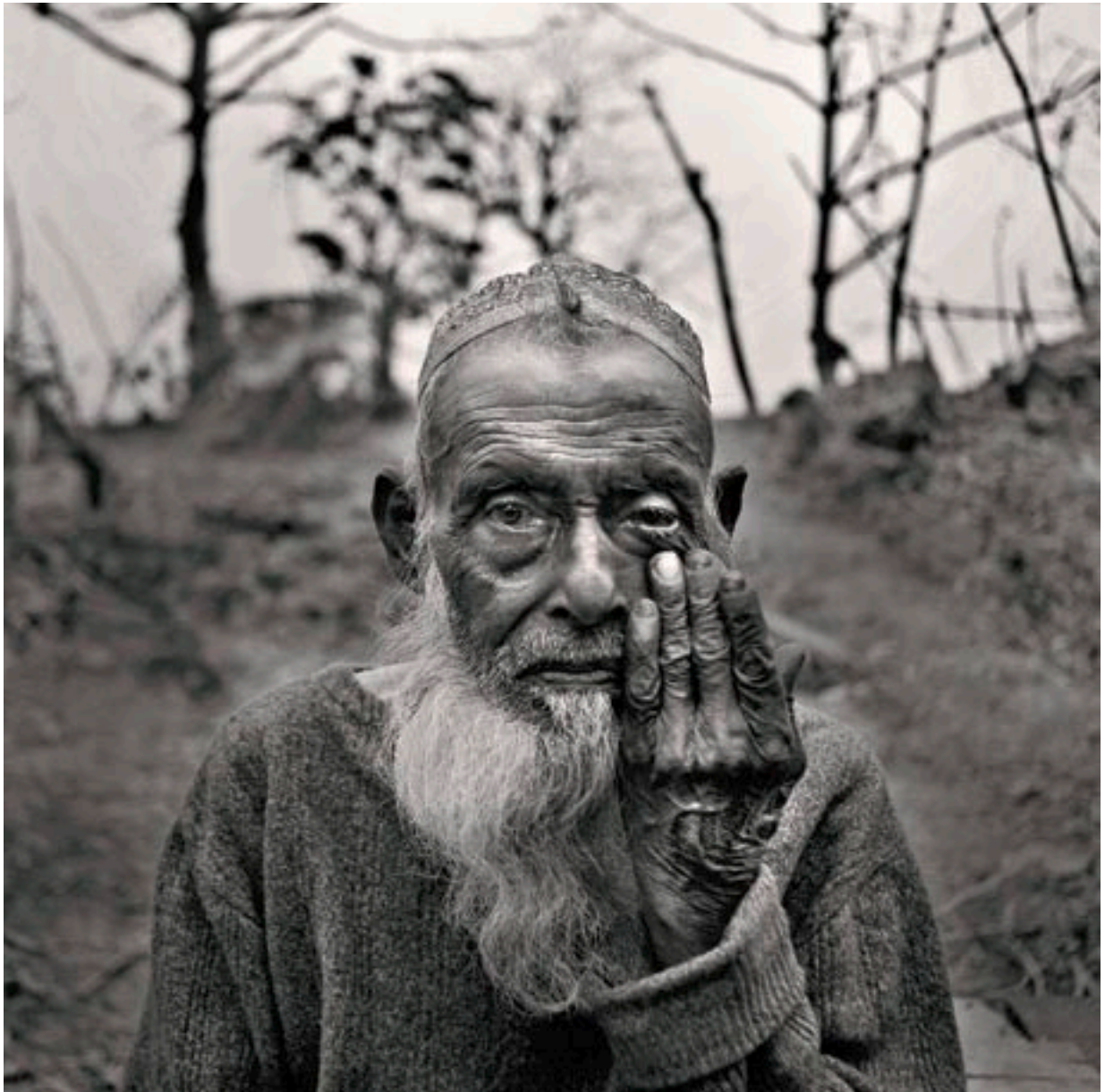


Forum 2008 The Human Face of Climate Change





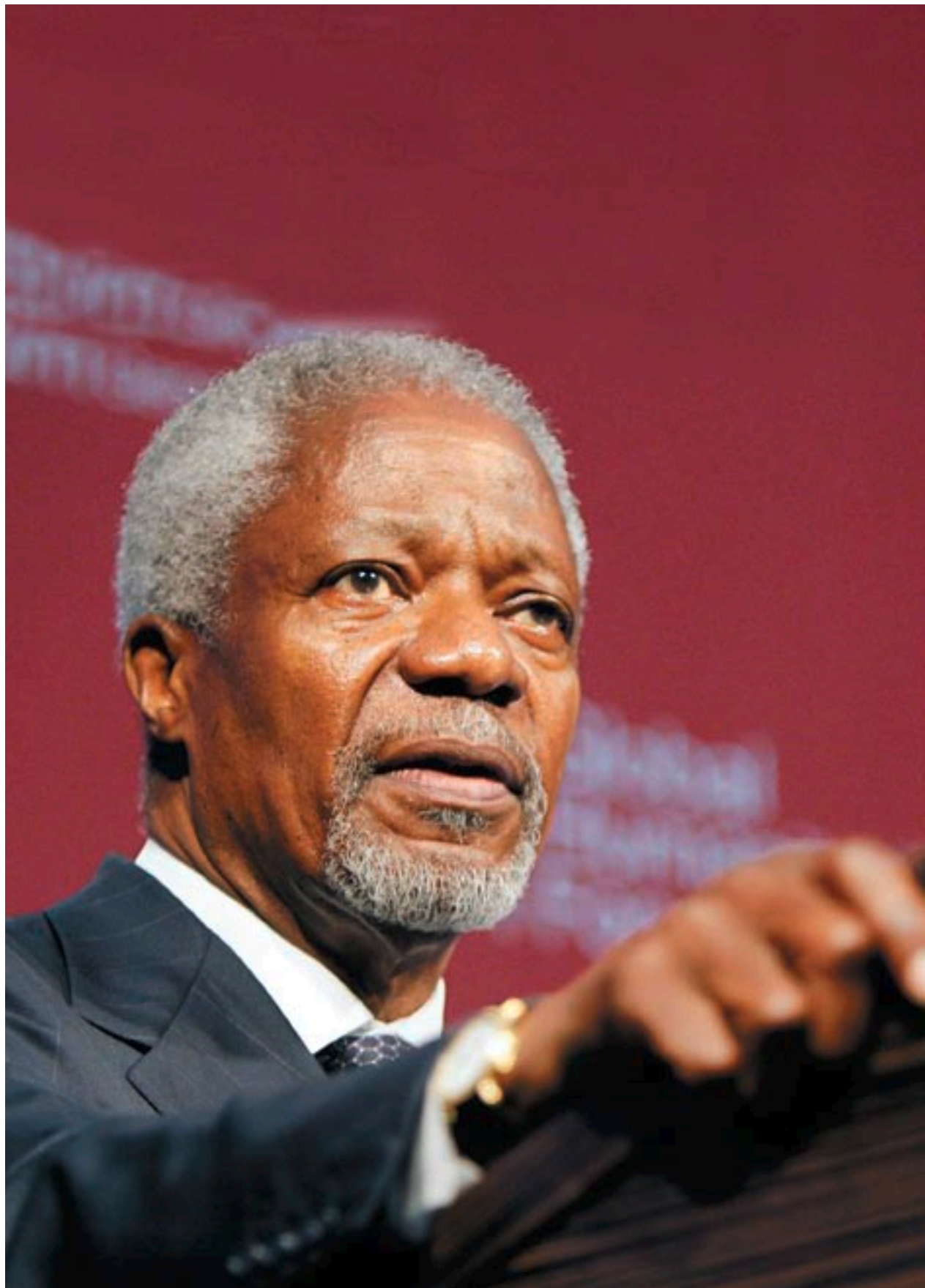
Cover Picture:

Hatem Ali, 70 years old,
has become completely
penniless after a cyclone
hit in Borguna, Bangladesh.

Munem Wasif

Series: Water Tragedy:
Climate Refugee of
Bangladesh; 2007

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com



Climate change has a human face.

Kofi A. Annan, President of the Global Humanitarian Forum

Severe weather happened before. Now it happens more often. Heat waves or floods hit before global warming. Now they hit harder. Storms of the magnitude of cyclone Nargis, which killed over one hundred thousand people in May of this year, will hit again. We are witnessing devastating consequences for human beings worldwide, but for people already on the edge of survival, struggling to feed and house their families, this change is an additional, near unbearable burden. From now onwards we know that climate change is the single most destructive force actively confronting humankind today.

Greenhouse gas emissions are the fuel of this force. And while we often speak of stabilizing emissions so as not to lead to dangerous climate change, we cannot now ignore that for millions of those worst affected today, climate change already is dangerous. And so the polluter, in particular, those economies polluting in excess, have an obligation to rectify the situation. The polluter must pay.

