

**Background Paper for the
General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Security
United Nations Headquarters,
New York, 22 May 2008**

In its 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, Heads of States and Governments, referred to the concept of human security. Paragraph 143 of the document recognized that "all individuals, in particular, vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential." To this end, Member States have committed themselves "to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly".

The aim of the General Assembly thematic debate on human security is to reflect on its multidimensional scope and to further explore ways to follow up on the reference to human security in the World Summit Outcome Document.

In practice, the notion of human security has already been reflected and being developed in a number of concrete projects carried out by Member States and United Nations offices, agencies, funds and programmes as well as by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.

In March of 1999 the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security was launched in New York. Managed by the subsequently-established Human Security Unit situated in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security has so far invested in over 175 projects worldwide. The projects are being selected based on whether they provide concrete and sustainable benefits to people and communities whose survival, livelihood, and dignity are threatened. Other criteria include the need to combine protection and empowerment measures; promote partnerships with civil society and other local entities; and address the range of issues pertaining to the multi-sectoral demands of human security. For further reference consult:

<http://ochaonline.un.org/HumanitarianIssues/HumanSecurity/tabid/2421/Default.aspx>.

As a follow-up to the 2005 Summit, an open-ended forum composed of Member States from all regions called Friends of Human Security was set up in New York in October 2006. The forum seeks to promote an understanding of human security, to mainstream human security in UN activities, and to pursue collaborative efforts among Member States.

Friends of Human Security as well as UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes identified a spectrum of human security related initiatives from their fields of action. In February 2008 the Friends of Human Security submitted a compendium of human security related initiatives and activities by members of the Friends of Human Security and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to the President of the General Assembly. The letter was issued as document A/62/695.

Outside of the United Nations different initiatives reflect the need to tackle threats to security through people-centred and comprehensive solutions.

An intergovernmental group for human security, the Human Security Network, was established in May 1999. It brought together a group of like-minded countries from all the regions of the world. The group has as its aim highlighting the added value of human security in the UN and other multilateral frameworks. By focusing on human security challenges in the numerous situations that threaten human lives, livelihoods and dignity, such as those pertaining to climate change, abject poverty, health pandemics, the protection of children, armed conflicts, and landmines, among others, the Network continues to raise the human security agenda as a focus for international efforts in addressing concrete issues of common interest for the well-being of all peoples. For further reference consult Network's internet site: <http://www.humansecuritynetwork.org>.

In May of 2003, the Commission on Human Security, established through the initiative of the Government of Japan, submitted its report "Human Security Now" to the UN Secretary General. In the report the Commission concentrated on a number of distinct but interrelated issues concerning conflict and poverty. The report can be found at: <http://www.humansecurity-chs.org/finalreport/index.html>.

<p style="text-align: center;">SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEMATIC DEBATE ON HUMAN SECURITY New York, 22 May 2008</p>

I) Introduction/Background

1. The United Nations General Assembly held a thematic debate on human security at United Nations headquarters, New York on 22 May 2008. The aim of the General Assembly thematic debate on human security was to reflect on the scope of the concept and to further explore ways to follow up on the reference to human security in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/RES/60/1). The thematic debate was addressed by the President of the General Assembly H.E. Srgjan Kerim and the keynote speaker H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan. Some 40 Member States took the floor during the debate.

II) Opening speech

2. In his opening speech, **the President of the General Assembly (PGA)**, H.E. Srgjan Kerim stated that the notion of human security has been recognized as an important tool by a growing number of Member States. The PGA noted that the United Nations through its global efforts to advance security, development and human rights is an important nexus in further evolving the notion of human security. Furthermore, the PGA recognized the added value of human security for bringing together the different agenda items of the UN and tackling them in their totality and interconnectedness. The PGA emphasized that lasting results can only be achieved through a collaborative effort by bringing together Member States, international organizations, UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies as well as civil societies and NGOs. The PGA highlighted the need to promote a new culture of international relations with the principle of human security at its core. He hoped that this debate will help clarify the notion of human security and provide guidance on how it can contribute to UN's efforts in bringing peace, development and human rights to peoples everywhere.

III) Keynote speaker

3. **H.R.H Prince El-Hassan bin Talal of Jordan** began his presentation by reviewing the current global conditions regarding population, food, resource, environmental, energy, monetary, cultural, and state security, referring to them as transnational issues as well as multipliers of human security with the capacity to spread either stability or instability in and around the world.

4. H.R.H Prince El-Hassan bin Talal then elaborated on these diverse and yet pivotal security concerns, highlighting the various ways in which issues of population growth, poverty, food, resources, ecology, migration, energy, money, peace and cultural understanding have the capacity to highly impact individual lives at the global scale. He urged Governments to move beyond traditional notions of security and view the full range of inter-personal, community-oriented, and culturally-founded relationships that capture the true notion of human security.
5. Throughout his presentation, H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal stressed the need to promote international and cross-boarder cooperation by providing everyone the opportunity to live free from fear and want and by developing their full potentials in a healthy and supporting environment where individual, state and international rights are seen as indivisible and a dynamic unity and not as a source of polarization and conflict.

IV) Debate by Member States and Observers

6. Member States and Observers thanked the PGA for convening this informal thematic debate on human security. Recognizing the General Assembly as the most appropriate organ to further discuss the concept, several Member States noted that the debate on human security presents an important step toward widening the recognition of human security as a significant concept within the United Nations. Moreover, many Member States noted that despite the differences of views on human security, the difficulty in defining the concept does not diminish the contribution that human security brings to addressing current global challenges from achieving the Millennium Development Goals to advancing peacebuilding efforts and responding to climate change, among others.
7. Some Member States mentioned the risk of a “**conceptual overstretch**” with regards to the human security concept. They warned that if the international community subsumed everything under “human security”, it would be difficult to identify the added value of the concept. In this context, some Member States highlighted that a very broad concept of human security could actually drain it of any real operational applicability. At the same time, however, other Member States underlined the inherent dangers of limiting the concept too narrowly. It was highlighted that the fact that the concept of human security is not clearly delineated must not prevent Member States from working closely together in order to improve the living conditions of those most in need. Several Member States noted the need to seek consensus on a more limited programme where the human security approach can be applied.
8. Members of the **Friends of Human Security (FHS)** informed the participants that the FHS as a flexible and open-ended platform for Member States has agreed to pursue concrete collaboration in line with the broad understanding of human security as articulated in the report of the Commission on Human Security. They recognized the added value of human security as: i) a people-centered approach

- that puts the livelihood and dignity of individuals and communities at the center of analysis and thereby allows for a more concrete assessment of actions needed when addressing global issues; ii) an integrated, comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach that brings together not only physical security but also the sense of security that comes from having enough to eat, adequate healthcare, access to resources, employment opportunities and respect for human rights; and finally iii) a preventive approach that provides early warning so that threats from both violent and non-violent menaces do not result in critical, pervasive and protracted crisis.
9. The **Human Security Network**, an intergovernmental group that was established almost ten years ago, presented its broad thematic spectrum that ranges from threats emanating from human conflict, natural disasters, poverty, discrimination, disease and scarcity of natural resources and underlined its role as a platform of communication on these issues between policy makers, diplomats, civil society and academia.
 10. Some Member States noted that in practice the notion of human security has already been implemented in a number of projects carried out by UN Member States as well as UN Funds, Programmes, and Specialized Agencies. Member States therefore stressed the need to move beyond definitional issues and instead focus on concrete collaboration on the basis of a broad and common understanding of human security. In this context, several Member States highlighted the significant contributions of the **Human Security Unit in OCHA** and its efforts to mainstream human security in UN activities, as well as the essential role of the **United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security** in translating the concept of human security into concrete actions that highlight the added value of the human security approach. In light of the understanding that human security's main function is to ensure the harmonious development of human potential in the social and economic areas, a proposal was put forward by a Member State to consider transferring the **Human Security Unit to UNDP**.
 11. Meanwhile, the importance of differentiating human security from the **responsibility to protect** was highlighted by several Member States. In addressing this issue, it was stated that national Governments have the primary responsibility to provide security for their people and that the international community by providing the necessary assistance or capacity building should support Governments in meeting their obligations and in ensuring human security for their peoples. Member States also added that human security should unite efforts by reinforcing collaboration among all actors and should not be the cause of disagreement or conflict of interests.
 12. Furthering the debate, several Member States highlighted that as a **people-centered and multisectoral approach**, human security provides a significant opportunity for the United Nations to better integrate the three pillars of the organization's work (i.e., security, development and human rights) and offer

- coordinated responses that can more efficiently address current challenges facing the world, such as, rising food prices, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, climate change, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, Member States emphasized the contribution of human security in UN's effort to implement the 'One UN' reform programme.
13. Similarly, the importance of effective and coordinated implementation across actors was underlined by many Member States. They noted that in order to respond adequately to current global problems, a **common action plan** that brings together diverse actors from all sectors of society - Governments, private sector and civil society - is required.
 14. Among the more than 40 delegations taking the floor, the issue of **climate change** was brought forward by a large number of Member States describing it as a multidimensional challenge that severely impacts the most vulnerable communities. With limited adaptive capacities and strong dependency on climate sensitive resources among the most vulnerable, many emphasized the impacts of climate change on loss of livelihoods (due to diminishing capacities for agricultural and fishery activities), increasing infectious diseases (due to temperature rises and increased intensity of natural disasters), tensions over natural resources (land and water), and increased migratory pressures (environmentally forced migration).). The Human Security Network presented the undergoing research of the structural impact that climate change has on the three vulnerable groups: women, children, and people fleeing their homes due to environmental degradation. Member States also highlighted the relationship between climate change and the ongoing food crisis.
 15. Finally, a proposal for the establishment of a **working group on human security** as a follow-up of the informal thematic debate was put forward and consequently supported by some of the participating Member States. The working group is envisaged to identify specific areas in which the human security concept can be applied thereby further informing the General Assembly of the operational and the added value of the concept.

V) Closing remarks

16. Following the interactive debate among Member States and Observers, H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, urged the Member States to take advantage of the creative ambiguity surrounding the concept of human security and to work closely together and improve the living conditions of those most in need. In this regard, he supported the establishment of the working group on human security and urged Governments to set aside their differences and listen to the voices of the millions ravaged by human insecurities and constant daily suffering.
17. In his concluding remarks, the President of the General Assembly evoked the links between human security and the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. He emphasized the need to tackle the interlinked threats and challenges from a

human-centered perspective. In this regard he underlined three aspects: promoting balanced development, helping people in conflict and post-conflict situations, and applying international law to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Special attention should be granted to the rights of most vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

22 May 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Opening of the Thematic Debate on Human security**

Your Royal Highness,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to welcome you all to the General Assembly thematic debate that for the first time is devoted to the issue of human security.

I would like to give a special welcome to His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan who is joining us here today. My thanks go to Member States who provided a valuable support in laying the ground for this debate.

I invite you to exchange views on the scope of human security, its significance for the challenges we are facing today and for the work of the United Nations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government committed themselves to further discussing the notion of human security in the General Assembly. Member States recognized that “all individuals, in particular, vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.” Today’s thematic debate builds upon this commitment and provides an opportunity to reflect further on the issue.

The interface between security, development and human rights lies at the core of human security. The profound interlink among these three pillars of the United Nations system and policies has been recognized by Member States. By promoting the idea of an integrated and coordinated approach to security, proponents of human security have further underscored this interdependence.

The human security approach surpasses the understanding of security beyond state security and calls for a holistic approach focused on people, their protection and empowerment.

The United Nations, because of its global efforts to advance security, development and human rights, is a particularly important nexus in further evolving the notion of human security that puts positive peace, not the mere absence of conflict, at the heart of the understanding of security.

Contemporary challenges pose a threat to human security and thus highlight the need for comprehensive, integrated and people-centred solutions. These challenges range from hunger, poverty, to armed conflicts, human trafficking, environmental degradation, international terrorism and breaches of human rights of all kind.

These are also the very issues we have on the top of our agenda in the General Assembly. They are intrinsically linked with the implementation of the MDGs, as one of the priorities for this 62nd session.

The Security Council is nowadays also debating thematic issues that have an impact on human security, such as children in armed conflict, terrorism and “women, peace and security”.

The issues that human security is concerned about are listed under different agenda items in the UN. However, it is for us to understand and tackle them in their totality and interconnectedness. It is in this regard that human security could become a very useful concept to provide the link, the glue to bring our various approaches to those issues into a coherent effort.

Human security seeks to protect people from such threats and to promote goals endorsed by the UN World Summit: “freedom from fear,” “freedom from want” as well as “freedom to live in dignity”.

With people’s insecurities interconnected there is an urgent need to bring policies and institutions together in a far more effective way than if such responses are fragmented. As the global food crisis illustrates, a well-coordinated and integrated response by the international community is needed to address both the prevention stage as well as the full range of factors that affect people’s well-being.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I note with appreciation the work that has been done so far to advance the agenda of human security. In practice, the concept of human security is reflected in its organizational development, and in a number of concrete projects carried out by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, Member States and UN agencies, funds and programmes as well as the Human Security Network.

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security has invested in over 170 projects worldwide. Its projects provide concrete and sustainable help to people and communities whose survival, livelihood, and dignity are threatened.

Member States are seeking to promote human security through a number of projects and initiatives. As a follow-up to the 2005 Summit, an open-ended forum composed of Member States from all regions called the Friends of Human Security was set up. The forum seeks to promote an understanding of human security, to mainstream human security in UN activities, and to pursue collaborative efforts among Member States. The group of friends submitted a

compendium of human security related initiatives and activities by members of the Friends of Human Security and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

A network of Member States, the Human Security Network emphasizes the added value of human security in the UN and other multilateral frameworks. It focuses on different issues that threaten the well-being of people, such as climate change, abject poverty, health pandemics, protection of children, armed conflicts, and landmines.

Let me emphasize that lasting results at the crossroads of security, development and human rights can only be achieved through a collaborative effort: by bringing together Member States, international organizations, UN agencies as well as civil societies and NGO's. All these stakeholders have to work hand in hand if we want to protect, engage and empower the ones whose human security is in peril.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We've recently witnessed two major natural catastrophes: the cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in the southwest regions of China. My sympathies lie with the many thousands of victims of these catastrophes.

The aftermath of the Myanmar natural disaster evokes myriad of challenges for the international community. We must do everything in our power to provide humanitarian assistance to these so severely affected communities. There should be no impediments with implications for human security in such and similar cases.

The global food crisis is another pressing issue that endangers the well-being of hundreds of millions, particularly but not exclusively the poorest and most vulnerable.

The recent natural catastrophes and the global food crisis illustrate the urgent need for a multi-faceted, integrated and co-ordinated response. Human security is the vehicle and the framework that enables us to provide such response.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my personal view that we need a new culture of international relations -- with the precept of human security at its core. Such a culture, though intrinsically embedded in the UN's ideals, was never truly enacted in practice. In our ever-more interdependent world it's more important than ever before that we embrace and enact principles of human security, international law and multilateral cooperation, human rights, responsibility to protect as well as protection of the environment and sustainable development.

When in January 1941 Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the United States Congress, he spoke of freedoms that the world should be founded upon. He spoke of freedom of speech and expression, freedom from want and freedom from fear -- everywhere and anywhere in the world. He saw

these freedoms not as “vision of a distant millennium”, but rather as a “definite basis for a kind of world attainable” in his own time and generation. They became the very foundation of the United Nations.

Six decades later, at the end of the first decade of that distant millennium, these freedoms and the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are still very much a distant vision for too much of humanity.

I am looking forward to hearing your views on how human security can contribute to UN’s efforts to attaining these freedoms and thus to the better world for all.

In closing, it is my hope that this debate will add momentum to our discussions on human security, address contentious issues and also provide guidance and clarity as to how to proceed in our future deliberations to further develop this important concept.

Thank you for your attention.

22 May 2008

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim,
President of the 62nd Session of the General Assembly,
at the Closing of the Thematic Debate on Human security**

Your Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's discussion articulated clearly that human security can be a useful vehicle for all three pillars upon which the United Nations is built – security, development and human rights. As such it forms a framework to further the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

As highlighted by many of you today, human security is about integrated responses that recognize the interdependencies and the interlinkages among the challenges faced by all of us in the international community.

Human security is importantly oriented at preventing threats to well-being of human beings. In this regard three aspects were underlined: promoting a balanced development, helping people in conflict and post-conflict situations and thus preventing recurrence of the conflict, and applying the international law to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Special attention should be granted to the rights of women and to the fight against gender-based violence.

Human security is about international, national and individual efforts that build on local capacities and empower people to fend for themselves in ways that are collaborative, responsive and sustainable.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to thank the keynote speaker H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan for his valuable contribution to the thematic debate. I also thank all Member States for their insightful contribution to this milestone thematic debate on human security and I call upon all to use the momentum behind human security to make our common efforts toward achieving the MDGs, promotion of human rights and security more efficient.

Thank you.

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal
Thematic Debate on Human Security
United Nations General Assembly
New York, New York
22 May 2008

Dignity and Justice for All of Us:
Human Security on the Global Commons

President Srgjan Kerim, Distinguished Members of the General Assembly, Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am honored to have this opportunity to address you on the crucial topic of human security and I thank President Kerim for his kind invitation.

The Third World is my first world, the most deprived and dangerous but also most diverse and dynamic part of the world. The region from which I come, the Middle East, embodies these qualities as well as anywhere in the third world. Perhaps because of its sometimes seemingly insuperable difficulties, the Middle East has accumulated an increasingly rich alphabet soup in an attempt to define it and to categorize the dynamics common throughout the region: MENA (Middle East and North Africa), WANA (West Asia and North Africa), NANE (North Africa and Near East), ROMENACA (Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia), and there must be more. They come and go. The region stretches from Marrakesh to Bangladesh, from Casablanca to Calcutta. It is currently enduring at least three wars which have already resulted in more displaced human beings than at any other time in human history. It contains some of the earth's driest

regions and some of its richest – not only in oil reserves, which often seem more like a curse than an asset, but in its largely untapped human potential which is where we must expend our efforts to engender hope of better lives than most people currently endure.

The term human security was coined to shift the focus of security from the state to the individual, to emphasize freedom from fear and want. But I would like to depart from the familiar dichotomy between security as the *defense of states* and security as a *personal right*, and offer a different perspective, viewing this question through a wider lens, a lens which captures the full gamut of inter-personal, community-oriented and culturally-founded relationships which take place between the levels of individual and state. This lens is the one with which I am the most familiar, and the lens, which I believe gives us a way to frame and implement effective and collective action toward the advancement of human security.

The scale of the elemental crises of the last few weeks in China and Myanmar have given us a glimpse of the challenges that the world will continue to face. They have reminded us of our common vulnerability and shared humanity while also emphasizing the need to bring the concept of human security from the conceptual to the practical as we ponder critical questions of responsibility and sovereignty. It would seem to me obvious that we must frame the meaning of security within an expanded context, that human security must now contain the imperative of *human survivability and resilience*.

Imbalances between nations – population growth, poverty, food, resources, ecology, migration, energy, money peace and cultural understanding – are pivotal security issues. They have the capacity to impact individual lives *exponentially* in all places across the world. As transnational issues, they are *multipliers of human security* – either for widespread stability or instability - and these multipliers can

provide a new foundation for human security as a responsibility of the *global commons*.

Let me explain what I mean by briefly reviewing current global conditions.

