



World Goodwill

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THE UN: *Resolving the Crisis of Vision*

IT HAS BEEN SAID that mankind has the "habit of crisis" and indeed the annals of history illustrate this long-established pattern within the consciousness of humanity. The story of humanity's evolution proceeds according to a 'principle of conflict' that provides constant points of crisis from which new visions are born and through which subsequent growth arises. This process can be seen working in individuals, organisations, religions and nations; its hallmark is indelibly stamped in the chequered history of the United Nations, and it is as active today as it has ever been.

Crisis means 'to separate, to decide or judge', and is related to 'critic' meaning 'able to discern'; hence spiritual crises are major tests of discrimination, which lead either to extended vision, or to greater separation and isolation. This is the power and the transformative potential inherent in our habit of crisis. The crisis of the world conflict that gave birth to the United Nations made possible the tremendous vision of its Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As discussed below in the article *From Pragmatic to Visionary*, concessions had to be made to the world powers at the time of the UN's inauguration, but nevertheless this expansive vision of a worldwide brotherhood of nations provided the goal towards which humanity has been reaching ever since. That we have faltered on the way is not surprising given the grandeur and idealism of the original vision, but the perceived failure to live up to its principles has resulted in the current reform initiatives.

The publication of Kofi Annan's document *In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All* makes proposals for a constructive way forward, and a major test of discrimination now lies before all member states. The choice before nations is now more clearly between the path of self-sacrifice for the greater good of

the whole, and the path of selfish, national interests that inevitably leads to separation, hostility and further conflict. Already we see frenetic lobbying to secure permanent membership on the Security Council, as well as a host of alternative reform proposals from various sources. All this, along with the cynical remarks and projection of blame onto the UN body itself for its perceived failures, has the potential to eclipse the more expansive vision contained in the Secretary-General's document.

It is true that the sprawling bureaucracy of the UN has created internal problems, including administrative failure, corruption and scandal, and the travesty of criminal and repressive regimes sharing the seat of judgement on the Human Rights Commission. These and other problems obviously need addressing, and responsibility needs to be assumed by *all* member states for the collective loss of vision that has allowed these contaminating influences to flourish. There is also a need for greater understanding that the UN exists as a way for nations to come together to serve and empower the whole – for mutual benefit rather than to serve only nationalistic aspirations.

While the initial vision of the UN was never going to be implemented overnight, through cycles of conflict, crisis and renewed vision, this world body has made, and is making, detectable progress towards the envisioned comity of nations. The UN has played a substantial role in the tackling of extreme hunger, poverty and disease, and environmental degradation, and in the promotion of peace and education and rights for all. However, the time is now ripe for a further unfolding of the original vision as focused so lucidly by the Secretary-General's report. Among the proposals, a new determination to implement the Millennium Development Goals is vitally needed, and this will test many nations who are as yet failing to implement the proposals agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

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Editor:
Dominic Dibble

Fortunately, the influence of civil society is now growing rapidly, and public opinion is exerting the pressure of visionary goodwill on the governments of the world. This brings a clarifying light to bear on the issues at stake, highlighting and differentiating the spiritual principles from the narrower outlook of strictly nationalistic agendas. The charitable goodwill that is being expressed the world over is a consequence of a simultaneous mass search for spiritual meaning in the current state of world affairs. There is a shift from seeing spirituality as a means of individual salvation and enlightenment, towards recognising that spirituality involves the cultivation of the spirit of goodwill and right relations with one another and the environment. One result of this is that many people are now turning to meditation as an act of service.

It is with this in mind that World Goodwill launched its Cycle of Conferences initiative, to use the power of inner vision to clarify the atmosphere in which world councils and conferences are taking place. The current focus is on UN Reform, and the energy of the will-to-good is visualised pouring into the various councils/meetings that are now taking place in preparation for the General

Assembly debate in September. This work is designed to empower the underlying spiritual principles at stake, and to help make the current crisis within the UN that turning point where a new path to wholeness can be taken. Through this work, we can all contribute to fulfilling one of the articles in the Preamble of the UN Charter: "to promote social progress and better understanding of life in larger freedom." (More information on the Cycles of Conferences is available at: www.lucistrust.org/cycle/cyc1.shtml)

Freedom and responsibility go hand in hand, for nobody is truly free while fellow human beings are enslaved through lacking the basic necessities of life. It is therefore imperative that while UN reforms are considered and debated by the nations of the world in a spirit of pragmatism and compromise, the founding vision of the United Nations continues to be held before the eyes of humanity. In this way, the current crisis of vision becomes a point of examination as to strength, purpose, purity and motive that draws upon the resources of the heart and releases the light of wisdom within the field of knowledge. Through this process the world is thereby enriched.

