

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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Many subscribe’ in the subject line.

I. “We the peoples of the United Nations...”

These words, the very first words of the United Nations Charter, have since 1945 onwards been quoted and used on countless occasions with varying degrees of sincerity and depth. The words slip so easily over our lips and touch our heartstrings, perhaps for a moment or two, on special occasions.

Even so, they have been inspiring people from all countries and ethnicities to come together in ever increasing numbers to give meaning and substance to the vision that sustained past generations, as they fought and won, at great cost, the war against the supremacy of a totalitarian might. Since WWII, people from all UN member nations have come together to contribute their skills and expertise, thoughts and life experiences to help formulate a multitude of guidelines, resolutions and modes of action, which can help us create the: *‘conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained’*, so as to *‘promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom’*. (from UN Charter)

Unlike the times of WWII, most people today receive almost instant news about the state of affairs around the world. We see the mindless acts of violence and destruction and the deterioration of the natural environment on which all life depends. We can, however, also watch the building of ever closer and more effective networks of cooperation, through which peoples across all boundaries are uniting in a joint resolve to find ways of giving immediate aid to people in need, while also creating strategies toward long-time solutions which will result in a better future for all. Each conflict situation is deepening the resolve and commitment to find ways and means of realising the vision we hold.

And today, the values, the behaviour and mindset which causes war and so much suffering to both people and planet, stand revealed in the glaring light of an increasingly interconnected world community; the demarcation line between two opposing sets of values clear for all to see - as are those who still stand on this line, undecided.

Through the years the contours of an interconnected whole have slowly been emerging; a vehicle is forming within which an increasingly reliable circulatory and nervous system can feel and assess the conditions within every part of the whole and the needs can be met with increasing understanding, skill and respect.

However, a few more deep breaths of firm resolve will be needed before this vehicle that we, the peoples, have committed to create, will be capable of saving *‘succeeding generations from the scourge of war’*; more active, practical and wise expressions of understanding and tolerance shall need to become common practice before we, all of us, will be living together *in peace with one another as good neighbours* and can effectively *‘unite our strength to maintain international peace and security’*.

Dag Hammarskjöld says in “Markings”: *‘You wake from dreams of doom and – for a moment – you know: beyond all the noise and the gestures, the only real thing, love’s calm unwavering flame in the half-light of an early dawn’*

It is, I truly believe, with the calm unwavering flame of love sustained and nurtured in the heart of humanity that we shall stand, prepared to welcome the dawn of a new day.

II. World Humanitarian Summit **A turning point for humanitarian action**

This, the first World Humanitarian Summit, took place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23-24 May this year and brought together some 9000 participants from 173 Member Nations and States. Apart from 55 Heads of State and Government and several hundred representatives from the private sector, the remaining thousands of people attending were members of civil society and non-governmental organisations.

In his ‘Summary’ the UN Secretary-General said that ‘*In its 70 years, the United Nations has never come together at this scale, with this many different stakeholders, to discuss the pressing challenges that are resulting in so much suffering today*’. Before the Summit the UN Secretary-General had outlined 5 areas for collective action:

1. ***Political Leadership to prevent and end conflict:*** at the Summit political leaders agreed that: ‘*humanitarian action cannot be a substitute for political action*’. Leaders acknowledged that words and good intentions had to be replaced with united leadership, collective and decisive action and a genuine commitment to comply with the international frameworks that countries had agreed on, such as: ‘preventive diplomacy, sustainable development, climate change action, human rights and investments in inclusive societies.’

It was also agreed that greater attention must be focused on addressing root causes of conflict; more political leadership was required for ‘greater attention to address root causes of conflict and ‘to reduce fragility by greater investment in inclusive and peaceful societies. For this to eventuate ‘*an approach that truly engaged communities, civil society and youth*’ was needed, which also would ensure ‘*the equal participation of women in leadership roles and peacebuilding processes*’.

