



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6 April, 2016

Excellency,

Pursuant to my letters of 25 February and 29 March regarding the informal dialogues to be held 12-14 April by the General Assembly with candidates for the position of Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 69/321, and with reference to the invitation to candidates to provide a vision statement which could lay out the candidates' vision on challenges and opportunities that the United Nations and the next Secretary-General may encounter such as in the fields of peace and security, sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian response and issues pertaining to the management of the Organization, I have the pleasure to circulate the vision statement, as received, from Mr. Srgjan Kerim, to Member States.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



*Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia
to the United Nations*

New York, 6 April 2016

Excellency,

I have the honor to kindly send herewith Dr. Kerim's "concise written vision statement", entitled "New Horizons", in response to your invitation to candidates for the position Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I would kindly request that Dr. Srgjan Kerim's "New Horizons" vision statement be circulated to the UN member states and posted in the "SG selection" of the website of the President of the 70th session of the General Assembly.

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

Vasile Andonoski

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "V. Andonoski", written over a horizontal line.

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft
President of the 70th session of the General Assembly
of the United Nations

New York

NEW HORIZONS



MANIFESTO

Dr. Srgjan Kerim

*Macedonian Candidate for the Position of
UN Secretary General*

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
1. Reforming the United Nations- A Great Challenge and Daunting Task.....	4
1.1 Management Reform	4
a) Optimized processes	5
b) Effective resources management	5
c) Methods for optimization	6
1.2 Security Council Reform	6
1.3 The Role of the General Assembly in Strengthening the UN	6
2. Security Architecture.....	8
a) Peacebuilding	9
b) Peacekeeping	10
c) Human Security	10
3. Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Financing for Development.....	12
a) Sustainable Development Goals	12
b) Climate Change	13
c) Financing for Development	14
4. Human Rights and Citizen Participation, Gender Equality, and Education.....	15
a) Human Rights and Citizen Participation.....	15
b) Gender Equality.....	15
c) Education.....	16
5. Migration	18
6. How to Achieve Our Goals	20
a) Multilateralism	20
b) Partnerships	20
c) Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation.....	21
7. The Candidate	22

“Trying to understand other people means destroying the stereotype without denying or ignoring the otherness.”

Umberto Eco, *Inventing the Enemy*

Introduction

Undoubtedly, we have been tempted as humanity. The world is facing indescribable terrorist attacks, extremism, gender violence, poverty and starvation, environmental disasters and draught, civil wars and uprisings. And if there is anything that can bring us back to humanity, is the faith, belief and partnership between nations and peoples that can restore our war torn and desolate communities.

Every time I approach the United Nations building, I contemplate the visual symphony of the 193 flags. They represent a perfect harmony and peaceful unity, beautiful in its diversity. They remind me of the colors of the rainbow. All together they personify hope, redemption and escape from humanity's self-inflicting suffering. They proudly represent the cause and purpose of the United Nations. Under one breath, they represent the world.

I have always and will continue believing in the United Nations. I believe in its vision and in its mission for preserving peace and security, multilateralism and equal human rights. And for this sole purpose, I feel an incredible duty to contribute and assist in maintaining this global cause.

In times of turmoil, the UN served to codify and develop international law; it enabled the protection of human rights by establishing international norms, resolved conflicts via peace building and peacekeeping missions, brought world leaders together to set targets on climate change and created the conditions that fostered all the accomplishments within the Millennium Development as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The General Debate of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly was regarded as an anniversary and a retrospective of the work of the organization in these past seventy years. There was recognition and acknowledgement of the accomplishments and goals achieved thus far, while at the same time, leaders and member states expressed their determination to make the organization more transparent and efficient in dealing with all global challenges that the world is facing today.

By honoring the vision of the founding Member States, I would like to elaborate my goals and priorities for the UN agenda, as a candidate for the post of UN Secretary General.

