

**WOMEN LEADERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CONVENE AT “INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS GLOBAL SECURITY SUMMIT”
TO DRIVE A CALL TO ACTION ON ADDRESSING CONFLICT, TERRORISM, CLIMATE CHANGE, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY**

Largest Ever Summit in the US of Women Leaders on Security Issues:

Heads of State and Government from Ireland, Canada, Latvia, Ukraine join 75 Women Leaders from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America

November 13, 2007 (New York, NY)—This Thursday, November 15, The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands, The White House Project, the Council of Women World Leaders and the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum of Realizing Rights will launch the historic International Women Leaders Global Security Summit to convene women leaders from over 30 countries, to address critical issues including protecting civilians in conflict, terrorism, climate change and economic inequality.

The largest-ever gathering in the US of women leaders on security with current and former women heads of state and government and over 70 other high-level women leaders, will be hosted by H.E. **Mary Robinson, President, Ireland** (1990-97) and Rt. Hon. **Kim Campbell, Prime Minister, Canada** (1993). Also attending are H.E. **Emily Saïdy de Jongh-Elhage, Prime Minister**, Netherlands Antilles, **Yulia Tymoshenko**, Prime Minister of Ukraine (2005) and **Asha-Rose Migiro**, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations.

The Honorable **Madeleine K. Albright**, Secretary of State, United States (1997-2001) and **Shirin Tahir-Kheli**, Senior Adviser on Women’s Empowerment to the Secretary of State, United States (representing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice) will welcome the participants.

Margot Wallström, Vice-President, Institutional Relations and Communication, European Commission will moderate a panel with **Dr. Haleh Esfandiari**, who was detained in Iran this year on allegations of endangering Iranian national security, **Bineta Diop**, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Senegal and **President Mary Robinson**.

Over the course of the Summit, **Olubanke King-Akerele**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia, **Sarah Sewall**, Director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University, United States, and **Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier**, climate change activist, 2007 nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and former Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, will present personal stories about their experiences handling critical security issues.

Angelique Kidjo, Grammy nominated Beninese singer-songwriter, who recently returned from a peacekeeping trip to Eastern Chad will perform, and Academy and Golden Globe-winning actress **Geena Davis** will introduce the documentary film on women leaders and security. Poet **Maya Angelou**, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Arts and Mother Teresa Award, will read the Call to Action to commemorate the Summit via video address.

The three-day conference will begin the evening of Thursday, November 15, with a dinner featuring women heads of state, at the **Jumeirah Essex House** in Manhattan, where the Summit will be held. The workshops, panel discussions and breakout sessions on November 16 and 17 will highlight an interactive action-oriented agenda with a focus on securing commitments to achieve tangible results from the Summit’s influential leaders in the public, private and non-profit/non-governmental sectors. Leaders will actively engage one another and share ideas; information exchange and feedback will be assisted through the use of computer software linking the live discussions to large in-room screens. Members of the philanthropic community and the media will join key sessions.

The International Women Leaders Global Security Summit comes at a pivotal historical moment when an injection of new voices and innovative ideas has the potential to positively impact a broad range of situations—from conflict in the Middle East to terrorism’s roots in economic inequality to the effects of climate change on all human beings. As the long-term effects of globalization come into clearer focus, both the needs of states and the safety of people are pre-eminent concerns.

The Initiative views the recent emphasis on women’s leadership at the national level—including Benazir Bhutto’s return to Pakistan and Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner’s rise in Argentina—as an opportunity for women to advance and deepen their roles on the global stage.

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands in partnership with The White House Project, the Council of Women World Leaders, and the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum launched the International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative in October 2006.

"Leadership is exercised increasingly by women at the international, national and local levels," said **Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders**. "This is the first summit to commit to harnessing the collective power of those women leaders as we join together to address issues of human security."

"There is a global leadership crisis on issues of security, and the Summit's core goal is to bridge this gap," said **White House Project Founder and President Marie Wilson**. "We are meeting to put forward a new security agenda—one created by women and intended to meet the needs of all. Our agenda views the safety of people as inseparable from state security. Indeed, the two are complimentary and we must cease posing them as tradeoffs."

"Seeing a group of women in leadership roles helps remove a psychological barrier for both women and men," said **Council of Women World Leaders Secretary General Laura Liswood**. "Many don't realize how many women have made it to the highest political offices around the world. By bringing these leaders together, their voices can work together to move issues of concern to women and all human beings to the forefront."

"This Summit will provide women leaders a unique opportunity to deepen relationships, share ideas and approach complex issues with fresh eyes. With unity, trust and respect, women leaders can help make the world a better place," added **Wallis Annenberg, a Trustee of the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands**.

For more information about the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit and for credentialing information, please go to www.WomenandGlobalSecurity.org.

