

# *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. Reconciliation*

Standing in the rubble of a crumbling civilization; confronted with a multitude of interrelated challenges, and watching, experiencing, the violence, fear and confusion tearing humanity apart, a sense of hope is - against all odds - spreading throughout the world. From person to person, from neighbourhoods to communities - even throughout the poorest and most war torn areas and nations this contagious feeling of expectancy is breathing new vigor and energy into the weary and dis-illusioned human being.

Like the Magician's apprentice we are today faced with the consequences of the values applied when using the energies at hand, and we now have the opportunity to review and assess achievements as well as failures and shortcomings.

When Mr. Sevilla Somoza, the representative of Nicaragua, presented the draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly, which called for 2009 to be proclaimed the International Year of Reconciliation, he stressed that humanity '*is no longer an abstract entity*', and shared his belief that, if we continue to ignore the fact that each individual human being forms an integral part of one humanity, we would suffer even worse calamities than at present and be plunged even further '*into darkness and barbarity*'.

Mr. Somoza suggested that 'humanity's lost unity' could be restored if reconciliation was universally accepted and applied as a path which could lead to the achievement of world peace. In an atmosphere of '*forgiveness, truth, justice and mercy*' the causes and origins of all the problems we share could be unveiled and healed. Through practicing ethics and superior values, as opposed to petty interests, we can, he said, make the common good and human dignity the cornerstones of development.

But old habits die hard. Denial, narrow-mindedness, selfishness and insecurity have deep and tangled roots which run through all nations, cultures and peoples. To watch the shattering of the material world as we know it, can create a spontaneous sense of loss, resentment and blame. It can also evoke a subtle but distinct sense of relief, release – and hope.

The human being is indeed standing at a pivotal point in the long and arduous process of regaining a true sense of unity. The apprentice will have to look deep within for the values and qualities that will be needed in the healing and redemption of all relationships, and for the building of a community in which each human being is cared for and have the possibility to develop his or her full potential.

For a long time emphasis has largely been on developing the human mind. Through exploring and experimenting, probing and analyzing, humanity has learnt to draw increasingly precise conclusions about the nature of ourselves, our environment and the universe. The mind knows in theory the interconnectedness between all within an organic whole.

But it is heart which will make this knowledge become a living reality. 'Forgiveness, truth, justice and mercy' are heart qualities, which the disciple has yet to learn how fully to apply in all relationships. It is said that: "*unwritten are the laws of the heart, but only therein does justice dwell, for the heart is the bridge of the worlds*".

So let us listen to heart as we build – and *become* – the bridge between all worlds.

## ***II. 29 May – International Day of UN Peacekeepers***

A paper entitled “Women In Peacekeeping: The Power to Empower”, points out that UN peacekeeping has evolved greatly during the past six decades and come to include many more aspects of the multi-dimensional task of peacekeeping, peace-building and peacemaking.

The increasing conflicts in the 1990’s throughout Africa, Asia and the former Soviet Union, have demonstrated the impact of these upheavals on women, who sometimes were left with the heavy task of rebuilding their communities. This year’s observation has chosen to focus on the important role of women in peacekeeping operations.

In 2000 the vital role of women in peacekeeping was highlighted in the landmark resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, adopted by the UN Security Council, which calls on UN Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making and field-based peacekeeping and peace-building operations. In his statement to the Security Council (October 2000), Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, that it is women and children who are in particular affected by the consequences of armed conflict and therefore “*Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also often better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it.*” And in his message to the 2009 International Day of UN Peacekeepers, the present UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, stressed that there are still far too few women peacekeepers.

Although the percentage of women recruited within the civilian sector by the UN Secretariat is close to 40 percent, only 8 percent of the 10,000 police officers and 2 percent of the 80,000 military personnel, contributed by UN Member States, are women. Ban Ki-moon explains that “*the point is not to achieve gender parity for its own sake; the imperative is to draw on the unique and powerful contribution women can make.*” Women can better communicate with local women, who often have suffered terrible acts of sexual and gender-based violence. Women personnel, whether blue helmets, human rights monitors or within other forms of service, can bring new skills and styles of functioning in the ever-evolving field of peacekeeping: “*By including female police among our ranks, we foster a safe environment for victims to get the help they need and deserve. And by enabling victims to feel secure enough to come forward and press charge against perpetrators, we fight the future of impunity that has prevailed for too long*”.