Chapter 1

Reforming the United Nations- A Great Challenge and Daunting Task

1.1 Management Reform

On December 23rd 2015 all 193 nations in the UN General Assembly came together in adopting a budget of \$5.4 billion in order to implement vital goals set forth for the period of 2016-2017. As financial challenges are still present and evident Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reminded us of the crucial role that the UN plays stating, "Through it all, we are doing everything possible to fulfill the mandates you give us. We are guided by two pressing obligations: First, our duty to respond to the needs of the world's people. And second: our responsibility to make the most of the resources you entrust to us. Through creativity, hard work and diligence, we are rising to the challenge."

We must ensure that the United Nations bodies reach its full potential and efficiency. Undoubtedly, the balance between POWER personified within the Security Council and LEGITIMACY embodied within the General Assembly must not create unnecessary friction with the two organs as they are all interrelated and interdependent of each other. Reform of the Security Council as well as the General Assembly deserves full attention and must reflect present realities.

We need a more **active and coherent United Nations system** and stronger engagement from all members of the General Assembly. We can begin by encouraging all Member States of the United Nations to live up to their responsibilities; by emphasizing the interdependence of all nations; by recognizing that crucial issues on the Assembly's agenda are not about numbers, but about people; and, by involving a multitude of external actors in the work of the Assembly, to assert their rights and engage in efforts to make exercising those rights more sustainable and universal.

Keeping this in mind the Secretary General must bring awareness to the interest of the entire organization as a whole, from a comprehensive and inclusive point of view. Subsequently, one of my main goals as candidate for the post of Secretary General will be this very notion of creating inclusivity and greater efficacy within the UN system.

In other words, **setting up concrete targets and deadlines for the implementation of the management reform should be of highest priority for the Secretary General and the Secretariat.**

Referring to gender equality, I note that at present the ratio of men to women in the top senior UN assignments is 28 to 72 in favor of men. My target within the 5 year mandate would be an

equal distribution pertaining to managerial positions within the UN Secretariat, which is in full accordance with the continuous efforts of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon throughout his term. Therefore, equal representation whether on the basis of gender or geographic representation is essential for maintaining an efficient and cohesive organization where the voices of all groups and individuals become heard.

After 70 years we ought to realize that times have changed, the world has changed and the UN is due to change. This is why **my first priority is management reform.**

This reform must be guided by **good governance** as a basic principle. Subsequently, good governance must be practiced on all levels, local, regional and international.

a) Optimized processes

The **institutional memory** represents a pillar of the United Nations to the extent that it provides legislative legitimacy and plays a crucial role in the functioning of the organization. It represents one of the highest virtues of the UN but also one of its weakest sides. It is certainly a virtue to treat continuity as a method of work of the organization. However, we realize at the same time the deficiencies of implementing our own goals and principles in practice. To preserve the institutional memory as such requires much more ambition, skill and endeavor than to merely revitalize the General Assembly.

As part of the management reform process, a comprehensive method of reviewing adopted resolutions with an extensive follow up on what has been implemented thus far should take place.

There is a need for a comprehensive **mandate review** to ensure that the General Assembly eliminates duplication and overlapping. The purpose would be to optimize the use of resources and avail them to the development account, which could then be used for the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.

Furthermore, the results of the current review processes of peace operations including Special Political Missions (SPMs) as well as the reviews of the Peace Building Commission (PBC) and the Peace Building Fund (PBF) should serve as basis for rationalizing the use of PKOs and SPMs and preventing their overstay. This will rationalize the increasing Peacekeeping budget which now amounts to approximately US\$8.00 Billion.

b) Effective resources management

At present, there is no unified listing or rosters of consultants and experts to be used by the departments of the Secretariat, leaving the door open for various ways of manipulation. There is a need to establish set regulations in dealing with consultants and experts.

Equally important is the **control of spending**. Controlling the budget spending should be done on a half yearly basis, to avoid shortage of spending in one year and a rush of spending when the time for discussion of budget draws near. Departments that achieve savings after implementing their mandate should be rewarded, not punished by budget cuts.

