



und die  
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# **HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON THREATS, CHALLENGES AND CHANGE**

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## **Final Report**



# United Nations

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## The Final Report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

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# **I. REFORM OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

## **1. Institutional Reforms**

### ***Preamble***

The continuous discourse within the global community, a close co-operation with civil societies enforcing common understanding and tolerance, as well as the existence of effective means of conflict management are indispensable prerequisites for maintaining peace and security.

### ***1.1. Definition of Peace and Security***

Peace and security imply the absence of war and physical and psychological violence as well as the adherence to human rights as constituted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Global peace and security are characterized by the co-existence of sovereign nations respecting the standards of international law, providing for political, economic, military and social stability as well as for comprehensive sustainable development, incorporating environmental sustainability.

Individual peace and security is characterized by the provision of basic physical and psychological needs and the opportunity to lead a decent and healthy life.

On a national level there must exist conditions of legitimate governance fulfilling the rule of law.

### ***1.2. Composition of the Council***

The council will consist of 20 members. The members will be chosen according to three categories:

- (1) Current "P5" (5)
- (2) Semi-permanent: Elected for 4 years on renewable terms (7)
- (3) Non-permanent members: elected for 2 years, non-renewable (8)

The voting procedure for new semi-permanent and non-permanent members will be in accordance with the current voting procedure, i.e. a 2/3 majority is needed.

### **1.3. Veto**

Only the **current P5 and the semi-permanent members** (categories (1) and (2)) shall have veto power. A **veto** can only be exercised together, by a **minimum of three** members of category (1) or (2). All members casting a negative vote leading to a veto are urged to **state** their **reasons** for doing so.

For the adoption of any resolution a positive vote by a majority of 3/5 (=12 votes) of the members is needed, including the positive vote or abstention by at least 10 members of category (1) and (2).

### **1.4. Eligibility**

Within each regional grouping the member **states who contribute most** to the maintenance of peace and security and to the other purposes of the organization shall be considered for semi-permanent membership.

Contribution to the maintenance of peace and security can be reflected in the substantial contribution to **peacekeeping activities of the UN**.

Moreover, the fair representation of a significant part of the group's **population** should be reflected in the choice of countries eligible for a semi-permanent seat.

### **1.5. Groupings**

Africa, Asia (incl. Japan), Latin America and Caribbean, Western Europe and Others, Eastern Europe, Northern America

### **1.6. Allocation of Seats**

<b>P5</b>	Africa	-
	Asia	1
	Latin America and Caribbean	-
	Western Europe and Others	2
	Eastern Europe	1
	North America	1

<b>Semi-Permanent</b>	Africa	2
	Asia	2
	Latin America and Caribbean	1
	Western Europe and Others	1
	Eastern Europe	1

<b>Non-permanent</b>	Africa	2
	Asia	2
	Latin America and Caribbean	2
	Western Europe and Others	1
	Eastern Europe	1

## **2. Reform of Working Procedures**

One of the largest problems concerning the legitimacy of the work of the Security Council are its often arbitrary decisions on how and when to intervene. This is especially the case for conflicts in countries, where there are no direct economic, geographical or strategic interests of the permanent members. There is a need to ensure **reliable and predictable** working procedures of the Security Council to promote **transparency and general acceptance** of its decisions. This is a prerequisite for any further consideration of matters such as the establishment of a standing force under the UN.

There is a broad consensus that **conflict prevention** should receive much more attention, as it was laid out in the "Agenda for Peace" from 1992 (Boutros Boutros-Ghali). Conflict prevention will not only spare lives, but will reduce costs and efforts of the international community. There is an urgent need for long-term strategies. Furthermore, it is evident that long lasting peace demands years of **re-building**.

### ***Required Measures***

The Security Council should adopt transparent working procedures with an objective to ensure predictable and reliable outcomes. The Security Council must commit itself to the general accepted strategy of

1. Prevention
2. Reaction
3. Reconstruction

to achieve sustainable peace and security.

### **Transparent working procedures**

(1) Extensive supply of information from actors of all levels concerned (states, regional representations, NGOs, relevant local actors etc.). The Security Council should adopt a catalogue of procedures, which ensures balanced supply of information.

(2) In case of refusal to adopt recommendations given by the General Assembly, the Security Council is urged to explain its reasons for doing so.

(3) More open meeting sessions.

(4) Self-evaluations at the end of every year. Every member of the Security Council should conduct an evaluation of their own engagement and present it to the Council. The evaluation should contain a comparison of the set goals for the membership and the achieved outcomes.

### **Predictable and reliable outcomes**

(1) According to the gravity of human suffering only, all conflicts should receive attention from the Security Council, no matter the geographic-strategic and socio-economic status.

