



GAID SERIES 2

Our Common Humanity in the Information Age

Principles and Values for Development

Edited by
Aliye Pekin Celik



United Nations
New York, 2007

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Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)

The Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), an initiative approved by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2006, was launched after comprehensive worldwide consultations with governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical and Internet communities and academia.

While the 2005 United Nations Summits emphasized the importance of ICT in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there was a need for a truly global forum that would comprehensively address cross-cutting issues related to ICT in development. Recognizing that no single actor is capable of achieving the MDGs in isolation, the creation of an open and inclusive platform that can broaden the dialogue on innovative ways of harnessing ICT for advancing development is crucial.

The Global Alliance is a direct response to this need. With its multi-stakeholder approach, the Alliance reaffirms the belief that a people-centered and knowledge-based information society is essential for achieving better life for all.

About the Editor

Aliye P. Celik is a Senior Advisor at the Global Alliance for ICT and Development and at the Institute for Urban Design. As the Chief of ECOSOC and Interorganizational Cooperation Branch/DESA, Celik was instrumental in strengthening the United Nations through innovative participatory mechanisms to build alliances to influence momentum towards addressing some of the world's most pressing concerns in developing countries (2000 to 2005). She started the book series on the High Level segments of ECOSOC, and worked on the Ad-Hoc Advisory Groups on Countries Emerging from Conflict.

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Celik lectures and serves on boards of NGOs. She holds masters degrees in architecture from Princeton University and Middle East Technical University (METU), B.Arch. from METU and PhD from Istanbul Technical University. Celik is a Fulbright scholar and received numerous awards including a Special Citation (1997) and an Award for Excellence (1970) from the American Institute of Architects and Woman of Distinction from Soroptimists International NYC (2006).

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Aliye Pekin Celik

14 June 2007

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**EXCERPT FROM THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HIS
EXCELLENCY MR. BAN KI-MOON ON APPOINTMENT AS THE
8TH SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

“The surge in demand for UN services attests not only to the UN's abiding relevance but also to its central place in advancing human dignity. The UN is needed now more than ever before. The UN's core mission in the previous century was to keep countries from fighting each other. In the new century, the defining mandate is to strengthen the inter-state system so that humanity may be better served amidst new challenges. From the Balkans to Africa, from Asia to the Middle East, we have witnessed the weakening or absence of effective governance leading to the ravaging of human rights and the abandonment of longstanding humanitarian principles. We need competent and responsible states to meet the needs of "we the peoples" for whom the UN was created. And the world's peoples will not be fully served unless peace, development and human rights, the three pillars of the UN, are advanced together with equal vigor.

The road that we must pave toward a world of peace, prosperity and dignity for all has many pitfalls. As Secretary-General, I will make the most of the authority invested in my office by the Charter and the mandate you give me. I will work diligently to materialize our responsibility to protect the most vulnerable members of humanity and for the peaceful resolution of threats to international security and regional stability.”¹

¹ Delivered at the United Nations General Assembly, 3 October 2006.

FOREWORD

José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

The Millennium Declaration spoke of a common set of values and principles, including, among others, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility as fundamental values essential to international relations in the Twenty-first century. One of the central challenges of this new century, as defined by the Millennium Summit, is to ensure that globalization can be made fully inclusive and equitable. In this context, the Declaration calls for “broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity”. These principles and values have found centre stage in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, emphasizing that our common fundamental values, including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, are essential to international relations. The Summit also emphasized that, more than ever before, we live in a global and interdependent world and acknowledged that collective security depends on effective cooperation.

In the context of the implementation of the 2005 World Summit outcome, there is a strong need to forge a strategy to create a coalition of all countries and peoples, who are determined to promote a new paradigm of international relations that recognizes the imperatives of diversity and the reality of continuous interaction among peoples and cultures in all realms of human endeavour and at all levels – local, national, regional and international. The overall objective would be to respond to the need and demand for an inclusive global forum and platform for cross-sectoral policy dialogue, conducted in an open multi-stakeholder and transparent manner, on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) for enhancing the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), notably reduction of poverty. The common values of the Millennium Declaration provide the foundation for collective action by all stakeholders.

Against this backdrop, a global forum was organized in the framework of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), in partnership with interested initiatives, on the promotion and inculcation of these values and principles and lending them practical expressions in the actions of governments, civil

society, the private sector and individuals across the globe as a multi-stakeholder forum. The event on our Common Humanity in the Information Age strove to promote ownership of the Summit by people all over the world. The book is an attempt to raise awareness of the core values of the Millennium Declaration as they relate to the MillenniumDevelopment goals.

PREFACE

H.E. Martti Ahtisaari, Former President of Finland, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo

I would like to express my profound interest in the topic of “Our Common Humanity in the Information Age” as it goes to the basics, the Common Values, which were emphasized in the Millennium Declaration of the 2000 Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit and the role ICT can play in disseminating these ideas especially among the youth. Only if the new generations embrace the notion of establishing principles for the protection of our common humanity, can the human species be safe.

At the event I was especially delighted to see how many different organisers joined hands in organizing this conference. I believe in co-operation and see it as the key to maintaining and creating conditions for sustainable development.

In this preface I will emphasize the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in improving the capabilities of the international community to achieve development goals, promote peace and prevent conflicts. A crucial factor behind the use of ICTs both in development work and crisis management is an effective, multi-stakeholder co-operation. I will outline areas where the use of ICTs can improve the effectiveness of crisis management operations and thus create conditions for sustainable security and development.

The use of ICTs is widely seen as having a positive effect on economic growth and development. ICTs are seen as boosts of productivity, creators of opportunities for business, facilitators of trade and co-operation between developed and developing countries.

I wish to highlight the importance of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process in bringing together key actors in the field of information and communication technologies and development. The goal of the process has been to address the usefulness of ICTs in promoting the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. This process has shown how Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can be brought on the common, multi-stakeholder agenda and how using ICTs can bring transparency and efficiency to the work of the international community. What I still

would like to see more in the WSIS agenda are suggestions on how to improve the participation of women in information societies. I see that in order for us to talk about implementing MDGs in a credible way, we have to ensure equal possibilities of men and women to take part in this work.

The WSIS was also the first World Summit which recognized the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, inter alia, negatively affects achieving development goals like MDGs. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict peace-building and reconstruction. Paragraph 36 of the Tunis Commitment approved by the WSIS, can now be used as a reference for practitioners and advocates using ICT to promote peace.

I see a strong link between sustainable development and sustainable security. Peace is a necessary prerequisite for social and economic development. Crisis Management Initiative, an NGO which I chair, is working to enhance the capabilities within the international community to encourage equitable development in order to respond to challenges of sustainable security. For the past few years one of the key areas in the work of Crisis Management Initiative has been to promote use of ICTs in humanitarian assistance and crisis management.

When talking about crisis management I think it is vital to understand the contexts in which current crisis and conflicts are managed.

Today the international community is responding to an increasing number of political conflicts. The interventions have become even more complex extending from peace-enforcement to peace-keeping, from policing to nation building and from humanitarian relief to reconstruction and development. Because of the width of this challenge, the crisis scene is crowded with multiple mediators, civilian agencies, military crisis management forces, development agencies, NGOs, the media and private business, all seeking to make a change.

In many cases, organisational relations and responsibilities are not clearly delineated – such as in the relations between military and civilian operators in both national and international emergencies. Since no single authority exists that can manage the various responders to crises, international peace-building efforts are often confused, difficult and even chaotic in the field.

Lessons learned from crisis management operations outline the need for multi-stakeholder co-operation. Increasingly, different actors of the crisis management community have recognised the benefits of co-operation to outweigh the costs. Multinational systems like the UN and regional organisations such as European Union, OSCE, NATO and African Union are in key positions to deal with current threats to security and development. I wish to see these organisations working together coherently, effectively, complementing and supporting one another. I also would like to see a transatlantic co-operation between EU and NATO. Their collaboration is a core element of an Atlanticism based on effective multilateralism.

In order for this multi-stakeholder co-operation to be credible and effective, it has to include civil-military co-operation at all levels. What is more, awareness needs to be raised among the crisis management community on the value that the involvement of civil society has in promoting human security.

Crisis Management Initiative together with partners, such as the ICT4Peace Foundation, of which I chair the Policy Advisory Board, have worked in the last few years to highlight the added value of using ICTs in crisis management and to increase the professionalism of crisis management operations. This has been achieved through better co-operation and co-ordination between different actors. What we have witnessed is that information does play a vital role in humanitarian assistance and crisis management.

Our two organisations stand ready to work together with the UN, international organisations, NGOs, business community, military and local actors to bring about an international commitment and consensus for improvements in interoperable use of ICTs in promoting peace and preventing conflicts. Particular attention needs to be paid to work for conflict situations through early warning systems, to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, to support humanitarian action, to facilitate peacekeeping missions, and to assist and support post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. We are proposing a UN-led international process to bring about these improvements through a political process.

To conclude, I will outline shortly how the use of ICTs and the multi-stakeholder co-operation between private sector and other actors in crisis management can improve the effectiveness of the work of the international society in several different areas.

Effective use of ICTs can help to provide access to critical, real-time information, which is crucial in timely and appropriate decision-making in crisis situations. ICTs have also proven to be valuable tools in creating institutional memory of crisis management operations which are often characterised by a rapid turnover of staff. ICTs help to

facilitate sharing of information and communication amongst multiple organisations and agencies working in crisis management and thus increase the multi-stakeholder coordination. Proper use of ICT would also have a great impact in improving situational awareness in crisis environment where dozens of actors work without knowing enough about each other's activities. The lack of information sharing and associated tools have been noted as key contributing factors in some of the recent incidents resulting in death or injury of international personnel. The concerted use of ICT in crisis management can improve the safety and security of all crisis management personnel in crisis areas. Functioning information sharing between organisations improves situational awareness and creates opportunities for early-warning on threats and prevention of conflicts.

I would like to underline that using ICTs are not aims themselves, but means to support the achievement of political objectives, the protection of humankind, to encourage multi-stakeholder co-operation and to create conditions for peace and development.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator, Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), United Nations

I can say without hyperbole that the event on “Our Common Humanity in the Information Age” was special in many ways. We gathered together a truly unique set of diverse, high-level participants and an audience composed of people from all walks of life. This forum provided a rare opportunity to step back and take a global view, highlighting the foundations that constitute the core values of our common humanity that underlie much of the work of the entire UN system. It also presented an opportunity to portray the link between those values and the concrete Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which, in essence, form the roadmap for achieving our common humanity. It is our hope to make this event a force for mobilizing values for our common humanity for a better future.

An ambitious agenda, a range of issues that spans the whole of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by heads of state in the year 2000, setting out “the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century,” as well as of many of the other conferences and summits convened by the UN system were covered.

The meeting also aimed to revive the spirit of cooperation through:

- Sending a message that the global community is one family with common values and promoting the concept of equity and fairness by creating a level playing field through widespread use of ICT.
- Strengthening the United Nations as a positive force for good, based on inclusion and partnership.
- Promoting global public goods, especially access to information and ICT – whose benefits reach across borders, generations and populations, including equity, eradication of diseases, environmental sustainability and peace and security.
- Building awareness that the ecological balance of the planet is fragile and is easily compromised by common threats to mankind, such as poverty, climate change,

global warming, natural disasters, famine and conflicts and, if there is no effort to deal with these threats, our common destiny is at stake.

The meeting elicited strong and widespread interest among diverse stakeholders, most of them exposed to the values and MDGs for the first time. It was seen as an encouragement, promotion and revival of the idea of dialogue, communication, mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation among peoples of different origins and cooperation against threats to humanity, such as poverty, natural and man-made disasters, terrorism, wars, conflicts and diseases, with a view to facilitating global dialogue and forming partnerships. The stakeholders addressed broadly the challenges of globalization and the common destiny of human beings as neighbours on this planet and identified the global challenges that need to be addressed with common values and shared goals embodied in the United Nations Development Agenda. We have aimed to bring a truly diverse set of viewpoints and experiences to the podium in order to stretch our minds and inspire us to strive harder to fulfill the values we have been challenged to uphold.

The eminent speakers, who represent the areas of science, technology, arts, architecture, entertainment, sports, literature, religion, policy making, and young thinkers, discussed the issues together. The book therefore captures the spirit of diverse views as expressed by the speakers that paint a colorful yet composite picture of our common humanity.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, United Nations

The topic of this book is “social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,” to use the noble words of the preamble to the United Nations Charter. The book is organized around the six core values that form the basis of the Millennium Declaration, adopted by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These six core values are freedom, solidarity, equality, tolerance, respect for nature and our shared responsibility, and each will serve as the basis for a chapter.

More than forty years ago, in 1962, then-Secretary-General U Thant warned that an explosion of violence could occur as a result of the sense of injustice felt by those living in poverty and despair, in a world of plenty.

Today, both the risk and the potential for a solution have increased. Information technologies bring to our living rooms, and even our breakfast tables, glimpses of events from every corner of the globe. More people, in more places, know what is possible, and what is possible for each and every person has expanded almost exponentially.

Information technologies can help us to overcome the obstacles to development caused by isolation and by lack of information. Or they can contribute to a world where the rich get richer, while the poor and the disenfranchised fall further behind.

If we are to ensure that the noble aims of the Millennium Declaration are to be met, and that the tools we now have at our disposal are put to best use, we must think clearly, work cooperatively and build creative partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

* * *

In the introductory chapter, “Our Common Humanity in the Information Age”, Professor Jeffrey Sachs covers the whole spectrum of issues, challenges and solutions in the area. “Millennium Development Goals Partnerships” by H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa looks at the issues from the United Nations perspective, whereas in “ECOSOC’s Role in

Our Common Humanity in the Information Age”, H. E. Ambassador Ali Hachani looks at the role of ECOSOC in dealing with the Millennium Declaration and MDGs.

In “Technology and Humanity”, Louise T. Blouin Mac Bain explains the pros and cons of a connected world. “Combating Human Trafficking and Slavery” by Julia Ormond addresses the difficult and in most times invisible problem of slavery as it continues in the modern world. In “Digital Divide & Our Common Humanity”, Katherine Sierra addresses the need to increase the accessibility of developing countries to end the digital divide.

OUR COMMON HUMANITY IN THE INFORMATION AGE

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director, United Nations Millennium Project, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

Our common humanity in the information age, and particularly the use of information technology for economic development, is an issue of pressing importance. We have been talking about the issue for a long time, but we haven’t solved it yet. I want to discuss some very practical solutions that I hope we can push forward in the area of using ICT to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

For three years, the UN Millennium Project, on behalf of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, worked with scientists, engineers and development practitioners around the world to try to identify the reasons why certain parts of the world are still trapped in extreme poverty, at a time when so much of the world is surging forward. We have to understand those basic reasons before we can make a proper diagnosis and a proper set of prescriptions for moving forward.

After all, extreme poverty is not the norm on the planet, it is increasingly the exception. Economic stagnation or decline is also not the norm, but fortunately increasingly the exception as well. Hundreds of millions of people are being lifted out of extreme poverty and all of this gives an opportunity for us first to learn some lessons of success and to better identify some parts of the world are struggling to so remarkably and profoundly, with the epicenter of the development challenge remaining in sub-Saharan Africa.

We tried our best in the Millennium Project to examine that, and we found that the major differences between success and failure were not overwhelmingly due to politics or governance. We found that certain structural conditions with a very powerful weight were causative of the trap of extreme poverty in many parts of the world. We found four kinds of structural conditions that seemed to be pervasive and of significant quantitative importance.

First, places that have not achieved an agricultural breakthrough, a so called Green Revolution, almost invariably were trapped in extreme poverty. One of the biggest differences between Asia and Africa in the last forty years is that Asian farmers, including small holder farmers, achieved an increase of crop yields from about 1 ton per hectare 40 years ago to around 3 or more tons per hectare today. African farmers are still achieving only about 1 ton per hectare today. Africans are hungry, Africans are not able to produce adequate amounts of food to keep families alive, to keep children healthy, much less to earn a surplus and achieve economic development. There are a lot of reasons for that, including the greater difficulties of farming in Africa. The depletion of soils, the economic isolation of rural communities, and the climate are factors, but in essence they all come down to extreme poverty itself as preventing small holder farmers from getting access to the basic inputs that they need to be more productive.

Second, we found that the burden of disease was a fundamental determinant of stagnant progress and that ecologies that were conducive to higher disease burdens, such as African malaria ecology or other tropical disease ecologies in Africa, were fundamental reasons for the persistence of poverty. Again we found that there were practical approaches to alleviate the suffering because in almost all cases -- whether it is the problem of malaria, AIDS, TB, respiratory infections that kill nearly two million children a year, parasitic infections, undernourishment, mothers dying in childbirth -- there are easy solutions.

Third, we found that economic isolation was a huge factor in outcomes. In almost any part of the world, communities living in the mountains, living in landlocked regions, living far from coasts and navigable rivers have a harder time achieving economic development than populations living near the coast, near major navigable rivers, or along trade routes. This is not surprising but it's often neglected by politicians and policy-makers. The U.N. has always been very clear on this point - about the special needs of landlocked countries, about the special needs of remote small island economies that face particular vulnerabilities. Economic isolation is a huge force for stagnation and for the poverty trap. It happens that in large parts of Africa, for example, population densities are higher at high elevation and in the interior of continent than they are at the coast because

farm conditions are much better at the higher elevations. This has led hundreds of millions of people to move to the interior of a continent that is otherwise difficult to reach from the point of view of trade routes and communication.

Fourth, we found that natural hazards -- droughts, floods, El Ninos, tropical typhoons and hurricanes, seismic events -- are all additional major risk factors not only for immediate crises, but also for long-term development.

Addressing these specific underlying structural challenges that are trapping whole regions in extreme poverty requires very practical interventions and investments that can address these burdens and barriers. In agriculture, there is plenty of evidence that African crop yields could be tripled, or more, in a short period of time, if farmers were availed of the basic inputs that they need for high productivity agriculture. It is absolutely clear that low cost interventions are available to save millions of lives every year, to help communities to free themselves of the horrors of malaria, AIDS, TB, diarrheal disease, respiratory infections, other preventable diseases, micronutrient deficiencies, mothers dying in childbirth, are all absolutely necessary. These conditions need practical, low-cost interventions that have been proven for decades, but which simply do not reach the poorest of the poor now. There is a wonderful paper from the World Bank which has done a superb analysis of where a road network ought to be placed in Africa, because there are no roads from East to West. The analysis shows that trade would be multiplied enormously if it were actually possible to have low-cost exchange of goods. Information technology has the lowest cost for access right now – that’s where the true revolution has to come.

Similarly, hazards are predictable to some extent. We have increased climatological knowledge on how to anticipate the kind of El Nino which is now causing floods in East Africa. El Nino was forecast several months in advance, but was that forecast meaningfully used to identify risks, to pre-position supplies, to help communities face the kind of challenge that would likely arise? The general answer is “no, not to any significant extent”. Information technology can play a pivotal role in every one of those areas: for improved farm productivity, for health care, for breaking economic isolation, for disaster preparedness.

I have seen every one of these demonstrated to an extraordinarily powerful extent within the last few months. I was in a very poor village in Tamil Nadu just a couple of months ago where a farm IT kiosk has been established to help farmers identify which markets to use for selling crops. It’s not a theory, they’re doing it every day, and it has tremendously increased their effectiveness in marketing their crops. And it’s a little kiosk almost in a

rural area, with many farms around. The farmers come and use very low cost commercial programs. This is an area where every one of the information and communication technologies is absolutely pivotal. A cell phone, which is probably the most revolutionary of all ICT technologies, becomes the 911 service for a village. With one truck somewhere within ten or twenty kilometers and with a plan, as all of a sudden one can take care of emergency medical deliveries. Who is doing it right now? A few communities. Who could do it? Virtually everyone, everywhere.

The amazing thing about cell phones is that they essentially work everywhere, even where people are too poor to have cell phones. In the villages where we were working in Africa, my cell phone works just fine. Nobody has a cell phone around. But with a little bit of investment, we can have a cell phone with a truck driver, with a community health worker, with a teacher, to change the life of these villages. And it does not take everybody having the connection; it takes one person who can reach of everybody else. Telemedicine is another obvious area where a tremendous amount can be done using ICT.

When it comes to isolation, clearly, the beautiful thing about ICT is that you do not even need the road, so virtually every place in the world can be on an inexpensive cell phone. Literally every place in the world can be on broadband by putting up a VSAT and just pointing the dish in the right direction. And that costs about \$10,000 right now for a village of 5,000 people. It is maybe \$2 per capita lasting for many years.

The realistic costs of getting everybody on-line are tremendously low. We talk a lot about it, but we haven't done it yet. The ability to make a breakthrough here is profound. New satellite services dedicated to data transmission for climatology information is just one of many examples where IT services, whether it is e-mail, cell phones or more sophisticated ICT, can be used for disaster preparedness, disaster relief, or more basic prevention against hazards. Information technology is a lot like treating malaria or a lot like helping farmers with inputs, in that the tools are proven and have been applied in hundreds or thousands of small-scale cases. Yet, they do not reach all who need them.

Africa still lacks a submarine fiber-optic cable up the East Coast. This is really a huge tragedy. It is the last part of the world that does not really have access to fiber optics right now. So if you want to do broadband from East Africa, you have to do it by satellite rather than by connectivity to the backbone or the global internet. This adds costs and reduces service availability. There has been discussion for years, of course. There was the idea of a loop around Africa – Africa 1 – but that project collapsed. A cable did go up to West African Coast successfully and that's changing life and access in West Africa. But

the cable on the East African Coast has not yet been put in place. This is something where the African governments have to agree as it is not really something outsiders can do. It is taking much too long, because there has not been an adequate sense of the urgency or the recognition, perhaps, of all that can be accomplished by improved connectivity. It desperately needs to be done. The talk now is that by 2007-2008 it would be accomplished. The project is in its late stage, but it has been for quite a while, so it has to actually be completed.

A number of research groups have identified the cost of actually providing continent-scale terrestrial fiber optic systems in Africa, and one solid estimate is that for about one billion dollars one could connect all of the major cities of Africa with terrestrial lines. This is an affordable investment, because foreign assistance for Africa is supposed to reach \$50 billion per year by 2010, according to the promises made at the G8 Gleneagles Summit in 2005. One billion dollars for a fiber optic backbone in Africa is not unaffordable, and it is a high priority. We should really be getting a comprehensive program in place, because this would change life everywhere.

Now, while all of that backbone is being done, we have to continue to pioneer on the individual project scale to identify success stories that can then be scaled up, on how to use cell phones to interface with the internet, for example, or for emergency medicine.

I also view the internet as important not only for the information that can be brought in or can be transmitted out, not only for helping to make the connections with markets, but actually as a source of jobs and livelihoods as well. India did it and that is really where the leadership is on creative solutions at village level. One can train large numbers of people with a high school education to provide basic IT services, such as data transcription, data entry, even some graphics and mapping facilities, translation, and other services, that can be sent out on-line, so no roads are required. People can provide these services remotely, from their villages.

E-governance is turning out to be a real source of livelihoods: where local governments with lots of paperwork need to put their records online and outsource that work - not half way around the world but to the village down the road. So a lot of service sector development could take place in the rural areas as well. We have been thinking about villages as agricultural producers and as manufacturers, but we ought to think about villages as making the breakthrough to the service sector as well.

All of this is to say that the importance of our common humanity in the Information Age is tremendous, because of the important general themes, but also because there is so much good that can be accomplished. The links between ICT and achieving the

Millennium Development Goals are not theoretical or remote, they are absolutely direct. They should be part of anybody's projects right now. That kind of empowerment is about as powerful as it gets to break isolation and deliver and transmit information with a remarkable effectiveness that we could not even have imagined until recently.

I conclude by saying that the Millennium Development Goals, which are arriving at their halfway mark between the start date of 2000 and the end date of 2015, are still within reach. We have pushed a lot of ideas that haven't gone into implementation, but 2007 to 2015 is time enough, because our tools are very powerful and the information and communication platform expands our power enormously.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PARTNERSHIPS

H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the United Nations General Assembly

In this era of globalization, changes are taking place at a tremendous speed. Despite growing global interdependence, sharp social and economic disparities persist. Many poorer nations are becoming increasingly more vulnerable. The rise of terrorism and the threat of global pandemics demonstrate that the new global challenges know no borders. Environmental degradation, global warming and climate change pose threats to agricultural productivity and food security creating greater uncertainty for the poorest and most vulnerable. In 2005 World leaders reiterated their commitment to tackling these challenges and promoting freedom, human rights, and a more secure world. They also, reiterated their commitment to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Achieving the MDGs by 2015 is the greatest gift we could give to humanity.

We now have the necessary tools to realize our shared goals. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have an important role to play. Through ICT one can reach across borders, generations and populations; raise awareness and have practical benefits on the ground; provide a voice for marginalized groups and create global human networks for development. For example, ICT has the potential to link poor rural farmers to international markets or local environmental activists to a global community of advocates.

Our message is simple: if we remain committed, we can overcome the challenges we face and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015. In a global world multilateralism is indispensable. That is why we need a strong United Nations at the heart of our efforts. The UN alone possesses the political legitimacy and authority to address global challenges. But these issues cannot be dealt with by the UN alone; all sectors of society have a crucial role to play.

The development goals of Member States will only be achieved if the private sector, civil society and governments are fully engaged. The UN must therefore continue to play a critical role in fostering global and local partnerships. That is why on 27th of November 2006, the General Assembly held an informal debate on development, including the private sector and civil society, to ensure a broad discussion. It was a very fruitful meeting that examined how to forge a stronger partnership between civil society and the UN. We heard that it was time for action on the ground, time for new partnerships, and time to deliver on our commitments and promises. Indeed, delivering our development goals will help to make the world a safer, more stable and prosperous place for all.

Let us send a strong, unified message to the world: that the global community is one family, with common values and ideals. Today we can reaffirm the Millennium Declaration's call for "broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity".

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL'S ROLE IN OUR COMMON HUMANITY IN THE INFORMATION AGE

H.E. Ambassador Ali Hachani, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

The work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields is an incarnation of "our common humanity". For example, the agenda of the Economic and Social Council connects social development, gender equity, poverty eradication, sustainable development and other major contemporary issues that are all the expression of a search for increased freedom, solidarity, equity and shared responsibility at the global level. The ethical dimension of our work should not be underestimated. However, in order to move our agenda ahead and to achieve better results in our common objectives, we should become imbued with these values and use them as guiding principles towards a better world.

As the Secretary-General said in his report entitled “In larger freedom” and as recognized by the World Leaders at the 2005 Summit, freedom has to be considered both in its political and security dimension, “freedom from fear”, but also in its economic and social dimension, “freedom from want”. In today’s world, over a billion people still live on less than a dollar a day and each year, eleven million children die before reaching their fifth birthday. At the same time, the world has the resources and technology to free the human race from want. Our efforts should therefore focus on making the right to development a reality for everyone. The value of solidarity is to be emphasized in this regard.

The Economic and Social Council is deeply involved in the promotion of fairness and solidarity in international economic relations. In addition to its coordination and policy role in the economic and social field, for which it is a pillar of the United Nations machinery, it has been mandated by the leaders of the World to review the implementation of the commitment made at the United Nations Conferences and Summits, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to establish regular forums to promote and improve international development cooperation. The fact that an intergovernmental body has a clear competency to monitor and assess development performances and results, including the efficiency of development support, is a major step forward. No doubt that ECOSOC in its sessions in the years ahead will enable us to measure the extent to which our values influence our policy decisions and to advocate for more resolute actions towards the principles of our common humanity. Let me also mention the need to connect more directly the search for peace and the actions taken to improve the economic and social conditions of our peoples. The two no doubt go together and are mutually reinforcing. Freedom and tolerance without solidarity and shared responsibility would not solve contemporary challenges, which are complex and multidimensional in nature.

The topic of Our Common Humanity in the Information Age rightly connects values to the opportunities provided by information and communication technologies. ICTs have the potential to leapfrog development performances in many regions of the world, thus generating important opportunities. International institutions like the United Nations and its Economic and Social Council, in particular, have a responsibility to ensure that these opportunities are not missed. My country, Tunisia, has been highly involved in the World Summit on the Information Society by hosting the second phase of the Summit in Tunis last year. The Economic and Social Council will review the implementation of the Summit outcomes, while the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, is strengthened in order to continue the consideration of policy issues in this field

I am convinced that our common values will not flourish without a genuine spirit of partnership among the various actors of the development process. The Economic and Social Council has always played a leading role in that respect, including by consulting and opening its deliberations to accredited non governmental organizations, a pioneering approach, which has inspired many initiatives since then. In deed, the spirit of inclusiveness is another value that could be discussed at this meeting as a most appropriate approach to building a common humanity.

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY

Louise T. Blouin Mac Bain, Chairman and Founder, Louise T. Blouin Foundation

On November 29th 1929, Byrd flew for the first time over the South Pole. The headlines then were full of wonder. The frontier of human achievement opened to an applauding world. But today, 75 years after Byrd first surveyed it from the sky, the South Pole shrinks and thins as a result of human action. Perhaps this offers a lesson for the future. So often we are dazzled by the great strides of invention, but we easily neglect the slow march of decline.

Today, it is a world of geo-economics, geo-technology, geo-politics and geo-environment. Governments, corporations and citizens are required to learn a new art: balancing local needs and national identity in an international world. Not only are we challenged to think more globally, but also long term. Out of sight is no longer out of mind. The world lives in a more precarious balance, with a thinner margin of error. Like chaos theory, where butterflies' wings start hurricanes, today cartoons start riots. And today, with the Middle East at the front of all our thoughts, we see the precarious balance of the situation in Israel/Palestine. All of our futures will be defined by how we respond to this issue. The need for a solution has never been more urgent and the price of failure never more costly.

This new global proximity brings into a greater focus the gaps between societies. We may have flattened the economies of our world, but the valleys between cultures – between rich and poor – are deeper than ever. Within this context, we face a dilemma identified long ago by Einstein: how do we stop our technology exceeding our humanity? This dilemma could not be more important when we consider the internet. A digital divide threatens us all. Both between rich and poor, but also in testing our values:

pornography and violence are the underside of the web. A new generation of children has grown with entirely new stimuli from the internet, yet we know so little about the effect of this new world on the brain. Terrorists use the internet like caves, hiding in uncharted locations. We can swap recipes for bombs as easily as recipes for cakes. So although we so rightly celebrate the breakthroughs of our age, we must ask ourselves a question: are we googling while Rome burns?

We must realise the other side of the role of the internet which offers a greater opportunity to unite and understand than any tool in history. Dialogue is so easy now. Schools in Beijing talk to Berlin, the stories of the world are shared on the web. A new global conversation offers extraordinary possibilities to reach out to those furthest away.

If we can live second lives on the internet, surely we can create games that encourage cultural understanding and enhance creativity? The democratization of knowledge of the internet can build bridges of trust. And we can create stronger security – to protect both our children and our identities.

Our Foundation is working with the OECD and major universities on developing a better understanding of cultural dialogue to design new education systems that enhance creativity, and we are working on TV and internet projects to further some of these solutions. The great prize of the internet is to create the most powerful tool for generating empathy that the world has ever seen. This is our next challenge. We need technology not just to take us to the skies. We need it to understand the world we share with others. We need it to be the foundation of our common humanity. Establishing this foundation can only partially be the responsibility of political leaders, who are too often bound by short-term national agendas.

We turn to the UN to approach today's global challenges and ask it to take a more important role than ever: to preside over the common hopes of this fast-moving world. Yes, technology can help to close the gaps of the world, but it must be built on respect, humility, and love of our neighbours. Let us march together towards a composition of a more peaceful world, where our differences will continue to nourish our souls for the future of our grandchildren. The United Nations is the hope and the home of the dialogue of the world.

COMBATting HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

Julia Ormond, Actress, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador

One of the most basic aspects of recognizing our common humanity is the abolition of slavery and human trafficking, which is a subject very close to my heart. As the Goodwill Ambassador for the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, I recently had the opportunity to visit Ghana, India, Cambodia and Thailand.

We applaud all the outstanding efforts to combat modern day slavery, passage of the landmark Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Law by the US Congress, and subsequent legislation, and are grateful to the United States government for providing, in 2005 alone, over \$25 million in voluntary contributions for UNODC's work, of which over \$2 million were allocated for our anti-human trafficking efforts. In the words of Hermann Melville: "We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results."

So I have learned that in the realm of trafficking, the solutions lie in finding culturally appropriate answers that reflect not only a country's present circumstance, but specifically embrace that culture's history and often, our intertwined histories.

On my recent trip to India, I learned about the different ranges of debt bondage and how it keys into trafficking and modern-day slavery, that bondage in India exists at different levels, and as opposed to debt, it is illegal. Culturally, however, even in its most severe form, the practice often is not regarded as slavery. Thankfully, India now is enjoying enormous economic expansion, overcoming the aftermath, for instance, of British Colonial policy, which has hugely contributed to India's current challenges and relationship to trafficking and modern-day slavery.

The 2000 U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime contains the anti-trafficking protocol which lays out a holistic strategy referred to as the "Three Ps": prevention, protection and prosecution. And to this list, I would like to add my own fourth "P": prioritization.

Of course, I am on a learning curve as the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador. However, in a short amount of time, one crucial reality has become clear to me: governments – and

only governments – are uniquely situated to reverse the course of trafficking. Thousands of extraordinary NGOs [non-governmental organizations] are providing incredibly effective rehabilitation for the victims. And while they can be supportive, they cannot attack the problems at the source in the same way the governments can.

We know that trafficking involves millions of people and produces billions of dollars, rivaling the drug trade. We also know that criminals are shifting from the trafficking of weapons and drugs, into the trafficking of people – especially children – because it is easy to get away with. And unless we prioritize, the traffickers will profit.

While we commit to the eradication of global poverty, the lack of economic opportunity and lack of free education worldwide remain key contributory factors. For example, in recent years Thailand has made great strides to offer and sustain girls' education, which greatly has reduced the number of Thai girls falling victim to trafficking. However, the hill tribes in Thailand remain especially vulnerable due to an inability to speak Thai, which hugely impacts educational options. Many women globally believe that they are departing for better opportunities and promises of decent salaries as household help, waitresses, or teachers. Instead, they end up forced into prostitution.

Part of my role as Goodwill Ambassador is to talk to victims, when they are willing, about their experiences. In Cambodia and Thailand, I spoke with many such women, children and men – the vast majority of whom had specifically been trafficked into forced prostitution. The conversations always are painful. I believe though, that it's important to appreciate the level of abuse that virtually always goes hand-in-hand with being trafficked.

The reality is that not everyone survives this ordeal. These people often are functionally invisible. They can lack either birth records or citizenship, meaning they can lack legal status in a country. Not surprisingly, invisible people are incredibly disposable. Victims and survivors and NGOs ask that I carry their message to others that may be in a position to effect change.

I met with many girls and women from shelters – some so young that it was hard to comprehend their fate. Girls as young as five, seven and twelve years old, who had been victims of rape, then sold into prostitution. There is a specific phenomenon in this era of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Clients seeking HIV-negative assurances will pay large sums to buy very young girls, who are promised to be virginal. Over the period of a week, these girls are raped repeatedly by their client. The girls then are returned to the brothel, only to be taken to clinics where they are sewn up and sold again, as many as eight or nine more times before entering a life of forced prostitution.

Other girls talked of being chained by their relatives in order to force them to enter marriage or prostitution. Some NGOs in one Asian country reported that it is common for girls to be electrocuted, drugged, beaten with or without instruments. One girl lost a finger for supposedly not satisfying a client.

It is common to be stripped naked and caged with snakes and insects, such as scorpions and millipedes, placed not just in the cage with them, but into their mouth and private parts as punishment. These girls often die from the stings and bites.

I believe it is worth reminding ourselves that this is what is termed as “force” and “coercion” in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. And it is worth our absorbing that reality for the individuals concerned. Sexual abuse is often present in many different types of trafficking. One of the last girls I met with in India had been trafficked into domestic service. She is twelve. She is the victim of rape by five different men. She is seven months pregnant.

Trafficking is not just women and girls, there are many male victims too. In Thailand, I spoke with a boy who had been trafficked into the fishing industry. He escaped by spending two days floating at sea on a barrel before luckily being rescued.

In India, I met with boys who were trafficked into the carpet loom industry. One particular boy had been enslaved for ten years, since he was five years old. He showed me scars from beatings with implements from when he had tried to escape. He told of having a cut finger placed in boiling water in place of proper medical treatment.

In Ghana, I recently visited Yeji and worked with a local NGO called Apple, which investigates the child slavery around Lake Volta and the fishing villages. Children, some as young as four years old, are made to dive in dangerous and extremely cold water to untangle nets. They are beaten with oars when they surface for breath, and then they are forced to dive again. One recalled intense memories of his nose bleeding because he was forced to dive deeper and deeper. Another described how he would calm the fish by placing his fingers in their eye sockets and pressing, and how to avoid getting your fingers trapped in the gills, or the fish could overpower you and may drown you. When I asked him how big the fish were, his arms spread wide. I think we need to imagine that life.

Someone said to me that if people aren't finding evidence of trafficking, then they are not looking. It is everywhere, and it affects us all. But this is not yet another global problem that cannot be solved. I don't want anyone to leave believing that there are no solutions.

There are fantastic models out there, and they are working. Business communities and NGOs are stepping up to take responsibility.

The Cocoa Protocol, put together by Free the Slaves, demonstrates the cocoa industry's commitment to bringing slave-free labor practices to the Ivory Coast and Ghana. Microsoft's initiative of worldwide training for police on computer-facilitated crimes against children is another excellent initiative.

Close to 1,000 children have been released from Lake Volta. In Cambodia, the NGO called Hagar provides such a fabulously comprehensive approach – showing that rehabilitated victims can take on skills training and work in profitable businesses, from design to catering to soy product manufacturing, to such a successful degree that they now sell some of their products in Neiman Marcus. Hagar also helped an eleven-year old girl stand before a judge and send her trafficker to prison for seventeen years.

Nothing is more moving to me than the resilience and spiritual strength shown by victims. Those girls who suffered mercilessly have been helped to re-find their voices and joyfully sing about walking into the light. The terrifyingly young girls whose virginity was repeatedly stripped from them have found the dignity and grace to sing of the flowering that is our passage to womanhood.

We, as men and women, must do everything in our power to support the shelters' work, and make it the safety-net for victims – not rely on the victims to deliver the solution of piece-meal prosecution. The media has played a phenomenal role in bringing this issue to the public's attention. So often issues do not get traction because politicians feel that the public hasn't shown that it cares enough. But the media has ensured that the public knows about this issue, and the public definitely cares.

We must appreciate that while modern-day slavery and trafficking is a global issue, it is also in our backyard. We must make prevention of trafficking a priority. We must focus on solutions. And we must allocate the resources needed to achieve the vision allowed by the anti-trafficking protocol. Together we can all achieve these goals – strategically and financially.

DIGITAL DIVIDE & OUR COMMON HUMANITY

Katherine Sierra, Vice-President, The World Bank

It is a pleasure for me to share some thoughts on our common humanity and particularly the role that information and communication technologies can play in enhancing development and fighting poverty.

When the 19th century American philosopher Henry David Thoreau was informed that long-distance telephone communication had been invented, he asked what purpose this would serve. He was told that, for example, New York could now speak to Texas. “What if New York has nothing to say to Texas?” he said. Well, New York had a lot to say to Texas, and now so does Beijing, Sao Paulo, Kampala and Paris, Moscow and Mumbai, the doctor in Lima, and the midwife in a rural community who is attending to a difficult childbirth, and the farmers in rural Africa who want to speak with the exporter in the capital about pricing for their crops.

