

Caux, 18 July 2008



Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, in a video message to the conference, shown at the opening evening session, with the theme, 'Framing the conversation – Why we are here'.

The law of peace cannot be sustained nor can there be development without a focus on the 1980s call for a new humanitarian order. The Humanitarian Commission emphasised the importance of human security, and the Norwegians and Canadians picked up on the regional security thinking which I addressed to the UN General Assembly only a few weeks ago. I hope a thematic debate will develop, which will include the theme of human insecurity.

The overpopulation issue, to me, is an issue of evolving a caring capacity plan globally. In terms of natural human and economic resources I think it is time to address the enlarging global population in the context not only of the computer models of the Meadows Report and the work of the Club of Rome, the right to security of 9 billion people by 2050, but I think it is also important to discuss the issue of water, food and its relationships with energy security. Lateral thinking is certainly part of the approach which needs to be developed. This interconnectedness will lead us to clear understanding on the misallocation of investment. Whether food or feed you know well that energy today is being sustained by cheaper forms of security.

The inequitable of distribution of world resources is related to the degradation of a world where 40 billion tons of topsoil are blowing away every year. I think that the time has come to recognise the importance of monetary security not only in terms of its being vital to everyone but in terms of the importance of moral authority. I am deeply impressed by the King of Thailand, who recognised the soaring prices as a feature of the future and appealed to his people to put their gold into the national reserve. Consequently when prices went up salaries also went up, and were in real terms effective enough to mean a lot to the issue of human dignity. People could purchase their food with their salaries that meant something.

Al Gore, with the UN Environment Programme, spoke of human concerns when he spoke of the whole issue of global warming. Unfortunately the impact of climate extremes has not been given an anthropocentric face, a human face. We are talking about the eight Nile Basin countries who need a carrying capacity of five Nile rivers by 2050. The fourth period of the partnership for the Mediterranean calls for a solar plan and I want to bring to your attention the importance of a supranational approach to water and energy for the human environment. Europe started with coal and steel, can we look across borders in terms of removing labels, not subjecting ourselves to vast new plans to divert the Blue Nile or to develop thousands of hectares for export of vegetables to other countries in the region or beyond the region. Less triumphalism in agriculture is essential and clean energy is also a part of that interconnectedness between society and nature.

Cultural significance is a critical but often forgotten multiplier of human security. Carrying capacity needs to identify in legal and cultural terms the different forms of cultural migration including statelessness. We stopped short of defining statelessness in the work of the Humanitarian Commission. We talked about displaced persons and internally displaced persons. Spurred by globalization and migration today the hard security issue will continue to gain over consideration of human security or insecurity. Osnabruck is the only university in Europe that studies the reason for migration. States

vulnerable to genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, the worst form of insecurity, continue to battle with the concept proposed by Gareth Evans and others of a responsibility to protect.

As far as preventive security I don't see any crisis-avoidance capability developing, with the possible exception of the interesting Alcatel proposal of an 'emergisat' – an emergency satellite to focus on the preemption of elemental deliberate and accidental disasters.

On wounded memories, what is important is to deal with trauma with the anthropology of anguish and suffering, and to provide the necessary medical skills, not least of all for 92 percent for children in Iraq who have been affected by trauma. Please come to Jordan, let us develop further workshops, let us work together.