

WORLD SUMMIT

United Nations Meeting of Heads of State

by Thomas W. Jacobson (2005)

The World Summit, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, September 14-16, 2005, was the largest gathering of Heads of State – 150 – in history. Major themes of their speeches are highlighted below. Significant excerpts from the speeches made by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and United States President George W. Bush, and the entire speech of Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, are included because they provide a relatively clear picture of major themes and topics addressed. Also, most of Haiti Prime Minister Gérard Latortue’s speech is included because of his striking observation that 50+ years of UN assistance provided no noticeable benefit to his country. Following Prime Minister Latortue’s speech are one to three points voiced by 13 additional Heads of State or high officials.

Major Themes:

- Support Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) & World Summit outcome document.
- Eradicate poverty worldwide – presumably achievable through MDGs and cooperation.
- Support Peace Building Commission.
- Support Secretary-General proposal for a more powerful Human Rights Council.
- Support intervention of UN when a government fails to protect its own people.
- “Collective security” and collective responsibility for security.
- Security Council reform and expansion.
- Security, development and human rights are interrelated and essential for progress.

Developing nations, especially African nations:

- Called upon developed nations to give 0.7% of their Gross National Product – as supposedly promised at Monterey, the G8 meeting, and other international/UN meetings – and transfer this wealth to developing nations through UN programs, assumedly enabling poor nations to meet the MDGs and eliminate poverty.
- Support UN tax on airline tickets to finance social development programs.
- African representation on the Security Council.

The Millennium Development Goals:

The MDGs, first proposed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the 2000 Millennium Summit, to which UN Member Nations recommitted themselves during this 2005 World Summit, are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;

Mr. Jacobson originally wrote this paper in 2005 when he was serving as Representative to the United Nations for Focus on the Family (U.S.A.), from 2001 to 2010.

5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability; and
8. Develop a global partnership for development (financial & other development assistance and opening of trade markets).

To accomplish these goals, the United Nations continues to ask developed nations to contribute 0.7% of their Gross Domestic Product to fund UN programs that will presumably enable development countries make substantial progress toward achieving the MDGs by 2015. The UN estimates that current national commitments to increase development assistance will result in additional contributions of \$50 billion per year by 2010.

Excerpts of speeches or statements made by the UNSG and Heads of State:

Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

[Note: By repeatedly using the phrase, “you will,” Secretary General Annan appeared to be speaking down to, and delivering commands to, the Heads of Nations gathered in the UN General Assembly hall.]

“Two years ago ... The clear danger was that States of all kinds might increasingly resort to self-help, leading to a proliferation of ad hoc responses that would be divisive, destabilizing, and dangerous.

“... [T]his Summit served as a trigger for progress on critical issues ... a Democracy Fund has been created ... Most important of all, an additional \$50 billion a year has been unleashed to fight poverty by 2010. The 0.7 target has gained new support; innovative sources of financing are now coming to fruition; and there has been progress on debt relief. By your agreement on the outcome document, these achievements will be locked in. And progress on development will be matched by commitments to good governance and national plans to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. ...

“Your adoption of the outcome document will achieve vital breakthroughs in other areas as well. You will condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever, for whatever purpose. You will pledge to seek agreement on a comprehensive anti-terrorism convention in the coming year. And you will signal your support for a strategy to make sure that we fight terrorism in a way that makes the international community stronger and terrorists weaker, not the other way around.

“For the first time, you will accept, clearly and unambiguously, that you have a collective responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. You will make clear your willingness to take timely and decisive collective action through the Security Council, when peaceful means prove inadequate and national authorities are manifestly failing to protect their own populations. Excellencies, you will be pledged to act if another Rwanda looms.

“You will agree to establish a Peacebuilding Commission, backed by a support office and a fund. This will mark a new level of strategic commitment to one of the most important contributions the United Nations makes to international peace and security. You will also agree to create a standing police capacity for the United Nations peacekeeping operations.

“You will agree to double the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and strengthen her office. You will also agree that the failures of the Human Rights Commission must be remedied by establishing a new Human Rights Council, the details of which must now be worked out during the 60th General Assembly.

“You will strengthen early humanitarian funding, to prevent hidden emergencies remaining forgotten – as we have seen happen too often, particularly in Africa.