In 2008, 130 peacekeepers lost their lives in the line of duty – the highest number to date. Among these were 10 women. Today more than 113,000 men and women are engaged in UN peacekeeping as military, police or civilian personnel. (<http://www.un.org/en/peace/>)

## ***III. Making Peace Work***

The recent book, *Making Peace Work: The Challenges of Social and Economic Reconstruction*, edited by Tony Addison and Tilman Brück, and published by the United Nations University: World Institute for Development Economics Research, [www.wider.unu.edu](http://www.wider.unu.edu) brings together expert opinions in a collection of articles on this very current and important topic. [Citations will show only the page number from the text unless another author is being quoted]

Peace, participation and prosperity (P-P-P) are fairly universally accepted as reasonable human aspirations. However, achieving these goals can pose a great number of barriers which are difficult to surmount. *Making Peace Work* paints a grim picture in some countries, but overall, gives positive advice to bring about lasting, peace, participation and prosperity to countries after conflicts.

If peace is not just the absence of conflict, usually armed conflict, what else is needed? Only by looking at the causes of conflict will lasting solutions be found. Several themes recur throughout this collection such as poverty, unemployment, group historical prejudices, as well as governing elites being more interested in power than the prosperity of the people. Today, conflict is more likely to be civil rather than international, which brings its own set of problems when attempting post-conflict reconstruction. If the underlying causes are not fully identified, understood and settled, then any 'peace' is likely to be only temporary.

Addison and Brück look at how to achieve peace, participation and prosperity, and begin by stating that, "The odds are stacked against peace." (p.15). They base this on the frequency of the collapse of peace agreements which then often lead to further conflict. In some countries there seems to be almost continual conflict, with vested interests having no wish to end it. In these cases, international peacekeeping efforts will find little success as they will be unable to 'force a peace', as seen in Afghanistan and Somalia. However, this is balanced by identifying success areas too, such as Mozambique and Sierra Leone. Ordinary people will only have a chance to participate in the political life of the country if the government is willing and able to allow this. If participation is not possible, then a recurrence of conflict is likely with local warlords being able to recruit young people to their 'cause'. This feeling of security is also the basis for prosperity in that it allows economic recovery to take place. It will also allow a justice system to be established. "... the majority of contemporary conflicts are civil wars occurring after a prolonged period of weakening of the state..." (p.20). Even with the best of intentions, international aid will not always help, as seen in Rwanda. At the root of most conflicts is chronic poverty and its consequences. When people are incorporated into an economy, this raises social involvement, allows purchasing power to grow, leading to prosperity and thus gives a better chance for a lasting peace. "The economic agenda therefore underpins the political agenda in P-P-P, aside from the intrinsic desirability of achieving absolute poverty reduction" (p.30).

Given that most recent wars have been civil rather than international, it is no surprise that this has become an area for research. The effect of the economic agenda of countries involved in a civil conflict can mean the war becomes self-funded. By capturing the revenue from illegal natural resource trade, drugs or contraband, warring factions can gain links to international sources of funds. A three-year project was undertaken on this topic by the International Peace Academy (now Institute) – *Economic Agenda in Civil Wars (EACW)*. One outcome of this is the greater scrutiny being given to the effects of economic sanctions regimes on citizens rather than power/government elites. David Malone and Heiko Nitzschke expand the findings of this research. The EACW found

that conflicts thrive on deep links of, for example, ethnic, political, military and economic networks which have a vested interest in prolonging the conflict – see Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, among others. (Cooper and Pugh, 2004, Stoddart, 2004 as quoted by Malone & Nitzschke, p.45). The UN Security Council is now paying much closer attention to such areas as, “... sanctions-busting, natural resource exploitation, ... the role of private sector activity in conflict zones ...” (p.48).