2. ***Uphold the Norms that safeguard humanity:*** The UN Secretary-General stresses in his Summary that enhancing the protection of civilians in armed conflict was ‘*at the very heart of the Summit*’. This statement was underscored by State, civil society, faith-based organisations and humanitarian leaders who repeatedly pointed to the fact that international humanitarian and human rights law are more relevant than ever before: ‘*They are the last protection against barbarity*’. Many leaders agreed to actively to support and uphold international humanitarian law and human rights law ‘*even when others erode them*’.

3. ***Leave no one behind:*** At the Summit world leaders and people from all segments of society demonstrated a firm resolve to ‘*reach the furthest behind*’, including the more than 60 million displaced people, and called for an ‘international mechanism and legal framework for the protection of people displaced by the adverse impacts of climate change’.

A widespread call from participants for gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s rights ‘*to become pillars of humanitarian action*’, led to the commitment to increase the opportunities for women and girls to take on roles as leaders and decision makers.

A new approach to address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees was also sought, through which ‘immediate needs and longer-term development outcomes’ could enhance the self-reliance of refugees, IDPs as well as host communities.

The forthcoming **UN General Assembly High Level Meeting** on 19 September this year, entitled 'Addressing Large Movements of Refugees' is seen as a critical opportunity for further deliberations. * (see further details below)

4. ***Change People's Lives: from delivering aid to ending need:*** Recognising that '*humanitarian need can no longer be viewed in isolation*', global leaders at the summit agreed that '*we must commit to a new way of working that not only meets people's needs but reduces them by reducing people's risks and vulnerabilities*', and that Summit commitments must 'give impetus to the new way of working put forward in the "Agenda for Humanity".
<https://consultations2.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/5a7c81df22c7e91c35d456a1574aa6881bb044e4?vid=569102&disposition=inline&op=view>

Throughout the summit participants highlighted the need to recognise that people affected by crises needed not only to be informed and consulted but also to be put at the centre of the decision-making processes: "*People affected by crisis should be treated as partners, not beneficiaries.*"

Among the hundreds of commitments made at the Summit was the 'Education Cannot Wait – a Fund for Education in Emergencies', launched in support of delivering '*quality education to all children in emergencies and protracted crises by 2030.*' An initial commitment of \$90 million was made by donors and the private sector with more commitments expected, and the Global Business Coalition for Education announcing its intent to mobilize \$100 million toward this fund.

The first-ever Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and a Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action were also among the many commitments launched at the Summit.
<https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/summit/specialsessions>

5. ***Invest in Humanity:*** With general agreement at the Summit that all these commitments made to realising the five core responsibilities could only be achieved through sustained political and financial resources. It was also acknowledged that financing would need to be able to support the new, agreed, way of working, as well as to increase '*direct, timely and predictable humanitarian financing*'.
<https://consultations2.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/5171492e71696bcf9d4c571c93dfc6ded7f361ee?vid=581078&disposition=inline&op=view>

The World Humanitarian Summit is indeed a wake-up call to us, the peoples of the world. Each and every one of us! And as the Summit Report states: '*We owe it to all people affected by crises, and we owe it to ourselves in the name of our common humanity and our share responsibility... to turn the Agenda for Humanity into an instrument of global transformation*'.

During the summit nearly 3 000 individual and collective commitments were made in support of the five core areas outlined in this Summit Agenda. Among some of the Summit major achievements the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon mentioned among others:

The 'Grand Bargain' was created by a handful of the world's biggest donors to help give '*the rhetoric around the World Humanitarian Summit some teeth*'. The Grand Bargain donors will commit to '*more flexible, multi-year funding with less burdensome*

reporting requirements, in exchange for major agencies committing to greater transparency...’

