

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. All about relationships?

While scientists and thinkers continue to search for answers to the origin of the universe and a better understanding of the interaction of all bodies within it, the only constant seems to be perpetual change. Telescopes and microscopes tell the same story; celestial bodies, tiny particles and all lives in between, are going through similar stages of birth, relationship, decomposition and the releasing of energy, quality and substance for the forming of new creations. An incessant inner drive toward renewal is apparently one thing all life forms have in common. And yet, old scriptures and modern scientists agree that there is nothing 'new' under the Sun; that however many forms matter may take; whatever energy is involved in such creativity, the equivalence between mass and energy remains the same.

However, it is obvious that the increasing capacity of the human being to observe and study, learn from and make use of its findings has brought innumerable benefits and improvements to the human standard of living. But knowledge alone is insufficient when it comes to bringing creative and harmonious changes to relationships, or the sense of direction. Knowledge can provide a detailed map but can, without the cooperation of intuition, end up in a cul-de-sac.

So, are we getting closer to understanding the meaning and purpose of what is called Life? As the gravitational pull of materialism and separatism is peaking and imploding, we seem to reach a point in evolution where science confirms the ancient wisdom which speaks of the deep connectedness and purposeful relationship between all parts of the universe. We are catching glimpses of a revelation just above the horizon of comprehension.

Some scientists are coming to the conclusion that the universe cannot be fully understood merely by peering into deep space and inspecting galaxies. "It lies deeper", says Robert Lanza, "it involves our very selves". Somewhat reluctantly an increasing number of scientists are agreeing that consciousness could be 'the matrix upon which the cosmos is apprehended'. Esoteric teaching stresses that evolution as understood and studied by human intellect 'is the story of the evolution of consciousness and not the evolution of form'; that consciousness is in reality the action or the response of active intelligence to a blueprint which already exists.

As humanity strives to understand the universe and becomes increasingly aware of the intricate and interactive relationship between all its parts, we are, it seems, simultaneously building it in accordance with an existing plan and with material already imbued with quality. And in the process the human being is evolving and discovering its own true being and possible place within the overall scheme of things. Through constant interaction between the two opposite poles of matter; positive and negative; light and dark; father and mother, emerges the child. The seed thought. Within the womb of space the child grows, becoming a thinker and a builder, building bridges of relationships.

Humanity has overcome the gravitational pull of the Earth to soar into space in search of life on other planets. Will we likewise light the fire of the rocket which can blast us free of the pull of materialism and separatism and discover the origin of consciousness within the sphere we have named the universe?

As we build, re-build, the bridge between the ageless Wisdom Teaching and Science, the door will open in our minds and hearts to the Life, to the Truth, we seek.

II. Dialogue in Nigeria: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future

The documentary entitled: “Dialogue in Nigeria: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future” was created by Libby and Len Traubman and follows 200 young Nigerians in the 2010 International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Communication.

At the very heart of this Dialogue lies the question posed by Ikenna Ezeibe, a participant in this dialogue in Jos, central Nigeria, when she asks:

“how can we have peace if we don’t build relationships?”

Abandoning the attitude of being, or seeing, an ‘enemy’, and crossing the lines of religion, economics, tribe, and gender, they listened to one another and discovered mutual empathy.

The Nigerian coordinators had invited facilitators from the Jewish-Palestinian ‘Living Room Dialogue’ (in California), whose deep, insightful and time-tested experiences in best-practices tools guided the proceedings to a successful conclusion. Describing themselves as ‘two practical people – garden-variety – citizens’ with some decades of service as volunteer facilitators behind them, they travelled from California to Nigeria to assist.

The closing message of the 2012 film covering this passage toward peaceful relationships confirmed their experience-based faith that ***“the soul’s oldest memory is of union, and the soul’s deepest longing is for re-union”***.

“We need stories to re-direct history” says educator Elie Wiesel, and elaborates: “change requires 1) doing it, and 2) telling the story of our human successes”. This is the reason behind offering DVD copies of the Dialogue in Nigeria for free to any ‘bridge-builder on Earth’ who will use it. So far requests have been coming from 46 nations.

To request a free DVD send full contact information as well as the intended use of the Dialogue to: LTraubman@igc.org or Dialogue, 1448 Cedarwood Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403, USA.