Communication between people in different parts of the world takes place most easily when the technologies that we now have at our disposal are extended to all. For the past 25 years, we have seen what many people consider to be the greatest advances in communication in the history of the world. It has been a real revolution, but it has also been an unequal revolution.

So what is happening with this revolution? The widespread use of information and communication technologies has democratized access to information to everyone, to everywhere. It has opened up countless opportunities in education, and at same time it has provided new ways of empowerment possibilities for billions of people around the world: from participatory budgeting in Porto Alegre in Brazil to the involvement of communities in controlling public expenditures in the Philippines. New communication technologies have been credited to strengthening accountability in governance systems. Participation in decision-making powered by the new information age is a key component to a comprehensive approach to sustainable development, an approach based on prosperity for all people and the well-being of the planet. Our world is now a global interconnected globe which allows for the creation of open platforms for collective actions on shared concerns. These include poverty, conflict, the issue of slavery, and inequality of opportunities within and among countries. The interconnected society also

contributes to mobilizing institutions, business and civil society for the achievement of our common goals represented by the Millennium Development Goals.

New technologies have allowed issues driven platforms through virtual communities around the world making local and national realities into global causes in unprecedented ways: from the fight against AIDS to climate change, we can now think and act both globally and locally in real time.

The spread of the telephone has been rapid and widespread - more of half the world's population now has access to fixed telephone lines. Mobile telephone subscribers have reached 2 billion people and the mobile footprint now covers 77% of the world's population.

Over the last 25 years, developing countries have considerably increased their access to information and communication technologies, especially for telephone services. Between 1980 and 2005, the number of subscribers has risen by 30 times, developing countries in 1980 only accounted for 20% of world telephone lines. By now it is 60%. This has really been driven by the revolution in mobile telephony as well as by private competition. The growth in access has been particularly remarkable in Sub-Saharan Africa with fixed and mobile telephone density expanded about 1 telephone per 100 people in 1990 to more than 8 in 2005. In rural areas in Burkina Faso in 1990, for example, there were fewer than 7,000 telephones outside the capital city. And today the mobile footprint covers more than 50% of the population outside of Ouagadougou. It is worth noting how developing countries have led the way in the mobile revolution. What can be seen in the south of China is by far the world largest mobile market and there are considerably more subscribers in the developing than in the industrialized world.

Data applications over mobile phone have also spreads rapidly in developing countries. Perhaps 500 billion text messages were sent worldwide in 2004, with developing countries leading the growth of usage. The average Filipino, for instance, sends 10 messages a day, adding up to 55 billion text messages a year. The impact of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for development is clear: an increase of 10 mobile phones per 100 people gives a GDP growth by 0.6%. A 1% increase in the number of internet users increases total exports by 4.3%.

At the same time, we know that the communication revolution continues to be unequal. While the developing world makes huge progress in basic ICT technology and infrastructure, the picture is much more mixed for advanced ICT. Worldwide internet use has more than quadrupled between 2000 and 2005, but the difference in the number of

secured internet services and the availability of e-commerce for developing nations is stark.

While developed nations have more than 300 servers for 1 million people, developing nations have fewer than 2. The digital divide is a reality and we must work to bridge the gap.

Cooperation between governments and the private sector is critical in order to connect those who are still lacking modern ICTs. Cooperation among governmental institutions is essential to extended e-services to the citizens and cooperation across countries is needed to ensure regional access and equity.

Working together, we can bring this future closely to today for the benefit of humanity and our shared values of peace, development and equal opportunity for all.

The World Bank will continue to work with the UN system and partners in the private sector and civil society to achieve this goal.

CHAPTER II

FREEDOM AND DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (GAID), United Nations

Heads of States and Governments at the Millennium Summit recognized the value of freedom, along with other fundamental values and principles, as essential to maintaining international relations in the twenty-first century. They also underscored an important relationship between freedom and development, noting how the value of freedom could be translated to concrete action through the attainment of key objectives enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The Millennium Declaration embraced a broader understanding of freedom, defining it not only in the context of “violence, oppression or injustice”, but also as being the right of men and women “to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger...” In doing so, the Millennium Declaration defined freedom, not only from a political perspective, but also from a development and socio-economic one. Although the relationship between freedom and development has been examined and studied by development practitioners for a long time, the acknowledgement of this relationship in the Declaration reflects the international community’s affirmation of the role of development in preserving and promoting true freedom for people around the world.

During the Summit, governments vowed to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject of dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected”. But enormous challenges lie ahead in breaking the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment.

We live in a world where more than a billion still live on less than a dollar day and suffer under extreme poverty and hunger. In sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, millions of people are chronically hungry; half of children under 5 are malnourished. The spread of diseases also continue to destroy the lives of millions of people worldwide. HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases kill millions of people each year and, in sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS has now become the leading cause of premature death. In the developing world, many people are subjected to poor living conditions, with millions not even having access

to safe drinking water. It is estimated that half the developing world even lack toilets or other forms of basic sanitation.

The Millennium Declaration provides us with the blueprint for action in eradicating poverty and freeing people from dehumanizing conditions of underdevelopment. Governments at the Millennium Summit resolved to create an environment both at the national and international levels that would be conducive to the elimination of poverty and advancing development. They also recognized that developing countries, in particular, small-island developing States and landlocked developing countries, should be supported in mobilizing the needed resources to finance their growth and development. Furthermore, governments have set upon themselves the Millennium Development Goals, which are quantifiable targets that need to be achieved by 2015 in the areas of poverty eradication, universal primary education, child mortality, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, among others.

Governments also recognized that respect for the value of freedom would be incomplete if the rule of law is not strengthened and the fundamental human rights and freedoms of our citizens not recognized. To achieve this, concerted effort to promote democracy and participatory governance, both at the national and international levels, are needed.

Freedom, in a globalized world is the capacity to act within the international society according to one's own determination, within the limits of rules set for all. International organizations have defined common rules that apply to all and within which freedom should be guaranteed. The corollary of this is the freedom of mind, namely its independence from fear or prejudices, which finds a practical incarnation in the protection and promotion of human rights. In a world dominated by high inequalities, freedom from want is important, namely the right to food, water and access to basic services which leads to the Millennium Development Goals.

* * *

In this chapter, "A Historic Perspective on Shared Values" by Stephen Schlesinger recalls the principles underlying the founding of the United Nations, which embodied the promise that humanity's desires could be made achievable through cooperation and the interdependence of nations. In her anecdote in "One Human Family", Katty Kay stresses the importance of Freedom.

"Youth, Information Technologies, Freedom to Access" by Armen Orujyan stresses the need for youth engagement in global governance through vehicles such as young professional advisory boards to key organizations. "A Korean Experience, Promotion of

Freedom” of Jung-Dal Kwon underscores the important role non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have to play in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), describing ways in which his organization is working to extend the social safety network to those people marginalized from the benefits of capitalism.

“Africare and Its Role in Africa” by Julius E. Coles states that development institutions do listen to the desires of those people they aim to help, and that the more free individuals are to express their desire, the more development they can achieve. “Freedom to Teach” by Allan Goodman talks about the difficulties and lack of security to teach in many conflict situations and the role of the Institute for International Education in saving professors and providing them the opportunity to teach again. Uzodinma Iweala in “Concept of Freedom” discusses the concept in its positive and negative manifestations.

A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE SHARED VALUES

Stephen Schlesinger, Historian, The New School University

The goals articulated in the Millennium Development charter “freedom for peace and development; freedom from poverty; freedom from hunger; freedom from diseases; freedom to be educated” are direct descendents of the freedoms about which President Franklin Roosevelt spoke in his famous January 1941 address to US Congress in which he articulated his widely-heralded "Four Freedoms" pledge: the freedom of speech and expression; freedom of religion; freedom from want; and freedom from fear.

Roosevelt's "four freedoms" proclamation led directly to his most notable creation just four years later at the 1945 San Francisco Conference: the United Nations. The UN embodied the notion that these freedoms which all human beings desire can only be achieved through international cooperation and the full interdependence of all nations. And the sole way to reach those goals is through the idea of collective security - all nations coming together to work in partnership for the ultimate dream of peace.

Thus the founding fathers from the fifty states in California in 1945 concentrated on the formal ways that humankind could best accomplish their objectives. First, they set up the Security Council to guarantee the preservation of peace. They gave the Council the necessary authority to end conflicts in every area of the world. Second, they established

the Economic and Social Council to address what they saw as the underlying causes of war, namely impoverishment, disease, lack of education and governmental break-down. Under this umbrella was included the World Bank, the IMF, the UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and related agencies.

Over the past sixty years, the UN has labored under difficult circumstances to work to achieve these aims. Its objective to maintain the peace has not always been successful - witness Cambodia, Hungary, Rwanda, Vietnam, etc. But a study by the University of British Columbia shows a dramatic drop in violence in just the last twenty-five years - a 40% reduction in armed conflicts since 1992. Concomitantly there has been a rise in the numbers of people living under democratic rule (from 33-66% from 1950 to 2000). Meantime, health organizations like WHO have eliminated small pox, almost gotten rid of polio and are working hard on malaria. Now the UN cannot take full credit for all of these achievements, but surely the existence of the UN Charter and its Universal Declaration of Human Rights have together established the base line for societal behavior and have influenced the improvement of governance around the planet. Still the incidence of poverty is a lamentable figure nonetheless: two billion people living on \$2 a day. This has not yet been solved. Kofi Annan recently said that his biggest achievement as Secretary-General was to focus world attention on fighting indigence.

What of the future? The test for Ban Ki-Moon will be to advance the goals of the Millennium Development declaration along the lines of this "freedom" agenda. He will have to first review the recent reforms which the UN adopted in the Fall of 2005. The organization achieved a number of key successes: the Democracy Fund and the Peacekeeping Commission, above all, to help failed states. He should make sure these two ventures work as promised. He will have to make the "responsibility to protect" principle a part of the Security Council's essential tasks. He will have to turn the Human Rights Council into a more responsible body. He will have to push donor nations to give 0.7% of their GNPs to the MDGs. In short, he will have to reassert the "collective security" of the UN mission. All of these measures can, in time, though, fulfill the agenda of the Millennium Development Goals.

ONE HUMAN FAMILY

Katty Kay, Correspondent BBC

Last week I interviewed Mia Farrow who is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. She just returned from Chad and one point during the interview she said to me describing the suffering that she had found in Eastern Chad: “Are we not one human family?” Cynics might dismiss that kind of comment as the pleadings of a bleeding heart, but I think that in this changing globalized world, where communication is moving faster and faster, the cynics are wrong. We are one human family and we need to make sure that in the world of the technology we do not forget members of the family who are getting left behind.

When a young Iraqi woman as Riverbend on her blogsite can communicate instantaneously with a young woman in Kansas - it really shows that the world is shrinking. The risk is that some people are getting left out of the family, are getting left behind in the new technological adventure and we must make sure that this does not happen.

YOUTH, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, FREEDOM TO ACCESS

Armen Orujyan, President, ATHGO International

Students and Young professionals’ engagement in all aspects of global governance is not just cool as it is widely used in political rhetoric but as the current affairs show, necessary. I propose to think of this as a new global movement. I know movement innately asks for emotional attachment, which may possibly cloud people’s judgment, but I am confident that this particular demographic will be able to differentiate emotional attachment from professional aspirations. Notwithstanding, it is my belief that some emotion could be healthy and even encouraged in this instance.

Young people’s energy is overwhelming and their minds flourishing. They are defiant in their actions, yet amenable toward new ideas. Young people’s minds are more

entertaining and original. Overall, young generations are more innovative whereas the senior generations more adaptive.

I propose to focus on action that produces outcome. A very astute friend once suggested that we should keep our focus on achieving outcome rather than action. He could not have been more to the point. Maintaining the focus on outcome rather than just actions is strongly encouraged.

I propose three basic solutions. I trust none of them to be original; but rather, objectives that need instant attention. Moreover, they are all within a possibility to be immediately implemented.

1. We need to have young individuals' engagement on all aspects of global governance.

After all, this is their future – but their future is not set tomorrow its core is set today if not yesterday. Thus, having all major international organizations and institutions establishing young professionals advisory boards could be a step toward this goal. These boards could examine proposed ideas or suggest alternatives.

2. We should seek young people's input and participation in the current development with ICTs.

Why have the young individuals involved? Well, most of the corporate world designs technology while having young people on their mind or the clientele that have synced their culture with tech industry, i.e. young professionals. In addition, Young individuals climb the technology ladder quite aptly. How can we get them participate!?! ATHGO in collaboration with UN GAID is establishing a Global Young Individuals Network with a Center of Excellence to support its works. In addition, ATHGO is developing an Advanced Study Center/Think Tank on IT Development that will be solely run by outstanding and intelligent young professionals. I believe more of these types of engagement opportunities are necessary.

3. Finally, all the MDGs implementation should engross a substantial young people involvement:

I understand that some may think of several limitations to this idea:

a. that the young individuals are not capable to handle the pressure that comes with this responsibility

- b. that the MDGs are not much relevant to this particular demographic
- c. to why burden these young people with these major challenges

I would debate that all the MDGs are relevant to young people more than anyone else – why?! Well let us look at some of the goals:

- i. Primary education – Shapes this particular demographic
- ii. Poverty – Either enhances this group or depletes and exhausts the next generation
- iii. HIV/AIDS - It is the young people that are affected the most; either today or... soon if they survive

And the rest of the Goals follow in sync with these.

To the point of competence, the young individuals are very capable. Our international symposia anywhere in the world we host, display the quality, the energy, awareness, the zeal, and the attentiveness these young people have. They are ready to take on these challenges, they want these challenges, and they will do a better job than the world has thus far without their full involvement. Thus, I propose giving them the opportunity by calling on them, providing them the means, and challenging them, showing them that you really are serious and they will respond. They will make this world a better and a peaceful place to live.

I believe in us, the younger souls – I invite you to do the same. We need our young leaders to be principled people and not ideologues of any persuasion.

A KOREAN EXPERIENCE, PROMOTION OF FREEDOM

Jung-Dal Kwon, President, Korean Freedom League

The Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Governments six years ago advocated a common set of values and principles, including solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, revival of the spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility as fundamental to international relations in the 21st Century.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all NGOs to share and join forces to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promote global public goods through Information Communications Technologies (ICT), whose benefits should reach across borders, generations and populations, increasing equity, eradicating disease, enhancing environmental sustainability, and promoting peace and security.

The Korea Freedom League (KFL) was established in 1954 as a National Movement Organization to protect free democracy, freedom and human rights on the Korean peninsula as well as promote volunteerism in local communities. Since its registration at the UN, we have expanded activities to promote social development, gender equality, and medical services around the world, where volunteering activities geared towards embracing socially estranged people expanding social safety network. The KFL is a member of the Korea Council of Volunteering which is made up of 135 civil societies and NGOs. Through this network, we operate a civic mother volunteer police corps, called “Posuni” in Korean, with 120 thousand members across the country. They mainly do community service, such as caring for lonely seniors or patrolling the community. Since 2001, we have biannually operated the Global Leader Volunteer Program involving university students. These students are dispatched to developing nations to enhance social development, medical care, education, etc. Last year, we launched the Global Emergency Relief and Rescue Corps with 7,000 young members for the purposes of providing emergency relief in global disaster situations.

Comprehensive security covering human rights, environment, poverty, health, and gender have taken priority in the world and KFL would like to achieve these goals.

AFRICARE AND ITS ROLE IN AFRICA

Julius E. Coles, President of Africare

Member governments of the United Nations declared more than six years ago in the UN Millennium Declaration (Resolution no. 55/2) the following values and principles:

“Men and women have the right to live their lives and to raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression and injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights”.

These are all important values that I believe all nations whatever their political or economic system may be, can agree upon. While progress has been made in achieving these universal values, much remains to be done before we can truly say that these values have been fully incorporated into the political systems of all of the countries in the global community. Over the past half century, much progress has been made in spreading democratic and participatory values into the governance system of most countries in the world. Whatever the political system a country may have, most countries have come to the realization that the peoples voices need to be heard as to what they want, need and desire. When governments have not taken the peoples views and desires into account these governments have not survived in the long term and their failure has often resulted in political instability and unrest.

Africare is an international NGO that has been working on the African continent for the past 36 years. During this period we have worked tirelessly to strengthen indigenous civil society organizations and local communities to participate fully in their country's economic and political system. Our overall objective has been to work in development programs, including HIV/AIDS, health, food security, education, water and sanitation, democracy and governance, environment and micro-credit, to improve the overall quality of life of the African people.

During this 36 year period, we have definitely seen a steady trend towards improved governance and democracy on the African continent. From our perspective, these trends have had a direct impact on many of the African countries achieving higher economic growth rate, recently averaging well over 5%. It is interesting to note that these democratic and participatory values have now been incorporated as a part of the values stated in The New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development which has been accepted by all African governments. Indeed, these governments have now made good governance a high priority for their own development agenda. An important symbol of the importance attached to these values has been the establishment of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (ARPM) which monitors whether participating states' policies and practices agree with political economic and corporate norms and standards. Over 20 African countries have already signed up to subject themselves to the new peer review process.

We do not have a great deal of time left to meet the various goals that have been established under the Millennium Declaration. Nevertheless, I believe that it will be essential for the countries of the world to take a giant leap to promote the freedoms called for in this declaration if the nations of the world are to come close to meeting these goals.

FREEDOM TO TEACH

Allan E. Goodman, President and CEO, Institute of International Education

Without freedom, many concepts now in practical service to humankind might not exist. It was no accident, consequently, that when the Secretary General asked the heads of major world universities to gather annually to discuss major global public policy challenges, he chose “academic freedom” for the inaugural meeting. The “freedom to be educated,” to which the Millennium Development Goals refer, is an empty promise if there are no teachers or if their “freedom to conduct research, teach, speak and publish ... without interference or penalty” is in jeopardy.

Scholar rescue has been a part of the Institute’s work since its founding in 1919. Then, scholars were caught in the crossfire of the Bolshevik Revolution. Today they are prime targets of terrorists and regimes who would press into service those who have the knowledge to build weapons of mass destruction. Over the years, we have probably helped some 10,000 scholars to get out of harm’s way and continue their work in a safe place.

I am haunted by one particular period and one list. The period is the early 1930s, when Edward R. Murrow was the Institute’s assistant director and in charge of the Emergency Committee for Displaced German Scholars. He managed to save some 400 scholars. The list included 4 Nobel Prize winners in science, the author Thomas Mann, the composer Bela Bartok, and the philosophers Paul Tillich and Martin Buber.

The list that haunts me is not that one, however. It is the 6,000 names of those who had applied or come to Murrow’s attention. Many – like Albert Einstein -- were helped by other sources, but so many others perished in the holocaust. Think of the kind of books, consequently, that did not get written, or ask yourself this question: Among those lost, were there discoveries of the cures for diseases and problems that still plague us? We will never know.

The list on which the Institute’s Scholar Rescue Fund staff is currently working has more than 1,000 names. Many universities around the world are helping to take in the scholars we save. By increasing attention to the problem, the UN and many others attending this conference are helping to make the world a less dangerous place for scholars. And, in the

process, we are also making sure that no conflict, genocide, or terrorist can succeed in destroying knowledge, which is civilization's best hope for assuring that humanity has a future.

CONCEPT OF FREEDOM

Uzodinma Iweala, Author

Perhaps the most universal of all concepts that underpins our common humanity: freedom.

A while ago, I was in Nigeria watching CNN International with my Uncle. As scenes from America's failed project to export "freedom" and democracy to Iraq scrolled across the screen, my uncle said, "When will the Americans get it? You can't create freedom overnight – certainly not by force." He then went on to say, "And furthermore, what the West considers freedom is not necessarily freedom for all."

What the West considers freedom is based largely on enlightenment philosophies conceived just before and crystallized during the American and French revolutions. It is an idea of freedom that can be traced back to Aristotle's notion that freedom means the ability to engage in entirely voluntary actions. These enlightenment philosophies focus on the individual as the main unit and so argue that individual freedom – rights to life, liberty, and property be respected – indeed worshipped.

Can anybody find too much fault with that idea? After all, it did produce the greatest democratic experiment on earth—the United States. Before the uneasy coalition that was the original 13 colonies declared independence, it had become clear that this glorification of individual freedoms had come at the expense of obligations and responsibility to fellow men. The slaves imported from Africa and their descendants knew and know this all too well. Europe, with its colonization of the rest of the world was perhaps the leader in this hypocrisy.

It is apparent then that somewhere very early on, the idea of individual freedoms became detached from responsibility and obligation to fellow men. Somewhere along the way, the right to freedoms became the right to luxuries. We all know that to maintain their luxuries, societies have been known to sacrifice freedom, theirs and others'.

I would say that what the West exports as freedom to use a buzzword of today—that soft power of fast-food, fast cars for all, is now being rejected as a symbol of oppression. Don't get me wrong; there is not one person on this earth who wouldn't want a life of luxury. However, as people wake up to the fact that those fast cars, that fast-food – more importantly that the resources necessary to create and maintain them have come through exploitation of freedoms around the world – the desire for Western luxury cast as freedom wanes, and a tendency to push the idea of cultural or community freedoms rises.

Do I think this form of freedom is inherently better? Obviously not when in certain societies the rights of women and children come after the needs of men in the community, but I do think that both systems have much to learn from each other—especially when it comes to development.

In his 1953 speech, “Bread and Freedom” Albert Camus says: “If someone takes away your bread, he suppresses your freedom at the same time. But if someone takes away your freedom, you may be sure that your bread is threatened, for it depends no longer on you and your struggle but on the whim of a master. Poverty increases insofar as freedom retreats throughout the world and vice versa.”

Is this not at the root of the Millennium Development Goals, a set of goals designed to reaffirm our commitment to a common humanity? These are incredible goals that must be reached. The only problem is that they will never be reached until we reconsider existing power structures and how they promote and prohibit access to freedom.

In some senses, the way we combat poverty today is an exact expression of Camus “bread depending on the whim of the master.” Powers of the developed world (and I include Western NGOs and movie stars in this category) decide when, where, and how they are going to alleviate the developing world's poverty. All too often, these decisions are made without consulting the most important stakeholders—the poor and very poor who are the intended beneficiaries of this charity. This arrangement seems to ignore the idea of freedom and more importantly its intimate relationship with development. Freedom and development go hand in hand because the first step is the freedom to speak, to articulate and demand that one's basic needs be met. If development means Western aid agencies focusing on what they want to improve instead of what the people have expressed need for, if freedom means NGOs operating in countries with completely expatriate staff, then it is a maintenance of the old structure that subjects freedom to the whim of the master.

Perhaps more importantly, the West should understand that alleviating poverty with one hand while continuously undermining freedoms – individual or communal – in the hopes

of national or corporate interests with the other simply cannot serve anybody. Nobody wants handouts to alleviate the humiliations of suffering caused by exploitation. People want the ability to dictate the courses of their lives—free from poverty AND its causes or masters.

I'll go back to Camus to close. He says “People are well aware that they will be effectively freed from hunger only when they hold their masters, all their masters, at bay.”

CHAPTER III

RESPECT FOR NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

Aliye P. Celik, Senior Advisor, Global Alliance for ICT and Development

In 2000 when heads of states and government gathered at the UN Headquarters in New York and thought about the six fundamental values, essential to international relations in the twenty first century, one of these values was the “Respect for Nature”. Respect for nature recommends prudence in the management of all living species and natural resources in accordance with the principles of sustainable development to preserve the natural resources saying that “the current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendents”.

The Millennium Development goal no 7, that relates to this value, aims at ensuring environmental sustainability. In order to have a sustainable development the current patterns of resource consumption and use need to change. Land degradation, loss of animal species, climate change, desertification need to be stopped and fisheries and marine resources should not be over-exploited.

The rapid urbanization is presenting profound challenges to development. In the world’s growing towns and cities located in developing countries, there is a need to alleviate poverty, provide decent housing, infrastructure, clean water and sanitation. Creating environmentally friendly cities, affordable, decent housing, clean, efficient transportation and safe sanitation is a big challenge.

Deforestation, loss of species and habitats, inefficient use of energy, excessive emissions of carbon monoxide, lack of safe drinking water, sanitation, unsanitary living conditions, increase of slum dwellers are all problems to be addressed.

* * *

The papers in this chapter express the need to preserve natural resources, clean the air, provide sustainable development to preserve human species.

In his paper, “A New Paradigm for Human Transformation: Respect for Nature and Other Core Values in the 21st Century”, Sfeir-Younis states that the development debate is

moving into the debate of values and why our values are not helping us achieve the MDGs. Elisabet Sahtouris, PhD, in her paper “An Evolution Biologist’s Perspective”, blames western science and technology for humanity’s loss of respect for nature and feels that we have paid a heavy price for the technology gains we have made.

In “Respect for Nature, An Architect’s Viewpoint”, Hillier views his field – architecture – as both part of the problem and the solution because there are still enormous buildings being built in ignorance, where how much energy that building will consume or what external challenges it might have to face is not taken into consideration. In “Sustainable Finance”, Julie Fox Gorte talks about the interest of the finance sector in sustainability.

Tensie Whelan of Rainforest Alliance in “Sustainability, One Farm at a Time”, notes that the market is responsible for many of the negative aspects of the current society as when people harm nature it is not because they are essentially bad but because there are pressures on them to do so, thus we need to address these pressures and change them. Roberto Savio in “Nature and Globalization” discusses the paradigm of development, international cooperation, social justice, respect of law and values, versus the globalization related to markets which is not related to values. In “Respect for Nature and Sustainable Development, Deliberations of the Youth Think Tank on Our Common Humanity”, Deepen Shah asserts that the youth is ready and available for the work that needs to be done in environmental protection.

A NEW PARADIGM FOR HUMAN TRANSFORMATION: RESPECT FOR NATURE AND OTHER CORE VALUES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, President, The Zambuling Institute For Human Transformation

Our Common Humanity in the Information Age event has already created a powerful echo of positive energies as a result of your intent, now reaching the hearts and souls of every person in the world.

To me, the unique feature of this meeting is not really to have organized yet another debate on the merits or the state of play as regards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Its merits rest on “a common set of values and principles” that must become the true realization of the Millennium Declaration and its goals. The values and principles

cited are: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and respect for all human rights, respect for nature and shared responsibility, which bring a breakthrough in the thinking about development issues.

It is a breakthrough because more often than not, the attention is only paid to the peculiarities of material instruments or development outcomes, with little attention paid to the ultimate causes and conditions that are responsible for those outcomes. Thus, for example, while it is certainly relevant to focus on poverty as an outcome of development, it is also essential to focus on, and be very clear about, the ultimate causes and conditions of poverty including, also, who creates it, thus, whether we attain the targets set around poverty. It would be different if we base our actions on solidarity and shared responsibility – than letting the values of the market, the values of exclusion and money, dominate the process.

The same applies to the destruction of nature. It is essential to establish the ultimate causes and conditions. And, as seen later on, there is no doubt that our value system plays an essential role in this destruction. A good example is that of pollution. While it is important to focus our attention on the ‘what’ pollution is all about and ‘how much’ pollution is being generated or reduced, it is also essential to focus on who pollutes.

To focus on our value system represents an essential first step in moving towards the root causes of the situational aspects around all the MDGs. The links between the outcomes and the generator of those outcomes is essential and must be made explicit.

This topic is even going one step further, by focusing not only on ‘who’ pollutes, but ‘why’ such a person, group, nation, or any other entity, pollutes. The ‘why’ of pollution opens new understandings of the actors, makes them responsible for the solutions and sheds lots of light on behavioral issues and developmental ones.

Going beyond the ‘why’, suggests that one important reason the MDGs are not yet attained is because the values and principles are neither being self-realized nor practiced yet. Thus, if we all were moved by the values of respect for nature, solidarity, and shared responsibility, for example, most people, countries, corporations, international organizations, and other relevant entities will engage themselves in a different process and will select different instruments and conditions so that these MDGs are fulfilled.

If we add another value, the value of interdependence with all living beings and nature, and we had the full realization of this interdependence, we would not allow nature to be destructed the way we are doing it now. We will soon realize that the destruction of nature is our own self-destruction. Nor we will allow one person in extreme poverty or to

go hungry. Because their state of poverty and hunger greatly affect our own processes of human transformation. But few have indeed realized this value of interdependence.

Thus, this topic has anchored the ‘why’ people or nations do what they do on the nature and self realization of human and spiritual values. These values and belief are supposed to be the ultimate determinant of today’s behavior, decisions and actions around the MDGs. Respect for nature is a value and it must be self realized. It is the insufficient self realization of these values that explains the duality between saying that we embrace those values in our personal life and practicing them in the life of the collective. This duality needs to be exposed and special means are to be developed to get rid of it.

Nevertheless, the new paradigm for human transformation in the 21st century does not end there. One has to go one more step. The full expression of this new paradigm demands that we close an important loop, as if we were going back to the very beginning of my presentation on causes and conditions. In particular, we have to close the gap between our capacities for the self-realization of those human and spiritual values and the nature and scope of development outcomes.

Let me emphasize the word “nature”, or the quality of our outer environment. Which brings us back to the issue of this panel: respect for nature. This next step is to understand that the full self-realization of these values –both individually and collectively—is essentially conditioned, and totally interdependent of, the material outcomes behind the MDGs, like poverty, gender inequality, health, pollution and environmental degradation, and the like.

In other words, this paradigm holds the view that these relationships - outcomes, actors, values and beliefs - are part of a continuum and that they are neither hierarchical nor linear in nature. These relationships belong to singularly and interconnected layers of life’s experiences in the material and spiritual realms.

Furthermore, the above affirms that it is essential that the value of respect for nature, solidarity and shared responsibility be self realized, and that the self-realization is to pass through, and it is interdependent of, the state of the natural environment. Thus, the implication is that if we live, for example, in a decayed natural environment we will never be able to fully realize the outer and inner dimensions and expressions of all the human values that are identified. And, this applies to shared responsibility, solidarity, peace, freedom, love, compassion or any other human and spiritual value. To sum up, it is essential to understand that the quality of the environment greatly defines and influences all our abilities to self-realize our values.

Just think for a moment how would your mind and soul feel when you reach one of those few pristine environments left in the world. Your chest expands, your breath gets deeper, and the clock of life stops to give the right of way to your solidarity, compassion or freedom. By contrast, also think about a process of human transformation in a world that looks like a garbage dump. It will seldom lead to the full self realization of human values.

This connectedness that it is intrinsic to the self realization of values and to the state of our outer environment is true for most, if not all, the human and spiritual values. In many ways, the quality of our outer environment is inseparable of our inner environment. It is like one of my Hindu Teachers once told me: the outer is like the inner and the inner is like the outer. This is why we must not remain on the sidelines when we see how much destruction is caused by the present economic system, accompanied by rapid globalization. It is not just a matter of material welfare but spiritual evolution as well.

Therefore, let us reach an important conclusion that the deficient attainment of the MDGs will, in fact, have a huge impact in the inner and outer processes of human transformation. Concretely, we will never be able to self realize those spiritual and human values if our external environment - nature and all living beings - is inadequate and, as a consequence, we will continue feeding into the systems we live in what we see as a vicious circle of human degradation.

Thus, the violation of human rights, gender discrimination, environmental destruction, inadequate levels of education and health, hunger, high mortality rates, and more, are all like powerful hand brakes to the attainment of higher levels of consciousness and coherence, both by human beings and all living beings.

This is why failing to attain the MDGs is tantamount to keeping the process of transformation and evolution of all living beings to its most incomplete and truncated expressions.

The fact that a person does not see these linkages, or feel nothing about these connections, is not a good reason to invalidate the above proposition. The test is not at the conceptual level. It is all experiential. This theme requires much more explanation, reflection, integration, and mastery. Those who have never felt these connections do not have the moral power to deny or invalidate such interdependence. This is a very complex moment in our human history.

- When the global architecture (international organizations and their policies, programs and processes) seems to be profoundly questioned by a good majority of world citizens.

- When the leadership of the UN has changed, and the political tones and overtones move the attention away from the key daily challenges we are facing today.
- When the criteria and instruments for human transformation are invaded by materialism, and we feel a suffocating gillnet thrown over us by the superpowers and, thus, trapping each and every aspect of our individual and collective lives.

In addition to the above, we all know that:

- This is the time when we have to create the conditions for a great and clear human awakening, to avoid a collective tragedy of significant proportions.
- This is the time when a unique opportunity is in front of us to benefit from as a result of developing a new paradigm; the paradigm of consciousness and collective coherence.
- This is the time when we are called to move into other forms of human interactions and, therefore, also to listen and act differently, which will be either the response to conflict or it will be a reborn as children of peace.

This is a moment of choices. We have to choose individually and collectively.

Nobody can or should choose for us. But, how do we choose the right collective path for human transformation? One traditional way is to base our choices solely on economic and financial grounds. It is also true that the MDGs could actually be attained with an insignificant amount of financial resources. That, within people's realities, within us, there was something more powerful and subtler in attaining those goals, all going far beyond traditional financing issues. Fundamentally, my call was for the self recognition that more money was not the condition for attaining the MDGs, and those who put all their hopes on such idea will witness how those goals will actually never be attained.

We have already spent trillions of dollars in the name of poverty alleviation, and there still are so many people in poverty, going hungry everyday, and suffering from exclusion, ethnic cleansing, diseases, and so much more.

A meal in the mountains of Guatemala costs \$.25 cents. One dollar could eliminate the hunger of four people during a day. And, the monthly income of many of us here in this room may eliminate extreme hunger of many thousands of people. Just by sharing our wealth equivalent to a month salary we could eliminate the suffering of millions of people.

- Is this a utopia?
- Is it an absurd idea to think that we may eliminate the suffering of thousands of people?
- Is it better to wait for development organizations to do so, and shift our collective responsibility to those organizations?

To me, these are not trivial questions.

At the core of these questions is the failure to address ourselves as a collective.

We still see ourselves within the confines of so many physical and non-physical boundaries. Even the very old notion of “Nation States” has to be revisited and brought into the true realities people live in this new millennium.

- A new paradigm must go far beyond national boundaries, because human transformation does not recognize those boundaries.
- A new paradigm must be truly global and founded on the collective because human transformation has a powerful collective nature.

The paradigm we see today is bound to generate conflicts and increase the contradictions between the Charter of the UN and its practices. The symbolic draw down of the Berlin Wall has proven not to be enough to shift human reality to the collective.

- We are not only building more physical walls, but we have become incredibly sophisticated and creative to bring up many walls through economic weapons, financial monopolies, elimination of cultures and languages, and through the thunder that characterizes our consumption society.
- We are creating psychological walls through the invasion of our private lives, the destruction of the family unit, and the artificial creation of human insecurity.
- We are creating all sorts of other boundaries by moralizing to the extreme and, then, embracing fundamentalists principles to dominate decision making even at the science, political, and institutional levels.

As to the role of international development institutions, none of these organizations are truly global, as “the total” of what they do is very much less than “the sums of the parts”.

The fact that we have to plead the donors and other stakeholders in order, for example, to stop the destruction of nature and to eliminate absolute poverty by half is the vivid proof of my statement.

- The fact that we are desperate to have countries to protect their natural environment for the benefit of humanity, as a collective public good, and we often see a very conditioned response, it is also another proof of this statement.

All the larger mechanisms of development are based on 'the country' as its unit of account, and whatever seems to be part of the collective it has either meager resources or does not get done. And, it is a fact that what is allocated into one country does not necessarily results in significant benefits to other countries of the collective as a whole.

We should radically shift our attention - and the attention of the whole United Nations System (UN) - towards a new horizon. A horizon - whose content and scope - must be defined by the self realization of humanistic and spiritual values. Values that are far beyond the material nature of life. Today, our horizon and ethos seem to be based too much on the elements of our material existence and, as such, being material, every aspect of our lives become bounded and limited.

The sky is not the limit any longer. For most people the limit is much closer to where we are standing at this moment. The materialistic values prevailing today are those of possession, competition, exclusion, hoarding, etc., and these continue to dominate us as a human collective. In all of this, the tragedy and human drama is that we repeat the same mistakes, time and time again, until they look like they are not mistakes any longer.

- We accept now that we may live life at higher and higher levels of toxicity and, then, all of us behave like the drunk driver that always insists that he/she can drive.
- We adapt ourselves to pain, suffering, the sub-optimal, and the incomplete and unhappy realities we live in.

We do not address the root causes of our existing pains and sufferings and, instead we treat symptoms at the very surface of our existence. For example, while we know that pollution causes many of our headaches, instead of getting rid of pollution we buy more expensive and stronger pills. And pharmaceuticals thrive as a result of this phenomenon. The same applies to security, now a trillion dollar business. And this is true for other states of our existence.

The question is: to whose advantage is it to have a world at war, to have as many sick people as possible, and to create a lot of insecurity in every aspect of our lives? The simple answer is: those whose business and, therefore, whose profits, depend on war, ill health, and insecurity. The values that must be complemented with the values of love, compassion, caring, sharing, security etc.

The simple advocacy of human values, just for the sake of advocacy, will have no impact in our lives over the longer term. Therefore, we should not only advocate freedom, peace, caring, sharing, compassion, love, etc.; we must also self realize those values to be credible in such advocacy. One should not advocate what one has never experienced.

- We are devaluing our respect for nature, solidarity or freedom when we proclaim it but we, ourselves, are not ‘that’.
- We are devaluing peace, when those who are negotiating for peace, or proclaiming peace, have never experience inner peace.

It is clear that anyone can memorize the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but if we do not have the inner experience of the values enshrined in that declaration, one will never be a net instrument in the realization of those rights.

We are not getting closer to attaining those goals because of a major crisis of human and spiritual values. It is a crisis in the sense that we are failing to properly address and nurture the issues of all the collectives. There is more than just the human-beings collective. In particular, we must consider: a) The Human Beings Collective (HUBC), b) The All Living Beings Collective (LIBC), and c) The Nature Being Collective (NBC). This is “The Triangle of Collectiveness”, which is at the core of our collective destiny. A triangle that embodies both material and spiritual dimensions.

The Human Beings Collective is not the only collective and its welfare critically and fundamentally depends on the other two. And, this interdependence applies in all directions. This is an inseparable, interdependent and all encompassing reality that lies at the foundation of transformation and evolution, materially and spiritually.

The true meaning of “our common humanity” - the central theme of this event-- must not be understood and lived as if the collective of human beings is unique, the only one, separate, superior, more intelligent, or more indispensable. The foundations of human transformation are deeply rooted within the three components of that Triangle of Collectiveness, and the same applies to the collectives of living being and nature.

To see, feel, or isolate the collective of human beings is simply a huge and costly error of the intellect. However, there are important reasons why human beings see themselves separate and privileged in relation to the human beings collective.

First, the imposed cultural and religious values and concepts that proclaim the superiority of human beings over the other two collectives –living beings and nature is absurd and it responds to an error of the intellect. However, this view is so prevalent that we are numbed in relation to the impacts the destruction of the other collectives have in our lives. Some believe that technology will do the trick. Our intelligence, which is at the foundation of technological change, is also drifting slowly as a degenerated natural environment limits that intelligence.

Second, we live at higher and higher levels of toxicity; e.g., psychological, emotional, physical, and spiritual toxicity.

- We intoxicate ourselves with medicines that are supposed to cure us.
- We intoxicate us with air and water pollution. We intoxicate us with bad intention and negative thoughts.
- We intoxicate ourselves with bad human interactions.

The UN Charter begins with “We The People” and it is we the people that must not relinquish the responsibility of our individual and collective actions in resolving, once in for all, each and every MDG. We should wait no longer. It is you and me who will resolve the problems facing humanity. It is not some sort of organization, or bureaucratic entity that will do so, unless the people in themselves, and their policies, self realize, embrace, and put into practice the core values that are to lastingly contribute to the reality of the have not.