In his chapter, Peter Burnell looks at the relationship between peace and democracy. As the local circumstances in countries which suffer from violent conflicts are often very complicated and it might be difficult to know whether any conflict is, in fact, over. Countries facing such difficulties include Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Congo, while the former areas of Yugoslavia seem to be having more success. However, “... the building of democracy remains a work in progress,” (p.73).

Another contributor, Sirkku Hellsten, writes about the ethics, rhetoric and politics of post-conflict reconstruction with emphasis on the concept of a social contract. It is possible that ‘justice’ is only seen in a technical sense. As well as the creation of the ‘rule of law’, a wider sense of morality will need to be considered. Central to this will be the current local ethics and values. If a social contract is part of post-conflict reconstruction, care must be taken to ensure that it is not purely reliant on top-down agreements – unless the ordinary people are directly involved it is unlikely that the peace will last for long. The grass-roots are those who have suffered most and who may, most likely not have been responsible for the original conflict. It is especially important that, if international bodies are involved in the post-conflict agreements, they work with responsible people:

...there is a need to pay more attention to the bottom-up approach to peacebuilding, which can foster a climate of interrelated understanding between the ethnic, cultural, and religious divides from which violence stemmed in the past. These movements can reduce the tendency to identify ‘the evil other’ that shaped the consciousness of many communities and nations and has damaged peaceful co-existence. (p.97)

Any post-conflict reconstruction needs to do more than provide a formal justice system and the rule of law; it must consider an ethical and cultural framework to include all local peoples’ aspirations for justice, equality and peace.

Marcia Greenberg and Elaine Zuckerman reflect on the Gender Dimensions of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and their relationship to development aid. The aim is to secure sustainable peace, participation and prosperity. The contribution to the process of post-conflict reconstruction is from both female and male participants. Greenberg & Zuckerman identify three areas relating to gender: women focussed activities, gender awareness programmes and transformation of gender relationships to avoid further violence. The female focus moves from ending the conflict to creating a new beginning. It is not enough simply to ‘re-construct’ the original position as this could well lead to future conflict. Consideration of the importance of gender and by ensuring female involvement in any post-reconstruction process, ways can be found, “... to remove injustice, disparities, and exclusion ...” which are common underlying causes of conflict. (p.102) Conflicts lead to resource loss through direct casualties, disease (HIV/AIDS), professional personnel in health care and education as well as infrastructure loss. Post-conflict assistance in these areas should look forward rather than replacing previous gender stereotypes. The use of international aid should consider and respect the positions

of women, women with men and women in relation to men. Successful post-conflict reconstruction depends on, not only political commitment but also “indigenous country solutions” (p.133). The entire population of whatever gender, age, income level or social position must be involved in the reconstruction process.

Within a country, there will be groups with a shared identity such as religion or ethnic background. If these groups suffer from actual or perceived inequalities, they can be the cause of civil conflicts. Frances Stewart states that, “... cultural differences do not lead to violent conflict unless there are also major economic and/or political causes.” (p.137). Those groups who can be described as having horizontal inequalities, may feel disadvantaged because of low incomes, high unemployment, competition for resources or human rights abuses and as a result, resort to violent conflict. (Stewart, 2009). These are often very deep-rooted causes. They may arise from a political, economic or social base, however, any policy to correct economic or political inequality is usually conspicuous by its absence. While affirmative action, such as employment for the unskilled or cultural/ethnic promotion (eg Malaysia) may be needed, in the long term they can be phased out. All the while, attention will need to be paid to those groups who may be losing power/privilege to prevent a violent reaction.

The building of financial institutions is the theme of the contribution by Sanjeev Gupta et al. They emphasise that any building or re-building of institutions will need to consider context and be country specific. “Sustained peace ... can ... accelerate the process of recovery in the aftermath of conflict.” (p175). While any rebuilding will usually be difficult, in urgent situations it is important that any short-term action be considered in the light of long-term needs. In addition, this should be made to suit the specific circumstances; not only the local conditions but also the background of the conflict. The financial system is linked to any economic recovery, which, in turn, is an essential ingredient for building and sustaining peace. The success of financial institutions will depend upon a viable legal framework, strong fiscal authority and well-designed policies to promote transparency and efficiency. It is recognised that further research will be needed to follow the progress of an individual country’s financial institution building.