For further information see website: <http://www.insightonconflict.org/contact>

III. 2013 – The International Year of Quinoa

The initial proposal for the International Year of the Quinoa (IYQ) by the government of Bolivia was supported by the governments of other countries such as Argentina, Ecuador, Georgia, Peru and Uruguay before it was also given the support of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and subsequently approved by the UN General Assembly in December 2011. The assembly took note of *‘the exceptional nutritional qualities of quinoa, its adaptability to different agro-ecological floors and its potential contribution in the fight against hunger and malnutrition’*.

The nutritional value of this small seed has been providing a vital food source for the Andean indigenous peoples who have preserved and protected the grain for present and future generations. As part of the IQY experts within the areas of food security, agriculture and nutrition will aspire to cooperate with traditional growers and also protect their livelihoods while making sure they can keep up with rising demands in a world struggling to provide food for an increasing world population.

There are about 1,800 different types of Quinoa which, because of its resilience, can be grown under a wide variety of conditions and circumstances.

The vision for the year is that Quinoa will become *‘recognized and accepted around the world as a natural food resource with high nutritive value of Andean origin becoming a high quality food for health and food security, for present and future generations.’* (www.un.org)

IV. THE STATE OF THE WORLD’S REFUGEES: In Search of Solidarity

At the launch (New York 31 May) of the “The State of the World’s Refugees: In Search of Solidarity”, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Antonio Guterres, said that *“the world is creating displacement faster than it is producing solutions”*, and that the *“displacement from conflict was becoming compounded by a combination of causes, including climate change, population growth, urbanization, food insecurity, water scarcity and resource competition”*.

The report gives a bleak picture of the state of the world’s refugees; since UNHCR’s 2006 report the displacement challenges have become larger and more complex; the threats to the safety of humanitarian workers have increased, and states will need to strengthen their cooperation.

Guterres points out that while the need for humanitarian help has been rising dramatically ‘the space for humanitarian intervention is shrinking’. As the pressures on the international protection system are growing, the ‘fortress mentalities’, particularly in some industrialized countries tend to be shifting the responsibility and compassion elsewhere: *“in a world where societies are becoming multi-cultural and multi ethnic, it is essential to promote the values of tolerance and to fight the manifestation of xenophobia”*.

The report points out that eighty per cent of today’s refugees live in the developing world and calls on greater international solidarity to deal with this challenge:

“a new deal in burden responsibility sharing is needed in the whole cycle of refugee protection from prevention of conflict to solutions”.

(<http://www.unhcr.org/>)

V. The DAFI Scholarship

Since 1992 an annual Scholarship, the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), funded by the German government, has been supporting the broader UNHCR strategy of promoting self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees through supporting tertiary education for refugees worldwide. The initiative grants scholarships to refugees at universities, colleges and polytechnics in their host countries.

UNCHR’s main objective is to

- **achieve self-reliance**, by providing higher education that will lead to gainful employment;
- **develop qualified human resources**, among the displaced population and build the capacity and leadership of individual refugees for when they return home;

- **support the refugee community**, in camps as qualified professionals, including teachers and community workers, until a durable solution is found;
- **facilitate integration** and contribute skills and qualified human resources to the host country if repatriation is not desired or not possible; and serve as a
- **role model**, for other refugees to further their education, particularly female students.

.....

A Scholarship recipient from Somalia, Khadra Abdullah Mohammed, says: “*if I talk about my time in Yemen, I think of education, I believe education is like oxygen; it is everything*”.

Since graduating, Khadra has been ‘*working as a midwife and helping some of the most needy and vulnerable women in remote areas of Imran and Lahj governorates, which are two of the most deprived regions in Yemen*’.

VI. COMPETENCIES FOR A NEW WORLD

Article by Kaye Avery

(This article appeared in the New Zealand Herald, January 2012, and is re-printed here with Kaye’s kind permission)

The nature of work will have changed forever within the next 10 years according to many researchers and commentators. Our world is changing dramatically as aging and expanding (and contracting) populations and consumerism put major stresses on our ecosystems. The current system of economics with growth as its aim is at threat, and money, which has become central to survival, may soon be in question as the key driver of change.

