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Candidate Responses

Question 1

Ilya Bañares

Philippines / China – Student

<http://bit.ly/IlyaBanaresSGcandidateQuestionVideo>

Do you believe that the Secretary-General should be limited in his or her powers, by only implementing the will of the Member States of the United Nations, rather than acting independently, in pursuit of the common good?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

The Charter in Chapter 1 Article 1 sets out the purposes of the United Nations as maintaining international peace and security and developing friendly relations among nations. The Secretary-General must be guided by the Charter and always do her or his best to make sure that the UN acts for the global common good.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

I believe in a well-balanced mixture of both: thorough implementation of the decisions member states make as well as responsible independence in pursuing the common good. The United Nations Charter gives the Secretary-General seemingly limited powers but provides for a generous scope of action: from being the Chief Administrative Officer overseeing the work of over 40 000 employees in providing support to member states and executing demanding mandates to strategic planning and operational control over peacekeeping operations and last but not least, Art. 99 allows the SG to play an important political role and responsibility in alerting the Council when there are situations that s/he feels require its engagement. Over the years, the role of the SG in the area of peace and security evolved significantly. As part of his good offices and mediation role, the independence and impartiality of the SG is essential and unchallengeable in preventing and stopping conflicts.

As I mentioned during my interaction with UN General Assembly (Interactive Dialogue), the UNSG could be entrusted with more managerial flexibility in return for enhanced accountability.

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Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

UN Secretary-General has to demonstrate the commitment to perform duties as good as possible, since the expectations and needs are high and pressing and for all moral reasons one really can't afford to be calculative as to his/her next term, when millions of people look to you to provide crucial and decisive leadership for attaining Charter principles. The role of the next UN Secretary-General will not be to reinvent the wheel but to successfully deliver on already vast agenda. In doing so, there has to be constant consultations, constant dialogue with Member States in order to overcome doubts and wrong assumptions. The Secretary-General should really exercise the role of chief diplomat, honest broker. The only way to measure the mettle of a Secretary-General is by looking at his or her results eventually. And these results should be achieved by respecting the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

The Secretary General has to serve the Organization in a creative way. His powers are determined by the UN Charter and by the mandates provided by the UN Member States. The Secretary – General has to implement these mandates and in doing so develop the necessary partnerships – with member states, the civil society groups, business community and academia. And, above all, the Secretary - General must be imaginative in carrying out his mandate to provide his good offices and advice whenever necessary and possible.

Question 2

Arco Iris de Sordos

Colombia – Deaf Rainbow Group

<http://bit.ly/DeafRainbowGroupColombiaSGcandidateQuestionVideo>

Let me introduce myself, I'm Johan, This is my sign. Welcome. We are the Bogota Deaf Rainbow Group. What will the United Nations do to guarantee the rights of LGBTI people around the world?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

The UN has from its establishment encouraged respect for individual human freedoms and human rights. But while the UN can set goals and standards only its member states can put these into practice, at the speed that their societies and cultures will allow. There is a lively dialogue underway on LGBTI and for the past two years the United Nations UN Free & Equal

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campaign has been raising awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination as well as promoting greater respect for the rights of LGBTI people. The creation of a new Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity by the Human Rights Council in June will also contribute to progress on better protecting of the rights of LGBTI people.

While I was Prime Minister, New Zealand made significant progress towards recognising the rights of LGBTI persons, including by legalising civil unions for same-sex couples.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

UN must be at the frontlines when it comes to protection of the human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". I am strongly against all violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The UN should continue to help address the challenges the LGBTI community faces around the world and build greater understanding of issues facing the LGBTI people.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

Many people in all regions remain discriminated on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Due to their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, individuals are exposed to various forms of exclusion, violence and discrimination, both within their families and in the society at large. In many parts of the world, the struggle for equal rights of LGBTI people is still a "new frontier". There has been a significant advance in the recognition of human rights of LGBTI people within the international and regional human rights mechanism. However, important gaps remain in legal protection at country level. In addition there is no reporting mechanisms and systematic attention to human rights violations against LGBTI persons. UN must continue to strongly advocate for elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as to mobilize all actors and conduct active policy in the international scene in order to improve the status and safety of LGBTI persons, promoting their rights and greater visibility.