Among those in “We The People”, it is you and me, privileged ones, who are reading this book. We are the ones who have the opportunity to speak up for the collective. But, I am fully and humbly aware that there are billions who are poor and hungry, and who are not here speaking for themselves. We are all masked in obscure statistics.

The other day I was looking at the MDG reports where some countries of Latin America have the highest score in terms of the Social Development Indicators, while the number of poor people is increasing, the Gini Coefficient is showing significant inequality, and when, for example, the poorest 20% consumes an insignificant amount in relation to the

richest 20%. This distortion of statistics is not only dangerous but it is becoming explosive.

There is nothing worst than listening to wonderful statistics when, at the same time, everyone on the streets is complaining of a bad and unfair economic and social situation. When the people see the economy of a country globalizing but not their own society. When there is a major feeling of disempowerment, and the realization that something major is wrong despite the statistics.

- It is not only bad but unacceptable that the MDGs are attained at the expense of other citizens or other development goals that were not explicitly brought up in The Millennium Declaration.
- It is not acceptable that the attainment of the MDGs is carried out in a moral and ethical vacuum, or just responding to economic and financial values.
- It is unsustainable to attain some of the MDGs via the destruction of any of the collectives outlined above. It must benefit all the collectives.

Today, our lives are invaded by so many economic diseases. In some cases, these are the causes of great and profound moments of desperation, personal depression, and a disconnect between your mind, body and soul. These economic diseases move us towards the excessive consumption of pharmaceutical products. Some of these products, as we all know, have huge negative secondary effects. A supermarket of material collective goods is not going to do it. This crisis will only be resolved:

- When we truly see the other human beings as ourselves.
- When we recognize the equal intelligence of all living beings.
- When we not only respect nature, but we embrace and integrate within it, as we are intrinsically components of nature too.
- When we focus heavily on healing each other and healing the world at large for world peace.
- When we begin to look inward for real solutions and not just outward into material instruments and material aims.

There are other values referred to in The Millennium Declaration such as diversity, dignity, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, shared future and inclusion. There is no doubt in my mind that if one self-realizes those values and puts this self realization to the service of humanity, we would not be here heavy lifting for the MDGs. It would be natural to give, to share, and to ensure that we all have a decent and happy life to live. Perhaps, this is the time when we have to make some categorical statements about what is happening just in front of our eyes.

The material solutions we are seeking for the attainment of the MDGs are only a minimal portion of what needs to be done. In addition, most material solutions will be transitory palliatives and will not create the foundations for sustainable solutions. Think for a moment that if the first MDG was attained, we might take nearly a billion people out of poverty. However, another billion people will become poor in the same period of time.

We must create a decision-making system, a governance structure, and a process founded on human and spiritual values. It will be the strength of these spiritual values, and the self-realization of these values, that will change the direction we have wrongly taken on the road towards fulfilling the aims of the Millennium Declaration. I am talking about the values of universality, inclusion, identity, love, caring, sharing, fraternity, compassion, and many more. These are the values that will breakdown existing power structures, fossil forms of governance, etc.

Implementation of these MDGs must not be conceived as a mechanical process. It is a process of complex human interactions, anchored in institutional arrangements, cultural aspects, man-made assets, financial considerations, human and social values, and spiritual dimensions of our human reality.

MDGs, as new expressions of human betterment, will demand new and higher levels of human consciousness. Otherwise, societies will end up doing more of the same, but, more of the same will yield more of the same. It is essential that we focus on the role that individual and social awareness and consciousness play in the attainment of the MDGs. It is important to unleash our infinite human potential and put it at the service of these MDGs and more!

There are two ways in which we may actually make progress in human betterment. One is through action of the type we see everyday, that is work more, earn more, spend more, and work more, and so on. We may follow this material routine with the view to attaining some material progress. Yes, it is possible to advance like this. However, there is another way: to use the power of our wisdom and free will. And, through that power generate the type of energy that is needed to mobilize each and every citizen in the world. Without

this energy the MDGs will continue to be the residual of "other things" and the outcomes of "other processes." Processes with plenty of rules but without wisdom, will simply not do.

We (yes, you and I), will have to make some fundamental and irreversible decisions, and I wonder whether we have the valor and the courage to make them. In particular, to embrace, adopt, and live fully the spiritual paradigm in its entirety, and stop being on the sidelines. The other option is living bits and pieces of this way of life, these principles, and those fundamental dimensions of our non-material life.

Does anyone have the right to limit the evolution of an individual or the evolution of one of the collectives enunciated above, like the nature's collective? Is it right to say that limiting them is a way to give me the chance to evolve?

Evolution in the realm of the spirit and our divine existence does not sacrifice anyone for the evolution of another living being or nature. This economic notion of trade-off only applies to the narrow confines of economics and finance and to the additions and subtractions we make in this material world. This is not only a reflection that has to take place at the personal level. This must take place at the corporate, government, and at every level of decisions making.

The alliances of information will work when the human consciousness is at a level that information will be beneficial to everyone in this planet. For the moment, the advances in ICT are benefiting a few and contaminating millions of young minds who innocently enter in the era of information.

The path to the betterment of humanity is the road towards peace, towards a healthy population, towards equality and respect for human rights, towards solidarity and shared responsibility, road for the respect for nature.

Those who tell us that war is a necessary evil or that it is normal to live in conflict are simply defeating human existence at its very core.

Those who put as a condition to go to war in order to attain peace should not govern. There will be no peace without healing the world. There will be no healing of the world without the respect for nature. The nature of every one of us is peace, because we come from the organized order that embodies nature. We are born out of peace because we are also born within nature. We are peace because we are nature too.

AN EVOLUTION BIOLOGIST'S PERSPECTIVE

Elisabet Sahtouris, Evolution Biologist, Futurist

From an evolution biologist's perspective, the greatest issue confronting humanity is our species' maturation from a politics and economics of competitive hostility and unsustainable exploitation of nature to non-adversarial cooperation as a global human community living in harmony with all other species. This has been the stated goal of the United Nations from its inception, but has yet to be realized.

Once this issue is named, it becomes easier to see its different aspects, though it is a great challenge to summarize it in a brief commentary!

First I must put it into evolutionary context. About two billion years ago, Earth's first inhabitants, the archebacteria, overcame a long phase of hostile creativity (warfare, colonization and competitive technological development) by cooperating to form huge collaborative communities that evolved into all presently existing biological cells other than bacteria, including those of our own bodies. They literally created "multi-created cells" that went on to evolve multi-celled creatures by shifting out of a juvenile competitive phase into a mature cooperative phase. This evolutionary pattern has been repeated in the subsequent process of forming the cooperatives we know as multi-celled creatures, including ourselves, by entire ecosystems, and is now on the agenda for our human species. We will learn to cooperate as a global community or we will live in increasing misery and perhaps go extinct in the not so far distant future.

Now we can proceed to a historical context. For some six thousand years up to the present, humanity has repeated the ancient bacterial pattern of "hostile creativity" characterized by empire building. From actual empires, we progressed to national expansion into colonial empires and more recently into multi-national corporate empires. All these phases have increased our technological prowess while also increasing the disparity between rich and poor that is now devastating the living system comprised of all humans as well as the ecosystems on which we depend for our own lives.

A healthy, mature living system (cell, body, community, ecosystem) is dynamically cooperative because every part or member at every level of organization is empowered to negotiate its self-interest within the whole. There is equitable sharing of resources to insure health at all levels, and the system is aware that any exploitation of some parts by

others endangers the whole. Clearly, internal greed and warfare are inimical to the health of mature living systems.

Therefore I see the formation of global human community, or *true* globalization—including but not limited to economics—as our natural evolutionary mandate at this time. We should call this process *Glocalization*. The term ‘Glocalization’ is meant to bring attention to the fact that local economies must be healthy in order to have a healthy world economy, just as each of our cells and organs must be healthy to have a healthy body.

Note that our highly evolved bodies demonstrate values, or natural ethics, in their inherent biological “understanding” that every cell, organ, organ system and the whole body must meet its freely negotiated interests if this amazing collaborative effort of up to one hundred trillion cells is to remain healthy. What a model for our global economy!

Now let us look at some bad and good news concerning five critical aspects of this process of Globalization/Glocalization:

1) Worldviews: Scientific, Religious, Cultural and Personal

Bad News: Fundamentalism and dogmatism, religious, scientific, cultural and personal, continue to plague us in this time of transition. Social Darwinism—the belief that there must be winners and losers in the game of life—is as destructive as any religious or cultural dogma saying “Our truth is the Truth; believe it or you are our enemy.”

Good news: For the first time in history we are becoming aware that each individual and each culture has a unique perspective on the whole of human experience in our world and cosmos, giving us a basis to move beyond tolerance into mutual respect without the requirement of agreement in our stories of How Things Are. We are shifting from the belief that there is One True Story to the understanding that a multiplicity of stories can co-exist if we agree on basic values, such as the perennial Golden Rule.

Science is making huge progress in its worldview. It is evolving beyond belief in a non-living, entropic, hopeless and valueless universe progressing toward heat death while accidentally evolving some temporary competitive life forms on one or more planets. Scientists are moving toward the view of a conscious, self-organizing, learning universe in which syntropy and entropy function metabolically in a process of creative evolution, especially on our living Earth where life evolves toward cooperative purpose and ethics.

The view of Consciousness as the deep cosmic source of biological evolution, rooted in many ancient cultures, brings science close to religion as religion also indicates its

willingness to open to dialogue with other religions and with science itself. Many new religions (Unity, Religious Science International, Global New Thought, etc.) as well as the cooperative World Parliament of Religions and the United Religions Initiative are in deep dialogue among themselves and with scientists to discover their underlying common interests.

2) The Lure of Power: Economics, Currency and Warfare

Bad news: Empire-building economics have developed the quarterly bottom line focus on continual competitive growth to maximize profits—a tyrannical mechanism preventing proper corporate accountability to people and planet. Further, empire building has spawned a debt-money currency that shifts wealth from the many to the few, promoting terrible economic inequities that prevent local economies from expressing their self-interests. Protecting empires has led to huge production *and* trade of arms, with one nation—the USA—now having gained 70% of the world market. All this leads to a highly unstable situation in which conflicts, often wrapped in religious cloaks though almost always economic in their roots, break out continually and lead to further domination by those with the most powerful weapons and further impoverishment and desperation of the already poor.

The great allure of power over others is difficult for me as a woman to comprehend. I have asked many men to explain it, and when they speak about it honestly, I see in their eyes how deep and real it is. The oil economy, with its attendant weapons economy, has become the single most dangerous obstacle to human evolution. It is controlled by a relatively small handful of men allied with each other behind the scenarios of opposing forces we see in the media they also own, just as it was during its inception during World War II, in the German/American oil business alliances revealed at the Nuremberg trials. The dangerous endgame of the human competitive phase is being played out right now around oil interests, and we must remember that the Stone Age did not end because men ran out of stones.

Good News: We have plenty of alternative energy sources to move “Beyond Petroleum” and the oil empires know they are the way of the future as many within them begin to plan accordingly. There are also strong movements promoting triple bottom lines, and many medium and small businesses are shifting to concepts of humane economic values and accountability to their communities.

Since seeing our Earth from space as a breathtakingly beautiful living planet, and as we grow increasingly aware that the economies of cells, bodies, families, communities and world are all living systems with basic principles in common, we can more easily think of

ourselves as an economically linked global family that must live at peace with itself and with other species. Once we shift into this frame of mind we can see why every human community from family to global community must be valued and insured opportunity for economic participation, just as every species in a healthy ecosystem contributes to the well being of the whole.

Global travel, transport and communications systems, though invented during our competitive empire-building phase, are now available for cooperative purposes. Alternative currencies rooted in barter are mushrooming around the world as documented by Bernard Lietaer in *The Future of Money*. Living Economies is becoming a rapidly growing concept (see the article <http://svn.org/initiatives/livingeconomies.pdf> , co-authored by this author, and <http://www.livingeconomies.org>).

Besides these healthy directions, the global peace movement continues to grow with countless websites and organized events and *The Cultural Creatives* documented by Paul Ray and Sherry Anderson in Europe and America are surely matched in many other parts of the world. Deep dialogue among humans increasingly reveals our desire for peaceful cooperation and our belief that it can be achieved.

3) Governance

Bad news: While we hear a great deal about the spread of democracy around the world, all member nations of the World Trade Organization gave up their sovereignty in signing the agreement which said their laws could be overridden by WTO policies, which often do not serve their self-interest within the global economy. In the US, as with other national governments, corporate empire lobbies and campaign finances determine government candidates and policies over the will of the people. At present, our very Constitutional rights are being hijacked and turned into weapons against us, eroding our civil rights, while in many nations people do not yet have them as they must if we are to survive and thrive as a species. These are examples of the endgame in which the old system of competitive empire economics works hard to protect itself against the evolution called for. As historian Arnold Toynbee discovered in seeking the cause of past human empires' demise, the extreme concentration of wealth and the refusal to change when change was called for were fatal.

Good News: Despite all its problems and shortcomings, the United Nations is a significant effort toward some kinds of peaceful cooperation. We see with increasing clarity that the governance of a living system must be in service to it—to its health and well-being. Distributed networks of leadership, as in the City of Curitiba, Brasil, and rotating leadership as in the Mondragon Cooperatives of Spain are positive examples, as

are the redistribution of wealth in India's Kerala state. The Internet is perhaps our greatest hope for non-adversarial democracy at present, as increasing access to it around the world brings people into dialogue on all the issues facing us and gives hope for creative solutions and distributed network global governance.

4) Technology

Bad News: Despite knowing of alternatives such as hydrogen, solar and wind energies, oil interests continue to dig up fossil fuels over which we fight wars and devastate peoples and ecosystems from Afghanistan and Iraq to the Achuar territories in the Ecuadorian rainforests. We clog our heavy roads with heavy cars, pollute our atmosphere and waters and soils with deadly exhausts and chemicals, misuse our understanding of "engineering" genomes for the sake of profits, to the detriment of people's health. Our technological societies continue to produce ugliness and poverty where beauty and wealth could be universal.

Good News: The book *Natural Capitalism*, demonstrates human creativity in moving us out of the heavy industrial phase of coal, oil and steel into technologies that are ecologically non-destructive, recyclable and sustainable. Janine Benyus, in her book *Biomimicry*, points out that while we "heat, beat and treat" hydrocarbons with 96% waste during the production of heavy products and further waste as these products go into landfills, Nature creates fabulously lightweight materials of great strength, flexibility, durability and amazing textures and colors, at ambient temperatures with no waste. We are learning to mimic Nature's micro technology just as we did the more obvious gross technologies of flying like birds, digging like moles, swimming and diving like cetaceans, etc. It is no longer difficult to envisage a future in which every man, woman and child can live lightly on the Earth in elegant simplicity, with great convenience and opportunity.

5) Youth

Bad News: Our young people around the world, who are about to inherit it and run it, have bad role models. We tell them not to take from each other or beat each other up, while world leaders, both political and economic, as well as tribal factions, are engaged in doing what we say should not be done. We feed people around the world on media assaults of violence, false glamour, sex and cynicism instead of on positive stories of human values, courage and creativity in service to planet and people. We encourage them to see money as the source of happiness and to seek instant gratification as consumers so they will not live in the fear and depression their world engenders. Youth from my own country face envy and hatred of as they travel abroad because we, their elders, do not take

ourselves seriously enough as role models and do not stand up to right the wrongs done in our names throughout our lives at the end of the human empire-building era.

Good News: Many of us are gathering the courage to stand up now and be counted as the old system of hostilities gives way to the new system of collaboration. As we face the severe challenges of an onrushing Hot Age, which may prove to be the evolutionary driver to human cooperation as so many smaller natural disaster have been, we must help young people understand these transitional times and face them with confidence that the world we all want can now at last be created. We must teach them not to hate the old system, but to honor it for bringing us to where we can see our unity with all life and evolve into cooperative global community.

We see that most young people are moral and creative in positive ways, that they show signs they will not perpetuate racism, that they love ethnic diversity, that they identify with youth all over the planet, that they want to share their creative products with each other and develop a peaceful spirituality as they take on the practical tasks of stopping environmental devastation, seeking alternative energy and sustainable technologies, and learning to form global community. We need to encourage the young emerging leaders in all these matters, to listen to them, empower them, give them visibility and help them take on the responsibility for which they are ready. They are our hope and they still need us. But they are not here to clean up our mess; they are here to create the peaceful sustainable world they—and all the rest of us—truly want...a world free of racism, war and greed...a world of ethical harmony!

RESPECT FOR NATURE, AN ARCHITECT'S VIEWPOINT

J. Robert Hillier, Founder and Chairman of the Board, Hillier Architecture

All fine architectural values are human values, else not valuable. – Frank Lloyd Wright.

I am an architect and entrepreneur and as such, I am seldom called upon to discuss the many profound questions of global significance. Architects and planners, in their day to day practice, are called upon to solve a variety of complex problems – community needs, preservation of green space, cost of construction – but world population growth, poverty, hunger, strife and, until recently, global warming are not usually among them.

However, many architects like myself believe that the built environment is essential to creating strong communities, promoting good health, protecting and preserving natural resources, and ultimately, illuminating our common humanity. Architecture as a pursuit is peaceful, as in full of peace. It is the antithesis of strife and war which usually destroys what we create. In essence, architecture is the creation of environments for the well-being and furtherance of the most important human endeavors – learning, governance and healing.

My view of architecture is that it is the prioritization and understanding of all the forces at work on human need and then the creative balancing of those forces in the meeting of that human need. The question arises, what are those forces? They range from obvious simple forces like gravity and weather, to the functional forces of economics and supply chains, to the subtle and complex forces of sociology, politics, culture and context.

Architecture is born from functional need, but to be meaningful it must fulfill emotional, spiritual and cultural needs.

Indeed, the world today is facing an extremely dangerous vicious circle that I would liken to a tornado. It begins small, with building design that is ignorant of the earth's finite resources, and ignorant of the abundant resources to be derived from the sun, wind and the earth's mass. It gains destructive speed and strength through ignorant urban planning, which leads to sprawl and unrelenting gasoline consumption. The "haves" of the world can erect their castles from these ignorances. The "have nots" then bear the brunt of the storms: the hurricanes, the floods and the drought.

Each architect can work hard to create desirable affordable housing and design schools or hospitals in developing countries, but unless we work together as a society to address the environmental consequences of population growth leading to rapid urbanization which we now realize leads global warming and thus, severe weather, flooding, and therefore natural disasters.

Just imagine, no more land to build on; no resources with which to build; and ultimately, no audience for our creativity. There are some staggering statistics concerning the environmental impact of buildings. Buildings are responsible for some 40% of the greenhouse gas emissions that are responsible for climate change – well beyond what automobiles produce. The design profession and the building industry consume over 3 billion tons of raw materials each year – that's the equivalent of all of Manhattan (about 23 miles long by 2 miles wide) being covered in 150 feet of material each year!

Since 1970, the U.S. alone has lost close to 39 million acres of farmland to development – that’s about 2 acres per minute. In developing countries, farmland is disappearing at an even faster clip. The small state of New Jersey is consuming land at a staggering rate of 40 acres a day for development – and it is considered a slow growth state!

Thanks to a variety of national and international organizations committed to protecting the environment, as well as a growing number of architectural practices committed to environmentally responsible design, we’ve made great progress in conveying the message that sustainable design is not just desirable, it’s essential.

Clients and government leaders have finally come to understand that building and climate change are connected; that human beings thrive when they have access to natural light and clean air; and that communities are most stable and prosperous when they are planned and designed with the big picture in mind.

In many parts of the world, we’re still designing buildings that consume vast amounts of energy, and plopping them down in ecologically sensitive habitats. To draw the analogy between the building and the automotive industries, we’re still designing hummers when we ought to be designing hybrids. Because the average lifespan of a typical building is more than 15 times that of a car, we will have to live with these hummers for the next 100 years, long after the resources to maintain them have been exhausted.

The good news is that we have at our disposal the intellectual and technological resources to design buildings and communities that can actually enhance the environment rather than detract from it. The green design movement has matured into a viable industry that now makes economic besides environmental sense, and governments in many developed countries are requiring that new buildings meet basic – if not ambitious – criteria for sustainability.

New technologies to create environmentally efficient, intelligent structures are being developed daily. Innovation is happening everywhere. In Guangdong, China, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill LLP (SOM) Architectural Firm is designing a “zero energy” office tower that will harvest sun and wind and employ cutting-edge technology to make it possible to operate completely off the grid. In some countries, ecovillages - entire communities devoted to restoring the delicate balance between nature and humankind - are cropping up.

Hillier architecture has designed an international school in Chennai that harvests the sun and wind to heat and cool the building, and it was constructed from renewable materials all from within a 10-mile radius of the site, providing an economic boost to local

businesses and craftsmen and wasting few precious finite resources as a result.

This should be happening everywhere as urbanization and globalization is inevitable. With the proper planning and strategies, we can design “living environments” that help restore ecological balance, enhance our quality of life, and remain relevant and productive for generations to come.

Though environmental responsibility is one aspect of sustainability with which architects are concerned, I want to discuss a closely related issue, which is cultural sustainability – that is, respecting and preserving the attributes and traditions that make one place distinct from another.

People refer to the world today as a “global village.” From an architectural viewpoint, I would caution against the “one world” notion. The world is not one village, but rather a collection of villages – and cities and rural areas – each with its own distinct identity and needs. We can recognize our common humanity – our universal desire for clean air and water, a place for our children to learn and grow, and vibrant, economically stable communities – without making our humanity common.

We need to resist “sameness” and nurture and cultivate the things that make us unique as cultures, as regions, and as a people.

Architecture is both thriving and suffering under the influence of globalization. On the one hand, the exportation of architectural expertise to the developing world has led to bold new architectural designs; buildings that could not have been imagined or executed at any other time in history. But one has to ask what is a Chicago apartment tower doing in Dubai? Is a high rise tower even appropriate to a country whose culture is nomadic and centered on village as community. There is no community in an apartment 600 feet in the air. More to the point, it’s possible to travel to the opposite sides of the planet and see the same fast food restaurants, big box stores and mega malls, run by global corporations, where once there were teeming, architecturally distinct marketplaces run by and for the people who live there.

In short, homogeneity is not sustainable. Sustainable architecture – and environmentally responsible architecture – should be of its time and of its place. It should respond to the unique environmental, political, cultural, and environmental forces that act upon it locally as well as globally. It should be an expression of the people it serves and the culture from which it is derived.

As architects, we don't always live by these principles. Until recently, we have not been good stewards of the environment, and we do not always do a great job of illuminating what is unique and special about our clients and the places where we design. That said, we must strive toward these goals: sustainable design, respecting nature, building community, celebrating culture and saving land - and hope that others with similar aspirations.

As much as we strive to prevent the continuing decline of the environment and work to reverse the trend and, in the end, restore it, I do not want us to lose sight of the root cause of it all which architecture cannot solve, that is unrelenting population growth. With ever increasing population growth and ever decreasing resources to support that population we will continue to have strife and wars. The conflict between the "have's" and the "have nots" will only deepen until we can all come together and join hands in a program of education, of birth control, and yes, of religious resolution. In doing so all mankind who is placed on this earth will have equality and can join in a mission of creating a sustainable world that has brought into balance a population density and the earth's resources necessary to sustain it and protect it.

We firmly believe that in order for a building to be sustainable, it must be loved; it must touch the soul. People - not just the current owners, but future generations - must find enough value in a building to continue to occupy and maintain it. Some of this is aesthetic, some performance and some economics. The roman architect Vitruvius told us that buildings must have "firmness, commodity and delight". True today more than ever.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Julie Fox Gorte, Vice-President, Calvert Group

I am from the finance sector, which is one of the sectors that most people associate the least with sustainability but we do have what we call "sustainable finance" or "socially responsible investment". Finance is probably one of the few sectors where most of the people practicing, believe that they are masters of the universe, are either smarter or better and certainly richer than other people. This is a sort of Darwinian concept that seems to have conquered most of the financial markets. We need to remember that we have not conquered nature and we never will.

Investors have a tendency to create their own world. If every investor believes that environmental management on the part of the corporation in which they invest is not important, as far as the stock prices are concerned, then it is not. But if they all believe that environmental management is important and look for companies with good environmental management and pay a premium for them, then the stock price will respond and therefore it becomes important. So we really create the world that we live in by our actions and by our beliefs.

Most investors believe that the sustainability is important. However they feel that it has a long-term time frame that it just does not matter to the trading and purchasing now. Wall Street in particular has a very short attention span. Most of the value of any corporation is really what it is capable of providing in perpetuity rather than in the next quarter, which is the most common time frame in most of the financial markets.

2005, on the other hand, may have been a major turning point in this attitude. We have seen a gradual rise in the number of investors that are interested in sustainability issues because of the fact that there were devastating hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005. It is likely that the severity of hurricanes has increased because of the warming of the oceans. One degree is a lot when you think of the size of the oceans.

Today you find more people who are interested in climate change than you would have found just a year ago. Climate change is the most important problem that earth faces and this is the first time that one species on earth has been able to knowingly affect the ecology of the entire globe.

If we continue to change the climate at the rate at which we are doing it now, the only precedent we have in history at this rate of change was at the end of the Cretaceous Era, when everything that weighed more than 77 pounds on the earth died. That is not a good precedent to set, so we are very interested in bringing sustainability issues into finance. How are we doing this? We have several partnerships with many organizations, but we have at least three with the UN.

The UN has led in this area and will continue to lead with the launch this year, actually down at the New York Stock Exchange, of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment. There is a website you can go to see this: www.unpri.org. And there are signatories for this on every continent, in Africa, Asia, North America, South America and Europe – investors plan sponsors including Calvert and of the largest pension plans have signed up to pay attention to the principles of sustainability in our investments.

We have a partnership and been a member of the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Finance Initiatives, which has been partly responsible for the launch of the PRI and has also done a great deal of work on what we call the materiality or the importance in the financial context of environmental, social and governance related issues.

SUSTAINABILITY, ONE FARM AT A TIME

Tensie Whelan, Executive Director, Rainforest Alliance

At the Rainforest Alliance we start with the premise that the markets are causing a lot of the negative impacts on the environment. If you look at the world, half of the planet's surface is taken up by agriculture, livestock, forestry. Unsustainable agriculture is one threat. We know that people aren't cutting down trees and demonstrating disrespect for nature because they are bad, but they are doing it because there are economic pressures on them to do so.

Much of the effort regarding the environment traditionally has been project based. You could implement exciting projects and get some things done locally, but you may not have the market supporting the changes made by a local community. Or you could try to clean up a problem after you had massive pollution on the site, but usually that is a little too little or a little too late. And we all continue to approach our resources as though they were inexhaustible. Nevertheless, we believe the system can be transformed.

The Rainforest Alliance, as a small NGO that is active internationally, has found we can actually transform sectors as we did through developing the idea of sustainable forestry certification about 15 years ago. Now about 5% of the world's forests are certified as sustainable under the Forest Stewardship Council's standards. We are seeing companies like Ikea and others strongly supporting the incorporation of sustainable forest practices. We are seeing large producers change their practices on the ground.

In agriculture, we are seeing that as well: Chiquita - long castigated as a typical banana republic type company - over the last ten years has dramatically changed what they are doing, so that 100% of their farms are now certified by the Rainforest Alliance. They reduced chemical use dramatically and they pay their workers twice the standard. They are protecting wildlife and water supplies.

I was just in Colombia a couple of weeks ago. We are working with the Federation of Cafeteros of Coffee Growers in Colombia to certify the producers there and companies like Kraft who we work with are buying from those producers. The certification process has 200 different indicators that are social, environmental and economic. The Millennium Declaration Values can be found in the system, which completely transforms how one produces bananas, forestry, coffee etc. Small producers are embracing this.

Alvero Bautista who has a small farm in Santander, Colombia says: “first of all, every cafetero is an entrepreneur, a protector of biodiversity, a provider of jobs” about the process. That is a proud definition for him of what a coffee producer can and should be. As he describes what he has done with his community through the process of certification: “we had inventoried every tree species in size and age and are working on diversification, we have stopped the contamination by coffee pulp of the water, we have eliminated fire management which helps us to protect the micro-fiber that is important for the fertility of the land, we have created buffer zones around water sources. On our farms, people throw their garbage on the ground or into streams. Our farms are clean and we are recycling paper, aluminum and glass. Our worker housing used to have dirt floors and now we have fixed that and built kitchens and bathrooms. Our permanent workers have health benefits and we are making sure that everyone’s kids go to school. On top of that, we have put in place financial management. 70% of our farms now have computers and we are tracking prices.” This is from a small farmer who has embraced his new role in the world.

That is the kind of transformation I see in country after country from farmers who are embracing new ways of doing things. Young farmers said “My grandparents and parents did this the old way and all of us were leaving and going to the city. This is a way for me to see myself differently as a protector of biodiversity, as a protector of jobs and as entrepreneur on the global market place.”

Farmers not only help by providing clean water and inventorying bird species, but these farmers are seeing in Colombia, for example, an increase by 20% in their productivity. That means that they have more coffee to sell, and they have more money. They see increases in quality, because of better management systems that are in place and they are getting a premium from the product their companies that are supporting them in their sustainability investments.

That is the kind of change that we want to see in the world and the financial sector can help, so we hope for engagement at a very concrete, substantive level that has the values and the very practical changes that create a truly sustainable global supply chain.

NATURE AND GLOBALIZATION

Roberto Savio, President, Inter Press Service

We need to consider why we are behind schedule for the MDG. We can see that none of the MDG goals will be reached on time and we can debate how far away they will be reached.

The growth of the sustainability is based on two things which are under attack now. One is the issue of common goods and the other is the inter-generational solidarity.

I find it very distressing that the political institutions, before they abandoned ideology, they had abandoned idealism and started looking for pragmatism. But pragmatism without values like solidarity, equity, social justice, and without the conceptual framework in which you can act pragmatically becomes something different – it becomes utilitarianism. And utilitarianism certainly does not feed into sustainability anything which can pay you back.

In addition, our national political solutions are extremely weak on global issues – not only globalization, but everything global. And this has created a situation in which the issues transcend the ability of political institutions to discuss anything which is beyond the national boundaries.

In addition, the United Nations which are crippled by the fact that the two engines of the market-oriented globalization – finance, which was never here, but trade, which was before here, now are both out of the United Nations.

We are witnessing two different paradigms: the paradigm which my generation created, which is the paradigm of development, international cooperation, social justice, respect of law, and yet there is another paradigm, which has just come out, which is this market-driven globalization. In order to put the difference into words, I would like to say that the paradigm of development was based on the idea that people will earn more, and the paradigm of globalization is simply based on the idea that people will live more. There is a big difference because the first one can only deal with values, but the second one does not deal with values.

We live in a world today, in which, in ten years, the investment in advertisement will exceed the investment in education. In other words, there will be more money spent per capita in advertisement than in education.

There is a pattern of production and consumption that must be changed. In November, before Christmas, shops open at 5 o'clock in the morning and at 5 o'clock in the morning there are already long queues of people outside waiting to get inside, this level of consumerism and consumption shows that we are in a world in which we have to take into serious account a very simple fact: either we can bring back the debate on values as a basic element of how we establish ourselves nationally and internationally or otherwise, we will continue to decline, which is due to the fact that we do not have common values on which to build.

But also there are hundreds, thousands people who joined together to discuss about values. And this ideology is picking up, but we are very far away from the moment in which we will have sustainability.

RESPECT FOR NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT , DELIBERATIONS OF THE YOUTH THINK TANK ON OUR COMMON HUMANITY

Deepen Shah, Youth Representative, Temple of Understanding

Living in a world bound by instantaneous connection and information, we exist and utilize the world's resources for our own humanity. As the basics of science and nature have taught us, nothing lasts forever. With this in mind, we must realize the value and importance of natural resources and the availability of such resources with respect to environmental and social factors.

We can see trends towards global warming and the devastating effects that are going on around our planet. Reports from foremost experts in the fields of environmental science have repeatedly mentioned that there are massive detrimental damage being done to the planet on an ongoing basis and if we continue at this rate – in the coming years, we may be past the point at which we can fully recover. Here are some recommendations as to how to prevent this.

Action Steps²

1. Start with friends and family: It is incredibly important to have dialogue. Educating those closest to us is one of the most effective strategies to make change. Hosting local parties on various topics of importance can instigate change on a personal level, which, in turn, can have tremendous effects on society at large. Oftentimes, people only need to be made aware of the issues the world faces. Sometimes, just a spark is all that is needed.

2. Think globally. Act locally: Sometimes the most amazing accomplishments, with the most far-reaching consequences, can start with what may otherwise be considered as a simple concept. One of the best examples of this is the Green Belt Movement led by Nobel Laureate, Wangari Maathai. Dr. Maathai started with a basic concept - planting trees - which led to a reforestation effort that ultimately helped a country. Similarly, the incredible affects of micro-loans initiated by Dr. Muhammad Yunus have changed the dynamics of the world's most vulnerable in ways previously unfathomed. What each of these individuals have in common is that they each took an otherwise minimal idea and turned it into something beneficent, something remarkable. For example, we can not only drive energy efficient cars with new and exciting technologies (such as hydroelectric engines and the like) but we can install water conserving toilets. We can recycle. We can harness the power of the sun. Even something as simple as using fluorescent lighting can help save valuable resources and, in turn, create a more sustainable environment.

3. Plan Smartly: Development in both urban and rural areas needs to be less about the developer's profits and more about the environmental concerns. It is possible to marry utility with both environmental and health consciousness through good urban planning retaining green-spaces and promoting walk-ability, using mixed-use practices, and providing efficient public transportation to reduce congestion and atmospheric pollution. Many of these basic ideas are not observed.

4. Remain conscious of the power of our pocketbooks: the option not to buy can be persuasive. Individuals can make a significant impact by holding companies accountable through not purchasing their products unless they adopt more environmentally/health-conscious practices.

5. Get involved: Join or start a movement. Go to town-hall meetings. Call or write to your local representative. Be relentless. It's the only way to make change.

² Written by Ryan Nevel – a youth participant of the Common Humanity in the Information Age think-tank on November 28th 2006, as recommendations of the Youth Forum.

Today's youth may face environmental issues at an enormous scale in the coming years. We may have to bear the burden of major climate shifts and come up with solutions that address these issues, and on the other front. As a youth think-tank, we are prepared to have more responsibility and engage other youth to do the same.

Within the last 25 years, the trend of being socially responsible and socially conscious has entered everything from mainstream fashion design to architecture, from consumer-end products to internet architecture. Now businesses are starting to take a major look at how sustainable responsible products can have an impact with cost savings and environmental benefits. Consumers are realizing the impact on how clothing, home lighting, automobiles, and other products may cost the same as traditional products, yet emit less environmental waste. With the recent trend of sustainable thinking, we are certainly headed on the right path of environmental sustainability. Some websites such as 5limes.com and ireuse.com make it extremely easy for consumers to see what products are eco friendly, and to recycle products they do not currently use. With information such as this at our fingertips, there is no reason not to move in this direction.

CHAPTER IV

EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY

OVERVIEW

Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

The vision for gender equality and empowerment of women in the United Nations was first established in the United Nations Charter in 1945, which declared faith “in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...”

This attention to gender equality already at the founding of the United Nations was reportedly largely the result of intensive lobbying by women delegates and representatives of the 42 non-governmental organizations accredited to the founding conference of the United Nations – evidence of a critical role for non-governmental organizations in the global push for equality, and the beginnings of a strong partnership between the United Nations and NGOs which continues today.

The actions required to ensure the fundamental rights and equality of women and men have been more clearly elaborated over the past six decades, including through the four World Conferences on Women organized by the United Nations between 1975 and 1995.

The United Nations has played a significant role, particularly in promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls, compiling and disseminating information and statistics, and monitoring progress. It has also provided an important political space where critical policy discussions and decision-making have taken place.

Women’s groups and networks around the world have played a major role in energizing debates and increasing the visibility of gender equality issues at global and regional levels, as well as ensuring action, accountability and concrete achievements at national level.

A strong global framework for gender equality and empowerment of women is in place today through the Beijing Platform for Action, and a human rights treaty: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (ratified by 185 States). Despite this common framework, and the considerable efforts of many actors, no country has yet achieved gender equality and empowerment of women in

accordance with the vision of the United Nations Charter established more than 60 years ago.

There have been significant achievements over the past decades, but many serious gaps in implementation of the policy and legal frameworks remain in all parts of the world, which can be evidenced by:

- the persistence of violence against women and girls;
- the serious under-representation of women in decision-making;
- the continuation of discriminatory laws;
- inequalities in access to and control over economic resources, and
- the devastating effects of conflict on women and girls, particularly sexual violence.

In addition, new challenges for women's empowerment and gender equality have emerged over the past decade, including:

- eliminating the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS;
- effectively addressing trafficking in women and girls; and
- mobilizing the new information and communication technologies (ICT) in support of gender equality and women's empowerment.

At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders declared that “progress for women is progress for all” – illustrating that none of the goals of development, human rights and peace and security can be achieved if equality between women and men is not secured. Unless sufficient attention is given to MDG3 on gender equality and empowerment of women, and to the gender perspectives in all other MDGs, none of the MDGs can be achieved.

The MDGs represent an important new opportunity to enhance the focus on gender equality at national level, leading to real change on the ground in the lives of women and girls.

The information society also presents a potential to increase the access of women and girls to information and opportunities to redress discrimination and open up new possibilities for empowerment and equality. However, the overall discrimination and inequality women face is also seriously affecting access to and benefits from ICT for

women and girls in many parts of the world and this is a challenge which needs to be explicitly addressed.

Fully utilizing the unique opportunities for change that the MDGs and ICT represent, requires enhanced political commitment at high levels and significantly increased dedicated resources.

* * *

In this chapter, in the article “Equality in Genetic Terms”, Allan Bradley explains the biological meaning of equality. In her paper on Women’s Empowerment and ICTs”, Renate Bloem of the Conference of NGOs talks about the important role her organization played in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and presents the contribution of ICTs to women’s empowerment. Dho Young-Shim explains the role of tourism in development in “Achieving Equality through Tourism” while talking about her experience in Korea.

June Zeitlin of WEDO in “Gender Equality: Architecture and UN Reforms” looks at the gains of women’s movement as well as the challenges. Dennis Anderson of Pace University explains the “Impact of ICTs on Values”, while Linda Grover talks about her proposal to have a Global Family Day to contribute to the understanding of equality and peace. Stacey Roussel in “Thoughts on Equality” talks about globalization and equality.

EQUALITY IN GENETIC TERMS

Allan Bradley, President, Welcome Trust Sanger Institute

I am going actually to talk about equality from a perspective of a geneticist and I am going to really focus on our heritage, in other words, the genetic information that we inherit from our parents and our grandparents indeed a long way back in time from our ancestors, and explain how we really have a common humanity. There are no distinct races and this, of course, is based on a lot of current information we have been able to gather about the human genome.

United Nations is a great place to talk about different peoples, different populations around the world. In many cases, it is not so easy to know whether an individual is from Africa, Kalahari, or from India.

What I really want to communicate is that when we look at individuals, we look at their hair colour or skin colour or eye colour, but these are just a very few markers, very few indicators of variations that occur in our genome, that we inherit from our ancestors. There is a text in Latin that was published about 250 years ago, that had tried to categorize humans into different racial groups: Americans, Europeans, Asians and Africans, and there are some interesting discriminators. And this is really all non-sense.

Now the scientists have more data: the human genome project has generated a lot of data. There is one reference genome that is publicly available and you can look at it. This information has been used quite recently to engage in a project that is a half-map project - that is the map of differences between individuals in different populations across the globe.

This has actually generated a view that actually we have descended from one common group of primates and it illustrated that we are much less diverse as individuals than other species. Humans have much less variability from one individual to the next, even though we look quite distinct from one another. In fact, if you look at the primates, you can see that humans in fact are the least diverse, and as little diverse as gorillas in terms of the variability between one individual and the next.