GOODWILL IS...the key to enlightened international cooperation.

FROM PRAGMATIC TO VISIONARY

When examining the material available on the subject of UN reform, it does not take long to sense the deep divisions between supporters and detractors of the world body. Of these tensions, the Secretary-General would have been well aware, as he worked to shape the reforms designed to bring this institution into the 21st Century.

There is much distrust of the motives of the UN, and much condemnation of its activities. But there is equally as much support for its existence and for a broadening of its scope and authority. The mistrust seems to stem from a belief that the UN wishes to interfere in the legitimate business of national governments, and is intent on imposing some homogenous form of world government. Hence opposition to the very notion of a UN body lies in a perceived struggle for power, national identity and independence. At the extreme of the differing view, are those who have very unrealistic expectations that the UN can, and should, solve all of humanity's problems. It would seem that along with all the reforms proposed by the Secretary-General which will be debated at the September conference, there needs to be a concerted effort also to re-educate the populace at large and their leaders, about the origins and purpose of the UN, so that unrealistic fears of its motives, and equally unrealistic expectations of its potential to serve all our needs, can be addressed. Most people, and even many UN delegates, have a limited knowledge, or a distorted sense, of the basic elements that shaped the organisation's structure in San Francisco, and such ignorance complicates genuine and realistic attempts to reform the UN today.

The UN was born, not so much out of a spirit of friendship and goodwill, as out of a desire to settle long-standing grievances and border demarcation disputes after a long and bitter conflict. Every national delegation present carried its own historical baggage, and it took much hard-nosed negotiation to bring this disparate group into any form of consensus. The blueprint for the UN was based in the reality of the times, and

was never naive about the power of some nations to influence its operation. This pragmatic approach is best exemplified in the membership of the Security Council with its five permanent members with the power of veto. This is perhaps the most contentious issue for those with more idealistic views of how a global body should work cooperatively and for the common good. And, perhaps at some time in the future this will be realised, but in 1945, such concession to the major powers was essential and inevitable for there to be any cooperation and participation at all. Without that participation, however flawed and selfishly based, the UN would have been unable to survive and grow. It is much the same today.

Perhaps the greatest misconception about the UN lies in the area of its ability to act. It has no authority to enforce its decisions outside the authority of the will of its members to carry them out, hence, the General Assembly can offer only recommendations to the world community. Obligatory acceptance by all nations of UN decisions cuts across national sovereignty in a way that would not be countenanced by any country. And, while decisions by the Security Council do require compliance by all member nations, the Council has no independent means to enforce its will (as was evident with its many resolutions concerning weapons in Iraq). Nations sign Conventions that they probably, at the time, do intend to implement, but can put them aside when it does not suit their purpose; while the Security Council is unable, in itself, to prevent the outbreak of hostilities in any part of the world. It is in these highly visible areas that the UN is seen to have lost the confidence of both national governments and ordinary citizens. While many are aware of, and may indeed support, all the good work that is done by the UN, this will be overlooked when there is a perceived threat to national and individual freedom and security, and a global response is not readily forthcoming.

Of course, the real responsibility lies with the national governments of UN members, but it is easy to deflect the blame

and responsibility to the UN if people are ill-informed of how the organisation operates, and of its limitations. These very limitations are imposed because people value, and feel that they must protect, their individual freedoms, cultures and nationalities against a misperceived vision of globalised governance. While the UN was always to be a forum of national governments, its real effectiveness and authority must come from the support of the citizens represented by national delegates. It is at this grass roots level that we can focus much of our attention, so that the hearts and minds of men and women are inspired by the possibility of a truly global organisation working for the common good, without fear or favour.

If it is indeed true that support for the UN is "broad and shallow", then it is clear that an educational campaign is vital if the UN is to fulfil its role as a body which holds a vision for our future, based on the authority of spiritual principles. The role of

the UN is to lead by example and to set the moral standards for good governance and right human relations. But it can never be all things to all people. Speaking at the beginning of his tenure in 1997, the Secretary-General said that, "Reform must be rooted in a new consensus among governments of what the UN can do best, what it should do with others, and what it should leave to others to do". In this context, the reforms proposed by Kofi Annan are designed to move the ethos of the UN from a post-world war/cold war mentality into an organisation that stands for right human relations, which, in turn, will be expressed through each nation pursuing its own cultural identity and taking responsibility to integrate that identity into a reality of One Humanity.