Finally, the management of human resources is in need of reform, particularly through the implementation of the Mobility and Career Development Framework. HR should have wider capabilities to move staff members across departments and headquarters within the framework of improved relations with the Staff Union.

c) **Methods for optimization**

What gets measured gets managed; what gets managed gets done.

Performance measurement is the first step that leads to improvement in any organization and the UN is no exception. The simple act of paying attention to something will inspire new ideas and trigger improvement. Specific steps to management reform include:

- Creating an efficient, streamlined and optimally functioning organization, which is a tangible contribution that can be made within the authority of the SG role
- Enhancing the concept of “delivering as one” including improved coordination, coherence and synchronicity in within the UN system
- Developing a culture of problem solving throughout the organization

1.2 **Security Council Reform**

It's been eight years since the kick-off of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform by adopting **Resolution 62/557 with consensus** during my presidency of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly. Undeniable efforts have been made in the aftermath to narrow the gap between the concerned parties on issues which are of vital importance to the reform process.

We have to say in all honesty and with full respect to various interests and respective positions: it is now time to open the way to **results oriented decisions**. And I say decisions intentionally, because we need to have a **roadmap composed of a chain of decisions**, which will take us to the doors of the UN Charter, in order to complete this extraordinarily important and complex process.

1.3 **The Role of the General Assembly in Strengthening the UN**

When it comes to the General Assembly, there is no point in discussing simply "revitalization." We should instead define and stipulate the role of the General Assembly in strengthening the United Nations. In other words, the General Assembly must be reformed as well, and not merely revitalized. Furthermore, the General Assembly must become more relevant, effective and transparent in **practicing and communicating** its functions and powers, as stipulated in Articles 10 to 17 in the Charter of the United Nations.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) represents an important aspect of the United Nations system and a greater cooperation with the General Assembly must be achieved alongside efforts of its reform for enhanced efficacy.

Chapter 2

Security Architecture

The outcries of innocent civilians from Paris, Beirut, Kenya, Nigeria, Turkey, the Russian plane carrier and others have shaken the core of our existence and urged us to reevaluate our priorities. It becomes an absolute necessity in the global fight against terror to organize a worldwide coalition of antiterrorism with the United Nations at the forefront. We must end this vicious cycle of violence by aiming directly at the nucleus or the root causes from which it stems, thoroughly and not marginally. Therefore, having a structured security architecture within the UN framework is a basis for addressing all other interrelated priorities.

President Kennedy's "peace speech" in June 1963 distinctly outlines that: "...there is no single, simple key to (this) peace; no grand or magic formula to be adopted by one or two powers. Genuine peace must be the product of many nations, the sum of many acts. It must be dynamic, not static, changing to meet the challenge of each new generation. For peace is a process - a way of solving problems." My understanding of this visionary statement is a paradigm shift in preserving peace and security from a zero sum game approach to a win-win approach.

Only recently, the UN Security Council adopted historic resolutions that have aimed at fighting global terrorism and extremism by ways of diplomacy and peaceful reconciliation. The unanimous adoption of the **UN Security Council resolution 2254 (2015)** calling for a ceasefire or ending warfare in Syria as well as setting a timetable for UN-facilitated peace talks has once again proved that diplomatic dialogue can be crucial in a time of conflict. Furthermore, **UN Security Council resolution 2253 (2015)**, addressing the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (also co-sponsored by the government of Syria) has reaffirmed the notion that combating terrorism collectively and strategically through multilateral efforts can produce positive outcomes.

I realize the need to strengthen the implementation of the UN counter-terrorism strategy in combating violent extremism. I applaud the efforts of the UN Security Council for adopting resolution 2253 (2015) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, and made known the 1267/1989/2253 ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee.

