

BIO-DIPLOMACY – A ROAD TOWARDS PEACE

[Ambassador Achilles Exarchos](#)

The A.G. Leventis Foundation

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The need to preserve the environment and the attainment of the necessary international co-operation were the two reasons for the founding, in 1985, with the initiative of Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, of the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.), of which I am a founding member and which The A.G. Leventis Foundation that I represent in Greece stands alongside in strong belief that the B.I.O. ideals will be achieved and will become priorities in society.

The B.I.O. leadership in the area of international co-operation in environmental protection, and the tireless efforts and self-sacrifice that the organisation gives for the achievement of its ideals are well known. A crucial issue facing us is the confrontation between the environment and industrial enterprises, which traditionally viewed the environment as irrelevant or counter to their interests and its preservation as a constraining element to their activities and the gaining of profit.

The struggle to bring about a new understanding was difficult, but it has led towards a congruence of business interests and the environment. Many business leaders have stated that profit and the preservation of the environment have become interlinked concepts, as is truly the case.

International co-operation should evolve into a single collective struggle, where all the inhabitants of the Earth will be led to one unified vision of peace in the effort to combat the one common enemy of all humanity – the destruction of the environment.

Since the inception of "bio-diplomacy" in 1985, many diplomats have supported B.I.O. in this task and have spoken out in their own countries and the rest of the world on the need for bio-diplomacy to become the vehicle for co-operation for humanity in the new millenium. Hopeful wishes for the success of this initiative are being seen ever more often because every day, increasing numbers of people on our planet clearly call for the survival of the environment for themselves and for future generations. It is becoming obvious that, otherwise, there will be a complete destruction of bios on our planet, the blue planet which looks so beautiful from space.

It is always a pleasure to see so many Ambassadors and business leaders, as well as prominent scholars and educators from 120 countries to be registered as faithful supporters of Biopolitics, and I wholeheartedly wish that our efforts will save the Earth.

A founding member of the Biopolitics International Organisation, **Ambassador Achilles Exarchos** studied law at the University of Thessaloniki and pursued graduate studies in public administration and management at the USA Bureau of the Budget, and in economics and public finance and policy at the American University in Washington D.C. and at the University of Rome. Before joining the diplomatic service, he held a post at the Greek Ministry of Finance's General Directorate of the Budget. He has served as Vice Consul and First Secretary of the Embassy of Greece in Nicosia, Consul in Naples, Counsellor at the Greek Embassy in Bulgaria, Consul General in London, Chief of the Department of Bilateral Economic Relations and Agreements at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Niger and Guinea, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations FAO, WFP and WFC, as well as Governor for Greece to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Ambassador Exarchos has received a number of honorary distinctions, including Commander of the Greek Order of George I, Commander of the Greek Order of the Phoenix, Commander of the Bulgarian Order of the Knight of Madara, Cross First Class of the Romanian Order of Theodore Vladimirescu and Knight of the Italian Order of Merit. Since 1983, he has been representing the A.G. Levenits Foundation in Greece.