

# *Many to Many*

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*“Many to Many” under the aegis of Operation Peace Through Unity is a communicating link between “we, the peoples” of all nations, races, creeds and ideologies offering in the spirit of the preamble of the United Nations Charter an instrument for the furthering of better relationships based on deepening mutual understanding and the aspiration to promote unity and cooperation beyond all differences.*

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## *I. Discipline*

In today's experimental and personality driven society, the word discipline is probably used mostly by those who mourn the lack of it, and who anxiously watch the breaking down of well established codes of conduct in the rampant pursuit of freedom of expression.

The accelerating pace of modern life is threatening the bulwark of traditional definitions of discipline, with its demands on conformity with established rules, and the acceptance of due punishment for breaking them. But when lawmaking loses its credibility as an instrument of justice, and justice no longer can be trusted to tell right from wrong, it should not come as a surprise that discipline as we have known it is also in a state of dissolution.

However, behind the mesmerizing display of bad manners, reckless behaviour and general waste of energy, a new strong current is rising and gaining momentum. Out of the monotony of senseless indulgences lifts new clarity, empathy, and sense of direction. Within humanity, individual human beings are taking upon themselves to bring order out of chaos. Discipline is being re-defined and self-imposed.

A World Teacher has suggested that discipline should be regarded as 'an organized voluntary cooperation', saying that "among the methods of educating the heart the voluntary organization of cooperation has great significance". But the Teacher also warns that '...so long as compulsion is concealed somewhere there cannot be any conscious cooperation or desired results'.

It seems we are called upon to recognize each other as co-workers within a voluntary organization of cooperation and encouraged to educate our hearts to see the unity behind all diversities of expression. And to understand that the cacophony of disjointed noises in the orchestra-pit is an important and necessary stage of fine tuning each instrument for the music which is about to be played in harmony under the guiding hand of the conductor.

There are many signs that we are in the process of ridding ourselves, our organizations and institutions of hidden agendas, manipulation and deception. Humanity knows deeply within that any 'concealed compulsion'; any disciplinary act inflicted by outside disciplinarians, will bring division and disunity between those who conform to such acts, and those who do not. The right to freedom of expression, which past generations wrestled out of the clutches of totalitarian forces, must now – without any conditions attached - be entrusted in the hands of future generations.

While lawmakers seek to repair the increasingly dysfunctional legal and penal systems of today, the guiding hand of the immutable incorruptible law of cause and effect continues to indicate with exactitude the way forward; the significance of joining the voluntary organization of cooperation becoming clear.

Shall we choose to harness our freedom of expression for the common good? Shall we temper individual action with guidance of the heart? Will humanity take a great stride into the future? Indeed we will.

## **II. CLIMATE CHANGE AS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE**

UN General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate  
31<sup>st</sup> July-1<sup>st</sup> August 2007

Among the key issues considered during this debate were: the latest scientific assessments; adaptation and mitigation in response to climate change; the role of the private sector; and possible next steps in the multilateral process.

The emission of greenhouse gases since the industrial revolution (about 250 years ago) has increased at an unprecedented speed and thickened the natural blanket of greenhouse gases which serves to regulate the planet's climate. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the earth has warmed by 0.74 degrees Celsius during the last 100 years and Arctic temperatures have increased almost twice this rate.

IPCC, created in 1988 by the World Meteorological organization and the UN Environment Programme, gives, every five years, the most comprehensive and authoritative assessments of the states of knowledge on climate change, providing the basis for international policy-making on climate change. In its latest assessment released in 2007, IPCC shows that global warming is *unequivocal* and *accelerating*, and that if emissions are allowed to continue to rise at their current pace the world will face an average temperature rise of about 3 degrees Celsius this century. To help us understand the magnitude of this seemingly insignificant change in the global temperature IPCC offers this illustration: *the difference between the present average global temperature and an ice age is 5 degrees Celsius!*

The many serious impacts of global warming were discussed during the thematic debate, all agreeing that the devastating effects of extreme events were likely to worsen with dire consequences for all, but in particular the poor.