To quote the Secretary-General from his most recent report on reform, *In Larger Freedom*, "From pragmatic beginnings could emerge a visionary change of direction in our world."

World Goodwill Commentary: *The United Nations: Humanity's Challenge.*

As we approach the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, it is worth reflecting on the vital necessity for this world forum. Rising from the ashes of the World Wars, it is a universal meeting place that calls for the sharing of responsibility for the state of the world. It is inspired by the soul of humanity to express world service in a huge variety of creative enterprises. And it is a place where the energy of goodwill can build right relationships, leading to the emergence of a true peace. The whole UN system has the potential to act more fully as an organ for dispersing the power and wealth of the richer nations to nations where the quality of life needs improvement. It is for us, "We the peoples", to support the UN in evolving towards this high destiny.

To obtain copies of *The United Nations: Humanity's Challenge*, please use the order form supplied.

UN MILLENNIUM GOALS: CHALLENGES, IMPLEMENTATION, AND SOCIAL IMPACT

*"As the United Nations Charter makes clear, the United Nations was intended to introduce new principles into international relations, making a qualitative difference to their day to day conduct."*¹

UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan

As the process of globalization accelerates the United Nations finds itself increasingly at the center of world events. There are many potent forces transforming the world today. Economic forces are rearranging relations among nations. Civil society is becoming better educated and more fluent in effecting change. As a result the human factor is beginning to become a greater force within the United Nations. Although many programs have been initiated and implemented by the United Nations, perhaps the principles most challenging to the world today are the UN Millennium Goals as created in 2000.

The UN Millennium Goals propose "a world united by common values and striving with renewed determination to achieve peace and decent standards of living for every man, woman and child..."² The United Nations Member States pledged by 2015 to: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development by developing further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based and predictable.³

Challenges:

The challenges of meeting these goals are many and complex. One of the most important challenges is to establish peace and stability within and among all war-torn countries. A rearrangement of priorities in allocation of the world financial structure is necessary—global development assistance must be

more than doubled over the next few years. This does not require new pledges from donor countries, but meeting pledges already made. "In the last year, we have seen the spectre of gross and systematic violations of international humanitarian law rear its ugly head once again in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Massive human rights violations, including forced displacement, extrajudicial killings and gender-based sexual violence, combined with malnutrition and preventable disease due to a lack of access to food, water and basic sanitation, have led to the death of tens of thousands of people and the displacement of well over a million others, not only internally but also in neighbouring countries...the number of new HIV/AIDS infections was higher in the last calendar year than ever before, raising serious concerns about the development prospects for whole regions of the world in which hundreds of millions of people reside."⁴ Then there are the challenges of earth changes itself—tsunamis, hurricanes and other natural disasters. These are just a few of the many challenges facing the world.

Implementation:

In addition to the work of the Non-Governmental organizations and civil society in securing the UN Millennium goals, one of the most important initiatives is the UN Millennium Project, directed by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, who is Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Special Advisor to Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals. Professor Sachs is internationally renowned for his work as an economic advisor. "The bulk of [the Millennium Project's] analytical work has been carried out by 10 thematic task forces comprising more than 250 experts from around the world, including scientists, development practitioners, parliamentarians, policymakers, and representatives from civil society, UN agencies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the private sector. The UN Millennium Project reports directly to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and United Nations Development Programme Administrator Mark Malloch

Brown, in his capacity as Chair of the UN Development Group.⁵ Anyone interested can become a student at the Earth Institute to participate in this, and many other projects.

Social Impact:

According to the overview of the report *Investing in Development*, produced by the UN Millennium Project, "[T]he world has made significant progress in achieving many of the Goals. Between 1990 and 2002 average overall income increased by approximately 22 percent. The number of people in extreme poverty declined by an estimated 130 million. Child mortality rates fell from 103 deaths per 1000 live births a year to 88. Life expectancy rose from 63 years to nearly 65 years."⁶

According to a very detailed chart on page 3 of the overview, the status of nations shows that no one country has yet met all the goals, but it is encouraging to note that many member states have met some of the goals. For instance, the Goal to Eradicate Extreme Poverty has been met in Eastern Asia, and is on track in other sections of Asia; literacy parity between young men and women has been met in Eastern and Southeastern Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. And there is much more information on progress in the full report.