The newly adopted 2030 Agenda does not explicitly include LGBTI people. Therefore, one of the challenges in the implementation will be to ensure that development is inclusive of LGBTI persons, as well. This is particularly important in the field of health and health protection. I welcome the recently adopted HRC resolution on the issue of sexual orientation

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and gender identity, introducing for the first time in the UN a position of the independent expert on the issue of violence based on different sexual orientation and gender identity.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

The United Nations must insist on the principle of non-discrimination and equality before the law for all. Moreover, everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. The entire UN system for protection of human rights has to work to implement these universal requirements. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights will be in the forefront and ensure coherence of the UN action. The Secretary – General must fully support these activities. Some among the priorities are urgent, in particular prevention of killings or harming of people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Question 3

Rahul Kumar

India – Green Dreamers

<http://bit.ly/RahulKumarSGcandidateQuestionVideo>

How would you anticipate and what measures would you take to maintain International Peace by solving international conflicts even before they start and become a crisis? Next UNSG must anticipate and analyse problems before it turns into a crisis like in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere. It truly hurts.

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

As Secretary-General I would make it a priority to strengthen the UN's mediation and conflict prevention capacity. I would work closely with regional organisations, who are often the first to pick up signs of future instability. I would also use proactively the "good offices" role of the Secretary-General, to bring people together and to promote dialogue and where possible to avoid conflict.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

Early warning is an essential first step for conflict prevention, yet it has been difficult and infrequent. The Secretary-General must work closely with the UN Security Council to seek better response mechanisms to detect early the emergence of conflicts to prevent them from erupting in the first place. There must be a strong collaboration between the Secretary-

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General and the UNSC to ensure that the UN can effectively use all available tools of peaceful settlement of disputes.

I believe we need renewed focus on the field: enhance assessment and monitoring capabilities of UN field offices and, where appropriate, create regional offices of preventive diplomacy. e.g.: the Centre for preventive diplomacy in Central Asia proved very useful and successful in evading conflict. I want to concentrate on enhancing the pool of local negotiators to respect need for local ownership and utilize unique insight and experience of local mediators.

This can be done with none or relatively modest investment. It only requires reprioritizing: eliminate obsolete mandates, free up resources for priorities.

Last but not least: always have the overarching principle of prevention in mind: ensure human rights, development, fight against corruption, illicit arms trafficking – „Destroying yesterday’s weapons prevents them from being used in tomorrow’s wars“.

Dr. Igor Lukšić’s answer:

Prevention stands at the core of the UN. The current fragile and deteriorating international peace and security situation and all associated negative effects demonstrate a pressing need to take substantive strides in shifting from the culture of “reaction” to the culture of “prevention”. The Security Council has the key role in prevention. Small investment in prevention, albeit it is hard to measure its effectiveness, can have disproportionate effect and go a long way in alleviating those grave consequences and costs of armed conflicts. But the UN capacities for prevention and mediation continue to be under-resourced and under-funded as the DPA relies heavily on extra budgetary funding to carry out these activities. Only 1.5% of the UN’s budget is allocated for prevention and peacemaking. Therefore, capacities and tools for early warning and early action, including analytics, have to be strengthened. In addition, mediation, as a cost-effective tool, merits greater attention and resources from the international community, including the UN, so that it can truly be established as a core function of the UN. There is no substitute for political solutions and peaceful means for solving differences, rectifying tensions and achieving sustained peace and stability.

