

THE GODDESSES OF THE FUTURE.

Good afternoon.

Congratulations to the organizers of this great Forum and for gathering us, from all over the world, with the aim of sharing the wonders of our cultural legacies, how much they benefit us and formalize it through the academia, cultural cities agreements and biannual international conferences.

In the wonderful 9 Maya books of Chilam Balam there are prophecies. I have chosen one because I'm going to speak about **The Goddesses of the Future**: *"The stars tell us stories. The secret is to learn their language. Let's look for the goal: Which is the future? Look backwards and find"*.

In 1977 Carl Jung, the famous psychologist, wrote that "to see the things in its real perspective, we have to understand our past as much as our present", and to study the archetypes that created our myths, religions and philosophies, because they influence and characterize different stages of the histories of our nations.

In many countries around the world we have had in our cultures, in different periods, many important Goddesses that dignified women's qualities and empowerment. The mother that nurtures and protects the Gods and us, the moon, the arts, the love, the flowers, the strength, the compassion, the fertility, the medicine, the soothsayer, the earth, the agriculture, the beauty, the pleasure, the wisdom, the war, the purification, the abundance, the prosperity, the mercy, the weaving, the embroidering, the water, the sea, etc.

In the following slides you'll be able to see the images of some of the Goddesses and the buildings most representative of their cultural legacy. For the Mayas it was Ixchel, the total Goddess; for the Aztecs: Tlazolteótl the total Goddess, Coatlicue, Coyolxauqui, Tlaltecútl and Xochiquetzal, the Goddess of Arts; for the Sumerians: Nammu and Inanna; for the Hindus: Lakshmi, Kali, Devi and Saraswati; for the Egyptians it was Isis; for the Greeks: Hestia, Artemis and Athena; for the Romans: Ceres, Venus and Minerva; for the Chinese: Kwan Yi; for the Japanese: Amaterasu; for the Africans: Orishas; for the Brazilians: Yemayá and for the Innuits: Sedna.

The Aztecs' mythology had a dual principle: Gods and Goddesses and the Mayas' mythology had always the Father and the Mother that together made emerge the earth and its inhabitants.

Why do we have to look back to the Gods and Goddesses and think about the Goddesses of the Future?

Because we want to empower women in the world. We want them to feel confident and have a high self-esteem. We want them to participate teaching amongst them the richness and benefits of their cultural legacy and sharing them with all of us. We want them to be proactive through a cultural network for intercultural dialogue by internet, publishing tips about cultural empowerment, inviting journalists to join the new intercultural dialogue chain, creating strategic alliances for launching Prizes like the Millennium Project Global Millennium Prize for Women, organizing International Conferences to strengthen their links, etc... We want them to have a cultivated voice and to be heard.

Young people around the world are claiming to learn and to be heard too. Through the Global Millennium Prize for students and teachers that we launched during 5 years, we learned that it is very easy to interest them in new cultural projects if they feel they can learn, be performers and benefit other young people in the world. An intercultural dialogue network with cultural videos made by them and videogames could be a hit.

Finally, I would like to mention that "Culture" in my country has a constitutional value and the cultural rights have a legal recognition. Mexico was the first country in the world to change an article in its Political Constitution for Cultural purposes. We moved from a national culture towards a diversity culture, that makes feasible the adoption of a cultural or multicultural citizenship.

The State of Culture in Mexico has 3 main principles: freedom, pluralism and progress. The Mexican State duties are: promotion, culture preservation and education.

The 2 fundamental axis of the Mexican legislation on our cultural heritage are: cultural value and right to culture access.

In Mexico, the Government manages one main TV Cultural channel. Before coming here I asked the Director General about the possibility of opening the Channel for starting new programs on Intercultural Dialogue. Her answer was yes. So this is my first offering action to you at this Forum.

I would like to express my deep gratitude for the organization of such a marvelous event to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, First Lady, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Thank you very much.