

Many to Many

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I. The Truth shall set you free

As the dawning light of the new millennium enfolds our planet it is unveiling the many ways we, the peoples of all cultures and nations, have traditionally been clothing the concept of Truth. It further reveals how - through time - the light and essence of Truth, slowly dimmed as it would splinter into many different interpretations, each being draped and formed around a teacher or leader and each fraction demanding to be recognised as the only true. In the increasingly dense fog of bickering and grandstanding, at times resulting in outright war-fare and unspeakable atrocities in the name of righteousness, any sincere search for truth and meaning would retreat to its seat within the heart of the human being – there continuing its alert listening and searching for any true signs of the Coming One.

While the ferocious bickering and war faring continued to involve countless generations through the centuries, and the ways and means of ‘persuasion’ became more and more sophisticated and deadly, humanity was also slowly being brought closer to one another through ever more sophisticated means of communication. Today, wherever we may live, we will know when a bullet is fired; wherever hunger and disease is ravaging; where manipulators are hiding, and where land and livelihood is stolen or confiscated by those who have the power and inclination to do so. We are also witnessing how a rapidly increasing number of human beings are standing up for the rights of peoples within all nations, as well as the rights of all other lifeforms, including the planet itself. We are reaching out to one another and uniting beyond all boundaries to offer assistance and alleviate suffering, wherever and in whatever way we can.

Although responses may differ we, as indeed all other life forms within the entire planetary environment, seem to awaken to the ground-breaking importance of the time we live in. While old habits die hard, and ‘truth’ continues to be formed into bullets containing a lethal mix of fact, fear and fiction, we are also beginning to lower our protective shields as we realise that an entire new season is, irreversibly, arriving. We, the people within the unity of nations, are earnestly seeking the place within ourselves in which we can see more clearly the Whole and all parts within It. Doors are opening, hearts are listening, and will-to-good is replacing the sense of hopelessness, fear and confusion.

We are realising that Truth is not a static condition and cannot - indeed will not - be imprisoned by words.

The physical home of Truth is the heart, which with every beat sustains all living beings. It is the single eye of Heart which will teach us to see the whole and learn *truly* to embrace and nurture each and every part within it.

Truth will come alive through being *lived*.

II. Global Covenant of Mayors

The Global Covenant of Mayors is the international alliance of cities and local governments, presently consisting of over 8,000 mayors worldwide who, in 2017, have pledged to work for the realisation of the Paris Agreement, and to ensure that local governments are able to

implement action on the Paris Agreements. Progress on any such action to combat climate change will be shared at the [Global Climate Action Summit](https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/press/join-one-planet-charter-lets-step-climate-action-2018/) to be held in San Francisco in September 2018. <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/press/join-one-planet-charter-lets-step-climate-action-2018/>

The **One Planet Charter** came into being at the One Planet Summit in Paris (December 2017) with the aim of helping local governments to implement action which will ensure that the Paris Agreement goals are met. The Charter will highlight the commitment of cities to: *‘increase demand for sustainable and resilient infrastructure, products and services, while also recognising the importance of working closely with national governments and business sectors to mobilise global climate action.’*

The ‘Edmonton Declaration’:

This Declaration is named after the Canadian town of Edmonton, in which it was first presented to the public. The Declaration aims to develop a network of policymakers, scientists, businesses and city networks that will help create a critical new dialogue between these ‘vital groups of climate change stakeholders’ and local city organisations, so as to ‘improve current knowledge and data gaps and develop innovative solutions to help meet ambitious climate targets’ in line with the Paris agreement goals.

The main aims of the Edmonton Declaration are to:

- * engage all levels of government to recognise the immediate and urgent need for action that will limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- * recognise that cities face some of the most significant impacts of rising Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and bear much of the cost for adaptation and mitigation;
- * reinforce the importance and role of cities in achieving the targets in the Paris Agreement;
- * call on the scientific community and other levels of government to provide better data and tools for science-based decision-making, and
- * ask cities to look beyond their borders at the impact of consumption on GHG emissions.

The Edmonton Declaration can be read in full and signed at:

<https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/press/sign-edmonton-declaration/>

Debra Roberts, (who co-chaired the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II), warned against having any ‘delusions’, reminding the meeting that, *‘there’s an entire global system geared to make us consume...’*, and stressed the importance of realising that there is a bigger fight afoot: *“we literally have to displace an entire global system focused on consumption”*.

