA Sri Lanka. In 1995, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, a nomination renewed several times since.