



Introduction to the Fifth Caux Forum for Human Security
Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun
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In this 5th Forum we have the tremendous task of building on four years of gathered knowledge and reflection, and synthesizing what we have learned into recommendations for the improvement of human security. Our hope is to use this Forum to embody the lessons learned in the form of articles of a charter or a declaration and assume these articles as guidelines for implementing worldwide protective measures for our humanity.

Human Security can only truly be achieved when its different dimensions are thoroughly analyzed, and addressed in a comprehensive way. The time has come for organizations and experts in different fields to learn from each other and make a concerted effort to establish a proper diagnosis as well as provide the necessary solutions.

The two “freedoms” that are usually associated with Human Security are the “Freedom from Fear” and the “Freedom from Want.” We, at the Forum, have sought to build upon and expand these concepts. Freedom from Fear usually refers to armed conflicts, despotism, corruption and violence. We have included the need to heal wounded memories and just governance. Freedom from Want usually refers to poverty, hunger, disease and environmental stress. We have pushed for inclusive, equitable economics and living sustainably. And for a method for promoting both we propose intercultural dialogue. We believe that within our five pillars we have the necessary tools for both understanding the risks and providing the necessary support to human security.

1.) Good Governance

The signs that people thirst for justice, dignity and respect from those who govern them were written on internet blogs and on the faces of youth across Northern Africa in the so-called Arab Spring. If we are to strengthen and sustain Good Governance at the top, we must help sustain it on intermediary levels and indeed all the way down to its roots. It starts with the family and parenting skills, to local leaders and local communities. From there it rises to the relationship between citizens and the state, and finally comes to international governance. If we are to protect and promote Human Security we must find ways to nourish and sustain good governance all along this spectrum.

2.) Inclusive Economics

We have seen the detriments of exclusion in the past and with the ongoing economic crisis we see how the most-affected remain the weakest while the benefits of bailouts are felt by those at the top. However, the idea that everyone must save themselves is an illusion. Either we all bail each other out, or we will all fall out. With less than 3 years to go, we are rapidly approaching the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and without a step towards more inclusiveness our attempts will not reach their intended targets. We must realize the interconnectedness of problems facing developing countries and agree to promote more partnerships and more support.

3.) Living Sustainably

However, with conflicting goals between development and sustainability and a market system that focuses on the short-term we have built for ourselves a colossal challenge. Shortages of water and other resource crunches are widely being noted as causes of conflict. We all need to take a hard look at our own lifestyles and see how we are contributing to more sustainable ways of living.

We need to find ways of pressuring our governments, our companies, and our communities to not live beyond our means and my hope is that here in Caux some innovative ideas can be exchanged in that domain. Global problems require global solutions and sharing not grabbing is the key to survival for all!

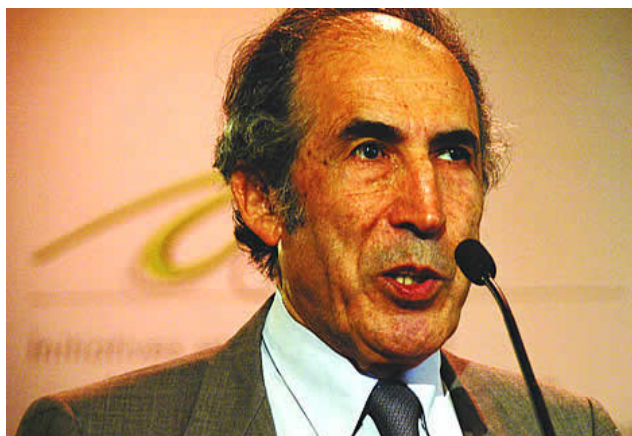
4.) Healing Memory

We humans pass on our knowledge and our culture, but also our fears and our prejudices. The wounds of history are one of the greatest threats to human security. Humanity has great examples of reconciliation. Some even have taken place in this building. It is also a priority for our friends in the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs as its “ground-breaking support for ‘healing the past and memory’ was even noted in recent articles of *Le Temps*, a French-speaking Swiss Newspaper. However, unfortunately not only are wounds often kept from healing properly, but they are even used as a justification for violence and dangerous cycles are created. Historical injustices have to be dealt with by acknowledgement of the suffering and some process of justice. Wounds are not buried with the dead of the past. They require adapted methods of healing for each generation.

5.) Intercultural Dialogue

In fact, to truly heal those wounds that have enforced our divisions, intercultural dialogue will be an important ingredient. Here at Caux, and our international work with Initiatives of Change, we have made the experience that open, honest encounters are possible, and do not necessarily degrade into what some call a “clash of civilizations.” The wisdom encased in our different religions, cultures and philosophies can be shared. If I care for the human security of my neighbor as much as my own, then together we can work for protecting the human security of others. Our differences will be worked out in the process of working together. We often discover the richness of a different culture when we first recognize our common humanity and acknowledge our common responsibility to protect it.

So with these brief remarks, I warmly welcome you all to Caux and wish you a wonderful stay. Our problems are complex, and the obstacles are large. We cannot have Good Governance without Inclusive and Equitable Economics, nor have inclusive economics without living sustainably. We also cannot heal the wounds of the past without a proper intercultural dialogue and any missing link will be to the detriment of human security. However, in embracing our own interdependence and interconnectedness and using it to our advantage I believe that we can strike the right balance. Another distinctive approach of the Caux Forum is the concept of a “coalition of conscience” as a viable approach which can bring together people of integrity and compassion in partnership to overcome the corrupting impact of greed and the struggle for power. A “coalition of conscience” is capable of redirecting a society towards creative policies. May the work be fruitful!



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