Looking at the variations in different populations across the globe, the key message is that the variation with individuals is actually common across people from very, very diverse regions separated by tens of thousands of miles from one another. The variations within different populations that are particular to one or other geographic region are slight. Most of the differences between us are found in all the people, in different geographic regions.

Only one gene of the 20,000 or so genes in our genome is very diverse - the most diverse gene. One of the genes is represented in most of the people in Africa but as you move across into the Far East, into Mongolia for example, another formative gene is found to be present. But the thing is that there is a very, very gentle variation across the planet, illustrating really that there are no individual genes that define racial groups. So we are all descended from one ancestor, we just have a little bit less or more of those particular slight variations.

You see more variations in the parts of the globe where people have been living longer, while in the regions where people have moved in more recently, because it is more difficult to live there, there is less variation than in other parts of the world.

To sum up, humans actually show very little variations from one to another, although it is clear that there is some clear variation from the genome. That variation is distributed evenly around the world in different populations, in different geographic regions and there are no such things as distinct human races. From a modern genetics point of view, knowing about the genome, knowing about the variations between individuals and using that information, we can see that individual humans are not distinct from each other no matter how they look.

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs (CONGO)

Conference of NGOs has been actively involved in the preparation and the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) by trying to create the largest possible space for participation of all civil society entities, including the women's caucus. The implementation and follow-up to the WSIS is done by a complex architecture, including, the ECOSOC Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the Global Alliance for ICTs and Development (GAID) which has brought us all together here. CONGO is now working hard to keep a significant level of NGO participation in the activities of all these mechanisms, although women's activists from all over the world succeeded in inscribing on the conference agenda and in the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action the key issues of women's empowerment and gender equality in the Beijing Conference of Women.

The twelve Beijing areas of concern have not been lived up to. Altogether, women still don't hold enough decision-making power in politics and economics, even though some lucky exceptions exist and several developing countries have done real progress.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals do not only need high profile women that hold power in politics and economics, but ordinary women who assume leadership roles at the grassroots level, within their families and communities, where they have the greatest chance to change mentalities. ICTs can greatly help us achieving women's empowerment and gender equality and thereby contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The World Summit on the Information Society

Both phases of the WSIS devoted sustained attention to the issue of women's empowerment and gender equality, mainly through the prism of the gender digital divide:

The Tunis Commitment recognizes that a gender digital divide exists and reaffirms its commitment to women's empowerment and to integrating a gender equality perspective to overcome this divide. We know that this gap exists both in countries from the North and the South and it is strongly linked to the structural conditions of women's disempowerment since:

- women have lower levels of literacy worldwide (they make up 2/3 of the illiterate population);
- they make up the majority of the population in rural areas in many developing regions, since men often have to migrate to the cities to look for employment;
- socio-cultural and religious customs often hinder women's access to the internet.

Par. 12 of the Geneva Declaration states: "We are committed to ensuring that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. To this end, we should mainstream a gender equality perspective and use ICTs as a tool to that end".

Overcoming the digital divide would be an effective tool of women's empowerment because, when women have access to ICTs, they use them effectively! Indeed, experience shows that:

- ICTs can increase income and access to employment for women, as well as participation in the formal economy and workforce at higher levels and with higher pay. Interesting experiences have been done in Bangladesh and India, with women working in village pay phones and web rural information kiosks earning almost the double of the average local salaries;
- ICTs can improve access to literacy and education at all levels. Elearning allows greater flexibility of schedules, lower overall costs and escaping the feeling of isolation in male-dominated classrooms. Women at all ages generally show a real interest in this new form of learning that allows them to better conciliate their double and sometimes triple workload as family care givers, money earners and community-based activists;

- ICTs can increase access to technical education and training for women via training programmes that teach students how to design, build and maintain computer networks. This kind of field is still too little invested by women, but the potential is high and the interest is generally there;
- ICTs can promote non formal education for girls and women, for example via community learning centres in rural areas. Projects carried out in Iran have induced a growing awareness among the women participants of their rights, greater participation of women in village council meetings, readiness to participate in elections, etc;
- ICTs can improve medical prevention and care, particularly in the area of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Several traditional practices that violate women's rights are formally outlawed in many countries: in India, dowry is forbidden by the constitution, but it is still so largely practiced that for many families - and for women themselves - having a girl child is still a catastrophe and the certainty of being indebted for the whole life. This is one of the main reasons of the alarming level of girls' foeticide and infanticide which, unfortunately, still prevails even among educated and urban women. ICTs can help women discussing issues of violence, cultural taboos and HIV prevention by distributing information through email, diskettes, CD-ROM, telephone and fax. Campaigns have been launched for awareness raising for women, men, and midwives. An Indian NGO uses the Internet, email and other information sharing tools to create awareness about female foeticide and to promote legal measures banning sex selection. Another example is given by female genital mutilations that are forbidden in many African countries, but still largely practiced, mostly by mothers and grandmothers. Some NGOs have developed interactive radio and television programs in Africa to promote positive attitudes to women's reproductive and sexual health and tackle sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, female genital mutilation and birth spacing;
- ICTs can improve women's access to governance at local and national level. Governmental services online are more accessible to women, who do not need to travel far away. Also, increased interaction with government officials can lead to greater accountability and transparency;
- ICTs can promote socio-cultural empowerment such as freedom of movement, visibility in public spaces and positive media images of women. Women who have learned computer skills are often seen as worldly, as being a source of information

and mastering a sophisticated device. Women can also use ICTs to confront cultural taboos and challenge cultural prescriptions;

- ICTs can help fight violence against women as shown by Take back the Tech, a campaign launched by the Association for Progressive Communication - a CONGO member. The idea is that violence against women and the gender digital divide stem from the same source: the unequal power relations between men and women. Rallying itself to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, launched by the Centre for Women Global Leadership - also a CONGO member - women and girls all over the world are exhorted, from 25 November to 10 December, to use ICTs to denounce acts of violence committed against women in the household and to reshape, redefine, participate, use and share all aspects related to ICTs that to date have been defined mainly by men;
- Finally ICTs, particularly the internet, can help women NGOs network, join forces and achieve synergies to hold governments accountable to the promises they have made in terms of gender equality, women's empowerment and the MDGs. As shown by the last example, the internet's potential to launch campaigns, exchange experiences and grow stronger has largely been demonstrated.

Closing the gender digital divide is certainly one of the most promising ways to empower women and help them take their fate in their own hands to achieve gender equality.

ACHIEVING EQUALITY THROUGH TOURISM

Dho Young-Shim, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, UNWTO ST-EP Foundation

Forming global partnerships is essential in fighting poverty, working towards a shared future, and fostering the hope that all humanity will live in peace and prosperity. This hope is the backbone of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which include the desire to reduce extreme poverty by the year 2015. Some might question whether or not setting such a lofty goal is realistic. But, from life experience, I can assure you that what may seem impossible now, can become a reality with hard work, cooperation and diligence. When I was born in South Korea, it was a Least Developed Country (LDC), with a per capita income of a little over \$100 per year. But now I enjoy

living in a country with the world's 12th largest economy and a per capita income of \$16,000. Korea's success is the world's proof that perseverance truly can pay off!

How can we ensure that hope is fostered globally, especially in the world's poorest regions? After traveling internationally for nearly four decades, to the world's poorest and richest destinations, I have come to realize that one of the most viable tools that can be used in the fight against poverty is tourism, for three simple reasons: First, sustainable tourism projects can be developed without needing large amounts of infrastructure. Secondly, tourism provides jobs for those who are most vulnerable to poverty - women and youth. Indeed, this ties directly with the 3rd Millennium Development Goal, which aims to "promote gender equality and empower women"; and finally, a large amount of time is not required to start a tourism project. In some of the poorer areas of Africa, where 50% of the population is under the age of 18, tourism can offer these young adults employment and educational opportunities.

Tourism's potential is still greater than most people realize. Despite various terrorist attacks, devastating hurricanes and the tsunami aftermath, worldwide international tourist travels continue to increase, exceeding 800 million for the first time in 2005. Even more encouraging is that Africa is the world's leader in terms of tourism growth, with a 10.6% increase this year.

In order to harness this immense potential, the United Nations World Tourism Organization created the ST-EP Foundation. ST-EP's mission is intimately tied to the Millennium Development Goals and its work aims to alleviate poverty through developing sustainable tourism projects in Least Developed Countries. This year the ST-EP Foundation is supporting several projects and total funding will reach approximately 820,000 USD. The assurances of environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability are the basis for all of these projects. For example, in West Africa we have the "Network of Cross-border National Parks and Protected areas" project, which involves nine countries in total, including: Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Conducted in partnership with the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), this project will support and protect biodiversity at the national and sub-regional levels.

Promoting tourism in Least Developed Countries through ICT will not only offer economic benefits, but will also encourage learning and friendship among different cultures, races, and religions. In July 2006 an agreement was signed between the UN World Tourism Organization and Microsoft Corporation to utilize the potential of ICT in

the tourism industry. Through the creation of a new portal called “Windows on Africa” showcasing the continent in a globally competitive manner, will quickly become a reality.

Tourism’s potential to fight poverty is especially great when it is combined with sports. Communications technology made it possible for an incredible 4.5 billion people to watch the World Cup Finals in 2006, and I wonder how so much of the world’s attention can be used to serve a common good in 2010. *What will be the legacy of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa?* The UNWTO is currently researching ways to create strategic partnerships involving the World Cup preparation camps and hope that package tours will make it possible for the entire continent to be explored and enjoyed.

Tourism, like no other industry, has the ability to empower women and men while increasing tolerance and equality among global neighbors. Developing sustainable tourism projects in LDCs will help to ensure a shared future for all humanity.

GENDER EQUALITY: ARCHITECTURE AND UN REFORMS³

June Zeitlin, Executive Director, Women's Environment and Development Organization

In the last decade, efforts to make the development, human rights and peace/security ‘mainstreams’ work for women have resulted in impressive gains as well as staggering failures. In the 10 years since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), a number of strategic partnerships forged between women’s movements and policy reformers have placed equity and women’s human rights at the heart of global debates in areas such as the International Criminal Court, Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and in the Millennium Project Task Force on Gender Equality. In some regions, women have made striking gains in elections to local and national government bodies, and in entering public institutions; girls’ access to primary education has increased and women are entering the labor force in larger numbers; access to contraception is much more widespread; gender equality has been mainstreamed in

³ Based on the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) and the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)³ which was commissioned by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) and Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Drafted by Aruna Rao, Founder-Director, Gender at Work, and substantially revised by CWGL and WEDO.

some countries into law reform processes and statistical measures; and violence against women has been recognized as a human rights issue and made a crime in many countries.

However, gains for women's rights are facing growing resistance in many places and too often positive examples are the exception rather than the norm. They usually occur because an individual, a network, an organizational champion, or a unique confluence of 'push' factors is responsive and receptive to change. Even then, these changes only come about when women's rights advocates invest extraordinary interest, time and effort and, where required, take significant risks. For instance, it took nearly five years of advocacy by women with support of a small number of donors to get Burundi women included at the peace table and, at the eleventh hour, it was the advocacy of Nelson Mandela that made it finally happen. This ad hoc approach, which too often requires high-level intervention, is not effective in producing consistent positive outcomes to support gender equality and women's human rights.

Ten years after Beijing and 30 years after the first world conference on women in Mexico City, gender equality has a growing number – but still too few – advocates in the corridors of power at international, national or local levels where critical decisions are made. For decades, women have relied on the United Nations as an important venue for the promotion of human rights and social justice, demanding that the UN set global norms and standards in these areas. Just last year at the World Summit, governments reaffirmed that gender equality is critical to the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals, and re-committed to its promotion in Goal #3. But too often there is insufficient implementation of these commitments, as demonstrated by the failure to achieve universal primary education in 2005 - the first MDG target.

Many women's rights advocates now fear that the political championship at a global level for social justice and women's rights is eroding. Evaluation after evaluation shows that countries, bi-lateral donors and the multilateral system consistently fail to prioritize, and significantly under-fund, women's rights and equality work⁴. Money talks, and in this case, it has voted with its feet. Equally worrying is the fact that new aid principles stressing national ownership and their accompanying aid modalities such as budget support and sector wide approaches, while laudable in some ways, make it even harder to specifically resource and track gender equality goals.

The present phase of UN reform provides an opportunity to take gender equality from the realm of rhetoric to the practice of reality. Most women's rights advocates agree that the

⁴ UNIFEM Assessment: A/60/62 – E2005/10; UNDP Evaluation of Gender mainstreaming, available at http://www.undp.org/eo/documents/EO_GenderMainstreaming.pdf

normative frameworks for gender equality and women's human rights – legal frameworks, constitutional guarantees for equality, and gender equality policies – have advanced considerably in many countries as well as within the UN system. However, the lack of implementation and accountability repeatedly undermines these commitments.

“Gender Mainstreaming”, promoted widely in the UN after the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, was transformatory in its conception. But it has been extremely limited in its implementation. Gender mainstreaming has often only been reluctantly adopted by “mainstream” agencies because top leadership has not adequately supported this agenda; it has too often become a policy of “add women and stir” without questioning basic assumptions, or ways of working. It has been implemented in an organizational context of hierarchy and agenda setting that has not prioritized women's rights and where women's units usually have limited authority to initiate or monitor gender equality work, and no authority to hold people and programs accountable.

Gender mainstreaming is sometimes even misused to simply mean including men as well as women, rather than bringing transformational change in gender power relations. At best, it has meant such things as adopting a gender policy, creating a gender unit to work on organizational programs, mandatory gender training, and increasing the number of women staff and managers. In the worst cases, gender mainstreaming has been used to stop funding women's work and/or to dismantle many of the institutional mechanisms such as the women's units and advisors created to promote women in development, in the name of integration. Both national and international institutions have had this experience.

Currently, there are several under-resourced agencies focused exclusively on women's issues (United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)). Other larger agencies, including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, the High Commissioners for human rights and refugees and others, sometimes do important work on gender equality, but it is only a part of their mandate, and often receives low priority.

With decades of experience and in view of the challenges ahead, there is ample knowledge of how the UN system can be better organized and structured to facilitate positive change for women and families.

Realizing women's rights and gender equality needs clear leadership on both the policy and the operational side and we believe that a more explicit and synergistic relationship between normative and operational work can best be achieved under one umbrella.

Without a lead entity, gender equality continues to be everybody's and nobody's responsibility. Gender mainstreaming will work best only when it co-exists alongside a strong women's agency that can demonstrate leadership and advocate at the highest levels and hold the system accountable. An entity with system-wide reach will improve the sharing of information, expertise and follow-up between the normative and operational arms. The artificial separation between the normative and operational does not work in practice, leaving the normative function isolated from work on the ground where real conditions inform policy and program requirements. Moreover, policy advocacy has too long eclipsed the equally important business of institutional and operational change needed to deliver development benefits to women.

Effectiveness of such a high level women-specific entity is contingent not only on its own vision and capacity but also on the strengthened commitment (as measured through prioritization, resourcing and results) of existing agencies in the whole United Nations system toward gender equality goals. Women's lives around the world are touched by decisions ranging from small arms trade, climate control and macroeconomic policy to water and sanitation, health and education. The task is too broad and nuanced to be addressed by any one agency alone. In the case of HIV/Aids for example, the whole UN system is mandated to address it with the support of UNAIDS (including a well-resourced global fund for HIV/Aids) and similarly the whole system is mandated to address human rights with the support of a recently expanded OHCHR. So, too, for gender equality, system-wide responsibility is critical.

High-level systems at the country and regional levels need to develop and implement specific accountability mechanisms, incentives for promoting work on gender equality, and take action for non-compliance. The institutional architecture at the country level must be held accountable for gender equality goals using agreed-upon benchmarks not only for the process of gender mainstreaming but for progress toward women's rights and equality goals.

IMPACT OF ICTs ON VALUES

Dennis Anderson, Associate Dean, Professor, Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems, Pace University

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have transformed our world in a very short period of time, increasing opportunities for equality. Many of us who live in developed countries enjoy the benefits of this transformation, such as ATM machines and videoconferencing. In the ICT age, the physical world has become linked to the virtual world. For example, millions of youth today are meeting in the virtual space through multiplayer games and social networks. While there is a never ending attempt to bring the physical world closer to the cyber world, more than half of the world's population lives in poverty without much hope. Many of these people are simply left behind, as they struggle against poverty, hunger, diseases, unsanitary environment, corruption and tyranny.

Fundamental human rights should include

- Individual dignity
- Socio-economic sustainable development
- Freedom from poverty and hunger
- Universal basic education and the opportunity for advancement
- Universal healthcare from the prenatal stage to death
- Freedom from opportunistic diseases
- Sustainable environment
- Freedom from tyranny and corruption
- Freedom of expression

Much of what developed countries have in terms of ICT could be wisely and cost effectively applied and leveraged in underdeveloped and developing countries to create sustainable development and promote fundamental human rights at the same time. In

order to have a greater impact, there has to be a global strategy on ICT for development to help those who want to bring ICT to developing countries and underrepresented and marginalized people, while ensuring a sustainable environment. What can be done?

Recommendations

- There should be a Global Agreement on ICT & Sustainable Development with the necessary funding commitment.
- There should be a publicly accessible database that contains a depository of global best practices in ICT & Sustainable Development.
- There should be a funding agency to support projects that will be based on sound, approved best practices, as well as new approaches.
- The investment should be made in the country that will adopt the ICT & Sustainable Development project. Invest locally.
- All projects must transfer knowledge to the locals.⁵
- Education should be mandated as the core objective of all projects. If the locals cannot read or write, there is no point of having computers on the desk.

RECIPE FOR AN EQUAL, BETTER, SAFER WORLD

Linda Grover, Founder, President, Global Family Foundation

My own recipe for a better, safer world is called GLOBAL FAMILY Day.

GLOBAL FAMILY Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing every January first, is the new annual holiday observance that's been endorsed by the UN General Assembly, by more than 20 sitting heads of state and not once but twice by the U.S. Congress, the last time on September 25, 2006. Conceived by children and promoted largely by children, it commemorates the first day of the 2000's, the United Nations' successful "One Day in Peace January 1, 2000". On that date, despite many dangers, nearly all of humanity

⁵ NABU-Knowledge Transfer Beyond Boundaries, <http://oneworldprojects.blogspot.com>

behaved responsibly. Human violence of all kinds was nearly absent from the earth that day – an achievement, it seems to me, that’s worth remembering, repeating and improving upon every year.

Whenever groups gather to talk about our ‘common humanity’ it’s so we can learn how to get along better. Perhaps it has to do with our getting separated from one another as early humans spread out to populate the world, developing in the process different faiths, skin colors, customs and different holidays too. So naturally, over the last millennium or two, as humanity’s started to come back together again, that’s caused a few problems. Holidays after all are perhaps as powerful a cultural formative as could possibly exist. Holidays inspire, teach and motivate us. Holidays identify, unify, restore and renew our individual societies.

What’s needed now is one simple ritual that can be shared by all. In addition to honoring our individual cultures’ sacred holidays, we need to add annual observance of dates that are important to, and owned equally by, all of humanity. Earth Day is a good start, and the UN’s International Day of Peace, marking the annual get-together of the world’s leaders, is another. But there is also need for a day celebrated with similar ritual in every home, by every family. Something that’s enjoyable and meaningful, like the American Thanksgiving which has served for hundreds of years to unite our citizens. Thanksgiving helps every new American feel like he or she belongs. It also helps us through hard times. It was vitally important in rejoining North and South after our horrific Civil War.

Although a good portion of the world’s people already recognizes New Year’s Day, the activities on that day are by no means universal. Much of the holiday’s former emphasis on forgiveness, on charitable giving, and pledges for the year ahead have been lost and forgotten. GLOBAL FAMILY Day is about restoring that meaning and purpose, at the start of the year.

Next GLOBAL FAMILY Day, and on January first every year, I invite you to break bread with (1) someone you care about, (2) someone who needs your help, or (3) someone you have had differences with.

Breaking bread is universal. It reminds us of our individual cultures and beliefs. The sharing of bread is a signal of peaceful intent that almost surely predates the handshake. Also, because it involves gifting, it is often more powerful.

Think about GLOBAL FAMILY Day as your grandchildren or grandchildren’s grandchildren might celebrate it – maybe using a recipe that you handed down. Imagine children all over the world going to bed on the last night of the year, excited about their

family's plans for the next day, making bread in the morning and visiting with others the rest of the day. Pledging non-violence, helping the hungry, settling quarrels, building friendships.

GLOBAL FAMILY Day 2007 may be a new pragmatic tool to reduce hate and hunger – one that we need very badly right now. We can begin to work together more effectively for the people of Darfur, and for every nation's hurt and hungry.

At least some people in every nation should know about, and will observe One Day of Peace and Sharing for Our Common Humanity in the Information Age. It is now not only possible for good actions and good news to spread around the earth in a heartbeat, it is vitally necessary if we are to overcome the effects of the bad news that assails us daily.

This pragmatic plan for greater peace and more abundant sharing differs from many proposals submitted to the United Nations. (1) It's already been approved in principle. (2) It costs nothing, but will stimulate trade, especially micro-businesses around the world (3) It is not controversial, (4) We can have fun doing it. Let's therefore start breaking breads. Let's make lunch, not war.

THOUGHTS ON EQUALITY

Stacey Roussel, Youth Representative, Young Professionals for International Cooperation, The SAVITA Society

No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.⁶

The Millennium Declaration, unanimously signed by the member states of the United Nations (UN) in 2000, put forth six universal values: freedom, tolerance, sustainable development, solidarity, shared responsibility and equality. From these values the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were created to give direction and hope to the international community. While these values and goals were being proclaimed, the world of technology was quietly but profoundly changing the way we communicate, work, build communities and ultimately go about the work of self realization. These powerful tools, information and communication technologies (ICT), are playing an ever

⁶ <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

increasingly important role in accomplishing the MDGs and strengthening the values laid out in the Millennium Declaration. Technology is playing an especially intriguing role in advancing the value of equality.

The Millennium Declaration defines the value of equality to include “no individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development.” In his book, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*⁷, Thomas Friedman made startlingly clear the role of technology in leveling the playing field for an unprecedented number of people around the world. Personal computers, fiber optic cable, cell phones, outsourcing and off shoring, and “informing” technologies like Google are providing an entrée to individuals, regardless of nationality, to “benefit from development” by providing jobs, increased connectivity to the world around them, and a platform for interaction.

Technology has a multiplying power. Where one analog television signal used to reach a broadcast area, now three digital channels are multicasting with bandwidth to spare. Website have become multi media platforms and television stations are media centers where the evening news broadcast is secondary to the accompanying pod casting, blogging, and interactive forums.

Perhaps one of the greatest economic equalizers or flatteners providing access to the ‘benefits of development’ has been the scary business of outsourcing. Scary because it means facing the unknown for workers in developed countries and sharing what is too often perceived as a limited resource, jobs, with workers in developing countries. For all of its possible benefits, outsourcing is of course not in itself the solution to poverty or the answer to our question of equality. It falls short. The solution lies deeper. It lies in letting go of seeing our fate as separate from everyone else’s. We must internalize Mahatma Gandhi’s saying that, “No one is free when others are oppressed.” Until we as a human race realize this interconnectedness, we will simply repeat the mistakes of the past.

As we go about advancing the cause of equality through the use and dissemination of ICTs, we must be mindful of their limitations and resist the temptation to see them as the savior. ICTs are tools. Their effects on our lives are not unanimously positive. A recent special on PBS’ *Frontline* investigated the personal and cultural pressures experienced by the young women working in India’s call centers as they try to balance their traditional roles with an increasingly “western” or “modern” experience. In addition to working toward true equality and not simply adding a job onto an unchanged tradition role, we

⁷ Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Expanded and Updated edition; April 18, 2006

must be careful not to allow the proliferation of ICTs and globalization to white wash our traditions or simply make our lives so busy we lose sight of reality.

Another important thing to remember about ICTs in the pursuit of equality is that they are not yet ubiquitous. Not everyone has access to personal computers, free and uncensored information, outsourced tech jobs and cell phones. People continue to die from hunger, curable diseases, and many of the other scourges of poverty. The question of poverty and providing equal opportunity to participate in development is a moral question as well as a logistical one. This is where the social entrepreneurs enter the scene - those who would endeavor to create social capital as well as monetary capital through their efforts to save the world.

Venture philanthropy, social entrepreneur, and volunteer tourism are just a few of the solutions that have grown up in the ‘third’ or non profit sector to answer the question of equality of opportunity. While business has been busy outsourcing, off shoring and wiring the world, non governmental organizations like the Grameen Bank have been busy creating opportunities for individuals to prosper and perhaps take advantage of this new connectedness. In 1976, Dr. Muhammad Yunus founded the Grameen Bank and loaned a total of \$27 to a handful of women in a village outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh. As the loans were paid back, the project grew, and as more money was lent to more women for entrepreneurial ventures, the Bank began to expand its concept of poverty from simple monetary or ‘traditional’ poverty to include the more aloof problems of poverty like high birthrates, lack of education and poor healthcare. By including these issues in the program through a series of pledges the women make, the Grameen Bank ensured a deepening and longevity to their success that many projects only dream of accomplishing. The Grameen Bank included another ingenious aspect to their loans called group lending. By tying the success of each individual to the success of the group, the Grameen Bank understood the fundamental power of community. The Bank recently began using cell phones not only as its own enterprise, but to connect the women to the information and people they need to increase the success of their businesses and their quality of life.

The more freedom, participation, connectedness and transparency a country possesses, the more prosperous it will be. When people are free, they are happier, more productive and more creative, and as they participate in the global economy, their country’s GDP will grow and along with it the hope of its people.

The youth and young professionals of today take for granted a level of interconnectivity and immediacy that is truly unprecedented. We expect a world of opportunity – not just

for ourselves, but for our brothers and sisters who are working in outsourcing, the women and children in villages we have not yet met. We expect to be able to make a meaningful difference in the world within our lifetime through the multiplying power of technology. We hear about the income gap ever widening, yet simultaneously a global consciousness seems to be growing about the plight of the poor, begging a moral question of individual responsibility. Just as technology allows an individual unprecedented access to the global playing field, it also sets the standard for individual action for the global good, a good that is not achievable without equality.

If we do not harness the enthusiasm within today's youth for equality of opportunity and women's empowerment and the vast potential information and communication technologies bring, then we will have missed our common humanity.

CHAPTER V

TOLERANCE AND DIALOGUE

OVERVIEW

Georg Kell, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact Office

Embodied in the Millennium Declaration are a common set of fundamental values and principles including freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance and dialogue. The aim of this section is to give tangible expression to the values of tolerance and dialogue - particularly important if we are to build a more inclusive global economy and a more peaceful world.

The challenges of globalization are too interconnected for any one individual or sector of society to address alone. Our common goals of peace and development can only be realized with the active engagement of Governments, civil society and the business community. It is in this spirit of multi-stakeholder cooperation and dialogue that the UN Global Compact was conceived. The UN Global Compact was founded on the premise that business has a unique role to play in helping to achieve the broad objectives of the UN: peace and security, sustainable development and the protection of human rights. As creators of jobs and wealth, as promoters of trade and investment and as innovators in the development of new technologies, business, civil society and the UN must continue to enhance tolerance and dialogue in order to more effectively pursue our common goals.

We should work together to establish a new definition of tolerance – where we respect, accept, listen to, and understand others. By increasing communication and dialogue among peoples we can begin to understand the challenges, others are confronting each and every day. Through dialogue we can develop empathy, gain a greater understanding and appreciation for others and recognize additional opportunities for collective problem-solving. It is only by transforming our rhetoric of tolerance to respect and understanding that we will be able to work together toward solving some of our world’s most pressing problems.

* * *

In “Dialogue”, Karen Armstrong begins her statement with the assertion that we are all living in one world and that this world is one of economic interdependence. This world is also one of information technology and easy access to immense amounts of information - especially on the web. In “Discussion on Tolerance, Dialogue and Religion”, Marshall notes that the idea of tolerance needs to be expanded from simply putting up with

something to appreciation and engagement. Dialogue needs a revision: from simply meaning words and no action to an idea of openness to a transformation of understanding and as a basis for action in a discussion.

In “Spiritual Strength”, Kitagawa states that we are faced with many global challenges and there is an exacerbation of the consciousness of fear. In response to conflict and differences, there is ever increasing militarization. We are now at the tipping point of dysfunction and focusing specifically on this will only further the dysfunction. In “Giving Soul to Globalization”, Skali highlights the interfaith event he created, Festival de Fès, which focuses on using art and music - especially sacred music - in order to create dialogue between civilizations featuring a dialogue among people and showcases the importance of diversity in people and religions all over the world. In “Humanity and Tolerance”, Ghent-Rodriguez speaks of the difficulty in defining the term tolerance. The meaning should compass much more than to simply put up with and should include cherish, respect, and dialogue.

DIALOGUE

Karen Armstrong, Author and Historian of Religion

This paper sets out to address the directions that religion is taking in the world today, how different religions work together, how they can contribute to peace and how they shape identities. I think these are the questions for our world. We are now living in one world. We are interdependent economically. What happens in Afghanistan and Iraq today will increasingly have repercussions in Washington and London tomorrow. This is an age where an immense amount of information is readily available, but you have to have the predisposition to interpret what you read on the web. There is a lot of unfortunate stuff on the web out there. I had a depressing day yesterday. I appeared on national public radio to speak about my new book on Prophet Muhammad and took phone in questions. Every single one of them picked out some unpleasant aspect of the Prophet’s life, some of them dating back to the medieval period. If you want to find common ground you can find it, if you don’t, you won’t. You can easily select the information, the huge amount of information that you receive. Dialogue is great, but listening is also important. We are often so busy in our very talkative world, speaking to one another but when somebody else utters, we are not really listening to what he or she says, but thinking of the next clever thing that we are going to say. So dialogue demands that you go into it, not with the sense that you have got the answers, but to be ready to learn, to listen and to be

transformed rather than simply to rebut. A lot of the so-called dialogue that is going on in the world today is characterized very much by a rather aggressive form of righteousness.

Now religions are supposedly all intolerant. I have lost count of the number of taxi drivers, who when I tell them what I do for a living inform me quite categorically that religion is responsible for all the world wars of history. Not true! Of course there is bad religion. There is strident religion and a lot of strident certainty around at the moment but not only in the religious world. At base every single one of the great world religions, in one way or another speaks of “concern for everybody”, that you cannot confine your benevolence to your own group. That can be just group egotism and it is egotism that holds us back from what we call the divine. When you expand your sympathies from beyond your own parochial vision then you begin to lose a sense of the prison of selfishness.

There is a lot of secular intolerance and there is a lot of secular fundamentalism too. I finished off my extremely depressing afternoon by having dinner with a great luminary of the American establishment. I am not going to tell you who he or she was and I limped away appalled, thinking that there is a kind of disdain for religion, a disdain for things Islamic and a sense of superiority.

I was very inspired years ago by reading the words of the late Canadian scholar Wilfred Cantwell Smith, former professor of comparative religion at Harvard university. He in the mid 50s, before the Suez crisis, wrote an extraordinarily prescient book called *Islam and the World* and he finished that the Muslim world has somehow or other to accept the reality of the west. However, the west and the Christian world must also learn to recognize that it shares the planet not with inferiors but with equals. In 1955, he said that unless both sides learn to appreciate these utter facts of life they will have failed the test of the 20th century. 9/11 showed that both sides had failed that test. The issue now is whether we can redeem ourselves in the 21st century which has had such a catastrophic beginning.

DISCUSSION OF TOLERANCE, DIALOGUE AND RELIGION

Katherine Marshall, Senior Advisor, The World Bank

Building a world with true tolerance and creating an environment where dialogue is well and truly practiced are the two challenges before us today, and the two are intricately linked one to the other. Nowhere does the dual challenge offer more hope yet also present greater difficulties than in matters of religion.

We set out here to address three topics:

The first is tolerance. We commonly seek and admire tolerance, as an ideal, both ancient and modern, connoting peace and respect. Nonetheless we can and should test our understanding of the idea. The word “tolerance” is suspect for some people because tolerance, on one hand, can be heard as meaning true “acceptance”, but on the other as implying something more along the lines of “putting up with people”. We aspire, I believe, to a concept of tolerance that indeed carries with it a commitment to deep and sincere understanding and respect. But there is merit in exploring whether this is indeed our full understanding. What elements of bare acceptance might lurk in our understanding of attitudes and approaches to what is often termed “the other” – that is people, communities, beliefs and practices that differ from our own teachings and beliefs? What is needed to attain the ideal that is conveyed in the title of this panel discussion?

Next we turn to dialogue. In the rather pragmatic world where I have lived and worked for several decades, I find that people’s eyes tend to glaze over when the term “dialogue” is used. For many people, especially those committed to change and justice, dialogue can be heard as implying words and not action. Indeed, we are committed to action, to translating fine words into reality. However, dialogue is a vital part of that effort and it deserves respect, extending far beyond tolerance. Dialogue is not about explaining, it does not mean debate. It does not mean fine words. Dialogue is not about words. Dialogue means a far richer and more complex process of engagement and listening, then exploring common ground and difference, that leads to learning, understanding, and change. It is about an openness to transformation and to reaching new understanding and ideas. This is what forms the basis for action in the common interest, especially in complex and plural societies.

Third, this panel addresses the complex, sensitive topic of religion. Each panelist brings to this discussion great depth of involvement and engagement. We are keenly aware of how important and sensitive the topic of religion can be. The common advice to avoid two topics at the dinner table: politics and religion, is grounded on much heated experience. But religion is so fundamentally important to so much of the world's population that it should not be left to silence. For many poor communities, our greatest source of concern together, religion is an all too rare source of hope, trust and meaning. A thoughtful dialogue and exchange about how different religions can live side by side in true understanding, tolerance and respect, how they can work together for the common welfare and for social justice, and how they can contribute to peace is what we aspire to. To achieve that, we must also discuss how religious beliefs and institutions contribute to social tensions, how they shape identities, positive and negative, and how the role of religion in the public square is changing in today's modernizing and changing world. This dialogue is fundamental to the challenge of our common humanity.

SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Audrey Kitagawa, Chair of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns

We are faced with many global challenges and there is no end to the many challenges that we can list that have faced us today and will continue to face us tomorrow. It is ultimately the diagnosis of the state of art consciousness and we can say that there is an exacerbation of the consciousness of fear. This is a manifestation of our increasing militarization as a methodology by which we deal with our conflicts. When we have passed the 1.3 trillion dollar mark in arming ourselves with the mechanisms and machineries of war, we can ultimately say we have reached a tipping point of dysfunction that we can no longer ignore.

However, to constantly focus on dysfunction is itself dysfunctional. We must move to the new frontier and study those ways that will promote our health and to shift our consciousness in a way that is going to promote harmony, peace and well-being. We must be able to move from an ill society to a well society and ultimately that is going to assume the personal responsibility of each and every person in the world. If we are going to be considered global citizens, we must grasp this fundamental reality that we cannot abdicate our personal responsibility or to see our role that we must undertake to create a country, a state and a personal community of well-being.

We must come to grips with the fundamental reality of ourselves as spiritual beings, and that as spiritual beings we cannot ignore the role that we must play in helping to develop the human heart.

We have heard a lot about development and the eradication of poverty, but Mother Teresa said that the greatest poverty in the world today is spiritual poverty. What she was talking about was the absence of love in the heart. No matter what projects we may seek to undertake in the world, if we do not motivate and move ourselves in ways that speak to love, then we will find many misguided actions.

We have to develop ourselves as better human beings, that we may create better communities. We must develop the heart of compassion, loving kindness, understanding for ourselves and for each other, and ultimately love is going to be the antidote to the consciousness of fear.

In whatsoever forum I find myself in, I never hesitate to speak about the importance of love. For information technologies and all the ways that they have sought to connect us, it has also created the ways to cut us off from having to deal with each other face to face and to engage the heart to heart inspiration that we can provide to each other as human beings living in the real world and not the virtual one.

Therefore, I call upon each and every one of us to become empowered individuals that no matter what the challenges of life may be, we will never fall victim to ourselves and to technologies, or to challenges because the power to love in the human heart is the supreme power. It is that power that can be liken to the little life in the acorn that will grow into the mighty tree. This power, this potential is alive and well in each and every one of you, and therefore no matter what the challenges that the world may hold, I live life without fear because I know I am in the company of good people with good intentions. First and foremost, I know that we are all spiritual beings looking for that noble purpose and it is that noble purpose that will help us all to join hands together and face life in loving ways.

GIVING SOUL TO GLOBALIZATION

Faouzi Skali, President of the International Fez Forum

Starting with the objective of creating an inter-faith dialogue, I realized that music and especially sacred music can create a dialogue between cultures and civilizations. This inspired me and we discovered the inner beauty of each culture and religion of the world in a very sensitive way. So we organized the Interfaith Fez festival for Arts and Music.

This event made it very clear that the diversity of the cultures and religions around the world was important. In fact what made this diversity something tangible, something that we can feel and we can see, was the age of information and communication.

There are more than 5,000 languages now in the world and we are losing one language every week. So in 100 years, we will lose almost 4,500 languages. Diversity is diminishing but at the same we have never been in a situation to have to live in a challenging world where diversity is our daylight.

Because of all the information about all religions and cultures, we now have to enter into dialogue with them, to embrace living experiences of this diversity, in an Islamic city like Fès. The whole city was so happy to welcome all the religions of the world: Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism. People felt that everybody was welcome because all the religions were represented.

Like a huge pilgrimage, everybody came to the fair to share the same values: the values of love, compassion, generosity and hospitality. At the festival, Katherine Marshall and myself founded a forum which is called “Giving Soul to Globalization”. For many years we wondered how we could mobilize the spiritual resources of humanity to make our globalization more human, more spiritual, and more dignified. At the end we found a way to make people from different profiles: spiritual leaders, political leaders and economic leaders to meet and think about how to build a new approach to spiritual globalization.

HUMANITY AND TOLERANCE

Natasha Ghent-Rodriguez, Youth Representative, Young Professionals for International Cooperation, University of South Florida

How can humanity express Tolerance through the MDG's?

If we agree that we share the value of Tolerance, in what ways could this help us to achieve the MDGs?

1. Is Tolerance a shared value?
2. If so, can Tolerance be expressed through one or more of the MDGs?
3. If we live the value of Tolerance, could we accomplish these MDGs?
4. If so, what are the obstacles to achieving this?
5. What can we do to overcome these obstacles?

The currently accepted definition of tolerance is a loose definition of "putting up" with something, to deal with it, not without bias...but just to "tolerate it." I would like to clarify the definition of this valuable but often ill-perceived word.

There are actually two definitions to tolerance:

- a fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc., differ from one's own; freedom from bigotry.
- interest in and concern for ideas, opinions, practices, etc., foreign to one's own; a liberal, undogmatic viewpoint.

The second one is the wider and more applicable definition of tolerance that we must teach.

It is about expanding beyond what the normally accepted definition of tolerance and teaching about tolerance by looking into other cultures and people with interest, even though that might typically make one uncomfortable because of teachings of

discrimination against each other. We must switch the paradigm, lest we keep tolerance as a mask over peoples' eyes at the expense of our own humanity.

- The MDGs were created to promote Human Development and to serve as a blueprint for building a better world.
- In order to make achieving the MDGs a reality, there is a fundamental principle that every society must adopt in order to create a better world. This principle is tolerance.
- Tolerance encourages people of different cultures, races, opinions, religions, nationalities to have positive attitudes toward each other, allows for undogmatic viewpoints, and promotes collaboration/unity of various groups/castes/tribes that exist. Tolerance is understanding, acceptance, and cooperation.

An example of the Cost of Intolerance is the Dalit caste in India. The Dalits are the "untouchables" of India. Due to their status/rank in society, over 160 million people find it arguably impossible to move "above their station".

