



Remarks

by

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Vice-President

on behalf of

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

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“Responding to the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century:

Human security and the post-2015 development agenda”

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Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the conclusion of this Thematic Debate on “Responding to the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century: Human Security and the post-2015 development agenda”. On behalf of the President of the General Assembly, I would like to thank the moderator and panellists for their insightful and thought-provoking presentations, as well as the staff of the Human Security Unit for their support in organizing this event.

Allow me to also extend the President’s appreciation to Member States Representatives who have shared their experiences and lessons learned in implementing a human security approach at the international, regional and national levels. Throughout their interventions, they have reasserted the added value of human security as a tool to address complex and, often, interrelated human-centred threats.

The Report of the Secretary-General, following up on General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/290, has been an important reference for today’s discussions, providing a comprehensive overview of existing experiences in implementing a human security approach.

The experiences highlighted in this debate and in the Secretary-General’s report illustrate how human security can respond to several sources of vulnerability such as conflict, crime, accidents, gender violence and inequalities, environmental challenges and migrations. It was noted with appreciation that many human security centred projects have benefited from the support of the Trust Fund for Human Security.

Recognising the valuable contribution of human security to development and the UN’s broader work, there were calls to further its implementation and to build upon the nearly twenty years of experience in implementing human security within the UN system and

beyond. Delegations expressed readiness to consider how the underlying principles of human security could be applied in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

There was also wide recognition that human security empowers communities and creates social cohesion by bringing together governments, private sector and civil society. This cohesion also supports the alignment of national policies with actual needs at the community level.

It was noted today that efforts towards poverty eradication, food security, women's empowerment, prevention of communicable disease and maternal mortality could be enhanced by making use of the comprehensive tools offered by human security. In particular, we heard that a human security approach can assist with project design, strategic planning and policymaking across a wide range of thematic and institutional settings.

Many underscored that global and/or multifaceted challenges require crosscutting solutions spanning across the three pillars of the UN – development, peace and security and human rights. In this regard, there were many calls to respond to climate change and its impact on development and stability in a comprehensive way. Some warned that climate-induced droughts could hinder or set-back a country's progress in a number of key areas, including food security, poverty reduction, and maternal health. In such a context, the responses provided should not only foster more resilient communities, but also improve food safety and health.

We also heard that in post-conflict situations, human security can offer crosscutting solutions to prevent the relapse into conflict. The inter-linkages between peace and development were highlighted, as were their mutually reinforcing nature.

The recommendation was made that, at the global level, we need to look better at what generates human insecurity it was also noted that human security does not replace State security and many underscored the importance of national ownership.

Very concrete examples were given about communities' reconciliation initiatives, which pull together resources to promote socio-economic development and human rights, restore good governance, and strengthen rule of law and transitional justice. We also heard messages stressing the importance of the human rights dimension of human security and human development.

It was pointed out that human security is not only useful in the context of fragile States; it remains a common concern in all societies. Some recalled the conclusions of the MyWorld Survey, which highlighted that people all over the world want transparent and accountable government and personal security, access to justice, freedom from violence and a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Excellencies,

In a few days, a summary of key messages that emerged from this debate will be shared with Member States. It is my hope that the experiences and ideas we exchanged today will inspire further initiatives in your respective regions and countries as well as here at the United Nations. For we should be ever mindful that the commitments, policies and programmes we discuss within these walls have the potential to improve the well-being and security of millions of people across the world.

Thank you.