The Libyan Political Agreement on forming a national unity government in Libya represents a successful UN mediated accord, of great importance for both the Mediterranean and Middle East region. Consequently, the unanimously adopted **Security Council Resolution 2259 (2015)** that endorsed the Rome Communiqué of December 13th 2015 to provide support of the National Accord Government in Libya, was of essential significance for ushering a process of stabilization

and stability not only in Libya but also in the North African region as well. I applaud such efforts by the United Nations and support these cornerstone resolutions of the Security Council that represent a framework for maintaining peace and stability in the world. A systemic and well coordinated cooperation between the United Nations, political governments, regional organizations, businesses and non-state actors can be the key to establishing significant networks in adequately combating terrorism.

All of these adopted resolutions obviously have a common denominator, not only in terms of the desired way the Security Council should function when it comes to preserving peace and security globally, but also they send a clear message that **going back to diplomacy** is the only way to do it. This approach should also be applied in the case of Ukraine, including the full implementation of the Minsk Agreement.

The notion of security has significantly shifted. One cannot compare security threats in 2015 with those of 1955 or 1965. Terrorism, climate change, migration and other phenomena have undoubtedly influenced the **security paradigm**.

Member states made it very clear during the General Debate of the 70th session of the General Assembly, with their unwavering support for building up and improving security, which is at the core of UN activities.

The General Assembly Resolution 47/120 adopted in 1992 within the context of the Agenda for Peace encourages the Secretary General to “continue in accordance with Article 99 of the UN Charter, to bring to the attention of the Security Council, at his discretion, any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security, together with his recommendations thereon.”

a) **Peacebuilding**

Peacebuilding represents an important dimension in restoration of democratic values and prevention of different types of conflicts in nations at stake. The **Peacebuilding Commission of the United Nations** plays a central role in the aforementioned process precisely by connecting together relevant factors in the course of action such as national governments with international donors, proposing and recommending strategic measures for post-conflict peacebuilding. I believe needed efforts must be delegated to further development and support of peacebuilding participants in detecting any possible shortcomings or obstacles that can hinder the process of stabilization.

The 2015 Session of the Peacebuilding Commission explored extremely relevant issues such as “intergovernmental avenues for enhancing predictability of peacebuilding funding and minimizing the impact of the existing silo approach to humanitarian, security and development finance on the coherence and effectiveness of UN.”

The Secretary General must keep these challenges high on its priority agenda in order to achieve full efficacy of its peacebuilding aspect.

b) Peacekeeping

Continuing on, one of the most important pillars of the United Nations when it comes to establishing peace and security in the true sense of its meaning are the peacekeeping missions. Having 16 Peacekeeping operations and one special political mission – the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) ¹underlines the great significance but also responsibility that the United Nations has in leading the path from conflict to resolution in war torn regions.

Since the Peacekeeping operations create conditions for stability and facilitate a route for sustainable peace, often times aiding in the process of restoration, disarmament, demobilization and assimilation in the regions at stake, makes this aspect of the United Nations essential for building synergies and maintaining security globally.

During the first Peacekeeping mission of the UN in the beginning of the first Arab-Israeli war 1948, 120 unarmed individuals wanted to make a lasting difference in the world by promoting peace and security. It is my vision and goal that **improving the peacekeeping and peacebuilding dimension** of the UN activities must be one of the highest priorities on the agenda.

c) Human Security

Human security encompasses the idea that true stability can only be achieved if people live in safety and with dignity, free from poverty and despair. Safety is the hallmark of freedom from fear, while well-being is the target of freedom from want. The notion behind the “responsibility to protect”-as a part of the human security concept- is based on the approach that “the State carries the primary responsibility for protecting populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and their incitement.”²

Nevertheless, the UN and its General Assembly should be the main nexus in the global action aimed at building a world where every individual is guaranteed freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to fully develop their human potential. As President of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly, I firmly advocated the concept of human security so we may gain a better understanding of how protection and empowerment of individual human beings, in addition to national security, lie at the very heart of the overall security architecture.