Without mobility these people find it extremely difficult to buy/own land, move freely within their societies, or to send their children to school. The lack of tolerance leaves the Dalit in a dire situation. Due to the immense discrimination, they are often left in poverty, illiterate, without adequate access to healthcare and forced to frequently migrate, thus decreasing the chances of them attending school even further.

- Lack of tolerance eliminates solidarity in a society, promotes inequality, and denies those discriminated against their freedoms and basic human rights.
- Tolerance is the gateway for these people to ameliorate their situation.

Obstacles to tolerance:

- Generational (and inherited) judgments - these pass from one generation to the next and oftentimes people cannot even name why they hold a certain prejudice, other than that their parents felt that way.
- Misunderstandings/Miscommunication - the root of disagreement is held ground deep in miscommunication, but truly the cost is great as there is blame placed for events that may have never occurred or are irrelevant.

- Fear of the unknown - especially in homogeneous groups, there subsists a culture of fearing what is different – not because it is bad, but because of the fear of loss of status quo or diminishing of one’s own identity when introduced to the unknown.
- Lack of exposure - the lack of tolerance can often be attributed to lack of awareness.
- Lack of open dialogue - often, and especially in closed societies, there are no venues for openly discussing particular hot buttons of a society. If children are raised in homes and schools where tolerance is not discussed and there is no focus on teaching or interest in another’s way of life, children will not often seek it or feel comfortable questioning the way things are.
- Poverty/Hunger - always a barrier between have’s and have not’s, as well as clouding the vision of those who are stuck in poverty or go hungry, who will tend to blame another ethnic group, gender, or group, for their misfortunes. An empty stomach is always a sure path to lack of tolerance.

Solutions to overcoming this issue and instilling tolerance:

- Education - The quintessential elements to achieve tolerance is education and communication; which will open the doors to understanding, sympathy, acceptance, partnerships and most importantly, freedom (www.tolerance.org – a website that has classroom activities about teaching tolerance). We must re-teach the teachers, and attempt to teach the parents, who can then teach the children. Through ICTs classrooms around the world can connect teachers and children to facilitate learning about diversity. Websites such as tolerance.org can be used as a forum to exchange best practices and keep an open channel of communication.
- Cultural exchange for understanding, coupled with education - i.e. organizations such as Seeds of Peace work to break down the barriers between Israel and Palestinian intolerance using cultural exchange programs for young Israelis and Palestinians. Young people are placed in study programs about the other culture and then they will live in the family homes of each other, to find out about what they are like. Through this manner ... Seeds of Peace hopes the grudges of the past will "die out" with new generations. Cultural Exchange can come through “virtual communities”. Allowing for a place for people to congregate without race or creed being an issue.

- Treating injustices in the world - Resolving the wounds of the past between groups through diplomatic solutions and then encouraging conversation between the groups can take age-old problems and make them a memory of the past.
- Having world leaders and countries be examples of tolerance - practicing what is preached is a good start to having the rest of the world believe that the wealthier countries care and are serious.

This is not an insurmountable problem – there are countless open doors and paths to be walked, but we must first be willing to take that first step. As Nelson Mandela once said, “There is no easy walk to freedom anywhere, and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountaintop of our desires.”

CHAPTER VI

SOLIDARITY AND EQUITY

OVERVIEW

Aliye P. Celik, Senior Advisor, Global Alliance for ICT and Development

“The concept of solidarity gets to the heart of our common humanity. It has multiple manifestations, more than usually recognized. Perhaps the most visible is when people unite in the face of humanitarian disasters. In the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, the overwhelming response of the international community showed just how much can be accomplished through global solidarity.

The UN Development Agenda, defined by the UN global conferences and summits since the 1990s, is itself firmly embedded in principles of solidarity. The Agenda expresses the economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of world citizens. Indeed, it has firm roots in the history of struggle by international civil society for human rights, social equity, gender equality, environmental protection, and, more recently, for the globalization of cultural diversity and of solidarity itself. The Agenda articulates shared principles and consensus on policy options to address common, interconnected problems, and it sets out agreed goals and targets—such as the eight Millennium Development Goals—to help advance and assess implementation.

The World Summit for Social Development made clear the links between the UN Development Agenda and the principles of solidarity, when it recognized that “development and social progress will require increased solidarity, expressed through appropriate multilateral programmes and strengthened international cooperation.” This is what the General Assembly has recognized by calling for an International Human Solidarity Day as a new force in the fight against poverty and under-development.

All types of international economic cooperation are not necessarily forms of solidarity. Many are mainly ways of managing interdependence, which is, for example, the driving concept behind the provision of global public goods, such as environmental sustainability or the regulation of international economic transactions.

Yet, many of the tools we have in hand for combating poverty—and for seeking to make globalization a positive force for all—*are* motivated by solidarity. Development aid is, in this regard, a practical manifestation of human solidarity, as it extends opportunity to the less fortunate around the world.

For many countries, official development assistance (ODA) is vital to achieving the MDGs and other development goals. We are still far from reaching the long-standing target of 0.7 percent of GDP for ODA, today met by only a few countries. Scaling-up development aid flows, strengthening aid effectiveness, and maximizing ODA's impact on poverty reduction are all of critical importance.

New forms of solidarity are emerging on this front, which should complement and not replace existing ODA obligations. Some of the most promising are the initiatives on innovative sources of financing for development, including the international solidarity contribution on airplane tickets that some countries have already put in place.

External debt relief can help in liberating resources for poverty reduction, as with the decision to cancel the debt of 18 heavily indebted poor countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. Debt burden, however, still weighs heavily on many developing countries. And we have an ethical obligation to ensure that debt relief funds are directed towards poverty reduction financing, such as for primary health care services, immunizations, education, and access to water.

Meaningful efforts against poverty will also require much more attention to developing genuinely integrated economic and social policies that aim at *preventing* economic crises and developing permanent *social protection* systems. To be effective, these systems must provide for universal coverage based on solidarity principles, and cover basic risks in an integrated way, particularly nutrition, health, ageing, and unemployment.

Within today's rapid globalization process, rising inequalities within and among countries, and unsustainable forms of economic development, we must also devote more attention and creativity to supporting the role of *economic* solidarity. Indeed, the reproduction of old and the creation of new forms of economic solidarity, in this era of globalization and the profit motive, is a clear manifestation of the idea, expressed by major thinkers such as Austrian anthropologist Karl Polanyi, which some would still see as a paradox: that is, that the market economy can only prosper when subordinated to broader social objectives, which themselves must be firmly embedded in principles of solidarity.

Solidarity has a long-standing economic dimension, evident in activities that have evolved as a means for societies and groups to address social, economic, or environmental challenges that are not or are inadequately met by government or by the market.

An old, yet still quite prevalent, example is the “self-help” we see, particularly among the poorest and most marginalized persons in society. These have evolved, in turn, from older manifestations of solidarity, such as those that we still see today in indigenous communities or indeed the extended family. These sorts of activities can, in fact, embrace and engage large sectors of a population, including farmers, women and household members, young people, trade union members, and the unemployed who may be marginalized by the workings of market mechanisms.

We also see the economic dimension of solidarity in what we have come to call “social enterprise”: the work of an expanding array of organizations such as cooperatives, mutual societies, voluntary and civil society organisations, foundations, and associations.

Cooperatives, which emerged as early as the 19th century, are today prominent in the areas of agricultural production, crafts, retailing, banking, and microfinance. Mutual societies are predominantly active in the insurance and mortgage sectors, while associations and foundations figure strongly in the provision of health and welfare services, sports and recreation, culture, environmental regeneration, and humanitarian assistance. The so-called “care economy” that has emerged to confront some social dimensions of our changing societies, particularly ageing, has some similarities with these older concepts. There are also a growing number of businesses that employ staff who are marginalized, such as those with mental health and drug problems and the homeless.

Many of these enterprises are run like businesses to produce goods and services for the market economy, but they manage their operations and redirect their surplus in pursuit of social, environmental, and community goals. And they tend to give particular importance to citizen empowerment and social change through responsible citizenship, with control over what they and their members produce, consume, save, invest, and exchange.

Economic solidarity is also demonstrated by the ideals of not free but “fair trade”, where profit maximization is not the sole end. Rather, the emerging world of “fair trade” emphasizes greater equity in international transactions, where farmers are given a better income, international environmental and labour standards are met, and child labour is shunned.

In this technological age, we are even seeing the growth of an open source software movement as a vehicle for bridging the digital divide and an emerging model for cooperative copyright and intellectual copyright arrangements. And we are also seeing a global movement aimed at guaranteeing firm respect for traditional knowledge and folklore within the rules of intellectual property protection.

Economic solidarity holds great promise in specific development areas. Urban migrants, by tapping their traditional rural networks, can play a role in promoting urban development, in a time when rural-to-urban migration continues unabated. Overseas migrant workers, especially with the weight of remittances, can become active players in development through forms of economic solidarity. Indigenous peoples, with their traditional values of communal solidarity and mutual help and traditional skills, can increasingly reach niche markets globally, but more importantly, best serve their communities.

All of this points to the need for global initiatives and national policies that will strengthen the economic, social, and humanitarian dimensions of solidarity.

Solidarity characterizes the relations among persons that are aware of their community of interests and who accordingly have the moral obligation to provide assistance to each other. Interdependence has characterized today's world for many years, as has the increased proximity of people through the development of transports and technology. Nevertheless, solidarity has not developed at the same path as the interaction among people. Time has come to realize our community of interests and to translate it into active solidarity.”⁸

* * *

Pera Wells, Secretary-General of WFUNA in “Achieving Solidarity and Equity” talks about the important role of the UN in accomplishing the goal of achieving solidarity and equity. In his statement on “Solidarity in the 21st Century”, Joseph Salim of Virtue Foundation observes that the emergence of a connected global village has exacerbated ideological, political and social disparities, and that all do not have the same access to opportunity afforded by ICT.

Alain Lemieux in “Sports and Solidarity” emphasizes that our principles and values are what make us humans, saying that sports have great potential to bring people together, and to build understanding and tolerance and to help resolve conflict through peaceful means. In his statement on “Equity in Health Care”, Mehmet Oz of Columbia University emphasizes the importance of health as a prerequisite to economic development. He indicates the need to get messages about health to the caregivers so that they may act as agents of change.

⁸ Based on the Statement by Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, at the Launch of International Human Solidarity Day, New York, 10 November 2006.

In his chapter on Solidarity, Rodrigo Baggio of Committee for Democracy in Information Technology introduces his organization, based in Brazil, which promotes social inclusion through informal schools teaching IT skills in low income areas, providing opportunities for participants to apply technology to solve real-life challenges.

Diane Miller of International Education Collaborative Foundation in “Partnerships for Solidarity and Equity”, states that common values and goals are predicated on common vision. In “Human Species”, Jessica Rimington emphasizes the importance of empathy.

ACHIEVING SOLIDARITY AND EQUITY

Pera Wells, Secretary-General, World Federation of United Nations Associations

Today we are the beneficiaries and the trustees of the willingness of people from all walks of life to recognize that the world that we live in needs a global institution – the United Nations. This is where we can sit down and talk to each other about difficult or controversial issues in a constructive way, and in so doing affirm our common humanity.

In the event on Our Common Humanity, participants spoke from their diverse perspectives as technologists, civil society leaders, doctors, business people, athletes and students. They offered insights, from their personal experiences, of learning how to become global citizens by acting out of the values of empathy, compassion and a commitment to justice. They all emphasized the need to nourish online global networks that connect people, and particularly young people, in all regions of the world, enabling them to express their ideas and feelings and to share their experiences.

Whether through playing sport, teaching illiterate people in the Amazon how to use digital technology, delivering health care to people in remote villages or going into business with new partners, the processes of building trust and the willingness to cooperate for mutual benefits is most effective when all the participants are alive to their shared common humanity and feeling of solidarity with those who are vulnerable.

More and more media workers are exploring the realities of the human experience of war and suffering, giving voice to the powerless and impoverished and bringing to us all a deeper understanding of what happens to people, like you and me, when they fall victims to disaster.

The title of Mr. Watai Takeharu's film "Little Birds", about the war in Iraq, conveys the idea that the children who are killed in the war, don't die, but become little birds in the sky.....flying free and away from suffering. It is impossible not to feel the pain of the children and grief of the families who have found consolation in this image.

The World Federation of United Nations Associations has been dedicated to promoting support for the values and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Our President, Dr Hans Blix, believes that the United Nations is needed now more than ever. He is committed to enabling people everywhere to understand how the United Nations is responding to the threats that are truly global and that affect us all.

It is worth recalling the plea of Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell and Joseph Rotblat: "There lies before us, if we choose, continued prosperity in happiness, knowledge and wisdom. Shall we, instead, choose death, because we cannot forget our quarrels? We appeal as human beings, to human beings. Remember your humanity and forget the rest."

SOLIDARITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Joseph Salim, President, Virtue Foundation

In today's rapidly growing world, as technology continues to progress and traditional barriers such as time and distance are overcome by the interaction and exchange of diverse civilizations and cultures, the confluence of access and information has led to the emergence of an interconnected global village, in which events in one corner of the world can bear important and sometimes devastating consequences in the other, as witnessed by the tragic events of September 11th and the SARS epidemic. While universal access to the vast network of information has clearly enhanced our overall knowledge, it has also exacerbated complex ideological, political and social disparities among various communities in the underprivileged fringes of our global village. In such a global setting, there is greater need and urgency for solidarity than ever before in history, which raises the essential question: how can we engage each other in a productive dialogue and collaboration that will enable us to build a common ground upon which we can better understand and appreciate the other?

With the advent of information technology, modern class systems are no longer determined by birth but increasingly by access to opportunity. One of the neglected

corollaries of technological advancement is the creation of envy and animosity among those who have suddenly become aware of what the world has to offer, only to be frustrated by the inability to access such opportunities. Previously concealed by geographical constraints, the ubiquitous impression that others are living a more prosperous life merely by being born in a country that offers seemingly unlimited opportunities for advancement has thus created a mixture of resentment, expectation, and hope among those struggling in poverty-stricken and oppressed conditions. Individuals attempting to maintain their cultural identity while pursuing their aspirations face difficult choices that transcend simple economics. Such tensions can result in cultural clashes between civilizations, and those who are unable to reconcile cultural differences or forgo their cultural identity find themselves grappling with an ever-changing dynamic that eludes comprehension.

Unless basic ideological needs of human beings are reassessed, it is doubtful that economic aid and technical expertise alone can bridge the increasing rift between cultures. From unconscionable acts of persecution to the horrors of war, it is often the difference in the belief of what is right and wrong that has motivated and served to justify the greatest atrocities. The more engrained and inflexible an ideology, the harder it becomes to accommodate and tolerate difference. From friendships, family relationships, and even self-perception, individual ideology is the very thread by which our lives are tied within the fabric of society.

The reality of globalization, however, requires that we learn to embrace our diversity and plurality while fostering an innate sense of unity and harmony. We must seek to equip ourselves with the tools that will enable us to comprehend our fellow human beings more profoundly and to conduct ourselves in an appropriate and universally acceptable manner, regardless of our particular ideology, race or religion.

All of us share a direct responsibility for improving the state of the world; however, notwithstanding popular perception, the process of initiating true global change must begin from within, for ultimately any society is only as benevolent and tolerant as the individuals who comprise it. By seeking to first educate and improve ourselves, we can set in motion the mechanism to effect substantive change on a universal scale.

One key to pursuing such an internal transformation as we work towards achieving greater solidarity is the acquisition of an enhanced awareness and understanding of the prevalent social, cultural, and ethical issues that impact our daily lives. The more informed, involved, and concerned we become as citizens of the world, the more

effectively each of us can contribute towards building a more peaceful, just, and secure society.

From Southeast Asia to Central Africa, and even here in the United States of America, Virtue Foundation in collaboration with other NGOs, corporate partners, and local institutions, has implemented several key initiatives focused on impoverished children and women, by providing them with better education, adequate healthcare, and more opportunities to prosper.

Considering that the equalization of opportunities may not be reasonably foreseeable in the near future, what is needed are new tools that will enable us to cope with the ideological and social disparities brought to light by technological advancements of a rapidly changing world. While it is perhaps human nature to consider our plight as being unique to our time, such a myopic view of history puts us at danger of repeating the errors of the past. Indeed, the clash between civilizations and cultures is in no way a phenomenon that is unique to our time; the only difference is the scale with which such clashes occur.

The world population is exponentially expanding. We have access to more information than ever before and can communicate it faster and more effectively across the globe. Universal access to this global web of information has leveled the playing field, and the world has shrunk into a global village.

In today's multilateral world, prosperity and hope live alongside doom and despair. In a world marked by diminishing borders and clashing ideologies, the necessity of collectively developing and formulating universal standards of ethical behavior has become an urgent priority that can no longer be ignored. The United Nations represents the microcosm of our world today and provides our best opportunity and hope for developing a shared sense of global ethic to guide human action, which in turn requires an in-depth study of our duties and obligations alongside our inalienable rights and liberties.

If mankind is to live in peace and solidarity in the 21st century, we must acknowledge that each of us has an obligation both to educate and inform ourselves of the richness and diversity of the global community in which we live, and to give back and support our local communities and those who are less fortunate, for we can no longer afford to ignore the problems that plague our fellow beings, no matter how far or remote from us they may seem.

The tragic events of 9/11 and the ongoing scourge of terrorism and ideological hatred are too high a price to pay to realize that we can no longer immunize ourselves to the challenges facing our global community, and that mere distance and geography can no longer protect us. Rather than adopting a reactive approach, waiting for the next tragedy to serve as the impetus for action, each of us must assume a proactive role and confront the reality that the fate of our global community is indeed at risk. The need to actively and collectively help bridge the ever-growing gap between the haves and have-nots of the world today must become an urgent priority if we are to establish the unity and solidarity that will ensure the prosperity of our own and future generations. As Winston Churchill aptly put it: “You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.”

SPORTS AND SOLIDARITY

Alain Lemieux, President, World Sports Alliance

As Aristotle said it, “*Man is a social Animal*”, and like some other social insects for example, ants, bees and termites, we have a tendency to live in groups. Humans form effective, coordinated, division-of-labour groupings at several levels. It begins with Primary, face-to-face; groups which later get organized into city-states, and these into nations. At each level, there is not only cooperation; but competition as well; both within and between the groups.

When we think of the one unifying factor underlying all our diversities, it would be our *principles and values*. Yes indeed, it’s our principles and values that make us human; that define *our common humanity*.

When we say *Principles and Values of Holistic Development*, What exactly do we mean? How do we define Holistic Development? We always thought that there is no easy answer for this, but I think there is...for me and my team at the World Sports Alliance, the answer is Sport. For me, *Sport* is the liveliest of activities you can indulge in. So let’s do sport and “*lively up*” a bit!

Apart from sparkling up our lives, sport has great potential for bringing people together. It teaches understanding, tolerance and love among people, which are the important values of life. The human race is the only species that is known to have intentionally or accidentally invented sports as part of culture rather than nature.

The impact of sports on promoting economic development cannot be questioned. Some of the most popular organized sports festivals and tournaments have become major industries generating employment and creating growth opportunities. All manner of sports have been successfully used to bring individuals and groups from different cultures, social classes, religious creeds, nationalities and ethnic backgrounds together to interact at tournaments or sports festivals.

Socialization at sports festivals or during tournaments make the participants become more understanding and tolerant of other people's views and interests. The eventual impact on society is that people learn to peacefully co-exist and resolve their differences more amicably rather than through violent or militant means.

I believe in the power of sport and the values and principles it promotes. And this belief led us to form the World Sports Alliance - a Public-Private Partnership in support of the MDGs. We seek to use sport as a catalyst to design and implement programmes for at-risk youth, to facilitate in realizing the Millennium Developments Goals through an integrated approach.

Under the auspices of the NGO Section, DESA, we recently organized an Expert Panel Meeting on the design and development of pedagogical and didactic tools to teach about the MDGs using the medium of sport and physical education. The MDGs are not sufficiently talked about in academic circles and they are currently not a big part of the school/university curricula. Teaching institutions, insofar as they will be training the decision-makers and professionals of tomorrow, have an all-important role to play in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The training modules are being developed to fill that void. And this is where the Information age becomes important, in helping us get the message across.

Some historians say Information Age is a term applied to the period where movement of information became faster than physical movement, more narrowly applying to the 1980s onward. Under conventional economic theory, the Information Age was the era where information was a scarce resource and its capture and distribution generated competitive advantage. So today the definition of 'haves' and 'have-nots' includes the component of information. Access to information is becoming a critical factor by which countries are being judged upon by the global society as either haves or have-nots — information rich or information poor. So let us question, is ICT the solution to these problems? The new age of global communication, within certain limits is open to everybody and provides unlimited opportunity for us to broadcast our ideas.

We also have to accept the fact that with all the opportunities, the information age is also questioning every ideology, philosophy and tradition. In this sense, the information age could be both our threat and our challenge. And it is upon us to turn this threat into a challenge and then fight this challenge to make it an opportunity! While a parent is scared that their child might be getting corrupted with the exposure to the Internet generation, what they often forget is that it is part of the process of emerging as a Global Citizen.

A global citizen – someone who is "...aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen; respects and values diversity; is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place; and takes responsibility for their actions", as defined by Oxfam, a renowned development and relief organization, with an educational site called Cool Planet which includes a curriculum for educators to teach good global citizenship. At the WSA, we are now in conversation with many, to come up with a system where kids in our centers would be able to communicate and talk to other kids from different centers around the world as part of a continuous cultural exchange programme. This is precisely how we could turn the information age from being a threat to a challenge or better still an opportunity - that could help us in transmitting the values and principles that help in the emergence of a unifying Humanity.

Joseph Wood, an American critic and writer, who said, "Technology made large populations possible; large populations now make technology indispensable". So our efforts should be directed towards taking this indispensable technology in fulfilling our hope of carrying forward the values and principles of our common humanity. To be able to translate this spirit into initiatives for Equity and Solidarity! As a businessman, I believe that for any nation processes of wealth creation are essential for us to meet its commitment to eradicating poverty, but what is important is that the governments consciously ensure that the process of economic development and growth enhances both equity and efficiency. In a developing and open economy and a democratic and open society, the drive to higher productivity must be accompanied by the creation of new employment opportunities. We need growth with equity and social justice. This is principle which should necessarily be followed in all development initiatives. In order to ensure equity in WSA programmes, we provide infrastructure and services in a way that even the poorest of the poor could have a chance to become globally competitive. WSA not only empowers people by giving them a dream but creates an enabling environment through its WSA Community centers that fosters the spirit of cooperation and teamwork, encourages solidarity while rewarding creativity, risk-taking and the spirit of adventure.

In the WSA programmes, constant and conscious efforts are made to ensure that the interests of vulnerable groups are incorporated in the design of the programme itself and

that all involved are committed to protecting and enhancing the participation of the underprivileged and marginalized sectors. It does so by sensitizing the communities and addressing this issue of equity and solidarity in the implementation process. We work with the community; from setting up of the centre to the implementation of the programmes. The WSA provides community involvement tools to identify the vulnerable groups within and helps them participate in the programmes. It relies on collective action, whereby the communities *need* to work with each other. Efforts are made to make the power of collective action visible for solidarity. Solidarity for us is collective action through shared responsibility and synergizing of efforts.

Our principle says we are an egalitarian programme. We believe in equality and offer equal opportunities to all, but with a “*bias*” towards the underprivileged. That is what I believe equity is all about!

EQUITY IN HEALTH CARE

Prof. Mehmet Oz, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Columbia University

Meaningful transformation of the health care system of the world is needed to ensure that all humans can enjoy and fulfill their life choices. This change can only occur via the restoration of trust between individuals, communities and the health professionals that serve them. The basis for this trust can be found through the re-affirmation of a covenant we doctors make, as professionals, with those that depend on us to protect them from ill health and medical harm. Physicians have a professional duty and civic responsibility to speak out on the well being of our citizens and communities and to promote needed and meaningful change.

We have a rich heritage as professionals of placing the patient’s interests first, continually improving our own proficiency, and regulating ourselves. But as part of our covenant with patients and society we also need to advocate for two fundamental principles to create a 21st century intelligent health care system. First, nations must have affordable health insurance for all since without health, we cannot build wealth.

Second, almost all nations need modernized health information systems. We can reduce dangerous and expensive medical errors by creating electronic patient records that can be exchanged among health care providers and brought together to produce meaningful outcomes data to support decision-making. Under such a system, both doctors and

patients would be better informed and medical practice advanced. These are not new ideas, but the power of our agreeing to push for change can be transformational.

SOLIDARITY BY BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Rodrigo Baggio, Founder and Executive Director, Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI)

By reinventing modernity, globalization undeniably left a trail of contradictions. Recent developments in Information Technology have opened new opportunities in virtually every field of human activity. The benefits of this remarkable tool, however, are not being evenly shared. Only a small minority of the world's population currently has access to ICTs, and thus many across the globe remain unable to take advantage of the promises and opportunities of this new Digital Age. This has led to the emergence of a new kind of exclusion: digital exclusion.

A classic example of digital exclusion is Brazil, the country in which CDI (Committee for Democracy in Information Technology) was founded 11 years ago. In spite of the fact that Brazil has the 14th largest economy in the world, a full 70% of the country's 180 million people have never accessed the internet. Furthermore, it has been reported that there are more web hosts in Finland than in all of Latin America. In a country where 67% of the population has not completed elementary school, and more than 50% live on \$70 a month or less, severe lack of opportunity has driven many, especially youth, to crime and violence. Sadly, more youth die today because of violence in the city of Rio de Janeiro than in all of Palestine or even Iraq.

CDI was the first organization in Latin America to focus on the digital divide. Since our inception, we have advocated the dissemination of technology as a tool to empower at-risk youth and adults to find solutions to their own problems, promote community development, fight poverty and stimulate entrepreneurship. Our primary aim is social inclusion through digital inclusion. CDI's educational curriculum is based on the methodology of renowned Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, who advocated education as a tool for social change and empowerment. The underlying principle of the curriculum is to help people help themselves by integrating technology capacity building with discussions about issues relevant to their communities such as human rights, sexual education, health and non-violence. The CDI model is anchored in the notion that computer technology

skills are essential to creating fully enfranchised citizens in this Digital Era. To date, more than 500,000 people worldwide have benefited from CDI programs.

For CDI, digital inclusion means much more than simply providing access to computers and the Internet. In the 891 CDI schools operating in 19 Brazilian states and another 8 countries, students are taught how to use information technology to enhance their abilities to think critically and creatively, to analyze political and social reality, to develop strategies to solve local problems, and to generate jobs and business opportunities. In this sense CDI has widened the concept of digital inclusion by integrating education and technology with the values of solidarity, equity, and entrepreneurship for social transformation. Above all, we are committed to expanding and improving the reach of our programs in order to help Latin America and the world come closer to meeting their promises for the Millennium. So far, thousands of communities around the globe have been transformed. We look forward to transforming many more.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOLIDARITY AND EQUITY

Diane Miller, Director of Global Operations, International Education Collaborative Foundation

“Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.”⁹

One of the central challenges of this new century, as defined by the Millennium Summit, is to ensure that globalization can be made fully inclusive and equitable. In this context, the Millennium Declaration called for “broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon **our** common humanity in all its diversity. This requires a common set of values and principles inclusive of shared responsibility fundamental to international relations in the twenty-first century.

It is no accident that this clarion call is going forth at a very challenging time for people everywhere and therefore calls for new, bold, visionary approaches. As we now live in an increasingly global and interdependent world collective sustainability depends on effective cooperation. Cooperation depends upon communication now dependent upon

⁹ MDG 8

technology. It is both the challenge and the opportunity. We have an urgent mandate to forge a comprehensive strategy, create a coalition of all stakeholders, who are determined to launch a new paradigm of international cooperation, one that recognizes the imperatives of diversity in the ‘oneness’ of us all among the cultures in all realms of human endeavor. And beyond the spiritual imperative, reframe costs & burdens into social enterprise investment and recognize the ROI (return on investment) inherent in the promise of an international partnership bringing equity of access to ICT’s (Information/Communication Technologies) across the globe, foundational to developing new markets in transitional and emerging economies. We must target our message to highlight the mutual benefits for all stakeholders in this new economy to mobilize resources collaboratively, assisting developing jurisdictions in building capacity and sustainability while using the technology to deliver the message.

It may behoove us to look at restructuring our traditional modus operandi, to one more in alignment with strategic business plans and collaborating more effectively with the private sector both under their corporate social responsibility banners and their sales/marketing divisions. Fifty one of the top 100 economies in the world are corporations. They have the ‘bandwidth’ for global initiatives. A successful public-private civil society partnership model strongly supported by the multi-lateral funding institutions has the potential of addressing the majority of our societal challenges. We have moved beyond the feel good of philanthropy or charity into the realms of investment as a mandate for survival in this information age. Paraphrasing John Morgridge, Chairman of the Board of Cisco Systems: “Doing good is good for business” ought to become our mantra. Partnerships with NGO’s that have demonstrated the long term committed integrity and leadership in the issues of equality extend the programmatic fabric and global impact of public-private sector partnerships (PPP). A prime example is our recent collaboration with the United Way of Jamaica and sending the message that the global community is but one family with common values, promoting the concept of equity and fairness through an ICT Education Initiative PPP. We are actively demonstrating this through our ‘united’ endeavor as we pursue the shared vision of the PPP for the improvement in the wellbeing of Jamaicans through ICT enabled skills development, enhancing the readiness of one country’s population for the global marketplace. Together we are developing a local PPP model which will have the potential to expand regionally and internationally vis-à-vis a new global partnership crossing all geographic borders and sector of society, committed to joining the nations of the world in the digital age.

The International Education Collaborative Foundation (www.iecf.us) a US based 501(C)(3) was established in 1998 to bridge the digital divide by upgrading the workforce in

transitional economies through partnerships that implement comprehensive 21st century education and skill development. IECF assists country-based leaders in forging strategic, high-impact Public Private Partnerships that build country capacity and sustainability to support integration of (ICT) in public educational systems for universal access & life long learning. Brokering and maintaining intentional partnerships among business, government, and civil society is a relatively new notion for many jurisdictions. This *partnership development and management process* determines a partnership's ultimate success, and is IECF's unique strength to ensure that students graduate from secondary and post-secondary public schools technologically fluent, highly skilled, and ready to become productive citizens in a globally competitive knowledge based society. The Equitable distribution of requisite resources for a more equal playing field mandates collaborative interventions. The inherent gift of Technology is the capability to connect heretofore disparate sectors in common vision and goals therefore activating the Laws of Attraction to manifest a true win-win-win for Humanity.

HUMAN SPECIES

Jessica Rimington, President and Founder, One World Youth Project

Our Common Humanity in the Information Age event is important, because it asks us to STOP for a moment - stop and look around. Stop just pushing forward toward progress without zooming out for a moment ... seeing the earth as a whole, humanity as a whole... assessing where we are coming from and where we are going. In other words - STOP checking off items on your list for one second -don't respond to the next email ...let's just come together for a moment and make sure that the inevitable progression we are making as society is in the right direction. And, if it's not, let's figure out a way to steer it toward a path we would like our future to become.

Solidarity is recognizing that country borders are just things we made up. We are all humans, there are deeply interwoven feelings within us that are universal. Together we are a species...there is not the American species, or the Tanzanian species, there is not a Christian species or a Muslim species - NO - There is a human species. This is often a difficult, nebulous, and intangible concept when operating on a day to day level. We tried to think about solidarity through the lens of everyday experience...what does it mean to live in solidarity?

It means being able to really imagine yourself in another person's shoes. It is a platform of things we can all agree upon like the MDGs. It is the realization of seeing the same big, global issue -manifesting in a local context no matter where you live. Are we on the right path as society toward strengthening the recognition of our common humanity?

We believe the tools already exist - it is just a matter of harnessing them. There are tremendous instruments available to promote human solidarity:

1. media & pop culture
2. branding
3. advertising...how can we make solidarity, equity, and shared responsibility “sexy”?
4. story telling
5. ICT as a network and educational platform

These tools can begin to help us be aware of one another. Because once we are aware of one another, we shall feel a connection and once we feel a connection - we shall care...and if we care... then how can we continue to make wars, how can we continue to destroy each other's land? We feel there are forces working against solidarity, such as:

- the tendency just to see with in the "box" of your day to day life and the groups you belong to;
- also, the inaccessibility of multicultural experiences and communication opportunities.

We feel there are ways of creating an environment -or a generation- that would more easily absorb the idea of solidarity. All of us had had a moment ... where we saw something or spoke with someone... which caused something inside us to 'open up' ... where we felt greater solidarity...and in turn a felt a shared responsibility and a drive for positive action. We need to replicate this experience for others and this could best be accomplished through education.

1. Peer Education
2. Seamlessly integrated multi-cultural education into national curriculum... taught in a way that does not create a notion of an 'exotic other'

We believe there are many different paths that can lead an individual toward recognition of our common humanity. However, we caution that we must find a way to recognize greater solidarity - without weakening individual cultural identity.

CHAPTER VII

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

OVERVIEW

Aliye P. Celik, Senior Advisor, Global Alliance for ICT and Development

The Millennium Declaration lists several fundamental principles and values deemed to be essential to international relations in the 21st century. These include the need for shared responsibility amongst all nations of the world for the betterment of both North and South alike. In particular, it stresses that responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among all nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. To that end, the United Nations, as the most universal and most representative organization in the world, needs to play a central role.

To help translate this common approach into effective national and international action, countries will need to lend increased focus to the objectives contained in the Millennium Development Goal #8 on Developing a Global Partnership for Development.

With regard to the target of developing further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system, while some progress has recently been achieved by developing countries in gaining greater access to markets, many goods that are important to their economies, such as clothing and farm products, are still heavily taxed. Greater political determination is needed to bring about a reduction in trade barriers so that developing countries may progress further towards this target.

Another critical objective is the need to deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt. Future debt payments for 29 heavily indebted countries have fallen by \$59 billion dollars since 1998, bringing their debt service to less than 7% of export earnings. Yet, for many poor countries, even this reduced level is too high. Moreover, several countries that remain potentially eligible for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative are kept out of the running by conflict, poor governance and arrears in payment.

Greater cooperation must take place in addressing the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states. Aid to developing countries has increased steadily to \$106 billion since 1997. Debt relief has accounted for over half of this increase since 1997 and three quarters of it since 1995.

However, this relief, while welcome, will not necessarily release more money for poverty reduction. Similarly, emergency and disaster relief, also a large part of the increase in aid, does not address long-term development needs. The 50 least developed countries now receive about one third of all aid flows, and donors have pledged to double aid flows to Africa, where most of these countries are located, by 2010. Only 5 countries-Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Luxemburg and the Netherlands have met the United Nations aid target of 0.7% of GNP, although 11 more European Union countries have pledged to do so by 2015.

Concerted worldwide action is sorely needed to develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. Since 1995, the number of young people throughout the world has grown by 135 million. During the same period, the number of unemployed youth has risen from 72.8 to 85.7 million. Youth now represents half the world's 192 million unemployed. Without sufficient employment opportunities, many young people grow discouraged and feel worthless. This presents an especially urgent challenge for developing countries, home to 85% of the world's youth. The integration of youth into the labour market is critical for future growth and for arresting the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Access to affordable essential pharmaceutical drugs, particularly for treating HIV, is critically important for developing countries. For this target to be achieved, countries must work closely with pharmaceutical companies to provide adequate access. Between 2001 and 2005, the number of people on antiretroviral therapy in low and middle-income countries increased fivefold, from 240,000 to 1.3 million. The scale-up was most dramatic in sub-Saharan Africa: from 100,000 at the end of 2003 to 810,000 just two years later. Unfortunately, the target set in 2003 of reaching at least half of those in need of therapy has been missed, and antiretroviral drugs reach only one in five globally.

Collective efforts must also be made to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, particularly ICTs, are made available to all. On an encouraging note, telecommunications growth has been particularly strong; the number of subscribers to fixed and mobile telephones rose from 530 million in 1990 to almost 3 billion (almost half the world's population) in 2004. However, by the end of 2004, only a mere 14% of the world's population was using the internet, with a huge digital divide still separating developed and developing countries. While over half of the population in developed regions had access to the internet, only 7% did in developing regions, with less than 1% in the 50 least developed countries.

There is a need for a real cooperation between the developed and developing countries, and between the rich and the poor worldwide. This chapter attempts to show the different viewpoints from the perspective of an olympian, an academician, a representative of the private sector, an ICT foundation NGO, a journalist, a youth representative and a disabled IT specialist who all believe that everyone has a responsibility to deal with challenges by forging partnerships.

In “Sharing and Olympic Games”, Liston Bochette of World Olympic Association explains the importance of sports in establishing values of humanity by teaching partnership and ethics. In “Globalization and Shared Responsibility”, Dominick Salvatore talks about globalization and its impact on shared responsibility. Larry Brilliant, Executive Director of Google.org, explains why the world needs partnerships, including the UN, to deal with challenges that jeopardize humanity.

In “Use of ICT in Partnerships”, Carolyn Miles of Save the Children gives examples of helping to achieve MDGs through innovative partnerships, by making use of ICTs. Pete Engardio of Business Week in “Beyond Green Corporations” explains why corporations and private sector are more interested in sustainable development.

Robert Nagel, in “Inclusion of the Disabled” rejoices the inclusion experienced by the disabled, by work of the Ad Hoc Group on Disability and the adoption of the Convention on Disability. In “Shared Responsibility in Eradicating Poverty”, Werfel and Ramakrisnan look at the responsibility of the different actors.

SHARING AND OLYMPIC GAMES

Liston Bochette, Secretary General, World Olympic Association

Sharing is a fundamental element in the Olympic Games. Every four years athletes from all around the globe come together to not only participate in a friendly sports competition, but also to learn about one another and form life long friendships in the process. Sport provides a special setting where the differences among people are overlooked in favor of seeing the similarities among humanity. These friendships defy the stigmas of race, creed, or color. Athletes bond with each other through the mutual respect fostered by playing by the rules and seeking excellence in their lives. From the glow of the stadium lights, a partnership for a better world is forged among all Olympians.

The first stage of this process comes through the teachers and coaches in school yards and play grounds. Young athletes learn through basic educational principles to enjoy the physical activities provided for them. Whether in organized ball games or simple foot races, young people learn to appreciate one another through participation. The second stage comes through established sports programs. Many youths learn the values of working together when they join a team effort. Here, they improve their physical and mental skills while practicing as a unit. The third stage comes about at the highest level of performance. Elite athletes demonstrate their refined abilities to achieve a specific goal. This means following a plan and being dedicated to see its outcome. These three stages produce Olympians.

Becoming an Olympian means more than going to the Olympic Games. An Olympian enters the stadium as an athlete but leaves as an ambassador of sport's highest ideals. From the sixteen days in the Olympic Village and the years of preparation to get there, an athlete acquires a sense of social responsibility unlike any other. After the days of competition have passed, many Olympians care enough to return to their towns and villages to teach the next generation of aspiring youths. They also volunteer for community service projects, from environmental clean ups to combating domestic violence to promoting cultural programs. They rarely sit down and watch the world go by! Olympians accept a challenge and inspire others to do the same. They are some of today's best role models by demonstrating personal responsibility and partnering for a common cause.

The time it takes to turn a young athlete into an Olympian is an invaluable investment in a better world for everyone.

GLOBALIZATION AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Prof. Dominick Salvatore, Distinguished Professor of Economics, Fordham University

In my statement, I will examine how growth can be stimulated and poverty alleviated in poor developing countries through (1) globalization, (2) the creation of a New Economy (based on information and telecommunications technologies, ICT), and (3) change in world governance.

1. Globalization

There is a great deal of unnecessary disagreement in the world today as to whether globalization increased or decreased international inequalities and world poverty.