Population Security

World population is now 6.6 billion, and we're adding 220,000 new people each day. Our enlarging global population – combined with rising wages, purchasing power and consumption in the emerging economies – has escalated the demand for food, commodities, oil, and other resources. If the world is going to carry 9 billion people by 2050, we must all have the right to population security, ensuring that the resources available on this planet are sustainable in relation to our population growth and consumption per person.

Food Security

As the world grows more populous, many nations are also becoming more prosperous overall. Some two dozen states from the emerging South have enjoyed economic growth and become more dependent on each other's growth; but the poorer states of the developing South are just as dependent on demand from the North as they were thirty years ago. One billion people still live in extreme poverty, 70% of whom are in Africa. Unbearable poverty continues to afflict major regions of Asia and Latin America. Three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas, where food accounts for more than half of a family's spending.

As you are well aware, tightening food supplies and rising food demand are now resulting from:

- poor harvests
- lack of fresh water and fertile soil
- rising prices for seeds and fertilizer
- the use of food crops for bio-fuels

- increases in the land needed for meat and dairy production (displacing grain production for people)
- rising oil and transportation prices
- trade-distorting subsidies on agriculture
- and food export restrictions

As demand soars, supplies are unable to keep pace. Food aid, health services, and medicinal supplies also decline as the price of food goes up, pushing hundreds of millions into hunger and malnutrition, economic depression, and social unrest. It should be clear by now that water and food, which are essential to life, are human rights reflecting the personal dignity, common needs and well-being of humanity.

Resource Security

Nonrenewable resources are also being depleted at a rapid rate. As population, industrial output and consumption continue to rise, more and more capital and energy are needed to grow food and to locate, extract, and process the remaining resources. Major new investment is being diverted both into agriculture and the extraction of nonrenewable resources. While this increasing financial speculation in food and resources is decisive in meeting human needs, it is also draining the money that would otherwise be going into industrial production and basic capital growth.

This misallocation of investment – which is further distorted by uneven terms of trade – diminishes the quality of life and security for local populations across the world. Obviously, the inequitable distribution of world resources has a profound impact on human security. Each of us should have the right to an adequate supply of goods based on our interdependence with one another, the interests of our future welfare, and that of our descendants.

Environmental Security

Rising temperatures and extreme climate patterns are also having an enormous impact on human security. Many people – especially the

poor in some of the world's most crowded and marginally productive areas – are affected by:

- a lack of water for drinking and irrigation
- a decline in agricultural production
- increased resource scarcity
- loss of supportive wildlife
- widespread disease from mosquitoes and other pests
- declining health
- economic losses caused by hurricanes, tornadoes and cyclones
- volatility in economic output and trade
- and increasing poverty

The harmful impact of these climate extremes on human livelihoods and living conditions, combined with heightened competition for scarce resources, has triggered disputes over territory, food and water supplies, social and cultural traditions, and tribal and religious differences. Fundamental and unresolved issues of territoriality, identity and movement¹ of peoples lead to sectarian and ethnic violence, armed conflict, mass migration, and the spread of infectious disease. The health, well-being and rights of those who are forced to leave their homes and communities through external disruptions must be given particular attention. We usually think of migrants and refugees fleeing political conflict, but increasingly they are also victims of the menacing effects of global warming. We are currently witnessing many instances of this kind of temperature-driven civil strife and social displacement in parts of Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.

Environmental stability, including the protection of displaced persons, is an essential human right that flows from our commitment to human

¹ *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vol.28, No. 3, 1999, pp.483-498 (16), *Mapping Political Power Beyond State Boundaries*, Dr. Lothar Brock

dignity, our connectedness with all living beings, and our responsibility to the Earth.

Energy Security

In addition to food, resource and environmental instability, there is growing anxiety about whether the world has enough oil to meet its future energy requirements. As you know, an energy disruption in one area of the world has an immediate impact on prices and energy security in other areas. The national security dangers arising from dependence on foreign oil, combined with aggressive competition for strategic reserves of fossil fuels, will likely lead to further degradation of natural resources, continued global warming, and major economic instability, particularly in the world's most impoverished regions. And this is likely to further inflame extremism and terrorism in some places, particularly where rising energy costs severely impact human livelihood – which is why legal empowerment of the poor through improved access to justice, the rule of law, and property, labor and business rights, is now so critical.

Access to reliable and affordable supplies of clean energy is an essential human right based on the responsibility of the world community to empower the poor to meet their material needs, to fuel economic productivity, and to ensure the quality of life for people everywhere.

Monetary Security

The rising demand for food, energy, and other resources, which is now causing significant declines in supply, has also become a source of macroeconomic instability. Although emerging and developing states have been decoupling from the US economically for several years, they are still closely linked financially and monetarily. If oil producers and states that peg or manage their currencies against the US currency decide that the long-term value of the dollar is unsustainable, they may shift their funds into other currencies. The United States would be forced to (1) reduce its massive current-account deficit (its trade flows

and other international payments) through a significant drop in the value of the dollar; and (2) increase its savings, either through a huge decline in consumer and corporate spending or by slashing its federal budget deficit drastically.

These two fiscal adjustments – especially if combined with the continuing inflation of food, commodity and energy prices – would send shockwaves across the world. It would produce volatility in exchange rates, currency instability, disruption of global capital flows, a disorderly unwinding of global debt payments, and increased protectionism. National budgets, trade balances, economic growth, jobs, income, and political stability would all be affected.

That is why monetary security is vital now for everyone, especially the poor. Our purchasing power, which directly affects the ability to feed our families, pay our bills, save and invest, is an essential social entitlement. The right to stable currency rates – as an expression of our collective cultural values, personal livelihood and self-worth – is particularly important as we enter this uncertain period of adjustment.

Cultural Security

Money, energy, resources and materials are necessary but not all-encompassing attributes of the human experience. Cultural security, a critical but often forgotten multiplier of human security, sets the stage through which all other forms of security ought to be defined and understood. One cannot feel secure without mutual understanding and cultural integrity, a reality which has become increasingly apparent among both the developing and developed worlds. Perceptions of too-rapid cultural change or ‘cultural invasion’ spurred by globalization and migration have strained inter-personal and international relationships. Lasting security for the individual and the nation necessitates a practical approach which understands culture as a pivotal component of human experience and political dialogue.

Preventive Security

There is an additional multiplier of human security which is closely related to the others. In states vulnerable to genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity, as all may indeed be, there is an obvious need to protect individuals from atrocities before they are committed. The concept of states having a ‘responsibility to protect’ (R2P) citizens of all nations, debated in recent years by the United Nations in response to escalating violence, remains more heightened and ideologically coloured than such issues commonly are. I am of the opinion that the resolution of this debate is overdue.

The question today is whether intervention in the affairs of a state is a moral duty of the international community or a violation of state sovereignty; yet there is no forward reason why sovereignty could not be shared to reflect the realities of an interdependent world. Preventive security demands that we prepare for potential local and regional conflicts to protect people at risk of grave harm, and this becomes decisive as we face the grim prospect of mass hunger, large-scale environmental disruption, and clashes over increasingly scarce resources like oil and water in some areas. The right to preventive security arises from our collective responsibility to guarantee political stability, protect the defenseless, and ensure human betterment, based on the unique value of every person.

State and Market Security

The final two human security multipliers are ones that you might have expected me to mention first. But I don’t believe they need to be emphasized, since they are so familiar. I’m speaking of states, which have the responsibility of providing political security to the people within their borders. And, of course, free markets – including labor, production, and finance – which provide a vital basis for economic security. States and markets are the cornerstones of modern civilization, and I could not possibly enumerate all of their many virtues in providing essential goods and services to consumers and protecting the welfare of citizens.

But I also think we overestimate their importance to human security. Indeed, because they exist virtually everywhere, there is a tendency to assume that only governments and markets can solve the world's problems, or that governments and markets are the sole agents of human security. Indeed, most of us are conditioned to see the world this way, which I believe is a very limiting point of view.

As I travel and discuss with many people the global challenges we are facing, it becomes increasingly clear to me that there are few foreign policy or commercial solutions that will ensure the common security of humanity. Strategic planning and cooperation for the future of the planet are desperately lacking.

I will be frank. The real issue today is not whether markets are self-correcting or whether they need regulating by states. The real issue is that nation-states and markets are not sufficient to handle the many problems that transcend national borders – problems like world hunger, resource depletion, economic deprivation, wealth disparity, global warming, environmental pollution, infectious diseases, cross-cultural conflicts, and terrorism.

Global Commons

I'm convinced now as never before that there must be a third sector of popular will – a powerful countervailing force dedicated to ensuring human security and cooperation across borders.

Responsibility and authority must shift from governments downwards to individuals, communities and civil society, and upwards to international organizations, regional systems and networks. I also believe that together, as a global citizenry, we must now confront the many problems that impact our lives across territorial boundaries, involving matters of shared international concern that governments and markets are not equipped to address.

The real issues are:

- that states have not relinquished their sovereignty to cooperate with one another more effectively, and market-driven solutions have proven incapable of addressing the systemic problems that transcend national borders
- that a new balance between the common interests of states, markets, and people is essential to economic and social development, environmental harmony, and peace
- that all matters bearing on the global commons must soon be linked together in one multilateral agenda and discussed by a diverse group of representatives from every sector – government, business, and civil society
- that these representatives should launch an immediate *global action program* ensuring the end of poverty, adequate food supplies, fair distribution of resources and commodities, a clean environment, protection of migrants and refugees, reliable and affordable energy, stable purchasing power, and a climate of peace
- that this common action plan must also be seen as a tentative step toward geo-political realignment and global economic adjustment, leading to a greater degree of international unity and the creation of inclusive global governance

I'm presently heading a group of high-level representatives called the Integrity Council that is serving as an advisory body for an international consultation process. We have launched an international partnership – called the Coalition for the Global Commons – to engage civil society groups and individuals across the world in the development of a common global action plan, and empower them to

take an active role in shaping our growing interdependence across the global commons.

My Dear Colleagues, on this 60th Anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, let us recognize that the principle of ‘Dignity and justice for all of us’ can only flow from human civilization as a single functioning whole – and therefore the question of *cross-border intervention* versus *state sovereignty* is ultimately a false dichotomy. To allow everyone in the world the opportunity to live free from fear and want, and to develop our full potentials in a healthy and supporting environment, means that individual rights, states rights, and international rights must be seen as an indivisible and dynamic unity, not as a source of polarization and conflict.

As human beings we naturally inhabit the future and the present - not just the present. If someone loses food, water and shelter, they can be provided with the means to obtain food, water and shelter, they can be provided with the means to obtain food, water and shelter again. But if that person has also lost their hope and their values, providing for their material needs will never provide them with a future again. Hope can only be rekindled with the re-implementation of those values which had been lost.

When we say that we are looking at human security, what we mean is that we want to alleviate the present situation by creating a system so that, as the future keeps arriving, it arrives in the form of better and better present situations. The consequences of what we do now must bring about a better present moment in which to live. The results of our actions now should lead to improved quality of life and the ability to instill hope.

I hope that by 2010 we can build the first step towards Sir Hersch Lauterpacht’s law of peace.

Thank you.



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

**UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly**

Informal General Assembly thematic debate on Human Security

Statement on behalf of the European Union by

H.E. Ambassador Sanja Štiglic
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations

New York, 22 May 2008

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

It is my honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro as well as Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

At the outset, I would like to thank the President of General Assembly for convening this informal thematic debate on human security and extend my compliments to the Secretary General and H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan for addressing this important interactive thematic debate that is today taking place in the General Assembly.

The European Union welcomes the occasion to discuss the concept of human security, especially as this is the first time to touch upon this issue in a more substantive informal manner in the General Assembly. We believe that a very useful exchange of views will enable us to broaden our common understanding of human security and to see how we can better mainstream the human security approach in the wide spectrum of UN activities, from achieving the Millennium Development Goals to advancing peacebuilding and responding to climate change, among others.

A first milestone was achieved when Member States agreed at the World Summit in 2005 to stress the right of people to live free from fear, free from want and in dignity, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and to fully develop their human potential. In essence, human security means to promote people's rights and freedoms and to protect them from both violent and non-violent threats. In this regard, Member States committed themselves to further discuss the notion of the human security in the General Assembly.

Over the last decade, the international community has been working toward a new and broader concept of security, which is different from the traditional concept of security. Namely, human security is a people-centered approach bringing together the human elements of security, human rights and development. Today, the idea of security is evolving and focusing increasingly on the security of individuals. The concept of human security represents a fundamentally new way of thinking about a range of contemporary challenges and security threats we face now that extend to hunger, poverty, infectious disease, environmental degradation, climate change, armed conflicts, crime and repression, terrorism, forced migration, human trafficking and exploitation as well as protection from sudden and hurtful disruption in the pattern of our daily lives. Because these issues are closely intertwined, human security emphasizes the need for multi-sectoral responses and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders. Moreover, it aims to bridge the gaps between security, humanitarian assistance, human rights and development.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that human security needs to be understood in a holistic and comprehensive way. Human security has therefore been acknowledged and mainstreamed in a wide range of EU policy frameworks. Among others, the 2005 EU Consensus on Development recognized human security's contribution in advancing the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty eradication. Meanwhile, in its 2007 communication on humanitarian assistance

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.

the European Commission stressed the interlinkages between human security and humanitarian aid.

Although it is important to articulate a common understanding of human security at the policy level following the commitment made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, it is equally important to take action in the meantime in order to contribute to human security on the ground at present and where most needed. For that reason, the European Union would like to recognize the important contributions of the Human Security Unit in OCHA in its efforts to mainstream human security in UN activities and the pivotal role of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security in translating the concept of human security into concrete activities and highlighting the added value of the human security approach.

A key added value of the European Union in contributing to human security is its ability to draw on a wide range of instruments in pursuit of its policies. In advancing freedom from fear, tools of the European Union have included both the Common Foreign and Security Policy as well as European Security and Defence Policy instruments, such as military or police missions or EU Special Representatives, which continue to be decided jointly between EU Member States, and the wide array of Community instruments which are operated by the Commission on behalf of the Union as a whole. Furthermore, the European Union and its Member States, for instance, established Checklists both to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in the planning and conduct of European Security and Defence Policy operations and for the integration of the protection of children affected by armed conflict into European Security and Defence Policy.

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism supports and facilitates the mobilization and coordination of civil protection assistance in the event of major disasters while the EU Stability Instrument is another important tool which aims at improving the impact of EU assistance in situations of crisis. In addition to rapid response longer-term components under the Stability Instrument also address crisis preparedness and trans-regional threats such as non-proliferation, trafficking, organized crime, terrorism.

In addition, humanitarian assistance by ECHO and EU Development Co-operation efforts help to address freedom from want and the basic needs of populations, including food security, and access to health and shelter. The European Union is indeed an important provider of humanitarian assistance, and can react immediately to humanitarian emergencies through its network of partners including NGOs, UN agencies, and humanitarian organizations. Furthermore, the European Union also supports protection and empowerment of people regarding their human and political rights through support to democratic and electoral processes, strengthening of civil society and non-state actors, and reinforcing of the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights. Finally, the European Union feels that both crisis management tools and longer term efforts to address root causes of insecurity are indispensable to achieve human security.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by saying that today's discussion in the General Assembly presents an important step forward in the wider recognition of this concept despite the fact that countries might continue having different views. The difficulty of defining the concept of human security does not in any way reduce the importance of the need to ensure the human - centered security; therefore the European Union believes that it is essential to maintain dialogue within states and relevant international organizations on questions pertaining to human security.

Thank you.

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ممثلة جمهورية العراق
الدائمة لدى الامم المتحدة
نيويورك

مداخلة

المجموعة العربية الى جلسة النقاش الموضوعي حول
الامن البشري

يلقيها

سعادة السفير د.حامد البياتي
ممثل عراق الدائم لدى الامم المتحدة

رئيس المجموعة العربية لشهر ايار 2008

2008/ايار/22

السيد الرئيس،

دعني في البداية اتقدم لكم بالشكر لهذه المبادرة التي دعوتم فيها إلى عقد اول جلسة للنقاش الموضوعي بشأن الأمن الإنساني وذلك في الجمعية العامة، باعتبارها الجهاز المعنى والأكثر تمثيلاً داخل منظمة الامم المتحدة، وصولاً الى تأكيد حق الشعوب في العيش في حرية وكرامة، بمنأى عن الفقر واليأس. وقراراً منا بان لجميع الافراد، لاسيما الضعفاء من الناس، الحق في التحرر من الخوف والتحرر من العوز، وان نتاح لهم فرصة متساوية للتمتع بجميع حقوقهم وتنمية امكاناتهم البشرية على اكمل وجه.

ان المجموعة العربية ترى ان مناقشة موضوع الامن الانساني وينبغي ان يتم في إطار الالتزام بالمبادئ التي يرسخها ميثاق الأمم المتحدة، وعلى رأسها عدم المساس بسيادة الدول وعدم التدخل في الشؤون الداخلية، والمبادئ التي يقوم عليها القانون الدولي الإنساني، وعلى رأسها حق الشعوب في تقرير المصير، خاصة الشعوب الواقعة تحت الاحتلال، وحق جميع الشعوب غير القابل للتصرف في استخدام مواردها الطبيعية وفقاً لقواعد القانون الدولي، وعدم جواز حرمانها من مصادر العيش تحت أية ذريعة بالاضافة الى ضرورة شمول هذا المفهوم للتعامل مع القضايا المتعلقة بحقوق الإنسان المطلقة كالحق في الحياة والغذاء والصحة وغيرها من الحقوق غير القابلة للتصرف وفقاً للقانون الدولي الإنساني والقانون الدولي لحقوق الإنسان، وكذلك الحاجة للتعامل بشكل خاص مع احتياجات الدول التي تمر بنزاعات أو الخارجة من نزاعات وحالات الشعوب الواقعة تحت الاحتلال لمنع تجدد النزاعات وضمان نفاذ المساعدات الإنسانية والتصدى لسياسات الإغلاق الاقتصادي والتجويع الجماعي في الارض الفلسطينية المحتلة والجولان السوري المحتل.

السيد الرئيس

من اجل ضمان الوصول الى فهم شامل لهذا المفهوم وكيفية التعامل معه، نرى من المهم ان تتم مناقشته في اطار الجمعية العامة وكما اتفقنا على ذلك في الفقرة (143) من الوثيقة الختامية للقمة العالمية. وأن تقوم المناقشة على اساس منهج تعاوني لتعزيز احترام حقوق الإنسان والحريات الأساسية من خلال التزام دولي بدعم بناء القدرات الوطنية، خاصة في إطار آلية المراجعة الدورية لمجلس حقوق الإنسان، وبدعم أنشطة أجهزة ووكالات الأمم المتحدة في مجالات التنمية البشرية الشاملة، مع التركيز على الصحة والتعليم والنهوض بالمرأة والطفل، فضلاً عن تطوير القدرات الوطنية والإقليمية على التصدي للكوارث الطبيعية والبيئية، وتلك التي من صنع الإنسان، مثل التغير المناخي، ومخاطر التسرب الإشعاعي النووي وحياسة أسلحة الدمار الشامل ومخاطرها على البشرية ككل، والألغام، وتهريب الأسلحة وعلاقته بالاستغلال غير المشروع للموارد الطبيعية وتأجيج النزاعات، والتعامل بمنظور متكامل مع قضية الأمن الغذائي والامن المائي لتجاوز الانعكاسات السلبية للأزمة الدولية الراهنة، وغيرها من تهديدات تعوق تحقيق الأفراد والشعوب لتطلعاتهم نحو الازدهار والتقدم، بما

يدعم من قدرة الدول النامية على تحقيق أهدافها التنموية، بما في ذلك أهداف الألفية التنموية والاهداف الانمائية الاخرى المتفق عليها دولياً .

