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Many Languages One World

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Global Development Agenda

Imagine a world, torn amidst death and destruction, conflict and war, intolerance and discrimination. Though it might be hard to think, this was the situation of our world of our world a century ago. There was chaos everywhere. Kingdoms fell, nations grew. Slowly, arms dropped and humanity grew. A new race of modern humans emerged from the debris and came together to setup an organization, namely “The United Nations Organization”. This year, 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter to help and guide all nations build a peaceful tomorrow.

Today, when we look at the 21st century, problems are not over. We have a lot more on our shoulders, which must be exterminated from this society of “Global Humans.” As per the *Millennium Development Agenda*, the United Nations has setup eight internationally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases and building a global partnership for development. In June 2005, the G8 finance ministers agreed to provide enough funds to the World Bank, IMF and AfDB to cancel \$40 to \$55 billion debt owed by the members of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and to allow them to redirect resources to programs for improving health and education for alleviating poverty (Goals).

Recalling the words of Mother Teresa, “We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty” (Teresa). There are millions homeless, begging for food, have no clothes to wear and live in the most inhospitable regions. It is not only the duty of that country’s government but also of all the developed countries to uplift these people. In 2010, an estimated 21% of people in the developing world lived at or below \$1.25 a day – down from 43% in 1990 and 52% in 1981. The poverty milestone has not yet been met in many parts of Africa and South Asia. More than a billion people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, many more experience hunger and are vulnerable to environmental or price shocks. Malnutrition remains one of the world’s most serious but least addressed public health challenges. Nearly one-third of children in developing countries are underweight or stunted and malnutrition contributes to one-third of all child deaths.

With the *Post 2015 Global Development Agenda*, the United Nations and its partner organizations have worked hard to break the world free from the above mentioned problems. As we find solutions to our existing problems, new ones pop out almost immediately. The world is a garden, with different species of flowers and plants which make the place beautiful. In this garden, there are also weeds that propagate. We must not allow these weeds to surpass the beauty of principles of humanity. One such weed that is rapidly growing is Armament. As the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon quotes, “Our world is one of terrible contradictions. Plenty of food, but one billion people go hungry. Lavish lifestyles for a few, but poverty for too many others. Huge advances in medicine while mothers die every day in childbirth, and children die every day from drinking dirty water. Billions spent on weapons to kill people instead of keeping them safe” (Ki-moon). Let us not promote the use of arms to demonstrate our power. Real strength is shown

when poor and homeless are sheltered, when all children are educated and when all people are given the basic rights. Let this epoch, the 21st century be the year of the race of disarmament or “Universal Disarmament.”

Today, many countries have declared themselves as Sovereign Republics, which in lay man’s terms, is the authority of a state to govern itself. Often, these principles of Democracy are violated when one country attacks another to display the superiority of the former. This is an abysmal result of Armament. In order to protect the freedom of seven billion people and also the Principles of Democracy we must promote “Universal Sovereignty.” The very purpose of the United Nations is to preserve and protect the sovereignty of nations, large and small (Khushchev).

The Global Agenda already focuses on Primary Education to all children, but now it must focus on Holistic education to all children till grade 12. All governments must enforce this regardless of gender, religion, caste, sect and creed. Children must be taught the difference of good and bad, honest and corrupt, moral and immoral. We must equip our future generations with the weapons of education, literacy and righteousness. With this we will be enabling the growth of a world -- free of violence, crimes and immoral ideas.

Humans today live as a global society. The concept of kingdoms, creeds and sects is out dated. For the longevity of our species, we must ensure that the scientific knowledge and research must be spread worldwide for the development of all humans universally. From Japan to Alaska, from Canada to Australia, we must live as one community of Homo-Sapiens. Shakespeare quotes, “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women are merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being the seven ages” (Shakespeare).

As global citizens we must not forget the base of our civilization, our Earth. We must remember that she is our only home. The major problem that we face today is Global Warming and Climate Change. Over the years -- post Industrial Revolution, we have been bucketing Carbon dioxide, Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen Oxides and Sulfur Oxides into the atmospheres, toxic chemicals in the hydrosphere and filling the lithosphere with trash and non-biodegradable pollutants. This has continued to affect the biosphere in a negative way. The increase in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere leads to smog, which can restrict sunlight from reaching the earth. Thus, hampering the process of photosynthesis. Gases like Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide can cause acid rain. Water pollution in terms of Oil spill may lead to death of several wildlife species. Humans are never spared. The Chernobyl Disaster in 1986, the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in 1984, the Minamata poisoning in 1956 and many more are some anecdotes of a weapon backfiring at us. The best way to reduce pollution is by reducing the use of fossil fuel and coal. Energy can also be generated by the Sun, flowing water and the winds.

