



**Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
Bureau du Représentant Spécial Adjoint du Secrétaire Général**

Kinshasa, 17 January 2008

FOR THE JURY OF THE UNESCO PRIZE FOR PEACE EDUCATION 2008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have known the Amel Association and its President Dr. Kamel Mohanna since the time I served as Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Lebanon and Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 1995 to 1998. During that period, I developed close links with the country's civil society organizations which were working together to deal with both the material and societal damage that so many years of civil strife had inflicted on the population.

Foremost amongst these organizations was the Amel Association who to date have been providing assistance for over 30 years to the most under privileged Lebanese from all communities irrespective of their faith or political allegiance. Indeed in 1998, Amel Association was awarded the prize established by UNDP and the "Laure and Joseph Moghaizel Foundation" to recognize extraordinary contributions by civil society in the promotion of social peace in Lebanon. The award cited the work of the Association and its President Dr. Kamel Mohanna in the field of human rights and peace education in particular.

I was privileged to work with the Amel Association and in particular Dr. Kamel Mohanna, both in times of conflict and in respect of post conflict rehabilitation and sustainable development. Amel was and still is engaged in education for peace and democracy, in a country torn by confessional and political conflict.

The Association's work is characterized by peace-promotion activities and advocating for inter-confessional dialogue that transcends political parties and religious groups to concentrate the rights of Lebanese citizens.

Dr. Mohanna himself has won widespread respect both in Lebanon and abroad for his commitment and outstanding contributions to rebuilding Peace in Lebanon including through building a strong and active – and non partisan – civil society in his country.

I would wholeheartedly commend the Amel Association and its President, Dr Kamel Mohanna for the UNESCO prize for peace education. Such recognition will reinforce the secular nature and mission of organizations such as Amel in a region torn by religious tension and wars.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ross Mountain', is written in a cursive style.

ROSS MOUNTAIN

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNDP Resident Coordinator
Humanitarian Coordinator
Democratic Republic of Congo