السيد الرئيس

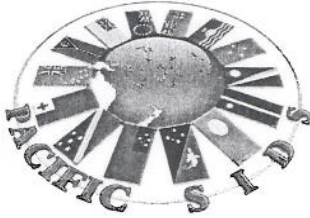
انه للأهمية بمكان عدم ربط موضوع الأمن الإنساني بمفهوم مسؤولية الحماية لتبرير التدخل في الشؤون الداخلية للدول، فالحكومات هي المسؤولة الاولى عن توفير الأمن والحماية لمواطنيها، ودور المجتمع الدولي يقتصر على تقديم الدعم اللازم لبناء القدرات الوطنية على مواجهة ما قد تتعرض له من مشكلات أو تهديدات، وذلك بناء على طلب وموافقة حكومة الدولة المعنية، بهدف تمكين تلك الحكومات من الاضطلاع بالدور المنوط بها من خلال إقامة علاقات شراكة فاعلة بين الحكومات والمنظمات الإقليمية والدولية والمجتمع المدني، وبما يتيح أن يكون مجال الأمن الإنساني محوراً لتوحيد الجهود لخدمة بني البشر.

وهنا نريد ان نؤكد على ان هدف أى تحرك فى إطار تعريف وتطبيق وتحديد نطاق مفهوم الأمن الإنساني هو إعلاء قيمة احترام كرامة الإنسان وتمكينه من العيش دون خوف من فقر أو جوع أو مرض أو احتياج، بما يساهم فى إزالة أسباب الإحباط الذى يولد العنف والتطرف والإرهاب ويساهم فى إشعال النزاعات، ومن ثم فإنه يجب أن يمثل إحدى آليات بناء الثقة بين الدول .

وختاماً ، سيدي الرئيس،

نود ان نشيد بالجهود التي تبذلها مجموعة الدول الاصدقاء للامن الانساني برئاسة كل من اليابان والمكسيك ووحدة الامن الانساني في مكتب تنسيق المساعدات الانسانية ونخص بالذكر اليابان لدعمها و تمويلها مشاريع تنموية في عدد من الدول التي تعرضت الى ازمات انسانية ، ولعل مثل هذه المشاريع تسفر عن تعزيز جسور التعاون بين الدول.

وشكراً سيدي الرئيس



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDs)
Statement on Human Security

Delivered by
Permanent Representative
H.E. Mrs Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu

Permanent Mission of Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
New York
May 22, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDs) comprising Fiji , Federated States of Micronesia , the Republic of the Marshall Islands , Nauru , Palau , Papua New Guinea , Samoa , Solomon Islands , Tuvalu , Vanuatu , and my own country, the Kingdom of Tonga .

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for convening this meeting to discuss the issue of human security. The definition of human security by the paragraph 143 of the World Summit Outcome document is the "freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential." While the conceptualization of human security is relatively new; the concepts of human security finds its roots in human rights doctrines and the major pillars of the United Nations.

The discussion of human security is timely and relevant, as our world faces the unprecedented acceleration of climate change and is experiencing its devastating consequences. We agree that the concept of human security is strongly linked with the right to development; we also believe the issue of human security has implications beyond the realms of development. Human Security means protecting people from critical and pervasive threats and situations and to build on people's strengths and aspirations, human security means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that, when combined would enhance and protect the livelihood and dignity of people. In our view, if the major threats of human security are left unaddressed, it may come to threaten the peace and security, as well as the future development, of our affected region.

We will focus our discussion on the impact of climate change on human security, and explore how the effects of climate change directly threaten the human security for the Pacific SIDs.

Mr. Chairman,

The effects of climate change is multi-faceted and also impacts on human development and the sustainability of our planet. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its Fourth Assessment Report highlighted the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change and emphasized that "poor communities are especially vulnerable... [Poor communities] have limited adaptive capacities, and are more dependent on climate-sensitive resources such as water and flood supplies."

Given the development challenges throughout our region, Pacific SIDs are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. During CSD-16, we made statements outlining the effect climate change on the agriculture, fisheries

and food security in our region. Unlike developed countries, Pacific SIDs lack necessary resources, and thus are ill-equipped to mitigate and to adapt to the effects of climate change.

The concept of human security takes on a broader definition when one considers the basic need for food, water, shelter and livelihood. We are currently facing the reality of threats to territorial integrity – the loss of land due to rising sea-levels; which we believe has security implications which include, but also extend beyond the realms of development. We also face the threat of increasing infectious diseases due to rise in temperature and the increased intensity of natural disasters associated with climate change. We also experience the loss of livelihoods due to the diminishing capacities of our agriculture and fisheries, due to climate-related impacts.

Mr. Chairman,

The continued GHG emissions at or above current rates would cause further warming and induce many changes in the global climate system during the 21st century that would very likely be larger than the changes in the 20th century. The change in temperature is likely to impact negatively upon our access to natural food and water

We share the concerns expressed by the international community on the food crisis. Over 90% of the population in our region relies on agriculture and fisheries as their main source of livelihood; this often includes traditional and rural subsistence communities.

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report has indicated that at lower latitudes, especially in seasonally dry and tropical regions, agricultural productivity is projected to decrease for small local temperature increases (1 to 2 degrees). Pacific SIDs are particularly vulnerable as the intensity of flooding is likely to increase, which would place an enormous strain and increase the pressure on our coastal settlements. The decrease in food production will be compensated by increases in the dependency of our on imported foods. The resulting increased competition over increasingly scarce resources is an invitation to conflict.

Climate change impacts will exacerbate the already current stress in our region regarding water resources. Changes in precipitation and temperature lead to changes in runoffs and water resources. As a result of climate-related impacts, runoff is projected to increase by 10 to 40% by mid-century at higher altitudes and, in some wet tropical areas, the dry lands and mid-altitude areas are likely to experience decrease in water availability due to decrease in rainfall and evapotranspiration. The negative impacts of the climate change on freshwater as well as increasing intensity of floods, not only threaten availability and the quality

of water supply, but it also pose threats to the stability, infrastructure and the health of our region.

Mr. Chairman,

The impacts of climate change will also have health implications for our region including the threat of an increase in the spread of infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

Mr. Chairman,

While migration has always been part of human history and development, the impacts of climate change increase the migratory pressures in our region.

While there may be a lack of consensus over the use of the term 'environmental refugee,' the definition of 'environmentally forced migration' is an appropriate description of the dislocation experienced by some of the communities in our region. The term 'environmentally forced migrant' refers to individuals who are forced to leave due to loss of livelihood, sea-level rise and the impacts of natural disasters. We would like to emphasize that dislocation is already occurring in our region and it is largely involuntary. The 'environmentally forced migration' of our people has a potentially devastating impact on the political, social and economic stability of our region. In our region, land is not necessarily an interchangeable resource, but is often at the very heart of social and political identity, and thus human security.

Mr. Chairman,

It is important to take into account the impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups such as women and children living in the developing world – women and children in the developing world account for 70% of the world's poor. Droughts, natural disasters and the potential conflicts and competitions over natural resources will exacerbate the existing inequalities. UN member states must take into account the needs of women and children and provide direct assistance to enhance their ability to adapt to climate change and to safeguard their rights and well-being.

We continue to urge the UN agencies and member States to integrate the gender perspective into climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Mr. Chairman,

So far, we have outlined the effects of climate change on human security in reference to water and security, and the negative health and migratory implications. We also highlighted the impact of climate change on the human security of vulnerable groups such as women and children.

We believe the impacts on climate change have far-reaching consequences, and that these impacts pose a threat to international peace and security for affected nations, in addition to development challenges. Within our region, climate-related impacts intensify the competition for increasingly scarce resources and land, as well as threatening territorial integrity.

Climate change and its impact on security have already been noted in the Security Council in April of last year. In this regard, we commend the delegation of the United Kingdom for its leadership in placing the issue of climate change on the agenda of the Security Council. We are of the view that more efforts should be made to better address how the definition of security includes climate change impacts for affected countries.

Thank you



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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(Please check against delivery)

Statement by Ambassador Yukio Takasu
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
At the General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Security
New York, 22 May 2008

Mr. President,

Thank you for your initiative in convening the General Assembly thematic debate on human security. I would also like to extend warmest appreciation to the inspiring statement by His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan.

(Concept of Human Security)

In the outcome document of the World Summit in 2005, our political leaders committed themselves “to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly.” By meeting here today, we are honoring our commitment and availing ourselves of an important opportunity to initiate that discussion. The outcome document agreed that this notion is to be defined based on a common understanding that “all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.”

In order to follow up that agreement, Japan, together with Mexico as co-chairs, has organized an open ended, informal forum called Friends of Human Security (FHS) every six months since October 2006 to explore collaborative efforts for mainstreaming human security in United Nations activities. Under the umbrella of the framework of FHS, countries interested in specific issues will collectively promote cooperation efforts in the UN activities. The report A/62/695 contains a list of related activities of FHS. I am very grateful to the representatives of more than 86 countries and 18 international organizations who attended the fourth meeting of FHS a week ago. FHS has come to the recognition that, rather than focusing on elaborating a legal definition of the concept, we should pursue concrete collaboration on the basis of a common understanding of the broad concept contained in the outcome document. This common understanding is in line

with the working definition provided by the Commission on Human Security; “to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedom and human fulfillment.” The absence of a legally defined definition will not deter concrete collaboration. We should focus our efforts and resources on specific activities to extend support for the life, livelihood and dignity of vulnerable people and communities which are placed under various threats and insecurities.

From time to time, we have heard it asked, how is this concept different from other concepts such as the responsibility to protect? Our response is that human security is a human centered approach to global issues. It is consistent with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and promoted in full respect of national sovereignty. Human security is complimentary to state security. It is a concept which underlines the need to provide the environment under which individuals can develop fully their potential to enjoy a healthy and happy life, and communities become more resilient against sudden downfall. And it embraces a culture of empowerment and prevention to avoid the outbreak of humanitarian crisis.

(Essence of Human Security)

Human security is, in essence, the belief that a human being, irrespective of where he or she is born, is entitled to live a healthy, dignified, fulfilling life, and should be allowed to develop his or her ability to the maximum extent possible. And it is a concern of not only states, but also the international community as a whole.

We believe there are three key points.

First, it is a human-centered approach in tackling global issues, putting the livelihood and dignity of individuals and communities at the center of our focus.

Second, it requires us to take not a piecemeal approach but an integrated, holistic and multi-sectoral approach, comprising of physical security, development and human rights. It will be possible to respond to a wide range of threats such as conflict and violence, poverty, underdevelopment, infectious disease, human rights violations and natural disasters.

Third, the strategy we should follow is to protect and empower

organizations to implement human security related projects on the ground, Japan has contributed 314 million US dollars to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, which is ably managed by the Human Security Unit of OCHA and which financed more than 175 projects in approximately 70 countries. In TICAD-IV in Yokohama next week, human security is one of the principal topics of discussion in achieving MDGs and consolidation of peace. The outcome will be reflected in the discussion on development issues at the G8 Summit in July.

Japan intends to cooperate through FHS and with interested delegations to advance the mainstreaming of this valuable perspective in global challenges the UN is tackling with.

Thank you very much.



MÉXICO

**Intervención del
Embajador Claude Heller,
Representante Permanente de México ante
las Naciones Unidas, en el debate abierto sobre
la Seguridad Humana**

Nueva York, 22 de mayo de 2008

(Cotejar contra lectura)

**Statement by
Ambassador Claude Heller,
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, at the
open debate on Human Security**

New York, 22 May 2008

(Check against delivery)

(Unofficial translation)

**Intervención del Embajador Claude Heller, Representante Permanente de México
ante las Naciones Unidas, en el debate abierto sobre la Seguridad Humana**

Nueva York, 22 de mayo, 2008

Señor Presidente,

Permítame expresar la satisfacción del Gobierno de México por la celebración del primer debate sobre seguridad humana, el cual, ofrece un espacio privilegiado para abordar desde diferentes perspectivas la seguridad humana, así como una vía para explorar otras formas que permitan afrontar los desafíos de la humanidad.

Ante los terribles y trágicos acontecimientos que hoy día enfrentan diversos Estados miembros de nuestra Organización –sucesos que van desde la crisis alimentaria hasta los grandes desastres naturales-, México se congratula por este momento y respalda sin ambages las medidas encaminadas a un mejor entendimiento de la seguridad humana y la necesidad de su inclusión progresiva pero sólida en la agenda de la Organización.

México aspira a que el tema de la seguridad humana se asuma como un componente de la política exterior de los países que conforman la comunidad internacional, así como de la agenda multilateral.

Distinguidos delegados,

A lo largo del tiempo, la seguridad humana ha cobrado mayor importancia en el enfoque que han asumido los Estados y la Organización al abordar los problemas y desafíos más acuciantes que enfrentan conjuntamente.

Si algo aporta la seguridad humana es su carácter multidimensional, integral y progresivo, mismo que representa un salto cualitativo en la manera de concebir a la persona humana, la cual se ubica en el centro del debate así como de las decisiones acerca de la estabilidad política y de la seguridad del Estado.

Al abordar las amenazas, la seguridad humana integra componentes de la más diversa naturaleza, como políticos, jurídicos, económicos, sociales, culturales, civiles y militares, entre otros, ya que de esa manera la protección de la persona puede ser garantizada.

Desde el enfoque de la seguridad humana, la persona humana debe ser protegida en cualquier circunstancia sin importar el régimen que sea aplicable. Dicha protección comprende los derechos inherentes a toda persona y los medios para su ejercicio efectivo y disfrute pleno, así como las medidas que, de conformidad con el derecho internacional, los Estados por sí mismos o de manera colectiva tengan a su disposición para garantizar dicha protección.

Asimismo, mi Delegación considera que la seguridad humana tiene un valor agregado muy importante, que deseamos subrayar, y es su carácter preventivo. Preventivo, por un lado, para que la amenaza no culmine en una crisis y se distienda a favor del bienestar de la comunidad afectada y, por otro, para que de existir dicha amenaza, ésta no se vuelva a repetir.

Señor Presidente,

México identifica diversos asuntos que demandan un enfoque de seguridad humana, entre los cuales mi Delegación se permite destacar, entre otros, los siguientes:

- El cambio climático, cuyo impacto creciente constituye una amenaza para la humanidad en su conjunto, particularmente para aquélla que por factores geográficos, de pobreza u otros, se encuentra en un estado de vulnerabilidad. Al respecto, México considera que adoptando un enfoque en seguridad humana podemos lograr que la adaptación al cambio climático traiga beneficios para la reducción del riesgo de desastres naturales. En tal virtud, será necesario fortalecer las capacidades de los Estados para prevenir, mitigar y gestionar el riesgo de desastres naturales. El Plan de Acción de Balí y el Marco de Acción de Hyogo 2005 - 2015 contienen orientaciones prácticas para traducir en hechos la seguridad humana.
- La crisis alimentaria que asola a más de una treintena de países ha puesto de manifiesto la fragilidad de los sistemas preventivos alimentarios. México considera que por las implicaciones que esta situación conlleva es urgente que en adición de las medidas de mediano y largo plazo que serán discutidas en la Conferencia Internacional de junio próximo, se consolide un esquema de seguridad alimentaria que permita anticipar estas amenazas y actuar anticipadamente al estado de catástrofe.
- La disponibilidad de armas pequeñas y ligeras en situaciones de violencia y conflictos armados constituye otra amenaza para la seguridad nacional y regional en diferentes partes del mundo que demanda un enfoque de seguridad humana. Los asuntos de seguridad del Estado no pueden exceder los límites de la protección de la persona, por ello resulta ineludible aumentar los controles sobre el tránsito de armas pequeñas y ligeras.

Señor Presidente,

México aspira a que la seguridad humana sea un pilar en la toma de decisiones de los Estados y de la Organización, a través del cual se puedan potenciar las capacidades de la persona a fin de abatir los rezagos que causan los flagelos más perniciosos, como la pobreza, los conflictos armados y las pandemias, entre otras amenazas.

En este marco, mi Delegación está convencida del papel fundamental que tiene la Organización para favorecer un mejor entendimiento de la seguridad humana y arribar a una fórmula que permita satisfacer el mandato contenido en el documento de la Cumbre de 2005, así como para ponerla en práctica progresivamente a través de sus agencias, programas y fondos.

México considera que la Organización puede conjugar esfuerzos con los Estados para que, desde una perspectiva de seguridad humana, se avance en el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Muchas gracias

**Presentation of Ambassador Claude Heller, Permanent Representative of Mexico in
the open-ended debate on Human Security**

New York, May 22, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Mexico welcomes the first debate on human security, which offers a privileged forum to address human security from different perspectives, and constitutes a mean to explore other forms to face the challenges of humanity.

Considering the terrible and tragic threats the Member States of our organization are facing, such as food crises and natural disasters among others, Mexico welcomes and supports straight out the measures aimed at achieving a better understanding of human security and its progressive, yet solid inclusion in the agenda of the Organization.

Mexico looks forward to human security becoming a component of the foreign policy of all countries as well as of the multilateral agenda.

Distinguished delegates,

Throughout time, human security has gained relevance with the approach assumed by Member States and Organization in addressing the gravest problems and challenges.

Human security has a multidimensional, comprehensive, and progressive contribution that constitutes a qualitative leap in the way of conceiving the human person, which is located at the core of the debate, as well as of the decisions regarding political stability and State security.

In addressing threats, human security comprises components of various natures, such as political, legal, economic, social, cultural, civil and military, among others, because this way the protection of the person can be ensured.

From the human security approach, the human person shall be protected against any circumstance regardless the applicable regime. Such protection comprises the rights inherent to every person and the means for their effective execution and fulfillment, as well as the measures that, accordingly with international law, States on their own, or collectively, have at their hand to ensure this protection.

Moreover, my delegation would like to emphasize that human security has a very important added value, which is its preventive nature. This way, prevention on the one hand, would keep the threat from becoming a crisis, extending its benefits to the affected communities; on the other hand, it would avoid the repetition of such threat, it that was the case.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico identifies several issues that require a human security approach, amongst which my Delegation underlines the following:

- Climate change, whose growing impact represents a threat to humanity as a whole, particularly to those communities that are vulnerable due to factors such as geography and poverty. In this regard, Mexico considers that by adopting a human security approach, we can achieve that the adaptation to climate change brings benefits to the reduction of the risk of natural disasters. In such aim, it would be necessary to strengthen the capacities of States to prevent, mitigate and manage risk of natural disasters. The Action Plan of Bali and the Hyogo Action Framework 2005-2015 have practical orientations to make human security a reality.
- The food crisis that is affecting more than 30 countries, has demonstrated the fragility of preventive food systems. Mexico considers that given the implications of this problem, it is urgent that besides the mid-term and long term measures that will be discussed in the International Conference next June, a food security scheme is consolidated, allowing to anticipate such threats, and to act before the catastrophe occurs.
- The availability of small and light weapons in situations of violence and armed conflict constitutes a national and regional security threat in several parts of the world that demands a human security approach. State security issues cannot surpass the limits of protection of the person. Therefore, it is very important to increase control of the traffic of small and light weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico looks forward to human security becoming a pillar in decision-making processes of the States and the Organization, through which it can empower the capacities of the person in order to fight the most pernicious scourges such as poverty, armed conflicts, and epidemics, among other threats.