IPCC, was established in 1988 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). With a membership of 195 UN member nations, and with thousands of scientists from all over the world contributing to its work, IPCC is seen as *‘the leading international body for the assessment of climate change’*.

The forthcoming **San Francisco Global Climate Action Summit (12 – 14 September)** aims to challenge people throughout the world to commit to taking ambitious action and making *transformative climate investments* on an unprecedented scale toward achieving the five inter-related issues outlined in the Paris Agreement:

- *Healthy Energy Systems,*
- *Inclusive Economic Growth,*
- *Sustainable Communities,*

- *Land and Ocean Stewardship, and*
- *Transformative Climate Investments.*

The Global Climate Action Summit aspires to provide a *'launchpad'* for a deeper and united resolve from leaders and people from throughout the world community who are determined to 'step up' and take further action toward realising the five inter-related key issue areas mentioned above. <http://globalclimateactions summit.org/about-the-summit/>

III. Securing Our Common Future – an Agenda for Disarmament

The **Agenda for Disarmament**, was published this year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs, New York and subsequently launched in Geneva - the 'city of peace, diplomacy, humanitarian action and home to a community of peacemaking institutions' - by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, May 2018.

In his Foreword to this publication the UN Secretary-General stressed the fact that we are living in dangerous times, in which protracted conflicts between nations - as well as between the proliferation of *'armed groups'*, equipped with a vast array of weapons - are causing unspeakable human suffering. This is the 'new reality', which demands that disarmament and non-proliferation are put at the centre of the work of the United Nations. We shall need to increase our efforts to prevent the 'over-accumulation of all types of arms', he stressed and added: 'we owe this to the millions of people killed, injured and uprooted from their homes'. The foreword further makes the appeal that developments in science and technology will be used for the good of humankind, urging that: *'We owe this to our children and grandchildren'*.

While this Agenda for Disarmament is not aspiring to be 'exhaustive', it aims to propose solutions and raise questions while also reinvigorating *'dialogue and negotiations on international disarmament, stimulate new ideas and create new momentum'* on the urgent matter of creating good and respectful relationships between peoples of all cultures and nations.

The Agenda also focuses on practical measures and indicates where the Secretary General intends "... personally to engage and support Member States in carrying out their responsibilities", and this is *'the backdrop for my agenda for disarmament'*. The Agenda will aim to integrate disarmament into the *'priorities of the whole United Nations system'*, he said, and thus lay *'the foundations for new partnerships and greater collaboration between different parts of our organisation and Governments, civil society, the private sectors and others'*.

In his foreword to the Agenda, the Secretary-General also acknowledges the many Member States, independent experts and members of civil society who had contributed to the text and content of the Agenda, and concludes by referring to the numerous moments in history *'when individual and collective courage and conscience come together to change the course of events'*. It is my most sincere hope that ***'this disarmament agenda will help set our world on a path towards sustainable peace and security for all'***.

At the Geneva Launch, May 24, the Secretary-General again stressed, that *'we cannot create a safer world for all through uncoordinated action. Disarmament will work best when we work together as governments, experts, civil society and individuals'*. The way forward is to open up to and welcome 'new voices' and thus make coordinated and inclusive action

possible. Acknowledging his total commitment to involve women *'as decision-makers in all disarmament processes'*, António Guterres also expressed his deep appreciation of the students present and saw the role of Youth as the *'most important force for change in our world'*. In his concluding appeal to us all, we are reminded that:

“There are moments in history when individual and collective courage and conscience come together to change the course of events. I hope this disarmament agenda will help set our world on a path towards sustainable peace and security for all.”

https://front.un-arm.org/documents/SG+disarmament+agenda_1.pdf

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-05-24/secretary-generals-remarks-university-geneva-launch-disarmament>

IV. International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament **– 24 May 2018 –**

Coinciding with the launch date of UN Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament in Geneva, women legislators from the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) used the occasion of the International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament to demonstrate their full support for the Secretary-General’s initiative in their ‘Appeal’: *‘Common security for a sustainable and nuclear-weapon-free world’*. (<http://www.pnnd.org/article/common-security-sustainable-and-nuclear-weapon-free-world>)

This Appeal expresses deep concern regarding the *‘existential threats to humanity and the environment from climate change, nuclear weapons and unresolved international conflicts, especially those between nuclear-reliant countries.’* It stresses that, wherever we may live, we all share one planet and a common future, which makes it vital that *‘we use diplomacy, conflict resolution, common security and law to address security issues, rather the threat or use of force’*.

