

## Strengthening the FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE – NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL



*In many countries, effective governance is under serious strain. What strategies could strengthen the rule of law and encourage transparency?*

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In the current millennium the cherished goals of peace, security and development will remain elusive and mirage-like goals till we learn to trust each other in spite of our deep-seated differences and at times open hatred of the other.

Trust remains the missing link without which no diplomacy will succeed. We are living in the age of lack of trust in which declarations are misconstrued, even before the ink on the document dries. How to build trust in diplomacy remains the most challenging of goals. A classic example is the deep mistrust between the two peoples of South Asia. There was cohabitation before independence but the 62 years of independence superseded that. Yet while this poisoning of attitudes prevailed, strides were being made by the peoples of the two nations. People watched blockbuster Bollywood movies, Arundhati Roy was warmly feted in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Michael Jackson's funeral was watched equally in both countries. People do transgress the political divide. It is a shame that we can't meet on our own grounds to sort out our differences. It is the

lack of trust that brings us to Switzerland.

This Caux Forum for Human Security has been as magical, majestic and mystic as the ambiance of this place and the mountains that surround us. We have gathered here to try to forge a kind of global coalition – a coalition of conscience. The scourge of violence is the biggest threat to human security. Mahatma Gandhi said that non violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man. And Muhammed Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, called for a country of plurality and diversity, where Hindus are free to go their temples, Christians to their churches, Jews to their synagogues and Muslims to their mosques, but once they come out of their places of their worship they all are equal Pakistanis. A civilised and democratic Pakistan, not a regressive or fundamentalist State. For that plurality to survive and diversity to prosper we need a new global covenant and a radical change in the way this world takes decisions. We need a coalition of conscience.