About the Partners:

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands

The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands was established in 2001 by The Annenberg Foundation primarily to address serious issues facing the nation and the world community. The Trust engages in a variety of educational and charitable programs, by hosting and participating in retreats and conferences, and educating visitors through public access on the significance of the historical and architectural importance of the property known as "Sunnylands," located in Rancho Mirage, California. www.sunnylands.org

The White House Project

The White House Project (WHP), a U.S based, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization, aims to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors, up to the U.S. presidency. By filling the leadership pipeline with a richly diverse, critical mass of women, The White House Project seeks to make American institutions, businesses and government truly representative. The WHP's *Real Security Initiative* is based on the premise that real security requires harnessing all elements of U.S. power—strengthening diplomacy, economic leverage, and intelligence in addition to a strong military. The long term objective of the *Real Security Initiative* is to increase the profile of women and their values both in the media and politics, on issues of U.S. national security and the need for different national priorities. www.thewhitehouseproject.org

The Council of Women World Leaders

The Council of Women World Leaders is a network of current and former women presidents and prime ministers. The Council, chaired by Mary Robinson, currently has 37 members, who represent nearly all of the world's current and former women world leaders. The Council's mission is to mobilize the highest-level women leaders globally for collective action on issues of critical importance to women and equitable development. A ministerial initiative, chaired by Margot Wallstrom, which engages sitting and former women ministers and cabinet members, is an integral and essential part of the Council structure. www.cwwl.org

Women Leaders Intercultural Forum of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative

By addressing common issues that transcend perceived cultural, religious, sectoral and generational divides, the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum aims to leverage the efforts of women leaders to raise greater public awareness about global human security concerns and serve as a catalyst for collaborative action. www.wlforum.org

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS GLOBAL SECURITY SUMMIT

New York City

November 15 – 17, 2007

MEDIA ALERT & CREDENTIALING INSTRUCTIONS

New York City will serve as the host city for the historic, first-ever, “International Women Leaders Global Security Summit,” November 15-17, 2007. The international conference will feature current and former women heads of state and government and over 70 high-level women leaders representing more than 40 nations who will tackle the world’s most pressing security issues.

Hosting the summit are:

- Her Excellency Mary Robinson, President, Ireland (1990-97)
- The Right Honourable Kim Campbell, Prime Minister, Canada (1993)

Heads of state and government expected to participate include:

- Her Excellency Tarja Halonen, President, Finland
- Her Excellency Emily Saïdy de Jongh-Elhage, Prime Minister, Netherlands Antilles
- The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister, Jamaica (2006-2007)
- Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President, Latvia (1999-2007)
- Her Excellency Yulia Tymoshenko, Prime Minister, Ukraine (2005)
- Her Excellency Chandrika Kumaratunga, President, Sri Lanka (1994-2005)
- The Right Honourable Jenny Shipley, Prime Minister, New Zealand (1997-1999)
- Her Excellency Maria Liberia-Peters, Prime Minister, Netherlands Antilles (1984-86, 1988-93)

Other notable guests and participants:

- The Honorable Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General, UN
- Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli, Senior Adviser on Women’s Empowerment to the Secretary of State, United States (Representing Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice)
- The Honorable Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State, United States (1997-2001)
- Ms. Mahnaz Afkhami, Founder and President, Women’s Learning Partnership for Rights, Development, and Peace, Iran
- Ms. Betty Bigombe, Senior Fellow, United States Institute of Peace; former Chief Mediator between the government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army; former Cabinet Minister for Pacification and Reconstruction of Northern and Northeastern Uganda.
- Ms. Beth A. Brooke, Global Vice Chair of Strategy and Regulatory Affairs, Ernst & Young, United States
- Ms. Geena Davis, Academy and Golden Globe Award Winning Actress and Activist
- Ms. Bineta Diop, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Senegal
- Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- The Honorable Swanee Hunt, United States Ambassador to Austria (1993-1997); Chair, Initiative for Inclusive Security
- Ms. Juliette Kayyem, Undersecretary of Homeland Security, Massachusetts, United States
- Lieutenant General Claudia J. Kennedy (Retired), United States Army
- Ms. Angélique Kidjo, Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Children’s Fund, Benin
- The Honorable Olubanke King-Akerele, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia
- Vice President Akua Kuenyehia, First Vice-President, International Criminal Court
- Ms. Laura Liswood, Secretary General, Council of Women World Leaders, United States
- The Honorable Jane Holl Lute, Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations
- The Honorable Carolyn McAskie, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations
- Dr. Montgomery McFate, Senior Social Science Adviser, Human Terrain System Program, United States Army
- Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, United Nations

- The Honorable Dr. Sadako Ogata, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (1991-2001)
- Dr. Hannah Safran, Co-Founder, Women in Black, Israel
- The Honorable Wijdan Salim, Minister of Human Rights, Iraq
- Dr. Sima Samar, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
- Ms. Sarah Sewall, Director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard University, United States
- Her Excellency Margot Wallström, Vice-President, Institutional Relations and Communication, European Commission
- Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) (2002-2006), Canada
- Ms. Marie Wilson, President and Founder, The White House Project, United States

The Summit is a project of The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands in partnership with The White House Project, the Council of Women World Leaders and the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum.

Members of the media interested in applying for credentials for the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit must use the following link to access the application: www.womenandglobalsecurity.org All online applications must be completed by November 11, 2007. All members of the media wishing to cover the Summit must have credentials.