There has to be a strong commitment to a regular dialogue and to building trust. Constructive engagement of concerned states and other stakeholders (regional organizations etc.) is crucial, from the immediate neighborhood and region beyond as well as global players, those that can use their leverage on the developments on the ground to help carve the best possible solution. More efficiency and effectiveness can be brought about by setting up the UN Peace Operations Group, as I proposed, closely supervised by SG and DSG within

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the Chief Executives Coordination Board which also has to be strengthened. This Peace Operations Group (POG) should reflect the spirit of the peace sustaining resolutions so that peace and security and sustaining peace is everybody's job description. Additionally DSG should be in charge of coordinating prevention, mediation efforts as well as of the communication with the regional arrangements.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

The key is early mobilization of political will to prevent armed conflict. The analytical capacity exists and in almost every case of an armed conflict there are signs which represent an early warning. The role of the Secretary – General is to work preventively, to identify the situation as threatening peace and to initiate appropriate international cooperation. Securing peace in Bakassi peninsula, where the then Secretary-General Kofi Annan played the critically important role is a good example.

Question 4

Harriet Ngendanabo

Uganda – Sightsavers

<http://bit.ly/HarrietNgendanaboSGcandidateQuestionVideo>

People with disabilities have been left out of development discussions for too long – how will you change this?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

Throughout my life I have been an advocate for the rights of people who are in any way disadvantaged. During my period as Prime Minister, New Zealand chaired and brought to a successful conclusion the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Also while I was Prime Minister New Zealand designated sign language to be an official language. We were the first country in the world to do so. As Secretary-General I would look for ways to make the UN a more inclusive Organisation, to give all persons with disabilities more of a voice in the UN debates that concern them. I was pleased to see that persons with disabilities are expressly recognized in the Sustainable Development Goals. For the Goals to be achieved, these issues need to be mainstreamed across the work programme of the United Nations, including through ongoing consultation with persons with disabilities and the groups that represent them.

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Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

The UN must play a vital role in eliminating poverty and inequality for all persons with disabilities. The 2030 Agenda provides great opportunity to continue to build momentum around issues of disability and development. It also promises to leave no one behind. We all must make greater progress in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). A positive development recently was the adoption of a new charter to improve living conditions of persons with disabilities during emergencies at the United Nations World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

Comparing to the MDGs, we must celebrate common achievement to explicitly include persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals, thus recognizing importance of full participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society. Their role is even more important in the process of successful implementation of an inclusive 2030 Agenda, that truly leaves no one behind. In doing so, their voices should be heard. Together with the 2030 Agenda, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides guidelines for realizing rights of persons with disabilities, while achieving truly inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. We must ensure that CRPD and the SDGs are implemented in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Adequate measurement of progress, along with strengthening data production and the use of better data in policymaking and monitoring is of utmost interest. The SDGs demand a data revolution to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels. Follow up and review framework should promote accountability to our citizens, as well as the principles of equality and non-discrimination, inclusiveness and transparency.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

The basic platform for UN action exists in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (adopted in 2006) which calls for “mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant strategies of sustainable development”. Agenda 2030 provides further support. Specific tasks are defined in the Sustainable Development Goals and in the relevant targets referring to the access of people with disabilities to education, to employment opportunities and to their entitlement to non - discrimination in general. Current work along

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the lines of the notion of leaving no one behind is already part of implementation, something that as the Secretary – General I shall support as an important development priority.

Question 5

Jane Alver

Australia – WYCA Australia & Center for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at University of Canberra

<http://bit.ly/JaneAlverSGcandidatesQuestionVideo>

How will you ensure the crucial involvement of civil society is valued and not further eroded?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

I am a firm believer in drawing in the wisdom and experience of civil society. They have a valuable contribution to make to the work of the UN. There is scope to make the UN more accessible and an exciting digital space for dialogue by using modern communications proactively.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

I think the United Nations can only benefit in its work from the vision, leadership and work of civil society on many issues of global importance, including climate change, development or human rights.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

Given the importance of civil society to human rights, peace and security and development, if elected as next UN Secretary General, I will undertake activities towards enhancing consultation with civil society, as it played key roles in defining milestones agreements. Thus, I strongly believe that today's world needs to see strategic partnerships between the UN, civil society, private sector and governments. We must unlock potential of all mentioned actors in order to fully implement UN's vast agenda. Therefore, it is obvious that UN leadership has to be able to mobilize the UN system, Member States, civil society, private sector and scientific community to ensure transformative changes take place to achieve the concluded agreements.

