

Transcript of the interview with Betty Williams, Nobel Laureate 1976 Nobel Peace Prize recipient

FAO – Nobel Peace Laureates Alliance for Food Security and Peace

Question 1 - How do you view the FAO-Nobel Laureates Alliance? (0'01-0'42)

I'm really excited about this one and it's been a long time since I've been excited about joining a program. But you must remember that I've worked with these laureates before. President Arias – over the years – has become a dear friend. And I worked with him on the disarmament issues; Muhammad Yunus on the banking issues; and my beloved Arab sister. I mean, we are from four completely different areas of the world but each of us, individually, has handled situations of violence in exactly the same way. Combating it with non-violence. Every single one of us has achieved that.

Question 2 - How can your experience in peace building contribute to the success of the Alliance? (0'44 - 1'19)

You know we talk about peace as if it's something that is just going to fall out of the sky. That is so completely illogical. Before you can make a peaceful world, number one, we have to have a world that has much more justice in it. The banking systems, the weather programs, the things that are happening in our world, which are destroying us. Those real issues can be tackled on a daily basis but it's not a – there's no "fix". There's no way we can fix it immediately.

Question 3 - What will be your broader contribution to the objectives of the Alliance? (1'20-1'44)

We've got to change our world. And part of this, this new develop with the FAO, I want so badly to have a really strong, working, passionate, involved association that will move things. I'm not going to be sitting at the FAO like a dumb old lady.

Question 4 - What concrete actions are you going to propose to the new-born Alliance? (1'46-2'45)

We've got to come together now in one joint voice. One of the greatest negotiators I've ever sat at a table with has been President Arias. He's a consummate gentlemen. His intellect is superb. And there's no greater man in the world to lead this. I would like him to be in charge because just for the fact that he's disarmed four countries. You know? He has that on his record. And so, I think we're going to be great together. I really do. Because I have such deep respect for Professor Yunus as well. You know, he makes millionaires out of beggars. You know? He entrepreneurs with 15 euro or dollars. He showed by example that that could be done.