

# The Holy Mount Athos – the Unique Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Humanity

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*Belgrade, Serbia, June 23-25, 2013*

On June 23-25, 2013 Belgrade hosted International Conference “The Holy Mount Athos – the Unique Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Humanity” that gathered more than 100 participants from different countries.

The Conference was organized with participation of the Society of the Mount Athos Friends in Serbia, Friends of Mount Athos international societies and under the auspices of the World Public Forum “Dialogue of Civilizations.”

The event was aimed to draw the attention of the European and international society to the uniqueness of the Holy Mount Athos and continued the debates and discussions started at the first Conferences in Salzburg (2011) and Weimar (2012) concerning the necessity to preserve the spiritual and cultural particularities of this sacred place.

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Proceedings included two plenary sessions and three roundtables with discussion of the following themes: “Askesis, Theology, Modernity”, “Askesis and Ecology” and “The Holy Mount Athos and the unity of Eastern Christian World.”

Closing plenary meeting resulted in issuing an Appeal of the International Athonite Conference Participants.

[Click here to read the text of the Appeal in English](#)

[Click here to read the text of the Appeal in Russian](#)

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## CONTENT PROGRAM

### **Plenary Session 1:**

The Eternal and New in Christian Civilization: the Athonite Experience

### **Plenary Session 2:**

The Holy Mount Athos – the Moral and Spiritual Source to Overcome the Deadlocks of Globalization and Secularization

**Round Table 1:**

Askesis, Theology, Modernity

- “The one who does not know how to pray is not a theologian”: the meaning of askesis for orthodox theology and doctrine;
- The orthodox asceticism in modern world – external challenges and inner problems;
- The modern life of Holy Tradition: patrology, neopatroy, postpatrology?
- Where to the human transform? Athonite outlook on the problems of anthropological crisis.

**Round Table 2:**

Askesis and Ecology

- Human mission in the world as “cosmological liturgy”;
- Human and Nature at Holy Mount Athos: millennial cooperation;
- Orthodox askesis and bridging the ecological gap;
- To ecological theology and ecological ethics;
- Save our planet: ecology as common grounds for dialogue and cooperation of religions.

**Round Table 3:**

The Holy Mount Athos and the unity of Eastern Christian World

- The Athonite influence on the culture of east orthodox nations;
  - The participation of orthodox nations in the life of Holy Mount Athos;
  - Holy Mount Athos as a symbol of spiritual unity of the Christian world.
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