“And you will put in place a framework for a far-reaching Secretariat and management reform, which must be followed up and implemented. An independent oversight committee and ethics office, on which I will be giving you more details in the near future, will help ensure accountability and

integrity, while the review of old mandates, the overhaul of rules on budget and human resources, and one-time buy-out of staff, will help re-align the Secretariat to the priorities of the Organization in the 21st century. (underlined emphasis added above)

“... [A] healthy, effective United Nations is so vital. If properly utilized, it can be a unique marriage of power and principle, in the service of all the world’s peoples. And that is why this reform process matters, and *must* continue. No matter how frustrating things are, no matter how difficult agreement is, there is no escaping the fact that the challenges of our time must be met by *action* – and today, more than ever, action must be *collective* if it is to be *effective*. ...

“We must find what President Franklin Roosevelt once called “the courage to fulfill our responsibilities in an admittedly imperfect world”. I am not sure we have done that yet. But I believe all of us now understand that we need to do it. Precisely because our world is imperfect, we need the United Nations.”

H.E. George W. Bush, President of the United States of America

“The U.N.’s founding members laid out great and honorable goals in the charter they drafted six decades ago. That document commits this organization to work to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,” and “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.” We remain committed to those noble ideals. ... We must continue to work to ease suffering, and to spread freedom, and to lay the foundations of lasting peace for our children and grandchildren. ...

“Terrorism fed by anger and despair has come to Tunisia, to Indonesia, to Kenya, to Tanzania, to Morocco, to Israel, to Saudi Arabia, to the United States, to Turkey, to Spain, to Russia, to Egypt, to Iraq, and the United Kingdom. And ... to the citizens of dozens of nations who were killed on September the 11th, 2001, here in the city where we meet. The lesson is clear: There can be no safety in looking away, or seeking the quiet life by ignoring the hardship and oppression of others. Either hope will spread, or violence will spread – and we must take the side of hope. ...

“Later today, the Security Council has an opportunity to put the terrorists on notice when it votes on a resolution that condemns the incitement of terrorist acts – the resolution that calls upon all states to take appropriate steps to end such incitement. ... We must send a clear message to the rulers of outlaw regimes that sponsor terror and pursue weapons of mass murder: You will not be allowed to threaten the peace and stability of the world.

... “We must change the conditions that allow terrorists to flourish and recruit, by spreading the hope of freedom to millions who’ve never known it. We must help raise up the failing states and stagnant societies that provide fertile ground for the terrorists. We must defend and extend a vision of human dignity, and opportunity, and prosperity – a vision far stronger than the dark appeal of resentment and murder.

“To spread a vision of hope, the United States is determined to help nations that are struggling with poverty. We are committed to the Millennium Development goals. This is an ambitious agenda that includes cutting poverty and hunger in half, ensuring that every boy and girl in the world has access to primary education, and halting the spread of AIDS – all by 2015.

“We have a moral obligation to help others – and a moral duty to make sure our actions are effective. At Monterrey in 2002, we agreed to a new vision for the way we fight poverty, and curb corruption, and provide aid in this new millennium. Developing countries agreed to take responsibility for their own economic progress through good governance and sound policies and the rule of law. Developed countries agreed to support those efforts, including increased aid to nations that undertake necessary reforms. My own country has sought to implement the Monterrey Consensus by establishing the new Millennium Challenge Account. This account is increasing U.S. aid for countries that govern justly, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom.

“More needs to be done. I call on all the world’s nations to implement the Monterrey Consensus. Implementing the Monterrey Consensus means continuing on the long, hard road to reform. Implementing the Monterrey Consensus means creating a genuine partnership between developed and developing countries to replace the donor-client relationship of the past. And implementing the

Monterrey Consensus means welcoming all developing countries as full participants to the global economy, with all the requisite benefits and responsibilities.

“Tying aid to reform is essential to eliminating poverty, but our work doesn't end there. For many countries, AIDS, malaria, and other diseases are both humanitarian tragedies and significant obstacles to development. We must give poor countries access to the emergency lifesaving drugs they need to fight these infectious epidemics. Through our bilateral programs and the Global Fund, the United States will continue to lead the world in providing the resources to defeat the plague of HIV-AIDS.

“... At the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, we set a clear goal: an AIDS-free generation in Africa. And I challenge every member of the United Nations to take concrete steps to achieve that goal.