Within this framework, my Delegation is convinced that the fundamental role of the Organization is to promote a better understanding of human security and to reach a compromise in order to fulfill the mandate contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, as well as to execute it progressively through its agencies, funds and programmes.

In Mexico's view, the Organization can join efforts with States to advance in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals from a human security perspective.

I thank you.



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Dear Colleagues,

I would like, first of all, to thank [HE] the President of GA for convening this informal debate and extend my complements to the Deputy SG, Ms. Asha- Rose Migiro and- of course- HRH Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, [who honored us today with his presence].

I have the honour to take the floor in Greece's capacity as current Chair of the Human Security Network. Since its inception, almost ten years ago, the HSN has provided a platform of communication between policy makers, diplomats, civil society and the academia. This inter-regional group of countries now comprises 13 members, namely, Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland, Slovenia, Thailand and South Africa as an observer.

We have promoted the UN system of values and highlighted our vision for a humane world where people can live in security and dignity. In our common endeavor to tackle critical human security threats such as anti-personnel landmines, Small Arms & Light Weapons, promoting Human Rights Education, protecting women and children from violence, we have demonstrated our support for freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. We have also supported the UN reform process as a further step bringing closer democracy, human rights and development.

The network has a broad thematic spectrum ranging from threats emanating from human conflict, natural disasters, poverty, discrimination, disease and scarcity of natural resources. Since the nineties the term "human security" marks a process of broadening the scope of security beyond state/military security towards the human being. Human security is in essence a human-centered interpretation of security, which is much deeper and richer than the conventional interpretation.

The Human security concept has been further refined and promoted by various international initiatives and reports both within and outside the

UN system, such as the work of the Commission on Human Security (CHS), the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), the Friends of Human Security and the Human Security Network (HSN).

As current Chair of the Network, Greece is focusing on the human security implications of climate change. Emphasis is placed on the climate change impact on vulnerable population groups, particularly women, children and persons fleeing their homes as a consequence of climate change. Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, with widespread implications throughout the world.

Climate Change can act as an aggravating factor creating situations of instability, conflict, and humanitarian crises or making them more severe. Both peoples and states affect, and are affected by climate change. One important factor to note is that climate change will place a particular burden on those that, although not directly responsible for it, are already the most vulnerable to negative socio-economic and other forces. It is undisputable that those that will be affected the worst will be the vulnerable groups in least developed countries such as women, children and the elderly.

This is especially true in vulnerable regions and groups which face multiple stresses at the same time – pre-existing conflict, poverty and unequal access to resources, weak institutions, food insecurity and spreading of diseases. The vulnerable groups of people living in these countries are facing conditions of poverty/extreme poverty and hunger/famine.

In this framework and with regard to raising awareness on Human Security and climate change the Greek HSN Chairmanship adopted three main objectives:

- **to compile**, review and subsequently present the completed and on going studies of the most accredited international organizations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations about the structural impact of climate change mainly in developing regions by focusing on the vulnerable groups of women, children and persons fleeing their homes due to environmental degradation.
- **to elaborate** three policy papers, one for each of the aforementioned vulnerable groups. The policy paper on climate change & children has been drafted in collaboration with UNICEF, the policy paper on women, in collaboration with the leading international NGO Women's Environment and

Development Organization (WEDO), and the policy paper on persons fleeing their home due to climate change, in collaboration with the United Nations University.

- **to produce** an overall policy paper on the impact of climate change on human security with respect to development cooperation. This paper has been drafted in co-operation with the widely acclaimed International Institute for Environment and Development.

The Chair organized several panel discussions on Human Security & Climate Change, in Athens, New York, Bali, Geneva and Vienna, in cooperation with UNICEF, IOM and Austria. Each event was dedicated to one of the above mentioned groups of vulnerable populations. The purpose of these debates was to provide input for the finalization of policy papers regarding HSN action on climate change which were first presented and discussed during the HSN Senior Official Meeting (Athens, March 30) in view of a policy making discussion scheduled to take place at the HSN Ministerial Meeting, as well as at the Athens International Conference (May 29-30, 2008).

The **Vienna event** was organized in the form of a panel discussion on "Climate Change and Human Security: Women, a most vulnerable group" by the Permanent Mission of Greece and Austria to the United Nations in Vienna. Members of the Diplomatic Corps in Vienna as well as representatives of UN-Organizations, international organizations, NGOs and the media were invited to participate in the discussion.

The **Geneva Conference** (February 19th in co-operation with IOM) was dedicated on "Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration: Addressing Vulnerabilities and Harnessing Opportunities". The Conference focused on the impact of the migration and climate change nexus on human security. It has further addressed the broader impact of migration on the environment and the potential stability and security implications. The Conference touched upon a number of key policy challenges such as the need for involvement of all stakeholders and multidisciplinary dialogue and synergy; early planning; channeling the development potential of migration into adaptation projects; capacity building and awareness raising.

Two more **events were dedicated on Climate Change, Human Security and Children**. The events included panel discussion and media

events. The events took place, in Bali on December 10th 2007, in the margins of the International Conference on Climate Change, and in New York on December 12th 2007, in the margins of the GA Special Session on Children. UNICEF presented its brochure on climate change and children, while a child representative in the GA Special Session on Children pled for collective action to contain the hazards of climate change. UNICEF also presented a special video prepared for and financed by the Greek Chairmanship of HSN.

In this framework Greece also decided for the financing of relevant projects in least developed countries and regions, which are at increased risk to be affected by climate change mainly due to their geographic location (Africa and small island states). This initiative was well received in principle by representatives from the three relevant regional organizations, and it was agreed that contacts will be established between the competent bodies of these organizations with a view to the initiative's implementation.

The Greek HSN Chairmanship aims to bridge the gap between the political/diplomatic and scientific/research relevant endeavors. **The Athens International Conference and the annual HSN Ministerial Meeting (May 29-30) aims at bringing together leading governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in order to identify potential areas for progress and action. Our common goal is to achieve an outcome at the coming years that could better prepare the international community to face the human security /climate change challenges of the 21st century.**



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**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY MS. ENKHTSETSEG OCHIR,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN SECURITY**

**62nd session of the UNGA
May 22, 2008**

Mr. President,

Let me join the previous speakers in commending your leadership in convening today's thematic debate of the General Assembly on human security.

Human security is an ancient concept that is new to us. It is new because the term has entered developmental and political analysis in the 1990s and accelerated in usage in the early years of this century. However, the concerns for human security are as old as human society and form the basis of human civilization. Food and physical security were the overriding concern of early civilizations and they continue to be central to this day especially given the current global food crisis and ever-frequent occurrence of devastating natural disasters around the world.

What is new is globalisation - the extent to which our fates have become intertwined with those who previously would have remained isolated from us. Also new is the fact that most wars are now intrastate. Regionalism, ethnicity, mass migration and communal violence are more threatening than before. Ninety percent of the casualties of conflicts are civilians. In essence, human security means safety for people from both violent and non-violent threats. It is a condition or state of being characterized by freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, their safety, or even their lives. It is an alternative way of seeing the world, taking people as its point of reference, rather than focusing exclusively on the security of territory or governments. Like other security concepts - national security, economic security, food security, and environmental security - it is about protection. Human security entails taking preventive measures to reduce vulnerability and minimize risk, and taking remedial action where prevention fails.

Human security is also reflected in the history of social and political thought. I will take but two examples. In the thought of Hobbes people surrender a degree of liberty to the State as protection against anarchy. The security of the state is the overriding concern. In the thought of the Enlightenment individual freedoms and liberties guarantee human security by limiting the powers of the State. The security of the individual is the overriding concern. These debates continue to this date but they present a false dichotomy. It is the combination of rights and responsibilities of the state and those of the individual that guarantee human security. However, the human security perspective does analyze means and results from the point of view of their impact on human beings as it is a people-centered concept.

Mr. President,

The idea of human security is not new to the UN. Great strides were made in the conceptualization of human security with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the 1940s. Since then numerous covenants have further defined the civil, political, economic, and social rights, as well as the rights of children, women, minorities, and indigenous peoples. This forms the edifice of the rights-based approach to development, including the right to development itself.

Quest for definition and applicability of human security by academia and policy-makers burgeoned in 1990's and early years of the 21st century. The specific phrase "human security" is most commonly associated with the 1994 UNDP Human Development

Report that advocated attempting to capture the post-Cold War peace dividend and redirect those resources towards the development agenda. Most importantly the report outlined a change of emphasis from the state security to that of a human being, which included economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political dimensions.

Human security entails the freedom for each and every segment of the society to live a decent life; provision of an environment for everybody to develop his/her potential and not be discriminated against because of his/her gender, race or religion; and being protected from crime and environmental hazards, in other words people can exercise these choices safely and freely.

Advancing the human security agenda has been further explored in the 2003 report of the Commission on Human Security. The prime merit of the human security concept we see in that it addresses in a comprehensive manner the triple-tier freedom outlined in the Millennium Declaration, i.e. freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in a healthier and cleaner environment.

Mr. President,

Mongolia is strongly committed to ensuring human security and promoting human-centered development. The National Security Concept of Mongolia (1994) identifies advancement of human security as one of fundamental pillars for strengthening its national security. Furthermore, national development strategies, including a national program on "Good Governance for Human Security" (2001-2004), our MDGs and MDGs-based national development strategy up to 2021 are all aimed at ensuring human security of Mongols.

With a view to sharing experience and advancing further the human security agenda Mongolia also hosted a number of regional and international conferences over the recent years. The 5th International Conference of New and Restored Democracies in 2003 committed more than 100 participating countries to human security and human development within the framework of promoting democracy through adoption of and follow-up to the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action. Substantive discussions on human security issues were also held at the ARF workshop and the OSCE/Mongolia conference hosted in Ulaanbaatar back in 2005 and 2007 respectively. In addition, within the framework of advancing Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status a specific study was carried out in collaboration with the United Nations on my country's economic and ecological vulnerability and its implication on human security in 2004, the findings and recommendations of which have been further reflected in the policy documents of the Government.

Mr. President,

We believe that the reflection of human security concept in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document was an important step forward. Furthermore, the relevant recommendations of the Human Security Commission deserve, in our view, a closer consideration, including those related to the protection of people in violent conflict, protection of people on the move, providing minimum living standards everywhere,

ensuring universal access to basic health care and basic education, encouraging fair trade and markets to benefit the extreme poor around the world. In this respect, my delegation remains hopeful that today's thematic debate will facilitate a focused exchange of views on the multidimensional scope of the human security and explore ways of its application within the framework of the United Nations.

I would like to close my statement with a quote from the 1994 Human Development Report: "In the final analysis, human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode into violence, a dissident who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with weapons - it is a concern with human life and dignity."

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Mr. President,

I do believe that the reflection of human security concept in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document was an important step forward. Furthermore, the relevant recommendations of the Human Security Commission deserve in our view a closer consideration, including those related to the protection of people in violent conflict, protection of people on the move, providing minimum living standards everywhere.



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**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR BAKI İLKİN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AT
THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
HUMAN SECURITY**

22 MAY 2008, New York



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Mr.Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express our thanks to H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim, the President of the General Assembly for convening the thematic debate. I would also like to convey our thanks and deep appreciation to H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan for his stimulating remarks as the keynote speaker.

In the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, we committed ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly. Therefore, we consider this thematic debate a timely meeting.

Mr.Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

Human security is a relatively new concept which is still subject to a lively debate within the international community.

Although the notion of human security is not yet clearly defined, in practice the notion has already been developed in a number of projects carried out by member states within or outside the UN, as well as by the UN offices, agencies, funds and programmes. In this regard, I can recall the Friends of Human Security, the Human Security Network and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security managed by OCHA.

While trying to discuss and define human security, the main criteria to take into consideration should be what we agreed to reflect in the World Summit Outcome. Accordingly, “the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair” should be our basis.

Human security should enhance human rights and strengthen human development. Thus, we believe that human security is not only about protection but also empowerment. After all, it is empowerment that enables people to develop their potential and become full participants in all aspects of social life.

Thus the threat agenda against humans should be interpreted broadly to include hunger, disease, natural disasters, environmental problems because these kill or make more people suffer than wars and armed conflicts.

On the other hand, in order to allay certain hesitations and fears, and to come to a broad based consensus, we should also determine the ownership of and responsibility for this concept in clear terms. The ownership and responsibility lie first and foremost with individual states. The international community should be able to help these countries to build and enhance their capacities in this area. If we adopt such an approach, it may facilitate reaching a consensus on the concept.

Thank you.

Projet d'intervention de S.E.M. Gilles Noghès, *Monaco*
Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent auprès des Nations Unies

Débat thématique de l'Assemblée générale sur la question de la sécurité humaine
Jeudi 22 mai 2008

Monsieur le Président,

Qu'il me soit permis de louer les efforts et le travail de ceux qui ont rendu possible ce débat et de remercier tous les Etats membres de leur contribution dans les différents fora (sur le même thème).

Ma délégation a participé aux deux dernières réunions du Groupe d'Amis, car elle a souhaité s'associer à l'effort qui traduit la volonté de la communauté internationale de faire mieux et de promouvoir les valeurs que représente le concept de sécurité humaine.

Mon pays n'a jamais cessé de reconnaître l'importance du **développement centré sur la personne humaine**. Toutes les activités entreprises par le Gouvernement Princier dans le cadre de sa coopération internationale s'emploient à améliorer les conditions de vie des personnes concernées. Nous devons nous assurer que la croissance économique bénéficie effectivement au bien-être de toutes les personnes humaines afin qu'elles puissent vivre dans la dignité, à l'abri du besoin et de la peur.

L'interdépendance des défis auxquels nous sommes tous confrontés requiert une **approche intégrée des questions de développement**. Alors que nous nous apprêtons à évaluer, à mi-parcours, la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du Millénaire, dissocier et analyser de manière distincte tous les facteurs qui constituent le développement se révèlent être un exercice délicat. Bien souvent, nous traitons des mêmes sujets et partageons les mêmes préoccupations mais nous le faisons dans un contexte cloisonné.

Introduire un nouveau concept fondé sur une approche du développement qui recouvre l'interdépendance de nos sociétés et des menaces auxquelles elles font à faire face à partir d'une **unité de mesure en commun : l'être humain**, aurait pour effet de promouvoir un sentiment plus égalitaire et conforme aux principes de la Déclaration Universelle des droits de l'homme de 1948 dont nous célébrons cette année le 60^{ème} anniversaire.

Le concept de sécurité humaine met également en exergue **le rôle de la société civile**, un rôle essentiel car il complète et permet de mener à bien de nombreuses initiatives dans les domaines du renforcement des capacités et de l'autonomisation des communautés locales.

Le concept de sécurité humaine permet aussi d'adopter **un aspect inclusif des menaces** à mesure qu'elles se présentent telles les catastrophes naturelles ou les conflits.

Monsieur le Président,

En termes de substance, les thèmes avancés lors des réunions du Groupe d'Amis nous semblent tout à fait pertinents. Ma délégation souhaiterait toutefois insister sur l'inclusion de la protection de l'enfant et des questions de désertification et de biodiversité qui sont étroitement liées à celle du changement climatique, notamment à l'heure où nous devons faire face à une crise alimentaire d'une si grande envergure.

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Intervention

of

H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

**In the Substantive Debate
of the General Assembly of the United Nations
On Human Security**

Economic and Social Council Chamber

New York, Thursday, 22 May 2008

**Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations – New York
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First of all, I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Serjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly for convening this important substantive debate on human security. I would like also to thank the Permanent Representatives of Greece, Japan, Kenya, Mexico and Mongolia for their initiative to convene this meeting that gives us the opportunity to exchange views on the concept of human security that took shape at the 2005 World Summit.

In considering the overall projects and strategies adopted by Member States in their quest to achieve what we have called human security, we find that that concept is multidimensional and multi-oriented in a way that ultimately seeks to achieve an objective on which we have been unanimous at the World Summit, namely to provide equal opportunities for all, especially vulnerable people, to enjoy all rights and freedoms and to live free and with dignity, and to develop human potential to the fullest in order to be free from fear and want.

What I am trying to put forward here is an important and vital issue that is at the core of what we are discussing today, namely the fundamental right for all to education and its relationship to achieving human security for all. The reality in many regions of the world brings get us to an important conclusion, that the lack of basic education and of teaching human rights, concepts of democracy, peace and life skills are the root causes of the emergence of conflicts and crises. Such factors violate the coveted human security that ensures the full enjoyment of rights and freedoms.

Where are we in achieving this right? Such question needs to be answered especially as international reports identify a real problem in several regions of the world, notably in areas affected by armed conflict, including areas living under foreign occupation. In fact, about 43 million children living in such areas are deprived of basic education, leaving us far behind in our quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which call on the States to complete a full course of primary education by 2015. Furthermore, other reports indicate repeated and deliberate targeting of school students along with attacks on schools and educational buildings. Schools have thus lacked safety and become unable to protect children from violence.

As a national priority for the State of Qatar, and thanks to the wise leadership of the State of Qatar, embodied by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, attention has been drawn to support education efforts in countries affected by different conflicts. Such guidance stems from the premise that education is the best way to contain violence and promote tranquility and peace. Education has thus been incorporated in the humanitarian relief and emergency response programs in the State of Qatar. Prominent among those programs is the Reach Out to Asia initiative that seeks to build the educational infrastructure in those countries.

At the international level, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Misnad, Consort of His Highness the Emir, has expressed, in her capacity as the Special Envoy of UNESCO for Education, her concern over the threat to achieve human security resulting from the lack of education, especially in areas of conflict. Such concerns have prompted Her Highness to launch several educational initiatives of international scope, including the establishment of the International Fund for Higher Education in Iraq, to which the State of Qatar earmarked fifteen million U.S. dollars to address the rapid deterioration that has afflicted the educational infrastructure in that country. Next June, Her Highness will sponsor an international conference on education in Iraq, aiming at discussing the protection and promotion of education in countries suffering from conflicts in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that respect for the human right to education is at the heart of the protection of human security, for it helps in building peaceful societies. The State of Qatar will therefore work in collaboration with Member States and international partners and NGOs for the realization of the right to education in conflict areas as a priority issue.

I thank you.



Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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(Please check against delivery)

Statement by Ambassador Yukio Takasu
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
At the General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Security
New York, 22 May 2008

Mr. President,

Thank you for your initiative in convening the General Assembly thematic debate on human security. I would also like to extend warmest appreciation to the inspiring statement by His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan.

(Concept of Human Security)

In the outcome document of the World Summit in 2005, our political leaders committed themselves “to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly.” By meeting here today, we are honoring our commitment and availing ourselves of an important opportunity to initiate that discussion. The outcome document agreed that this notion is to be defined based on a common understanding that “all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.”

In order to follow up that agreement, Japan, together with Mexico as co-chairs, has organized an open ended, informal forum called Friends of Human Security (FHS) every six months since October 2006 to explore collaborative efforts for mainstreaming human security in United Nations activities. Under the umbrella of the framework of FHS, countries interested in specific issues will collectively promote cooperation efforts in the UN activities. The report A/62/695 contains a list of related activities of FHS. I am very grateful to the representatives of more than 86 countries and 18 international organizations who attended the fourth meeting of FHS a week ago. FHS has come to the recognition that, rather than focusing on elaborating a legal definition of the concept, we should pursue concrete collaboration on the basis of a common understanding of the broad concept contained in the outcome document. This common understanding is in line

with the working definition provided by the Commission on Human Security; “to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedom and human fulfillment.” The absence of a legally defined definition will not deter concrete collaboration. We should focus our efforts and resources on specific activities to extend support for the life, livelihood and dignity of vulnerable people and communities which are placed under various threats and insecurities.