World Bank data clearly show that during the past two decades of rapid globalization, the average annual growth of real per capita income of developing countries that did globalize was almost twice as fast as that of rich countries (4.2 percent per year compared to 2.2 percent per year, respectively), and almost 4 times as fast as developing countries that did not globalize (which grew at an average of only 1.1 percent per year). As a result, globalizers reduced poverty and inequalities vis-à-vis rich countries, but non-globalizers (which include some of the poorest nations in the world) became poorer relative to both globalizers and rich countries. But globalization cannot itself be accused of being the direct cause of increased world poverty and inequalities. No one forced China to open up to the world economy, but without such opening, China could not have obtained the capital, the technology, and the markets that allowed it to achieve such a spectacular growth during the past two decades.

Non globalizers became relatively poorer primarily because of internal problems of political instability, wars, corruption, HIV, droughts and other natural disasters. What globalization can be accused of is of not having permitted all countries to share in the great gains and benefits deriving from it. This fundamental problem can be overcome only by reforming the entire international economic system to give globalization a more human face. Unfortunately, such a reform is not occurring rapidly enough, despite the United Nations' great efforts.

2. Globalization and the New Economy to Increase Growth and Lift Non-Globalizers Out of Poverty

In order to increase growth and reduce poverty and international income inequality, poor developing countries that did not globalize must open up their economic system to the world economy. But to profitably do so, poor countries must create and introduce a New Economy in the form of better education, training, and health of their labor force, and build better infrastructures, introduce major improvements in ICT, and create more flexible labor markets, as well as deregulate their economic system. Let me briefly examine each of these requirements.

- a. To achieve a major improvement in education, health and training, and to build better infra-structures, poor countries require a substantial increase in investments. Rich countries can help by providing much more foreign aid than they have in the past and, even more importantly, by opening much more widely their markets to poor nations' exports.

- b. Rich countries can also be particularly helpful to poor countries with ICT. ICT can be a most powerful force in lifting poor countries out of their poverty and in overcoming the deep digital divide that has opened between rich countries and the globalizers, on the one hand, and the poor non-globalizers, on the other. ICT offers a tremendous opportunity because it is less expensive than traditional technologies and permits poor countries to skip intermediate technologies (such as traditional telephone and computing systems) and jump directly into the more advanced systems (cellular phones, laptops, and internet), which provide major and quick improvements in labor productivity and growth.
- c. In order to reap the full benefits of globalization and the new economy in the form of new ICT, poor countries need also to liberalize their labor markets and deregulate their economies. It is because of its more flexible labor markets and a less regulated economic system that the United States has grown much faster than the large continental European countries and Japan during the past decade and was able to get much greater benefits from the new economy and ICT.

The U.S. superiority is especially evident in multifactor productivity. This refers to the increase in output over and above the greater use of labor and capital, and it is the best measure of the “new economy”. Over the past decade, multifactor or total productivity grew at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent in the United States as compared to 0.9 percent in the other G-7 countries.

3. Change in World Governance for a More Equitable Distribution of the Benefits of Globalization

Globalization is neither equitable, nor not equitable. It is devoid of ethical values – it only looks at efficiency. Economic efficiency is, of course, important, but it cannot and should be everything. There are important ethical, social, political, and legal aspects that cannot be left entirely to the unfettered market forces. The world can hardly be peaceful and tranquil – to say nothing of ethical – when more than one billion people live on less than \$1 dollar a day and as many as 25,000 children die of starvation each day. Thus, there is a serious problem of world governance and of the dire necessity of reforming the entire international economic system to give globalization a more human face. Unfortunately, such major overhauling of world governance is not occurring rapidly enough despite the United Nations’ great efforts.

Conclusion

Poor developing countries must open up their economies to the world economy (i.e., globalize), but to reap the full benefits of globalization poor countries must also introduce a “new economy” in the form of ICT. This offers great opportunities but requires substantial help from rich countries and a major overhaul of the world governance.

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CENTRALITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN PARTNERSHIPS

Larry Brilliant, Executive Director, Google.org

When we talk about our common humanity, it is really a long way of saying “we are all in this together”. It is not just that we share 99.7% of the same genetic material; it is that we literally are in this together. Stories from the world of communicable diseases serve as an apt metaphor in this regard.

When there is a communicable disease for which there is not a vaccine and there is no anti-viral medicine that is effective, we are all in this together. When there is no cure, no amount of wealth can protect you from a pandemic that sweeps the world. You cannot put a sign in front of your house: “this is our response... leave it at the gate of the community”. Every race, every religion, every continent, every civilization, even the kings and queens, died from smallpox because we were all in this together.

A pandemic of H5N1 virus that spreads across the globe as all pandemic diseases do would not discriminate as to who is white, who is black, who is Jewish, who is Muslim or Christian or Buddhist or Hindu. Communicable diseases show us that they don't respect racial divisions, they don't respect nation states, they don't respect the things that we consider to make us different.

The moral behind the story is that we are all really in this together. And the UN is genuinely central to the great accomplishments and crises that we are going to have to face in the future.

We learn from the metaphor of communicable diseases that we are all in this together. We also learn why the UN is so important: because it was the United Nations through its specialized agency, the World Health Organization, which eradicated smallpox. There is no nation, no NGO that could have done it, only the United Nations could have eradicated smallpox, just as only the United Nations can successfully eradicate polio.

Public health is really at crossroads. For ten years after we eradicated smallpox, the best and the brightest did not go into law, they did not go into business, they went into global public health because they had seen the mountain that could be climbed by eradicating disease.

There are 2,000 cases of polio this year in the world. We can not fail the war against polio. So Google.org is supporting the UN Foundation by making a documentary about the impact of polio, and how good it will feel when we have eradicated it. We are trying to help people on the ground in India and in Nigeria with management support and technology support in order to eradicate polio.

We really believe that this is an important battlefield for the history of public health, and for the success of the United Nations.

USE OF ICT IN PARTNERSHIPS

Carolyn Miles, Executive Vice-President, Save the Children (US)

I would like to discuss the idea of sharing responsibility with a little bit of a different twist. I think that we have to remember that the people that we are trying to serve with the MDGs, which is the poor of the world, also want to take on responsibility for their own development. It is a very important thing to remember that sharing responsibility is for everyone. One of the critical questions is if we are talking about partnerships and specifically if we are talking about technology, how do we get technology into the hands of poor people so they can use that technology to take responsibility for their own development, which is something that they desperately want to do.

I am going to give two quick examples:

1. Save the Children and other NGOs are working with Microsoft, establishing a partnership with a large corporation, to use PDAs - hand held instruments to collect data on health programs. We are not teaching health workers from the Ministry how to use the PDAs, but we are teaching people in the community how to use those PDAs and collect data on the health of their own children. We are putting the power of information into the hands of the people, in communities who are really very motivated to change the future for their own children. This is an example of a low-tech solution.
2. The second is an example where Save the Children helps HIV/AIDS victims by using digital cameras, again putting the cameras into the hands of youth in Africa, specifically in Ethiopia, to document their lives and how HIV/AIDS has affected their lives. Then we use those photos to bring that story back from the

perspective of the youth, who are in these communities, and experiencing these problems on a daily basis.

The question is: “Are there more concrete examples of how we form partnerships that actually bring the people we are trying to serve through the MDGs into that shared responsibility and how can we do that more often?”

BEYOND THE GREEN CORPORATIONS

Peter Engardio, Senior News Editor, Business Week

Imagine a world in which eco-friendly and socially responsible practices actually help a company's bottom line. It's closer than you think. You can tell something is up just wading through the voluminous sustainability reports most big corporations post on their Web sites. These lay out efforts to cut toxic emissions, create eco-friendly products, help the poor, and cooperate with nonprofit groups. As recently as five years ago, such reports—if they appeared at all—were usually transparent efforts to polish the corporate image. Now there's a more sophisticated understanding that environmental and social practices can yield strategic advantages in an interconnected world of shifting customer loyalties and regulatory regimes.

Embracing sustainability can help avert costly setbacks from environmental disasters, political protests, and human rights or workplace abuses. “Nobody has an idea when such events can hit a balance sheet, so companies must stay ahead of the curve,” says Matthew J. Kiernan, CEO of Innovest Strategic Value Advisors. Innovest is an international research and advisory firm whose clients include large institutional investors. It supplied the data for this *BusinessWeek* Special Report and prepared a list of the world's 100 most sustainable corporations, to be presented at the Jan. 24-28 2007 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The roster of advocates includes Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric Co., who is betting billions to position GE as a leading innovator in everything from wind power to hybrid engines. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., long assailed for its labor and global sourcing practices, has made a series of high-profile promises to slash energy use overall, from its stores to its vast trucking fleets, and purchase more electricity derived from renewable sources. GlaxoSmithKline discovered that, by investing to develop drugs for poor nations, it can work more effectively with those governments to make sure its patents are

protected. Dow Chemical Co. is increasing R&D in products such as roof tiles that deliver solar power to buildings and water treatment technologies for regions short of clean water. "There is 100% overlap between our business drivers and social and environmental interests," says Dow CEO Andrew N. Liveris.

Striking that balance is not easy. Many noble efforts fail because they are poorly executed or never made sense to begin with. "If there's no connection to a company's business, it doesn't have much leverage to make an impact," says Harvard University business guru Michael Porter. Sustainability can be a hard proposition for investors, too. Decades of experience show that it's risky to pick stocks based mainly on a company's long-term environmental or social-responsibility targets.

Serious money is lining up behind the sustainability agenda. Assets of mutual funds that are designed to invest in companies meeting social responsibility criteria have swelled from \$12 billion in 1995 to \$178 billion in 2005, estimates trade association Social Investment Forum. Boston's State Street Global Advisors alone handles \$77 billion in such funds. And institutions with \$4 trillion in assets, including charitable trusts and government pension funds in Europe and states such as California, pledge to weigh sustainability factors in investment decisions.

Why the sudden urgency? The growing clout of watchdog groups making savvy use of the Internet is one factor. New environmental regulations also play a powerful role. Electronics manufacturers slow to wean their factories and products off toxic materials, for example, could be at a serious disadvantage as Europe adopts additional, stringent restrictions. American energy and utility companies that don't cut fossil fuel reliance could lose if Washington joins the rest of the industrialized world in ordering curbs on greenhouse gas emissions. Such developments help explain why Exxon Mobil Corp., long opposed to linking government policies with global warming theories, is now taking part in meetings to figure out what the U.S. should do to cut emissions.

Investors who think about these issues obviously have long time horizons, encounter knotty problems when trying to peer beyond the next quarter's results to future years down the road. Corporations disclose the value of physical assets and investments in equipment and property. But U.S. regulators don't require them to quantify environmental, social, or labor practices. Accountants call such squishy factors "intangibles." These items aren't found on a corporate balance sheet, yet can be powerful indicators of future performance.

If a company is at the leading edge of understanding and preparing for megatrends taking shape in key markets, this could constitute a valuable intangible asset. By being the first

fast-food chain to stop using unhealthy trans fats, Wendy's International Inc. may have a competitive edge now that New York City has banned the additives in restaurants.

Rising investor demand for information on sustainability has spurred a flood of new research. Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank Securities, UBS, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and other brokerages have formed dedicated teams assessing how companies are affected by everything from climate change and social pressures in emerging markets to governance records. "The difference in interest between three years ago and now is extraordinary," says former Goldman Sachs Asset Management CEO David Blood, who heads the Enhanced Analytics Initiative, a research effort on intangibles by 22 brokerages. He also leads Generation Investment Management, co-founded in 2004 with former Vice-President Al Gore, which uses sustainability as an investment criterion.

Perhaps the most ambitious effort is by Innovest, founded in 1995 by Kiernan, a former KPMG senior partner. Besides conventional financial performance metrics, Innovest studies 120 different factors, such as energy use, health and safety records, litigation, employee practices, regulatory history, and management systems for dealing with supplier problems. It uses these measures to assign grades ranging from AAA to CCC, much like a bond rating, to 2,200 listed companies. Companies on the Global 100 list on *Business Week's* Web site include Nokia Corp. and Ericsson, which excel at tailoring products for developing nations, and banks such as HSBC that study the environmental impact of projects they help finance.

Do Innovest's metrics make a reliable guide for picking stocks? Dozens of studies have looked for direct relationships between a company's social and environmental practices and its financial performance. So far the results are mixed, and Kiernan admits Innovest can't prove a causal link. That's little help to portfolio managers who must post good numbers by yearend. "The crux of the problem is that we are looking at things from the long term, but we're still under short-term review from our clients," says William H. Page, who oversees socially responsible investing for State Street Global Advisors.

Kiernan and many other experts maintain sustainability factors are good proxies of management quality. "They show that companies tend to be more strategic, nimble, and better equipped to compete in the complex, high-velocity global environment," Kiernan explains. That also is the logic behind Goldman Sachs's intangibles research. In its thick annual assessments of global energy and mining companies, for example, it ranks companies on the basis of sustainability factors, financial returns, and access to new resource reserves. Top-ranking companies, such as British Gas, Shell, and Brazil's Petrobras, are leaders in all three categories. For the past two years, the stocks of elite

companies on its list bested their industry peers by more than 5%—while laggards underperformed, Goldman says.

The corporate responsibility field is littered with lofty intentions that don't pay off. As a result, many CEOs are unsure what to do exactly. In a recent McKinsey & Co. study of 1,144 top global executives, 79% predicted at least some responsibility for dealing with future social and political issues would fall on corporations. Three of four said such issues should be addressed by the CEO. But only 3% said they do a good job dealing with social pressures. "This is uncomfortable territory because most CEOs have not been trained to sense or react to the broader landscape," says McKinsey's Mendonca. "For the first time, they are expected to be statesmen as much as they are functional business leaders." Adding to the complexity, says Harvard's Porter, each company must custom-design initiatives that fit its own objectives.

Dow Chemical is looking at the big picture. It sees a market in the need for low-cost housing and is developing technologies such as eco-friendly Styrofoam used for walls. CEO Liveris also cites global water scarcity as a field in which Dow can "marry planetary issues with market opportunity." The U.N. figures 1.2 billion people lack access to clean water. Dow says financial solutions could help 300 million of them. That could translate into up to \$3 billion in sales for Dow, which has a portfolio of cutting-edge systems for filtering minute contaminants from water. To reach the poor, Dow is working with foundations and the U.N. to raise funds for projects.

Philips Electronics also is building strategies around global megatrends. By 2050, the U.N. predicts, 85% of people will live in developing nations. But shortages of health care are acute. Among Philips' many projects are medical vans that reach remote villages, allowing urban doctors to diagnose and treat patients via satellite. Philips has also developed low-cost water-purification technology and a smokeless wood-burning stove that could reduce the 1.6 million deaths annually worldwide from pulmonary diseases linked to cooking smoke. "For us, sustainability is a business imperative," says Philips Chief Procurement Officer Barbara Kux, who chairs a sustainability board that includes managers from all business units.

Such laudable efforts, even if successful, may not help managers make their numbers next quarter. But amid turbulent global challenges, they could help investors sort long-term survivors from the dinosaurs.

INCLUSION OF THE DISABLED

Robert H. Nagel, ICT Specialist, Chairman, eSecureDocs, Inc.

UN in its entirety has shown great partnership on the preparatory phases of the Convention on Disabilities.

Many changes have taken place in the four years of preparations for the Convention. A portion of the UN web site called “enable” allows people with disabilities to follow events of the Ad Hoc Committee on Disability from around the world. The Secretariat has taken steps to improve access and services for all people with disabilities. Security clearance is easier. A section has been set aside for people in wheelchairs in the main room, and they can now approach the stage to make a comment. Deaf people have an induction loop that allows them to connect their hearing aids directly to the translation system. Signers are available when they are needed. As a blind person, I can get up-to-date digital copies of documents from the “enable” section of the UN web site so my adaptive technology can read the documents to me. I can also download the actual digital sound recordings of sessions from the FTP UN web site and review the day’s activity from my computer. Braille copies of important documents are made available on a timely basis.

These are welcome changes in the physical access to information. Other major inclusive changes have occurred. Movement has been made away from the reliance on experts who *talk* about people with disabilities to people *with* disabilities discussing their own relevant experiences. Informal Sessions that were strictly limited to states parties now include people with disabilities. The Inter-Session Drafting Group, which was previously limited to states parties, experts, and international lawyers, now includes many people with disabilities. Our experience and expertise was openly welcomed at all levels of this process. One of the dramatic changes that have occurred is in the membership of the national delegations to the Ad Hoc Committee.

I believe it is the sense of our common humanity that has allowed nations with strongly opposing issues, to reach a consensus on this convention. This convention draws its strength from the practice of inclusion, for it is through the practice of inclusion that the manner in which the Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities interacts with people with disabilities was transformed. In turn, the composition of nation-state delegations to the

Ad Hoc Committee was transformed. I envision this wave of spreading inclusion will transform the way nation-states interact with their own citizens who have disabilities.

Although I am speaking to you as a single person with a disability, I am sure that I speak in accord with the 650 million people with life-altering disabilities when I say “Thank You” for this possibility of turning a dream into reality: the dream of inclusion within our own societies through shared responsibility and partnership. The dream of lowering of barriers to the exercise of our civil and political rights ... the dream of a world that works for every single person.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN ERADICATING POVERTY

Seth Werfel, Executive Director, Rajiv Ramakrishnan, Director of Public Relations, Positive Foundations, Brandeis University

The United Nations Millennium Declaration established the eight principle anti-poverty benchmarks that the world must achieve by the year 2015, known as the Millennium Development Goals. It is now 2007 and half the time permitted to reduce extreme poverty has elapsed. While increased efforts to raise awareness and foster international giving have improved, especially in recent years, 1.2 billion people still suffer from extreme poverty. The epicenter of this crisis is Sub-Saharan Africa, where armed conflict, rampant disease and lack of political stability all compound the problem of poverty. To those of us who live in the developed world, living on less than a dollar a day may seem like the next attempt at a reality-T.V. show. But for those 1.2 billion people in the most destitute places on earth, it is the only reality they have ever faced.

Indeed, poverty is a global emergency, and one that must be dealt with ferociously if we are to prevent the further deaths of hundreds of millions, and that responsibility, once left for the likes of the Peace Corps and the United Nations Development Programme, is today the duty of every person on Earth. The task is ours not only for the moral and ethical purposes, but very pragmatic reasons as well. Each of us, from the poorest family in the heart of Africa, to the wealthiest entrepreneur in the Global North, to everyone else somewhere in between, will benefit from a world rid of poverty.

The Global North

The developed nations of the world have truly been blessed by tremendous prosperity and, as such, they have the resources required to eradicate poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In recent years, we have witnessed a large increase in donations to poverty eradication efforts from developed nations. The largest act of philanthropy came this past year when Warren Buffet, an American investor gave \$37 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which sponsors anti-poverty projects around the world. This generosity must continue, even if this means fostering a sense of philanthropic competition amongst the world's wealthiest. Yet, it is surprising it is not a slow pace of charity that is hindering development, for indeed there is enough wealth to eradicate poverty. The real responsibility of the Global North is not only amassing monetary might but fostering political will. The reason that the necessary capital isn't flowing to the impoverished nations in the world is due to the inertia of political measures and policies that are hindering development. It is time to move anti-poverty efforts off the back burner and on the fore front of national agendas. In effect developed nations must put poverty eradication on par with national security, and for practical reasons, as the two are intertwined. No one can deny that poverty breeds terrorism. Lack of economic and social opportunity is often the driving force for a young person to join a terrorist organization. Sustained deprivation and destitution make the mind ripe for manipulation and produce the perfect psychological target for terrorist recruiters. The prospect of food and shelter may draw people to a terrorist camp only to find that with basic sustenance come indoctrination and a call to arms against innocents. Thus, it is in the direct interest of developed nations to do everything they can, both monetarily and politically to eradicate poverty and give those with literally nothing, hope and help. Too many lives depend on it.

The Global South

The epicenter of the poverty problem is the developing nations with the greatest number of those living under a dollar a day, or the Global South. The problem itself cannot be attributed to those it plagues; poverty is not the fault of the poor themselves. But there are accountability and governance problems in several nations that are impacted by poverty the most. The news is rife with tales of corruption and poor governance. The aid that the world has allotted and delivered cannot be consumed by those who need it and whether this due to negligence or malfeasance the result is the same: people will die. Therefore the governments of the Global South, with their people's lives in mind, must do much more to eliminate the bureaucracy that hinders development and kills. While the humanitarian aspect should be the only reason needed to do reduce corruption, sadly this is not enough for corrupt officials who have the ability to get quick monetary gains at the

expense of the poor. The practical reasons for the elimination of corruption and harmful bureaucracy are many. When corruption is reduced, and the poor are cared for, they are more likely to support and grant legitimacy to the regime in power than otherwise. This is likely to increase the lifespan of the given regime, which in areas of political instability is normally low. Other benefits include a better image in the eyes of the world, which is certainly a long term boost for any nation. Thus, if the leaders of impoverished nations can look past immediate monetary gains, and work to eliminate internal corruption and adopt best practices, they have so much to reap in the long run, for themselves and their people.

Industry

Images of modern sub-Saharan Africa evoke a myriad of emotions in the viewer, but almost never among these feelings is opportunity. A land embittered with conflict, plagued by disease and rife with political, economic and national instability, Africa and opportunity are not seemingly compatible terms, especially when its poorest are concerned. This is a gross oversight, however, on the part of industry. At the end of World War II, the United States saw a war ravaged, unstable, and debilitated Europe. Yet, through the Marshall Plan, it invested in and developed in Europe, crafting a monumental post war reconstruction. These investments yielded magnificent results for that continent, but also for the United States, which reaped economic returns and strengthened relations. What Africa needs today is its own Marshall Plan. A sustained, regulated flow of inward investment in Africa is essential to its progress and to the eradication of poverty on that continent. At the forefront of this project must be the business community. Where nations are slow to act and inefficient, industry can be quick, powerful and can change lives. If companies invest in Africa, they have much to benefit from, including a tremendous market that is yearning to be developed. It will take effort and expenditure, no doubt, but the potential rewards, both humanitarian and monetary are incredible.

Institutions

Although the task of international development involves several stakeholders, the task falls almost exclusively on the shoulders of institutions like the United Nations. These international organizations have led the way in poverty eradication, targeting individual problems and pioneering specific solutions. Institutions have put into place essential services, such as micro-finance, even while facing limited budgets and international resistance or lack of cooperation. Nevertheless, Institutions can still do more to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and eradicate poverty. An essential component of future institutional success is ensuring that the best minds are integrated into institutions.

Although this is the intent of all institutions, current practices do not necessarily yield this result. One of the best ways to develop leadership is through internship programs. Although organizations like the United Nations offer internships to youth and young professionals, these opportunities are unpaid. This means that often the only youth that are able to accept these internships are those who are able to afford living and traveling expenses. Thus, the best and brightest person may not be the one joining the institution. Of course, this is because of limited budgets, but institutions should at least sponsor more conferences and events that enable youth to learn and exchange their ideas and experiences and foster a sense of humanitarianism in the future. If institutions can do this, they will help fight poverty on yet another front: in the minds of the future.

Youth

The Millennium Development Goals were written in 2000 and have a target completion date of 2015. The world is progressing towards these international benchmarks, but new challenges are emerging daily that will impact humanity long after 2015. Prevention is the best solution but equally essential is a trained talent pool that will assume become tomorrow's leadership in the fight against poverty. That leadership is today's youth, who have as much a responsibility in eradicating poverty as the rest of humanity. Young people should consider careers in development fields or in the international public sector. No matter what discipline one has studied, there are several skills one can bring to the fight against poverty. Also, working in development offers a unique skill set that will benefit the worker for the rest of his or her life, such as international work experience. Of course this is all in addition to the humanitarian benefit. Today's youth must consider humanitarian careers, if we are to take a common humanitarian spirit well into the twenty-first century.

Shared Responsibility and Our Common Humanity

The entire world has a vested interest in ensuring that poverty becomes an anachronism. Humanity's shared interest in poverty eradication has great humanitarian benefits for all people. But there are several practical benefits to be had as well. It is when we realize these within the larger scope of the poverty problem that all people can contribute to the solution. Whether at the state, institutional or individual level, everyone can do their part to help those in our world that need it most. Ultimately that effort will be the greatest testament to our common humanity.

Resources, Problems and Solutions

In order to achieve the ideals of shared responsibility and shared values, we need to establish shared education about the basic principles and global crises with which we are dealing.

There are currently about 300 million sleeping sites in malaria-ridden sub-Saharan Africa. Insecticide-treated bed nets cost 5 dollars each and protect two children for 5 years. Therefore, 1.5 billion dollars buys five years of protection. The US spends 1.5 billion dollars on the military every day. Shockingly, one day's expenditures are enough to provide five years of protection. It seems that we already have the resources for ending extreme poverty. It is just a matter of having those resources comply with our new shared values and responsibilities, and flow accordingly.

Why is that we spend 550 billion dollars on a military approach to security and only 4 billion dollars, less than one hundredth, on helping the poorest parts of the world? We spend 5 dollars out of every 100 for the military but only 15 cents on development. This represents a gross misinterpretation of what our security needs are. We know that international conflict and threats to national security arise from the prevalence of extremely impoverished and hungry people living in unstable conditions, yet we continue to spend money on arms of warfare and bombs, which create even greater dislocation and loss of life. There exists a terrible public misunderstanding and a lack of awareness. It is important that we do not leave this task up to politicians - we must get the public involved as well as create and promote shared values and responsibilities. The key to ending this global crisis is public awareness and public understanding.

The solution is simple and affordable. 70 cents out of every 100 dollars can end it; more and better aid, trade, debt cancellation can end it. Extreme poverty is so extreme that it kills. The most basic needs of 1.2 billion people are not met each day.

Imagine this scary, but prevalent, situation: One young girl with AIDS, one young boy with malaria, and an old man with tuberculosis all share one bed. Two are laying head to toe, and the one most likely to die first quietly perishes underneath the bed. There is no electricity to operate past sundown. No electricity to refrigerate medicine. And no clean water in the entire facility. One doctor must take care of 60,000 local residents under these horrifying conditions.

If we don't pay attention to the 20,000 voiceless and impoverished people that perish each day, we are putting at risk our own lives and the lives of our children. These victims face chronic hunger and under-nutrition, their bodies can't mount proper immune system,

there is no safe drinking water but dirty contaminated water must be used every day, people must live with mosquitoes with malaria but there is no treatment or bed nets for miles. By 2015, we must aim to make investments to fight malaria, AIDS, get clean drinking water, help farmers to grow more food and enjoy the benefits of their own Green Revolution. It is our shared responsibility to lift them onto the first rung of the ladder of development.

In this new age of information and communication technology, we as young leaders from around the world can do the following with greater ease: send a message that the global community is one family with common values such as promoting the concept of equality and fairness; strengthen the United Nations as a positive force for good, based on inclusion and partnership; promote global and public goods – whose benefits reach across national borders, generations and populations, including equity, eradication of preventable disease, environmental sustainability and peace and security; and build awareness that the ecological balance of the planet is fragile and is easily compromised by common threats to mankind, such as poverty, climate change, global warming, natural disasters, famine, and violent conflict. If there is no effort to deal with these grave threats, our common destiny is at stake.

Let's follow through on what our governments promised and give less than 1 percent to make the world safer and more prosperous: one where our children will be secure. Let us work to eradicate poverty and help to eliminate terrorism, threats to security, conflict, violence, hunger, and the loss of life.

The fact that we can eradicate extreme poverty means that we need to. To walk away is dangerous to our security.

AFTERWORD

AFTERWORD

Amir Dossal, Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Centered around the theme: Our Common Humanity in the Information Age: Principles and Values for Development, the meeting was comprised of an opening session that featured plenary statements by multi-stakeholder representatives, who addressed the challenges of globalization and the common destiny of human beings as neighbours sharing a common humanity. These principles are reflected in the fundamental values of the Millennium Declaration and MDGs. The event was structured around six values highlighted in the Millennium Declaration: 1) freedom, 2) solidarity, 3) equality, 4) tolerance, 5) respect for nature and 6) shared responsibility – the six sessions were facilitated by well-known media personalities with the goal of generating substantive discussions as well as articulating ideas and solutions. Media coverage and exposure, through eminent personalities' statements/testimonies, facilitated by television networks, e-mail and web-based technologies, and public service announcements in various languages spread the messages of this event worldwide.

The meeting revived the spirit of cooperation and sent a strong message on the role of the United Nations in global human development by highlighting that the global community is one family with common values and promoting the concept of equity and fairness through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT); strengthening the United Nations by reinforcing the message embodied in the MDGs; promoting global public goods, especially ICT – whose benefits reach across borders, generations and populations, including equity, eradication of diseases, environmental sustainability and peace and security; building awareness that the ecological balance of the planet is fragile and is easily compromised by common threats to mankind, such as poverty, climate change, global warming, natural disasters, famine and conflicts, and, if there is no effort to deal with these threats, our common future is at peril.

This meeting rightly connected values to the opportunities provided by new technologies. ICT was seen as a strategic instrument for meeting the challenges and opportunities we face in this information age, not as an end in themselves, but rather a means -- tools to reach the ambitious goals of the Millennium.

The conference was opened with a welcome address by General Assembly President Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa and keynote addresses by Ambassador Ali Hachani, the President of the Economic and Social Council, former Finnish president Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, World Bank Vice-President Katherine Sierra, actress Julia Ormond, and Ms. Louise Blouin Mac Bain of Louise T. Blouin Foundation. Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, chaired the event.

The meeting was organized by the Global Alliance for ICT and Development in partnership with the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the United Nations Global Compact Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Millennium Project, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), The World Bank, Pace University, Alliance of Civilizations, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Friends of the UN, Institute for a Culture of Peace, International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC), UN-NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE) and World Peace Prayer Society.

The event was special in many ways. It was a gathering of a truly unique set of diverse, high-level participants and an audience composed of members of all walks of life. In many ways it was a manifestation of our Common Humanity. The event provided a rare opportunity to step back and take a macro view, highlighting the foundations that constitute the core values of our common humanity that underlie much of the work of the entire United Nations system. It also presented an opportunity to portray the link between those values and the concrete Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which, in essence, form the roadmap for achieving our common humanity. It was our intent to make this meeting a force for mobilizing all stakeholders to organize our world in a new way for a better future.

The theme of the meeting appealed to a large number of civil society and private sector representatives. There was, therefore, a large base of partners and contributors. The theme reflected sentiments deeply rooted in today's globalized world and stressed the importance of an understanding of the progress and strides that the global community has accomplished as well as the continuous biases and inequality that are still present and that must be overcome.

The work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields is an incarnation of this "common humanity" in areas such as social development, gender equity, poverty eradication, sustainable development and other major issues that are all the expression of

a search for increased freedom, solidarity, equity and shared responsibility at the global level. However, in order to move our agenda ahead and to achieve better results in our common objectives, we need to imbue world public opinion with these values and use them as guiding principles towards a better world.

The event featured many distinguished guest speakers and panelists, prominent leaders and individuals in governments, private sector, entertainment, sports, science and technology and media, as well as Nobel Laureates and other prestigious awards winners from the five regions. Some were not physically present, but tapped the power of modern communications technologies to participate from far-off locales such as remote Antarctica, Europe and other locations in the United States.

Participation was also impressive, over 1100 participants gathered in the UN Headquarters; through video linkages we reached an even wider audience in Canada, the Netherlands and the Arctic region. In fact, taking full advantage of information and communication technologies, the public had an opportunity to listen and contribute their opinions and ideas simultaneously and virtually. Forum discussions were webcast live on the Internet and included interactive chat rooms. A blog website had been set up and featured background information and guide questions to stimulate discussion on the themes of the meeting.

A Youth Forum on Our Common Humanity in the Information Age was held at the United Nations on Tuesday, 28 November as a prelude to the day-long conference.

With this event we aimed to bring a truly diverse set of viewpoints and experiences to the podium in order to stretch our minds and inspire us to strive harder to fulfill the values we have been challenged to uphold.

The Global Alliance is discussing future steps and follow-up actions to the Common Humanity event and will set up an agenda and a range of issues that will span the whole of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and will convene meetings with interested partners to chart the next steps on the path to reaching Our Common Humanity's objectives.

There is a keen interest and genuine support among stakeholders to continue the effective and efficient actions in this area in order to obtain concrete and tangible results with the full engagement of the private sector and civil society. It is expected that further partnerships will develop to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and preserve the basic values of the Millennium Declaration.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

UNITED NATIONS MILLENIUM DECLARATION

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration

The General Assembly

Adopts the following Declaration:

United Nations Millennium Declaration

I. Values and principles

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.

4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign

occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.

6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:

- **Freedom. Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.**
- **Equality. No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.**
- **Solidarity. Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.**
- **Tolerance. Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.**
- **Respect for nature. Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable**

patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.

• Shared responsibility. Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.

7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
- To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.

- To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
- To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
- To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
- To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.

10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.

12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.

13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on

transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.

15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:

- To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
- To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
- To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.

16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.

18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.

19. We resolve further:

- To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
- To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
- By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
- To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
- To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.

20. We also resolve:

- To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
- To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
- To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
- To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.
- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration, are available to all.

IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoiled by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.

22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21, agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:

- To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
- To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
- To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.
- To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
- To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
- To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

V. Human rights, democracy and good governance

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

25. We resolve therefore:

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.

- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy.

28. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and sub-regional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

29. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

30. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.

- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.
- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfill the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.
- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.
- To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
- To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.

31. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue

periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.

32. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

8th plenary meeting, 8 September 2000¹⁰

¹⁰ Website: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

For more information on the Millennium Summit, please visit: <http://www.un.org/millennium/>.

ANNEX 2

UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Global poverty rates are falling, led by Asia. But millions more people have sunk deep into poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, where the poor are getting poorer.

Progress has been made against hunger, but slow growth of agricultural output and expanding populations have led to setbacks in some regions. Since 1990, millions more people are chronically hungry in sub-Saharan Africa and in Southern Asia, where half the children under age 5 are malnourished.

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

Five developing regions are approaching universal enrolment. But in sub-Saharan Africa, fewer than two thirds of children are enrolled in primary school. Other regions, including Southern Asia and Oceania, also have a long way to go. In these regions and elsewhere, increased enrolment must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that all children remain in school and receive a high-quality education.

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

The gender gap is closing — albeit slowly — in primary school enrolment in the developing world. This is a first step towards easing long-standing inequalities between women and men. In almost all developing regions, women represent a smaller share of wage earners than men and are often relegated to insecure and poorly paid jobs. Though progress is being made, women still lack equal representation at the highest levels of government, holding only 16 per cent of parliamentary seats worldwide.

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

Death rates in children under age 5 are dropping. But not fast enough. Eleven million children a year — 30,000 a day — die from preventable or treatable causes. Most of these lives could be saved by expanding existing programmes that promote simple, low-cost solutions.

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

More than half a million women die each year during pregnancy or childbirth. Twenty times that number suffer serious injury or disability. Some progress has been made in reducing maternal deaths in developing regions, but not in the countries where giving birth is most risky.

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

AIDS has become the leading cause of premature death in sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide. In the European countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and parts of Asia, HIV is spreading at an alarming rate. Though new drug treatments prolong life, there is no cure for AIDS, and prevention efforts must be intensified in every region of the world if the target is to be reached.

Malaria and tuberculosis together kill nearly as many people each year as AIDS, and represent a severe drain on national economies. Ninety per cent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, where prevention and treatment efforts are being scaled up. Tuberculosis is on the rise, partly as a result of HIV/AIDS, though a new international protocol to detect and treat the disease is showing promise.

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

Most countries have committed to the principles of sustainable development. But this has not resulted in sufficient progress to reverse the loss of the world's environmental resources. Achieving the goal will require greater attention to the plight of the poor, whose day-to-day subsistence is often directly linked to the natural resources around them, and an unprecedented level of global cooperation. Action to prevent further deterioration of the ozone layer shows that progress is possible.

Access to safe drinking water has increased, but half the developing world still lack toilets or other forms of basic sanitation. Nearly 1 billion people live in urban slums because the growth of the urban population is outpacing improvements in housing and the availability of productive jobs.

Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

The United Nations Millennium Declaration represents a global social compact: developing countries will do more to ensure their own development, and developed countries will support them through aid, debt relief and better opportunities for trade. Progress in each of these areas has already begun to yield results. But developed countries have fallen short of targets they have set for themselves. To achieve the

Millennium Development Goals, increased aid and debt relief must be accompanied by further opening of trade, accelerated transfer of technology and improved employment opportunities for the growing ranks of young people in the developing world.¹¹

¹¹ Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005,
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/pdf/MDG%20Book.pdf>

For more information on the MDGs, please visit: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

ANNEX 3

PROGRAMME



Our Common Humanity in the Information Age
Principles and Values for Development
United Nations, New York
29 November 2006

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Registration, Visitors' Entrance, General Assembly Building

PLENARY SESSION, Conference Room 4

9:40 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. *Portraits of Our Common Humanity at the United Nations*

9:45 a.m. – 9:47 a.m. **Welcome remarks**

Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator, Global Alliance for ICT and Development

9:47 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. **Introductory remarks**

Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, United Nations, Chair

9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Welcome addresses**

H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Ali Hachani, President of ECOSOC

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Keynote speakers**

H.E. Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Former President of Finland, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Kosovo

Ms. Julia Ormond, Actress, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador

Ms. Katherine Sierra, Vice-President, The World Bank

Ms. Louise T. Blouin Mac Bain, President, Louise T. Blouin Foundation

DIALOGUE SESSIONS ON CORE VALUES OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

Interactive and web-connected dialogue

11:00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. **Dialogue session 1 (Conference Room 4)**

Freedom and development. *“Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights”*.¹² Freedom for peace and development, freedom from poverty (MDG 1), freedom from hunger (MDG 1), freedom from diseases (MDGs 4, 5, 6), freedom to be educated (MDG 2).

Host: *Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator, Global Alliance for ICT and Development*

Moderator: *Ms. Katty Kay, Correspondent, BBC*

Panelists: *Mr. Uzodinma Iweala, Author, “Beasts of No Nation”; Mr. Jung-Dal Kwon, Korea Freedom League; Mr. Armen Orujyan, President, ATHGO International; Mr. Stephen Schlesinger, Historian, The New School University; Ms. Franziska Seel, Taking IT Global* ¹³; *Ms. Marianne Williamson, Founder, Peace Alliance; Mr. William Gyude Moore, Youth Representative, Liberian Refugee, Berea College.*

Respondents: *Mr. Julius Coles, President, Africare; Mr. Allan Goodman, President and CEO, Institute of International Education*

Dialogue session 2 (ECOSOC Chamber)

Respect for nature and sustainable development. *“Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts*

¹² Millennium Declaration Res. 55/2 paragraph 6.

¹³ Via videoconferencing from Canada.

*of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants”.*¹⁴ Environment, sustainable development, human settlements (MDG 7).

Host: *Mr. Niger Innis, Congress of Racial Equality*

Moderator: *Mr. Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Zambuling Institute*

Panelists: *Ms. Julie Fox Gorte, Vice-President, Calvert Group; Mr. J. Robert Hillier, CEO, The Hillier Group; Ms. Elisabet Sahtouris, Evolution Biologist, Futurist, Professor; Mr. Roberto Savio, President, Inter Press Service (IPS); Ms. Tensie Whelan, Executive Director, Rainforest Alliance; Mr. Ross Powell and Mr. Tim Naish, Co-chief Scientists for the McMurdo Ice Shelf Project*¹⁵; *Mr. Deepen Shah, Youth Representative, Temple of Understanding*

Respondent: *Ms. Shamina de Gonzaga, Special Adviser on NGO relations to the President of the General Assembly*

* * *

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Luncheon hosted by the International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC), featuring Art of the Olympians, UN Delegates Dining Room No.6 (by invitation only)

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1.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. Youth Workshop on Millennium Development Goals – Express Bar, Third Floor of the General Assembly Building

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1.30 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. Registration, Visitors’ Entrance, General Assembly Building

PLENARY SESSION, Conference Room 4

3:00 p.m. – 3:02 p.m. Opening remarks

¹⁴ Millennium Declaration Res. 55/2 paragraph 6.