(2) Intervention should always be part of a general, broad and if necessary long-term strategy, including reconstruction and reconciliation.

## **II. FAILED STATES**

### **1. Definition**

A feature of failed states is the **collapse of state institutions**, especially the police and judiciary, with resulting paralysis of governance, a breakdown of law and order, corruption and general banditry and chaos. Not only are the functions of government suspended, but its assets are destroyed or looted and experienced officials are threatened to be killed or are forced to flee the country.

## **2. Current and future challenges**

The population within collapsed states is exposed to extreme forms of human rights violations and there is no guarantee of the rule of law. Additionally, the unity of society is highly in danger. The inhabitants of a failing state do not have access to basic facilities and resources like health care or education. This alone can be one of the root causes for other threats to peace and security. In such an environment terrorism and organized crime can easily spread and build up its coordination centers. The cultivation of drugs, illegal trade with weapons, narcotics and natural resources like gemstone or trafficking in persons may become lucrative financial resources. The stability of bordering states is threatened by the influx of refugees, cross-bordering military units and an increase of crime. Failed states are posing an ongoing and yet increasing threat to peace and security of their **inhabitants**, their surrounding **region** and even to **global** peace and security.

## **3. Required action by the UN and the international community**

The United Nations have to adopt a two-stringed strategy to face the problem of failed states: Prevention and Reaction.

### **3.1. Preventive Action**

We advise the international community to follow the strategy outlined in the "Brahimi Report"(2000): The UN need to establish an early warning system and assist states before their structures collapse. We recommend the establishment of "**Regional Stability Committees**" (RSCs). The RSCs should be regional sub-organs of the United Nations. They shall integrate all civil society groups including NGOs and in particular the remaining internal structures. The RSCs shall report to the Secretary General. Their functions should be

- a) to closely observe States that are in acute danger of failing, as described under II.1.
- b) to guide them towards negotiations, to work towards stable political state structures in accordance with the principles laid out in the UN Charter and in accordance to the UDHR.

Furthermore, it will be necessary to stress our obligations under Article 2 (5) of the Charter, which is to **give "every assistance"** to peace-building or peace-keeping missions of the United Nations. This includes financial, human and information resources. We call for the promotion of human rights and the fight against terrorism, including the fight against drug trafficking and the proliferation of small arms as interlinked threats to global peace and security.

### **3.2. Reaction**

The Security Council is called upon to intervene if advised to do so by the RSCs or by the Secretary General. Any use of military force against failed states has to be authorized by a carefully considered decision of the Security Council after exhaustive and serious evaluation. Only if this procedure is observed and if the principles outlined here are fully respected, an effective and legitimate solution within the framework of international law can be provided. Any military intervention should be restricted to the **reconstruction of internal stability** in the state concerned. The focus should be on the functioning and the reinstatement of effective state structures as soon as it is realistically possible. This process shall aim for a broad consensus with local actors and shall be implemented with respect of the regional cultural particularities.

PLEASE NOTE:

The following two chapters (International Drug Trafficking and Small Weapons) are strongly interlinked with the threats posed by failed states.

## **III. INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING**

### **1. Description**

International drug trafficking has significantly increased over the last years. An estimated \$300-400 billion is made annually by international drug cartels that produce and sell these substances, often causing violent conflicts on various levels. Due to the enormous size of this problem, international drug trafficking does represent a clear and present **danger to stability** and peace on both the **national** and **international level**. Regarding the failure of states, one needs to be aware of the fact that this phenomenon has already caused a weakening of



state structures (for instance in Colombia). Due to the rise of this problem, international drug trafficking is not likely to disappear but will be more powerful in the future than ever before. Therefore, the problem of failed states and international drug trafficking are strongly interlinked.

## **2. Current and future challenges**

States have to suffer from conditions approximating those of civil wars which are caused by drug cartels to a large extent. These organizations have often become more powerful than national authorities (such as police forces) and established a "**state within the state**". There is a high possibility of states being overthrown or at least strongly corrupted by this kind of organized crime. The results are disastrous: law and order would be replaced by anarchy and the rule of crime. Peace and security would become unreachable aims – for the population as well as for the surrounding region. In an increasingly interconnected and globalized world, a world where borders are more and more vanishing, international drug trafficking poses a particularly serious threat to peace and security. If the issue of failed states shall be dealt with successfully on the global level, international drug cartels need to be combated.

## **3. Linkage with other threats**

International drug trafficking affects other threats on national and international levels. In addition to the above mentioned problems (such as crime and corruption) there is the fact that **international terror organizations** (e.g. Al-Qaeda) largely **finance** themselves through drug money. The rise of international terrorism since 2001 poses a major threat to national and international security. The fight against terrorism can only be won if the financial resources of these groups are suppressed.