Big global challenges that call for a whole new way of thinking about what work is and why we do it are here. How to manage life itself in ways that are restorative and more meaningful will become an important question when constant and rapid change becomes the new ‘normal’.

By the time this article is published I will have read Sir Richard Branson’s book “Screw Business as Usual”. I’m looking forward to discovering his views on turning business as we know it upside down to address the issues we are facing. Branson terms this new approach to economics as “Capitalism 24902”, in that “every single business person has the responsibility for taking care of the people and the planet that make up our global village, all 24902 circumferential miles of it.”

Excerpts from Branson’s book suggest that such transformative change, implies that ‘work’ will not be the same as we know it by 2020. In fact, the Future of Work Foundation (based in Australia) proposes that we may be forced to re-configure work to be a “desirable activity in its own right”. They believe that a shift in the way we use and value money and address the increasingly critical needs of our planet will have to happen.

Future Work Skills 2020, a paper published by the Institute for the Future for the University of Phoenix Research Institute (2010) reckons there are six drivers of change. These are, *extreme longevity* (people are living longer); *the rise of smart machines and systems* (taking away repetitive tasks); *a computerised world* (new communication tools); *super-structured organisations* (social technologies and new forms of value creation); and *a globally connected world* (placing flexibility and diversity central to operations).

Here in New Zealand we have a revolution happening in the business, creative, social and environmental sectors; entrepreneurs who are driven by values more than money. They are engaging in new ways of working, using technology and more flexible and collaborative

practices. Co-working hubs are sprouting up all over the place where entrepreneurs are clustering to collaborate and share resources and knowledge.

Corporates are promoting collaborative multi-disciplinary teams, and service industries are sharing systems of knowledge and expertise involving multi-disciplined practices to offer integrated services.

The old structures of siloed, hierarchical organisations are almost gone; we have leaner, more agile businesses that through technological advances are reducing their need for bricks and mortar. Employees want flexibility and now, with remote access, can work from anywhere. People want more autonomy, more variety and greater lifestyle balance.

Collaborative enterprises offer people lifestyle choices and connection with like-minded people. An example of such collaboration is the Enspiral group of entrepreneurs <http://www.enspiral.com/>. Enspiral is a collaboration of highly talented and multi-disciplined people who work on their own projects within an agreed framework of trust, clear values and business support. Their talented entrepreneurs (41 people, in 12 cities, in 6 countries) operate web design and e-commerce projects; have practices in law and engineering involving product prototyping and production co-ordination.

At Enspiral they “work for love – not just money”. In this group, Sir Paul Callahan’s dream of “New Zealand being a place where talent wants to live” is manifest. Contributors are essentially their own business managers who set their own work timeframes and pay. The collective has vast networks and supports contributors by linking them with the “world class” talent they need who are also committed to working purposefully. Their point of difference: “Changing the world is Enspiral’s passion”.

Sam Rye, one of Enspiral’s entrepreneurs, believes that “extrinsic inducements such as money are in fact, de-motivating for anything beyond the most simplistic of tasks. Whereas when intrinsic values are nurtured through autonomy, mastery & purpose – motivation skyrockets”.

Our collective motivations are changing. I believe that purposeful working activities involving collaboration, entrepreneurship and making a difference will be key motivators underpinning our work activities into the future.

The potential for the creation of new opportunities for people to get involved with is huge. Evident already is a phenomenal interest and growth in green jobs sprouting many new businesses. Local initiatives in sustainable communities and horticulture, aging support, health and well-being will become more and more evident.

Academia and research institutes are bringing science and business together too, nurturing new startups that bring huge potential to solving real-life problems in new and better ways. Services in health, education and community development are finding better ways to build greater levels of collaboration in order to more effectively address the need to do more, with less.

Many of the standard careers such as in medicine, law, education, business, community services etc. will remain, however the rate of change and the greater need for restoring communities and the environment with less, will require somewhat different competencies. These are:

Social Intelligence

The ability to work collaboratively, respond and communicate with understanding and engage constructively with a wide audience through social media. With high levels of transparency in our interconnected world we need to manage our personal brand with integrity.

Embracing diversity

People will work longer in order to afford a retirement. Migration patterns will increase to fill resourcing gaps. It is predicted that only 36% of Auckland's population will be European by 2050. Valuing what diversity brings will be essential.

