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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEMPLE OF UNDERSTANDING CO-HOSTS A UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN EVENT MARCH 1**

*"Ethics, Rural Ecology and Poverty"*

**New York, NY** –The Temple of Understanding is pleased to co-host a panel discussion at the 2012 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women event in conjunction with Bioneers and Women's Earth Alliance. The panel discussion on "Ethics, Rural Ecology and Poverty" will frame the impact on poverty from the worldwide ecological devastations being experienced in North America, Asia and Africa. The ethical issues of including women in decision-making roles and the need for including grass roots women's organizations to address these issues will be presented as a solution to our current crisis.

"It is my pleasure to co-sponsor this event with such a distinguished panel of four powerful women working in this field," said Alison Van Dyk, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Temple of Understanding. "The progress we can make when we work together at this grass roots level has been proven already with some dynamic programs in place here in the U.S. and around the world."

Nina Simons, CO-CEO of Bioneers, North America and Europe, will moderate the panel consisting of Dr. Pam Rajput, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Political Science, Punjab University, Co-Founder of the Global Women's Parliament in India; Rucha Chitnis, India Program Director of Women's Earth Alliance; and Maame Yelbert-Obereng, Africa program Director of Women's Earth Alliance.

The "Ethics, Rural Ecology and Poverty" event will take place on the 10th floor of the Church Center of the United Nations, SW corner of 42nd Street and First Avenue in Manhattan on March 1, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Seating is limited and access to the room will be available only at 10:20 a.m.

### **ABOUT THE TEMPLE OF UNDERSTANDING**

The Temple of Understanding has led the way in interfaith education and advocacy for over fifty years. The Temple educates youth and adults cross culturally and inter-religiously for global citizenship and peaceful existence; advocates for acceptance and respect for religious pluralism by the world's governing bodies; and actively continues to promote justice and tolerance. It was founded in 1960 by Juliet Hollister with the support of a distinguished group of "Founding Friends" including Eleanor Roosevelt, Anwar al-Sadat and H.H. the XIVth Dalai Lama, among others. Visit [www.templeofunderstanding.org](http://www.templeofunderstanding.org).

### **ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Established in 1946, The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or UNCSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the main UN organs within the United Nations. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. Visit <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/> for more information.

### **ABOUT BIONEERS**

**Bioneers** is a nonprofit educational organization that highlights breakthrough solutions for restoring people and planet. Since 1990, Bioneers has acted as a hub of social and scientific innovators with practical and visionary solutions for the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. A celebration of the genius of nature and human creativity, Bioneers connects people with solutions and each other. Visit [bioneers.org](http://bioneers.org) for more information.

### **ABOUT WOMEN'S EARTH ALLIANCE**

Women's Earth Alliance (WEA) emerged in 2006 from an unprecedented meeting in Mexico City where 30 women leaders from 26 countries gathered to create solutions to a common concern: the lack of support available to women working on the front lines of social and environmental challenges. Today, WEA partners with community-based organizations globally to uplift local solutions to issues of water, food, land, and climate change by providing women with trainings, resources, and advocacy support. WEA's programs are based on the belief that when women thrive, communities, the environment, and future generations thrive. Visit [www.womenseathalliance.org](http://www.womenseathalliance.org) for more information.

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