<http://blog.worldhumanitariansummit.org/entries/how-grand-is-the-grand-bargain/>

Charter4Change is an initiative, led by National as well and International NGOs to ‘practically implement changes to the way the Humanitarian System operates to enable more locally-led response’. More information on Charter4Change can be obtained at <https://charter4change.org/>, and

The Global Preparedness Partnership: This initiative was launched at the Summit by the Vulnerable 20 Group of Ministers of Finance representing 43 high risk developing nations. The group (V20) is working in close cooperation with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). <http://www.v-20.org/groundbreaking-new-preparedness-partnership-launch/>

Among a large number of side events was also a Roundtable discussion entitled: **‘Women and Girls: Catalyzing Action to Achieve Gender Equality’**.

In her closing remarks at this roundtable, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, highlighted some of the positive outcome from the Summit, mentioning the pledges by UNHCR to ensure the equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in all decision making processes in forced displacement contexts. This, she said, will entrench the idea of *‘nothing about us without us’*!

She also mentioned the important issue of ‘increased resources’, a subject very high on the priority list of UN Women, which leads the efforts to ensure that, by 2020, at least 15 per cent of funding for humanitarian action will be devoted to interventions targeting gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment’.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/5/ed-speech-at-whs-roundtable>

The UN Secretary-General acknowledged the ‘dynamic presence’ of civil society and the need for a firm commitment from all, peoples and governments alike, to build on the momentum generated, and concluded:

“The World Humanitarian Summit was not an end point, but a turning point”

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1427179/humanitarian-action

* *On the 19 September the United Nations General Assembly will be hosting a high-level meeting to help bringing ‘countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach’ to the large movements of refugees and migrants.*

Karen AbuZayd has been appointed as Special Adviser. Leading up to this Summit she will be working with United Nations entities and undertake consultations with UN Member States and others. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sga1623.doc.htm>

III. Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum) for the Sustainable Development Goals

This, the first annual STI Forum for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), took place at UN Headquarter in New York on 6 and 7 June, convened by the President of the UN Economic and Social Council, His Excellency Oh Joon.

The aim will be to provide a venue for facilitating: “interaction, matchmaking and the establishment of networks between relevant stakeholders and multi-stakeholder

partnerships in order to identify and examine technology needs and gaps, including with regard to scientific cooperation, innovation and capacity-building.” It will also help ‘facilitate development, transfer and dissemination of relevant technologies for the sustainable development goals’.

Here representatives of UN Member States, Major Groups and other stakeholders and participants listened to presentations from panelists and took active part in the discussion focused around four main topics:

- ! *Creating shared value: How do we make it work?*
- ! *Ministerial Dialogue: Towards a roadmap of effective science, technology and innovation policy frameworks;*
- ! *The Experience of Youth in using Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development, and*
- ! *The Way Forward: Adding Value through the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum*

There was general agreement that the greatest challenge ahead would be to link science, technology and innovation with the progress in sustainable development ‘at the ground level’. It was however also recognised that ‘*progress in science, technology and innovation will be key to delivering on all the SDGs – from poverty eradication to agriculture and food security, to energy, to water and sanitation, and climate change*’.

<http://stisolutions4sdgs.globalinnovationexchange.org/un-forum-sti-about>
<http://www.iisd.ca/sdgs/sti/forum1/>

IV. A Draft Framework for Understanding SDG Interactions

The above is the title to the *International Council for Science’s (ICS’s)* new draft framework for understanding SDG interactions, co-authored by Maans Nilsson, Dave Griggs, Martin Visbeck and Claudia Ringler.

This publication aims to assist in meeting and overcoming the difficulties and challenges of analysing and understanding the interactions between the different Sustainable Development Goals.