Critical thinking and knowledge management

Constant new problems to solve in ways that are different to how they have been solved before will require strong skills in abstract reasoning and innovative thinking. Free access to information will present a greater need to be discerning about what is truth and right for the world we live in.

Ethical entrepreneurship

Populations are becoming more discerning. Businesses without an ethical foundation are being exposed. With transparency and the need for greater corporate responsibility, business and personal accountability will become a major driver.

Self-management and composure

Mindfulness and composure in the midst of chaos are skills we will want to develop. Personal wellbeing, connecting with others and nature, and valuing time away from technology to remain grounded, will help us to mitigate burnout and build resilience.

When the likes of Richard Branson offer an optimistic vision for the future we need to pay attention. There may be difficult times ahead but there will be increased opportunities to make a difference and create new ways of doing things too.

If the money system implodes there will be no choice but to learn the value of consuming less. People are already, demanding accountability and answers to the 'real' issues, and will want to be involved in the changes. There will be plenty of good work to be done.

Kaye Avery, Career coach, mentor and group facilitator, (www.career-coach.co.nz)

VII. PEACEBUILDING: The New American Agenda Washington 22-24 July

Sub-titled: "**Violence is Costly. Peace Makes Sense**", the US Peace Alliance poster invites US citizens to join them in Washington in July this year for a celebration of connectedness and to: walk 'the Halls of Congress'; listen to and meet with other like-minded peace advocates, and to make their own voices heard.

The main theme suggested for the overall event is: "***Shifting our Worldview: from Punitive to Preventive and Restorative; from War-making to Peacebuilding – Forging a new Peace Economy***".

Phil Donahue will be attending this event and be available to speak and participate in a discussion following the screening of the recent documentary "Body of War" which he co-directed with Ellen Spiro. (<http://www.thepeacealliance.org/>)

The Peace Alliance Educational Institute is a network of organisers and advocates throughout the United States which includes volunteer grassroots teams in hundreds of cities, towns, colleges and high school campuses.

The core aim of the Peace Alliance is to empower *‘civic engagement toward a culture of peace’*. The Strategic Plan for the coming years includes focus on: “Legislative Advocacy, Community Peacebuilding, Mainstreaming Peacebuilding in the Media, Build and Empower the Grassroots Network, and Financial Sustainability.” Further details (http://www.thepeacealliance.org/documents/tpa/Strat_Plan_Summary.pdf)

The Peace Alliance welcomes your information, thoughts and cooperation.

P.O. Box 27601, Washington, DC 20038 | Phone: 202-684-2553 | Fax: 202-204-5712
info@thepeacealliance.org

VIII. MARY ROBINSON FOUNDATION – CLIMATE JUSTICE

The Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice (MRF CJ) is described as:
‘a centre for thought leadership, education and advocacy on the struggle to secure global justice for those many victims of climate change who are usually forgotten – the poor, the disempowered and the marginalised across the world’.

It is furthermore:
‘a platform for solidarity, partnership and shared engagement for all who care about global justice, whether as individuals and communities suffering injustice or as advocates for fairness in resource-rich societies.’

A set of principles of Climate Justice has been shared, discussed and developed and subsequently adopted by the MRF CJ Board, which contains a mutual understanding of Climate Justice key principles that will guide the Foundation activities. These are to:

- ! Respect and Protect Human Rights
- ! Support the Right to Development
- ! Share Benefits and Burdens Equitably
- ! Ensure that Decisions on Climate change are Participatory, Transparent and Accountable
- ! Highlight Gender Equality and Equity
- ! Harness the Transformative Power of Education for Climate Stewardship
- ! Use Effective Partnerships to Secure Climate Justice

The ‘MRF CJ 2011-2014’ contains a four-year Business Plan, based on the Foundation’s vision and mission and also the context and environment within which the Foundation operates. MRF CJ 2011-2014 *‘dedicates itself to action which will be informed by the principles of climate justice which are rooted in the frameworks of sustainable development and international and regional human rights law’.*

Through partnership it *‘will seek to make the voices of the vulnerable heard, have their viewpoints taken into consideration and their energy, talent and commitment mobilised’.*

Website: <http://www.mrfcj.org/about> e-mail: info@mrfcj.org

IX. “We are so close ... and yet so far!”

The Secretary-General of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Mr Sha Zukang, uttered the above words with – I imagine – an inaudible sigh, in his closing remarks (2 June) at the last round of the informal negotiations before the Conference. He also shared his cautious optimism, saying: *“I have listened to both the plenary discussions and many of the informal splinter group discussions. I sense a real dialogue; a real willingness to find common ground”*. We must, he added, carry it to Rio.