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Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

In my long experience of work at the United Nations I have seen a growing role of the civil society organizations, not an erosion. Many of the UN priorities today, in particular in areas of development, environment and human rights came into being as a result of NGO activity and pressure. The implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, the UN human rights agenda and humanitarian work will increasingly depend on the cooperation of civil society groups with the UN and within the UN. The question is what should be the nature of involvement of civil society groups in the UN the future. I am encouraged that the Economic and Social Council in its decisions on consultative relationship between the NGOs and the UN insisted on the need to take into account the full diversity of NGOs at the national, regional and international levels.

Question 6

Archie Lappin, Thanapum Poolsem & Jemima Lappin

Thailand

<http://bit.ly/ArchieLappinSGQuestion>

Even though governments committed to keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees, we are on track to a world 3 degrees hotter. After Paris more oil and coal mining went ahead. What would you do to make sure countries take action to stop catastrophic climate change?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

As UNDP Administrator I have been involved in the discussions that led up to the Paris Agreement on restricting global warming, and in my current role I am concerned about the way climate change is making it harder to achieve development in many regions. As Secretary-General I would see it as my responsibility to do my utmost to ensure that countries meet their commitments to reducing emissions so that the world can come as close as possible to controlling global warming within the agreed temperature range.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

Climate change is the most significant challenge to achieving sustainable development. It has impact on security, social and economic stability, migration, and global health. It is no surprise that half of the new development goals are climate related. The SG should effectively engage with member States to support the early entry into force of the Paris

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Climate Agreement. S/he can mobilize the political support of countries at global level and help build strong partnership to fight global climate change.

Businesses and investors also have to put climate change risks at the center of their corporate strategy. Many have already done so and I would promote this issue relentlessly.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

Climate change is a fundamental issue today, one that needs to be addressed globally in a concerted and ambitious way. A successful, new approach to global cooperation on climate change, resulting in agreeing and signing the Paris Climate Agreement, confirmed once again countries' commitment to transform the global economy to low-emission, thus ensuring climate-resilient growth of our societies. As of today, 178 countries have signed the Paris Agreement. There is a need to undertake urgent and comprehensive actions to meet the new climate targets. The implementation of the Paris Agreement will be a challenge for whole UN system and will require participation of all actors at both the national and international level. Next Secretary General should encourage countries to work together to implement newly agreed climate commitments in order to reduce the impact of climate change and achieve a sustainable future for the next generation. In addition, next Secretary General should ensure that UN is more efficient, effective and relevant in supporting countries to deliver not only on new climate commitments, but as well on SDGs and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

The first task is to secure the broadest possible ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate change. This comes at the time when many UN programs and activities are focused on awareness raising. This will have to continue. In addition to the necessary political work, the UN will have to address practical problems such as the problem of carbon subsidization. This type of priorities will likely grow in importance as the issues of adaptation to consequences of climate change gain an even higher level of priority status. The follow up conferences to Paris Conference of 2015 will have to address these issues and as Secretary – General I shall make specific recommendations in due course.

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Question 7

Leonardo Buzzi

Brazil – class project led by teacher Cleiton Baldo: Colégio Dom Bosco, Rio do Sul, Santa Catarina

<http://bit.ly/LeonardoBuzziSGcandidateQuestionVideo>

Considering the global inequalities, where people live in extreme poverty and 1% of the richest population owns 40% of Earth resources, what would you do to balance those inequalities, considering that 3 of the 5 permanent members of the Security Council are the biggest world economies?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

