





challenges can be pursued in isolation. We need to engage in a concerted effort to bring about security, not only in its traditional political and military sense, but also economic, social, health, and environmental. We have started to refer to the objective of these concerted efforts as "human security." I see the role of the United Nations in the years ahead as a leader to promote this concept.

Human security is a people-centered principle. It is a principle that recognizes that people are granted security not only by the peace of arms, absence of tensions or violent crime, but also by socio-economic well-being, social justice, observance of human rights, application of national and international law, access to food and health care, education, and by sustaining the environment. Its realization weeds out people's basic insecurities and vulnerabilities. It improves the quality of life, widens opportunities for inclusion and participation in decision-making processes, and opens opportunities for personal fulfillment and enjoyment. It goes hand in hand with good and democratic governance.

At the turn of the millennium, the United Nations has set for itself several specific goals and targets that upon implementation will alleviate poverty and hunger, provide universal primary education, empower women, improve health conditions by combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, treat preventable diseases, reduce child mortality and improve maternal care, ensure environmental sustainability and develop partnerships for sustained economic growth. The task of realizing these commitments is enormous. It presents the organization with perhaps the greatest challenge it has ever faced and all of us with the urgency to demonstrate unqualified resolve and global responsibility.

I believe that in carrying out our work, we can be inspired by the values that are central to the Christian tradition. I see these values as transcendental, common to a multitude of faiths and religions, and pertinent to our everyday lives. For by love, understanding, and tolerance we bring greater peace, amity, and harmony to interactions with each other. By honoring freedom and dignity of every human being we break free of subjugation and empower ourselves to make our own decisions about our destinies, to grow, and to realize our potential. By respecting the equality of every human being we overpower oppression and discrimination, be it religious, ethnic or social. And by forgiveness and reconciliation we confront evil, overcome past injustices, and set on a course of building sound relationships.

By embracing these values, we embrace a more hopeful future. Allow me thus to be hopeful that