Sha Zukang outlined some ‘key deliverables’ which would be identified as tangible conference results by people in the world at large and positively impact on their lives and livelihoods in the future:

- define sustainable development goals as a central feature of a post-2015 development framework – and the priority areas for possible goals
- share experiences and knowledge of green economy policy options as tools for advancing sustainable development and poverty eradication – and strengthening international cooperation and collaboration in this regard
- make decisions on key elements for the institutional framework for sustainable development - and support a high-level intergovernmental body on sustainable development with universal membership
- continue the progress of establishing strong, action-oriented outcomes in the sectoral and cross-sectoral areas in the Framework for Action (such as food security and sustainable agriculture, energy, oceans, gender equality and education)
- ensure that the Framework for Action does not remain a mere paper pronouncement
- encourage strong engagement of civil society and the private sector which is crucial to implementing the Framework for Action and further strengthen corporate sustainability reporting and accountability.

We, the whole world, need government commitment to action and also the voluntary commitments from all stakeholders, said Sha Zukang, and reminded the meeting of the **“registry of commitments”** opened on the Rio+20 website. Expressing his hope that ‘all stakeholders will utilize the format posted on the Rio+20 website’ Sha Zukang once again urged ***“Time is precious. We have little of it left to ensure we deliver”***.

[\(<http://www.uncsd2012.org/secretariat.html>\)](http://www.uncsd2012.org/secretariat.html)

[\(\(<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/voluntarycommitments.html>\)\)](http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/voluntarycommitments.html)

X. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 2012 ***Theme: “Green Economy: Does it Include You”?***

Twenty years prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio 1992), the UN General Assembly designated 5 June as the World Environment Day; the opening date of the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm 1972. One outcome of the Stockholm Conference was the formation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNEP has defined *Green Economy* as an economy which will improve human well-being and social equity while also reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It will be *‘low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive’*.

XI. “WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Opportunities for Decent Work and Social Inclusion in a Green Economy”

This study paper, entitled “Working towards Sustainable Development: Opportunities for Decent Work and social Inclusion in a Green Economy”, was released 31 May by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and published about four years after the first study paper by the Green Jobs Initiative*. It provides an assessment of the employment and income implications of a move to a green economy within different sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, manufacturing, recycling, building and transportation.

The ILO Director-General, Juan Somavia, said that environmental sustainability is not the job killer it has sometimes been accused of being: “*on the contrary, if properly managed, it can lead to more and better jobs, poverty reduction and social inclusion*”. According to this new report the transformation to a greener economy could generate 15 to 60 million additional jobs globally over the next two decades and lift tens of millions of workers out of poverty. However such gains will depend on whether the right set of policies are put in place.

The report’s concluding message to the world could be said to be that: “*sustainable development with social inclusion and a transition to a greener economy is indispensable, but the time frame is short.*” The report contains a wealth of policy lessons, good practices and information on successful programmes. It argues that “*the earlier the transition to sustainable development and to a greener economy start, the more this transition can be managed, to avoid the economic and social cost of disruptive change, and to seize the opportunities for economic and social development*”. (<http://www.unep.org/wed/theme/> <http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>)

* **The Green Jobs Initiative** is a partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Congress (ITUC)

XII. Green Jobs Community of Practice (CoP)

The Green Jobs Community of Practice is described as providing a: “*platform for workforce professionals and green job thought leaders to discuss and share promising practices to create partnerships for Green Job Workforce Solutions and leverage Recovery Act Investments*”.

It serves as a community for all ‘federal agency workforce professionals who focus on green jobs and the workforce’s role in building a green economy.’
<https://greenjobs.workforce3one.org/page/home>

XIII. PUSH4PEACE

PUSH4PEACE’s vision is:

- to unify and amplify the efforts of peace organisations and initiatives worldwide

- to reach one billion people to raise awareness of how today's peace movement shows up
- to promote the United Nations International Day of Peace as the world's largest peace coordinating platform.

