



National Council for Human Rights

Speech Presented to the International Conference

The UN: Yesterday , Today and Tomorrow

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Zagreb, Croatia

H.E Dr. Sc. Mrs Vesna Pusic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Dear Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a very great honor to be invited to present a speech in this important conference on the United Nations' past, present and future. I begin by sharing my confidence that tomorrow will bring us through our collaborative efforts the change we strive for; that is World peace and Security.

Working in the UN as Secretary General, has given me a chance to work closely with all UN related Organs, and see the huge efforts exerted within this international organization, especially in the field of conciliation, peacemaking, and peacekeeping.

Committing itself to world peace and order, The UN has employed all its tools possible to make and maintain peace in areas that have witnessed conflicts causing loss of lives of the many innocents.

Yet, today the UN is confronted with many traditional and new challenges, with the phenomenon of terrorism leading the scene. Terrorism poses a real global threat to international peace and security, and to confront it needs global efforts in preserving our right to life. While sustainable development should be the tool to tackle the issues of climate change, development, and good-governance.

Youth today are tomorrow's future, they have been the nucleus of the Arab Revolutions, and are the changing variable in the dynamics within different societies utilizing the advantages of technology and social media revolution.

The UN since its creation in 1945 has evolved in its membership, functions, bodies, and reach. This evolution along turning points in world events should have led to



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radical reform in the United Nations Organization to reflect accurately the demands of globalization and democratization, unfortunately little has been accomplished in this matter.

I recall the document I published in December 15 1996 titled "Agenda for Democratization" which discusses the need to democratize globalization. The UN as International Organization, in order to face current challenges, needs itself to become democratic. This calls for the effective participation of the Civil Society in the heart of the organization.

Today, non-state actors have been shaping politics, actions and norms. With advancement of technology, social and cultural boundaries are vanishing, and international civil society is sharing greater responsibilities.

In previous speeches at international events, I have called for reformation of the UN before catastrophes take place. Today the Middle East is faced with issues of terrorism led by DAESH spreading its evil effects outside the regions geographical boundaries, along with the Civil war in Syria, Yemen, and Libya. Calls for separations, are taking place in different regions of the world; while the nuclear profile still remains a challenge. The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict has not yet ended and new generation of uprisings has sparked. Whereas international order is returning back to a multipolar system after an era of unipolarism system dominated by the US.

UN tomorrow needs to reflect the evolution of international Civil Society, state and non-state actors, reinstalling itself as the International organization for peace and security.

Boutros-Boutros Ghali

Honorary President of the National Council for Human Rights