Acknowledging that one of the biggest challenges to a successful implementation of the SDGs will be ‘the vast array of interdependencies between the goals and the 169 targets’, this paper presents a conceptual tool to start understanding these inter-linkages across all these sustainable development goals. Scientists, policymakers and practitioners are invited to jointly explore ‘how the SDGs puzzle fits together and how it can be implemented. <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/new-icsu-paper-published-draft-framework-for-understanding-sdg-interactions>

For full text of this publication: <http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/working-paper-framework-for-understanding-sdg-interactions-2016/SDG-interactions-working-paper.pdf>

“In addition to literacy and numeracy, education must advance the cause of global citizenship which: promotes integrated development of the whole person emotionally, ethically, intellectually, physically, socially, and spiritually; imbued with an understanding of our roles, rights and responsibilities for the common good in service to humanity and the advancement of a culture of peace, non-violence, freedom, justice, and equality.” ~ Gyeongju Action Plan

V. DPI/NGO Pre-Conference Briefing
‘Promoting and Implementing the Conference Outcome Document’
19 May 2016
Trusteeship Council, United Nations Headquarters New York

On 1 June 2016, at the end of the 66th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference, in the city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea from 30 May—1 June 2016, NGO participants will offer for adoption an outcome document from the conference, which will be entitled: the *Gyeongju Action Plan*. The purpose of this briefing on 19 May at UN Headquarters in NY was to have a conversation leading up to the conference on promoting and implementing this action-based document, so that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be realized by all of us...for all of us, by 2030. The *Gyeongju Action Plan* is meant to jumpstart the process at the grassroots level.

The theme of this year’s DPI/NGO conference—the most open and most broadcast of all the DPI/NGO Conferences—is: **“Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Together”**.

The Conference has three pillars: Formal Education; Informal Education and Training; and Advocacy and Public Information. These will be reviewed and scrutinized as a means to eliminate any inequalities that might create or perpetuate marginalization and disenfranchisement in regard to education... *leaving no one behind* as pledged by UN Member States, at the adoption of the SDGs last September 2015...and because: “It is unacceptable that diverse group memberships and identities have been used to deny the right to learn or otherwise marginalize individuals. In education, as in all things, the basis of non-discrimination is, and ought to be, our common humanity.” (From the final version of the *Gyeongju Action Plan*)

In past years, much of the outcome document’s creation took place during the conference itself. This year conference planners endeavored to gather input ahead of time and were encouraging all NGOs, whether attending the conference or not, to submit their comments and suggestions for the document leading up to, as well as during the conference. Daniel Perell, Co-Chair 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference Expert Sub-Committee and representing the Baha’i International Community, said that every part of the conference would feed into the outcome document, including the 46 workshops scheduled throughout the conference; input from NGOs watching online; and input from a record number of youth participants (making up one quarter of all conference delegates); among others.

All NGOs were particularly encouraged to respond to the question: ‘What do you see that you like about the document, and, what would you change?’ by sending an email to dpingodeclaration2016@gmail.com by 31 May. Most needed were action items on what NGOs would suggest for an education agenda to mobilize civil society—its local and international NGOs, networks and activists, academics, educators, policy makers, businesses and youth—reflecting the aspirations and ambitions of all global citizens.

In the opening session of this briefing, Mr. Scott Carlin, Co-Chair of the Planning Committee of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference and a representative of Long Island University, reminded us that *we are nature*; we are not separated from it. He said that education is vital and pivotal for all the SDG’s...does it currently meet the needs? — Probably, no. He added later, “The potential for academia and civil society to work

together is enormous; through new collaborations, innovative pedagogies and a culture of global citizenship we can build healthier, more resilient Earth communities.”

As part of the panel discussion, Ms. Mary E. Norton, Co-Chair 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference Expert Sub-Committee and Workshop Committee, and representing Felician College, brought up the point that global education first begins at home.

Leading up to the post-2015 agenda and the passage of the SDGs last fall, according to Secretary-General Ban’s *World We Want* Survey Results in August 2013, ‘a good education’ was the #1 choice of what people want around the world. The timely and significant DPI/NGO Conference theme of Education for Global Citizenship focuses on *Goal #4: Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*

Global citizenship recognizes the fact that we are one Humanity—one family—living on planet Earth, along with the responsibility that entails. Defined in Wikipedia, “Peace education is the process of acquiring the *values*, the *knowledge* and the *attitudes, skills, and behaviors* to live in harmony with oneself, with others and with the natural environment.” Education for global citizenship is indeed a credible pathway to a sustainable culture of peace, and one that anyone and everyone can implement.