We are also reminded that, although the very first resolution of the United Nations calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons and all other weapons adaptable to mass destruction, the world - 73 years later - has accumulated over 15,000 nuclear weapons, costing \$100 billion annually. Such substantial funds could - indeed should - instead be used to *‘reverse climate change, eliminate poverty and fulfil other social and economic needs’*.

The Appeal expresses the belief that the globalisation of our world *‘has made the verification and enforcement of disarmament agreements, the abolition of war and the achievement of common security, realistic goals’*. Moreover, the UN Security Council resolution on women and security (31 October 2000), which reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, has opened the door to their *‘equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security’*. (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/#resolutionnegotiations>)

This PNND document also states that “as women representatives we are all proud of our home countries and our national identities. But we also recognise our common humanity and the need to collaborate on building a peaceful, secure, sustainable and just world.”

“We invite you to join us”.

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

V. High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism June 2018

In his welcome address to this global conference which brought together heads of counter-terrorism agencies from UN member states, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, acknowledged how terrorism and violent extremism are increasingly undermining and destabilizing the world community. But, ‘as the threat from terrorism continues to evolve, we must adapt and learn lessons from what works and what doesn’t’, he said, adding: ‘*our response needs to be as agile and multifaceted as the threat*’. He hoped that the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related resolutions would provide some good and comprehensive framework for action.

At the close of this High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism the Secretary-General expressed his deep appreciation to the participants, who had contributed two very productive days, which had provided numerous proposals for new approaches to solutions, as well as opportunities for creating new partnerships. The conference was attended by over a thousand participants from around the world, bringing together people from a wide variety of public services - security, intelligence and law enforcement officials, diplomats and policy-makers, civil society, women and youth associations, and international and regional organisations. The 25 side events, organised by Member States, UN entities and civil society throughout the week, have richly ‘*demonstrated the benefits of adopting an inclusive approach*’, he said. And all this has: ‘*provided the United Nations with a clear roadmap for our work on countering and preventing violent extremism*’.

This is the first time a conference of this kind has been held as part of a UN Counter-Terrorism Week, said the Secretary-General, and we have heard the accounts of extremely valuable experiences from a number of civil society organisations. We shall need to promote an ‘*all-of-government, all-of-society and all-of-UN approach to preventing and countering terrorism*’, he said, which will involve partners at national, regional as well as global levels. And “*this is why we are considering establishing a new unit in the Office of Counter-Terrorism to ensure that the views of civil society are fully reflected in counter-terrorism policies and programmes.*” He added: “I also welcome the establishment of the “Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism”, as well as other similar partnerships to prevent the spread of extremist content online”.

However, the UN Secretary-General urged, we must also ‘*do more to address the conditions that are conducive to terrorism and violent extremism*’, such as the ‘*lack of opportunity, exclusion, inequality, discrimination and serious violations of human rights*’.

“It is my most sincere hope that the conference will have led to:

- *the strengthening of international counter-terrorism cooperation;*
- *a renewed and sustained focus on prevention terrorism;*
- *the underlining of the fundamental importance of fully respecting human rights while tackling terrorism;*
- *always be stressing the need to a strategic investment in young people to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism*
- *shining a light on the tragic human cost of terrorism, and also*
- *to strengthening the role of the United Nations in assisting you to tackle terrorism.* “

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-06-28/secretary-generals-opening-remarks-high-level-conference-counter>

VI. Adoption of the Resolution on Repositioning the UN Development System **- ‘from cacophony to symphony’ –**

In May this year the United Nations General Assembly agreed to a bold new plan for, what the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, called: “*the most ambitious and comprehensive transformation of the UN development system in decades*”. This will, he said, pave the way for a new era of ‘*national ownership of development, supported by the whole UN system*’, which will allow countries to pursue sustainable economic and social development. It will also give ‘practical meaning’ to the promise made by UN member nations to advance the Sustainable Development Goals ‘*for everyone, everywhere - with poverty eradication as its first goal, leaving no one behind*’.. It will reposition sustainable development at the heart of the United Nations, said the Secretary-General.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/05/1011111>

The UNGA President Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, said that the reform process is bringing ‘significant changes’ to the whole UN development system while also ensuring that it will meet national needs, not only for implementing the SDGs, but also the commitments made through the Paris Agreement in 2015. (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>).

