International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy

EASTWEST INSTITUTE

Hon. Kabwe Zitto, MP
Parliament of Tanzania
P.O. Box 325
Kigoma,
Tanzania

Brussels, 17th of July 2008

Dear Hon. Zitto, MP

For twenty-eight years, the EastWest Institute (EWI) has used its global 'think and do' approach to push the frontiers in making the world a safer place. The inability of the international community to make conflict prevention 'real' is something we are determined to change.

In response to the paucity of strategies and the lack of political will on the part of national governments and the international community, the EastWest Institute (EWI) established the *International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy* (Task Force) as the flagship of its Conflict Prevention Program.

In December 2007, the Task Force issued the declaration "*Making Conflict Prevention Real*", in which it calls for the establishment of an *International Panel on Conflict Prevention and Human Security*, and a *Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention and Human Security* as two key advisory and advocacy mechanisms to raise attention to key policy issues pertaining to stability and peace.

Both, Panel and Parliamentarians Network, will work to reframe traditional security policy towards the development of effective early diplomatic and operational alternatives to violence, which strengthen national and international capacities for sustainable and peaceful resolutions to conflict.

The Parliamentarians Network will be an international, non-partisan structure made up of parliamentarians from countries across the globe working at the national and international level to gear legislative mechanisms and procedures to direct political will and resources towards preventive action and human security. Both initiatives will be linked through a joint secretariat, led by an Executive Director.

We are now working to secure a group of parliamentarians from around the world who will act as the nucleus of this initiative to champion the cause of conflict prevention and human security in their respective parliaments and on an international level. The inaugural meeting of the "Champions" has been scheduled to take place at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium on the 8th of October 2008, with an informal welcome dinner to be held on the evening of October 7th.

Conscious of your dedication to the field of conflict prevention and human security, we are honored to invite you to serve as a Champion of this Parliamentarians Network, and to attend the network's inaugural meeting. Taking into account your demanding schedule, we would plan one or two meetings per year to provide the broad strategic direction and leadership to the network. As mentioned above, you will have the full support of a permanent secretariat.

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For your information we have included attachments on the Task Force, the Panel and the Parliamentarians Network. In addition, your suggestions of potential candidates, both national and international, would be welcomed as we take these first steps in building the network.

On behalf of all the members of EWI's International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy, we very much hope that you would be willing to support this important initiative with your expertise and experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman of the International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy, Mr. Ortwin Hennig, directly by phone (+32 2 743 4612) or email (ohennig@ewi.info).

We look forward to hearing from you.

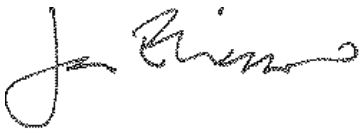
Yours sincerely,



Martti Ahtisaari
Chairman of the Board, Crisis Management Initiative, Former President of Finland



Kim Campbell
The Right Honourable, P.C., Q.C., Former Prime Minister of Canada



Jan Eliasson
Ambassador, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Darfur, Former Foreign Minister of Sweden



Thorvald Stoltenberg
President of the Norwegian Red Cross, Former Foreign Minister and Minister of Defence, Norway



Ortwin Hennig
Chairman of the International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy, Vice President, EastWest Institute, Ambassador