As Kofi Annan notes in his 2004 report on Implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration, (The Millennium Declaration includes the Development Goals), "...the global community needs an effective framework of norms to govern the behaviour of States, which continue to be the principal actors in international relations. The norms of international law that have been developed to date are a precious legacy from the past and a bedrock of international cooperation in the present."

"Knowledge, capacity and the political will to act and provide sufficient resources are three necessary components of a successful drive to implement the Millennium Declaration."⁷

Through institution and implementation of the UN Millennium Goals the social impact within humanity can be great. The implementation of these goals is a step towards world integration, towards peace and security through the elimination of poverty, and finally, towards freeing each person to pursue his/her creative purpose in the evolutionary journey of our planet.

1. P.1, *An Insider's Guide to the UN*, by Linda Fasulo. Yale University Press (2003).
2. From Secretary-General's message to the Fifth World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, Rome, 10 November 2004. Available online at www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=1169
3. A more detailed description of the goals is available from the Millennium Development Goals web pages, found at: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
4. From the Secretary-General's 2004 report on Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Available online as a PDF at: www.un-ngls.org/MDG/unaction.htm (see under "Reporting" heading)
5. From an overview of *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, The UN Millennium Project, website: www.unmillenniumproject.org
6. *Ibid.*
7. See 4. above

2005 ANNIVERSARIES: FOCUSING ON OPPORTUNITIES

Marco Toscano-Rivalta

2005 represents the 100th anniversary of Dag Hammarskjöld's birth and the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations. These events are a call for strengthening the efforts towards the full establishment of right human relations and for an unconditioned acceptance of responsibility by all those who are ready for the personal challenge to embody and make brotherhood a living ethics. The solidarity generated by the Tsunami relief efforts has demonstrated how much Goodwill is present within mankind to make the achievement of such goals a reality.

These are hectic days at the United Nations in New York. In the discussions on the UN reform UN civil servants, State and civil society representatives are torn between instances of *realpolitik* and a clear understanding that living conditions for billions of human beings must be improved without any further delay. Fear of, and hope for, change characterize the current discussions on the reform agenda. A lighter atmosphere can be felt at country level where the UN teams work under the unifying purpose of serving the local community.

While experts are taking care of the technicalities of the reform process, a few considerations may help understand the process and its meaning in order to focus on and support it.

- The **UN is a mirror** of life and of its duality. As such, it symbolizes a center of purpose, will and unity present in each human being, as well as an instrument for action. In other words, spirit and matter. The UN is not the solution to world challenges, but rather an indication of the existing

potential resources for a just, sustainable and peaceful world.

- The **UN is an organism** whose action and effectiveness is conditioned by the attunement of, and right relations between, **four main entities: State representatives** sitting in the governance bodies such as the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council, **NGO representatives, independent experts, and UN civil servants**. In other words, UN action is a shared responsibility conditioned by the understanding of, and commitment to, unity.

- **The current crisis of the UN HQs and the call for strengthened UN Country Representations** show that the UN is unity in purpose and not in form. The interplay between HQs and UN Country Teams **mirrors the transition from the 6th to the 7th ray energy, or from vertical structures to constellations**, symbolizing the increasing emergence of multiple centers of light, hence the realization of the principle enshrined in article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which reads that "*all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood*". This is a necessary step toward shared responsibility and group endeavor.

- The mentioned rebalancing between UN HQs and UN Country Representation is to be coupled by a **rebalancing of powers between the General Assembly, Security Council**

and Economic and Social Council, to further strengthen the manifestation of collective will through, and coordination of policies for actions by, the General Assembly. The excessive importance and centrality given to the reform of the Security Council is misleading. The focus of the reform must be the UN as a whole and therefore the dynamics among its organs.

- Stimulating a stronger sense of respect for the law in people and within relationships is a core purpose of the UN Charter and therefore must be a guiding principle for the reform process. **Law as intended by the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration** goes beyond being an instrument of coercion: and it is rather **an expression and tool of mankind's creative power**. The rule of law is an organizing principle for governance systems, instrumental to both freedom from want and from fear. Potentially, Law represents an instrument by which human beings imagine and organize relations and rhythm within a system/group, hence a vehicle for the manifestation of the Purpose of this group. In other words, an increased appreciation for the Law within mankind will bring about a deeper understanding of individuals and mankind's unity and closeness to all the higher and lower realms of life and to a shared purpose.