From time to time, we have heard it asked, how is this concept different from other concepts such as the responsibility to protect? Our response is that human security is a human centered approach to global issues. It is consistent with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and promoted in full respect of national sovereignty. Human security is complimentary to state security. It is a concept which underlines the need to provide the environment under which individuals can develop fully their potential to enjoy a healthy and happy life, and communities become more resilient against sudden downfall. And it embraces a culture of empowerment and prevention to avoid the outbreak of humanitarian crisis.

(Essence of Human Security)

Human security is, in essence, the belief that a human being, irrespective of where he or she is born, is entitled to live a healthy, dignified, fulfilling life, and should be allowed to develop his or her ability to the maximum extent possible. And it is a concern of not only states, but also the international community as a whole.

We believe there are three key points.

First, it is a human-centered approach in tackling global issues, putting the livelihood and dignity of individuals and communities at the center of our focus.

Second, it requires us to take not a piecemeal approach but an integrated, holistic and multi-sectoral approach, comprising of physical security, development and human rights. It will be possible to respond to a wide range of threats such as conflict and violence, poverty, underdevelopment, infectious disease, human rights violations and natural disasters.

Third, the strategy we should follow is to protect and empower

organizations to implement human security related projects on the ground, Japan has contributed 314 million US dollars to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, which is ably managed by the Human Security Unit of OCHA and which financed more than 175 projects in approximately 70 countries. In TICAD-IV in Yokohama next week, human security is one of the principal topics of discussion in achieving MDGs and consolidation of peace. The outcome will be reflected in the discussion on development issues at the G8 Summit in July.

Japan intends to cooperate through FHS and with interested delegations to advance the mainstreaming of this valuable perspective in global challenges the UN is tackling with.

Thank you very much.

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

بعثة مصر الدائمة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement of
H.E. Ambassador Maged A. ABDELAZIZ
The Permanent Representative**

**in the General Assembly Thematic Debate
on
“Human Security”**

New York- 22 May 2008

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Mr. President,

Egypt has been following the discussion on “Human Security” closely since it emerged in 1994, and took part in formulating paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Document. It has also monitored the developments within the “Human Security Network” and the “Friends of Human Security”, and attended the latter's 3rd and 4th open meetings.

We welcome the initiative of the President of the General Assembly to hold this informal thematic debate to bring the discussion to the General Assembly, as no agreement exists thus far on the definition and the scope of “Human Security”, neither among the general membership, nor within any regional or political group. Meanwhile, we also welcome the role of the “United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security” in the implementation of various important projects, and Japan's role in particular, since its announcement of “Human Security” as one of its foreign policy pillars in 1997, both in support of the Trust Fund and in encouraging the deliberations on this important issue.

Mr. President,

Egypt believes that the discussion and definition of “Human Security” should remain in the General Assembly. Our discussion in this regard should be in conformity with the international commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter, on top of which come the respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state. They should also be based on the principles of international humanitarian law, with due respect to the right to self-determination, particularly for peoples under occupation.

At the same time we support the noble objectives of achieving “Human Security”, we believe that international peace and security are only attainable through eliminating inequalities and injustices, and fostering common grounds for mutual understanding. It is therefore essential that the discussion on “Human Security” centers on the area of development alongside the promotion of respect of human rights. That is exactly the nature of the projects that have taken place in this regard as distributed in the distributed list (Document A/62/695). Special consideration should also be rendered to the needs of countries undergoing or emerging from conflicts in order to prevent the relapse into conflict and ensure the accessibility to humanitarian assistance and the exclusion of policies that attempt to enforce economic blockades, famines and collective punishment on peoples under occupation.

To deal with “Human Security” effectively within the UN system, we should commit ourselves to:

1. Adopting a cooperative approach to promote respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, through international support to national capacity building efforts, in order to enable governments to meet their national obligations, particularly within the context of the Universal Review Mechanism of the Human Rights Council and regional review mechanisms, that take duly into account the specificities and characteristics of each region which is mostly different from other regions in the world, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM);

2. Supporting the activities of the UN agencies, funds and programmes in the field of comprehensive human development, with special attention to health, education, advancement and protection of women and children;
3. Strengthening national and regional capacities to deal with natural and environmental disasters, and those that are human-made, such as climate change, nuclear disasters and their connection to the acquisition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, as their continued existence and stockpiling represent a perilous threat to the survival of mankind, landmine, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their correlation with illicit trade in and exploitation of natural resources and fuelling armed conflicts; and
4. Implementing a comprehensive, multidimensional, and integrated approach in tackling the food security issue, in order to overcome the negative repercussions of the current international crisis, which in itself constitutes a threat to "Human Security" in all its aspects, as well as other emerging challenges that impede the realization of the potentials and aspirations of individuals and peoples for progress and prosperity, hence bolstering the ability of developing countries to achieve their development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

We should be careful not to confuse "Human Security" with the attempts to use the "Responsibility to Protect" to justify intervention in domestic affairs, particularly between governments and their peoples. National governments have the primary responsibility to provide security to their citizens. The responsibility of the international community is to complement this role and to provide the necessary support, upon the request and with the consent of national governments, to build their capacities in order to meet the immediate and impending challenges and threats. To enable the governments to perform their sovereign role, an effective partnership needs to be established between governments, regional and international organizations and civil society, based on the principle of national ownership. "Human Security" needs to become an area that unites efforts, not a cause for conflict of interests or disagreement... an area of convergence, not divergence.

To this end, any attempt to define or operationalize "Human Security" has to focus on human development, in order to preserve human dignity and enable all human beings to enjoy freedom from fear of poverty, hunger or disease... freedom from want... freedom from occupation and oppression... freedom from weapons of mass destruction... and finally respect for each other's cultures, traditions and beliefs. Only then will the international community be able to eliminate the causes of disappointment that lead to violence, extremism and terrorism, and fuel tensions and conflicts. Our endeavors to define and implement "Human Security" should become a driving force to rebuilding confidence between the North and South and reinforce cooperation and integration, rather than imposition and separation.

AUSTRIA



PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by Ambassador Gerhard Pfanzelter
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations

at the Thematic Debate of the General Assembly
on "Human Security"

New York, 22 May 2008

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to thank you for convening this informal thematic debate on human security and would like to express my gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal and the Deputy Secretary General for their interesting and stimulating statements.

Austria fully aligns itself with the statements held earlier by Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and by Greece as the Chair of the Human Security Network.

The concept of human security is a cornerstone of Austria's foreign policy. In essence it calls for particular attention to the security of people and individuals and it describes the complex of interrelated threats associated with civil war, emergencies and displacement of population. Austria is convinced that all individuals are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.

The international community must pay particular attention to the most vulnerable in our societies in order to promote and protect their right to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. Activities on the ground and concrete projects can raise greater awareness and promote wider dialogue and discussion on the interrelatedness between security, development and human rights. Thus we can translate our commitment into action at all levels. In this context let me commend the important contributions of the Human Security Unit in OCHA in its efforts to promote human security in UN activities.

Austria has upheld its commitment to the promotion of human security especially in the areas we already had made a priority during the last years: Cluster Munitions, Human Rights Education and Landmines. Additionally we continue to support the topics Children and Armed Conflict and Women, Peace and Security, Small and Light Weapons and Human Trafficking. Let me use the opportunity to highlight in more detail a few priorities.

If we care about human security, we must care about the atrocious effects of cluster munitions. Austria is strongly committed towards the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on cluster munitions. The number of countries supporting a ban has continuously risen – by now 81 countries are in favour of a prohibition of those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to the civilian population. We know how dangerous these weapons are for civilian populations – during an attack and once the hostilities have ceased. They hamper reconstruction in conflict zones, they impede internally displaced and refugees from returning home and leading a normal life.

The protection of children in armed conflict continues to be another important challenge on the human security agenda. In this regard we support SC Res. 1612 on the Monitoring and Reporting mechanism, which is an important instrument for protecting children in armed conflict. At the same time we believe in the importance of concrete initiatives on the ground. In this context, let me mention our project on “train the trainer” courses for Iraqi personnel dealing with the psycho-social rehabilitation of children in Iraq, which we run together with our HSN partner Slovenia and Jordan. We also carried out 5 projects in Northern Uganda focusing on the improvement of living conditions of children and youth in the conflict areas of Kitgum and Pader. We have also stepped up efforts to train Austrian military and field personnel about to be sent on missions abroad. Our goal is that everybody sent abroad into a conflict or crisis zone should have sufficient knowledge on the rights of children and their special needs in conflict areas.

Regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we have to keep up and intensify our efforts. Austria is working with its partners to put the commitments of 1325 into practice in the UN, the OSCE and the EU. It must become the norm that women are involved at all stages of the peace process. Peace missions must automatically cooperate with women’s groups on the ground. We know from the field how important it is that women are part of international peace missions, especially in visible, higher ranking positions.

The complex of security related aspects of climate change has also been getting more and more attention, as clearly demonstrated by recent events in the UN context. Climate

change is a threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends and instability and thereby can lead to heightened security risks. But climate change seen from the angle of human security does not only affect the security of states, but also the security of individuals, in particular those most vulnerable, such as women.

Austria together with Greece on 13 March organised an event in Vienna on "Climate change and human security: Women, a most vulnerable group?". There were interesting synergies gained from this approach: addressing gender specific aspects of climate change is not only a requirement for successful climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. It will also have a positive effect on our broader concerns of development and poverty reduction.

Of course to achieve positive results and synergies, the concerns identified with regard to vulnerable groups need to be integrated into our policy making. That is the challenge ahead of us.

Portugal

**Debate Temático AGNU
Segurança Humana
Nova Iorque, 22 de Maio**

Tópicos de Intervenção (na qualidade de membro do “Group of Friends” of Human Security):

Mainstreaming the “Human Security” Concept

- As already stated in the EU statement, mainstreaming human security through UN activities is a key issue. Portugal is also committed to better mainstream human security and its ‘people-centred and not state-centred’ approach in relevant UN activities. For instance, we are open to discuss ways of expanding the Group of Friends and also the Human Security Network, as wider support means more chances of getting a more fruitful debate and involvement. In this regard the present discussion in the GA is also of utmost importance for this Group.
- On the same issue, Portugal would also like to develop a more comprehensive exchange of views between Member States, for example, on ways of further developing relevant human security issues in regional groups, in a timely and predictable manner. The exchange of experiences could then also be brought up during subsequent meetings of the Group of Friends, for follow up purposes.

Portugal’s role in Human Security

- For Portugal, the full enjoyment of all Human Rights is an integral part of the human dignity. Portugal would like to underline that the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, whose thorough negotiations were concluded last April, is a step forward towards a greater recognition of the interrelatedness of all human rights. Portugal foresees this adoption at the next GA and encourages all Member States to give their support to the adoption of this Optional Protocol.
- As an example of activities developed in the field of human security and humanitarian environment, the Portuguese Development Agency signed last April a Protocol that establishes a support program to the Rural Development in Timor-Leste, with a total budget of EUR 916.000,00 for the period 2008-2010. This is a very important achievement towards the safety of Timorese people, as the root causes of many disputes in the country are related to land property.
- Portugal also fully supports the Declaration and Plan of Action of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva, last November. The slogan “Together for Humanity” and all its working papers are completely in the spirit of what we can do to better achieve Human Security: multilateral collaboration between Member States, International organizations, UN Agencies and civil society organizations in order to establish a better coordinated response to complex challenges such as climate change and DRR strategies.

INTERVENCIÓN DE CHILE EN DEBATE TEMÁTICO SOBRE SEGURIDAD HUMANA

Señor Presidente:

Le agradecemos la convocatoria de este debate temático y nos adherimos a lo manifestado por la distinguida Delegación de Grecia, en representación de la Red de Seguridad Humana.

Chile participa con singular interés en este debate que, después de tres años, implementa el párrafo 143 del Outcome Document de la Cumbre 2005 de Naciones Unidas. Chile, en efecto, fue un impulsor entusiasta de la inclusión en dicho documento de una referencia consagratoria del concepto de Seguridad Humana.

El valor de este debate radica menos en un intento de definir el concepto de Seguridad Humana –ejercicio teórico de dudoso valor político y posible fuente de desencuentros- que en una identificación de los elementos que permitan la operacionalización de la Seguridad Humana.

Tengamos claro que la Seguridad Humana viene siendo puesta en práctica por el sistema de Naciones Unidas, principalmente a través del PNUD, desde la década de los 90, y que la primera referencia al concepto en un documento de nuestra organización ocurre en el Informe sobre Desarrollo Humano de 1994. Con posterioridad, diversos referentes y paneles, en particular la Red de Seguridad Humana y el Grupo de Amigos de la Seguridad Humana han realizado importantes esfuerzos para acotar la noción de Seguridad Humana, pero siempre en función de objetivos específicos.

El contenido práctico del concepto de Seguridad Humana está recogido en el párrafo 148 del Outcome Document que, a su vez, alude al informe del Milenio: “todos los individuos tienen derecho a ser libres del temor y libres de la necesidad”.

Para Chile, el valor del concepto de Seguridad Humana radica principalmente en la oportunidad que ofrece para visitar la agenda de Seguridad Internacional,

enfocando cada uno de sus temas desde la perspectiva del ser humano, sus necesidades y su protección. La Seguridad Humana ofrece la posibilidad de materializar un cambio de paradigma, conforme al cual la seguridad no sólo se visualiza desde la óptica del Estado sino que del individuo, de su dignidad humana, fuente de la soberanía de los Estados y razón última del propósito de la Carta de Naciones Unidas.

Más aún, los “tres pilares”- de Naciones Unidas: Derechos Humanos, Seguridad y Desarrollo, se ven mejor y armónicamente integrados desde la Seguridad Humana. El punto de partida es la persona humana, investida de Derechos anteriores al Estado; tanto la persona y la comunidad humana en la que se integra deben ser protegidas para que disfruten de la libertad ante el temor y la libertad frente a la necesidad y todo ello convierte el desarrollo en un requisito para lograrlo.

Señor Presidente:

Más allá de estas consideraciones conceptuales, Chile cree que esta oportunidad debe ser aprovechada para identificar líneas de trabajo que permitan a la Organización y al sistema multilateral avanzar en la implementación de la Seguridad Humana. Es perfectamente posible que, sin perjuicio de ciertas diferencias de opinión entre los Estados Miembros, logremos consenso alrededor de ciertos elementos donde el concepto y enfoque de Seguridad Humana resulte claramente iluminador y fuente de inspiración. Chile no es partidario de extender el concepto de Seguridad Humana a una gran diversidad de actividades. Mientras más preciso y operativo el sentido concreto de la Seguridad Humana, más fácil será su creciente aceptación.

La asistencia humanitaria del sistema de Naciones Unidas, particularmente aquella en respuesta a desastres naturales, es una que debe estar presidida por la Seguridad Humana. Nos parece totalmente fuera de duda que la seguridad y el bienestar de la gente están por encima de toda otra consideración cuando corremos a atender necesidades humanitarias. La persona humana es la razón de ser del Estado y de esta Organización.

Confluencia del Desarme y el Derecho Humanitario: Hay capítulos de la agenda multilateral donde se produce un traslape entre el Derecho del Desarme y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario. Ello ocurre en el tratamiento de la proliferación y tráfico ilícitos de las armas pequeñas y ligeras y la prohibición o restricción de ciertas armas y municiones inhumanas, en particular las minas y las municiones de racimo. Cuando los requerimientos de seguridad de un Estado son examinados bajo la perspectiva de la Seguridad Humana, resulta obvio que la renuncia a medios de guerra que causan daño indiscriminado a las poblaciones civiles es un paso inevitable que contribuye sustancialmente a la paz y la seguridad internacionales. La Convención de Ottawa y el Proceso de Oslo, apuntado a la supresión de las municiones de racimo son claros ejemplos de materialización del paradigma de Seguridad Humana.

Pandemias y otras amenazas a la salud pública: Nuevamente aquí hallamos un área de trabajo multilateral que se vería reforzada por la adopción de la Seguridad Humana como principio orientador. Las pandemias han sido clasificadas hace tiempo entre las “nuevas amenazas a la seguridad”. En tanto amenazas las pestes no son ciertamente nuevas; lo novedoso radica en la percepción de ellas como un obstáculo para el disfrute de la libertad ante el temor. Contribuye a esta idea la prohibición jurídica de las armas biológicas, a partir de 1972, fruto de la convicción que tales artilugios repugnan a la conciencia de la Humanidad. Las pandemias constituyen una amenaza universal, que trasciende las fronteras; la Seguridad Humana permitirá mejorar los niveles de transparencia y comunicación, permitiendo respuestas tempranas y mejor coordinadas. La Seguridad Humana, a la larga, refuerza la legitimidad de una soberanía bien entendida.

Niños en conflictos armados: Esta es una lacra todavía presente que concita la preocupación de todos nosotros. Las acciones multilaterales para erradicarla estarán mejor enfocadas y se harán más incisivas si las implementamos desde la Seguridad Humana. Se trata de una actividad difícil porque concierne no sólo a los Estados sino que involucra a actores no-estatales, no sometidos al Derecho Internacional y la autoridad de Naciones Unidas. Pero las dificultades jurídicas y

políticas deben subsumirse en una visión que pone la seguridad y el bienestar de los niños por encima de todo.

Señor Presidente:

Una lista de áreas de trabajo podría seguir, pero hemos querido señalar estas cuatro a vía de ejemplo. Debemos ser pragmáticos y realistas: creemos preferible buscar un consenso alrededor de unos pocos elementos para avanzar paulatinamente hacia otros. Esta Organización es más eficaz cuando todos sus miembros actúan juntos.

Finalmente, una observación política: es preciso enfatizar que el Estado es el primer y principal proveedor de Seguridad Humana, entendida esta como un bien público global. No hay, por tanto, una contradicción inherente entre el enfoque de la Seguridad Humana y la soberanía del Estado; como lo hemos dicho, la Seguridad Humana refuerza la legitimidad de la autoridad del Estado y, por otro lado, da unidad y sentido a los tres pilares de Naciones Unidas. La adopción de la Seguridad Humana como un principio orientador de esta organización hará necesario poner en marcha una potente línea de asistencia a los Estados -que voluntariamente la soliciten- para mejorar sus capacidades de proveer Seguridad Humana a sus poblaciones.

Señor Presidente:

Esperamos que, como resultado de este debate, acciones específicas puedan ser ejecutadas por la Organización. Es posible que se requiera más reflexión y análisis, que podrían ser acometidos por un Grupo de Trabajo Ad-Hoc. Chile está abierto a considerar todas las opciones eficaces y se declara dispuesto a colaborar activamente en el proceso hacia el futuro.

Muchas Gracias

COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

140 EAST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Statement

H.E. Mrs. CLAUDIA BLUM

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

General Assembly

Thematic Debate on Human Security

62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 22 May 2008

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Mr. President,

Colombia reaffirms, as decided at the 2005 World Summit, the role of the General Assembly as the appropriate forum for States to consider, discuss and determine the possible scope of the concept of human security. Given the implications of this task, the broad participation of Member States is essential. The convening of this thematic debate, at the initiative of the President of the General Assembly, provides a significant opportunity for a fruitful exchange of views.

Colombia recognizes the positive intention reflected in the analysis on human security. It is important to strengthen actions to advance in the realization of the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. Issues related to the right of all people, especially the most vulnerable, to live free from fear and from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential, deserve special attention from States and are linked to the purposes of the United Nations.