PUSH4PEACE'S 90-day initiative will be launched on 21 September 2012, the United Nation's International Day of Peace, followed, on 22 September, by the **EarthDance** International's globally synchronised event, and culminate in a global celebration on 22 December.

As in previous years people around the world will observe a moment of silence at 12 Noon local time, thus encircling the earth with an invocation of peace and goodwill between all peoples and in all relationships.

This year the Mayors of Hiroshima and Montreal have jointly asked that all 5,238 Mayors for Peace member cities participate in the 12 Noon Moment of Silence.

Take The Pledge:

Push4Peace is inviting people throughout the world to make a pledge to actively participate in the push for peace during 2012 through initiating local activities which will promote a culture of peace and non-violence and register the pledge on the Push4Peace website:

www.push4peace.org

XIV. HIROSHIMA PEACE LANTERNS

In a letter to 'Friends at Peaceful Tomorrows', the International Director of Hiroshima YMCA, Steve Kolak, invites children of local communities everywhere to participate in the Hiroshima Lantern Floating Ceremony on Hiroshima Day on 6th August.

It would be wonderful, says Steve Kolak, if children from around the world would make peace lanterns carrying their personal messages and visions of a peaceful world and send them to Hiroshima so they can float side by side on the river at the special Lantern Floating Ceremony in the Hiroshima Peace Park. I hope, he adds, that "the bond between the children of your community and our children here at the Hiroshima YMCA will continue to deepen and be felt through this international peace programme".

For simple instructions on making the lanterns and further details e-mail:

steve@hiroshimaymca.org

The lanterns will need to be in the hands of the organisers at the latest by 5 August:

Hiroshima YMCA, Global Community Centre (Peace Lanterns), 7-11 Hatchobori, Nakaku, Hiroshima 730-8523, Japan

XV. The UN Conference on Trade and Development Thirteenth Ministerial Meeting, Doha 21-26 April 2012

The UN Conference on Trade and Development's 13th ministerial meeting (UNCTAD XIII) in Doha, Qatar, resulted in two documents; the Doha Mandate and the Doha Manar, which outline agreements on policy analyses and key priorities for the work ahead in line with the meeting's

overall theme: *“development-centred globalisation: towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development”*.

The Doha Mandate (<http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/>) says that development strategies should be inclusive and designed to meet human needs: *“people have similar needs and aspirations, including freedom, human rights, in particular the right to development, decent work and all aspects of affordable health care and good governance at all levels”*. Through consensus-building, policy-oriented analysis and technical cooperation UNCTAD, will contribute to *‘the global efforts to transition towards a green economy; continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective; and continue to support the specific needs of least developed countries, small island developing States, middle-income countries and those with economies in transition’*.

The Doha Mandate insists that *“for trade to serve as an engine of inclusive growth and development, the multilateral trading system must remain open, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory and rules-based”*. (For full text see http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/td500_Add_1en.pdf)

The Doha Manar* is the political declaration, expressing support for UNCTAD’s commitment to promote inclusive development through commerce and structural change over the next four years. Acknowledging the economic significance of the recent ‘revolutionary protests’ throughout the world the Doha Manar comments: *“The winds of change blowing in many parts of the world today attest to the desire of populations for responsive policies that foster participatory and inclusive approaches to development towards achieving prosperity for all”*.

In the declaration the UNCTAD member states also reiterate their *‘commitment to continue to engage in the efforts of our parent body, the United Nations General Assembly, to enhance the development work of the United Nations system’*.

The incoming UNCTAD President, Hamad bin Abudlaziz (Qatar), hoped that the outcome of the meeting would contribute to fulfilling the aspirations of peoples around the world, saying that *‘when the spirit is willing, and when there is will to act, nothing is impossible’*. (<http://unctad.org/meetings>)

* A manar is a source of strong, shining light that can easily be recognized from a distance and that helps to guide travellers, whether their means of travel is by sea or land.

The word “manar” is also used to identify persons or institutions that disseminate knowledge and enlightenment to others. The word, no matter where it is used or how it is used, refers to guidance and direction.