Of the more than 50 countries experiencing conflict since 1980, most have been disproportionately poor. (Waters, Garrett & Burnham, 2009) These are countries which suffer from many health related challenges and low state spending on health issues. Hugh Waters, Brinson Garrett and Gilbert Burnham explore the issue of health systems in post-conflict situations. “... countries with a low Human Development Index (HDI) ... spent, on average, 3.7 per cent of their GDP on military expenditure, compared with only 2.4 per cent on health,” (UNDP 2005). In a conflict there is likely to be a high civilian casualty rate, putting more pressure on already limited resources. These will be further reduced by the reduction in foreign investment and economic growth as a result of conflict. Post-conflict monies will then be directed toward relief efforts rather than development programmes such as health systems. Before any rebuilding can take place, there will need to be both military security and political support. Related to the provision of an effective health system is the alleviation of poverty, economic growth, a transportation system, water, sanitation, local commitment and capacity. (Waters et al, 2009). To achieve long-term objectives will often be more difficult and expensive than at first anticipated and will need international donor inputs.

The importance of a country’s infrastructure is shown to be a key element in times of peace, conflict and post-conflict. It will be damaged in any conflict and the cost and capacity to repair or rebuild must fall on the state in the first instance. PB Anand

investigates this further in the chapter on development in post-conflict reconstruction. The ability of the state to re-develop its infrastructure will pose a serious challenge, while being essential to growth in a post-conflict economy. If growth can be achieved, this will provide resources to further build and strengthen the infrastructure services necessary to improve the participation and prosperity of all. Such services include: water supply, sanitation system, transport, communications, health and education. The lack of these will affect the poor most which could slow the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. (Anand, 2009). It is pointed out that the most important and immediate area for attention in a post-conflict situation is a health service. It is further recognised that building institutions is a long-term process and will often be a key factor in assessing outside development aid assistance priorities. “During 1991-2002, approximately 5 per cent of official development aid (ODA) was allocated to emergency and disaster relief, mainly to address humanitarian crises arising out of conflicts.” (p.229). Provision of essential services can be caught in a “... vicious circle (of state failure, worsening inequality, poverty, and conflict) ...” (p.247), and breaking free of this will play a vital part in the success of post-conflict reconstruction. Whatever is put in place must reflect the local needs and be local institutions if peace is to be sustained. Anand describes several tools available for analysing conflicts in an attempt to help provide guidance in a post-conflict situation.

Wim Naude begins his contribution by noting the welcome trend of the, “... reduction in the number of conflicts across the world, particularly in Africa,” (Ndulu et al, 2007, p.251). After a conflict, people will expect an improvement in living standards as well as a sustained peace. This may not be only through the state. Private sector entrepreneurs will also have a part to play. While there will always be enterprising people – often necessary for survival – their efforts may not always be directed to the public good. When trying to assess the possible contribution from entrepreneurship, consideration must be given to the causes and the context of the original conflict, the existing institutions, the scope of the market and the human and financial capital available. Naude concludes that more research is necessary in this area before effective policies can be designed.

Tim Addison and Tilman Brück attempt, in their final chapter – The Way Forward – to bring together the various aspects of recovery in a post-conflict period. The major element in success is growth in the economy which the market will not be able to provide on its own, and a strong case can be made for state subsidies to assist. Post-war countries will tend to be aid dependant, and donors will want a say in any allocation. State capacity will be crucial to success as every country will face the current global challenges. “Conflict prevails in all societies, both rich and poor, and the resolution of conflict is the business of everyday life” (p.269).

*Making Peace Work* is a very thought provoking read, often taking the reader into areas not often highlighted in the reported material. The consequential effects of outsiders attempting to find solutions to post-conflict situations can be dire for the local inhabitants. Local people are the ones who know why a conflict began, and what is needed to end it. Identifying their own solutions and seeking assistance, if necessary, to implement them would seem to give the greatest possible chance of lasting peace and reconciliation.