The IPCC recent reports say that climate change is already having significant impacts in certain regions, particularly in the developing countries, and on most ecosystems. It will also affect developing countries' ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Dealing with climate change is an economic necessity to avoid serious disruption to global and national economic and social activity. IPCC reports show that the problem can be addressed and that affordable mitigation solutions do exist. Furthermore, economic assessments indicate that the cost of inaction will exceed the cost of taking early action, probably by several orders of magnitude.

Adaptation to climate change is defined as a process through which societies make themselves better able to cope with the risks associated with climate change. Delay to adaptation will mean increased costs and pose greater risks to humanity in the future. IPCC suggest that adaptation, to be successful, should be mainstreamed in national and international sustainable development priorities. Effective national adaptation strategies could include:

- Measures to enhance the scientific basis for decision making;
- Methods and tools for the assessment of adaptation;
- Education, training and public awareness on adaptation, including for young people;
  
- Promoting individual and institutional capacity-building;
- Technology development and transfer;
- Promotion of local coping strategies; and

- Legislation and regulatory frameworks, which promote adaptive-friendly action.

With regard to minimizing global greenhouse gas emission over the coming decades, IPCC say that there are significant economic potential for all sectors involved to offset, even reduce, emissions below current levels. Existing clean and climate-friendly technologies need to be rapidly picked up by the private sector and deployed widely, including through technological cooperation between industrialized and developing countries. IPCC also urge governments to play a major role in motivating the private sector to invest in innovative technologies ‘by providing incentives that are clear, predictable, long term and robust’. Among the cheapest options for reducing emissions would be electricity savings in buildings, and fuel savings in vehicles.

Deforestation is currently contributing more than 20 per cent of human caused greenhouse gas emissions. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that between 2000 and 2005 an average of 12.9 million hectares of forests was lost annually, mostly in South America, followed by Africa and Asia. Halting today’s high levels of deforestation, promoting sustainable forest management and planting new forests could considerably reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

There is universal acknowledgment within the business community of the essential role it can play in addressing climate change, and a growing number of corporations have understood the vital importance of corporate social responsibility, while also recognizing that climate change can provide a platform for new economic growth, new jobs, new manufacturing and service industries, and new roles for sectors such as agriculture and forestry.

However, governments will need to provide business with certainty of direction on both national and international levels. Climate change must be regarded as priority and the direction and ultimate goal of national and international climate policies understood by all. The challenge is to continue to create the frameworks and partnerships that will allow business to play its essential role in protecting the climate. Effective multilateral cooperation can reduce significantly the global cost of addressing climate change compared to the costs if each country was to act alone.

In his opening statement to the Informal Thematic Debate the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underscored the importance of the above call for worldwide cooperation to address climate change challenges, saying that “*I am convinced that this challenge, and what we do about it, will define us, our era and ultimately, our global legacy. It is time for new thinking*”.

However, fearing that governments were prepared to just wait for the Climate Change Convention process to run its course and then scramble to find a way to correct past mistakes and inequities, a speaker at the debate from a small island developing State asked: “*are we to just sit around and have more luncheons on funding and public-private partnerships?*”

A panelist suggested that the reason Governments and institutions were moving slowly on climate change was because there was the feeling, here in the conference room as well as in the wider world, that ‘*climate change mitigation was about pain*’. Climate change was about opportunity, he maintained, and all countries should work together to exploit that opportunity: “*we are all citizens of a world in danger*”.

Jeffrey D. Sachs Director, Colombia University's Earth Institute, believed that the forthcoming intergovernmental negotiations in September in New York, and the following discussions in December (in Bali), would be successful because Governments would finally use 'the one tool that could provide a breakthrough: *'the spreadsheet'*. Once negotiators started doing the arithmetic and looking at what needed to be done in specific sectors they would discover that financing climate change was "*utterly affordable and a tiny fraction of the cost of inaction*".

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his determination to '*minimize the UN system's own carbon footprint and to make this a climate neutral Organization*'. His "Greening the United Nations" initiative aims to involve all heads of UN agencies in the development of a comprehensive plan to make every facility of the Organisation, and all its operations worldwide, environmentally friendly.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which opened for signatures at the June 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, is still at the centre of the global response to climate change. However, this framework was found insufficient and a substantial extension to the Convention, the so-called Kyoto Protocol, was adopted in December 1997 and subsequently entered into force on 18 February 2005 with legally binding emission targets for industrialized countries. Through collective decisions the two instruments have undergone further changes and now make up a detailed set of rules for implementation of both the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

Throughout the world today climate change is being discussed and included in the agenda of international and regional meetings with the intent of achieving successful outcomes at the UN Conference on Climate Change which will take place in Bali, 3-14 December 2007.