## **4. Required action by the UN and the international community**

International drug trafficking can only be fought internationally. The United Nations and the international community have to be aware of these problems. Effective measures would be:

- a) To optimize and/or establish **information transfer** in order to battle drug cartels and their trading routes.
- b) to equip **police** staff appropriately and train them adequately.

- c) to inform people about drugs and their consequences in order to **prevent** individuals from becoming drug users, using grassroots organizations. This also includes social programs to improve living conditions among the poor as well as job programs to prohibit for instance farmers to start working for drug cartels.
- d) the **investment of developed countries** in such anti-drug programs in less developed countries because they are ultimately affected as well.

## **IV. SMALL WEAPONS**

### **1. Description**

The violent conflicts in failed states are mostly fought with small and light weapons; they are the main instruments of warfare in these states. There are nearly 600 Mio. small weapons in the world without control or registration by any government or institution – contrary to big weapon systems as fighter jets, tanks etc. These small weapons, which can be easily used by only one person, for example a child or any other untrained person, are the cause for thousands of deaths every day.

### **2. Current and future challenges**

In the face of growing violence and influence of criminal organizations in many parts of the world, it is necessary to find a resolution for the main problem: the final use of small weapons, a question which the main producing countries do not discuss. Small arms and light weapons are said to be responsible for half a million deaths per year, including 300.000 in armed conflict and 200.000 more from homicides and suicides. On the other hand, the small arms industry is increasing the production of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and thereby puts millions of people at risk. In a world where failed states pose a serious threat to peace and security the uncontrolled proliferation of millions of SALW has a great potential to fuel future civil wars and other violent conflicts especially in regions that face the risk of eroding state structures.

### **3. Required Action by the UN and the international community**

In order to control SALW we advise the international community to follow the recommendations of the "Conference of small arms and light weapons" 2001 in New York, i.e. to implement the **"program to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects"** (UN-Document A/CONF.192/15). Additionally, all new produced small arms have to be registered by the UN Disarmament Commission to guarantee transparency like it is done for bigger weapon systems like helicopters or tanks (Resolution 46/36L "Transparency in armaments"). As a long term goal there has to be a **control of the SALW traffic** to make it impossible for irregular military forces, organized criminal groups, etc. to use this weapons for their interest.

## **V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

### **Preamble**

No one can overlook the unevenness of world development and the further widening gap between developed and developing countries. Economic globalization and advances in science and technology are today's opportunities for development but they also widen the gap between the rich and the poor and thus aggravate uneven development. Rising **poverty** is definitely the most pressing issue facing numerous of developing countries and it is **one of the principal sources of global threats.**

Serious economic crises have led to many problems threatening security. The current economic, social and technological trends are causing unprecedented changes in the socio-economic conditions, creating new wealth, but also new poverty. In this situation, innovative poverty reduction approaches have to be developed.

### **1. Poverty and Sustainable Development**

#### **1.1. Definition**

Poverty is the leading challenge faced by developing countries. One of the most serious problems is income poverty. Based on the "One Dollar a Day" poverty line, more than two thirds of the world's poor people live in Asia and the Pacific.

Poverty is a **multidimensional, complex and dynamic phenomenon**, with its dimensions reaching far beyond income. Four approaches can be separated to define poverty:

- (1) The **monetary approach** - monetary income to attain a minimal standard of living.
- (2) The **capabilities approach** - access to essential services such as health, education, mobility, etc..
- (3) The **social exclusion approach** - ability to participate in a society, to have relations with other individuals.
- (4) The **participatory approach** - the perception of poor people themselves, what it means to be poor.

Poverty reduction in one dimension often requires poverty reduction in the others as well.

### ***1.2. Current and Future Challenges***

Poverty is interlinked with many issues requiring an integrated focus on economic, social and environmental areas. The developed countries need to take effective steps to fulfill their promise to assist the developing countries and to turn globalization into a positive factor benefiting all people (for example to open markets to the products from the developing countries). Globalization requires greater attention because many of the socio-economic challenges are political and psychological reactions to the reality of globalization. The challenge is to **manage globalization** effectively in a way that it does not widen the gap between developed and developing countries.

Therefore, resources from developed countries are vital to promote security. The strengthening of international cooperation in the field of environment and development would be necessary to achieve the reduction of poverty and sustainable development. International cooperation in this domain is disappointingly lagging.

### ***1.3. Linkage with Other Threats***

Socio-economic issues such as poverty can generally be linked with all kinds of threats. No distinction should be made between hard and soft security issues.

The eradication of poverty and its interconnection with sustainable development plays a key role for global security (sustainable development is a precondition for sustainable security), e.g. for avoiding and eliminating threats like terrorism or organized crime. The interconnection between armed or violent conflicts and poverty is obvious: high human and economic costs cause the increase of poverty.