Solar energy or the Energy from the Sun is by far the most effective source of energy. It is renewable, non-polluting and cheap. Today, many countries use solar power to cook, heat water and even power their homes. Wind energy can also be easily harnessed as there are winds blowing at great speeds, especially near the coasts and hilly regions. The world has many fast flowing rivers. Hydro Energy can be harnessed from these rivers to power many metropolitan cities, towns and villages.

Hydrogen fuel cells are electrochemical cells which use hydrogen and oxygen to generate energy. When electrolyzed, water splits into Hydrogen and Oxygen. This can be recombined in a hydrogen fuel cell to produce energy and water. This water can be reused. We can have distilled water units instead of Gas stations. The cars will run longer and will emit Hydrogen and Oxygen.

In 2014, the two leading automobile companies, namely Toyota and Hyundai have introduced Toyota Mirai and Hyundai ix35 FCEV, which is completely based on fuel cells. Additionally, Honda introduced FCX Clarity and Mercedes-Benz F-Cell for demonstration (TUV SUD Industrie Service GmbH).

Pollution also degrades human health. Asthma, lung cancer, chest pain, congestion, throat inflammation, cardiovascular disease and respiratory diseases are some of the major syndromes of pollution. Pollution is mainly responsible for Climate change. Climate change is a change in the statistical distribution of weather patterns when that change lasts for an extended period of time i.e., decades to millions of years. Climate change is caused by factors such as biotic processes, variations in solar radiation received by Earth, plate tectonics and volcanic eruptions. Certain human activities have also been identified as significant causes of recent climate change, often referred to as “global warming” (Advancing the Science of Climate Change).

Pollution not only affects humans by destroying their respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological systems but it also affects nature, plants, animals, fruits, vegetables, rivers, ponds, forests, etc. on which we are highly dependent for survival.

Nature, wildlife and human life are precious gifts to mankind. Hence, the next point in the agenda must be -- promotion of use of renewable energy resources, less polluting fuels and eco-technologies, as it is crucial to control pollution. This will not only improve our health, but will also improve the aesthetic image of the earth. The agricultural output will increase, as the soil will be pollutant free and the air will also be clean. Animals will be protected and the danger of carnivores or other chancy animals coming in contact with humans will be reduced. In simple terms, our Earth will be clean and all forms of life can co-exist happily.

The work of the United Nations Organization and all the developed nations is commendable but lot has to be achieved and time is running out. Our Earth does not have the capability to withstand the atrocities of her children. The achievements aren't small, but the problems we face are not small either. The World Bank Group is working with the international community to end extreme poverty in the generation and to boost incomes for the bottom 40% in each country. With food security a vital part of this effort, the Bank Group is boosting agriculture financing to \$8-10 billion a year and is working in multiple ways to build agricultural productivity and resilience to climate change. 54% of the developing countries have met or are on the track to meet the goal of cutting extreme poverty into half, 29% of countries halved child malnutrition or are on track. Number of people living in extreme poverty in 2000 compared to 1990 was reduced by 700 Million but 1.2 Billion people still live in extreme poverty. The International Development Association integrates education into national economic strategies and creates education systems that empower children to become productive citizens. Worldwide, there is a 91% increase in the rate of enrollment into primary schools. Between 2007 and 2012, the decline in number of out of school children was 2 million. But, we must work for the 58 million children who remain out of school. Investment in reducing child mortality by the International Development Association, the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries, resulted in nearly 600 million children being immunized from 2003 to 2013.

It is time for us to put down our weapons and begin a new era of peace and brotherhood. Let us turn our swords to ploughshares (Jackson). We must ensure our future generations enjoy the beauty of this planet, by building a sustainable world, where humans and nature live in harmony. To ensure that our Earth can sustain her children, we help Mother Nature repair the

damage caused by us. To make our world the most beautiful place to live, we must us heal our world.

“Humanity; The most intelligent species on the planet, capable of anything, but is governed by its aggression and youth. A species fast in developing, but slow in maturing.

Once a species that cared about its home, its provider, let its ego dominate its decision. A period of ignorance and neglect has had profound effects across the world. Effects can be reversed, if nature is given the time to repair the damage.

Remember... We only have one home” (Bayliss).

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