The President expressed his deep appreciation for the contributions made by the representatives of member states. He acknowledged the long arduous process of negotiation, involving requests for further detailed information, asking for clarification and suggesting counter-proposals, all of which had resulted in finding a common ground on which to stand and also move forward.

Although this resolution is not seen by everyone as the perfect document it is a ‘legitimate outcome of a multilateral process’. It shows, he said, that we can achieve compromise; we can come together, and we can together take steps ‘to move this Organisation forward’.

UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, said that this reform establishes ‘clear accountability for money spent’ and highlights also the importance of ‘partnerships among stakeholders, including Member States and the private sector’.

In an interview with UN News she made the following observation:

“What I would say is that, in previous times, we’ve sort of had a conductor that, through no fault of their own, is conducting a cacophony – the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing,” and “today, we have an opportunity to make a symphony for the SDGs.”

And, stressed Amina Mohammed, “that’s really the difference on the ground.”

<https://news.un.org/en/audio/2018/05/1011091>

VII. “Inspiration around every corner”

Rotary International Convention, Toronto, 23-27 June 2018:
Impressions from Kate Smith, one of the 25000 attendees.

The 109th Rotary International Convention theme was “Inspiration around every corner” which neatly introduced the 2018-19 theme of “Be the Inspiration”.

With over 25 000 people attending from all over the world, their current contributions were presented and their proposals for future projects were indeed inspiring.

The House of Friendship hub at each convention provides a central area for registered Rotary vendors, live entertainment, a meeting place for delegates to have lunch and meet new people. There delegates have the opportunity to discuss the general plenary presentations and visit the 300+ diverse booths where specific projects could be seen in greater detail. Rotary promotional material was also available and various Rotary Fellowships could be investigated. (A Rotary Fellowship is a common interest group of Rotarians.)

The programme was divided into a morning plenary session, held in the Air Canada Centre, with some amazing presentations, followed by a series of breakout sessions in the afternoon. At the plenary sessions Rotary business was interspersed with material from politicians, heads of non-governmental organisations and charitable groups as well as individual Rotarians and young people who had benefitted from Rotary programmes, such as the Peace Scholarships and Rotoract (young people 18-30). The themes covered Rotary's six areas of focus:

- ! Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- ! Disease prevention and treatment
- ! Water and sanitation
- ! Maternal and child health
- ! Basic education and literacy
- ! Economic and community development

Within each area, youth contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals were emphasised. Along with these components, the importance of education was also promoted as contributing to the creation of peace, especially in local communities. To find out more about these speakers, visit the website for videos from plenary presentations¹

100 breakout sessions – around 40 people in most – were offered to give more detail of areas of interest, with the opportunity to interact with the speakers and other delegates. The variety of sessions seems to have been arranged to suit larger delegations, who could spread themselves over the five themes:

- ! Developing leaders,
- ! Service and projects,
- ! Engaging young leaders,
- ! Promoting Rotary, and,
- ! Strengthening Rotary.

If only a few members from the same Rotary club were attending, making a decision on which to attend was difficult. However, the slides from these sessions are also available² – some on purely Rotary topics, but many on topics of more general interest.

Peace Through Unity's philosophy was supported by much of the content at this convention. Peace is one of the six areas of focus so that is not new. However the emphasis on how to

achieve it seemed more directed at individual and community efforts; youth and education; protecting the environment and the SDGs in general. It proved that we can all make a difference, and if we work together, huge progress can be made. Co-operation and partnerships were encouraged with project funding available through the Rotary Foundation grants.