Growing inequality is a worldwide trend and one which deserves the attention of the United Nations. Unfortunately the UN cannot solve all the world's problems, or rebalance its inequalities. What it can do is focus the debate, e.g. through the Economic and Social Council, on the negative impacts of inequality and the way these can contribute to the social ills of alienation and marginalization.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

Indeed, 85 richest people own as much as all 3,5 billion poorest in the world. In spite of earnest endeavors, the global inequalities are rising. However, the recently adopted Agenda 2030 should emerge as powerful tool in dealing with this phenomenon. Reducing inequalities is one of the global goals in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. All countries must work for the timely and full implementation of the new sustainable development goals. UN should adapt itself to new development agenda to help countries make real changes in their peoples' lives. The organization must focus on most vulnerable countries and groups of people. The Secretary-General can play an important role in increasing international awareness around the implementation of the SDGs and keep necessary political momentum to implementation efforts.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

Although significant achievements have been made in implementing MDGs, existing development inequalities within and among countries remained as an unfinished business of MDGs that must be addressed coherently. In order to reduce and balance inequalities between and within countries, we must reinvigorate our efforts in implementing milestone

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agreements defined in 2015, in particular the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. Such a complex and vast Agenda 2030 accompanied by the Climate Agreement, Sendai Framework and Addis Ababa Action Agenda requires that future Secretariat and different agencies, programmes and funds should work as a close team although it may seem unviable. These endeavors should be supported by extended partnerships, in particular with private sector. UN system, in particular all AFPs and Regional Economic Commissions, must strengthen its collaboration with other multilateral partners, such as WB, IMF, OECD, WTO, as well as with regional arrangements for obtaining adequate expertise and support for specific goals and targets. Collective wisdom must be put in place for galvanizing necessary action and collecting all available resources for implementing demanding the 2030 Agenda. Countries should address the Agenda, as well as meet financial commitments contained in AAAA.

UN Development Group should be transformed into a UN Sustainable Development Group, co-chaired by the UNDP Chief Administrator and Human Rights High Commissioner, and with participation of AFPs, clustered and defined for each SDGs, along with other multilateral and regional partners as observers, should be put in place. UNSD Group should make sure that the new generation of UNDAFs fully reflects the overlapping and complementary Agendas related to development and human rights. However, one must understand it is all only to support states in pursuing policies that are sustainable development friendly as the responsibility lies with leaders of the individual countries.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

As we have learned in the period of implementation of Millennium Development Goals (2000 – 2015), the global, UN led insistence on reduction of extreme poverty has made a difference. This is why the Agenda 2030 is inspired by the objective to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. UN leadership will continue to be essential. The request that nobody be left behind is the articulation of this leadership and all the UN mechanisms must be fully engaged in this. In addition, the UN will have to look into the questions of income inequality with a sharper focus. The UN has already started to discuss the questions of taxation and the detrimental practices of tax evasion, informally and in a consultative manner. These discussions must continue and be informed by the relevant findings of other international institutions such as the IMF and OECD so as to develop policies of tax fairness that can be recommended in the context of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

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Question 8

Tracey Whare

New Zealand – Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Trust & Māori Law Society

<http://bit.ly/TraceyWhareSGcandidateQuestionVideo>

What measures will you undertake to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the UN system at both the international as well as the regional levels, and how will you encourage member states to implement the Declaration at the country level in ways that are meaningful to Indigenous Peoples?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

We have seen positive momentum at the UN on the rights of indigenous people. The actions that were agreed at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples will help to realize the goals and aspirations contained in the UNDRIP. Over the next year we will see two of these actions: negotiations on the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN; and a special focus on indigenous women and girls at the 61st Commission on the Status of Women. On development, indigenous peoples made valuable contributions to the 2030 Agenda and they should have an important role in its implementation. Through these events indigenous peoples and member states will have closer dialogue and need to work together to achieve results.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

The history, culture, traditions and languages of indigenous peoples are part of the rich tapestry of human existence that must be preserved. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be fully implemented. It is essential that Indigenous Peoples are part of decision making processes on all issues that might affect them.