¹⁵ Via videoconferencing from Antarctica.

Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator, Global Alliance for ICT and Development

3:02 p.m. – 3:12 p.m. **Keynote speaker**

Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director, UN Millennium Project, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

3.12 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. **Statement of Mr. Zinedine Zidane, Soccer Player**

DIALOGUE SESSIONS *continue*

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Dialogue session 3 (Conference Room 4)**

Equality and opportunity. “*No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured*”.¹⁶ Promote gender equality and empower women. A global partnership for development (MDGs 1-8).

Host: *Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN-DESA*

Moderator: *Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, UN-DESA*

Panelists: *Ms. Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs (CONGO); Mr. Allan Bradley, President, Welcome Trust Sanger Institute; Ms. Dho Young-Shim, Chairperson of Board of Directors, UNWTO ST-EP Foundation; Ms. June Zeitlin, Executive Director, Women's Environment and Development Organization; Ms. Stacey S. Roussel, Youth Representative, Young Professionals for International Cooperation, The Savita Society*

Respondents: *Ms. Linda Grover, Global Family Foundation; Mr. Dennis Anderson, Associate Dean, Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems, Pace University.*

Dialogue session 4 (ECOSOC Chamber)

Tolerance and dialogue. “*Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace*

¹⁶ Millennium Declaration Res. 55/2 paragraph 6.

and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted”.¹⁷ Education (MDGs 1-8)

Host: *Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact Office*

Moderator: *Ms. Katherine Marshall, Senior Advisor, The World Bank*

Panelists: *Ms. Karen Armstrong, Author, Historian of Religion; Ms. Audrey Kitagawa, Chair of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns; Mr. Faouzi Skali, Director-General, Festival de Fès; Ms. Floor van Spaendonck, Waag Society/for Old and New Media and Mr. Alexander Nikolic, SLUM-TV*¹⁸; *Ms. Natasha P. Ghent-Rodriguez, Youth Representative, Young Professionals for International Cooperation, University of South Florida*

Respondents: *Mr. Tomonobu Fuchigami, President, Harmony Association; Ms. Deborah Moldow, Friends of the United Nations*

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Dialogue session 5 (Conference Room 4)**

Solidarity and equity. “Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most”.¹⁹ (MDG 8)

Host: *Ms. Aliye Celik, Senior Advisor, GAID Secretariat*

Moderator: *Ms. Pera Wells, Secretary-General, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)*

Panelists: *Mr. Rodrigo Baggio, Executive Director, Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI), Brazil; Mr. Alain Lemieux, World Sports Alliance; Dr. Mehmet Oz, Professor of Surgery, Columbia University; Mr. Joseph Salim, President, Virtue Foundation; Ms. Jessica Rimington, Youth Representative, One World Youth Project, Georgetown University*

Respondent: *Ms. Diane Miller, Director of Global Operations, International Education Collaborative Foundation*

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Via videoconferencing from Amsterdam.

¹⁹ Millennium Declaration Res. 55/2 paragraph 6.

Dialogue session 6 (ECOSOC Chamber)

Shared responsibility and partnership. “*Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role*”.²⁰ (MDG 8)

Host: *Mr. Amir Dossal, Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), Executive Director, United Nations Office for Partnerships*

Moderator: *Mr. Petre Engardio, Senior News Editor, ” Business Week”*

Panelists: *Mr. Liston Bochette, Secretary-General, World Olympian Association; Mr. Larry Brilliant, Executive Director, Google.org; Mr. Robert Nagel, ICT Specialist; Mr. Dominick Salvatore, Economist, Fordham University; Mr. Seth Werfel, youth representative, and Mr. Rajiv Ramakrishnan, youth representative, Positive Foundations, Brandeis University*

Respondent: *Ms. Carolyn Miles, Executive Vice-President, Save the Children (US)*

5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Closing (Conference Room 4)**

Presentation of Forward-Looking Strategies from the Dialogue Sessions

Mr. Shashi Tharoor and Hosts of the Dialogue sessions

* * *

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Reception hosted by Friends of the United Nations and Congress of Racial Equality, (Third Floor), featuring actress Ms. Susan Lucci and the Broadway Musical *The Color Purple* (by invitation only)

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²⁰ Ibid.

ANNEX 4

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS AT THE “OUR COMMON HUMANITY IN THE INFORMATION AGE” EVENT, 29 NOVEMBER 2006²¹

H.E. Martti Ahtisaari, Former President of Finland, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Kosovo

On 14 November 2005, Mr. Ahtisaari was appointed the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process for Kosovo. Prior to this, and upon leaving office as President of Finland, Mr. Ahtisaari founded the Non-Governmental Organisation Crisis Management Initiative, where he is the Chairman of the Board. Other post-presidential activities have included facilitating the peace process between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement, chairing an independent panel on the security and safety of UN personnel in Iraq and appointments as the UN Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and Personal Envoy of the OSCE CiO for Central Asia.

Since joining the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1965 Mr. Ahtisaari has held various positions in the Ministry including as Under-Secretary of State in charge of International Development Co-operation and Secretary of State. He served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Namibia in 1978 to 1990 and became the Under-Secretary General for Administration and Management in 1987.

President Ahtisaari serves as Chairman of the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation, as well as of the Governing Council of Interpeace. In Finland, President Ahtisaari is active on the corporate governing boards of Elcoteq SE and UPM -Kymmene.

H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa was elected President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on 8 June 2006. At the time, she was serving as Legal Adviser to the Royal Court in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

²¹ Titles reflect the situation on 29 November 2006.

Sheikha Haya brings to the post a long and distinguished legal career at both the national and international levels, spanning three decades. One of the first two women to practise law in her country, she has held many senior positions with leading legal organizations of the world including the International Bar Association, where from 1997 to 1999 she was vice-chairwoman of the arbitration and dispute resolution committee, the first woman from the Middle East to serve in this capacity. Her pioneering role in the legal sphere has been coupled more recently with prestigious diplomatic assignments as her country's Ambassador to France, from 2000 to 2004, and as non-resident Ambassador to Belgium, Switzerland and Spain and the Kingdom's permanent representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She also was a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Arbitration Centre Consultative Committee and became Bahrain's representative on the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce, an appointment that she still holds today.

A champion of women's rights, particularly in the legal sphere, Sheikha Haya has been an active participant in the movement to elevate the position of women in Bahrain before the Islamic sharia courts and is an advocate of a progressive interpretation of Islamic texts as they apply to women. She was a vice-president of the Bahrain Bar Society as well as a member of the Supreme Council of Culture, Art and Literature, and is currently a member of her country's Child Development Society and the Arab Women's Legal Network.

She holds an LLB from the University of Kuwait and studied international public law at the University of Paris I: Panthéon-Sorbonne. She also holds postgraduate degrees in civil private law from Alexandria University and in comparative law from Ain Shams University in Egypt. She is only the third woman to serve as President of the United Nations General Assembly, and the first since the twenty-fourth session in 1969.

Dennis Anderson, Ph.D., Associate Dean Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems Pace University

Dennis Anderson is Associate Dean and Professor at Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems, Pace University, New York, USA. Prof. Anderson received his Ph.D. and M.Phil. in Mathematics Education from Columbia University. He also received an Ed.M. in Instructional Technology and Media from Columbia University. In addition, he holds an M.S. in Computer Science from New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences and his B.A. in Computer Science from Fordham University. He also completed an executive-education program in E-Commerce at Columbia University's School of Business and a professional program in

multimedia at the MIT. In 2005, he attended Harvard University's Management and Leadership in Education Program.

Anderson was a Fulbright Senior Specialist in IT to Belgium in 2002. In 2004, he was appointed as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society, in Graz, Austria. In 2005, he was also a Visiting Professor at the Université de Mons-Hainaut's Waroque Business School, Belgium. He was recently appointed as Fellow of Helene & Grant Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship.

Anderson has served as a member of several advisory boards of organizations and conference boards including: Peter C. Alderman Foundation, International Advisory Board; Fulbright Academy of Science & Technology, Board of Directors; UN Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development; Microsoft Faculty Advisory Board etc. He has also served as a judge for the New York City Science and Engineering Fair, the 2005 Imagine Cup in Japan, the Computerworld Honors Program, and the Advanced Media Technology Emmy Awards and a reviewer for the New York State Education Department's Institutional Accreditation.

Karen Armstrong, Author, Historian of Religion

From 1962 to 1969, Karen Armstrong was a nun in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. This was a teaching order, and once she had advanced from postulant and novice to professed nun, she was sent to St Anne's College, Oxford University, where she studied English. Armstrong left the order during her course of study. After graduating, she embarked on a doctorate (still at Oxford) on Alfred, Lord Tennyson. She continued to work on it while later teaching at the University of London, but her thesis was rejected by an external examiner. She eventually left academia without completing her doctorate.

This period was marked by ill-health (Armstrong's life-long, but at that time undiagnosed, epilepsy as described in *The Spiral Staircase* (2004)) and her readjustment to outside life. In 1976, she became an English teacher at a girls' school in Dulwich, but her epilepsy caused her to miss too many school days, and she was asked to leave in 1981.

Armstrong published *Through the Narrow Gate* in 1982, which described the restricted and narrow life she experienced in the convent (and earned her the enmity of many British Catholics). In 1984 she was asked to write and present a documentary on the life of St. Paul. The research for the documentary made Armstrong look again at religion, despite having abandoned religious worship after she left the convent. She has since become a prolific, acclaimed, and controversial writer on subjects touching on all of the

three major monotheistic religions. In 1999, the Islamic Center of Southern California honored Armstrong, for "promoting understanding among faiths."

Armstrong has written a number of articles for The Guardian. Her latest book, *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*, was published in March 2006; her next book, a short biography of Muhammad, is scheduled for the fall of 2006 from Atlas Books/HarperCollins.

Rodrigo Baggio, Founder and Executive Director, Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI)

Social entrepreneur Rodrigo Baggio has gained international recognition for his unique approach in combining digital and civic education. In 1995, Baggio, a technology consultant from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, had a dream about poor children using computers to discuss their realities and solve their problems. Deeply moved by the dream, he set out to make it a reality. He founded the Committee for Democracy in Information Technology (CDI) and opened CDI's first technology school, called an IT & Citizens' Rights School, in Dona Marta, then one of Rio's most violent slums.

The innovative model garnered broad support and rapidly spread throughout Brazil and then internationally. Today, CDI is a network of 900 schools in eight countries – Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay and South Africa. More than a half million people have benefited from CDI programs. Empowered by technology, CDI students have gone on to find better jobs, open small businesses and transform their communities.

Baggio has been named by the World Economic Forum as one of "100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow" and by Time Magazine as one of the 50 leaders in Latin America that will make a difference in the third millennium. Baggio and CDI have also been profiled in Fortune, the Financial Times, Newsweek and others and granted awards from Ashoka, UNICEF, UNESCO, IADB, Schwab Foundation, Tech Museum and others. More recently, Baggio was invited to join the Strategy Council of UN's new Global Alliance for ICT and Development. He was also named by CNN, Time and Fortune's Principal Voices project as one of the world's three leading voices in economic development along with Jeffrey Sachs, head of the UN Millennium Development Goals, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank.

Renate Bloem, President, Conference of NGOs (CONGO)

Renate Bloem, a Swiss national, completed her studies in Medicine, Languages and Literature at the Universities of Bonn, Munich and New York (Columbia University) and

started her academic career by teaching at international schools and cultural institutions worldwide.

Since 1985 she dynamically engaged in the NGO work. As a strong advocate for human rights, in particular for the human rights of women and children, she was actively involved in the Drafting of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 37d) and, after its adoption, in the promotion of children's rights.

In January 2000, together with her Committee on the Status of Women, she organized the NGO Working Session, preceding the ECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for Beijing+5, largely hailed as a model for NGO/UN partnership, and got actively involved in the whole review process of Beijing and Copenhagen+5.

Elected CONGO President at the General Assembly in November 2000 and re-elected in December 2003, she has been involved in numerous UN meetings. Renate has provided invaluable counsel and guidance to CONGO membership and staff, contributing to her organization's development. Under her strong leadership, CONGO has gained prominence in the international civil society landscape and became the main counterpart of NGOs in relationship with the United Nations.

Louise T. Blouin Mac Bain, President, Louise T. Blouin Foundation

Louise T Blouin Mac Bain is CEO and President of LTB Group of Companies - a global media business with a commitment to the arts and culture. Group publications include Art + Auction, Modern Painters and Culture and Travel and the Group produces around 50 magazines and 130 titles in total each year. The website www.artinfo.com intended to be the premier online destination for the arts is the LTB Group's latest creation.

Mac Bain is also the Chairman and Founder of the Louise T Blouin Foundation. The Foundation reflects Mrs. Mac Bain's hopes and dreams through its work across the world to promote culture and creativity and their role in making societies stronger. Recent Foundation projects include an investment in cultural exchange projects between China, the Middle East and the West, an OECD research initiative measuring cultural investment across the world and the development of an Institute in Notting Hill, London.

Previous to setting up the LTB Group, she co-founded Trader Classified Media. Over 15 years as Chairman and Operational CEO she turned around a business with more than 400 publications (9 million readers per week) 80 companies and, with her management team, led over 5,000 employees and 60 internet sites in 20 countries. She relinquished her interest in Trader to develop the LTB Group. She holds a number of memberships in

international business and art organisations, including: Board of the Cendant Corporation; Board of Trustees of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation; Bard Member of the Bard Centre in New York; Honorary Member of the Chairman's Council at the Whitney Museum, New York; Member of the International Council of the Tate Museum, London; International Committee of Les Arts Decoratifs in Paris; Member of Le Club international des Amis du Centre Pompidou.

Liston Bochette, Ph.D., Secretary General, World Olympian Association

Dr. Liston Bochette has participated in 4 Olympic Games, both Summer and Winter Games. As a coach and a professor he has inspired others to reach for their highest goals. With degrees in Fine Art, Humanities, and Education, he established the International Cultural Consortium (ICC) with the purpose of exemplifying Olympic ideals before a global audience. He won the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympic Cultural Festival in painting and drawing.

Prof. Allan Bradley, Ph.D., President, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

Professor Bradley completed his Ph.D. studies in genetics at the University of Cambridge in 1984. During his time in Cambridge Dr. Bradley co-developed the embryonic stem cell system. Embryonic stem cells can be isolated from mouse embryos, grown & genetically manipulated in culture and then used to re-create mice with these mutations. In 1987, Dr. Bradley moved to Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to full Professor in 1995. In 1993 Dr. Bradley received a prestigious appointment as an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. At Baylor, Dr. Bradley's laboratory pursued the analysis of gene function using knockout mice and has published the function of numerous genes using this technology, with an emphasis on tumor suppression and embryonic development. Dr. Bradley's laboratory has also developed novel methods to engineer the genomes of mice, including point mutations and large chromosomal changes. Dr. Bradley is the author of over 170 scientific articles and book chapters. He has been active in commercialising technology from his laboratory by founding several companies including a publicly traded genomics company, Lexicon Genetics Inc. In November 2000, Dr. Bradley took up an appointment as Director of the Sanger Centre. In July 2002 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Larry Brilliant, M.D., Executive Director, Google.org

Dr. Larry Brilliant is the Executive Director of Google.org. In this role, Larry works with the company's co-founders to define the mission and strategic goals of Google's philanthropic efforts. Google.org, the umbrella organization for these, includes the

Google Foundation (home to the company's own charitable projects that use Google talent and technology), as well as partnerships with and contributions to for-profit and non-profit entities.

Brilliant is an M.D. and M.P.H., board-certified in preventive medicine and public health. He is a founder and director of The Seva Foundation, which responds to locally defined problems with culturally sustainable solutions throughout the world.

In addition to his medical career, Larry co-founded The WELL, a pioneering virtual community, with Stewart Brand in 1985. He also holds technology patents and has served as CEO of two public companies and other venture backed start ups.

Brilliant earned a Bachelor's degree and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Michigan, and received his M.D. from Wayne State University. In February 2006 he received the Sapling Foundation's TED Prize.

Julius E. Coles, Ph.D., President, Africare

Julius E. Coles is the President of Africare. Before assuming this position, he was the Director of Morehouse College's Andrew Young Center for International Affairs from 1997 - 2002. He served as the Director of Howard University's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center from 1994 - 1997. Most of Mr. Coles' career of some twenty-eight years in the foreign service has been spent as a senior official with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). While with USAID, Mr. Coles was Mission Director in Swaziland and Senegal and served in Vietnam, Morocco, Liberia, Nepal and Washington, D.C. He received a B.A. from Morehouse College (1964) and a Masters of Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (1966). He has also studied at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, the U.S. Department of State Foreign Institute's Senior Seminar, the Federal Executive Institute and Institut de Français. Mr. Coles retired from the U.S. Government's Foreign Service in 1994 with the rank of Career Minister. He received numerous awards including the *Distinguished Career Service Award* (1995), the *Presidential Meritorious Service Award* (1983-1986), and was decorated by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal as *Commander in the Order of Lion* (1994). Mr. Coles is a member of the Boards of The Mountain Institute, InterAction, L'Alliance Française de Washington, DC, Andrew Young Center for International Affairs at Morehouse College and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. In addition, he was elected as a member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Rotary Club of Atlanta, Council on Foreign Relations, the Bretton Woods Committee and has been appointed as a member of the UNESCO International Commission on the Gorée Memorial.

Amir Dossal, Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, United Nations Office of Partnerships

Amir Dossal is the United Nations point person for partnerships with the private sector, foundations and civil society. He is also the UN's Chief Liaison for the philanthropic initiative established by Ted Turner's \$1 billion donation to UN causes - the UN Foundation (www.un.org/unfip). Amir has been behind numerous innovative partnerships for the United Nations, guiding the development of strategic alliances with corporations, foundations and philanthropists for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2005, Dossal established a strategic Fund for Democracy (www.un.org/democracymfund), to strengthen democratic institutions and enhance democratic governance in new or restored democracies. Earlier this year, he led the Transition Team to set-up the first ever Peace-building Support Office to help bridge development gaps in post-conflict countries.

Prior to joining UNFIP in 1999, Dossal established the Management Policy Office in 1997 and served as its first Director, in charge of implementing management reform within the UN. From 1993 to 1997, he was Chief of Financial Management in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, overseeing 24 peacekeeping missions with a total annual budget of over \$3 billion. From 1985 to 1993 he served with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) including as Deputy Resident Representative in Jamaica, and as Chief of Headquarters Budget. Previously, Amir held leadership positions in the private sector including with the London-based consulting engineers, the Freeman Fox Group; Burma Industrial Products Ltd.; and the US engineering corporation - Morrison-Knudsen International.

Dossal is on a number of Boards and Committees, including ex-officio Member of the UNFIP and UNDEF Advisory Boards. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has written a number of articles and papers on public-private partnerships and regularly undertakes speaking engagements at major conferences and institutions across the globe. Born in Pakistan, Amir was educated there and in the United Kingdom, where he was a Chartered Accountant (FCA - England and Wales) having qualified from Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, London in 1975. He has lived and worked in Asia, Arab States, Caribbean, Europe and North America.

Peter Engardio, Senior News Editor, Business Week

Peter Engardio is Senior News Editor for BUSINESS WEEK, focusing on global business and economic trends. He joined BUSINESS WEEK in 1985 as a correspondent

covering Atlanta, Miami, and Hong Kong. In 1996 he moved to New York as an Asian editor. From 1998 to 2001, he was editor of the Asian Edition.

In 2005, Engardio anchored BusinessWeek's special issue "China & India: What You Need to Know," winner of the Institute for Political Journalism Award. His 2004 cover "The China Price" won an Overseas Press Club Award. In 2003, he anchored two groundbreaking covers on offshore outsourcing of skilled work, "Is Your Job Next" and the "Rise of India," for which he received George Polk, Loeb, and Sigma Delta Chi awards, and was named a finalist for a National Magazine Awards. The pieces sparked Congressional hearings and a national debate on outsourcing. He also won a Harry Chapin award sponsored by World Hunger Year for his 2002 cover "Fighting Poverty" and a Clarion Award and OPC citation in 2001 for his cover "Global Capitalism: Can it be Made to Work Better?" In 1996, he received an OPC Award for his International cover story, "China's New Elite." In 1997 he received an OPC citation for "Asia: Time for a Reality Check," written as he was finishing his Hong Kong tour, and he was part of the BUSINESS WEEK Asia Team that won a 1998 Overseas Press Club Award for coverage of Asia in Crisis.

Prior to joining BUSINESS WEEK, Engardio was a feature editor for Business Korea in Seoul, as well as a stringer for BUSINESS WEEK. Before that, he worked for the Bay City News Service in San Francisco and the San Francisco Bay Guardian.

He was editor for a just-released book on China and India which was published by McGraw-Hill and is co-author with Mark L. Clifford of "Meltdown: Asia's Boom, Bust, and Beyond," published in 2000 by Prentice-Hall.

In 2004, Engardio was a Reuters Journalism Fellow at Oxford University. He holds a BA from Central Michigan University and an MA from the University of Missouri, School of Journalism.

Julie Fox Gorte, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Social Investment Strategist, Calvert Group

Dr. Julie Fox Gorte is Vice President and Chief Social Investment Strategist for the Calvert Group. Dr. Gorte works to build stronger links between social and financial analytics and company performance, and serves as a spokesperson for social investing.

Until summer of 2005, she served as Director of Social Research at Calvert, where she directed analytical staff to provide company and issue analysis and carry out shareholder activism for Calvert's mutual funds. Before joining Calvert, Julie was a senior policy

analyst for the Northeast-Midwest Institute, working with members of Congress to develop legislation and oversight on issues of electricity restructuring, climate change, and Forest Service appropriations. Prior to that, Dr. Gorte was Program Manager for Technology Analysis at the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Policies and Programs Division, where she analyzed technological possibilities and developed policy options to encourage the development of low-carbon technologies leading up to COP-3, where the Kyoto Protocol was born. She served for two years as Vice President for Ecological and Economics Research at The Wilderness Society.

Gorte spent nearly 14 years at the Office of Technology Assessment where she was a Senior Analyst and Project Director, managing OTA studies on manufacturing technology and competitiveness, defense conversion, technology policy, forest policy, and worker dislocation and reemployment.

She received her M.S. and Ph.D. in Resource Economics from Michigan State University, and was graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Forest Management from Northern Arizona University.

Dr. Gorte serves as a board member for Ceres and the Center for a New American Dream, and as a member of the advisory panel for the Forest Economics and Policy Program at Resources for the Future. She co-chairs UNEP FI's Asset Management Working Group, and is a member of the Steering Committee of UNEP FI.

Linda Grover, Founder and President, Global Family Foundation

Linda Grover has devoted many years of her life to making real her children's idea of creating a universal holiday for all faiths and cultures. Born in New England and raised in the military during WW2, she developed an early interest in politics. She became a California congressman's legislative aide, and subsequently Clerk of the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee. Grover also worked for the National Committee for an Effective Congress and as a caseworker for the International Rescue Committee.

Her first book, *The House Keepers* was serialized in the *New York Post*. Grover is also co-author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Looking Terrific*, on women's evolving image; she is the author of *August Celebration*, a widely distributed book on blue green algae as a nutrient for humanity, and *Tree Island*, an award-winning (*Romantic Times*) novel about the global holiday she envisions. As a television scriptwriter and later head writer for *The Doctors*, NBC, *Search for Tomorrow*, CBS, and *General Hospital*, ABC, Grover was an early pioneer for more truth and less violence on daytime TV.

In 1998 Grover left her writing career to work with schoolchildren and members of Congress to create the unifying holiday of peace and sharing every January 1st that her children had envisioned thirty years before. The US Congress adopted her initiative in 2000, and the United Nations General Assembly also called for One Day in Peace every January 1. Presidents Clinton and Bush have praised her project, along with twenty other heads of state. For her work with schoolchildren to promote what is now called *GLOBAL FAMILY Day*, Grover was named DC Mother of the Year in 2002 by American Mothers, Inc., the official Mothers Day organization.

In 2006, the United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on all Americans to observe *GLOBAL FAMILY Day*, and the House of Representatives urgently requested that the president and other notables assume leadership of this new tool for peace. “It’s becoming very clear”, said Grover, “that governments can no longer make peace unless the people also actively make peace. Unless we can begin to build the kind of shared traditions that will bond us as one human family, we can’t hope for a world of peace and sharing. Baking and breaking bread together, worldwide, on the first day of every year, can help to start that process.”

H.E. Ambassador Ali Hachani, President of Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

H. E. Ali Hachani is the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. He is the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations since 2003. Mr. HACHANI graduated in English Language and Literature from Tunis University (1968). He then followed a course in International Relations at Columbia University (New York) within the framework of a training program for diplomats (1969-70). He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia. After having served in the Department of International Co-operation, he was appointed) Counsellor at the Tunisian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. In this capacity, he took part in a great number of regular and extraordinary sessions of the UN General Assembly as well as Technical Committees and International Conferences. On his return to Tunis, he joined for six months the Prime Minister’s Office before being appointed Deputy Director for Multilateral Co-operation, then Director of Multilateral Cooperation and Co-operation among Developing Countries, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From September 1, 1985 to September 30, 1990, he was Ambassador of Tunisia to the United Arab Emirates. He was later appointed Director of Bilateral and Regional Cooperation with Arab, African and Asian Countries in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1992 to 1995, he was Ambassador of Tunisia to Senegal. He was equally Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of

Gambia and the Republic of Cape-Verde, with residence in Dakar. Returning to Tunis (September 1995), he was Director for Research, Analysis and Planning, then Director for relations with countries members of the European Union and finally Director-General for Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 1997 to 2000, he was Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations in New York. From 2000 to 2001, he was Ambassador of Tunisia to Greece. From September 2001 until his recent and new nomination as Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, he was Director-General of International Organizations and Conferences in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in 1983 and in 1995 to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary “Hors Classe.”

Carolyn Hannan, Ph.D., Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, UN-DESA

Carolyn Hannan was appointed as Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women from December, 2001. Hannan is a Swedish National. She was formerly the Senior Policy Advisor on Gender Equality in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (1992-1998) and the Chair of the OECD/DAC Working Party on Gender Equality (1995-1997). During the 1990s Ms Hannan was also part of a national gender mainstreaming advisory group in Sweden. More recently, Hannan worked for two years as the Principal Officer for Gender Mainstreaming in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues at the United Nations in New York. In this context she provided advice and support and monitored progress in gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations.

Hannan has also lived and worked for more than 10 years in Africa, and within the context of her work with Swedish development cooperation, has worked on gender and development in many other countries in Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Her academic background is in social and economic geography and social anthropology. She has a doctorate in Social and Economic Geography from the University of Lund in Sweden and has the title of Associate Professor.

Hannan’s work experience covers advocacy and policy development for gender equality as well as methodology and competence development for gender mainstreaming and she has published widely in these areas. Her work has covered gender perspectives in many areas, including water supply and sanitation, health, population, statistics, human settlements, natural resource management, governance and poverty eradication.

J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, Founder, President and Chairman of the Board, Hillier Architecture

J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, founded his architectural practice in 1966 on the belief that design is the creation of the appropriate balance of all of the forces that act on a project, from gravity, to environment, to context, to program, to economics, to politics; that the resulting architecture would be of its time and of its place.

Today, Hillier Architecture, a 350-person international design firm ranked among the largest in the United States, is applying that philosophy to projects in approximately 35 countries around the globe, including international schools in Budapest, Cairo, Chennai, Dubai and Doha. Projects in the United States include East River Science Park in Manhattan; the five-million-square-foot Sprint World Headquarters in Overland Park, KS; the Cornell University Center for Birds and Biodiversity in Ithaca, NY; and the renovation and restoration of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. The firm's shared professional ethos acknowledges the essential cum influential role of architects in a modern society. Going beyond the expectation of delivering beautiful buildings and inspiring spaces, the firm has given voice to the value an architect plays in dissecting, analyzing and solving the complexity of issues that face our society. Hillier has received close to 300 awards for design excellence, environmental responsibility and service to the community.

An advocate for affordable housing, preservation of open space and environmentally and culturally sustainable development, Hillier, through his activities as both developer and architect, has preserved over 300 acres of land in New Jersey; contributed to the supply of affordable housing in the state by transforming abandoned properties into residences and establishing a foundation to provide financial assistance to qualifying residents; and helped preserve the state's architectural heritage through the restoration of landmark historic buildings. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Princeton University, where he is also an adjunct professor at the School of Architecture.

Uzodinma Iweala, Author

Uzodinma Iweala is the author of the novel "Beasts of No Nation". A Nigerian American born in Washington DC in 1982, he attended St. Albans School for Boys and Harvard University where he majored in English.

"Beasts of No Nation", his first novel, was published soon after his graduation from University. It was short-listed for a number of prizes including the Commonwealth Writers Prize and has won the American Academy of Arts and Letters first fiction award, the New York Public Library Young lions Award and the LA Times first book award.

“Beasts of No Nation” was named a best book of the year by Time Magazine, People Magazine, and Entertainment Weekly and has been selected as a New York Times 100 Best Books of the year. He has written pieces for the New York Times Magazine, The Independent, The Spectator, and the Financial Times Magazine.

Iweala has worked with internally displaced peoples in Northern Nigeria. He currently works for the Millennium Villages Project at the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

He is currently working on a book about HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and will attend Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in the fall of 2008.

Katty Kay, Correspondent, BBC

Katty Kay is a Washington based correspondent for BBC News and regularly anchors The Evening News programmes seen on BBC World. Katty brings a truly global perspective to her coverage of American politics as her broadcast journalism career spans more than 15 years and 4 continents. She is also a regular guest analyst on “The Chris Mathews Show”, “The Lehrer News Hour,” and many other news programs.

BBC World is the BBC's 24-hour international news and information channel available in over 200 countries worldwide. Katty's career with the BBC began in Zimbabwe in 1990 where she filed radio reports for the Africa service of BBC World Service Radio. Among the stories she covered were Zimbabwean land reform, the independence of Namibia and the demise of apartheid in South Africa.

From Africa, Kay went on to work as a BBC correspondent in London and later Tokyo. She settled in Washington in 1996 where she joined the London Times Washington bureau before returning to the BBC in 2002.

From Washington, Kay has covered the Clinton Administration, two presidential elections as well as wars in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. She also witnessed first-hand the huge change in American policy and psyche brought on by the attacks of September 11.

Kay grew up all over the Middle East, where her father was posted as a British diplomat. She studied Modern Languages at Oxford. She is a fluent French and Italian speaker.

Georg Kell, Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

Georg Kell is the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact, the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative with more than 3,000 participants from more than 90 countries.

Following extensive experiences in Africa and Asia as a financial analyst, Kell began his career at the UN in Geneva, where he worked from 1987 to 1990 with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In 1990, he joined the New York office of UNCTAD, which he headed from 1993 to 1997. In 1997, Kell became a senior officer in the Executive Office of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, responsible for fostering cooperation with the private sector. He has served as Head of the UN Global Compact since 2000.

A native of Germany, Kell holds advanced degrees in economics and engineering from the Technical University of Berlin.

Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator, Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), United Nations

Sarbuland Khan is the Executive Coordinator of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development. Prior to this assignment Khan was the Director for the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Khan directed the preparation of the Ministerial meeting of the Economic and Social Council on ICT for development and has been responsible for its follow-up and the establishment of the United Nations Information and Communication Technology Task Force. Among his twenty-four years of professional experience within the United Nations, he has held positions as the Branch Chief for the Policy Coordination and Interagency Affairs, Chief for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for International Economic and Social Affairs, and Special Assistant to Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Decolonization. From 1979 to 1981, he served as delegate of Pakistan to the General Assembly of ECOSOC.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Khan was the Director for the Economic Coordination in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and served in embassies in Morocco, Brussels and The Hague. From 1967 to 1969, Mr. Khan was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics in Punjab University of Lahore and staff Economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in 1966-67.

Khan has a Masters degree in economics, a post-graduate diploma in International Economic Relations from the institute for Social Studies, The Hague. He has authored a

number of publications and various articles in economics for books, journals, newspapers and magazines.

Audrey Kitagawa, Spiritual leader and Chair of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns

Audrey Kitagawa was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Southern California, and a graduate of Boston College Law School. She practiced law in Honolulu for twenty plus years, and at the time of her retirement in 1996, she had a Martindale-Hubbel AV rating, the highest rating for professional and ethical excellence in the legal profession.

Kitagawa is the head of an international spiritual family based in Hawaii. She is also Advisor to the World Federation of United Nations Associations. She serves as a member of many advisory boards and councils, including the Toda Institute for Peace and Global Policy Research, the Executive Council of the World Commission for Global Consciousness and Spirituality, the National Council of Global Action to Prevent War, the Executive Council of the Spiritual Caucus at the United Nations, and the World Wisdom Council. She is also a co-facilitator of the United Religions Initiative Cooperation Circle at the United Nations and sits on the boards of the Apeadu Children's Peace Center in Ghana, and the Vermont Peace Academy.

She has published articles in *World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues*, entitled "The Power of Om: Transformation of Consciousness," and "Practical Spirituality," and in *Vision In Action* magazine, entitled "Globalization and the Common Good: A Call for Ethics and Spirituality." A chapter, "Crossing World Views, the Power of Perspective in the Hawaii Japanese American Experience," will soon be published in a book about multiculturalism, communication, and Asian women. She has written a chapter, "Globalization as the Fuel for Religious and Ethnic Conflicts," for a book that will be published as part of the culture, religion, and citizenship action research team of the GRAD Project (Globalization, Regionalization, and Democratization) of the Toda Institute for Peace and Global Policy Research and the University of Hawaii. She has also written a chapter, "The U.S. in Foreign Affairs: Source of Global Security, or Source of Global Fear?" for a journal that will be published as part of an initiative of the Spark M. Matsunaga Peace Institute and the Toda Institute.

Alain Lemieux, President, XL Generation Foundation and World Sports Alliance (WSA)

Alain Lemieux is the President of the XL Generation Foundation and the World Sports Alliance (WSA), a public private partnership in support of the United Nations

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The WSA initiative presented by XL Generation Foundation was launched at the 2006 High Level Segment of United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Alain Lemieux is the creator and developer of the XL Turf product concept. He was the President and CEO of XL Generation AG, a Swiss corporation dedicated to the distribution and marketing of all the XL Turf Product Lines, which he resigned to dedicate his time for the World Sports Alliance.

Lemieux has various career stints that combine both technology and business ventures in the sport synthetic turf surface market. In 1987, he launched his own recycled rubber mat company where he developed, in conjunction with top Quebec golfing professionals, a special practice and teaching mat under the name of Pro mat, for golf teachers.

In 1990, he became President of Top Golf Inc. a company dedicated to conception and manufacturing of a new generation of miniature golf. He established a joint venture in 1992 with Siemens Electric Limited to develop an automated computerized golf green product.

In 1998, he founded Nu Green surfaces, a company dedicated to R & D for the use of molded Expanded Polypropylene in sheet as an under pad for all different floor surfaces in sport, residential and roofing. He joined XL Generation AG, based in Zug, Switzerland, as a president & CEO, to take XL product lines to a new height of international success and recognition. Mr. Lemieux who is a Canadian citizen, graduated in Business Administration at Sherbrooke University in 1982. He was awarded the Medal of Annapurna for act of courage in 1975, from Canadian Governor General Jules Leger.

Katherine Marshall, Senior Advisor, The World Bank

Katherine Marshall has worked for over three decades on international development, focusing on issues facing the world's poorest countries. She is a senior fellow and Visiting Professor with Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and serves as senior advisor for the World Bank. Her long career with the World Bank (1971-2006) involved a wide range of leadership assignments, many focused on Africa. From 2000-2006 her mandate covered ethics, values, and faith in development work, working as counselor to the World Bank's President. Marshall serves on several NGO Boards and on advisory groups, including IDEA (International Development Ethics Association) and CARE USA's Program Committee. She is a core group member of the Council of 100, an initiative of the World Economic Forum to advance understanding between the Islamic World and the West, also a member of the Council on Foreign

Relations, and is a Trustee of Princeton University. She has been closely engaged in the creation and development of the World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD). She is a founding trustee of the Spirit of Fes Foundation and co-moderator of the Fes Forum. She speaks and publishes widely on issues for international development. Her publications include *Mind, Heart and Soul in the Fight Against Poverty* (World Bank, 2004).

Carolyn Miles, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice-President, Save the Children (US)

Carolyn Miles was appointed Chief Operating Office and Executive Vice-President of Save the Children (US) in July, 2004. She joined Save the Children in 1998 as the Associate Vice President for Sponsorship and Marketing and, most recently served as Save the Children's Vice President, Marketing and Managing Director, Sponsorship. Prior to joining Save the Children, Carolyn had a career as an entrepreneur and senior manager with American Express.

Diane Miller, Director of Global Operations, International Education Collaborative Foundation

Diane Miller is an internationally recognized expert and thought leader in the social enterprise field. Her opinions and innovations have been sought after by multinational corporations, foundations, governments, non-governmental orgs and multilateral funding institutions. In the role as a systems change catalyst and connector of both concepts and people, she has been instrumental in advancing public-private partnerships in the global 21st Century Education arena, specializing in workforce skill development for economic competitiveness in transitional economies. Under the umbrella of the IECF, which she established; she is now exporting the 'cutting edge' model created in Bermuda to developing jurisdictions in the Caribbean and beyond. As a magnate of capital and other resources, she has been responsible for the galvanizing and disbursement of millions of dollars for Integrating Information Communication Technology (ICT) into sustainable public education initiatives. Diane brings a multitude of talents and three decades of experience as a successful business leader, professional consultant and political activist and a fervent commitment to equity to any table.

Deborah Moldow, Director of Communications, World Peace Prayer Society

Moldow is the Director of Communications of the World Peace Prayer Society, an international nonprofit organization uniting people worldwide through the prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth." She has led World Peace Prayer Ceremonies with the flags of all nations at the UN, across the United States, and in many countries including India, Argentina, Switzerland, Kenya, Turkey, Haiti and South Africa. She has presided at the

dedication of many Peace Poles, adding to the more than 200,000 Peace Poles in 180 countries, each proclaiming the prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

Moldow represents the World Peace Prayer Society at the United Nations, where she also works with Friends of the United Nations. She was the elected chair of the NGO Values Caucus for five years and now serves as a co-chair of the International Day of Peace NGO Committee, on the council of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, and as facilitator of the United Religions Initiative cooperation circle at the UN. She is also an elected Trustee of the URI Global Council. She is an ordained Interfaith Minister.

Robert Nagel, Ph.D., ICT Specialist, Chairman, eSecureDocs, Inc.

Robert H. Nagel is Chairman and Chief Technology Officer of eSecureDocs, Inc. He has worked in the fields of information technology and telephony security for over forty years and has held senior management positions in two public companies: Digits Corp. and InfoSafe Systems, Inc. He is a pioneer and innovator in the development of large-scale, mission-critical, computer-based information systems, many of which he designed for, and delivered to government agencies and private industry. He is one of a few computer scientists with an advanced degree in neurophysiology and, therefore, draws upon a rare confluence of knowledge and insight regarding the functioning of the human brain and the design of sophisticated computer systems. He is the inventor of 15 patents, the latest of which issued in July 2006.

The technology Nagel designed at InfoSafe Systems, Inc., won the Seybold Award for Excellence as the "most innovative product of the year." His work in high technology received major press coverage in such publications as Fortune, Forbes, and Business Week. He testified before Congress on the capabilities of a system he designed for NASDAQ.