Getting the basic life necessities to the most vulnerable people is already happening, but much more is needed – in personnel and resources. Some examples given were:

- ! the potentially deadly effects of drinking polluted water, such as mercury from gold mining operations causing extensive body sores, with a few days walk to see a doctor,
- ! of children and adults suffering from preventable diseases, often as a result of the inability to access medical care and/or the distance from it, which might be complicated by unrest or civil war,
- ! of providing maternal education and medical assistance, including fistula treatment and education on benefits of spreading out pregnancies,
- ! from assisting women to play a bigger role in their communities, by bringing groups of women together to identify what they could do in their own communities, many of which had lost many men to conflict,
- ! of providing opportunities for small business start-ups, which might be by the provision of micro-finance and co-operatives based on local skills,
- ! of really listening to the local community to identify and understand their needs before helping them to come up with their own solutions, as well as offering partnerships where appropriate, and,
- ! of the provision of basic literacy education for both children and adults, in communities recovering from conflict or just in rural areas. This can be in the form of teaching resources, teaching programmes, teachers and teacher training.

All of these form a basis for peaceful communities, and greater understanding between neighbours.

Listening and seeing what is already being done does provide inspiration to take action and become part of the creation of a more sustainable and peaceful world community. One project is – PACT Urban Peace Project ³, where juvenile offenders are offered the opportunity of coaching and mentoring support as an alternative to a prison sentence. PACT stands for Participation, Acknowledgement, Commitment, Transformation. Working closely with the Justice system, young offenders where considered appropriate are offered access to this programme in place of a custodial sentence. In many cases, these young people have turned around their lives and now make a positive contribution to their communities. This seems to have a close resemblance to the Restorative Justice programme in Whanganui. One of many possibilities to be considered for local action to promote PTUs vision of Whanganui as a Peace City as well as creating Peace – through unity, more widely.

PTU co-worker Kate Smith, delegate at 2018 RI Convention, Toronto, Canada.
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1 <https://vimeopro.com/rotary/toronto-convention>

2 https://www.slideshare.net/Rotary_International

VIII. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018

The 2018 Sustainable Development Report reviews and highlights what progress was made in the third year of implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the text of the ‘Overview’ offers highlights of progress as well as remaining gaps for *all* the 17 Goals, the remaining chapters are focused on providing in depth details on the six Goals which are under review at the July 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The Report can be read at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/the-sustainable-development-goals-report-2018.html>
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2018/Goal-12/>

IX. International Day of Cooperatives

7 July 2018

The theme chosen by the Cooperatives for this year’s celebrations was ‘*Sustainable Societies through Cooperation*’. Throughout its - almost two hundred years – history the cooperative movement has been practicing and developing the principles of democratic governance structures, which have sustainability and resilience at their very core. In his message to the 2018 International Day of Cooperatives, the President of the International Cooperative Alliance, Ariel Guarco, said: ‘*We are going to tell the world that it is possible to grow with democracy, equity and social justice*’. Our society cannot continue wasting resources and excluding people, he urged, and we shall have to: ‘*improve the present and preserve the future for the next generations.*’

Co-ops for 2030:

Co-ops for 2030 describes itself as a campaign for cooperatives to learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and commit to pledges to ‘*contribute to achieving the SDGs (often through initiatives that are already in place) and report their progress*’.

The co-operative model of business is based on ethics, values and principles that ‘*put the needs and aspirations of their members above the simple goal of maximising profit*’. Through self-help and empowerment; through investing in our communities, and through ‘*concern for the well-being of people and the world in which we live*’, cooperatives are nurturing ‘*a long-term vision for sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental responsibility*’.

As the global voice of the movement, the International Co-operative Alliance is committed to offering any information about the SDGs and to helping co-operative enterprises ‘respond to the UN’s call to action’. The Alliance will be collecting the information on contributions to the 2030 Agenda so as to better position co-operatives as partners throughout the implementation process. All these activities will in turn ‘further the aims of the Blueprint strategy’. <http://www.coopsfor2030.coop/en/about> <https://www.ica.coop/en/coopsday-interactive-map>
<https://www.ica.coop/en/media/library/the-blueprint-for-the-co-operative-decade>

X. ‘World Youth Skills Day 2018’

The UN General Assembly resolved ([A/RES/69/145](#)) to designate the 15 July as the *World Youth Skills Day* in December 2014. Since then the Day has been celebrated each year to highlight the challenges faced by youth in today's labour market.