Indigenous populations constituted about one third of the world's poorest and most marginalized peoples. Particular attention must be paid to women and girls, who face multiple forms of discrimination, based on their gender and ethnicity. I stand ready to help strengthen the international cooperation for the indigenous peoples, raise awareness, encourage member states to ensure respect of basic human rights, protection of their natural environment, preservation of cultural heritage, religion and language. UN should be able to effectively assist countries with devising necessary policies and programs for indigenous population.

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Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

Unfortunately, some people are still excluded, marginalized, distinguished and restricted in the exercise of their rights based on different grounds. The UNCTs will be urged to improve their work in the field in terms of raising awareness of the existing international legal instruments and standards and help build capacities of states for the development of national policies and national protection frameworks or mechanisms that will improve abilities of member states to counter all forms of discrimination and enable their citizens to fully realize human rights. Indigenous issues and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous should remain as a UN's priority. For its realization, trainings on indigenous issues for UN Country Teams and for OHCHR field presences should be further conducted. Support of the UN system is even more important in undertaking legislative initiatives for advancing the rights of indigenous peoples.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in 2007 came into being as a result of long and difficult negotiations in which I participated as a human rights expert and activist. For many decades the indigenous peoples were "the peoples most studied and least understood". This has been changing slowly and the rights of indigenous peoples are now at least recognized, including their rights to identity and self-determination, their land rights as well as their cultural and other social, economic, civil and political rights. The implementation will continue to be based on the UN human rights mechanisms, the specialized fora for the indigenous peoples and, most important, in the context of Sustainable Development Goals. As Secretary – General with previous experience in the formulation of the UN declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and, earlier, the Declaration on the Right to Development, I would organize periodic consultations to strengthen the processes of implementation of these declarations for the benefit of the indigenous peoples.

Question 9

Cosette Maiky

Lebanon – Lebanese American University

<http://bit.ly/CosetteMaikySGcandidateQuestionVideo>

How would you address institutional corruption and bad management practices, and misuse of resources among UN agencies especially in humanitarian settings?

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Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

I have a well-earned reputation as a leader who champions transparency. While I was Prime Minister, New Zealand was repeatedly at the top or near the top of the Transparency International index. For the past two years, the same organization has awarded UNDP the most transparent aid agency in the world. You can be assured that as Secretary-General I would be vigilant in setting the highest standards of ethical management and transparency for the UN.

Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

It is essential to ensure greater transparency, integrity and accountability in the work of the UN Secretariat. We need to work hard to build and maintain a strong ethical organizational culture at the United Nations. The SG must be fully accountable to the UN Member States as well as the public in implementing the mandates given by Member States in most effective and cost-efficient manner. It goes without saying that the Secretary-General must ensure a sound financial management of all resources made available to the Organization and ensure their effective and efficient use.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

There is need to modify UN's work to be able to meet our obligations stemming from the UN vast agenda in all its comprehensive aspects. That is why I propose certain modifications, in particular to set up an international panel of experts to do a deep review of the current spending in light of the need for better coordination and the need to better mirror UN agenda. International independent panel of representatives from all the regions should be set up to make sure there is a fresh view from outside. Extending partnerships should lead to avoiding duplications and more effective role of other donors including ones coming from the private sector.

The budget reassessment and the more program budgeting will contribute to flexibility in making decisions about certain programs. This will enable better prioritization in favor of prevention, mediation, human rights agenda as well as strengthening of the position of offices that are in charge of close cooperation with regional arrangements in the core budget in particular. It is also worthwhile considering extension of the budget framework from two to four years to make sure it is sustainable and responsive to challenges, while keeping flexibility to approach newly arising emergency needs. My intention is to set up UN Programmes, Management, Budget Group within the reformed CEB too. By doing that, more coordination and less duplications will be brought about.