According to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Bali Conference will seek to determine future action on mitigation, adaptation, the global carbon market and financing responses to climate change for the period after the expiry of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. The Secretary-General urges all countries to do what they can to reach an agreement by 2009, which would allow time for countries to ratify the agreement and have it in force by 2012.

*Main source: [www.un.org/dpt/ngosection](http://www.un.org/dpt/ngosection)*

### ***III. "Arctic Oil and the Law of the Seize"***

Article by Rene Wadlow \*

There is a touch of the 19<sup>th</sup> century scramble to divide Africa among European colonial powers in Russia's decision to drop a capsule containing a Russian flag on the Arctic sea floor not far from the North Pole on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. In preparation for the 1885 Berlin Conference which was to draw the boundaries of the African colonies, there was a mad rush to place national flags on all the commercial outposts so that France, England, Germany, Spain, Belgium and Portugal could claim prior possession of the area.

The Russian flag provoked an immediate three-day Arctic trip of the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, followed by strong statements from Norway which has Arctic claims, and an expedition from Denmark, whose Greenland possessions allow it to claim that the disputed Lomonosow Ridge, a 1,240-mile underwater mountain range, is attached to Greenland. The Danish Minister of Science and Technology, Helge Sander, said "No matter how many flags

you plant or how many prime ministers you send, that doesn't become a valid parameter in the process." However, to make sure that the Danish flag is seen, Denmark has plans for two more expeditions to justify its claims. Not to be left behind, the US Coast guard is sending a ship this year, the cutter Healy, to map the sea floor on the northern Chukchi Cap, an underwater plateau that extends from Alaska some 1,500 mile northward.

The Russian expedition was led by Arthur Chilingarov, an Arctic explorer but who is also a vice-president of the Russian parliament, the Douma, so that the dropping of the flag is a symbol that will be brought quickly to the attention of Russian lawmakers. The expeditions reflect the growing rivalry between Russia, the USA, Canada, Norway and Denmark for the Arctic's underwater riches, an estimated 10 billion dollars of riches, in particular, oil and gas. Iceland has also presented claims but is a less active participant in the scramble.

The irony of the scramble is that the race is intensifying because global warming is shrinking the polar ice, making oil exploitation economically possible. More oil use will intensify global warming. There are also possibilities of valuable minerals on the Arctic seabed as well as untapped fishing stocks.

Fortunately, there are UN structures which should prevent a free-for-all battle based only on political influence. The Third Law of the Sea Conference created a UN body – the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf – whose mandate is to decide the claims concerning the continental shelf. The Commission is made up of independent experts drawn from states which have ratified the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. Thus, there are no US members on the Commission as the USA has not ratified the Convention, due to narrow nationalistic fears in the US Senate. There are efforts currently underway to revive Senate action on the Law of the Sea Convention, but even if the USA ratifies, there will not be a vacant seat on the Continental Shelf Commission for some time. As with all UN Bodies made up of independent experts, some members are more independent than others, and some are more expert than others. The Continental Shelf Commission is to base its decisions on geological evidence, but politics is never far away.

The rather complicated Continental Shelf issues arise from the results of the Third UN Law of the Sea Conference which began in Caracas in 1974 and whose Convention came into force in 1982. There had been two earlier UN Conferences on the Law of the Sea in 1958 and 1960 but with rather narrow legal agendas. By the time of the Third Conference, many colonial countries had become independent and wanted a role in what was presented at the time as the most important legal gathering since the 1945 San Francisco Conference launched the United Nations. Moreover, many "geographically disadvantaged" nations such as those who were landlocked or with short coasts were determined not to be left out. Geography often won over Cold War ideology as Swiss and Nepalese diplomats led the landlocked caucus.