XVI. THE BREAD TANK PROJECT ***World Future Council***

A full-scale tank, its sidewalls, wheels, chains and five meter long canon made of bread, and with a garden plus an olive tree inside, will be displayed at the Rio+20 Summit between 20-22 June. People will be invited to have a piece of the bread and as the shape of the tank slowly disappears the garden will come into view.

This creation came into being in partnership with the International Peace Bureau, the International Networks of Engineers and the Scientists for Global Responsibility, with the aim of demonstrating the need for us all to reconsider our priorities.

The primary aim of this unique sculpture is to highlight the need to redirect some of the seemingly unlimited financial resources available for military developments toward eradicating hunger and extreme poverty.

The Appeal calls for the reduction of military spending (US\$1.7 trillion p.a.) by an annual 10 per cent towards the funding of sustainable development initiatives to fight hunger and extreme poverty, improve food and water security, and to provide good education, healthcare and ecological conditions.

The **World Future Council** is a registered as a charitable foundation in Hamburg, Germany. The Council is committed to bring *‘the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making’*. It addresses *‘challenges to our common future and provides decision-makers with effective policy solutions.* <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/> ; e-mail: holger.guessefeld@worldfuturecouncil.org

“For the sake of our planet, a conversation that needs to be heard is the one between generations, between elders and young people around the world - and those who are in between.” - Desmond Tutu

XVII. High-level Meeting on “Happiness and Well Being: Defining a New Economic Paradigm”

This high-level meeting, held at the UN Headquarters, New York, 2nd April, was convened by the Royal Government of Bhutan in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution “Happiness: Towards a more holistic approach to development” (GA/65/L.86 and addendum A/65/L.86/add.1). This resolution, initiated by Bhutan, co-sponsored by 68 countries, and adopted by consensus 19 July 2011, recognises that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by its very nature does not reflect that goal, and asks that UN Member States be invited *“to pursue the elaboration of additional measures that better capture the importance of the pursuit of happiness and well-being in development with a view to guiding their public policies .”*

The Royal Government of Bhutan’s aim for the meeting was for it to become an ambitious, inclusive, dynamic and cooperative exercise, and concentrate on developing visionary, action-oriented outcomes. More than 700 people attended the meeting, including high-level government officials, representatives of all UN member states, international organisations, as well as leading economists, scientists, spiritual and faith leaders, business leaders, media and civil society experts.

The Inaugural Session was chaired by Helen Clark, UN Development Programme Administrator, with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivering the Inaugural address, followed by remarks by the UN General Assembly President, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nassar, High-level representatives of governments from around the world and key-note address by Laura Chinchilla, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

The four ‘Dimensions of the New Economy’ discussed by 20 panellists were defined as:

1. Happiness and Wellbeing
2. Ecological Sustainability
3. Efficient allocation of resources, and
4. Fair distribution

After a working lunch, in which all 700 participants could join the panellist group of their choice, the panel deliberations continued, focussing on gathering the views from the morning sessions and explore what interventions could help connect the themes, concluding with prayers by spiritual leaders of Hindu, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist faiths.

Some 200 participants gathered on the following day in four working groups (Experts and Scholars; Communications; Planning; Civil Society and Spiritual Leaders) for further discussions on implementation. These deliberations continued on the 4 April with all four groups offering their contributions in joint plenary sessions, chaired by the Prime Minister of Bhutan. As a result a clear and coherent implementation plan was outlined containing recommendations on:

1. *creating an expert commission to elaborate the details of the new economy;*
2. *bringing policy ideas on the new economy to the attention of governments;*
3. *building a global movement;*
4. *connecting with the faith and spiritual communities;*
5. *presenting the new economic paradigm at key events over the next 18 months;*
6. *a communications strategy.*

As this extraordinary meeting of minds and hearts under the auspices of the United Nations came to an end, the Prime Minister of Bhutan shared his feeling of being awed and humbled as well as inspired by the response.

“A great beginning has been made”, said the Prime Minister, now *“it is the end that we must strive for”*.

(<http://www.2apr.gov.bt/>)

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“Just think! Each of us carries within himself the One Fire, immutable throughout the entire Universe.

*No one cares to imagine that the universal treasure is within...
But the fire of the heart alone unites through its magnet all world structures.”
(from Fiery World 1933)*

XVIII. 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.