The 2018 World Youth Skills Day, co-chaired by Permanent Representatives Rohan Perera of Sri Lanka and Francisco Antonio Duarte Lopes of Portugal, focused on the many challenges facing today's Youth in a rapidly changing world. It brought together over 120 participants, representing UN member states, the private sector, academia, civil society and youth organisations, who discussed how best to deal with the effects, both good and not-so-good, of living in an 'increasingly digital' world, in which the way people consume, live and work is rapidly changing.

In his keynote address UNGA President Miroslav Lajčák put forward some ideas for the future, all of which he assured the meeting '*have come directly from the young people I met along the way during my mandate as President of the General Assembly*'.

He offered some stark statistics which showed that almost 80 million young people throughout the world are out of work (three times the number of adults), and this number 'doesn't cover those who have jobs but still live in poverty'.

The President also shared his concerns regarding a somewhat outdated education system. It is tempting, he said: 'to think that we've won that battle, because more and more children are in school', but the education is often outdated and of poor quality, and 'doesn't always respond to the trends in the world outside the classroom'. It can, he stressed, "leave children and young people without the tools they need for the life ahead". Added to this: '*third-level education is still out of reach for many*' and '*crippling student loans come with a burden that is far too heavy for young shoulders to carry*'.

Moreover, he added "inequality and discrimination are still major hurdles". '*Can we honestly say that every young woman has the same chances and opportunities as her male peer? Or that the same doors will open for everyone – no matter their race, religion, background or sexual orientation?*'

The President also raised the issue of population growth which is likely to reach 10 billion people on the planet by 2050, highlighting the ever increasing demands for water, food, energy and living space that are '*already pushing the planet to the brink*'. Although we may not always make a link between 'planet and things like jobs and salaries', the link is most definitely there he said, offering a few examples of how it can and will challenge the future lives of people as well as the environment, such as 'a young man who thought he would inherit a family farm but ended up nothing but dead, desert land'.

BUT, stressed the President, '*I believe there are far more opportunities than challenges ahead*' and proceeded to offer some suggestions on how we can together 'harness these opportunities':

"We must do more, to include young people in the making and implementation of policies", within the United Nations as well as everywhere else. When the world leaders, three years ago, signed up to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, these goals 'became one of the most ambitious promises ever made to humanity', but if we want to achieve them we must include young people in every one of these goals, from peace to economics. And, urged the

President, “this must happen across the world; in rooms like this, in government buildings, in parliaments, at major international conferences...”

We must ‘seriously invest in skills and education’, declared the President; we need to realise that we are today ‘past the point where traditional subjects, like maths, history or science, are enough on their own’.

This is the message I heard *loud and clear* at the May Youth Dialogue, said the President: Young people today ‘*want more*’, and are calling for ‘training on the growth of green economy and technology’, as well as ‘new kinds of activities, to build tolerance and resilience to violent extremism’. The Youth are calling for ‘tools for critical thinking, entrepreneurship and adaptability’, and we need to take good look at the kind of education that young people shall need so as to ‘raise the bar’.

According to one estimate ‘*65% of children entering primary school now will end up working in jobs that don’t yet exist*’, so - although we cannot predict the future - ‘*we can do a lot more, to make sure young people can adapt to it – when it comes*’.

He told the young people present that ‘*you have more tools than any other generation in history to make your voices heard – and hold your leader to account. So thank you for being here – to do just that!*’

In his concluding remarks UNGA President Miroslav Lajčák pointed out that: ‘*some people decide to stand in rooms like this, warning about dangers*’, and ‘*coming up with doomsday predictions*’, and worrying about what is ahead. But, ‘*the young people I have met around the world are doing the opposite!*’ They are ‘*looking for opportunities*’ and ‘*coming up with solutions for the planet*’.

The young people are asking how we can leverage our human values - to ensure that:
“Artificial Intelligence makes our lives, not worse, but better”.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/youthskillsday/> ; <http://www.dailynews.lk/2018/07/20/local/157458/world-youth-skills-day-2018-celebrated-un-new-york> ; <https://www.un.org/pga/72/2018/07/16/world-youth-skills-day-youth-skills-for-sustainability-and-innovation/>

XI. International Day of Peace **- 21 September 2018 -**

To mark the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948 (Paris 10 December), the theme chosen for this year’s International Day of Peace is “The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”.* High School and college students are being offered the opportunity to ‘interact with UN Messengers of Peace at the UN Headquarters in New York’, and also to participate via videoconference from a UN peacekeeping mission in another region of the world. For details contact: education-outreach@un.org (with ‘IDP webcast’ in the subject line). Or, see: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYobyshaXa7IDiGQvAxxg6CF7B7iU2oGdwiMjOITf5651xicw/viewform>

* *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is translated into more than 500 languages but, since it is not a ‘treaty’ it does not create ‘legal obligations’ for any country. Even so, it expresses fundamental values that are recognised and shared by members of the*

international community and has had a 'profound influence on the development of international human rights law, including the 1989 [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#).