“... the burden of debt ... holds millions of people in poverty. Today poor countries with the heaviest debt burdens are receiving more than \$30 billion in debt relief. And to prevent the build-up of future debt, my country and other nations have agreed that international financial institutions should increasingly provide new aid in the form of grants, rather than loans. The G-8 agreed at Gleneagles to go further. To break the lend-and-forgive cycle permanently, we agreed to cancel 100 percent of the debt for the world's most heavily indebted nations. I call upon the World Bank and the IMF to finalize this historic agreement as soon as possible.

“We will fight to lift the burden of poverty ... And the surest path to greater wealth is greater trade. In a letter he wrote to me in August, the Secretary General commended the G-8's work, but told me that aid and debt relief are not enough. The Secretary General said that we also need to reduce trade barriers and subsidies that are holding developing countries back. I agree with the Secretary General: The Doha Round is "the most promising way" to achieve this goal.

“... Historically, developing nations that open themselves up to trade grow at several times the rate of other countries. The elimination of trade barriers could lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty over the next 15 years. ...

“[T]he greatest obstacles to achieving these goals are the tariffs and subsidies and barriers that isolate people of developing nations from the great opportunities of the 21st century. ... Today I ... [make] this pledge: The United States is ready to eliminate all tariffs, subsidies and other barriers to free flow of goods and services as other nations do the same. This is key to overcoming poverty in the world's poorest nations. It's essential we promote prosperity and opportunity for all nations.

“... Our agenda for freer trade is part of our agenda for a freer world, where people can live and worship and raise their children as they choose. In the long run, the best way to protect the religious freedom, and the rights of women and minorities, is through institutions of self-rule, which allow people to assert and defend their own rights. All who stand for human rights must also stand for human freedom.

“This is a moment of great opportunity in the cause of freedom. Across the world, hearts and minds are opening to the message of human liberty as never before. In the last two years alone, tens of millions have voted in free elections in Afghanistan and Iraq, in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, in Kyrgyzstan, in Ukraine, and Georgia. And as they claim their freedom, they are inspiring millions more across the broader Middle East. We must encourage their aspirations. We must nurture freedom's progress. And the United Nations has a vital role to play.

“Through the new U.N. Democracy Fund, the democratic members of the U.N. will work to help others who want to join the democratic world. ...

“The work of democracy is larger than holding a fair election; it requires building the institutions that sustain freedom. Democracy takes different forms in different cultures, yet all free societies have certain things in common. Democratic nations uphold the rule of law, impose limits on the power of the state, and treat women and minorities as full citizens. Democratic nations protect private property, free speech and religious expression. Democratic nations grow in strength because they reward and respect the creative gifts of their people. And democratic nations contribute to peace and stability because they seek national greatness in the achievements of their citizens, not the conquest of their neighbors. ...

“The advance of freedom and security is the calling of our time. It is the mission of the United Nations. The United Nations was created to spread the hope of liberty, and to fight poverty and disease, and to help secure human rights and human dignity for all the world's people. To help make these promises real, the United Nations must be strong and efficient, free of corruption, and accountable to the people it serves. The United Nations must stand for integrity, and live by the high standards it sets for others. And meaningful institutional reforms must include measures to improve internal oversight, identify cost savings, and ensure that precious resources are used for their intended purpose.

“... When this great institution's member states choose notorious abusers of human rights to sit on the U.N. Human Rights Commission, they discredit a noble effort, and undermine the credibility of the whole organization. If member countries want the United Nations to be respected – respected and effective, they should begin by making sure it is worthy of respect. ...

“In each era of history, the human spirit has been challenged by the forces of darkness and chaos. Some challenges are the acts of nature; others are the works of men. This organization was convened to meet these challenges by harnessing the best instincts of humankind, the strength of the world united in common purpose. With courage and conscience, we will meet our responsibilities to protect the lives and rights of others. And when we do, we will help fulfill the promise of the United Nations, and ensure that every human being enjoys the peace and the freedom and the dignity our Creator intended for all.” (underlined emphasis added)

***H.E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
(on behalf of the African Union)***

“I am very pleased that we are meeting once more, at summit level, to discuss financing for development three years after Monterrey. Our discussion is a fitting complement to the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, as well as the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

“We in Africa recognized the need to assume primary responsibility for addressing our development challenges, and took practical steps through the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as the main framework to pursue sustainable development. Ownership and responsibility underpin the Monterrey Consensus, which emphasizes a partnership approach in the mobilization of domestic resources, provision of enabling environment for foreign investment, good governance at all levels and private sector participation in development financing.