¹ With an approved budget for UN Peacekeeping operations for the fiscal year 1 July 2015-30 June 2016 of \$8.27 billion [A/C.5/69/24]

² <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/responsibility.shtml>

It is of utmost importance that the promotion of the human security agenda is a collaborative effort. We need to bring together Member States, international organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations and NGO's, as well as, maintain a close relationship with established partners such as the **Advisory Board on Human Security** and the **Human Security Network**.

Going forward, we should try to make human security a principle that is better reflected in a wider range of UN activities - from peacebuilding, human rights, development, and migration, to the environment, gender equality and fighting organized crime and human trafficking.

Chapter 3

Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Financing for Development

The Holistic approach linking sustainable development, climate change and financing for development, defining them as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars was already recognized during the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg 2002 and reaffirmed in the Rio+ 20 Summit on Sustainable Development.

The implementation of the SDGs can only be effective and comprehensive if it goes hand-in-hand and simultaneously with climate change and financing for development.

a) Sustainable Development Goals

By adopting the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in September 2015, the UN has set up a universal vision for a better world. This also has practical implications in resolving critical challenges from poverty to pandemic diseases.

The key issue within the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** and 169 targets is to end **poverty** in all its forms.

The composition of the goals, which build on the work of the historic MDGs, is aimed at transforming the world and is people centered aiming at leaving no one behind. In other words, it opens new horizons for all people everywhere through **partnership**.

To end extreme poverty in Africa requires investment in smallholder farmers, as well as in infrastructure including roads, railways, power, ports and communication networks.

The desired results will be achieved by streamlining the UN agenda on sustainable development and adopting a decision-making format, which will adhere to it.

Setting poverty as the SDG number one, means to provide conditions for sustained economic growth to those remaining regions of the world that are still facing extreme poverty - above all, tropical sub-Saharan Africa where more than 400 million people live in extreme poverty. Furthermore, another region seriously affected is South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan), where more than 500 million people live in extreme poverty.

b) Climate Change

The COP 21 or the Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in December 2015 was based on the recognition of the nexus between climate change, sustainable development and financing for development.

Pledging international cooperation and joint action in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, creating new methods, and technology development in producing renewable energy and fostering effective synergies to tackle climate change make the **Paris Agreement** another gate for opening **new horizons**. And the UN are its institutional framework which will inspire more action and bolster cooperation in an area that will play a key role in shaping the lives of future generations.

The Paris Agreement, by its content and construction, is obviously a **package deal**. Everyone is aware that the way from Rio 1992 Earth Summit to Berlin 1995 (COP 1) to Paris 2015 (COP 21) was a long and arduous journey. It took longer than anticipated and required. One might contemplate the reason behind such a prolonged journey, but the fact is that the lack of adequate approach or persistency by concerned parties in pursuing a package deal prevailed. Thus, we have finally reached the desired Agreement based on the recognition of the nexus between climate change, sustainable development and financing for development.

And, most importantly it consists of the relevant components required to successfully and comprehensively approach climate change concerns. These include: Mitigation, Adaptation, Loss and damage, Finance, Technology development and transfer, Capacity-building, Transparency of action and support, Global stocktake, Facilitating implementation and compliance.

In addition to this, setting deadlines during the process of implementation is also extremely important in order to accomplish the goals set forth with the Paris Agreement. In the period to come including the set **deadlines** in 2016, 2017, as well as 2023, which should serve not only to set the process in motion and to provide for stocktake, but rather to speed up the concerted action on all levels; locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

As President of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly I underlined the importance of involving stakeholders and non-state actors in climate change exercises. Encouraging concerned businesses to find a comprehensive solution to climate change – with all parties working together to increase investment in technologies in sensible ways – so that, for example increasing production of bio-fuel crops doesn't lead to increased food insecurity and higher prices for basic foods is a highly effective approach.