In 1995 Nagel began working closely with the United Nations. He presented several seminars through the Informatics Committee. Nagels' lucid description of complex issues assisted several nations as they sought to resolve this looming technological threat in their countries. As he gained the confidence of those he met, he promoted the concept of a human rights treaty for the disabled as he is totally blind.

He is a representative to the UN from the CCCUN, an accredited NGO. He has actively participated in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities which was adopted in August 2006. As founder of Blind Visions Technology,

Inc., Nagel has worked tirelessly in national and international forums to promote technologies, designs, and practices that benefit the disabled, as he is totally blind.

Tim Naish, Co-Chief Scientist, ANDRILL McMurdo Ice Shelf Drilling Project

Tim Naish is a New Zealander and Co-Chief Scientist of the multinational ANDRILL McMurdo Ice Shelf Drilling Project. He is Deputy Director of the Antarctic Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington and a Principal Scientist at GNS Science.

His research career has focused on understanding the role of climate change on polar ice sheet dynamics and global sea-level held in geological records of Earth's past climate. He has worked in Japan, Italy, USA and New Zealand and is now focused on the major engine room of global climate - the Antarctic. Tim is collaborating with scientists from the USA, NZ, Germany and Italy to understand the past behaviour of the Ross Ice Shelf and the West Antarctic Ice Sheet from drilling the geological layers under the ice shelf in order to better predict future changes as a consequence of global warming. He is deeply concerned about the effects human-produced greenhouse gases will have on Earth's climate and he regularly speaks on the is topic to community groups and policy makers.

José Antonio Ocampo, Ph.D., Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

José Antonio Ocampo has a BA degree in Economics and Sociology from the University of Notre Dame, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. Former Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), he became the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on 1 September, 2003. As such, he heads the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), which is responsible for the follow-up to the major United Nations Summits and Conferences, and services the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. He also chairs the UN Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs.

Prior to assuming his present position in the United Nations, he held a number of posts in the Government of Colombia, including those of Minister of Finance and Public Credit, Director (Minister) of the National Planning Department, and Minister of Agriculture. As an academic, he has been Director of the Foundation for Higher Education and Development (FEDESARROLLO), Professor of Economics at Universidad de los Andes and Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and Visiting Professor at Cambridge, Yale and Oxford Universities. He is the author or editor of a number of books and monographs, and has written several scholarly articles on subjects such as macroeconomic theory and

policy, international financial and monetary issues, economic development, international trade, and Colombian and Latin American economic history.

Mr. Ocampo has received a number of personal honours and distinctions, including the Alejandro Angel Escobar National Science Award.

Armen Orujyan, President, ATHGO International

Armen Orujyan is founder, President and Chairman of the Board of ATHGO *International* since 1999. For over a decade, Armen has had direct working relationships with various Global Institutions developing practicum-based platforms for students and young professionals to experience diplomacy at first hand. He furthered his involvement with the world's leading organizations by working closely with United Nations' NGO section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the University, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development (UN GAID) and the World Banks' External Affairs Department amongst many other international institutions. Formerly Chairman of the Board at Nucleus Consulting, Inc. (California, USA), Armen furthered his involvement in domestic and international politics by coordinating roundtables at the United Nations' European Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, organizing international symposia at the UN Headquarters in New York, and by serving as a consultant to various US Presidential Candidates. He continues being involved in many local and national campaigns offering expertise in domestic affairs and foreign policies. Armen also serves as an Advisor to the UN GAID.

Armen has gained expertise in human rights, democratic development, youth international networking, public and community relations, and international diplomacy and is committed to preparing young people to become magnanimous leaders with a focus on establishing closer working relations with the International Institutions.

Armen began his political and youth directed career as an Associated Student Union president at Los Angeles Valley College. He continued his education at UCLA where he earned the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honors majoring in political science and received his Master of Arts degree in International Studies from Claremont Graduate University (CGU) in California. Currently, he is reading for his PhD dissertation at CGU on political campaign strategies in terms of choosing an optimal issue platform.

Prof. Mehmet Oz, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Columbia University

Dr. Oz is Vice-Chair and Professor of Surgery at Columbia University. He directs the Cardiovascular Institute and Complementary Medicine Program at New York Presbyterian Hospital. His research interests include heart replacement surgery, minimally invasive cardiac surgery, complementary medicine and health care policy. He

has authored over 400 original publications, book chapters, and medical books and has received several patents. He performs over 300 heart operations annually.

Dr. Oz was born June 11, 1960 in Cleveland, Ohio and received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University (1982) and obtained a joint MD and MBA (1986) from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Wharton Business School. He was awarded the Captain's Athletic Award for leadership in college and was Class President followed by President of the Student Body during medical school.

In addition to numerous appearances on network morning and evening news programs, Dr Oz is regularly featured on Oprah and has guest hosted the Charlie Rose show. He is chief medical consultant to Discovery Communications and has hosted several shows including "Second Opinion with Dr Oz" and "Life Line". His "Transplant!" series on Discovery Health Channel won both a FREDDIE and a Silver TELLY award in September 2006. He also served as medical director of Denzel Washington's "John Q".

Dr Oz authored the NY Times Best Sellers "You: The Owner's Manual" and "You: The Smart Patient" as well as the award winning "Healing from the Heart". He has a regular column in Esquire and Reader's Digest magazines. His most recent work "YOU: On a Diet" was released on October 31, 2006.

In addition to belonging to every major professional society for heart surgeons, Dr Oz was elected as a Global Leaders of Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum, won the prestigious American Association for Thoracic Surgery Gross Research Scholarship, and has received an honorary doctorate from Istanbul University, He was voted "The Best and Brightest" by Esquire Magazine and was elected one of the Doctors of the Year by Hippocrates magazine and Healers of the Millennium by Healthy Living magazine. He is annually elected as one of the best physicians in the USA by the Castle Connolly Guide as well as other major ranking groups. In 2006 he was honored as one of "The Harvard 100 Most influential Alumni" in the 02138 Magazine.

Ross Powell, Ph.D., Co-Chief Scientist, ANDRILL McMurdo Ice Shelf Drilling Project

Ross Powell is an American and Co-Chief Scientist of the multinational ANDRILL McMurdo Ice Shelf (MIS) Drilling Project. He is a Distinguished Research Professor of Geology at Northern Illinois University in the USA.

Ross's high-latitude research career of over 30 years has concentrated on understanding how the various types of glaciers and ice sheets work under different climatic regimes

and the distinctive sedimentary records they produce. He uses this information to understand how glaciers and climate have changed in the past by interpreting long geological records extending back in time in order to better understand how ice sheets may behave under warming climate. He is currently plying this knowledge in the MIS project to better predict future changes of the Ross Ice Shelf and West Antarctic Ice Sheet. He has worked in Africa, Alaska, Antarctica, Australia, Canada, Chile, New Zealand and Svalbard.

Ross works on committees that plan and lead international high-latitude science initiatives and is involved in outreach efforts to broaden and clarify understanding within communities, and business and political leaders about global warming and its possible consequences.

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Ph.D., Director of Earth Institute, Columbia University; Director, United Nations Millennium Project

Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs is the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is also Director of the UN Millennium Project and Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, the internationally agreed goals to reduce extreme poverty, disease, and hunger by the year 2015. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty.

He is widely considered to be the leading international economic advisor of his generation. For more than 20 years Professor Sachs has been in the forefront of the challenges of economic development, poverty alleviation, and enlightened globalization, promoting policies to help all parts of the world to benefit from expanding economic opportunities and wellbeing. He is also one of the leading voices for combining economic development with environmental sustainability, and as Director of the Earth Institute leads large-scale efforts to promote the mitigation of human-induced climate change. In 2004 and 2005 he was named among the 100 most influential leaders in the world by Time Magazine, and is the 2005 recipient of the Sargent Shriver Award for Equal Justice.

He is author of hundreds of scholarly articles and many books, including New York Times bestseller *The End of Poverty* (Penguin, 2005). Sachs is a member of the Institute of Medicine and is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research. Prior to joining Columbia, he spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most

recently as Director of the Center for International Development. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard University.

Elisabet Sahtouris, Ph.D., Evolution Biologist, Futurist, Professor

Elisabet Sahtouris, Ph.D. is an evolution biologist, futurist, author, speaker and consultant on Living Systems Design. Showing the relevance of evolving biological systems to organizational design, she travels as a speaker in North, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. She makes television and radio appearances in addition to live speeches and workshops.

Dr. Sahtouris is a citizen of the United States and of Greece, with a Canadian Ph.D. She did her post-doctoral work at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, taught at the University of Massachusetts and M.I.T., was a science writer for the HORIZON/ NOVA TV series. She was invited to China by the Chinese National Science Association, organized Earth Celebrations 2000 in Athens, Greece and has been a United Nations consultant on indigenous peoples. She is a participant in the Humanity 3000 dialogues of the Foundation for the Future, the Synthesis Dialogues with the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, and consults with corporations and government organizations in Australia, Brazil and the USA.

Joseph Salim, Ph.D., President, Virtue Foundation

Executive Director of the Virtue Foundation and its original founding member, Dr. Salim completed a postgraduate program in biogenetics and cancer research at the University of Nice in Southern France before relocating to the United States, where he received his Doctorate in Dental Medicine from Temple University and completed his post-doctorate training at the Lutheran Medical Center in New York. Dr. Salim sits on the board of several multinational companies and is Executive Director of The Nour Foundation, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the common moral, ethical, and spiritual principles underlying various disciplines and schools of thought. He is the Chief Financial Officer of Surgeonosis, LLC, an online information platform created by surgeons for the exchange and transfer of surgical knowledge worldwide. Dr. Salim devotes a substantial amount of time to lecturing on ethical issues in medicine and dentistry, and has been practicing cosmetic and general dentistry for the past ten years as President of Sutton Place Dental Associates, a state-of-the-art dental facility located in midtown Manhattan.

Prof. Dominick Salvatore, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor and Director of Ph.D. Program in Economics, Fordham University

Distinguished Professor and Director of the Ph.D. Program in Economics, Fordham University in New York. President of North American Economic and Finance Association. Past President of International Trade and Finance Association and Chair of Economics Section of New York Academy of Sciences. Consultant: United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Economic Policy Institute. “Achievement Award,” The City University of New York. “Honorary Professor,” Shanghai Finance University, 2005. Strathmore’s Professional of the Year in Education, 2006. Worked for a decade with Lawrence Klein (1980 Economics Nobel) on the UN Project “Population Growth and Economic Development”.

Among the 45 books authored or edited are: *Income Distribution* (Oxford University Press, 2006; CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book Award, 2006), *The Future of the International Monetary System* (Kluwer, 1999), *The International System between Integration and Neo-Protectionism* (Macmillan, 1996); *Development Economics* (Greenwood Press, 1994); *Protectionism and World Welfare* (Cambridge University Press, 1993); *African Development Prospects* (United Nations, 1989).

Published extensively in the leading economics journals; gave more than 300 lectures around the world. Co-editor: *Open Economies Review*, *Journal of Policy Modeling*, Associate Editor: *American Economist*. Visiting Professor: Universities of Vienna, Krems; Rome, Trieste; Cairo, Pretoria; Fudan, Shanghai, Peking, Tsinghua. Listed among the 50 most successful graduates of The City College of New York (CCNY).

Roberto Savio, Founder and Managing Director, Inter Press Service

Roberto Savio has graduated in Economics at the University of Parma and was then Director for News Services for Latin America with RAI, Italy’s national broadcaster, and in 1964 he founded Inter Press Service (IPS), a non-profit co-operative of journalists and experts specialising in global communications for development, acknowledged by the UN as holding NGO consultative status with ECOSOC.

Savio is founder and managing director of the Technological Information Pilot System (TIPS), a major UN project to implement and foster technological and economic co-operation between developing countries. He has also been actively involved at the technical level with international communication issues, introducing the Development Press Bulletin Service Tariff in UNESCO’s International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems.

He is Secretary General Emeritus of the Society for International Development (SID), and Senior Advisor for Strategies and Communication to the Director General of the

International Labour Organization and Member of the Board of Directors of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. Requested to take part in the International Committee of Porto Alegre World Social Forum since it was established, he is Coordinator of the "Media, Culture and Counter-Hegemony" thematic area of the III World Fora in 2003 and Secretary General the foundation of Media Watch International, based in Paris. He received a number of awards for TV documentaries, produced films and published several books, the latest of which is *Verbo America*, dealing with the cultural identity of Latin America.

Stephen Schlesinger, Historian, New School University

Stephen Schlesinger has served as the Director of the World Policy Institute at the New School from 1997-2006 and was publisher of and contributor to the quarterly magazine, *The World Policy Journal*. Mr. Schlesinger received his BA from Harvard University and his JD from Harvard Law School. In the early 1970s, he edited and published *The New Democrat Magazine*. Thereafter he spent four years as a staff writer at *Time Magazine*. For twelve years, he served as New York State Governor Mario Cuomo's speechwriter and foreign policy advisor. In the mid 1990s, he worked at the United Nations at Habitat, the agency dealing with global cities.

He is the author of three books, including *Act of Creation: The Founding of The United Nations* for which he won the 2004 Harry S. Truman Book Award; *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the U.S. Coup in Guatemala* (with Stephen Kinzer) cited as one of the New York Times' "notable books" for 1982; and *The New Reformers*. He is a specialist on the foreign policy of the Clinton and Bush Administrations. He is a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers, including *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation Magazine*, and *The New York Observer*. In 1978, he was a finalist for the National Magazine Award. He has appeared on CNN, Fox TV, NBC, NPR and other media outlets.

Franziska Seel, MDG Program Advisor, TakingITGlobal

Franziska Seel is MDG Program Advisor of TakingITGlobal, a Canada-based youth association, which runs the world's most popular online community for young people. In 2005, Ms. Seel worked as Youth Editor for the United Nations Millennium Campaign and coordinated TakingITGlobal's Millennium Development Goals program, which inspired thousands of young people worldwide to raise awareness about the MDGs and actively contribute to their achievement.

Before joining TakingITGlobal's team in Toronto, Ms. Seel had been involved in various youth organizations promoting and strengthening youth participation in decision-making

and working on youth development projects. In 2001, she was delegate of the German National Youth Council to the United Nations World Youth Forum in Dakar, Senegal and from 2003-2005 an active member of the World Summit on the Information Society Youth Caucus. Franziska Seel is a national of Germany.

Nikhil Seth, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, UN-DESA

Nikhil Seth is currently the Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination. Prior to joining DESA on 1 August 2006, he was Chief of the ECOSOC Servicing Branch and Secretary of ECOSOC and the Second Committee for three years in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. He joined the United Nations in 1993 as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD), the predecessor Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). In that capacity, he helped the Department in the organization of various conferences and as an adviser on programme and administrative issues. He joined the Indian diplomatic service in 1980 after studies in economics and a brief stint as a lecturer in economics at the University of Delhi. His diplomatic assignments included Geneva, DRC, Central African Republic, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, as well as the Permanent Mission of India, New York.

Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Ph.D., President and Founder, The Zambuling Institute for Human Transformation

Alfredo Sfeir-Younis is the President and Founder of The Zambuling Institute for Human Transformation, and former Senior Adviser to the Managing Directors of the World Bank. He was also the Special Representative of the World Bank to the UN and WTO and President, School of Economics, University of Chile. He publishes articles and lectures internationally on spirituality and global issues. His major interest is in Spiritual Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship, Human Values in Economics, Finance and Sustainable Development. He is particularly interested in developing approaches that include the spiritual dimension of sustainable development, the role that human values play in national and global policy, and the elements that enliven the soul of business. He has received numerous awards including Lifetime Ambassador of Peace, World Healer Award, and Social Corporate Responsibility Award.

Katherine Sierra, Vice President, The World Bank

Katherine Sierra has been World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development since July, 2006. The Vice Presidency has overall responsibility for the Bank's work in environment and natural resource management, social development, and science and

technology policy, as well as for agriculture and rural development, transport, water, energy, and urban policies and strategies. As Vice President, Ms. Sierra also has joint management responsibility with the International Finance Corporation for global product groups working in information and communications technology and in oil, gas, chemicals, and mining.

Sierra chairs several international consultative groups. These include the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); the World Bank/WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use; CEPF (the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund); the Cities Alliance; ESMAP (the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme); and the Water and Sanitation Program.

Sierra is an urban planning specialist by training. She joined the World Bank in 1978 and, over the next 15 years, worked extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean as a transport and environment economist and project officer. In 1993 she joined the China and Mongolia Department as Chief of the Environment and Urban Development Division. She was appointed Director of the Bank's Operational Core Services network in 1997 and Vice President of Operational Core Services in 1999. In 2000, Ms. Sierra was named Vice President, Human Resources, and in 2004 she was appointed Vice President of Infrastructure.

Sierra, a U.S. national, holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional planning from Harvard University and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Anthropology and Hispanic Civilization from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Faouzi Skali, Ph.D., President, International Fez Forum

With a Doctorate in Anthropology, Ethnology and Sciences of Religions, Paris VII University, Dr. Faouzi Skali is a highly regarded cultural anthropologist, writer and speaker.

President of the International Forum "Giving a soul to globalization" which examines vital global issues, Faouzi Skali created the Fes Festival of Sacred Music in 1994, after the Gulf war, as the world was polarising, with the intention of bringing people together. In 2001 he created the intellectual component of the Festival: the Fes Encounters Colloquium. The United Nations honoured him in 2001 as one of the seven unseen heroes, who have contributed in a remarkable way to the dialogue of cultures and civilizations.

He is a member of the “Groupe des Sages”, a High-Level Advisory Group on the Dialogue between Peoples and Cultures of the Euro Mediterranean area, created at the initiative of Romano Prodi, ex-President of the European Commission; He is a member of the World Faith and Development Leaders, co-chaired par MM. George Carey and James Wolfensohn; He is also a member of the C100: Council of 100 personalities from the World Economic Forum (Davos) for the initiative of Dialogue between the West and the Muslim World. His published works include: *"The Sufi Path" : A testimony about the path of knowledge that Sufism is within Islam (Editions Albin Michel-1985); "Futuawah": A Sufi Chivalry book ; translation and commentaries of an Arabic text written by a Persian author in the 11th century (Editions Albin Michel-1989); "Traces de Lumière" (Traces of Light) : An initiatic narration of the spiritual journey (Editions Albin Michel-1993); "Le face à face des Cœurs" (The face to face of hearts) : The transcription of a choice of lectures on Sufism given in Europe (Editions Le Relié-2000, Presse Pocket-2003); "Jesus in the Sufi Tradition" (Editions Albin Michel - 2004).*

Shashi Tharoor, Ph.D., Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Public Information

Born in London in 1956, Shashi Tharoor was educated in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi (BA in History, St. Stephen's College), and the United States (PhD, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University).

Since 1978, he has worked for the United Nations, serving with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, whose Singapore office he headed during the "boat people" crisis. Since 1989, he has been a senior official at UN HQ in New York, where, until late 1996, he was responsible for peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. From 1997 to 1998, he was executive assistant to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. In 1998, he was appointed director of communications and special projects in the office of the Secretary-General. In 2001, he was appointed by the Secretary-General as interim head of the Dept. of Public Information. In 2002, he was confirmed as the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information of the United Nations.

Tharoor is the author of numerous articles, short stories and commentaries in Indian and Western publications, and the winner of several journalism and literary awards, including a Commonwealth Writers' Prize. His books include *Reasons of State* (1982), a scholarly study of Indian foreign policy; *The Great Indian Novel* (1989), a political satire; *The Five-Dollar Smile & Other Stories* (1990); a second novel, *Show Business* (1992), which received a front-page accolade from *The New York Times Book Review* and was made into a motion picture titled *Bollywood*; and *India: From Midnight to the Millennium* (1997), published on the 50th anniversary of India's independence. On August 13, 2001

Penguin Books (India) published Tharoor's latest novel *Riot*. The US edition was published by Arcade on September 28, 2001.

Shashi Tharoor is the winner of numerous journalism and literary awards, including a Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 1991. In 1998, Shashi Tharoor was awarded the Excelsior Award for excellence in literature by the Association of Indians in America (AIA) and the Network of Indian Professionals (NetIP). He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in International Affairs from the University of Puget Sound in May 2000. In January 1998, he was named by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, as a Global Leader of Tomorrow.

Pera Wells, Secretary-General, World Federation of United Nations Associations

Pera Wells is the Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. Prior to this, she was Executive Director of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, the national advocacy body for a multicultural society in Australia and Project Manager at BHP Pty Ltd. for the Leader of the Asia Network Project where she conducted research into the networks of Asian family-based conglomerates and how they create business opportunities and strategic alliances. Wells had also been diplomat with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with posting in Ghana, United Nations (New York), Commonwealth Secretariat, London and India.

Tensie Whelan, Executive Director, Rainforest Alliance

Tensie Whelan serves as Executive Director of the Rainforest Alliance. She has been involved with the Rainforest Alliance since 1990, first as a board member, and then later as a consultant, becoming the executive director in 2000.

Whelan served as the executive director of the New York League of Conservation Voters from 1992 until 1997, prior to which she was Vice President of Conservation Information at the National Audubon Society. Whelan also worked as a journalist and environmental communications consultant in Costa Rica, and she was the managing editor of *Ambio* - an international environmental journal based in Stockholm. For several years prior to coming to the Rainforest Alliance, Whelan worked as a management consultant to various environmental and political groups, including the Environmental Defense Fund, the Hudson River Park Alliance and the Federation of State Leagues of Conservation Voters, among others.

Whelan's published work includes one of the first books on ecofriendly tourism, *Nature Tourism: Managing for the Environment* (1991, Island Press). She is the Chair of the

Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition and served on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and the Vermont League of Conservation Voters. She holds an M.A. in International Communication from American University's School of International Service and a B.A. in Political Science from New York University.

Marianne Williamson, Author, Founder, Peace Alliance

Marianne Williamson is an internationally acclaimed author and lecturer. She has published nine books, four of which - including the mega bestseller *A Return to Love and Everyday Grace* - have been #1 New York Times bestsellers. Her titles also include *Illuminata*, *A Woman's Worth*, and *Healing the Soul of America*. She also edited *Imagine: What America Could Be in the 21st Century*, a compilation of essays by some of America's most visionary thinkers. Marianne has been a popular guest on numerous television programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, Good Morning America, and Charlie Rose.

She is a native of Houston, Texas, and has lectured professionally since 1983. In 1989, she founded Project Angel Food, a meals-on-wheels program that serves homebound people with AIDS in the Los Angeles area. Today, Project Angel Food serves over 1,000 people daily. Marianne also founded The Peace Alliance, a grass roots campaign supporting legislation currently before Congress to establish a U.S. Department of Peace.

Her book *Everyday Grace: Having Hope, Finding Forgiveness and Making Miracles*, was published by Riverhead Books (Nov 2002) and quickly reached #1 on the New York Times Best-Seller List (Dec 2002). Her newest book, *The Gift of Change: Spiritual Guidance for a Radically New Life*, is available at bookstores everywhere in hardback and paperback.

Young-Shim Dho, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, UNWTO ST-EP Foundation

Ambassador Young-Shim Dho is an extremely active public figure in the Republic of Korea (ROK). Besides her work as Korea's Ambassador of Tourism & Sports, she is also the Chairperson of the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation's Board of Directors, and is a leading member of several prominent national committees, such as the Korea National Image Committee. Throughout her career she has held several distinguished positions within the ROK National Assembly, including the Chief of Staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee (1985-1988), a Member of the National Assembly (1988-1992), and Vice Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee (1988-1992). She was also the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for Visit Korea Year 2001-2002. Madame Dho Young-shim is fluent in three languages, Korean, English and French, and holds a Bachelor of Science

Degree in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin. As well, she received a Certificate in French Civilization and Language from Sorbonne University, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

June Zeitlin, Executive Director, Women's Environment and Development Organization

June Zeitlin joined the Women's Environment and Development Organization, an international women's rights advocacy organization, as the Executive Director in 1999. WEDO advocates for women's equality in global policy, focusing on economic and social justice, sustainable development and gender and governance. June has extensive experience as a women's rights lawyer, social policy advocate and in intergovernmental relations. She worked at the Ford Foundation for over a decade as the Director of the Governance and Civil Society Program, Director of the Gender and Institutional Change Project, Deputy Director of the Rights and Social Justice Program and Program Officer for Women's Rights. Prior to joining the Ford Foundation, Ms. Zeitlin worked for New York City's Office of Management and Budget and the Human Resources Administration in intergovernmental relations.

She also spent time working in Washington, DC first as a legislative assistant for former Congresswoman and WEDO co-founder Bella Abzug. She then held positions in the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare serving as the director of the newly created Office on Domestic Violence and prior to that as a Special Assistant to the General Counsel of the Department. She also worked as a lawyer with the National Women's Law Center in Washington, DC and earlier in her career with Bedford-Stuyvesant Legal Services in Brooklyn, New York. She has a JD from New York University School of Law and a BA from the University of Rochester.

Youth Representatives

Natasha P. Ghent-Rodriguez, Young Professionals for International Cooperation, South Florida University

Natasha Ghent-Rodriguez is from the Tampa Chapter of the United Nations Association. On the local level, Natasha is on the board of UNA-Tampa Bay and the Vice-Chair for UNA's Young Professionals for International Cooperation program. She serves UNA-USA on an international level as working contributor to the Global Young Professionals task force. Natasha also is 1 of 9 youth from around the world, and only American, to sit on WFUNA-Youth Coordinating Committee. In her non-UNA work, Natasha serves on the working committee for the *Initiative for Global Development*, a program initiative of Bill Gates, Sr., in Tampa. She is noted as an exceptional leader, team member, and a

passionate advocate for the United Nations and its health focused initiatives. Natasha is currently a senior at the University of South Florida majoring in Biomedical Sciences and Political Science in Tampa. She is drawn to health issues, especially AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the lack of health care for women and children in developing nations. She hopes to travel the world on behalf of the United Nations, specifically the World Health Organization, to educate women in developing nations, on basic health practices and providing health services.

William Gyude Moore, Liberian Refugee, Berea College

Gyude is from Cape Palmas in Liberia, West Africa. Forced to flee Liberia because of its long civil war, he graduated high school while living as a refugee in the Ivory Coast. As a refugee, Gyude and his family were kept alive by food rations from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Program. The experiences of war, being an internally displaced person and finally a refugee led him to decide, as a kid, that he wanted to spend his life helping create a world in which other children would not have to experience what he did.

Gyude is a graduate of Berea College in Berea, KY, and for the past three and a half years has been an Oxfam America CHANGE Leader. He has served on numerous panels and given keynote remarks at colleges and universities, churches and at community events around the country. Gyude presently serves as a ONE Campaign Faith Outreach Organizer with Bread for the World. His work is concentrated in the northeast, from New Jersey to Maine.

Jessica Rimington, One World Youth Project, Georgetown University

Jessica Rimington is a student at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Jessica's involvement in youth activism began over seven years ago when she joined the Jane Goodall Institute's global environmental and humanitarian program for youth, Roots & Shoots. In 2002, she was one of two U.S. students chosen to travel to South Africa to represent the United States at the Children's Earth Summit (held in conjunction with the World Summit on Sustainable Development). In April 2005, she also represented the United States and SustainUS at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York City. Jessica was the recipient of the 2004 BRICK Award from Do Something as well as the Massachusetts Governor's Points of Light Award and recently, the 2005 Brower Youth Award. Jessica has also been a keynote speaker alongside Dr. Jane Goodall and former President Bill Clinton, as well as a speaker at UN World Environment Day, the UN Youth Assembly and the Green Festival. She is currently working on a non-profit organization she founded called One World Youth

Project (www.oneworldyouthproject.org). One World Youth Project is a global sister-school initiative for middle and high school age youth, linking together schools and youth groups in the United States with the groups from around the world to work to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. This year over 44 schools are involved in One World Youth Project from 17 countries and 12 U.S. States.

Stacey S. Roussel, Young Professionals for International Cooperation, The Savita Society

Stacey has worked in the nonprofit sector for the past five years as a professional fundraiser and a volunteer. She currently serves as the Chair of the Patel Foundation for Global Understanding's *Savita Society*, an initiative whose mission is to support women and children through education, assistance, advocacy and missions both locally in the Tampa Bay area and globally in rural India, Tanzania, and Zambia. She serves on the Board of UNA USA Tampa Bay and as Chair of the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) Tampa Bay Chapter, the fastest growing YPIC chapter in the country. She is a member of Leadership Hillsborough Class of 2006-2007. She holds a BA in International Studies and Philosophy from Louisiana State University where she completed her senior thesis on "Evaluating International Aid Programs: A Case Study of Microcredit in Dallas, Texas and Dhaka, Bangladesh." Stacey is an Associate for Major and Planned Gifts at WEDU Public Television in Tampa, Florida.

Deepen Shaw, Temple of Understanding

Deepen Shah is a non-violent activist who recently graduated from New York University in Finance and Information Systems. As a follower of the Jain faith, which practices non-violence in all forms, he advocates peace and conflict resolution above all else. Deepen is on the NY Task Force of the Temple of Understanding, an interfaith NGO, which has organized several non-violence youth conferences in NY. In his professional life, Deepen runs a mobile marketing company (eztxtmsg.com) that utilizes text messaging to broadcast announcements. Outside of work, he likes to perform around New York with his father and beatbox.

Seth Werfel, Brandeis University

Seth Werfel is the Executive Director of Positive Foundations at Brandeis University, which is a student-led organization mobilizing college students around the UN Millennium Development Goals, and sponsoring and partnering with a Millennium Village in sub-Saharan Africa. Werfel is studying economics and political science with a focus on international economic policy and development.

Rajiv Ramakrishnan, Brandeis University

Rajiv Ramakrishnan is an undergraduate student at Brandeis University, currently studying Political Science and International and Global Studies, and works in the Brandeis University Undergraduate Student Union Government as the Chairman of the Senate Social Justice Committee to uphold social justice on campus and in the greater community. He is also the Director of Public Relations of Positive Foundations, a student organization.

ANNEX 5

SUMMARY OF THE YOUTH FORUM ORGANIZED BY FRIENDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Youth Forum on Our Common Humanity in the Information Age

Deborah Moldow, Friends of the United Nations

Friends of the United Nations (FOTUN), an NGO affiliated with the UN Department of Public Information invited college students and young professionals committed to working for a better world to participate in the Youth Forum. Six youth representatives took the results of youth deliberations into panel discussions of the Our Common Humanity meeting, alongside experts, celebrities, UN officials, and outstanding members of various disciplines.

The goal of the Youth Forum was to facilitate:

1. Youth input into “Our Common Humanity in the Information Age”
2. Youth activists focusing on UN values and agendas
3. Creative exchange of ideas, solutions, projects
4. Opportunities for new ideas to emerge
5. Networking with one another
6. Networking with leaders in various fields
7. An electronic forum reaching university students and the general public
8. Informing students and alumni about UN issues through college news media.

Participants in the Youth Forum consisted of approximately 35 college students and young professionals who had demonstrated leadership areas of global concern, including college students engaged in political or social issues; campus newspaper editors and Internet communicators; young leaders in business and technology; youth NGO leaders; international students .

Colleges and universities represented included Columbia, Harvard, Georgetown, Rutgers, Vassar, NYU, Pace, Lehigh, SUNY New Paltz, Brandeis, Berea, American International

College, and the University of South Florida. There was also strong participation from Young Professionals for International Cooperation (through the auspices of the World Federation of United Nations Associations), as well as the One World Youth Project, the Young General Assembly, and Positive Foundations.

This bright and informed group of young people hailed from many countries, including China, France, Malaysia, Vietnam, Niger, Japan, Costa Rica, South Africa, Brazil, U.K., India, Liberia, Spain and Zimbabwe.

Six youth leaders were asked to serve as the facilitators for the Youth Forum. Their role was to present the subject of the panel in which they would be participating and steer the breakout session on that topic.

- Freedom and Development: William Gyude Moore, a Liberian refugee who graduated from Berea College in Berea, KY, and for the past three and a half years has been an Oxfam America CHANGE Leader;
- Respect for Nature and Sustainable Development: Deepen Shah, a non-violent activist who recently graduated from New York University in Finance and Information Systems and currently serves on the NY Task Force of the Temple of Understanding;
- Equality and Opportunity: Stacey S. Roussel, Chair of the Patel Foundation for Global Understanding's Savita Society, supporting women and children both locally in the Tampa Bay area and globally in rural India and Africa, and chair of the UNA USA Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) Tampa Bay Chapter, while working at Public Television in Tampa, Florida;
- Tolerance and Dialogue: Natasha P. Ghent-Rodriguez, a major in Biomedical Sciences and Political Science at the University of South Florida, who is on the board of UNA-Tampa Bay and the Vice-Chair for UNA's Young Professionals for International Cooperation program, and also serves on the working committee for the Initiative for Global Development, a program initiative of Bill Gates, Sr.;
- Solidarity and Equity: Jessica B. Rimington, founder of the One World Youth Project initiative for middle and high school age youth around the world to work to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and a student at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service;
- Shared Responsibility and Partnership: Seth Werfel, a freshman at Brandeis University and Co-Coordinator of Positive Foundations, a student-led organization committed to mobilizing the Millennium Development Goals on campus, and Rajiv Ramakrishnan, also of Positive Foundations at Brandeis.

Programme: 28 November, UN Conference Room 8

Presenters who were invited to set the stage and outline some of the issues were: Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Executive Coordinator of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development; Mr. Noel Brown, President of Friends of the United Nations and former head of the UN Environment Programme New York Office; Mr. Amil Husain, Global Youth Coordinator for the United Nations Millennium Campaign; Mr. Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Retired Senior Advisor to the World Bank specializing in human rights and founder of the Zambuling Institute; Ms. Elaine Valdov, Secretary-General of the Youth Assembly at the UN. The special youth moderator for the Forum was Shamina de Gonzaga, Special Adviser on NGO relations for the President of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa. Each youth leader made a brief presentation on his or her panel topic. The Youth Forum resumed with six breakout sessions in different rooms, the youth then reconvened to share the fruits of their discussions for cross-pollination of ideas and their expertise with the group at large.

Our Common Humanity in the Information Age event on 29 November: on each panel, a youth leader provided a fresh perspective and energy, not only representing his or her own ideas, but also reporting on the group conversation from the previous day.

In addition, Friends of the UN was instrumental in bringing some 200 high school students from three states to attend the event. It was a day of inspiration from many voices, and those of the next generation shone throughout.

The Youth Forum on Our Common Humanity in the Information Age brought together young people from widely varied backgrounds for a serious discussion of the values and goals of the United Nations. It provided excellent youth speakers for the panels of the adult conference. Last, but certainly not least, it proved to be a platform from which the youth participants can continue the work.

Immediately following the conference, they set up their own on-line “wiki,” so that the young delegates could express their views. They have established a beautiful web site at <http://www.unyouthforum.org>, where they are collecting papers and creating links, with an email group.

All of them bring their heart, their mind and their passion for a better world. They are ready to speak up for what they believe in, a key aspect of the mission of the NGO community. The UN needs them to stay engaged in the process, to speak out about the things that matter, and to raise the global consciousness of young people in the United

States and around the world. They are needed to share the vocabulary of a united world: a culture of peace, dialogue among civilizations, the Millennium Development Goals.

We have experienced what it means to have young people fully engaged in addressing the future of Our Common Humanity. And they have given us much cause for hope.

ANNEX 6

SUMMARY OF THE INTERACTIVE LUNCHEON

Organized by the International Council for Caring Communities

on 29 November 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters

In conjunction with the “Our Common Humanity in the Information Age” event, the International Council for Caring Communities sponsored an Interactive Luncheon for Conference speakers, participants and United Nations representatives and officials. This unique event’s objective was to stimulate discussion around three basic questions and highlight the “Art of the Olympians,” an exhibit of art work created by 9 renowned Olympians who have now turned their endeavors to expressing concepts of "our common humanity" through art.

The short luncheon program included statements by Mr. Sarbuland Khan (GAID), Mr. Amir Dossal (UNFIP), Mr. Ruedi Christen, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, Ms. Liston Bochette, Secretary-General of the World Olympians Association, Ms. Diane Davis (ICCC).

The discussions led to the following conclusions:

- Sport can be used as a tool to reach the Millennium Development Goals.
- Sport and Art have a long tradition: elegance, dynamism, the beauty of power, elements that have inspired many of the great painters and sculptors. The art exhibited represents a strong expression of deep personal experience and an invitation to discuss sport in a broader way.
- Switzerland, along with Tunisia, had established the Group of Friends for Sport for Development and peace. The main work of the group is to support the mandate of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Sport for Development and Peace, the former President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Adolf Ogi.

- In the final report on the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005, there are numerous examples of how sport can influence the process of reconciliation in post-conflict situations, play an important role in post-disaster situations and create opportunities for the integration of women into society.

The event represented another entry point for a discussion on how sport can contribute to the creation of a better world.

At the interactive roundtables, participants discussed three questions that dealt with the theme of the conference.

What can we do to incorporate the values of the MDGs into sports programmes worldwide?

*Sports can unite countries in common efforts to achieve the MDGs.

*Since Olympians represent role models for much of society, their support of vulnerable groups, such as children, in achieving the targets of the MDGs by 2015 is very valuable. Olympians can act as "ambassadors" in this effort.

*The values of the Olympic Movement can help build common bonds by emphasizing the concept of "be the best you can be" in every sense.

*The concept of the ancient Olympic Truce that guaranteed safe passage for those traveling to the original Olympic Games, has been revived and can be utilized for other areas of violence.

*Projects such as "Books Instead of Bullets" can support educational and sports programs to help to educate young people in eliminating violence from their lives and activities.

*It would be important to determine how to match school curricula with the experience of the 80,000 Olympians who are members of the World Olympians Association so that the goals of the 2005 International Year of Sports and Physical Education could be interwoven.

*Tourism and sports can help promote right-livelihoods and create decent work for people. The Olympics creates an enormous number of jobs in tourism.

*Private sector involvement, such as Visa's World Competition for Art, which allows children to feel good about themselves, can also help promote achieving the MDGs.

*Various forms of artistic expression, such as dance as a universal language, can be included in sports festivals.

*In these endeavors, private sector IT companies would like to connect to the public and connect the public with cultural projects that promote achieving the MDGs and in bringing peace to the world.

*The role of IT can help educate young people to understand what the MDGs are. Young people spend many hours each day on the internet and they might start thinking about helping solve the world's problems. Government and the private sector can form alliances to educate young people in critical issues. Olympians can engage the youth through art in dialogue about these issues. The MDGs should be part of school curricula. Video Games can be created for a better environment.

*Education is the key to peace.

How do we connect generations through ICT in promoting the values of the MDGs?

*A series of initiatives should be planned with GAID to communicate to young people what the MDGs are.

*Understanding what the MDGs can lead to participation of ordinary people at the local level in achieving the MDGs.

*From the local level understanding and support, policy can be developed.

*ICT can help to close the gap between governments, NGOs and socially-responsible business.

*Closing the gap will enable the socially-responsible private sector companies to participate.

*A way to quantify success without creating a "winner-loser" outcome for countries needs to be developed.

*There needs to be a rethinking for "popularizing" the achievement of the MDGs, since their popularization needs to come from the ground-up.

How can the various international communities build the values underlining the MDGs into the creation of policy at all levels?

*The ultimate goal of the MDGs is to create peace. *Achieving the MDGs by 2015 would position the UN as the House of Peace for all people. *Departments of Peace within national governments can help to do this. *The use of ICT can help to raise awareness for such a post. *All countries should seek mechanisms to reach the policy goal of 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP) for Official Development Assistance and aim this money toward the MDGs. *ICT can help increase the participation of youth in communicating to them the role of core values.