#### **1.4. Required Actions by the UN and the international community**

The urgent need for effective action on poverty reduction is reflected in the United Nations **Millennium Development Goals**, which call for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by the year 2015. Caught in the relentless international competition, the least developed countries are in distress and the risk of marginalization is large.

Against this background, the UN Members should develop strategies and policies to reduce poverty in a more rapid and sustained manner and improve the quality of life of the poor. The developed countries need to act upon their earlier commitments such as **transfer of 0.7 per cent of GNP** to poor countries in order to be able to meet the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals.

The international community and especially the developed countries should take effective measures to promote economic development and prosperity of all countries to eliminate poverty and to enable everybody to achieve a better standard of life as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations. This should always be one of the most important issues on the United Nations agenda. The eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development serve as the fundamental guarantee for security.

Furthermore the international community should let the UN play a more leading role in international relations supplemented by other international and regional organizations. The UN should forge **greater synergy between research and operational activities** in poverty reduction. For sustainable poverty reduction, the poor have to be empowered to reduce their own poverty by providing them with the means to do it. Governments have, nevertheless, major responsibilities to reduce poverty. Governments can do this by:

- a) supporting the creation of **(self-) employment** in the formal and informal sectors;

- b) facilitating **access to assets** (such as land and knowledge) and **essential services** (such as water supply, credits, markets, information) and
- c) involving the poor in decision-making that affects their lives and livelihoods, **giving them a voice** and listening to them.

We therefore call upon each individual country to draft an **action plan** which includes specific commitments to finance these plans. We furthermore urge countries to **reassess the current trading regime** (urge industrial countries to lower their tariffs and import quotas, abolish subsidies on agriculture) and treat developing countries as **equal partners**, or if necessary, give them **preferential status**. Moreover, we urge to improve political, economic and legal conditions for investment in poor countries, especially implementing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (**HIPC**) - initiative helping the heavily indebted poor countries to fulfill the requirements stated in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

In addition to the declarations on the issue that have been made for decades, we strongly urge the precise monitoring of their fulfillment. This monitoring has to be carried out in close cooperation with local groups and international civil society actors. We urge the General Assembly to find ways to impose sanctions on states that strongly fail to fulfill these demands.

The ECOSOC should be strengthened by a **“Council on Economic Security” (CES)**, consisting of regional economic experts to be announced by the Regional Commissions of the ECOSOC (Economic Commission for Africa – ECA, Economic Commission for Europe – ECE, Economic Commission for Latin America – ECLAC, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – ESCAP, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia – ESCWA). The CES should serve as a monitoring board, to which all nations are to hand in annual reports on their economic situation. In addition, the CES should also sponsor an annual conference where the provided data are to be discussed. In case of an upcoming or existing crisis based on economic instabilities the established database can serve to provide concrete action plans.

### ***Further ideas***

- a) Further reform of the ECOSOC in the face of rising social and economic problems.

- b) Reduce working topics to raise efficiency.
- c) Rethink efficiency and transparency of international organizations linked with socio-economic issues (like IMF, WB).

## **2. Education**

We emphasize the **key role of education** and an active civil society for peace and security in all development processes. We therefore urge the international community to invest in local partnerships and increase cooperation with local communities especially to educate poor people in rural areas about the links between specific problems and how they can be prevented. Therefore education needs to be accessible especially to young women and children as well as disabled people, the most vulnerable groups in societies.

## **3. Infectious diseases**

### ***3.1. Definition***

The WHO Constitution defines health as “the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Public health needs to be perceived both as a precious asset in itself and as a means of stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty. It is central to the whole concept of sustainable development and a key element in securing our common future.

### ***3.2. Current and Future Challenges***

Although the world is affected by a variety of health issues, mainly the spread of infectious diseases poses a threat to global peace and security. **HIV/AIDS** has become a global epidemic with approx. 40 million people infected and about 3 million deaths annually, more than two thirds of them in Africa and more than 60 % of them women. Families and communities break apart; the agricultural production and food supply suffer immensely due to the lack of labor forces. Partial successes in the health sector achieved by development programs, such as longevity and infant mortality, are annihilated. Preventing the proliferation of HIV/Aids is difficult due to lack of education as well as problems of stigmatization and discrimination. A high percentage of HIV-infected people is unaware of their infection and therefore continues to spread the virus.

Furthermore, the high mortality rates of HIV/Aids threaten economic and social progress: Since the virus strikes hardest the young and often educated adult population, HIV/Aids gravely affects the national income and institutions. This in turn promotes the potential for violent conflict and humanitarian catastrophe. HIV/Aids also decimates military forces and endangers international peacekeeping operations, raising the chances for peacekeepers to become infected and spread the disease to their home populations.