Find out more about *Making Peace Work*, at [www.wider.unu.edu](http://www.wider.unu.edu) or, preferably, get your own copy!

#### ***IV. Preparing for the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review***

In

his opening statement to the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva, 19 May), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon referred to the recent meeting of the Third Preparatory Committee of the 2010 Review Conference, saying that it had concluded its meeting “*in a refreshingly positive tone, marking a distinct shift from previous years*”.

Ban Ki-Moon stressed that a new multilateralism, where cooperation replaces confrontation and creativity replaces stalemate, is needed to deal with today’s unfolding crises, and are more than ever necessary in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. The Secretary-General also felt encouraged that his 5-point proposal had been widely recognized.\*

The Third Preparatory Committee, mentioned above, took place in New York from 4-15 May and was open to all parties to the Treaty, observer States, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. During the 10-day session several meetings were focusing on three groups of interrelated issues:

- the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and international peace and security;
- non-proliferation, nuclear-weapon-free zones and safeguards;
- the peaceful use of nuclear energy

Within this framework other related issues were discussed such as security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

On 8 May, Ambassador Boniface G. Chidyausiku, Chair of the Third Preparatory Committee, released the “Draft Recommendations to the Review Conference” for discussion and possible adoption, which included recommendations on key steps such as:

- Entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- Commencing negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament of a fissile material Cutoff Treaty;
- Expanding transparency with respect to nuclear weapons holdings;
- Ensuring disarmament steps are irreversible;
- Reducing the operational readiness to use nuclear weapons;
- Further diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies;
- Refraining from modernization or improvement of nuclear weapons systems;
- Establishment of additional Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zones.

The session also decided on a series of procedural issues for the 2010 Review Conference, including the provisional agenda and draft rules of procedure, as well as the unanimous endorsement of Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan of the Philippines for the presidency of the 2010 Review Conference, to be held in New York from 3-28 May.

<http://www.gs institute.org/pnnd/index.html>

In delivering U.S. President Barack Obama’s message to the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Assistant Secretary and Head of the U.S. Delegation, Rose Gottemoeller, underscored President Obama’s firm intent to

convene a Global Summit on Nuclear Security, to be hosted by the United States within a year. She concluded her statement by saying: “*I hope Parties will heed the call of President Obama by focusing not on our differences, but on cooperation and on how to advance our common objectives in the Treaty pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy*”. (<http://www.state.gov/t/vci/rls/122672.htm>)

\*When UN Secretary Ban Ki-Moon addressed the East-West Institute in October 2008 on “The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World”, he said that ‘*a world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order*’. But, he added, we must also work for a world free of all weapons of mass destruction.

In this speech Ban Ki-Moon offered his five-point proposal:

1. All parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), in particular the nuclear-weapon States, should fulfill their obligation under the Treaty to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament.
2. The Security Council’s permanent members should commence discussions, perhaps within its Military Staff Committee, on security issues in the nuclear disarmament process.
3. Unilateral moratoria on nuclear tests and the production of fissile materials can go only so far. We need new efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force, and for the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a fissile material treaty immediately, without preconditions.
4. Accountability and transparency. The nuclear-weapon States often circulate descriptions of what they are doing to pursue these goals, yet these accounts seldom reach the public. I invite the nuclear-weapon States to send such material to the UN Secretariat, and to encourage its wider dissemination.
5. A number of complementary measures are needed. These include the elimination of other types of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD); new efforts against WMD terrorism; limits on the production and trade in conventional arms; and new weapons bans, including of missiles and space weapons. The General Assembly could also take up the recommendation of the Blix Commission for a “World Summit on disarmament, non-proliferation and terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction.

