

New Vision for Peace and Human Development - Session One

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The Chair, the President of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO and Counsellor Delegation of Oman to UNESCO, H.E. Dr. Moosa Jaafar Hassan, began the session offering a few initial words stating that the need for a new vision means that we need new strategies while not excluding other global tests. To form those new strategies we need to involve intellectuals, religious, academics, civil society in the support of policymakers. Concluding the session he commented that ‘I hope that UNESCO can learn from UPF in the way that you are working for peace’

Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali the Patron of the Conference, had to travel to Egypt at the last moment and his speech was read by his secretary, Dr. Sonia Ramzi. In his speech he reflected that small conflicts by unarmed groups can cause huge problems among civil populations. He referred to his initiative in 1992 to promote conflict prevention diplomacy and establish principles for conflict prevention.



He knows well the reluctance of the international community to respond to issues that everyone knows about but does not want to be involved in. He saw the micro-disarmament of small groups or the prevention of the build up of arms by small or poor nations was important. He stated that, ‘one tank is equivalent to 500 classrooms’ adding that, ‘land mines can cause problems long after the conflict has ended.’ He concluded on a positive note saying, ‘I trust the future because I know that men and women of goodwill are working to set up frameworks of relations to ensure peace for future generations.’ Prof.

Akiko Yamanaka, Senior Visiting Scholar at Churchill College, Cambridge and a Former Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, in a speech entitled, 'A New Vision for Non-Traditional Security with Human Security' considered a new definition of human security. She sees the need for a 'two handed policy: one is military preparation and the other is non-military diplomacy' in a tide of history that is in a 'transition period'

She said, 'The nature of security has been evolving since the end of the cold war from "against" to "with". During the cold war, security meant being "against" certain countries. However, the concept of security now should be "with" every nation /state that is a part of each region. This means that we must make efforts to establish trustworthy relations among countries so that peace and stability can be established in the each region on the globe. We must also recognize that security is increasingly complex and multifaceted.

Prof Yamanaka added, 'The concept of security is being broadened considerably and continuously, to incorporate military, political, economic, societal and environmental dimensions, and the inter- linkages between them. The traditional model of security rests upon military defense of national territory. Yet for many people in the world – perhaps even most – the much greater threats to security come from internal conflicts, disease, hunger, environmental contamination, street crime, or even domestic violence. And for others, a greater threat may come from their own country itself, rather than from an 'external' adversary. We are moving towards a concept of human security which revolves around individual and community welfare. 'After the terrorist events on September 11th, the need for international cooperation that exceeds national borders has become more important than before.'

Dr Ali Rastbeen commented on the importance of resolving the Middle East conflicts to establish a strong foundation for world peace. The Middle East has been the main realm of geopolitical strategies and a nerve centre of the contemporary world. He believes that the knowledge of human development has grown but it is conflicting with autocratic realms that dominate many nations. The globalisation of power is the solution through the charter of the UN is the frame work for the new more peaceful order. He also emphasised the power of education for promoting peace.

The Chair of the Universal Peace Federation in Europe, Dr Yong Cheon Song, in the keynote address, expressed his gratitude to UNESCO saying, 'that of all the different constituent organisations of the U.N. UPF perhaps feels the greatest natural affinity with U.N.E.S.C.O. I think there are two main reasons for this.



The first is that UNESCO's agenda and UPF's agenda share so many common areas of concern and interest. UNESCO's core areas of activity - education, science and culture - are all such a large part of what UPF and its affiliates are focussed on and of course there are other areas such as Human Rights in which both are very concerned and active.

UNESCO is to be congratulated on the key role that it has played in so strongly promoting what has come to be known as "The Culture of Peace" which is based on the profound insight that it has been proclaiming for many decades that true peace can only begin "in the hearts of men". This simple but truly profound insight is one which UPF deeply and whole-heartedly shares.

UPF's Founders, Dr Sun Myung Moon and Dr Hak Ja Han Moon have founded many first rate institutions around the world that provide excellent education for the general population, including several universities and colleges, numerous schools for children of all age groups, not to mention educational programmes that, having been embraced by government, have delivered much needed education to young people in the public school systems in such diverse nations as Russia, Benin in Africa and St Kitts and Nevis in The West Indies on key topics such as human rights and character development. Through such initiatives as The 'World University Alliance' they plan to establish schemes whereby it will become not only possible but increasingly normal for young people on every continent to gain direct exposure to life in other nations, cultures, religions and racial and ethnic groupings during their degree courses, by taking each year of their degree course at a different institution and in a different part of the world.

In the scientific field The International Conference on The Unity of The Sciences has brought together many of the world's most eminent scientists and scholars - from the "hard sciences" as well as from the humanities to develop an increased awareness of the need for a trans-disciplinary and integrated approach to knowledge and problem solving, have promoted extensive environmental research including especially research into the potential of the oceans and of fishing and into "wetlands development".

In the realm of culture and the fine arts "The Little Angels" performing arts group, The New York City Symphony Orchestra, The Universal Ballet Company and the Kirov Ballet Academy in Washington are all bodies that have blazed a trail for the fine arts around the world. They have done so very consciously with the intention of building bridges between cultures, races and nations and all as part of an even greater vision of establishing lasting world peace. I was very proud when in 2010 the Little Angels were able to perform right here in this building to UNESCO delegations and staff and were able to deeply touch and move the hearts of everyone, including Dr Davidson Hepburn the most recent past President of the General Conference.

If there is one cardinal and overriding principle that more than any other expresses how lasting peace and development can be realised it is, I believe, the motto "Living for the sake of others". Whether we look at the text books provided by the world's religions or those produced by science or contemplate the amazing text book that is Mother Nature or merely dig into the text book that is our own experience of life, we can see that nothing is created just for itself but rather is designed to serve a purpose higher than itself and to live for the sake of other beings. I believe that this is indeed a profound and immutable truth that holds the key to all development and expansion of life and that it is one which we ignore at our peril