Another dangerous threat to health causing approximately 1 million deaths annually is **Malaria** which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Ninety percent of the Malaria deaths occur among young children. Those who survive the illness may suffer from learning impairments and brain damage. Besides, Malaria has a strong negative impact on the economy, impairing the labor during harvest season and weakening the tourist industry. Currently, Malaria parasites are spreading to formerly unaffected regions due to the processes of **global warming**. They are also developing resistances to many insecticides and vaccines.

It has become very clear that many health problems are being **promoted by poverty**. Since many people lack proper health education and appropriate living standards, i.e. the provision of clean water and health facilities, the right usage of medication is often impaired. Additionally, malnutrition exacerbates the systems of the lethal diseases. Furthermore, poverty increases the risk of getting infected, e.g. women are often forced to prostitute themselves and men have to work away from home or have to join the military service.

### ***3.3. Required action by the UN and the international community***

The results of the “International Conference on Population and Development” (1994) in Cairo should be strengthened and complemented by the following countermeasures which should be implemented on the **local level** in order to **prevent a top-down approach** that is not appropriately linked to local needs. The local action plans should be based on two pillars:



## **(1) Prevention**

- a) promoting a sustainable economic development by means of facilitating access to assets, such as land and political rights and to essential services, such as water supply, micro-credits and markets;
- b) mobilizing governments, their local partners and individuals for a broad-based, participatory movement to take necessary action;
- c) building up adequate **health-education systems** to inform about prevention and treatment;
- d) strengthening the **CEDAW** (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) in order to support gender equality;
- e) facilitating access to **HIV/Aids testing** especially for pregnant women to achieve minimal transmission rates;
- f) intensifying public and private research on effective vaccination against infectious diseases.

## **(2) Treatment**

- a) concentrating on the treatment of afflicted persons with the use of affordable medicine, for example generics in case of HIV/Aids, based on the "**Global Compact**" model;
- b) intensifying public and private **research** on effective medicine and facilitating the proper usage of medicine by means of health-education and enabling environments, such as the provision of food and clean water.

## **4. Environment**

### ***Preamble***

Environment does not exist as a sphere separate from human actions, ambitions and needs. Without a healthy environment, there is no life and future for mankind on this earth. Therefore, environmental degradation must finally be acknowledged to be the most urgent and threatening issue to be dealt with immediately.

#### **4.1. Definition**

Environmental degradation invokes the ecological concept of carrying capacity, which is the ability of the environment to **sustain the resource demands** of a species or a community without losing its ability to regenerate the resources. Degradation means that carrying capacity is reduced by natural or human incidents. Environmental degradation is caused by natural or human-initiated processes due to ignorance, accident, mismanagement or design and its impact is global. Water issues, pollution and global climate change are the most urgent environmental threats.

#### **4.2. Current Challenges**

Intense traffic congestion, deteriorating air quality, and widespread water pollution are an every day reality which are exacting incalculable costs in terms of productive time loss, health deterioration, a lower quality of life and the degradation of the natural environment.

The critical issue of **water** quantity, quality and availability is crucial to human life and welfare and has significant social and economic effects. The lack of access, insufficient supply and contamination of water are a daily threat to human life and health. According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), 1.1 billion people lack access to safe water and 2.4 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation. The insufficient number of international freshwater agreements on border-crossing basins causes constant conflicts.

It is undeniable that the **global climate change** is one of the main factors contributing to the overall degradation of the natural environment. A change of the Earth climate is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere. The industrial countries are responsible for nearly two thirds of the carbon dioxide emission that has accumulated in the atmosphere. However, the resulting global climate change is a particular threat to developing countries.

#### **4.3. Future Challenges**

Environmental degradation is the origin of **migration, declining agricultural productivity** and **weakening of the legitimacy of governments**. Therefore, it is the main cause of many conflicts around the world. In the last years, international water conflicts have been on the rise. The daily problems in

concerned regions are the lack of access to water, the increasing water pollution, the contamination of water supply sources or the distribution of water without suitable local or international solutions. By 2015, nearly 3 billion people – 40 % of the projected world population – are expected to live in countries that find it difficult or impossible to mobilize enough water to satisfy the industrial and domestic needs of their citizens. To fulfill the **Millennium Development Goal related to Water** – to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water by the year 2015 – common action by the international community is required. A further challenge to peace and security is the rising threat of potential water-poisoning and water-contamination, as well as the possible destruction of water-distribution systems by militia or terrorist groups.