The momentum for the Third Law of the Sea Conference had begun with a historic speech in the UN General Assembly in 1967 by Ambassador Arvid Pardo of Malta who developed the idea of the common heritage of mankind for the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Pardo also had a strong ecological concern stressing that "nations must do together what they cannot do singly. Since none of them can conserve the ocean environment and prevent pollution individually, they must do it together".

US international law scholars, in particular Louis Sohn, professor of international law at Harvard, had played an important role in setting the intellectual foundations for the conference. The US Draft Ocean Treaty presented in 1970 was very international and generous in a common heritage of mankind direction. Later, the Treasury Department and the Office of Management and Budget gutted the US Draft, leaving however the innovative sections on the settlement of disputes to which Sohn had largely contributed.

The law of the Sea Conference which ran from 1974 to 1980 was held at a time when many diplomats felt that there would be a world-wide struggle for resources. There was the 1973 Arab oil boycott and the resultant steep rise in petroleum prices. Howard Hughes had just launched a new ocean mining vessel, the Hughes Glomar Explorer, which many saw as a sign that only the most technologically advanced - either private or State-owned companies - would have access to hard minerals on the sea floor, in particular manganese nodules which contain copper, nickel and cobalt as well as manganese.

The fear of a resource battle led governments to place as much of the seabed as possible under national control - leading to what some called "the law of the seize". Under the Convention, every State has the right to exploit the ocean floor and the seabed up to 200 nautical miles off its coast, provided that the area does not overlap with the seabed of other States. In addition, States can establish the right to further seabed if they can prove with geological evidence that their continental shelves extend more than 200 miles beyond their coasts. Underwater mountains as in the Arctic can be considered as part of their continental shelf if they are linked or were linked to the above-sea continental shelf.

A state must present its evidence to the UN Commission on the Continental shelf, but only after ratifying the Convention on the Law of the Sea. All States involved in the Arctic Ocean continental shelf have ratified the Convention except the USA. Thus, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf takes on added importance.

The only alternative to the application of the Law of the Sea Convention would be a new treaty among only those States concerned with the Arctic Ocean sea bed. The precedent for such a treaty is the Treaty on the Antarctic in which 12 countries ratified a treaty to create a legal framework to govern the southernmost continent. Some have presented this Antarctic model as a way to deal with US claims of the costal shelf of Alaska, as the USA can not use the Law of the Sea Convention bodies. Thus, in a follow up article, I will look at the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty to see if it holds some leads to prevent flag dropping under the North Pole.

\*Rene Wadlow is the Editor of [www.transnational-perspective.org](http://www.transnational-perspective.org) and the Representative to the UN, Geneva, of the Association of World Citizens

#### ***IV. The 2007 Millennium Development Goals Report***

Described as the most comprehensive global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) assessment to date, based on data prepared by over 20 organisations both within and outside the United Nations System, this 'halfway' report indicates a mixture of successes and failures towards achieving the development targets by the 2015 deadline.

The eight targeted goals, agreed upon by all UN member nations at the 2000 Millennium Summit, call for a quantified, time-bound progress to

- eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 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

The Report shows that there has been ‘significant progress’ toward halving extreme poverty by 2015: the proportion of people worldwide living on the equivalent of a dollar a day has dropped by 32 per cent, and if that trend continues the MDG poverty reduction target might well be met for the world as a whole and for most regions, even those regions where the challenges are greatest.

Among the other signs of progress are that more children in developing countries are going to school and that child mortality has declined worldwide, while women’s struggle for equal rights is slowly gaining momentum as a result of their increasing involvement in politics and government.

However within the areas of health, environment and partnership the Report points to a sad lack of progress: over half a million women still die annually of preventable and treatable complications in pregnancy and childbirth; AIDS deaths worldwide rose to 2.9 million last year (from 2.2 million in 2001); half the population in developing countries has still no access to basic sanitation, and the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change are already being felt.

In his foreword to the Report the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says that among the reasons for the lack of progress is that the benefits of economic growth are not being equally shared. The efforts to meet the MDGs are in some countries being undermined by insecurity and instability caused by such factors as armed conflict and HIV/AIDS. Another contributing factor is the failure of most developed countries to live up to their commitments to provide adequate financing within the global partnership for development and its framework for mutual accountability. While leading industrial nations pledged to double aid to Africa by 2010 at their meeting in Gleneagles in 2005 the total official aid declined in real terms by 5.1 per cent between 2005 and 2006.