XII. Transformative Agenda to Achieve Global Biodiversity Targets

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal (July this year) was attended by more than a thousand delegates and resulted in strong and clear recommendations to 'accelerate and scale up actions needed to achieve existing global biodiversity targets by 2020 the '[Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#)'*. These and other meetings form part of the preparatory processes before the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, which will be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November this year.

Also discussed was 'the process for negotiating a new and more effective biodiversity framework for the post-2020 period', and during an 'open dialogue' session Dr Christiana Paşca Palmer, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, asked that participants consider and suggest solutions for moving away from the 'linear way of thinking and path dependencies', and instead take a '*systems view approach in our relationship with nature and biodiversity*'.

The discussion that followed provided a variety of '*insightful perspectives on the possibilities for change*', and identified 'key areas that require additional action'. What we now need to do is: '*to turn these discussions into effective and inclusive actions on the ground*', said Dr. Christiana Paşca Palmer. *<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/> <https://www.cbd.int/idb/2018/>

Forests and the Sustainable Development Goals – from aspiration to action:

At the closing of its week-long July meeting in Rome, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) had *unanimously* approved its '[biennial programme of work and budget](#)' for achieving the programme of work over the period of 2018- 2019 for the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In his closing address, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva, said that 'we have heard your call for FAO to reinforce its work on climate change', and from now on the nourishing of people '*must go hand-in-hand with nurturing the planet*'. It was also noted that, over the past five years, FAO has been sharpening its focus, and has: '*adopted a holistic approach to address complex and interconnected challenges, while simultaneously strengthening its presence in the field and its global technical capacity*'.

Underscoring the centrality of food and agriculture to the sustainable development agenda means that: 'FAO's efforts are inherently relevant to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals', said the FAO Director-General, and this means that: '*the realisation of a Zero Hunger world is at the heart of FAO's work*'.. <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo/en/>

The Forest and Farm Facility:

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is an initiative, which since 2013 has offered support to 'forest and farm producer organisations', such as smallholders, rural women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples' institutions, so as to help them increase their technical and business capacities and enable them to '*play their precious role for fighting against climate change and improving food security*'.

At the FAO meeting in Rome the FFF initiative was also discussed, resulting in a '[Work Plan for 2018- 2022](#)', which aims to benefit 'millions of family farmers and foresters' in countries

throughout Asia, Latin America and Africa. This new work plan comes at a time when it will be able to contribute in the efforts of governments who throughout the world are developing ‘*integrated climate responses and strategies for sustainable rural economies and reducing poverty*’.

FFF’s Phase II aims to support ‘greater inclusion of producers in policy initiatives by:

1. improving the gender and youth balance, as well as the representation, governance and strategic capacity of the forest and farm producer organisations (FFPO) to participate in and monitor policy processes; and
2. supporting governments to develop collaborative cross-sectoral mechanisms and representative protocols and procedures to improve coordination and make effective use of FFPO inputs

<http://www.fao.org/home/en/> <http://www.fao.org/3/b-i7231e.pdf>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/07/1015252>

XIII. THE GREAT INVOCATION

- in Maori and in English -

TE INOINGA NUI

Na te maramatanga kei te ngakau o Te Atum
Kia koha te maramatanga ki te ngakau o te tangata
Kia koha te maramatanga ki te ao.

Na to aroha kei te ngakau o Te Atua
Kia herapa te aroha ki te ngakau o te tangata
Kia hoki mai ano te Karaiti te ao.

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

Ne roto mai I te Tangata
Ma te maramatanga me te aroha tata e arahi
A ma tenei e pa te kuaha ki te Kino.

Ma te Maramatanga, ma te Aroha, ma te
Kaha e whakau te whakaaro nui ki te ao.

***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.*