In the discussion on the notion of human security, my delegation would like to refer to several aspects that should be taken into account:

First, it is important that the discussion on human security contributes to consolidate, in a comprehensive manner, the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including those related to: the development of friendly relations among Nations; international cooperation in economic, social, cultural and humanitarian affairs; the promotion of development and human rights; and the principle of non-intervention in matters which are within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

Secondly, it is important that the notion of human security is in accordance with the definition of development, peace and security, and human rights, as the three pillars of United Nations work. Bearing in mind that these three pillars are of central relevance, without any relationship of hierarchy or subordination between them. The search for human security must be consistent, also, with the actions of the United Nations, related to cooperation for development, including in economic, social, environmental and cultural fields.

Thirdly, the purpose of analysis that begins today, should be the definition and the use of a precise and unambiguous notion, which includes elements and safeguards agreed by the States, in order to ensure clarity, objectivity and balance, both in understanding the concept and in its implementation.

Fourth, the eventual inclusion of, inter alia, social, economic, political, environmental and cultural issues, in the analysis of human security should be conducted in accordance with the agreements and definitions that have been reached in the different thematic areas of the United Nations, achieved in many cases as a result of complex discussions. Those decisions have defined the responsibilities of Nation States, and the roles of the international community and other relevant actors, including civil society. The inclusion of the various dimensions of human security must preserve the political agreements and international regulatory frameworks defined in each field, and must be done in a manner that does not hinder the actions taking place under the existing intergovernmental agreements.

Finally, when understanding that people are in the center of security, it is important to stress that States have the primary responsibility in this area, as well as in protecting the rights of individuals, including the right to live in freedom and dignity. Just as human development, understood at the personal level, is closely linked to the development of countries, people's security must be understood as an integral part of security of States. In these matters, it is not necessary to generate conceptual dichotomies, which could cause difficulties when analyzing the causes and effective responses concerning threats to the security of persons.

Mr. President,

Allow me to reiterate the importance of this debate in the process that the United Nations General Assembly must develop with a view to advancing in the precision on the common understanding on human security. Finding an intergovernmental consensus on this subject is a necessary purpose to advance in the consideration of the concept in the activities of the United Nations, including its various agencies, funds and programmes.

I thank you, Mr. President.



PHILIPPINES

Thematic Debate of the UN General Assembly on Human Security
22 May 2008

by

H.E. HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Permanent Representative

Mr. President,

My delegation commends you for organizing this thematic debate to reflect on the multi-dimensional scope of human security and to further explore ways to follow up on the reference to human security in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, particularly paragraph 143 thereof. I congratulate you for your foresight. The confluence – or worse, the conspiracy – of fearsome and destructive happenings of global impact and which call for global humanitarian attention such as the food crisis, the cyclone in Myanmar, the earthquake in China and other natural or man-made disasters, make this debate very appropriate and timely. Verily, all these disasters strike at the issue of human security. Then, too, on 10 December this year, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human rights, a declaration whose core value is human security.

In any debate, a concept is either yet to be defined and made the main purpose, or its definition is assumed or accepted for some other purposes, of the debate. We are here not anymore to define human security, or we may end up nowhere. The art of defining attracts the imagination, and someone has said that imagination is the secret reservoir of the riches of the human race.

Let me just state that human security is at the heart and is the soul of the Charter of the UN. The prayer in its Preamble and the declaration of Purposes and Principles in Chapter I thereof are the undebatable authority of this proposition. To me then, all the present varied definitions of human security, all the ideas and thoughts on what the concept includes or excludes, as well as all the schools of thought thereof, focus on and relate to these Preamble and Purposes and Principles, or are applications or interpretations thereof to vivify or give life to its all-encompassing spirit.

Thus, what is now important is to immediately direct our minds to the main purpose of this debate I alluded to earlier. In this regard the school of thought that relates human security to the improvement of the quality of life through: (1) food security, (2) health security, (3) environmental security, (4) economic security, and (5) political security that covers both personal and public security, may serve as the touchstones or roadmap for this debate. Common to the first four is energy security.

These components of human security have a common strain, that is, for as long as the human person is both the subject and object of cooperation, human security must be the alpha and the omega of all human desires and of society in all its spheres and dimensions. The Philippine experience proves this.

The President of the Philippines signed into law the **Human Security Act of 2007**, which declares it a policy of the State "to protect life, liberty and property from all acts of terrorism, to condemn terrorism as inimical and dangerous to the national security of the country and to the welfare of the people, and to make terrorism a crime against the Filipino people, against humanity and against the law of nations."

Chapter 7 of the Updated Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010, entitled "National Harmony: The Peace Process," explicitly provides that the Philippine Government shall continue to pursue a comprehensive peace process that is human security-based, involving primarily the protection of the people's fundamental rights and freedoms especially in situations of armed conflict, promotion of reconciliation and interfaith dialogue for peace and development.

The Philippine Supreme Court recently promulgated the rules adopting the writ of Amparo and the writ of habeas data as added protection to individual rights and freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights. In its Action Program for Judicial Reforms promulgated in 2003, access to justice by the poor is one of its six components.

Threats to **human security** are being addressed by the Philippine Government through reforms in governance for the protection and empowerment of the people. These policy measures include the enhancement of institutional capacity of government agencies to more effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of the people.

The three pillars of Philippine foreign policy, an extension of Philippine domestic policy, are rooted in **human security**. These pillars are: (1) Promotion and attainment of economic security, (2) Preservation and enhancement of national security, and (3) Protection of the rights and welfare of Filipino overseas.

The Philippines encourages private sector participation in service delivery as a measure to strengthen governance. Non-governmental organizations also participate to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity in various areas of government operations such as procurement, election administration, and justice administration, among other things.

Mr. President,

As I suggested earlier, this debate may focus on these urgent issues of food security, health security, environmental security, economic security and political security. I shall for the moment limit myself on the first three.

On Food Security, we all recognize that the light at the end of the tunnel of the food crisis is nowhere in sight as yet. The outcome of the Rome Food Summit in 3-5 June 2008 may help. But I reiterate here our previous suggestion, likewise reiterated yesterday at the ECOSOC special meeting on the global food crisis, that the General Assembly must take the initiative in this matter by holding a thematic debate on the food crisis/food security and thereafter a High Level Event thereof during the 62nd session. We must not forget the food crisis involves the issue of survival and of the right to life itself.

On Health Security, the international community must convert the High-Level Meeting on HIV-AIDS next month into a forum to forge decisive collective action.

On Environmental Security, it is now high time for all sectors of society, particularly households and individuals, the private sector and the academe, scientists and the ordinary man, woman and child, to join hands in protecting our deteriorating environment and restoring the balance of harmony of nature and not be captives of intransigent governments which stunt progress of multilateral cooperation to abet climate change.

On the related topic of Energy Security we should not only count on the possibility of increased oil output by the oil producers but also launch a massive global campaign to generate alternative energy sources, which are both clean and renewable.

In conclusion, Mr. President, the scope of work in promotion human security is daunting and formidable. Still, we can take the first step in this vital road to a secure humanity if we all take the first step with the four priority issues I have just outlined.

Thank you, Mr. President.



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RODRIGO MALMIERCA DIAZ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA, AT THE THEMATIC DISCUSSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN SECURITY. New York, 22 May 2008

Mr. President,

Cuba welcomes your interest to revitalize the United Nations General Assembly. We must take full advantage of the potentialities of this organ, which belongs to all by equal, where there is no place for hegemonism, where there is no obsolete right to veto, where we all have the right to vote.

There are many relevant issues that require the Assembly's serious attention. The question of human security is undoubtedly one such issue. But it is by no means the only one, nor is it the most urgent. We hope that other issues of the utmost interest for the future of our Organization can be discussed in detail by the Assembly in the near future.

Mr. President,

We have seen all too frequently how concepts that have never been agreed upon are used and promoted in documents and proposals of Member States and of the Secretariat. The so-called Human Security is a case in point.

We reject the attempts by some to impose and implement ambiguous concepts, which are not clearly defined, for that could turn them into easily manipulated instruments to justify any action and attempt against the sacred principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

Each one of us has probably our own definition of the paradigm of Human Security. It is hence necessary to review the issue and reach a consensual agreement regarding the components of such concept, its scope and role within the United Nations system. So it was agreed on by the Heads of State at the 2005 Summit. We hope that this debate will be the first step toward this aim, and that from now on, the consideration of this sensitive matter remains permanently open to the participation of all Member States by equal.

Mr. President,

There is not a higher objective for the Cuban Revolution than the achievement of equal opportunities for each and every member of society to enjoy their rights and

develop their full human potential. Likewise, we contribute as possible so that other peoples of the world can achieve this objective.

As such, we are determined to support all legitimate actions aimed at resolving, both the root causes behind them and the dramatic facts that bring about the tragedies that affect the security and progress of all human beings of our times, without applying the restrictive approaches advocated by the North, mainly by the most powerful countries, with their international strategies and actions.

By no means are we calling the international community or the United Nations to remain impassive at the needs of human beings, including their legitimate aspirations for security. On the contrary, we are demanding once again, from this rostrum, a resolved and urgent action to seek just and lasting solutions to the growing problems affecting the security of the human race and of each one of its individuals.

How to achieve the objective of guaranteeing human security, that is, the comprehensive security of each person on the planet? There are neither simple answers nor easy solutions to this question.

We are faced today with the huge challenge posed by the unjust, unequal and unsustainable international order of which we are victims. We live in a world that privileges a minority that makes up less than 20% of the planet's population and prevents the development and wellbeing of the remaining 80%.

How can the security of all human beings be guaranteed while faced with obstacles such as unequal trade, impenetrable markets of the industrialized countries for our products, instability and growing speculation in the financial markets, restrictions to the transfer of technology and abusive brain drain?

We are convinced that if the conditions of underdevelopment and poverty in which four-fifths of humanity live are not reversed; if 1.1 billion people are not brought out from extreme poverty; if the lives of 8 million children who die before their first birthday are not saved; if 854 million hungry are not fed, if 876 million illiterate adults are not taught to read and write, then human security will simply be an empty rhetorical phrase.

What human security can we talk about when every four seconds a person starves to death, most of them children under 5 years of age?

If the UN and its development infrastructure are not preserved; if a new socially-oriented financial architecture is not created; if transnational corporations continue to control our economies; if the modest commitment to devote 0.7% of the First World's gross domestic product in official development assistance is not fulfilled, and what little they give does not cease to be increasingly conditioned; if the external debt is not canceled, which our countries have paid off many times over and yet it continues to grow and to bleed 20% of our exports, then the insecurity of human beings will continue to prevail.

The human race will not survive if the unsustainable production and consumption model of the industrialized countries is kept, which pollutes and degrades 60% of the

planet's ecosystems, depletes the natural resources and is responsible for 76% of greenhouse gas emissions.

Global warming, the threat of the rise of the sea level, the indiscriminate logging of forests, the use of food to squander fuels in the US and Europe's cars, the exhaustion of fossil fuels, the irrational use of the sources of water, *inter alia*, pose serious threats to the security of human beings. There cannot be human security without sustainable development.

The dramatic and unstoppable rise of food and fuel prices, with its devastating consequences for the majority of countries, is a telling case in point of the very serious dangers that stem from the current world order. As long as food and energy insecurity exist, there will not be human security.

Human security is incompatible with the existence of more than 300 000 nuclear weapons in the world today, more than 12 000 of which are ready to be used immediately. There will not be human security as long as nuclear disarmament is not achieved and the world continues to spend far more resources to produce weapons than to save lives.

If the political models of the North continue to be imposed, if the right to independence and self-determination is not respected and the diversity of cultures and political models is not comprehended, conflicts and insecurity will continue. Let us recall that the imposition of cultures and artificial borders by the colonial Powers as an historical element inseparable from many of the current conflicts and problems.

No paradigm of security can be accepted that allows some powerful States to impose themselves by force and by war and to set themselves up as inquisitors of the developing countries, while they engage in or pretend to ignore the human rights violations in the so-called "war on terror".

There will not be human security if the political manipulation of human rights continues; if selectivity, partiality and double standards do not cease; if economic, social and cultural rights are ignored; if the right to development is not promoted as a priority; if all human rights for all human beings are not protected, if it is not recognized that there cannot be democracy without development.

The industrialized countries should leave behind once and for all their demagogy on the political freedoms and rights, while at the same time they do little or nothing to eradicate poverty and to ensure development in the South.

A credible human security must be based on the premises that there cannot be democracy without freedom, popular participation, social justice, individual and collective wellbeing, human solidarity, without acknowledging that sovereignty lies in the people; and that there cannot be sovereignty without national independence.

Sadly, the world has the resources and technological and human potential to meet many of these challenges. With barely 10% of the more than a trillion dollars used every year in military expenditure, the Millennium Development Goals could be reached. Extremely modest as they are, it could be at least one step ahead.

While millions of people starve, the world produces 10% more food than it really needs. Who can we explain that 3 of every 4 hungry people in the world are farmers or fishermen, that is, food producers?

The most powerful countries should start by implementing the unmet agreements on international cooperation adopted at the major UN conferences and summits and fulfill their commitments once and for all. The concept of human security cannot be used to restate, forget or distort the commitments undertaken and objectives set by the Member States, particularly in development matters. This is not about creating new concepts to address old and well-known issues.

Mr. President,

History shows very clearly that peace and security cannot be imposed by force or by war, and that military operations do not lead to lasting solutions.

Very little is talked about the principle of consent, the sovereignty of the States and the right to self-determination, while too much is talked about vague concepts of security, without taking into account the fact that peace and security are not imposed, but they are reached through development and equal opportunities for all citizens, guaranteeing a true participation in the design of their own destiny.

In a nutshell, there is no pretext whatsoever to violate the principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations. Said principles are the only guarantee that developing countries have to defend their independence through legal means.

Our Organization's Charter must be respected, and its purposes and principles cannot be rewritten or distorted, nor can they be restricted or conditioned. The Charter is not one among other instruments of Law, but the cornerstone of the United Nations and of the precarious international order that still survives. It is the foundation of the collective security system, and hence, of human security.

Cuba will not accept that any paradigm of security be imposed, whatever its name, that does not fully respect these premises. We will not endorse any definition of human security that could be used to justify violations to the sovereignty of States and that opens loopholes to those who, conceiving war as a multimillion-dollar business, seek to legitimize their interventionism and unilateral actions by force.

If only the current world order could be changed by agreement of this General Assembly and the dire challenges facing humanity could be solved as a result of our discussions on Human Security. But it is not so. It is useful and necessary to discuss. But rhetoric should yield to practical actions. We must act urgently. There is no time to lose.

Thank you.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès de
l'Organisation des Nations Unies à New York

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

Seul le texte prononcé fait foi

62^{ème} Session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies

Débat thématique

“Sécurité humaine”

Déclaration de
M. Jean-Daniel Vigny

Mission permanente de la Suisse
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

New York, le 22 mai 2008

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62nd General Assembly of the United Nations

Thematic Debate

“Human Security”

Statement by
Mr. Jean-Daniel Vigny

Permanent Mission of Switzerland
to the United Nations

New York, 22 May 2008

Monsieur le Président,

Nous vous sommes reconnaissants d'avoir œuvré pour la tenue de ce débat thématique important consacré à la sécurité humaine. Je voudrais m'associer à la déclaration de la présidence grecque du Réseau de la Sécurité Humaine, dont la Suisse fait également partie. Nous sommes convaincus que la reconnaissance et l'approfondissement de l'interaction entre changement climatique et sécurité humaine permettront une sensibilisation accrue à cette problématique ainsi que le développement de nouveaux éléments innovants.

Permettez-moi d'aborder maintenant une autre question d'importance capitale, à savoir l'impact de la violence armée sur la sécurité humaine – un obstacle majeur au développement de nombreux pays dans le monde entier.

Comme la communauté internationale s'accorde de plus en plus à le reconnaître, la violence armée entrave le développement. Elle représente un défi considérable pour les sociétés affectées par un conflit ou sortant d'un conflit armé. Elle mine aussi le développement dans des sociétés épargnées par les conflits mais touchées par le crime organisé, la victimisation pratiquée par des bandes, ainsi que les violences d'ordre sexospécifique. En bien des endroits, le développement est également menacé par la violence armée résultant d'activités criminelles ou de problèmes environnementaux, comme les rivalités centrées sur la jouissance de ressources naturelles limitées. Au total, plus de 500'000 personnes meurent de mort violente chaque année, la plupart dans des pays en développement ; la grande majorité d'entre elles sont tuées par des armes légères et de petit calibre.

Conscients de la nécessité d'agir pour endiguer les effets de la violence armée sur le développement, la Suisse et le Programme des Nations unies pour le développement ont lancé la *Déclaration de Genève sur la violence armée et le développement*, adoptée au sommet ministériel du 7 juin 2006. Initialement signée par 42 États, elle a actuellement le soutien formel de 92 pays, qui ont reconnu le lien étroit entre les actions de prévention et de réduction de la violence armée et les perspectives de développement durable. Ensemble, ils ont accepté de renforcer leurs efforts pour intégrer les

programmes de réduction de la violence armée et de prévention des conflits dans le cadre de programmes de développement nationaux, régionaux et multilatéraux, ainsi que dans des initiatives ayant trait à l'aide d'urgence et à la gestion des crises. L'un des grands buts que définit la Déclaration est la réduction mesurable de la violence armée à l'horizon 2015.

La Suisse coordonne le Comité de pilotage responsable de la mise en œuvre concrète de la Déclaration de Genève et la réalisation de ses objectifs. Ce groupe restreint a mis au point en juin 2007 un cadre de mise en œuvre de la déclaration. Les objectifs de la déclaration font l'objet de tests sur le terrain dans une sélection de pays : le Burundi, le Guatemala, la Jamaïque, le Kenya, la Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée et le Timor Leste. Ce sont les résultats concrets et mesurables de l'initiative sur le terrain qui seront finalement le baromètre de son succès et de sa crédibilité. Un sommet de suivi sur la violence armée et le développement se réunira le 12 septembre 2008 à Genève pour examiner les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre de la déclaration.

Monsieur le Président,

Par cet engagement concret en faveur de la sécurité humaine, la Suisse entend contribuer de manière significative à la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration du Millénaire et à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Nous invitons chaque Etat à adhérer à la Déclaration de Genève, dont le Secrétaire général des Nations unies a d'ores et déjà reconnu la valeur ajoutée dans son dernier Rapport sur les armes légères, exprimant des recommandations concrètes qui nous encouragent à promouvoir la Déclaration sous diverses formes au sein des Nations unies, notamment par le biais d'une résolution à l'Assemblée générale.

Je vous remercie.

Unofficial translation

Mr President,

We would like to thank you for tabling this important thematic debate on human security. We also strongly endorse the statement made by Greece as chairman of the Human Security Network, of which Switzerland is also part. We are convinced that the recognition and increasing understanding of the interaction between climate change and human security will lead to greater awareness of this problem and to the development of new elements.

I would now like to look at another crucially important question - the impact of armed violence on human security. This is a serious obstacle to development in many countries throughout the world.

The international community now increasingly recognises that armed violence impedes development. It represents a major challenge for societies affected by or recently involved in an armed conflict. It also undermines development in societies that have not been affected by war but are plagued by organised crime, by the victimisation practised by gangs and by gender-based violence. In many places development is also threatened by the armed violence that results from criminal activities or environmental problems such as rivalries concerning the exploitation of limited natural resources. More than 500,000 die violent deaths each year, and most victims are in developing countries. The majority of them are killed by small arms and light weapons.