Once adopted, the *Gyeongju Action Plan* will be shared widely with civil society, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the UN System, UN Member States and learning communities. It will provide concrete guidance for NGOs around the world to enhance their ability to lobby governments for commitment to implementing the SDGs, and to mobilize NGOs and civil society in communities on the ground.

The adopted *Gyeongju Action Plan* may be accessed here:
<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/files/2016/05/FinalAA.pdf>

Iris Spellings, *Peace Through Unity*, NGO Representative to the United Nations

VI. UN – Human Security in Diverse Communities **By Jackie Hazelhurst**

When I envisage New Zealand’s national identity I picture my classroom. I picture people from Cambodia, Kuwait, Samoa. When I imagine our collective future I see diversity... but that is not what everyone sees. Diversity means difference, diversity means change - and those are two things that people fear most. Global borders have been blurred by the existence of the internet and international media, and therefore we have entered an era of unprecedented connection. As a result, diversity has steadily increased. This has brought three key issues to our attention – the challenge of embracing diversity, the need to ensure human security in diverse communities and the question of how to incorporate this thinking into decision making. Throughout the course of this speech I wish to address an issue that is at the heart of global conflict – difference – and the role of the United Nations in encouraging countries to recognize and respect diversity while ensuring the security of both minorities and communities.

The UN was founded in the light of the mass casualties and horrific events of both world wars. The preamble of the UN Charter says this; “*WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS are DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person.*” World War

2 produced the greatest violations to human security the international community had seen up to that point and what had been targeted in these violations was diversity. In response, the United Nations was formed, whose task was to succeed where the League of Nations had failed – to help shape our world into one in which every person could be safe, to prevent conflict and to promote global solidarity.

In 2001, the world once again saw tragedy in the events on September 11th 2001. Once again, catastrophe was a catalyst for change. The UN adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the first of its kind, to highlight just how fundamental not just the respecting, but the embracing of cultural diversity is to world peace. This Declaration ‘was an opportunity for States to reaffirm their conviction that intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of peace and to reject outright the theory of the inevitable clash of cultures and civilizations’. In the words of Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO. *“The Declaration aims both to preserve cultural diversity ... and prevent segregation and fundamentalism which, in the name of cultural differences, would sanctify those differences and so counter the message of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”* Today, the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity is one of the founding texts of the new ethics promoted in the twenty-first century. The hope is that one day it may acquire the same force as the UNESCO 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In the words of Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations – *“People of different religions and cultures live side by side in almost every part of the world, and most of us have overlapping identities which unite us with very different groups. We can love what we are, without hating what – and who – we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings.”*

Globalization has meant increased immigration worldwide – today, over a quarter of New Zealanders were born overseas. Diversity is increasing at a staggering rate. The challenge is that diversity poses very real risks to human security. At the most basic level, human security is defined as *‘freedom from violence and from the fear of violence’*. When diversity increases, people rely on stereotypes in order to understand diverse members of society. This means that often, people misunderstand and mischaracterize the minority – they wrongly perceive people of diversity as fundamentally different from themselves. When we understand that members of the community are afraid that their nation, their nation’s identity, will change, we begin to understand why without open dialogue between cultures, feelings of suspicion and distrust begin to emerge. As both minorities and the predominant cultural group begin to feel threatened by one another, they interact less and less and they begin to stereotype more. Occasionally, this tension erupts in conflict further fueling stereotypes and labels. The cycle of fear and suspicion is self-propagating. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei says *“[One of the greatest drivers of threats to human security] is the artificial polarization along cultural or ethnic lines... Such tensions are not fundamentally because of clashing... values, but because of the perception by some that the gross inequities they suffer are the result of cultural and ethnic prejudice, instead of what they actually are: the consequences of conflicts between nations over power and resources.”*

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals – the Global Sustainable Development Goals – to be achieved in the next 15 years. These cannot be attained without beginning to recognize that despite our differing cultures, religions, nationalities, we are all human. As globalization increases, we must ask ourselves how we can foster human security in communities that are diverse. The most beneficial way of ensuring

security is also the most logical – through interaction. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), says this – *“Only a human-centred approach to development based on mutual respect and open dialogue among cultures can lead to lasting and inclusive results.”* When there is discussion and discourse between groups in society mutual respect and understanding is formed.