## ***V. United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development***

During what the Commission’s Chair, Gerda Verburg, called ‘*two tough, remarkable weeks of work*’, the Seventeenth Session of the Commission (<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>) found consensus and adopted a final document outcome (52 pages) and also finalized a “Shared Vision” – two documents that can, she said, ‘*set the scene for change.*’

The meeting, which began 5 May, was attended by a thousand people that included 40 ministers, representatives of farmer’s organizations, academia, business and industry, women, indigenous peoples, NGOs, youth, workers and trade unions, and local communities.

Ms. Verburg reported that many new and interesting proposals had been discussed which could make a difference, such as: initiating a home-grown green revolution, especially in Africa; highlighting the crucial role agriculture need to play in the climate change

agenda; responding to the challenges, as well as opportunities, for sustainable production of bio-fuels; advancing the international water agenda in relation to agriculture; the need for a vigorous response to desertification based on a global drought index; and an ecosystem approach. She also said that the Commission delegations had placed agriculture and rural development at the heart of the sustainable development agenda: *‘by approving the policy document they had also acknowledged the notion that a paradigm shift was required to ensure lasting development for all’*. It will need dedication and leadership to implement all the decisions made, she said, adding *“Tonight, you have planted the seeds for a green revolution to become a reality”*.

Tariq Banuri, Director of the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, highlighted the need for building trust between the North and South, and said that *“sustainable development is the bridge between the North and the South”*. Mr. Banuri believed that one of the important messages from the meeting was that, although the world has enough knowledge of what works; this knowledge has not yet been translated into action. This realization underscored the need to ‘scale-up’ pilot projects to national and regional scales so as to work for the benefit of millions of people, rather than just a few thousand. It also pointed to the need for a “knowledge partnership”, which would make such experiences and information easily accessible to policy makers and practitioners. Mr. Banuri said that today information is distributed somewhat unequally: *“we need a mechanism that makes the latest knowledge more accessible so countries can act in concert on the common agenda.”*

The “Shared Vision” formed by delegations, showed that sustainable farms, food, feed, fuel, and funds were all needed for creating ‘a sustainable path to the future’. Ms. Verburg hoped that delegations would all be guided in their endeavours towards sustainable development *“by a shared vision – one of shared well-being for all people and of common stewardship of this planet which we all share and which sustains us”*.

Mr. Banuri said that, *“by bringing together heads of UN agencies and the heads of their governing boards into a policy dialogues, the Commission created a platform for exploring synergies and commonalities among different policy agendas, such as food, climate, finance or trade”*. This is, he said: *“the essence of sustainable development. To get people out of their silos, to extricate policy processes from narrow partisan logics and create an integrated vision that can move us towards the common goal of sustainable development”*.

The Commission’s eighteenth session will take place from 3-14 May 2010.

[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd17.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17.shtml)

## ***VI. ‘The Global Economic Crisis and Development – the Way Forward’***

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held its first ever public symposium (Geneva, 18-19 May), which brought some 360 UN experts, government officials and members of the public together to formulate a series of recommendations to be sent to the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (New York 1-3 June).

UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, called for a ‘Global New Deal’ which focused on *‘environmentally sustainable growth, job security and social protection to avoid unfair trading practices and to provide more long-term development lending’*, and warned that it would be a mistake to *‘go back to the same old cycle of boom and bust. We cannot make cosmetic changes. We need to think about real reforms.’*

Among the symposium recommendations was a debt moratorium for heavily indebted developing countries, so that more money would be available for stimulating their economies, and also a global programme to preserve and protect jobs in developing nations. (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=30838&Cr+financial+crisis> )

## ***VII. World Business Summit - Copenhagen May 2009***

Opening the World Business Summit on Climate Change (24-26May), the UN Secretary Ban Ki-Moon challenged the 700 business leaders from around the world to show true leadership by helping to transform the global economy into one that is *‘cleaner, greener and more sustainable’*, adding that *‘you and your colleagues have the ingenuity and vision to lead by example where others – including governments – are lagging behind’*. The Danish Minister of Climate and Energy, Connie Hedegaard, seemed to agree with the Secretary-General in her statement: *“We, the politicians of the world, have a responsibility to reach a truly global climate change agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009. But it is the business society that can deliver the tools to turn our vision into reality. Businesses can provide the clever solutions to make it possible to live in a both modern and sustainable society”*.

