

## BIO-DIPLOMACY AS A DIMENSION OF BIO-CULTURE

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It is an honour and a great pleasure to address this body of distinguished leaders from many different fields of human endeavour, assembled to search for new pathways leading to a bio-culture in the next millennium. This festival has an important message to convey: the need for international co-operation on the bio-environment. At the dawn of the next millennium, humanity realises that the fate of the bio-environment is a universal concern. In biopolitics, the hope is that unifying dimensions will emerge from all the different cultures of the world, as a result of a deeper understanding of our interdependence and of the need to protect the gift of bios on our planet.

The hope for the future is that this responsibility will lead to a new era of bio-diplomacy. The Biopolitics International Organisation understands as an important mission to promote this spirit of international co-operation. Defence of the rights of bios may prevail over conflict and become the new perspective for humanity, since environment does not recognise boundaries but is shared by all the citizens of the world.

This was the ideal behind the proposal of our president, Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, for awarding Bios Prizes to individuals in all specialities distinguished for their contribution to the promotion of respect and appreciation of the bio-environment. It is our belief that the growth of the B.I.O. proposal, since 1992, for revival of the Olympic ideal of cease-fire during the Olympics may provide an alternative for the future.

With this hope, I welcome all the distinguished personalities of this international conference and I wish you all success in this search for the new dimensions of bio-diplomacy leading to bio-culture.

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Ambassador **Panayotis Economou**, former Secretary General of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is Advisor on International and Public Relations for the Biopolitics International Organisation. He has served as Consul of Greece in Istanbul and Consul General of Greece in Munich (1970-1973); Ambassador of Greece in Teheran (1975-1979), The Hague (1981-1987), Madrid (1987-1990). He is recipient of the Grand Star and Grand Decoration of Honour (Austria); Grand Commander of the Order of the Lion (Senegal); Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau (Holland); Officer of the Order of the Phoenix; Officer of the Order of King George I and Commander of the Order of the Phoenix.