The United Nations should serve as the driving force to engage the whole world community and lead a joint action in keeping global warming under control. The UN must pay special attention to the needs of the least developed countries (LDC's), the landlocked developing countries

(LLDC's) and the small island developing states (SIDS), whose security is under constant threat due to climate change. They should be kept high on the agenda of the Secretary General.

c) Financing for Development

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda was essential for providing a foundation or framework for financing for development, with ambitious objectives for ending poverty and reaching food security. This outcome showcased the continuous efforts by nations in implementing the Monterey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on financing for development.

As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon underlined "The results in Addis Ababa give us the foundation of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development that will leave no one behind."

This concept was again emphasized on the 20th anniversary of the Rio Summit, in the final outcome document for the Rio +20 Summit with the clear commitment to achieve sustainable development by:

- Promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth;
- Creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living;
- Fostering equitable social development and inclusion;
- Promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems
- Good governance including curbing of corruption and mismanagement of available resources
- A key role of the private sector in providing financial resources and investments
- Accomplishment of **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** parameters

As a person who has been engaged in both the private sector as a manager as well as the public sector including appointments within the UN system, I fully recognize and support Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as a tool and mechanism which can essentially contribute to the implementation of the financing for development goals. PPP can serve in increasing additional private sector finance across key development sectors led by national and regional government policies and priorities for sustainable development.

Chapter 4

Human Rights and Citizen Participation, Gender Equality, and Education

a) Human Rights and Citizen Participation

With the very inception of the United Nations in 1945 in San Francisco, it was engraved in the **Preamble of the Charter** that we the Peoples of the United Nations are Determined to “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.” 70 years have passed and it is safe to infer that still one of the most important pillars on which the organization is firmly grounded is the protection of basic human rights in the world. UN’s platform on human rights has always been integral and indispensable.

The United Nations has set the foundational basis for the protection of human rights by establishing legal framework, international treaties and instituting key organs that will promote and honor the principles delegated in the latter framework. With resolution 217 A by the UN General Assembly, in 1948 the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was adopted. In 1993, the position of **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** was created and subsequently in 2006 the **Human Rights Council**³ was formed. The role of these organs has been central and in some regions critical in raising awareness for human rights.

Although such institutions and documents exist within the UN system, much needed time and effort must be devoted to strengthening these mechanisms as essential to detecting and monitoring violation of the basic human rights and ensuring a pathway for individual freedom and dignity.

Therefore it is needless to say that within this context **citizen participation** comes into play as one of the key components in the intricate and intertwined network of building synergies for strengthening cooperation and enhancing the functionality of multiple organs within the UN system.

b) Gender Equality

Women represent a major and vital part of the political world and we cannot discuss global progress without acknowledging the significance of women’s emancipation and empowerment. This very notion of gender equality and closing the gender gap represents one of the major

³ The General Assembly established the UNHRC by adopting resolution A/RES/60/251 on 15 March 2006

priorities in my UN platform, as an absolute prerequisite for achieving a just and democratic society.

Instead of merely discussing gender equality, we need to take action in achieving gender consciousness and reaching a proportional equilibrium between men and women in all spheres of political, social, economic and cultural governance.

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women is key to the advancement of development, peace, security and human rights. I fully support and applaud the devoted work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and all of its supporting agencies and partners to advance the cause of gender equality⁴.

Furthermore, in 2000 the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 which urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system.

In order to lead by example, it is necessary for the UN to undergo systematic changes, and my aim would be to remedy such misrepresentations and provide an equal voice for women to showcase their expertise and professionalism within the United Nations system. Based on the spirit of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) we must not forget that women's empowerment is empowerment for humankind.

c) Education

The **4th Sustainable Development Goal** is devoted to the cause of achieving free and quality education for everyone and has set targets of placing every child in school, improving learning conditions, building new and renovating existing learning facilities, eliminating gender discrepancies and promoting inclusivity. **UNICEF** along with the **UN Secretary General's Global Initiative on Education** are making tremendous progress in achieving these set targets and goals.