Ban Ki-Moon also responded to the argument, that action on climate change should be put on hold during the global recession, by saying that while a global bail-out may seem costly now, *‘it will pale next to the enormous human and economic costs of delaying action on climate change.’*

### **The Copenhagen Call**

At the end of the Business Summit the business leaders assembled called on *‘political leaders to agree an ambitious and effective global climate treaty at COP15 in Copenhagen’* and finalized the text of their statement: Copenhagen Call. The introduction to the Copenhagen Call confirms that *‘by addressing the magnitude of the climate threat with urgency, a powerful global climate change treaty would help establish a firm foundation for a sustainable economic future.’* It also says that *‘economic recovery and urgent action to tackle climate change are complementary – boosting the economy and jobs through investment in the new infrastructure needed to reduce emissions’*, and that: *“business is at its best when innovating to achieve a goal and the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions is vital to our common social, economic and environmental future.”* This will require:

1. Agreement on a science-based greenhouse gas stabilization path with 2020 and 2050 reduction targets;
2. effective measurements, reporting and verification of emissions;
3. incentives for a dramatic increase in financing low emissions technologies;

4. Deployment of existing low-emissions technologies and the development of new ones;
5. funds to make communities more resilient and able to adapt to the effects of climate change;
6. innovative means to protect forests and balance the carbon cycle.

The Copenhagen Call was presented to the Danish Prime Minister, Lars Loekke Rasmussen and Yvo de Boer, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and will subsequently be forwarded for inclusion in the last six months of negotiations before the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15), December 2009. Lars Loekke Rasmussen became Denmark's new prime minister after his predecessor, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, accepted the position as NATO Secretary-General. ( <http://www.copenhagenclimatocouncil.com> )

#### Hotels go Green for COP15 :

According to Mikal Holt, Horesta Tourism, the number of certified green hotels in Denmark has risen significantly in the past two years, and last year saw the number of hotels certified by the international Green Key rise by 17 percent. These 'green' hotels are high on the selection list for finding the some 12 000 beds for COP15 delegations.

One large hotel in Copenhagen is using the ground water to heat and cool the entire building, saving almost 90 percent of its energy consumption. Another hotel has found that, by replacing the small butter packs used by many hotels with sliced butter, it has saved waste equivalent to the Oresund Bridge between Denmark and Sweden (7,845 meters long). A rapidly increasing number of hotels also install solar panels and other renewable energy sources.

Mr Holt says that 'our goal is *'that all the green improvements that COP15 might bring along should be for the long term, as part of an overall effort to make the hotel industry more CO2 neutral'*.

### ***VIII. International Scientific Congress on Climate Change***

A few months before the Business Summit, another important meeting took place in Copenhagen, namely the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change (10-12 March). On the last day of this meeting, which attracted more than 2,500 delegates from around 80 countries, the conclusions from the 3-day deliberations were delivered to the Danish Prime Minister, who will deliver the scientists' findings directly to the heads of state as they meet in December in Copenhagen to negotiate the new treaty which will be replacing the Kyoto Protocol. The scientists' conclusions contain the following 6 key messages:

#### **Key Message 1: Climate Trends**

*Recent observations confirm that, given high rates of observed emissions, the worst-case IPCC scenario trajectories (or even worse) are being realised. For many key parameters, the climate system is already moving beyond the patterns of natural variability within which our society and economy have developed and thrived. These parameters include global mean surface temperature, sea-level rise, ocean and ice sheet dynamics, ocean acidification, and extreme climatic events. There is a significant risk*

*that many of the trends will accelerate, leading to an increasing risk of abrupt or irreversible climatic shifts.*

### **Key Message 2: Social Disruption**

*The research community is providing much more information to support discussions on „dangerous climate change.” Recent observations show that societies are highly vulnerable to even modest levels of climate change, with poor nations and communities particularly at risk. Temperature rises above 2 degree celcius will be very difficult for contemporary societies to cope with, and will increase the level of climate disruption through the rest of the century.*

