



**2008 Annual Meeting
United States Conference for the World Council of Churches
Blessed Are The Peacemakers Awards Dinner
8:00 p.m.
December 3rd, 2008
National City Christian Church, Washington, DC**

CITATION

Global Priorities Campaign

The U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches conveys one of this year's "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" Awards to the *Global Priorities Campaign* for redefining global needs.

The Global Priorities Campaign is an international, interreligious initiative that is facilitating practical ways to reduce unproductive military spending and increase effective spending on human needs.

Started in 1999, the *Global Priorities Campaign* was officially launched at UNICEF headquarters in New York on October 17, 2005, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. After a series of consultations in Geneva beginning in 2001 with the support of the Ford Foundation and US and European church institutions, Global Priorities has been developing a strong network within the World Council of Churches' Office of the Decade to Overcome Violence, the Roman Catholic Church, The Lutheran World Federation and many other religious institutions. Participants have also included Jewish groups and individuals, and international humanitarian organizations. There has been a special emphasis on forging ties with Muslim networks in the Middle East and Indonesia, and special events involving many of these groups were held in Jordan, Yemen and Sudan in 2006 and 2007.

Global Priorities is currently creating a process to establish international mechanisms that would greatly shrink nuclear arsenals and devote more spending on securing nuclear material and other forms of nuclear security. On the human needs side of the equation, the project concentrates on

increasing spending for the needs of children, including child survival, in close partnership with UNICEF.

Growing out of the inter-religious orientation of the Global Priorities network, from its inception it has made a particular effort to bridge deep religious and political divisions. Rather than simply engage those who might be expected to support arms control and humanitarian ventures, Global Priorities attempts to create extraordinary nonpartisan alliances to make an impact on these urgent questions and provide leadership and resources to address the plight of 25,000 children who die every day from preventable causes. It is this that distinguishes the Global Priorities network from others working in the intersection of the arms control, disarmament and humanitarian fields. In essence, Global Priorities is mobilizing different interests behind the same cause of reducing military spending in favor of basic human needs.

In the United States, this year a Congressional resolution (H. Res. 1045) was introduced by Rep. Dan Lungren, a Republican, and Rep. Jim McGovern, a Democrat, both with close ties to their respective party's leadership. The resolution has been supported by a wide range of religious and secular non-governmental agencies spanning the political spectrum, from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to the Friends of the World Food Program to World Vision to the Arms Control Association. In developing the resolution Global Priorities worked closely with retired Major General William F. Burns, a consultant to the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, who was head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Reagan and was a key negotiator on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) and other treaties. Among others, Global Priorities also consulted closely with Lawrence Korb, an assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan Administration as well as, more recently, an advisor to the Obama campaign.

In this way, Global Priorities' close links with religious, military and political leaders in the U.S. and on the international level are stimulating extraordinary alliances that span the ideological spectrum. It has been Global Priorities' conviction and experience that only through engaging such a broad spectrum can there be lasting change.

The United States Conference for the World Council of Churches hereby presents the *Global Priorities Campaign*, its leaders and friends with the "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" Award