### ***V. MDGs not a Uniform Yardstick***

In his article in *Wider Angle* (No. 1/2007)\*, entitled: “*The MDGs: ‘M’ for Misunderstood?*”, Jan Vandemoortele warns that the MDGs should not be construed as a uniform yardstick, and that such an interpretation was not simply an academic matter but could also have tangible consequences. Nothing, he says, can be more disempowering than to be called a poor performer, when one is doing quite a reasonable job: “The real enemies of the global anti-poverty agenda are pessimism, skepticism and cynicism”.

Mr. Vandemoortele, who in 2001 co-chaired the UN inter-agency group that put the MDGs together, is adamant that the “spirit of the Millennium Declaration was not to impose a ‘one-size-fits-all’ benchmark for appraising and comparing country performance, regardless of their



historical background, natural endowments and particular challenges” . And, according to the author, basing the allocation of official development assistance (ODA) on a country’s performance against the global MDGs would be both inappropriate and irresponsible.

The article explains how the 2000 Millennium Summit sought to synthesize the global goals and targets agreed upon in past summits and international conferences, from the 1970s onwards, into one document, the so-called Millennium Declaration, and how the MDGs were selected on the basis of two criteria: whether internationally agreed indicators existed for measuring progress, and whether reasonably good data were available to document global trends.

The goals, targets and indicators, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2001, embody an internationally agreed agenda for human development while also representing a measurable agenda. The MDG targets are based on *global* historical trends and set on the premise that progress, as observed at the global level over the previous 25 years, will continue for the next 25 years. The MDGs are essentially an ‘extrapolation of global trends of the 1970s and 1980s and projected forward till 2015’.

The article points out that assessing whether progress is on track for meeting the 2015 target can only be done at the global level and cannot be done for any specific region or particular country, because: “ the quantitative targets were set in line with global trends, not on the basis of historical trends for any particular regional or specific country” .

The content of the MDGs applies universally because they reflect fundamental social and economic rights, says the article, but their quantitative dimensions should not apply uniformly to all countries or regions.

However, Mr. Vandemoortele, does offer some suggestions as to how the MDGs can make sense at country level:

- to be meaningful to a country, and generate a sense of national ownership, national targets require adaptation and not a mindless adoption of global targets;
- the onus for achieving the targets must fall on the current government;
- the immediate targets must be translated into actionable propositions and short-term reforms;
- and, so as to ensure that the national budget adequately reflect the adapted targets, to cost the programmes and policies to inform the national budget and aid allocations.

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## ***VI. Campaign For The Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA)***

This Campaign is a growing global network of parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations calling for citizen’s representation at the United Nations. An informal Steering Committee helps define the Campaign’s goals, policies and strategies. Former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1992-1996) who supports the establishing of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, says that “*We need to promote the democratization of globalization before globalization destroys the foundations of national and international democracy*”. Dr.

Boutros-Ghali was one of the initial signatories to the Appeal for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations:

*“Humanity faces the task of ensuring the survival and well being of future generations as well as the preservation of the natural foundations of life on Earth. We are convinced that in order to cope with major challenges such as social disparity, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of terrorism or the endangerment of global ecosystems, all human beings must engage in collaborative efforts.*

*To ensure international cooperation, secure the acceptance and to enhance the legitimacy of the United Nations and strengthen its capacity to act, people must be more effectively and directly included into the activities of the United Nations and its international organizations. They must be allowed to participate better in the UN’s activities. We therefore recommend a gradual implementation of democratic participation and representation on the global level.*

*We conceive the establishment of a consultative Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations as an indispensable step. Without making a change of the UN charter necessary in the first step, a crucial link between the UN, the organizations of the UN system, the governments, national parliaments and civil society can be achieved through such an assembly.*

*Such an assembly would not simply be a new institution; as the voice of citizens, the assembly would be the manifestation and vehicle of a changed consciousness and understanding of international politics. The assembly could become a political catalyst for further development of the international system and of international law. It could also substantially contribute to the United Nation’s capacity to realize its high objectives and to shape globalization positively.*

*A Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations could initially be composed of national parliamentarians. Step by step, it should be provided with genuine rights of information, participation and control vis-à-vis the UN and the organizations of the UN system. In a later stage, the assembly could be directly elected.*

***We appeal to the United Nations and the governments of its member states to establish a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations. We call for all organizations, decision-makers and citizens engaged with the international common interest to support this appeal”***

This appeal has to date been endorsed by 412 Members of Parliament, 84 civil society groups and almost nine hundred individuals from 106 countries.

