

A CLARION CALL FOR ACTION

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Saner elements of the world unite before our fragile civilization is destroyed by extremists of both sides

How can one explain the madness spreading on this beautiful earth of ours?

1 When some followers of a faith whose very name means “peace’ and submission” (Islam) are driven to indulge in indiscriminate killings and suicide bombings. Whatever the provocations, surely the gentle prophet of Islam would have never approved of such a course

2 When the most powerful and sole superpower on earth, the USA allows its leaders to act as the “judge, jury and executioner” all rolled in one. Surely the founding fathers of USA would not have approved of such a course.

3 When the international agency United Nations, created for the second time in the 20th century, is crippled and neutered by the veto rights exercised by the victors of WW2, and even after 50 years we are still only talking of reforms of the UN without getting much done

4. When the saner elements of the world can only assemble periodically and protest weakly to show their disappointment and anger but are unable to mobilize and stop or even slow down the extremists on both sides.

6. When human rights are constantly being crippled in the name of fighting “terrorism” in the worlds most powerful democracy. What was once a torch bearer of freedom is now in danger of sliding back into the old imperialist mould through the doctrine of “pre-emption”.

7. When walls, borders, prejudices and armaments proliferate, when might is declared right, and the focus is shifted to regime changes as and when it suits the high and mighty.

Then something clearly has gone seriously wrong with our world order and calls for urgent resolute action by those affected i.e. you and me

One thing is sure that unless we the people of the world take matters in our own hands and drive the saner elements to pressurize the world leadership to change course or step aside then all our occasional protests will be of no avail and may come too late

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Let all those who share these ideas join hands and raise their voices together and build into such a rising crescendo that it can no longer be ignored and may drown out the madness of the neoconservatives and the fanatics of this world.

Let a tidal wave of world opinion brush aside the extremists and let sanity once again rule the world

Let us show that even if we cannot abolish war yet, the power no longer resides in the “barrel of the gun” but it is steadily shifting to the citizens of the world via “clicks on the internet”.

The best instrument available for this purpose, despite its inadequacies, is undoubtedly still a rejuvenated, reformed, refocused and strengthened united nations. Lot of work on this subject has been done by many notable forums instituted by the current secretary general. There is the millennium 2000 effort with its targeted program and many bureaucratic reforms have already been enacted.

However the basic underlying problem remains un-tackled, which is that by its very nature the UN is dominated, especially at its policy levels such as the general assembly and the security council, by representatives of nation states and there is no real voice representing interests of the common citizens of the world. Thus no one has the sole and primary responsibility to study and focus on the present and future challenges facing mankind.

It is an acknowledged fact that the world is progressively becoming a world commons. Rapidly accelerating developments in technology have outpaced the growth of social/moral institutions and in fact may have undermined the same.

The systems of 19/20th centuries basically centered on nationalism have become outdated and can no longer serve the cause of mankind. Agencies such as the UN were created to help overcome these limitations. They have served a very useful function but they need drastic redirection and reform to meet the emerging challenges of the 21st century

We need to demand that the following happen immediately and need to make our voices heard and count.

ACTION PLAN

A committee to be established by the Secretary General of the UN mandated to come up with a reforms package within 3 months, which based on the work already done by numerous committees, will include action on the following issues:

1. Review the size and workings of the Security Council and abolition/dilution of veto powers thereof
2. Making un more of a peoples organization rather than a representation of nations by strengthening the role of the civil society
3. Find/develop independent sources of income to lessen UN's dependence on contribution from nations. in the transition stage, if member nations are not willing to help let the resources be generated by the civil sector, the NGO's and motivated private enterprises and foundations
4. UN must have 'suo motto' (authority to call for any case regardless of whether the concerned parties want it or not) powers of taking up issues of vital concern to the world
5. UN to have a judicial rather than simply a recommendatory role, i.e. moving towards world government with ability to implement decisions
- 6 Move quickly towards the establishment of a world parliament elected on the basis of adult franchise, something on the pattern of the 'European parliament'

Creation of a "Sage's Council"

Pending establishment of a world parliament, secretary general to move towards the establishment of a "council of sages" consisting of people who have a demonstrated regard and record of service aimed towards furthering the common interests of mankind. Care will be exercised in the selection of members of the "Sages Council" through a transparent process, possibly on the pattern of selection for the Nobel prizes. They could also go through the process of endorsement initially, if not voting, by the world citizens via the internet

The type of persons which could serve on the council would be exemplified by Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Aga Khan, Prince Hasan of Jordan, bishop tutu, de Ville pain, Arundathi Roy, George Soros, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Cordozo etc coming from different parts of the world but willing, able and committed to put the common interests of the world and its citizens ahead of their allegiance to their own nations states or other groupings.

Such a council could provide the required collective insight and clout to the secretary general who would act as the managing director of the board and thus face and ward off pressures for the UN to become a debating society where national and regional considerations reign supreme, unless the focus of its attention and activities is shifted more to international and common citizens issues the un will not be able to meet the tasks embodied in its charter by the founder members and help save the world from the follies of the neoconservatives and the fanatics.

Summary

Objectives

1. To mobilize citizens of the world so they can act as a counterforce to the pressures being exerted by the neoconservatives at one end and the fanatics at the other.
2. To strengthen/reform the un so it can act autonomously and effectively in the true interests of the world citizenry and not be dominated as it is today by the interests of the “powerful nations”

Action plan

- 1 Sign this document on the website conveying your support to its contents and objectives
- 2 Promote and assist circulation of the clarion call world wide in different languages
- 3 Pledge finances and your time to further this cause

Secretary General of the United Nations to form a committee to finalize reform/strengthening of UN according to a time targeted plan to be followed by UN members

Secretary General UN to move forthwith in a transparent manner to establish a “council of sages” with members having the confidence of world citizens (determined via the internet) in preparation of a duly representative world parliament soonest

Invitation to readers

Give suggestions to further improve the proposed objectives and action plan

Suggest names for possible members of the council of sages to best represent interests of the world common