Scientists underline that climate change might affect various areas throughout the world – the polar region will warm fastest, new rainfall patterns will threaten water supplies and the sea level will rise as ocean waters warm. A result of that development could be for instance the diminishing of the Gulf Stream which would cause a dramatic climate change for certain regions. Nations living along the coasts and on low islands will be affected by the rising of sea levels and by the economic impact on fisheries, property and infrastructure, recreation facilities, etc.. Floods, droughts, local pollution and the spread of allergens as well as frequent intense storms and cyclones would affect the individual's life and health directly. Such **environmental hazards** may evoke mass migrations and provoke conflicts over increasingly scarce resources.

#### ***4.4. Linkage with other threats***

The **interrelationship between poverty, environment and development** has been acknowledged in the World Commission on Environment and Development Report which states that "poverty is a major cause and effect of global environmental problem." Furthermore, the interrelationship between the exploitation and degradation of environment and natural resources on the one hand and development and poverty on the other hand is particularly relevant in the rural areas of developing countries. There are linkages between environmental damages and security matters. Many conflicts arise from fight over natural resources. The issue of water-pollution is linked to environmental concerns and socio-economic problems, as for instance the rising local poverty or

the widespread of infectious diseases. Scarce natural resources (especially water), weather changes and pollution affect a country's ability to nourish its people in a dramatic way leading to the vicious circle of malnutrition, illness and poverty. According to the **Agenda 21**, "**peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible**".

#### ***4.5. Required actions by the UN and the international community***

If the international community does not want to reach the "Point of no return", it must take the following actions:

- a) Enforcing the **principle of sustainable development** which has become an important guideline for action in the field of environmental, economic and development policy;
- b) Making further efforts to encourage all states to ratify the **Kyoto Protocol**;
- c) Strongly supporting the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and regional environmental programs and initiatives as the European Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC);
- d) Promoting **small-scale renewable energy projects** by governments and community groups in order to tackle both, poverty and climate change. This will require political commitment and **new funds from governments** of all countries and a major **shift of the priorities of the World Bank** and other development bodies. The World Bank should first contribute more funds to sustainable environment projects and second **condition financial aid** according to environmental efforts.
- e) Encouraging the members of the United Nations to collect funds and other resources for the adaptation of poor countries to sustainable development;
- f) Supporting the cooperation of the United Nations with local governments, business groups, NGOs and communities concerning prevention policies;
- g) Establishing a specialized **UN Water Facility under the joint authority of UNDP and UNEP** to prevent and resolve water conflicts and to provide sound water management for poor countries, while not forgetting to place emphasis on sensible and efficient water usage in Western nations. UNDP and UNEP must be based on a **regular budget** for this purpose. Although

water can be provided by private suppliers there must always be public control mechanisms of fair distribution since water has been identified as a basic human right.

## **5. Refugees**

The socio-economic and environmental challenges outlined above often lead to an increasing flow of refugees. This can destabilize surrounding countries or whole regions. It is primarily important to eliminate root causes. We urge to take pre-emptive action through early-warning systems and intensify cooperation efforts and strategies among bordering nations. We have to modernize the definition of refugees and the conventions and control mechanisms for securing refugees' rights (e.g. the treaty monitoring bodies) in the light of the new threats to peace and security.

## **VI. NEW FORMS OF TERRORISM**

### **1. Definition**

International terrorism is committed by a group or an individual claiming to realize religious, ethnical or political goals, thereby violating international law and human rights on all levels. An act of terrorism causes:

- a) death or serious bodily injury of any person and/or
- b) serious damage to public or private property, the environment, a place of public use, a state or government facility, a public transportation system or an infrastructural facility and/or
- c) damage of public or private goods referred to in paragraph b), resulting or likely to result in major economic loss.

The purpose of terrorist acts, by their nature or context, is to **intimidate a population** or to compel a government or an organization to do or abstain from doing any act. Terrorist acts are predominantly of an unpredictable nature, thus creating a general atmosphere of fear and discomfort. The Panel recognizes the right of immediate self-defense and the strict prohibition of the use of force against civilians, recalling every member states' responsibility towards its people.

The above described terrorist acts comprise the acts of state agents or agents tolerated by the state which pose a threat to peace and security by persecuting or prosecuting individuals, entities or groups for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, as defined under the conventions on refugees.

## **2. Current and future challenges**

Terrorism poses a major global threat to peace and security. Its numerous effects have been described in the Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1456.

## **3. Linkage with other threats**

International terrorism does not stand on its own; it is closely linked to numerous other threats to peace and security such as the proliferation of weapons and in particular WMD, failed states, organized crime, human rights violations, poverty and inequality.

## **4. Required action by the UN and the international community**

The panel recommends that the counter-terrorism efforts should be enhanced within the existing UN framework. The UN should not only focus on the strengthening of the existing bodies, but also try to eliminate root causes of terrorism.