Aware of the need to stem the effects of armed violence on development, Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme launched the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development*, which was adopted at the ministerial summit of 7 June 2006. Initially it was signed by 42 States, but it now has the support of 92 countries which have acknowledged the close link between measures to prevent and to reduce armed violence on the one hand and prospects for sustainable development on the other. Together they have agreed to step up their efforts to integrate programmes of reduction of armed violence and prevention of conflicts into national, regional and multilateral development programmes and into initiatives relating to emergency aid and

crisis management. One of the major goals defined by the Declaration is a measurable reduction of armed violence by 2015.

Switzerland is co-ordinating the core group responsible for the specific implementation of the Geneva Declaration and the achievement of its goals. This small group drafted a framework for the implementation of the Declaration in June 2007. The goals of the Declaration are being tested in selected countries: Burundi, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. Ultimately, the specific and measurable results of the initiative on the ground will be the barometer of its success and its credibility. A follow-up conference on armed violence and development will be held on 12 September 2008 in Geneva to review the progress that has been made in the implementation of the declaration.

Mr President,

By means of this activity on behalf of human security, Switzerland wishes to make a significant contribution to the implementation of the Millenium Declaration and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We would like to invite all States to sign the Geneva Declaration. Its added value was acknowledged by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his recent report on small arms. The report also made specific recommendations which encourage us to promote the Declaration in various ways within the United Nations, *inter alia* by the introduction of a resolution in the General Assembly.

Thank you.



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Thailand's Intervention General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Security New York, 22 May 2008

Mr. President,

At the outset, Thailand would like to associate itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Greece as the Chair of the Human Security Network.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/60/1) stated, on the issue of human security, that “We stress the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. We recognize that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential. To this end, we commit ourselves to discussing and defining the notion of human security in the General Assembly.” Thailand is therefore pleased that we are discussing the issue of human security today. Thailand is equally delighted that the issue has also been discussed and promoted elsewhere, both within and outside the UN.

Thailand contributes to the promotion of human security both in the international and national arenas. Our approach is to strike a balance between the two aspects of human security, namely “freedom from want” and “freedom from fear.”

Mr. President,

Our statement today focuses on two issues pertinent to human security.

First, human trafficking: Thailand stresses a **human-centered approach as a policy framework**, with the goal to preventing and protecting victims of human trafficking. Among other programmes, the Royal Thai Government provides assistance to vulnerable groups who might be at risk to human trafficking as preventive measures. They are: vocational training, job placement programmes, capital acquisition and lending, and other income-generating initiatives. The Government also has initiated programmes to raise awareness of the possibilities of falling victim to human trafficking as well as to disseminate other information to potential travelers.

As we all know, a government alone cannot effectively combat human trafficking. Thailand therefore seeks the support of all stakeholders who share the same objectives. In cooperation with NGOs and the media, the Royal Thai Government has launched campaigns to raise public awareness on the issue. On the international front, Thailand organized the Friends of Helsinki Process Workshop on “Human Trafficking: Enhancing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and International Cooperation” in 2007, with the participation of members countries of the Human Security Network and the Bali Process. Thailand also forged regional and international partnerships to combat trafficking in persons with neighbouring countries as well as other countries in Asia.

The second issue that Thailand would like to focus today is the **MDGs**. Thailand is of the view that the MDGs are development issues that is directly linked to human security. Thailand has been implementing all 8 Goals of the MDGs, some of which have been already achieved. We are now aiming for the “MDG Plus,” which means that we are moving beyond the original MDG targets set for 2015.

While MDG 1-7 are the development issues directly related to basic human security, Thailand also pays particular attention to **MDG-8** which aims to promote “**global partnership for development.**” We believe that in order to achieve MDG-8, and thereby promote human security, it requires international assistance and cooperation – be it South-South, North-South, or trilateral – with an emphasis on human-centered approach taking into account the real needs of the people.

Many countries are facing difficulties in the implementation of MDGs. In this regard Thailand urges the international community to work together to deepen cooperation with those countries, especially on capacity-building and on information sharing. The cooperation would also help all countries implement MDGs in a coherent and coordinated manner, and “deliver as one.”

Mr. President,

As a founding member of the Human Security Network and member of the group of Friends of Human Security, we hope that today’s debate will generate more interest and understanding about human security, and that more countries will come to value the importance of the issue and its impact on their peoples.

Thank you.

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BRAZIL
(check against delivery)
Ambassador Piragibe Tarrago
DPR

Mr. President,

I thank you for convening this thematic debate on human security.

On debate today is certainly not our collective adherence to the high principles enunciated by our Heads of State and Government at the Outcome Document to which previous speakers have abundantly referred and I will refrain from repeating them.

The task we were given is to examine the notion of human security and seek a common definition that can strengthen the U.N. and help it to assist Member States in their national endeavours in upholding those principles.

On the issue, Brazil adopts one key principle. The United Nations is and should continue to be the main forum for coordinating efforts around the globe to promote both conceptually and operationally the lofty rights pertaining to human development and security.

The idea of human security is directly linked to the right to development. Hunger and poverty are the main sources of insecurity for a considerable portion of mankind. Underdevelopment begets violence, which, in turn, hampers the development process in all its aspects. Furthermore, deepening inequalities within societies and among nations is a recipe to engender institutional instabilities and, as a consequence, to human insecurity. It is, therefore, by turning our attention to the field of economic and social development that we can break this vicious circle.

The first concrete challenge we face is establishing the basic contours of the concept in question. It seems to be a compounded notion, that is, a notion that attempts to articulate other concepts, instruments and mechanisms. Such notions may have intellectual and operational value, but they require a great deal of rigour to avoid diminishing such value. They must also prove to be truly needed in themselves. It seems that a large number of issues are expected to form part of the debate on human security. References have been made, inter alia, to climate change, MDGs, rising food prices, fighting hunger and poverty, HIV/AIDS, peacebuilding, human rights education, gender-motivated violence and energy. How does evolving a concept of human security improve the conditions to tackle these issues? How does it make the U.N. more efficient in treating each and every one of these problems from a practical perspective? What conceptual unity would allow us to bring them under the banner of human security? One possible answer could be that they all relate to the individual as the subject of inalienable rights. In that case, what would the concept add to the current international instruments on human rights?

As we focus on these questions, we should also attempt to clarify the ultimate purpose of our exercise, beyond fulfilling an important mandate of our Heads of State and Government. What either conceptual or practical output are we looking for, if any? How can it be best achieved? How can we avoid the risk I mentioned before of compromising what we now have?

Mr. President,

These are some preliminary questions that my delegation believes should be part of our debate. I am sure that other aspects will be brought to our attention. Brazil stands ready to engage in frank and productive discussions with all member States.

Thank you.

To achieve our goal will require that those nations which have been more fully blessed by the fruits of economic and technological development face up to their major responsibility of narrowing the serious asymmetries that jeopardize our present and put our common future at risk. To this end, member States must fulfill the multilateral commitments, such as allocating 0.7% of the GDP of developed countries to official development assistance, as per the Monterrey Consensus; supporting the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; facilitating the transfer of technology to developing countries; eliminating barriers and subsidies that impede exports from developing countries; and supporting North-South and South-South cooperation, among others.

Moreover, one must not forget that the existing instruments of International Humanitarian Law, such as the Geneva Conventions and its protocols, are the most solid basis for our efforts to protect vulnerable groups in conflict situations. Effectively implementing their provisions would be one of the most important steps we could take towards promoting the inalienable rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. President,

We have built a large body of concepts, institutions, regimes and mechanisms that can be associated with human security.

The vast theoretical, legal and operational wealth the U.N. has amassed to date must be taken into account as we initiate and progress on our reflections. We should not shy away from the new, if we all agree it furthers the principles and purposes of the Charter, just as we should not pursue the novelty for its own sake. Otherwise, we may run the risk of jeopardizing the time-tested ability of the U.N. to enhance international cooperation.



KAZAKHSTAN

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Statement
by H.E. Mrs. Byrganym Aitimova,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Kazakhstan to the United Nations
at the Thematic Debate on Human Security

22 May 2008
New York

Mr.President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for conveying this important debates on human security that could create a conducive environment for a new way of thinking about modern challenges – from hunger and poverty to forced migration and human trafficking as well as achievement of peace and stability in fragile states.

The Outcome document of the UN Summit of 2005 reiterated that economic and social development, improvement of well being of the population, poverty eradication, provision of employment are the key elements in dealing with new challenges and threats to the security of nations.

We do believe that security and development have complementary nature: sustainable development is impossible without peace and stability as well as development is a prerequisite for security of population.

Mr.President,

In its early stage of sovereignty, Kazakhstan identified 7 priorities of the country development that were embraced in the Strategic Document “Kazakhstan 2030”. Among the priorities, stability and human development are particularly underscored as of the utmost importance.

It is widely known that besides the threats of natural disasters and climate change, one of the most disastrous challenges to human security is proliferation of weapons of mass distraction and conventional arms. Recognizing these threats to humankind, first initiatives of our state such as voluntary renouncement of nuclear weapons inherited from the Soviet Union 15 years ago and confidence-building measures in Asia vividly demonstrated our commitment to global and regional security.

Revival of the ancient Silk Road that bridged East and West in the past invigorated development of roads and heavy use of transportation means. The recent GA resolution 62/244 on Global Road Safety for which Kazakhstan became a co-sponsor demonstrated a global concern about human security.

Another threats for the human security is emanating from deficit of drinking water. To increase access to safe water, the government of Kazakhstan adopted programme “Drinking Water” in amount of 900 mln. USD.

Kazakhstan aligns itself as a country, which is opened to dialogue and multilateral cooperation. This policy demonstrated that maintenance of stability within the country and along its borders boosts economic and human development.

Moreover, we do understand that regional cooperation won't be successful without internal stability in the countries we are surrounded with. In this regards, we are undertaking certain steps to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to our neighbors. For example, a Special Programme for Afghanistan in amount of 3mln USD is aimed at the economic and humanitarian assistance to strengthen national capacities for development and providing basic support to the most vulnerable people.

Apart of predictable threats that undermine stability and development, unexpected natural disasters require concerted efforts of the international community. For emergency preparedness and immediate respond to any regional disaster, Kazakhstan hosts a regional office of OCHA and supplies warehouse in Almaty that has good transport connection within the region. Hence, humanitarian commodities could be delivered to disaster area in 24 hours.

Mr.President,

The Government of Kazakhstan pays close attention to social development of its own population to secure stability and peace in the country. Even this year, when the state budget was significantly cut down due to the world financial crisis, the President of Kazakhstan in his annual address to population identified social investment and food crisis as priority matters for budget provision.

During last month, the Parliament of Kazakhstan ratified three UN Conventions on Corruption, Against Transnational Organized Crime and on Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism. This demonstrates serious efforts of my country to safeguard peace and stability in the region as a foundation for further development.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that commitment of international community to ensure peace for the sake of human security has a paramount importance for all member states in achieving development goals including MDGs.

I thank you all for your kind attention.



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
VÉRIFIER AU PRONONCÉ**

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR JOHN MCNEE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON HUMAN SECURITY**

NEW YORK, 22 MAY 2008

**DÉCLARATION DE
L'AMBASSADEUR JOHN MCNEE
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**AU DÉBAT THÉMATIQUE DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE SUR LA
SÉCURITÉ HUMAINE**

NEW YORK, LE 22 MAI 2008

Mr. President,

Let me first thank you for organizing this thematic debate on Human Security. The General Assembly has a central role to play in finding solutions to improve the safety and security of individuals. It can be an effective advocate of measures that promote international peace and security and ensure the safety of people

Mr. President,

At the heart of today's discussion lie the bedrock principles of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Building an international system in which universal humanitarian standards and the rule of law effectively protect people regardless of ethnicity or religion and where those who violate these standards are held to account; is a priority for Canada.

Over the past decade, important progress has been made in closing normative gaps related to the protection of civilians. Protection of civilians, protection of children and armed conflict, landmines, peace and security, and strengthening the rule of law to prevent impunity (ICC, Special tribunals). However, the targeting of civilians especially women and ongoing crises in Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo serve as painful reminders of the gaps which remain between the norms we've established and our ability to implement them.

We must, therefore, give priority to operationalization - moving from principles to practice, in support of human life, human dignity, and the safety and well being on the world's people.

Mr. President,

Despite recent progress, the plain fact is that millions of people around the world are affected by armed conflict and remain displaced and dispossessed.

The most effective method of reducing the human costs of war is to promote peaceful resolutions of conflicts where they exist, and to prevent their re-emergence. Over the past decade, there has been an expansion in international efforts to do this more effectively, from strengthening the capacity of peace support operations to the development of multi-dimensional peacebuilding missions. Increased mediation activities are also needed to this end.

One recent example is the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission which has a fundamental role to play in supporting comprehensive efforts in post-conflict situations. The transition from war to lasting peace requires comprehensive, concerted efforts to prevent a return to conflict and displacement. Canada looks forward to joining the Organization Committee of the PBC next month and will work with other members to strengthen the effectiveness of this UN institution.

Canada's engagement in various places in the world testifies of our commitment for promoting peace and resolving conflict, and this can only be done in partnership with the international community. The UN mission in Afghanistan is of paramount importance as it illustrates in the field such partnership. Canada and the international community are making a real difference in the lives of the Afghan people and contributing to the vision of the future expressed in the Afghanistan Compact. Strong UN stewardship of the Compact, alongside the Afghan government, is critical to realizing this vision with a view to bringing much-needed food, justice, protection, education and health services to Afghan citizens.

In Haiti, Canada is also proud to contribute to MINUSTAH, which is an integral component of the international efforts, in partnership with the Haitians. It has helped the Haitian people achieve some peace, security and stability, but recent events have shown that the gains made are fragile, and warrant the continued vigilance of the international community, and a sustained UN Security Council-mandate presence. In conjunction with our partners in this effort, we can help the Haitian people break the cycles of violence and international intervention we have seen in the past.

One last example Mr. President is our commitment in Darfur on security, diplomacy and aid, where the international community must demonstrate the political will to find new solutions. These must be aimed not only at immediately ending the daily litany of horrific violations of human rights in Darfur, but also at addressing the issues of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law that must form the foundation for a durable peace throughout Sudan. We are deeply concerned not only with the ongoing violence in Darfur and delays in the deployment of UNAMID , but also with the extreme fragility of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). A breakdown of the CPA would have a dire impact on the region.

Mr. President,

With regard to democracy, supporting its global growth offers the best chance for international peace and stability as well as the promotion of human rights for all. Over the last decade, the growth in the number of democracies has levelled out. There has been progress in some countries. However, many are sliding back to non-democratic forms of government. Clearly, democracy is up against significant obstacles. The uncertainty around the elections in Zimbabwe underlines how quickly signs of instability can emerge. Canada's goal is to strengthen democracies that give individual citizens a say in the decisions that affect their lives. We place individuals at the heart of our democracy support. To succeed and thrive, democracy must empower individuals to shape their own futures.

Mr. President,

Populations have the right to live in reasonable expectation that they will not be subject to serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law. When it comes to the protection of civilians early warning is rarely a problem. Early, robust and effective diplomatic action, however, is not always guaranteed. Ongoing conflicts such as in Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of Congo remind us of the toll that violence takes on civilians. Post-electoral uncertainty in Kenya demonstrated how we must be vigilant, and ready to provide support before crises take hold.

We have a rich and diverse set of norms, laws and principles to protect the weakest among us, including victims of conflict and persecution. However, if we are to ensure a greater freedom, the United Nations and its Member States must continue to strengthen the normative framework and, more importantly, take concrete steps to end impunity. The message we send to parties to a conflict must be unequivocal; perpetrators of abuse will be held accountable for their actions. Members of the General Assembly have a particular responsibility to ensure that those who commit serious violations of international law are brought to justice. Further, we must recognize that no erstwhile principle should be allowed to shield perpetrators of genocide or mass atrocities.

Mr. President,

One area where we have made some of the most important strides is in the protection of children affected by conflict. Security Council Resolution 1612's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism has been accepted by all countries of concern and we are seeing real results on the ground. In more instances, children are being released from armed groups and we are seeing the arrest and prosecution of some of the worst perpetrators of violations against children.

But more needs to be done to hold these criminals accountable, including travel restrictions on leaders, exclusion from governance structures and amnesty provisions, imposition of arms embargoes, bans on military assistance and the restriction on the flow of financial resources. We also need to see greater attention to other violations committed against children in conflict situations, especially the horrific sexual violence continuing in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr. President,

The international community should support concrete efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the individual to the extent to which it can. Building societies in which international humanitarian standards and the rule of law protect the

individual while holding violators accountable should be a priority. This also helps us build and equip our regional and bilateral institutions — present and future — to promote and enforce these standards. Freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law are ultimately constructed on the foundation of people who are secure.

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi d'abord de vous remercier pour avoir organisé ce débat thématique sur la sécurité humaine. L'Assemblée générale a un rôle de premier plan à jouer dans la recherche de solutions pour améliorer la sécurité et la protection des populations. Elle peut plaider efficacement en faveur de mesures de nature à favoriser la paix et la sécurité internationales, et à protéger les personnes.

Monsieur le Président,

Les discussions d'aujourd'hui se fondent sur des principes fondamentaux, à savoir la liberté, la démocratie, les droits de la personne et la primauté du droit. Le Canada a pour priorité d'édifier un régime international qui, par des normes humanitaires universelles et la primauté du droit, protège vraiment les populations, peu importe leur origine ethnique ou leur religion. Il doit aussi s'agir d'un régime qui oblige à rendre compte du non-respect de ces normes.

Au cours de la dernière décennie, les efforts face aux lacunes normatives liées à la protection des civils ont progressé. Ceux-ci englobent la protection des civils, la protection des enfants et les conflits armés, les mines antipersonnel, la paix et la sécurité et le renforcement de la primauté du droit de manière à prévenir l'impunité (TPI, tribunaux spéciaux). Cependant, les exactions contre les civils, en particulier des femmes, et les crises en cours au Darfour et dans la République démocratique du Congo sont un douloureux rappel de l'écart à combler entre les normes que nous avons établies et notre capacité à les faire respecter.

Dans ces conditions, il faut accorder la priorité à la concrétisation des normes, c'est-à-dire passer des principes à la pratique, au nom de la vie et de la dignité humaines, et pour la sécurité et le bien-être de la population mondiale.

Monsieur le Président,

Malgré les progrès récents, force est de constater que des millions de gens dans le monde entier sont touchés par des conflits armés, y compris forcés au déplacement et dépossédés de leurs biens.

Le meilleur moyen de réduire les coûts humains de la guerre consiste à favoriser le règlement pacifique des conflits actuels et à prévenir leur réapparition. Au cours de la dernière décennie, les efforts internationaux pour mieux y parvenir se sont intensifiés. Cela va du renforcement des capacités des opérations de paix à l'élaboration de missions de consolidation de la paix pluridimensionnelles, en passant par une intensification des activités de médiation.

La création de la Commission de consolidation de la paix est un exemple récent. Celle-ci a un rôle fondamental à jouer dans l'appui aux efforts globaux déployés après un conflit. Pour passer de la guerre à une paix durable, il faut prendre des mesures élargies et concertées, pour prévenir la reprise des conflits et les déplacements. Le Canada est impatient de se joindre au comité organisateur de la CCP le mois prochain et il s'emploiera avec les autres membres à renforcer l'efficacité de cette institution de l'ONU.

