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PRIME MINISTER

56/94

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON PJ KEATING MP THE 1995 GLOBAL CULTURAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

I am proud to announce that the Australian Government, in conjunction with the New South Wales Government, through the NSW Ethnic Affairs Commission, and the Australian Multicultural Foundation, will host a major international conference on cultural diversity next year.

The Conference will be the first international conference of its kind, and will be a part of Australia's official celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year for Tolerance.

In keeping with the stature of the occasion, the UN Secretary-General, H E Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali has agreed to deliver the keynote address.

1995 is also the 50th anniversary year of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The UNESCO Director-General, Dr Federico Mayor will also address the Conference.

The event will be staged at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour, from 26 to 28 April 1995. We expect to attract around 1,000 national and international delegates.

Senior political, academic and community leaders from around the world will be invited. The Conference will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on ways of dealing with the increasing diversity of our lives; the result of the international movement of people; advances in communications; and the globalisation of international markets.

The Conference will be held in the first year of the Decade of Indigenous People. Indigenous issues will be woven throughout the Conference program.

The focus will be on developing public policy aimed at building social cohesion and encouraging an appreciation of cultural, religious, racial and linguistic diversity, including ways in which it can be developed as a social and economic asset.

It will also be an occasion when our own proud record of achievement in this area will be held up for international scrutiny.

CANBERRA
18 July 1994