To support this appeal see website: <http://en.unpacampaign.org/appeal/index.php>

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## ***VII. Legion of Good Will***

***God created the Human Being in such a way that he may only be happy by doing the Good.***

—Alziro Zarur, Founder of the Legion of Good Will—

***Brothers and Sisters in humanity, what does the world expect from leaders of all segments beginning especially with the religious leaders themselves? The passionate example of Divine Love, because***

*this is the starting point from which Peace will be made possible. Without this, even the most refined plans are threatened to fail. No proposition whatsoever will achieve its best results without an atmosphere of true understanding and Good Will.*

—José de Paiva Netto, writer, radio announcer and journalist; President of the Legion of Good Will—

*Education and Culture, Health and Work with Ecumenical Spirituality*—This is the motto of the Legion of Good Will (LGW), a Brazilian organization founded in 1950 to create and foster programs and projects of social inclusion and sustainable development for those populations at personal and social risk. Over the course of almost six decades, the LGW has grown to become one of the leading organizations in Latin America offering assistance through:

- Schools of basic education, nursery to high school
- Shelters for children, adolescents and senior citizens
- Community and educational centers, offering various types of training courses
- Emergency programs to combat hunger and poverty
- Socio-educational campaigns that dignify life

The LGW aids, not only those in Brazil, but also people in Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Portugal and the United States. Through the efforts of thousands of volunteers, collaborators and partners, more than 5.7 million cases of assistance were offered in 2006 alone.

Central to this organization are the tenets of its president, writer, radio announcer and journalist, José de Paiva Netto. According to the LGW, charity is the synonym of Love—without which no one lives—charity being the food of the Spirit. Not restricted to the simple and laudable act of giving a piece of bread, Netto conveys in his literary essay *The Capital of God* that charity should be one of the main statutes of politics. In which solidarity, as the base of the national economy, is understood in its broadest sense, demanding a restructuring of the culture, through spirituality. In summary, charity as the synonym of Love is a special science, ‘the vanguard of a world in which the human being shall be treated, as he deserves to be: in a human and therefore civilized way’.

The LGW writes in its publication “*Globalization of Fraternal Love*” that in Sanskrit, the precise meaning of charity is: “*the Love that shifts*”. This was echoed by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891), Russian activist, writer and theosophist in her reflection: “Each person is affected by the combined influences of the rest, since each one in his turn, affects all others”.

The spirit of cooperation, the spontaneous expression of fraternal Love and ecumenism—in other words, universalism, fraternity without borders, international solidarity, understanding humanity as family—these are the foundations of the LGW. These vital ideals are expressed not only in heartfelt words, but also, result in the highly successful actions of the LGW’s programs in partnership with the UN to help meet the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are a set of goals to be achieved by 2015 to improve the quality of life of humanity and the sustainability of our world, and was one of the most important global challenges signed in 2000 during the Millennium Summit, by all 191 countries of the UN.

The LGW views the signing of this document on the MDGs as an important chapter in a new planetary mentality, a transformation of consciousness, or the beginning of a paradigm shift enabling humankind to make the necessary changes possible to build a renewed and solid social structure as outlined by the eight Millennium Development Goals, so timely launched by

the UN. The LGW understood these objectives as fundamental, and as a result, is one of the few NGOs through its diverse socio-educational programs to support *all* eight MDGs:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

The LGW has been working in partnership with the United Nations (UN) since 1994, when it became the first Brazilian non-governmental organization (NGO) to be associated with the Department of Information (DPI). In 1999, it also became the first NGO of Brazil to achieve the general consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in 2000, it became part of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO), in Vienna, Austria.