As one of my priorities, I believe that the global development and progress of our societies depends on having educated, skilled and socially cognizant citizenry. Knowledge and education are crucial for individual growth and central for societal progress.

Access to education must not represent a privilege for some, but rather a basic human right granted to every individual. It is truly astounding that in today's world of technological advancement and political development "103 million youth worldwide lack basic literacy skills"

⁴ In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which is known as the International Bill of Rights for Women (<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/women/>)

⁵and are facing multiple obstacles such as the lack of roads, classrooms, books or teachers in order to obtain education.

As we speak of education, it is necessary to mention again its connection to the 1st Sustainable Development Goal, poverty- which represents an important dimension of human rights globally. Succinctly to the facts for illiteracy, 836 million⁶ people live in extreme poverty and spend their daily lives in less than humane living conditions earning \$1.25 per day. Alongside education, employment must be the imperative of today's century. All of these factors taken into consideration can aid in the global initiative for eliminating poverty in all regions of the world. Therefore, both access to education, health and the eradication of poverty through equal employment should remain high priorities for the next Secretary General.

⁵ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

⁶ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

Chapter 5

Migration

Making migration an integral part of my priorities for the UN agenda is not a result of the current migration flows and developments. It is rather based on the notion that the whole history of mankind is about migration. Recently, we have witnessed the largest displacement of refugees-surpassing all previous records and reaching a halting number of 60 million⁷- “with one in every 122 people worldwide compelled to flee due to conflict, persecution and natural disasters.” We witnessed imagery that haunts: lifeless children drowned by waters, suffocated women, desperation, hunger, and fear in the eyes of million innocent faces. An alarming number of nearly 4,000 casualties were recorded while they were making their journey in search for peace, security and a better future for their families.

Immigrants from Syria, Afghanistan and a number of African countries, found shelter in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, etc., nations that have opened their borders for migrants. The Syrian crisis alone has displaced over 7 million people, which represents the largest amount recorded since World War II.

The large influx of refugees coming to Europe definitely caught many nations unprepared and reminded us that urgent and specific measures must be implemented. Nevertheless, when addressing the migrant crisis it is of essential value that we mirror the sentiment of inclusivity, solidarity and ingenuity. I also salute the recent decision of the European Union to avail the UN refugee programs with much needed financial support.

The equal value of each human life must be the paradigm when addressing or attempting to resolve the migration crisis. Brutal, inhumane and torturous acts, cynicism, mockery and cruel harassment of people that seek asylum are against any moral values.

Additionally, some migrants are victims of climate change, which is anything but abstract. There are people suffering the effects of displacement due to increased floods, droughts and re-emerging diseases such as the outbreak of Ebola in the African continent. These vulnerable people find themselves having to leave their villages, cities or countries because of extreme conditions. The existence of climate refugees is not just a concept, but a sad fact. It is clear therefore that the solutions to mass movements of people must be global and that we need to forge an integrated global alliance for action.

⁷ According to the 2015 report from the High Commissioner’s Office (OHCHR)
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52859>

The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have already developed and adopted such regulatory procedures, which certainly are significant measures that we must build upon. I also applaud the initiatives and all efforts of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon with migration and I believe that the first World Humanitarian Summit⁸ which will take place in Istanbul, May of 2016 will begin a tradition and set concrete goals, solutions and commitments for dealing with humanitarian challenges. It will also help the World Summit which is to be held at the beginning of the 71st session of the General Assembly to take appropriate actions in the protection of migrant's rights.

The implementation of effective procedures when addressing migration, the protection of migrant's basic human rights and needs, providing shelter and proper accommodation are all important values that can create and strengthen world solidarity. No matter what nation, religion, creed or culture, the human family shares a common yearning for peace, prosperity and happiness, and I strongly believe that the role of the United Nations in attaining such prosperity is vital.