There are three main steps in creating interaction and integration – encouraging, understanding and celebrating diversity. Currently, the UN is running numerous projects that target all three of these areas. In terms of funded projects, the UNESCO founded the International Fund for Diversity that has invested around 6 million USD since 2010 in 84 projects in 49 developing nations. An example of these projects is one of the actions taken in Namibia, where a 2011 service ran by the National Art Gallery of Namibia was promoting the artistic expressions of vulnerable groups through various workshops encouraging artists to express what their culture means to them through art. Additional to these projects, the UN has also held 4 international conferences since 2001 regarding how to best introduce and encourage cultural diversity safely. One of these was the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. This year, ministers from 6 different Nordic countries used the information from that convention to adopt a declaration on promoting diversity through artistic freedom. The 2016 Nordic Ministers of Culture, met in advance of the World Press Freedom Day celebrations and adopted a Declaration that highlighted the importance of artistic freedom in an event organized by UNESCO.

Projects run by the UN are doing a lot to encourage interaction, increasing diversity and human security, but these measures alone will never be enough. The UN is a key decision making body – they respond to crises and conflicts – and their responses to these conflicts is where we must see cultural diversity and human security emphasized. Do the UN face challenges when trying to encourage change? Of course. The United Nations is a collection of sovereign governments therefore in and of itself, the UN has no authority. So how can we ensure that nations that ratify decisions, implement them? Quite simply, it takes time. To create dialogue, discussion, it takes time to persuade and convince countries that embracing diversity is not only in the best interest of the world, but in the best interest of their own nations.

It was only last year the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said these words to the United Nations Security Council – *“We now have an important opportunity to highlight the fundamental importance of inclusive societies in building a peaceful world... Societies must prioritize social, economic and political inclusion.”*

The current European refugee crisis is opportunity to do just this. Innocent people are being forced to flee their country due to political conflict and religious persecution. According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, in 2014 the number of refugees and internally displaced people reached its highest point since World War II – and since then, the numbers have continued to climb. 60 million refugees seeking asylum. European nations are feeling the pressure. There is a real risk to their cultural, religious and general security, regardless of whether integration occurs. We must be united in shouldering this burden and seeking solutions. Currently, we are not. In Europe, we see the rise of far right extremism. Ladies and gentlemen, hasn't this happened before?

We, the peoples of the United Nations, have a responsibility to help shape a world in which diversity, and human security, is ensured. We must ask ourselves - how can we continue to take actions that increase successful intercultural interaction? How can we encourage nations to ratify and implement these actions? There is no easy answer and likewise, the actions we take will not be easy.

In the words of Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and member of the international Secretariat says this; *“The United Nations exists not merely to preserve the peace but also to make change - even radical change... The United Nations has no vested interest in the status quo. It seeks a more secure world, a better world, a world of progress for all peoples.”*

This is the text delivered by Whanganui High School, Year 12, student, Jackie Hazelhurst, at the recent UNANZ AGM Speech Awards. [jackieleehazelhurst@gmail.com]

VII. United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit 2016 Making Global Goals Local Business

On the 22 June 2016 business leaders from 75 countries, leaders from civil society, the UN and Government came together in New York *‘to advance private sector actions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals’*.

UN Global Compact Executive Director, Lise Kingo, saw it as an encouraging sign that a growing number of CEOs were already recognising that the SDGs were offering a ‘roadmap for business to rethink approaches to sustainable value creation’, but the challenge is now to scale up this movement ‘to include companies everywhere’. Supporting this point at the meeting, the UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, said that the SDGs will create huge market opportunities everywhere and allow companies: ‘to do well by doing good’. He stressed that ‘the optimism and entrepreneurship of the private sector must be a driving force’.