### **Key Message 3: Long-Term Strategy**

*Rapid, sustained, and effective mitigation based on coordinated global and regional action is required to avoid „dangerous climate change” regardless of how it is defined. Weaker targets for 2020 increase the risk of crossing tipping points and make the task of meeting 2050 targets more difficult. Delay in initiating effective mitigation actions increases significantly the long-term social and economic costs of both adaptation and mitigation.*

### **Key Message 4: Equity Dimensions**

*Climate change is having, and will have, strongly differential effects on people within and between countries and regions, on this generation and future generations, and on human societies and the natural world. An effective, well-funded adaptation safety net is required for those people least capable of coping with climate change impacts, and a common but differentiated mitigation strategy is needed to protect the poor and most vulnerable.*

### **Key Message 5: Inaction is Inexcusable**

*There is no excuse for inaction. We already have many tools and approaches – economic, technological, behavioural, management – to deal effectively with the climate change challenge. But they must be vigorously and widely implemented to achieve the societal concerted effort to alter our energy economy now, including sustainable energy job growth, reductions in the health and economic costs of climate change, and the restoration of ecosystems and revitalisation of ecosystem service.*

### **Key Message 6: Meeting the Challenge**

To achieve the societal transformation required to meet the climate change challenge, we must overcome a number of significant constraints and seize critical opportunities. These include reducing inertia in social and economic systems; building on a growing public desire for governments to act on climate change; removing implicit and explicit subsidies; reducing the influence of vested interests that increase emissions and reduce resilience; enabling the shifts from ineffective governance and weak institutions to innovative leadership in government, the private sector and civil society; and engaging society in the transition to norms and practices that foster sustainability.

(<http://www.copenhagenclimatecouncil.com>) .

## ***IX. Constitutional Rights for Nature***

IX.

***On the 28 September 2008 the people of Ecuador voted by a majority of 64 per cent to approve the country's new Constitution, which include articles that recognize rights for nature and ecosystems.***

Article one of Chapter for Nature states that: *“Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions and its processes in evolution.*

*Every person, people, community or nationality, will be able to demand the recognitions of rights for nature before the public organisms. The application and interpretation of these rights will follow the related principles established in the Constitution.”*

The Legal Defense Fund assisted the Ecuadorian Constituent Assembly to develop and draft provisions for the new constitution to put ecosystem rights directly into the Ecuadorian Constitution. Says Thomas Linzey, Executive Director of the Community Environment Legal Defense Fund (CELDF): *“Ecuador is now the first country in the world to codify a new system of environmental protection based on rights”*. And Mari Margil, CELDF Associate Director, emphasized that *“with this vote, the people of Ecuador are leading the way for countries around the world to fundamentally change how we protect nature”*. , [Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund](#).

***“Let the mind map out and identify the territory – but let the heart decide the route and destination”***

## ***X. ‘The largest movement the world has ever seen’***

In his commencement Address to the Class of 2009, University of Portland (3 May), **Paul Hawken**, Founder of Wiser Earth and author of numerous books, including *Blessed Unrest*, spoke of the largest movement the world has ever seen, saying: *“what I see everywhere in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world”*. The world is being reconstituted, he said, and this is taking place in *‘schoolrooms, farms, jungles, villages, campuses, companies, refuge camps, deserts, fisheries, and slums.’*

No one knows how many groups and organizations are working within this movement: *“Rather than control, it seeks connection. Rather than dominance, it strives to disperse concentrations of power. Like Mercy Corps, it works behind the scenes and gets the job done. Large as it is, no one knows the true size of this movement. It provides hope, support, and meaning to billions of people in the world. It clout resides in idea, not in force. It is made up of teachers, children, peasants, businesspeople, rappers, organic farmers, nuns, artists, government workers, fisher folk, engineers, students, incorrigible writers, weeping Muslims, concerned mothers, poets, doctors without borders, grieving Christians, street musicians, the President of the United States of America, and as the writer David James Duncan would say, the Creator, the One who loves us all in such a huge way”*. <http://www.charityfocus.org/blog/view>

## *XII. 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