The Peace and Good Will Garden is one of the projects created by the LGW in the United States and one that helps to further volunteer support in all communities. It is based on fostering debates and cultural-artistic activities in schools, hospitals and public places. The youth of the LGW encourage group games, which involve physical activities, writing essays, painting, poetry and entertainment that will help in making children and adolescents reject violence and search for creative ways to promote peace.

Paiva Netto reveals the thought behind the organization's all-encompassing views as he states: "We must experience unity in diversity to overcome adversity." A prominent force of Love in the world, the Legion of Good Will is true to its name, as it exemplifies the genuine meaning of goodwill, which has been defined as: *Love in action*.

**For more information:**

<http://www.lbv.org/> (Spanish)

<http://www.legionofgoodwill.org/> (English)

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(Note-Information for this article was obtained from the Legion of Good Will publication, "*Globalization of Fraternal Love*".)

## ***VIII. A Culture Of Peace***

It is easy to lose sight of the simplicity of purpose when policymakers are negotiating the text of international treaties between different parties. Narrow interests can lead into a wilderness of words understood only by the very few.

But as the Dalai Lama, among many others, are constantly reminding the world: "*In our present state of affairs, the very survival of mankind depends on people developing concern for the whole of humanity, not just their own community or nation*". As individuals we need to

embrace - and care for - the whole human family and our planet, and one of the tools at hand, which can help us see the whole picture, is the so-called Manifesto 2000.

Manifesto 2000 is a pledge, formulated by the Nobel Peace Prize laureates, who sought to encapsulate the essence of the many UN resolutions, declarations and treaties and reveal their relevance to people everywhere. By signing this pledge and making it come alive through our daily actions, we can help ensure the survival of humankind and other life on the planet. In September 2003 the Manifesto was already signed by more than 75 million people. It is still open for signatures.

The Manifesto 2000 Pledge:

**1. Respect all life:**

*Respect the life and dignity of each human without discrimination or prejudice.*

**2. Reject violence:**

*Practice active nonviolence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents.*

**3. Share with others:**

*Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression.*

**4. Listen to understand:**

*Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others.*

**5. Preserve the planet:**

*Promote consumer behaviour that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet*

**6. Rediscover solidarity:**

*Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.*

This Manifesto can be signed on the UNESCO website:  
[www3.unesco.org/manifesto2000/](http://www3.unesco.org/manifesto2000/)

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## ***IX. A Peace Memorial Looking to the Future***

A Peace Memorial is being built in the Huri Hills, Kenya, in memory of 12 government officials who, in April 2006, were on a mission of peace when they were killed in a plane crash. Through the efforts of the Honourable Ukur Yatani, a Member of Parliament, and the generosity of the people of the Marsabit District this phase of a four part project will be completed on ten acres of land.

In November this year Dr. Sophia Asaviour, president of Peace of the World International, will be going to Kenya to join in the work because: *“I want to take part in all phases of this project’s growth and development. I am calling upon those who will volunteer to join me in clearing the land, setting fences, laying foundations, building walls and roofs, digging and securing water and planting gardens. The purpose for this effort is to bring together volunteers,*

*local builders, and villagers to work together for the benefit of peace and for the sake of the community”*

The Peace Memorial will include: a Vocational Training Centre, Free Clinic, and Clear Water Wells.

Anyone interested in volunteering, or willing to donate tents for lodging, provide food or offer any other contribution can email: [info@peaceoftheworld.org](mailto:info@peaceoftheworld.org)

## ***X. The Great Invocation in English and Maori***

### **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.

TE INOINGA NUI  
Na te maramatanga kei te  
Ngakau o Te Atua  
Kia koha te maramatanga ki te  
Ngakau o te tangata  
Kia koha te maramatanga ki te ao

Na te aroha kei te ngakau  
O Te Atua  
Ki horapa te aroha ki te  
Ngakau o te tangata  
Kia hoki mai ano te Karaiti  
Ki te ao

Na te mauri o Te Atua  
Kia marama te haere a te tangata  
I te huarahi o Te Atua

Na roto mai I te Tangata  
Ma te maramatanga me te aroha  
Tatau e arahi  
A ma tenei e pa kuaha ki te Kino

Ma te Maramatanga,  
Ma te Aroha,  
Ma te Kaha e whakau  
Te whakaaro nui te ao