⁸https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about?utm_source=A&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=WHS_FrontPage&utm_content=Banner+Click

Chapter 6

How to Achieve Our Goals

In order to achieve these high-stake priorities I believe we need to utilize three main tools.

a) Multilateralism

Multilateralism can be compared to a waterfall. It always finds its way even if there are stones and cliffs that need to be succumbed. The existence of **APEC, BRICS, MERCOSUR, ASEAN, G-20** etc does not narrow and diminish the significance of the United Nations. Their role is not a substitutionary to the UN, but rather complementary. In fact the world is facing an undeniable trend towards multipolarity in conducting international relations.

To encompass 193 nations, all diverse, unique and distinct in size, architecture, population and tradition is a testament of the complexity but nevertheless of the functionality of multilateralism in the United Nations. This concept of inclusivity is a multifaceted and above all a complex set of relationships. Nevertheless, it is becoming more and more important in the spread of democracy and the facilitation of relevant agreements among nations.

Multilateralism as such is the new paradigm for achieving effective cooperation among nations, especially through the United Nations as the only inclusive multilateral organization on a global scale.

b) Partnerships

Building partnerships is a valuable tool that is slowly coming at the forefront on the global political stage, signifying evolution from the classical spheres of influence or interest. Partnerships must be built on solid grounds, through sound and coherent terms, which will prevent conflicts.

Partnerships are the contemporary alternatives to spheres of influence. Partnerships however, must fully reflect and adhere to the picture of today's world; a world of globalization, multilateralism, regional integration and sustainable development.

If we rely on relevant examples, the partnerships between the United Nations and respective organizations such as the European Union, the African Union, ASEAN, UNASUR, MERCOSUR etc show the essentiality of such allegiances in international relations.

Provided they serve their cause, partnerships can essentially contribute to preservation of peace and security globally, regionally and locally.

c) Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation

The significance of mediation in the maintenance of peace and security is stipulated in the UN Charter. In chapter VI, article 33 as well as article 36. Its application as a method and procedure in the work of the Security Council is envisaged.

Here, I see an opportunity for the Secretary General to display activities aimed at assisting the Security Council in accordance with **Article 33 and 36** especially in the preparations and in paving the way to adopt decisions of the Council in the case of disputes existing on its agenda. And that again is in full accordance with **Article 99 of the Charter**.

During the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly, mediation as a vehicle in the settlement of disputes was made a focal point. Now more than ever we witness the necessity to reevaluate and go back to mediation as a major tool for resolving conflicts, especially in times of crisis and conflicts of more complex character.

The Secretary General must be more visible and demonstrate leadership in terms of engaging in mediation.

Chapter 7

The Candidate

Nobody can deny that only principles, goals, values and programs matter when we have to make our choice in electing a person to a certain position. Personality also matters. A lot. With all its positives and negatives.

You may be asking yourselves "what kind of person out there will be good enough for this position?"

I can speak of myself. I am an enemy of superficiality and improvisations. A result oriented individual with a firm determination to succeed in achieving common goals.

I come from a corner of the world, which probably has quite a long record of history of civilization. It has gone through almost everything which is the collective experience of mankind; from nation building, to destruction of common state entities, from peaceful settlements of conflicts, to horrendous and cruel wars about territories and borders, from a humane way of dealing with minorities, to genocide, from living in misery and poverty, to enjoying a high quality of living standards, from suffering under dictatorships, to embracing democracy and freedom of nations and individuals.

Having said that, I am trying to argue that there is no better school and training to sublimate and comprise the abilities, skills, sense and qualifications for such an extraordinary mission as the position of the UN Secretary General.

There is absolutely no need to speculate on the role of the SG in the UN system. The UN is very clear: **In Chapter XV, Article 97** it says: The SG is "the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization." As such the Secretary General and the Secretariat should serve Member States in the implementation of all significant priorities on the UN agenda and facilitate inclusivity and comprehensiveness throughout the organization.

In order to make all of this effective, allow me to paraphrase the great Irish writer George Bernard Shaw who said: the world needs men who can dream of things that never were, and ask why not? And one cannot agree more.

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