La présence du Canada dans différentes régions du monde témoigne de sa détermination à promouvoir la paix et à régler les conflits. Or, cela n'est possible qu'avec la collaboration de la communauté internationale. La mission de l'ONU en Afghanistan revêt une importance primordiale, car elle montre comment cette collaboration peut se concrétiser sur le terrain. Le Canada et la communauté internationale contribuent vraiment à améliorer les conditions de vie du peuple afghan et à concrétiser le projet d'avenir énoncé dans le Pacte pour l'Afghanistan. Pour que ce projet prenne corps, il est essentiel que l'ONU veille avec diligence à la mise en oeuvre du Pacte, de concert avec le gouvernement afghan. Il s'agit en outre de veiller à ce que les citoyens afghans aient accès aux vivres, à la justice, à la protection et aux services d'éducation et de santé dont ils ont tant besoin.

En Haïti, le Canada est également fier de contribuer à la MINUSTAH, partie intégrante de l'action internationale, de concert avec les Haïtiens. Cette mission a aidé à instaurer une paix, une sécurité et une stabilité relatives au profit du peuple haïtien. Toutefois, les événements récents montrent que les acquis sont fragiles et que la communauté internationale doit continuer à exercer sa vigilance et une présence durable dans le cadre d'un mandat confié par le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. Avec nos partenaires, nous pouvons aider la population haïtienne à rompre le cycle de la violence et des interventions internationales dont nous avons été témoins dans le passé.

Monsieur le Président, comme dernier exemple, j'évoquerai nos efforts au Darfour, sur le terrain de la sécurité, de la diplomatie et du développement. Dans cette région, la communauté internationale doit montrer qu'elle a la volonté politique de trouver de nouvelles solutions. Il faut non seulement mettre fin immédiatement aux violations terribles et innombrables perpétrées quotidiennement, mais aussi oeuvrer en faveur de la liberté, de la démocratie et de la primauté du droit, pour que ceux-ci posent les jalons d'une paix durable à l'échelle du Soudan. Nous sommes profondément préoccupés non seulement par les violences actuelles au Darfour et les retards dans le déploiement de la MINUAD, mais aussi par l'extrême fragilité de l'Accord de paix global (APG). Un échec de l'APG aurait de très graves conséquences pour la région.

Monsieur le Président,

En matière de démocratie, l'appui à son développement global offre la meilleure chance d'assurer la paix et la sécurité internationales ainsi que la promotion des droits de la personne pour tous. L'augmentation du nombre de démocraties a plafonné dans la dernière décennie. Certains pays ont connu des progrès, mais beaucoup d'autres régressent vers des formes de gouvernement non démocratique. Nul doute que la démocratie se heurte à des obstacles importants. L'incertitude entourant les élections au Zimbabwe montre avec quelle rapidité des signes d'instabilité peuvent surgir. Le Canada a pour objectif de renforcer les démocraties qui permettent à chaque citoyen de participer aux décisions qui touchent sa vie. Les personnes sont au coeur de notre action en faveur de la démocratie. Pour réussir et prospérer, la démocratie doit donner à chacun le pouvoir de déterminer son propre avenir.

Monsieur le Président,

Les populations ont le droit de vivre dans l'attente raisonnable qu'elles seront à l'abri de graves violations des droits de la personne ou du droit humanitaire international. En ce qui concerne la protection des civils, les alertes rapides posent rarement problème. Toutefois, une action diplomatique rapide, énergique et efficace n'est pas toujours garantie. Les conflits en cours, par exemple au Sri Lanka et dans la République démocratique du Congo, nous rappellent le tribut que la violence impose aux civils. L'incertitude post-électorale au Kenya a montré à quel point nous devons être vigilants et prêts à apporter notre soutien avant que les crises ne prennent racine.

Nous disposons d'une panoplie riche et diversifiée de normes, de lois et de principes pour protéger les plus faibles d'entre nous, notamment les victimes des conflits et de la persécution. Toutefois, si nous voulons garantir une liberté plus grande, les Nations Unies et ses États membres doivent continuer à renforcer le cadre normatif et, d'abord et avant tout, à prendre des mesures concrètes pour mettre fin à l'impunité. Le message que nous adressons aux parties à un conflit doit être sans équivoque : les auteurs de violences auront à rendre compte de leurs actes. Tout particulièrement, il incombe aux membres de l'Assemblée générale de veiller à ce que les auteurs de violations graves du droit international soient traduits en justice. Nous devons en outre convenir qu'il n'existe aucun principe inaliénable de nature à protéger les auteurs de génocides ou d'atrocités massives.

Monsieur le Président,

La protection des enfants touchés par les conflits est un domaine dans lequel nous avons fait des progrès importants. La résolution 1612 du Conseil de sécurité, créant un mécanisme de surveillance et de communication de l'information, a été approuvée par tous les pays concernés et nous voyons des résultats réels sur le terrain. De plus en plus, des enfants sont libérés des

groupes armés et nous assistons à l'arrestation ainsi qu'au procès de certains des pires auteurs de violations contre des enfants.

Toutefois, il vaut mieux s'attacher à ce que ces criminels aient à répondre de leurs actes, notamment par l'interdiction d'entrée pour les dirigeants, l'exclusion des structures de gouvernance et des dispositions d'amnistie, des embargos sur les ventes d'armes, l'interdiction d'assistance militaire et des restrictions à la circulation des capitaux. Nous devons aussi accorder plus d'attention aux autres violations commises contre des enfants dans des situations de conflit, en particulier les violences sexuelles atroces qui se poursuivent en République démocratique du Congo.

Monsieur le Président,

La communauté internationale devrait soutenir les actions concrètes pour assurer la sécurité et le bien-être de personnes, dans la mesure où elle le peut. Bâtir des sociétés dans lesquelles les normes humanitaires internationales et la primauté du droit protègent l'individu tout en amenant les responsables à rendre compte de leurs actes doit être une priorité. Ceci nous aide à édifier à outiller nos institutions régionales et bilatérales - actuelles et futures - pour que celles-ci veillent à la promotion et au respect de ces normes. La liberté, la démocratie, les droits de la personne et la primauté du droit ont pour assises des citoyens qui vivent en sécurité.

Merci.



S U D A N

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بيان

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المندوب الدائم لبعثة جمهورية السودان
لدى الأمم المتحدة**

أمام

جلسة النقاش الموضوعي للأمن الإنساني

نيويورك - ٢٢ / ٥ / ٢٠٠٨ م

السيد الرئيس، ، ،

أرجو إستهلالاً أن أتقدم بالشكر على المبادرة بعقد جلسة للنقاش الموضوعي بشأن الأمن الإنساني، وأضم صوتي، للبيان الذي ألقاه المندوب الدائم للعراق بإسم المجموعة العربية.

السيد الرئيس، ، ،

يحتل أمن الإنسان أولوية قصوى لتحقيق التنمية الإقتصادية والإجتماعية، بل هو قبل ذلك قيمة إنسانية لا يمكن التنازل عنها. ونؤكد على ما ورد في الفقرة ١٤٣ من الوثيقة الختامية لمؤتمر القمة العالمي لعام ٢٠٠٥، والتي أكدت على حق الشعوب في العيش بحرية وكرامة، بمنأى عن الفقر واليأس، وأقرت الحق لجميع الأفراد، لا سيما الضعفاء منهم، في التحرر من الخوف والعوز، وأن تتاح لهم فرص متساوية للتمتع بجميع حقوقهم، وتنمية إمكاناتهم البشرية على أكمل وجه، وتحقيقاً لهذه الغاية، دعت هذه الفقرة إلى الإلتزام بمناقشة تعريف أمن الإنسان في الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة.

السيد الرئيس، ، ،

إن المبادئ التي أقرها ميثاق الأمم المتحدة، وفي مقدمتها صيانة سيادة الدول، وعدم التدخل في شؤونها الداخلية، والإيمان بالحقوق الأساسية للإنسان، وكرامة الفرد والحقوق المتساوية للأمم، تمثل إطاراً مناسباً لمناقشة موضوع الأمن الإنساني، إلى جانب نصوص القانون الدولي

الإنساني، الذي أرسى حق الشعوب في تحديد خياراتها، كما لا يمكن أن نفضل في هذا المقام عن حقوق الشعوب الواقعة تحت الإحتلال، خاصة الشعب الفلسطيني، والجولان السوري المحتل. إن إثراء الحوار، وإنشاء آليات التشاور والتنسيق بين الدول، سيؤدي حتماً إلى إيجاد تعريف متفق عليه لمفهوم الأمن الإنساني، وفقاً لمحددات تحفظ للدولة سيادتها، وولايتها على مواطنيها، بعيداً عن مفهوم "مسئولية الحماية" والذي يسعى لتبرير المساس بسيادة الدول والتدخل في شئونها الداخلية، وفقاً لمعايير غامضة الدلالات.

سيدي الرئيس ، ، ،

إن أمن الإنسان وتحقيق السلام أمران متلازمان، وهما من الركائز التي تبنتها الحكومة السودانية لتحقيق الإستقرار في المجتمع، وكفل دستور السودان الإنتقالي لعام ٢٠٠٥، الإرادة الحرة لشعب السودان، وسيادة حكم القانون، والحكم الديمقراطي اللامركزي، والمساواة والإحترام والعدالة، كما أكد على حرية الأديان والمعتقدات والتقاليد والأعراف، وإعتبرها مصدراً للقوة المعنوية والإلهام لشعب السودان، وأمن على التنوع الثقافي والإجتماعي، الذي هو أساس التماسك القومي. ونصت إتفاقية السلام الشامل التي وقعت في ٩ يناير ٢٠٠٥ على أهمية الأمن والسلام، بعد أن وضعت حداً لعشرين عاماً من الحرب، ومهدت العودة الطوعية للاجئين والنازحين. كما أمّنت إتفاقية سلام دارفور في ٥ مايو ٢٠٠٦ على إحترام الحقوق والحريات الأساسية والعدالة. وأشار إتفاق سلام الشرق في ١٤ أكتوبر ٢٠٠٦، على أهمية الصحة والتعليم في تحقيق التنمية. وإنطلاقاً

من المبدأ القائل، بأنه لا أمن بلا غذاء، فالسودان كأكبر دولة في إفريقيا يلعب دوراً حيوياً في توفير الأمن الغذائي للعالم، لتوفر الأراض الزراعية الخصبة وتنوع موارده المائية، إلى جانب الثروة الحيوانية. إن الإستراتيجية القومية للإستثمار الزراعي، لدعم القطاع التجاري والصناعي هي إحدى برامج الثورة الخضراء التي تهدف إلى توفير الغذاء والقضاء على الفقر. وقد وضعت الحكومة السودانية من الخطط الإستراتيجية ما يعزز التنمية في مجال الصحة، ونذكر منها، الخطة الإستراتيجية لمكافحة الإيدز ٢٠٠٤ - ٢٠٠٩، والخطة العشرية لتنمية الموارد البشرية الصحية ٢٠٠٤ - ٢٠١٣، والخطة الخمسية الثانية لبرنامج للتحصين ٢٠٠٦ - ٢٠١٠، إلى جانب إستراتيجية مكافحة الملاريا مع الحمل ٢٠٠٤ - ٢٠٠٨، وإستراتيجية الصحة الإنجابية الخمسية ٢٠٠٦ - ٢٠١٠.

السيد الرئيس،،،

إن الأمن الإنساني هو غاية تسعى إليها كل المجتمعات، وتوفيره للمواطنين يقع على عاتق الحكومات دون غيرها، كما إن مناقشة موضوع الأمن الإنساني هو عملية مشتركة وتكاملية تتداول فيها الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة، لتحقيق تعريف متفق عليه، في إطار الحفاظ على سيادة الدول. ويقتصر دور المجتمع الدولي على تعزيز الشراكات الثنائية والإقليمية والدولية، وتقديم الدعم في مجال تعزيز القدرات الوطنية بناء على مفاهيم محددة لتعزيز التنمية الإقتصادية والإجتماعية والقضاء على الفقر، ومعالجة أسباب الصراع خاصة في إفريقيا. إننا نشيد في هذا المقام بالدور الذي تقوم

به اليابان إلى جانب عدد من الدول في تمويل التنمية ، ونثمن إستضافتها لمؤتمر طوكيو الرابع للتنمية الإقتصادية في أفريقيا الذي يعقد بيوكوهاما أواخر ذا الشهر ، وعلى مؤسسات التمويل الدولية أن تضطلع بمسئولياتها ، في تحقيق الأمن الإنساني بالإستثمار في توفير التقنيات في مجالات الزراعة والصحة والتعليم في الدول النامية ، وتنمية مقدرات الدول تحت النزاعات ، وتلك الخارجة من النزاعات ، لتحقيق الأمن الإنساني بمفهومه الشامل.

ختاماً نقول أن الحديث عن الأمن الإنساني لا ينبغي أن يُشكل وسيلة ضغط أو مشروطة أخرى ولكن ينبغي أن يعضد دور الدولة وخياراتها وينأى عن التدخل في شئونها ، وعلى المجتمع الدولي دعم هذه الخيارات الوطنية بما في ذلك إقرار الحق في التنمية . إن الحق في التنمية هو أساس الأمن الإنساني.

شكراً سيدي الرئيس ، ، ،



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador KIM Bong-hyun

Deputy Permanent Representative

Informal Thematic Debate on Human Security General Assembly

May 22, 2008

New York

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Thank you, Mr. President,

1. At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan for his keynote speech on this first-ever debate on human security at the GA session.
2. And my appreciation also goes to General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim for his initiative in arranging for this productive occasion to exchange views on the content, scope and role of human security in the UN system as a follow-up to the World Summit Outcome Document.

Mr. President,

3. As our Leaders at the Summit “stressed the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair,” it is all the more important that every man, woman and child should have clean water, sufficient food, adequate shelter, basic health care, a decent education and protection from violence. We believe that no one can dispute the validity of this basic concept.
4. At this stage, three years after the Summit, we should focus on how to effectively translate the call of the people on the ground into reality and ensure that the role and activities of the UN are adequate to materialize it, thereby making a significant impact on the ground, and improving the quality of life of the people. With this practical approach in mind, the focus of our deliberations should be how to maximize the value of our efforts on the ground.

Mr. President,

5. The delegation of the Republic of Korea underlined the value it places on the notion of human security in contributing to the work of the UN when it participated in the meeting of Friends of Human Security. Our view on human security is that, firstly, it is a useful and important concept for discussion in the UN to

complement the traditional concept of security. The main goals of the United Nations, namely, Peace and Security, Development and Human Rights, are linked to human security. Given the multidimensional and complementary nature of human security, the work for peace, development and human rights could be viewed through a framework which reflects the notion of human security. Secondly, we see human security as an approach to tackle various threats or challenges, rather than a binding principle or a legal issue. When the notion of human security is actually put into practice in the field, in such a way as to focus on individuals and communities through protection and empowerment, we will be able to make greater progress in achieving our goals in real terms.

6. The Republic of Korea has taken the needs of the people on the ground into account in the conduct of its foreign policy. Let me briefly address some areas of concern. First of all, the Korean government attaches importance to the economic security of people and is exerting utmost efforts to increase ODA. Korea has also concluded the Framework Agreement with the UNDP for a more systematic contribution to the UNDP's development activities. Achieving the MDGs is the responsibility of the international community as well as respective governments, but it is currently falling short of the projected goals. The MDGs are not just numbers or statistics but are closely related to human security and require a more holistic approach. In this regard, my delegation will actively participate in the High-Level debate on the MDGs in September.

7. Secondly, the Korean government also pays great attention to the humanitarian situation. Korea is not a traditional donor country but is striving to increase its participation in and contribution to international efforts to alleviate the plight of people affected. In this regard, we appreciate the strenuous efforts of Secretary-General Ban for the holding of the UN-ASEAN International Pledging Conference for the Myanmar Cyclone disaster, to which the Korean government is to send a Ministerial-level delegation.

8. Thirdly, my delegation is concerned that the food crisis situation has serious implications for human security as well as security in general. We fully share the view that if it is not tackled in a timely and effective manner, the achievements we have made in the area of security and development so far could be undermined. That is why we have high expectations for the role of the Task Force launched by Secretary-General Ban in developing a comprehensive framework for tackling the challenges. We are of the view that in the short- and long-term actions stipulated in the strategy paper the negative consequences of the food crisis for the most affected populations should be taken into full account.

9. Lastly, but not least, another area of concern in the field of human security, among other pressing issues, is gender-based violence, especially sexual violence against women. We recall that the Secretary-General initiated the UN system wide campaign to combat violence against women on the occasion of International Women's Day in March. But since then we have not been informed whether any consolidated action plan has been formulated in the UN system, while we continue to see widespread, even systematic, sexual violence against women taking place in many parts of the world. From a human security point of view, as well as a human rights standpoint, this disturbing situation is not acceptable and the entire UN system and member states should earnestly respond to it as a serious concern.

Mr. President

10. In conclusion, the delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to reiterate its strong belief, once again, that every human being is entitled to live free from want, free from fear and in full of dignity. In this regard, we hope that the UN can explore ways to make practical use of the notion of human security to benefit people and make a profound impact on the ground. Thank you.

62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Statement by
Ambassador Daniel Carmon
Chargé d’Affaires, a.i.

“General Assembly Thematic Debate
on Human Security”

United Nations, New York
22 May 2008

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for convening this informal debate on human security, and your comprehensive introduction this morning, as well as to thank His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan for honoring us with his presence and for his stimulating keynote address and invaluable contribution.

Over the last decade there has been much deliberation and work of Member states, International organizations, academia and civil society to develop and promote the concept of human security. The World summit outcome document of 2005 which recognized that all individuals are entitled to Freedom from fear, Freedom from want and life of dignity was an important milestone in this universal effort.

Israel welcomes the opportunity to discuss today the concept of human security and in particular to reflect upon the potential added value that this framework can contribute to existing multilateral framework and national actions.

Mr. President,

I feel I must refer to some observations made by some delegations today”

Israel feels this important debate should reflect a unified effort to join forces, together, and exchange views on solving common problems by offering solutions, rather than highlighting, once again, politization and exhausting codes, mentioning specific conflict regions, while ignoring, for some reasons, many others. The political-related, region-specific debates here will not further this important universal discussion and belong, without any doubt, to other political fora.

Mr. President,

Israel understands that human security is a people-centered and individual focused approach that can be implemented in a variety of areas such as climate change, environment, sustainable development, non proliferation, human rights, armed conflict, culture of hate, crime prevention, terrorism and others.

In this regard, the framework of human security can and should serve as a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the different challenges that human beings are faced with, some of which we have just mentioned.

More over, the comprehensiveness of the approach can serve to identify and fill gaps in existing mechanisms – International, regional and national alike.

Israel is reviewing the potential contribution of human security in different areas and considers the different measures taken so far by member states, as well as UN entities as a valuable basis for further development.

We appreciate the contributions made today. Thank you President Kerim and his Royal Highness, once again, and we look forward for further discussion.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 May 2008

Excellency,

With regards to the informal thematic debate of the General Assembly on human security, which will be held on 22 May 2008, at 10 a.m. in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, please find enclosed the background paper for your information.

I would like to inform you that H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan will be the keynote speaker. The Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon will also address the meeting.

Member states will have the opportunity to exchange views on the contents, the scope and the role of human security in the United Nations system, following up on paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

Given the informal character of the debate there will be no established list of speakers.

I very much look forward to your personal participation in this important event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim'.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York