### **(1) Strengthening the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) by**

- a) initiating "naming and shaming" procedures, considering the possibility of referring repeated extreme cases of non-compliance to the reformed Security Council for action;
- b) offering more generous technical and financial assistance to those member states lacking the means to fulfill Security Council resolution 1373;
- c) establishing the CTC as an independent organ in the UN system with an appropriate budget and staffing to act as *the* competent body in addressing the terrorist issue and
- d) establishing an international convention for the coordination of the competent national police authorities in the field of fighting international terrorism under the responsibility of the CTC.

Furthermore, creating a standing committee in charge of the coordination work which has to report to the CTC.

In addition, the panel urges all member states to ratify and implement the twelve existing UN counter-terrorism conventions, such as the "International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings" (1997) and the "International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism" (1999).

## **(2) Address the Root Causes of Terrorism**

It is the Panels belief that in order to effectively prevent future terrorist attacks, the United Nations should further investigate and address the root causes of terrorism. Large-scale initiatives will be required in areas such as the promotion of good governance, gradual economic liberalization, economic assistance, and educational reform and support. UN agencies, e.g. UNDP, and other institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF should play an important role in reorienting policies to deal with these issues. The panel further recommends that the UN should counter extremist propaganda and recruitment by

- a) linking relief and development assistance by UNDP with UNESCO sponsored educational programs focusing on universal primary education;
- b) providing those who now voice their grievance through desperate terrorist acts with other opportunities;
- c) increasing all forms of economic assistance such as development aid and debt relief.

Finally, the panel urges all member states to increase their efforts to promote the dialogue and understanding between the world's cultures, to reduce poverty, inequality and the number of displaced persons in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals to effectively prevent terrorism in the future.

## **(3) Military Action against terrorism**

The Panel understands that the use of military force is of limited utility in countering non-state terrorism and should always be used as a **last resort**.

The essence of international terrorism is a **moral, political and intellectual challenge** rather than a military challenge. The panel apprehends that military responses may create the illusion of a temporary retreat, but are in the long term **counterproductive** since they serve to aggravate the very conditions that breed terrorism in the first place. Furthermore, decentralized terrorist networks offer few if any point-targets that are susceptible to effective military action. The Panel believes that the necessary cooperation in the struggle against international terrorism can only be obtained through mutual respect and the UN spirit of sovereign equality and non-aggression between states. Therefore, the Panel recommends that peaceful methods of argumentation and persuasion rather than the use of coercion and force should be employed, underlining that only the Security Council has the authority and legitimacy to mandate military action.

## **VII. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

### **1. Definition**

The unmonitored proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) – meaning nuclear, biological and chemical weapons capable of killing a large number of people and inflicting long-term effects on the environment – represents one of the greatest dangers to international peace and security.

### **2. Current and future challenges**

The Panel expresses its deep concern about the insufficient surveillance of the spread of technology and materiel necessary to develop WMD, in particular in the succession states of the Soviet Union. The acquisition of WMD or related materiel (particularly chemical and biological weapons which are most likely to be used) by terrorist organizations represents an additional threat. Furthermore, even if the capability to build nuclear explosives does not exist, the ability to use radiological weapons (so-called „dirty bombs“) can cause severe damage.

The Panel is also aware that the unmonitored proliferation of any arms, including small arms, poses a threat to peace and security.



### **3. Required action by the UN and the international community**

The Panel urges all member states to sign and ratify the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) as well as to strengthen the verification and monitoring procedures. The Panel recommends:

- a) a close cooperation between international organizations, such as the IAEA, and regional organizations wherever possible in order to ensure the implementation of the international non-proliferation regime;
- b) the **enforcement of economic sanctions and diplomatic** isolation by a reformed UN security council as effective means to exert pressure on member states that refuse to comply with the agreements and treaties;
- c) the promotion of "**Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zones (WMDFZ)**" through the UN by encouraging and providing support for countries interested in the creation of regional WMDFZ and
- d) to increase the global awareness of dangers posed by proliferation of WMD particularly in connection with terrorism through a broadened education program conducted by the UNESCO.

Finally, the Panel would like to point out that the total elimination of WMD should continue to be the ultimate aim.

## **VIII. SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

### **1. Definition**

The violation of civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights constitutes a threat to international peace and security by violating the standards of international law and endangering the political, economic, military and social stability of states which leads to conflicts on all levels of society, not only within states but also on an interregional and global level.