Through several ‘opportunity sessions’ held at the Summit participants were looking at the potential of transforming risks into opportunities. Among the ‘key topics’ were

- ! Changing lifestyles to promote sustainability;
- ! Addressing climate change
- ! Building peace through responsible business,
- ! Financing sustainable solution and business models,
- ! Ending poverty to create new markets, and
- ! Translating global goals into local business action.

A number of announcements were made during this summit which included:

The announcement of the results of the 2016 CEO Study (conducted with more than 1,000 UN Global Compact participant CEOs in 108 countries across 26 industries), which finds that: 87 per cent of CEOs in the Global Compact believe that *‘the SDGs represent an essential opportunity to rethink approaches to sustainability, and nearly half say businesses will be the most important actor in their delivery’*.

As part of the ‘Making Global Goals Local Business’, the UN Global Compact announced that it was equipping its Local Networks in 80 countries to carry out SDG strategies and promoting the SDGs in their countries.

Breakthrough Innovation Challenge: the UN Global Compact announced ‘a challenge for young innovators within leading companies to design future business models’. This programme is a partnership between Global Compact LEAD and Volans.

The announcement was made by Alaa Murabit, the Founder of ‘The Voice of Libyan Women’ and SDG Advocate, that a letter has been sent to all ‘Fortune 500 CEOs’, which urges them: *‘to commit to doing business responsibly and aligning with the SDGs’*

This two-day Summit was attended by more than 1,200 participants from business, finance, civil society, labour, academia, and also Governments and the UN.

This Summit on Making Global Goals Local Business will be followed by the UN Private Sector Forum on 19 September at the UN Headquarters in New York, with Heads of State and Government, chief executives and civil society leaders coming together to explore the role of business in addressing conflicts and instability.

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/events/691-united-nations-private-sector-forum-2016>

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/leadership/gc-lead>

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact:

These Principles are derived from: the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the [International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#), the [Rio Declaration on Environment and Development](#), and the [United Nations Convention Against Corruption](#).

Human Rights:

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour:

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment:

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption:

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

“By incorporating the Global Compact principles into strategies, policies and procedures, and establishing a culture of integrity, companies are not only upholding the basic responsibilities to people and planet, but also setting the stage for long-term success.”

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>

VIII. UN Secretary-Generals Remarks at Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv, Israel, 27 June

Expressing his deep gratitude to receive the George S. Wise Medal, which symbolises common goals of ‘progress, prosperity and peace’, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon accepted it *‘in the name of all the women and men of the UN working to advance peace, development and human rights around the world and around the clock.’*

Acknowledging the power of science and technology to transform human lives and to help us meet the many challenges of today, the UN Secretary-General also pointed to the tug of war going on in our world today; a ‘push and pull in societies north and south, east and west’. Never before have we been so able to reach out and engage with the world, said Ban Ki-moon and *“at the same time, never in my years as Secretary-General have I seen such potent forces rising up in societies urging people to retreat. Preying on insecurity. Profiting on division. Promoting fear. Turn inward, the say. Build barriers. It is our way or no way”*.

The UN Secretary-General suggested that the biggest war being waged today may not be the one involving guns or tanks or fighter jets; the biggest confrontation could be the battle for minds: “On the one hand, there are those who want to divide the world into ‘us and them’. On the other, stand those who see humanity, in the words of the UN Charter, as ‘we the peoples’.”

We need innovative thinking and action to tear down the walls of mistrust, and stand firm against terror, violence and incitement, said the Secretary-General of the United Nations. <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9840>

***“The sustainability of Earth and humanity depends on two values:
The awakening of the divine spark in our hearts, and
The awareness that all life is one.”***

Hiroo Saionji – Initiator of the Fuji Declaration & Goi Peace Foundation President

IX. 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.