- Crucial guidance for the current reform efforts aiming at the betterment of the UN both as an instrument and a symbol of the manifestation of humanity's soul, is contained in **article 1.4 of the UN Charter**, which reads that one of the Purposes of the UN is *to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of ... common ends*. This implies that to address the current challenges faced by people throughout the world, the actions of nations must be harmonized first, and to achieve this harmonization we need to build a center of unified and unifying will. The creation of such a center requires the strong determination and unconditional commitment of "focalizers" who embody and help keep focus on the ideal model received through the intuition by mankind and crystallized in the UN Charter and the Resolutions of the General Assembly. This is the responsibility of international civil servants. The message from the UN Charter seems to be that only when article 1.4 has been reasonably achieved will it be possible to achieve also the purposes enshrined in article 1.1 (to maintain peace and security through peaceful means and in full respect of international law), 1.2 (to develop friendly relations among nations), and 1.3 (to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, humanitarian character, and in promoting human rights). This helps identify the right choices and priorities that we are called to make in our daily life, thus answering the daunting question: "what can I do?"

Is all the above too big a challenge? Dag Hammarskjöld, throughout his Secretary-Generalship, demonstrated that this is possible. Among the many elements of his legacy, three are relevant here.

At the basis of his ethics there was a decision to take responsibility as an individual to support and lead group endeavors based on just and fair relations. His point of departure was the value and potentials of individuals and the need to choose¹ service to improve human conditions. To support those willing to engage in this personally challenging group endeavor, he developed a clear **theory and practice** on the role, functions and responsibility **of an international**

civil service². It was under his tenure that the first code of conduct for international civil servants was adopted in 1953³. This code, integrated in 2001⁴, constitutes very solid and concrete guidance for facing the challenges encountered in service not only for UN civil servants, but for all those who serve locally and internationally.

Central to Dag Hammarskjöld's service and leadership as Secretary-General was the constant advocacy for **respect for international law** as an indisputable means to achieve equal political rights and economic opportunities for nations small and big and for individuals, hence right human relations as the expression of goodwill.

Finally, Dag Hammarskjöld demonstrated that **reform processes are not about reshaping the form of things but rather the underpinning relations and dynamics** that bring form into reality. Indeed, some of the most important innovations of the organization, such as the creation of the peace-keeping operations and the system of member states' diplomatic missions at the UN HQs, happened under his leadership.

In 1953, the year he took service as Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld affirmed that *"the public servant is there in order to assist, so to say from the inside, those who take the decisions which frame history. He should – as I see it – listen, analyze and learn to understand fully the forces at work and the interests at stake so that he will be able to give the right advice when the situation calls for it. Do not think that he – in following this line of personal policy – takes but a passive part in the development. It is a most active one. But he is active as an instrument, a catalyst, perhaps an inspirer – he serves"*⁵.

Hammarskjöld also challenged the UN staff with the following statement: *"...Why are the standards and the independence of the Secretariat so important? The more I see of the work in the United Nations the more convinced I feel of this importance. Countries are arming in order to negotiate from a position of strength. The Secretariat too has to negotiate, not only in its own interest, but for the cause of peace and a peaceful development of our world. The weight we carry is not determined by physical force or the number of people who form the constituency. It is based solely on trust in our impartiality, our experience and knowledge, our maturity of judgment. Those qualities are our weapons, in no way secret weapons but as difficult to forge as guns and bombs. The Secretariat has an essential part to play in the world affairs today. We will play it if we accept the price for building up our position of strength. We must reject a role of insignificance subject to constant criticism and shirking the risks of a full part in our world. We must choose a role of responsibility and independence, sacrificing part of the illusory safety you may derive from a locked door..."*⁶.

1. Secretary-General's Annual Report on the Work of the Organization, 17 August 1961.
2. Oxford University Lecture, 30 May 1961.
3. *Report on Standards of Conduct in the International Civil Service*, 1954, International Civil Service Advisory Board.
4. *Status, basic rights and duties of United Nations staff members*, ST/SGB/2002/13, 1 November 2002
5. Statement to the Press upon arrival at the international airport in New York on 9 April 1953 to assume his functions as Secretary-General.
6. Message for UN Staff Day, 4 December 1953.

THE GREAT INVOCATION

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men –
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

(adapted version)

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into human minds.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into human hearts.
May the Coming One return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide all little human wills –
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the human race
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

HELPING TO BUILD RIGHT HUMAN RELATIONS

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