### **2. Current and Future Challenges**

Challenges for the international fight against human rights violations are numerous:

- a) Some UN member states continue to violate the **human rights conventions**, either by legislation, double standards in application or other violations in practice, despite the fact that every UN member state agreed to the principle of respect of human rights when joining the United Nations.
- b) States party to the UN human rights conventions do not report to the UN monitoring bodies in the way they agreed upon. A major problem is that reports are not handed in regularly, completely or even not at all.
- c) There exist **no effective UN sanction mechanisms** for such violations of human rights conventions.
- d) The monitoring bodies have to rely on the **validity of the reports** concerning the human rights situations as they have no possibility to access the countries for the purpose of validating the human rights situation as described in the reports.
- e) The **crime of "serious human rights violations"** has not been defined in the "Statute of the International Criminal Court" and an actor cannot therefore be prosecuted under this statute for such a violation.
- f) The human rights conventions cannot engage the legal responsibility of non-governmental actors violating human rights.
- g) The existing international regulations do not adequately address the continuing violations of the human right to environmental security. This is especially problematic in light of the international borderless consequences of these violations.
- h) The lack of guaranteed access for the majority of the world's inhabitants to public health, food, water, education and other public goods leads to serious human rights violations such as poverty, inequality, discrimination, health problems and migration- these are constitutive parts of what is understood by human rights.

### **3. Linkage with other threats**

- a) There is a linkage between the **failing of states** and serious human rights violations. If the state organs which should maintain law and order are not functioning any longer, lawlessness and a general breakdown of public order are the consequences, endangering human security.

- b) There is a linkage between **socio-economic challenges** and human rights violations. In particular, there is a link between human rights violations and the enlarging gap between industrialized and development countries and the unequal distribution of the world's common property.
- c) There is a linkage between **terrorism, organized crime** and human rights violations. Terrorist acts and organized crime are human rights violations.
- d) There is a linkage between human rights violations and the upraise and rebirth of violent **fundamentalist movements** that discriminate and fight against persons, groups, or societies because of their religious beliefs, ethnic affiliations or societal morals and values.
- e) There is a linkage between **environmental degradation**, water scarcity, climate change and exploitation of natural resources and human rights as in these instances human rights such as food security and environmental security are violated.

#### **4. Required action by the UN and the international community**

- a) The panel would like to remind all UN member states that in case of severe human rights violations the UN security council can now determine that a **situation within a state constitutes a "threat to the peace"** under Art. 39 of the UN Charter and thus decide on the appropriate enforcement measures on the part of the United Nations.
- b) The panel recommends that the General Assembly encourages the UN member states repeatedly and urgently to ratify the human rights conventions and ensure fair laws and the fair administration of justice. The panel encourages all UN institutions that human rights be given a priority on their agenda and in their policy making. The panel recommends that a **state's record in human rights** should be a significant factor in considering states for **membership in the Security Council**.
- c) The panel recommends that states party to the human rights conventions that have been offered the technical, financial and/or infrastructural support of the international community and still omit to show an effort to hand in their state reports regularly to the monitoring bodies automatically **lose their right to vote**. Furthermore, they should not be allowed to take

- up any leading position such as the presidency in any human rights institution from the time that the report is due until it is submitted.
- d) State parties to the human rights conventions who fail to hand in their state reports in due time will be **examined in absentia**. In doing so, the monitoring bodies will use all the alternative information accessible at that time, including the material handed in by non governmental organizations.
  - e) The panel recommends that the High Commissioner on Human Rights set up **additional protocols** to the existing human rights conventions which **extend the competencies of the monitoring bodies**, allowing them to access states party to the conventions and to evaluate the human rights situation.
  - f) The panel recommends the establishment of an **“International Human Rights Court”** with similar competencies to those of the European Human Rights Court. It is of utmost importance that the statute includes the right to individual complaints.
  - g) The General Assembly should allocate more funds and personnel for humanitarian operations.
  - h) The human right of refugees to seek **asylum** must be respected. If asylum is denied, the denial must be done through a fair and transparent procedure including the right of appeal. The security of returnees must be protected, not only by the home nation but through international efforts. The United Nations should implement a permanent mechanism for assisting the internally displaced.
  - i) The panel urges the UN to promote and finance a worldwide campaign for education on human rights.
  - j) The panel stresses that the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is a prerequisite for the fight against human rights violations. Therefore all nations must cooperate fully in order to achieve the goals unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in September 2000. The panel also calls upon the UN Security Council to strictly **sanction** those **countries intentionally blocking** the effective implementation of the **Millennium Goals**.
  - k) The panel notes with grave concern that one UN member state has not yet ratified the “Convention on the Rights of the Child” (CRC) and asks it to do so as a matter of urgency.

- l) The panel urges each member state to fully **support** the work of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, to ratify the Statute of Rome and to refrain from all undertakings to hinder the work of the court so as to give it the recognition and legitimacy it deserves.