“Since Monterrey, there have been commendable developments, especially with regard to the increase in the volume of Official Development Assistance to developing countries, particularly Africa; the decision of the G-8 to cancel the multilateral debts of 18 Highly Indebted Poor Countries and the announcement of a target date by the European Union to reach the 0.7% ODA disbursement in fulfillment of a long standing commitment. Additionally, innovative initiatives such as the International Finance Facility promoted by the United Kingdom, the Brazil-led Action against Hunger and the French campaign on air ticket levy would provide resources to complement ODA. These are positive steps toward fulfilling the vision of the Monterrey Consensus. I salute those countries that have either reached or voluntarily exceeded the 0.7% target. I urge countries that are yet to reach that target to take steps to do so.

“The Monterrey Consensus rightly identifies trade as the engine for economic growth and calls for a more open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system. For this to be achieved it is imperative that the negotiation on the Doha Development Agenda be concluded on time with substantial outcomes that promote development. To that end, there should be a rapid move to eliminate export and trade distorting domestic subsidies particularly in agriculture.

“Africa needs genuine partnership in order to overcome its numerous challenges and problems. Among other options, Africa needs market access and investments to generate resources to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

“I stand on this podium today, therefore, to remind us of the commitments we have all made including Monterrey and to call on all parties to fulfill their commitments in a spirit of partnership and mutual interdependence. I thank you.” (underline emphasis added)

H.E. Mr. Gérard Latortue, Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti

“It’s a pleasure for me this evening to take the floor at this Summit and to share with you the concerns and the wishes of the Haitian people on the issues which are being debated in this Hall.

“I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary General and his team for this excellent initiative, without which the millennium development goals would have remained empty words. And, on behalf of the people of Haiti, I would like to thank the paternal countries of Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa, who have deployed troops as part of the United Nations military and police contingents and which are successfully contributing to restoring peace and stability and security in my country. These are essential prerequisites for holding free and democratic elections which are planned for the end of this year.

“I would, above all this evening, like to dwell on the reform of the structures of this universal organization and the essential revision of the machinery and the evaluation of corporation projects, and also, the issue of coordination of international development assistance. Let’s begin with the Security Council. Haiti still supports the enlargement of this organ by admitting new prominent members to ensure a more fair and more balanced representation and one which is more in line with today’s world. ... I believe that any country that respects good governments, respects human rights, and insures free elections should also be eligible for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

“With regard to the General Assembly, I believe it’s important that as a decision-making body, it should play a much more important role. ... (I)f we consider the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly as a catalog of good intentions we will [not] reach this goal. It is time for a greater balance to be established between the powers of the Security Council and those of the General Assembly.

“What I’m most interested by, at this Summit, is that it is an opportunity to speak in a friendly way, but frankly, of the shortcomings of the United Nation’s system with regard to the machinery for providing, managing and coordinating international aid. A strengthened Economic and Social Council with a better structure and with better resources should be able to contribute to a greater effective system of international development assistance. I would like to [give] an example and that is my own country. It is a founding member of the United Nations, and it was almost the first of country to enjoy United Nation’s assistance. However, this assistance has left very little tangible results. It was in 1948, 1949, and 1950 that the Rosenberg mission was sent to Haiti, and its mission report, which was entitled *Mission to Haiti*, is still the reference document for the problem development in my country. However, after more than fifty years of cooperation with the United Nations, there is still very little sign of all this assistance that we have received over the years. Our infra-structure is still in a bad state. We have pothole roads. Electricity is still a luxury for most of the population. And more than half of Haitians are illiterate, and there are many other problems. It is true that bad governments by the Haitian leaders is partly responsible for this state of affairs. But the international community must also analyze its own approach and engage in self-criticism and seek to develop in its own way a culture of efficiency. And we must put an end to this sterile competition between United Nations’ agencies, between themselves and between other bilateral and multi-lateral organizations. We need a global revision of the assistance policies and the distribution of assistance which we sincerely call for. ...

“I could not end my statement without requesting a considerable reduction in the assistance that is given through paying international experts. And this is possible if we use the human resources available nationally, qualified [people]... within our country and outside the beneficiary countries.