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Additionally, I am convinced we need to embrace modern technologies as that can help tremendously. For instance, the blockchain technology offers incredible possibilities to better coordinate and execute humanitarian aid and other funds thus avoiding any misuse of resources. We should also think of introducing internal social network to stimulate talented people to promote ideas.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

This will be an important priority. I would request the necessary information and analysis from the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Joint Inspection Unit and other relevant elements of the UN System. On the basis of my own personal review of information thus obtained in the first four months in office, I would take specific decisions within the Secretary-General's purview and make the necessary recommendations to UN Member States and to the relevant organs of the Organization. The capacity of the UN to guarantee effective oversight and to combat all forms of malfeasance must be strengthened.

Question 10

Malick Lingani

Burkina Faso – BEOG NEERE (A better future)

<http://bit.ly/MalickLinganiSGcandidatesQuestionVideo>

How will you ensure that youth are in the core of combating hate speech and youth radicalization? What do you think is the most urgent thing to do to recover peace the “Vivre ensemble (Live together)”?

Ms. Helen Clark's answer:

In my vision statement I put special emphasis on youth and the need to pivot the UN toward the largest generation of young people the world has ever known. Young people need positive opportunities if they are to be resistant to the lure of hate speech and extremist ideologies. They need a way to connect with each other and hope for the future. The UN can help in some countries through its focus on development and poverty eradication. In others it can help by encouraging young people to understand each other's culture and religion, to develop tolerance and acceptance of diversity.

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Mr. Miroslav Lajčák's answer:

Half of the world's population is under the age of 25. In some regions 60 per cent of population is youth. Governments need to invest in young people to unlock their potential as citizens and engage them as partners in development and peace and security. Given how massively the youth has been affected in recent years by radicalization and violent extremism, the next UNSG must make prevention of violent extremism one of his/her highest priorities. It is essential to work through the United Nations Envoy for Youth to prioritize the issue throughout the whole UN system. Also, the UN must become a better forum for us to talk to young people as well as for young people to talk to each other. We also must address the issue of exploitation of technologies for recruitment and incitement of young people. I support and encourage further the UN engagement with the youth on all levels. We shall give them hope and opportunities and they will give us a better future.

Dr. Igor Lukšić's answer:

In order to really reflect all the challenges young people are facing, I propose to establish an Office for the Youth in the UN Secretariat. The UN should not be detached from young people, whose potential should be used in driving the UN's vast agenda forward, thus building more prosperous and peaceful world for future generations. I want to reach out to the all too often disillusioned youth who see UN as a last resort. Almost 50% of the world population is under 25 and they are interested about their economic, social, cultural rights. They are the biggest asset the world has. UN should be there to work to build back optimism for them.

We have seen many great achievements in recent years and decades, but there are huge challenges. In addressing these challenges, we must ensure full participation and inclusion of youth. We must focus on youth and their empowerment, particularly through employment and education, thus ensuring their inclusion in all spheres of life and preventing their disintegration and eliminating risk of running into radicalization. We have to invest in young people in order to fulfill their potential and help bring about peace and security. Young people can make important contribution in preventing and countering violent extremism. We need to realize it is about their future and they have crucial stake in it. Finally, true pursuit of principles of inclusiveness, responsibility and engagement implies so.

Dr. Danilo Türk's answer:

Youth have to be given a much higher prominence in the work of the UN. The establishment of the Secretary - General's Special Representative on Youth has been a welcome innovation.

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Now, it is important to define the proper role for the young in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Decent work for the young is a central concern for the entire future development. Decent work for the young also represents the surest way to prevent social disintegration that breeds youth radicalization and hate speech. In addition to this general orientation there will have to be specific, targeted activities, in particular in education and in the media. Referring to freedom of expression many years ago, the then Secretary General of the UN Dag Hammarskjöld emphasized that “freedom is not license”. The media must be aware of their responsibilities while giving the freedom of expression the widest possible space. That space has to be used to counter hate speech. As Secretary - General I would establish a fund for young artists to develop narratives that give specific expression to the idea of “Vivre ensemble” (Living together) and thus counter the narratives of hate.