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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.


[15 August 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Establishing A Trusted Roadmap For Peace In Jerusalem

We recognize the Human Right to Peace and the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the settlement of disputes in the Middle East, and specifically General Assembly resolutions 181 (II) and 194(III) concerning the status of Jerusalem, yet recognizing also the sovereignty of the State of Israel and the need for the Palestinians and Israelis altogether for a peaceful and secure land of their own.

We recognize also the special place the Holy City of Jerusalem for the three faiths of The Book.

After decades of war and hatred, the sons and daughters are fighting the battle of the fathers, and if nothing changes this fight will continue for generations. Is that what we all wish for our descendants, Christians, Muslims or Jews?

The right of each of sons of Abraham to pray in peace and share the Holy city of Jerusalem in such a way that everyone will feel safe and secure must be recognized.

It is now time, after decades of war and hatred to gather representatives of the 3 faiths to meet in a spirit of forgiveness and share the FRUIT of Peace:

(Forgiveness, Respect, Understanding, Innovative thinking and Trust) Forgiveness brings Respect which triggers Understanding. Understanding leads to Innovative thinking and in the end:Trust , as Trust is the Key to Peace.

As Bishop Munib Younan President Emeritus of the Lutheran World Federation said in his speech upon receiving the Niwano Peace Prize in July 2017

“The agenda for interreligious engagement today must focus on confronting extremisms within each particular tradition. Religious leaders must come together to compare efforts and share wisdom. While there is of course a role for secular and governmental leaders in combatting extremism, the most effective efforts to address these dynamics will come from within each particular community itself. If it is true that extremism is the antithesis of love, we must be motivated, first and foremost, by love”

The key is transformation of diplomatic paradigms with the grace of God. Faith-Based Diplomacy provides the space for that to happen. What is needed are changed hearts and constructive joint problem solving.

After experiencing the Faith-Based Reconciliation workshop in Amman Jordan in January 2011 one Muslim leader said this: *“ I now see that Faith-Based Reconciliation is to global human relations what $e=mc^2$ is to theoretical physics. It provides an architecture, a structure for the West and the Islamic world to communicate with each other. ”.*

As “Sons and Daughters of The Book”, Jews, Christians and Muslims share the same heritage. Abraham is a Prophet for all 3 religions. Christ is a Prophet for the Muslims as well as the Messia for Christians.

All pilgrims coming to Jerusalem wish for the same thing: be able to pray God in peace and security.

We call on all stakeholders to please consider this message in the spirit we call for the “FRUIT” of Peace to be finally harvested.