“And, finally, I would like to make a heart[felt] appeal for greater coordination between the United Nation’s agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions. Whatever we believe, it seems that these organizations do not have a conception of development which can really help our countries. This coordination is essential to ensure greater effectiveness of international assistance, particularly with regard to financing for development.” (underline emphasis added)

H.E. Mr. Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union)

- Great Britain promised to double aid for development.
- 15 EU Member Nations pledged to meet the 0.7% of GNP by 2015.
- G-8 is committed to cancel the debts of the (18) poorest developing nations.

H.E. Mr. Alyaksandr Lukashenka, President of the Republic of Belarus

- One-third of its people died for freedom in World War II.

H.E. Al Hadji Yahya Jammeh, President of the Republic of Gambia

- Access to reproductive health and services, recognition of reproductive rights, essential.

H.E. Mr. Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Georgia

- Called the former Soviet Union an imperialist “evil empire.”
- Spoke in support of freedom and democracy.

H.E. Mr. John Agyekum Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana

- The use of small weapons in Africa has brought about the death of more than 20 million.
- Small weapons constitute weapons of mass destruction.
- Africa should have 2 permanent seats on the SC.

H.E. Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, President of the Republic of Mali

- Favors tax on airline tickets to gain revenue for development.

H.E. Mr. Nambar Enkhbayar, President of Mongolia

- Mongolia will celebrate 800th anniversary in 2006.

H.E. The Honourable Ludwig Scotty, M.P., President of the Republic of Nauru

- Quoted Proverbs, spoke of blessings and doing God’s will.

H.E. Mrs. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines

- The Philippines will use the funds for reproductive health to help women learn natural family planning processes, which have proven successful.

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation

- Spoke against and about overcoming Nazism (but not Communism).

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal

- Favors a UN tax on airline tickets to raise funds for development.
- Africa should have a seat on the Security Council; 70% of its issues pertain to Africa.

H.E. The Honourable Sir Allan Kemakeza, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands

- Taiwan should be accorded full recognition as an independent nation at the UN.

His Majesty Don Juan Carlos I, King of Spain

- Anticipates proposal for an “alliance of civilizations” (currently in draft form).

Wisdom on these matters from a former king and Presidents of the U.S.A.

“Agriculture, manufacture, commerce and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise.” U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, 1801

“The background of our American system and the motivation of progress is essentially that we should allow free play of social and economic forces as far as will not limit equality of opportunity.”
U.S. President Herbert Hoover, 1932

“Working people ... value family, work and neighborhood. These are the things we have in common. ... (A)ll of us are striving for the same thing—a strong and healthy [nation] and a fair shake for the working people.” U.S. President Ronald Reagan, 1981

“(T)he genius of our economic system ... as Walter Lippmann observed ... [is] for the first time in history [it] gave men ‘a way of producing wealth in which the good fortune of others multiplied their own.’” U.S. President Ronald Reagan, 1981

“Individual farmers, laborers, owners, traders and managers—they are the heart and soul of development. ... Whenever they are allowed to create and build ... societies become more dynamic, prosperous, progressive and free.” U.S. President Ronald Reagan, 1981

“The societies which have achieved the most broad-based economic progress in the shortest period of time are not the most tightly controlled, not necessarily the biggest in size, or the wealthiest in natural resources. No, what unites them all is their willingness to believe in the magic of the marketplace.”
U.S. President Ronald Reagan, 1981

“The lessons of history, confirmed by the evidence immediately before me show conclusively that continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fibre. To dole out relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit. It is inimical to the dictates of sound policy. ... The ... Government must and shall quit the business of relief.” U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1935

“The view of this government is that, in the long run, our economic prosperity and the prosperity of the whole world are best served by the elimination of artificial barriers to international trade.”
U.S. President Harry S. Truman, 1946

“Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings.” U.S. President Ronald Reagan, 1982

“The unity of freedom has never relied on uniformity of opinion.”
U.S. President John F. Kennedy, 1963

“The God who gave us life, gave us liberty.” U.S. President Thomas Jefferson, 1808

“As American freemen we ... sympathize in all efforts to extend the blessings of civil and political liberty.” U.S. President Zachary Taylor, 1849

“We have not sought to dominate or to absorb any of our weaker neighbors, but rather to aid and encourage them to establish free and stable governments resting upon the consent of their own people.” U.S. President Benjamin Harrison, 1889

“(T)he borrower becomes the lender’s slave.” King Solomon (Proverbs 22:7)