

## **The Elders postpone visit to the Middle East**

8 April 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders have been exploring ways that they can contribute to peace and to the world's understanding of the complex issues involved in the Middle East conflict.

They had planned a visit to the region in April to meet and listen to representatives from government, civil society, business and the public in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. The Elders will continue consultations with key leaders in the region and outside with the purpose of developing a comprehensive report, but have decided to postpone their visit.

### **About The Elders**

The Elders are an independent group of eminent global leaders who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

Based on an initiative by Richard Branson and Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela announced the formation of The Elders in Johannesburg on his 89th birthday in 2007.

The Elders are Kofi Annan, Ela Bhatt, Lakhdar Brahimi, Gro Brundtland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jimmy Carter, Graça Machel, Mary Robinson, Desmond Tutu (Chair) and Muhammad Yunus.

For more information please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org)

Media inquiries: [media@theElders.org](mailto:media@theElders.org)