In 2000, when we agreed on the Millennium Development Goals for putting an end to extreme poverty, climate change was not yet understood as the overarching problem we know today. Climate change is now seriously jeopardizing their achievement. Many people are being pushed back into extreme poverty again, while progress made risks being washed away in the wake of the increasingly violent storms and floods that lie ahead.

The human ramifications of climate change are the most serious emerging humanitarian concern of our age. It is exacerbating many of the already difficult challenges we face, as is the case for the fields of health, nutrition, migration, disaster reduction, and conflict resolution and prevention. Ultimately climate change redefines the very basis of our existence and relationship with this planet. The future of humanity is endangered by humanity itself.

“ To ensure a safe and dignified existence for all we will have to harness the full potential of the global society. ”

Now we know, now we must act. And in this dire situation, much scope for action exists. Our first annual Forum marked out a number of key areas where action can be taken. It was made clear that we have the technological answers – from renewable energy, to early warning systems, to adapted seeds for harsh climates, or information and communications technologies that can reach the most remote communities. These and many other tools, such as weather-index insurance able to safeguard small-holder farmers against crop loss or inexpensive drugs and vaccines, do indeed exist. We also have the expertise – coastal flooding seen in India or Bangladesh is for example also a daily concern in the Netherlands. And we have the resources, which would sum to an insignificant proportion of world GDP, particularly when the costs of inaction in monetary terms alone would be multiples of that amount.

Why, therefore, so little action? In a highly-sophisticated world, our advanced degree of specialization can also work against us. All too often solutions remain “trapped” within one country, one sector, one company, or one community. On the other hand, many solutions only make sense when undertaken across such distinctions.

We need to pool our resources and act together. So while climate change is redefining the challenges we face, we must also redefine the way we meet those challenges. This has to include a broadening of the humanitarian community as traditionally defined. To ensure a safe and dignified existence for all we will have to harness the full potential of the global society.

For these reasons the Forum supports debate and action that unites us from across the global society, focusing our efforts on key humanitarian challenges, starting with the human impact of climate change.

I strongly believe that the will of the people exists to overcome the climate problem, and to re-right the injustice that those worst affected by it – the world’s poorest – are also those who contributed the least to the problem. And again, where awareness of the issue and on action to be taken is lacking, we also have the tools we need for reaching out to the people with our message: the global media, the Internet, the new generation of telecommunication devices and more.

We are already in the midst of those most important negotiations now taking place under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – set to define a successor to the Kyoto Protocol through to December 2009 in Copenhagen – now less than a year and a half away. Yvo de Boer, the UNFCCC’s Executive Secretary, talked of the “unbelievable” lack of leadership in the negotiations. But, ultimately, it is we, our communities, our organizations, and our networks that can build the necessary political will. And given the level of injustice associated with climate change, and its truly global dimensions, I believe we can awaken the public and institutional solidarity necessary to do so.

And so I was reaffirmed that such a large number of leading people from all regions – and from business, government, academia, science and civil society – joined the traditional leaders of the development and humanitarian fields at our first Forum event. It was the first time that an international conference of such high and wide-ranging levels had as its exclusive focus the human impact of climate change. This was a start for us at the Forum. But in two days we have a promising start and a clear perspective on how to move forward. We aim high in trying to create a stronger global community for overcoming the humanitarian challenges we face. But how could we do otherwise?

“ Now we know, now we must act.”



Executive Summary	8
The Programme	15
Climate Witnesses	23
Climate Justice in a Shared Global Ecosphere	35
The Climate-Security Nexus: Conflict or Cooperation?	53
5 Key Priorities for Food Security in a Changing Climate	59
Are the Right Risks Insured?	67
Design and Urban Planning: New Forms of Urban Life – New Forms of Development?	71
What are Business Opportunities for Adaptation?	75
Innovative Financing for Adaptation: What New Ideas?	79
Energy for the Poor: Energizing the MDGs	85
Climate Change and Information and Communications Media	91
Climate Change and Health: What Partnerships?	95
Dealing with Regional Water Stress	101
Practical Solutions to Empower Vulnerable People and Communities	107
Coastal Cities in the Global South: Waiting for the Next Mega-Disaster?	109
Climate Change: Necessity for Global Cooperation	115
Results of the Interactive Road Map	132
The Way Forward, by Forum CEO Walter Fust	139
About the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva	155

Pictures on the cover and pages 12, 20, 32, 50, 64, 82, 104, 130, 136, 152 are from the Shortlist 2008 of the Prix Pictet, the world's premier award for photography on the theme of sustainability. The award is sponsored by Pictet & Cie, in association with the Financial Times. Kofi Annan is Honorary President of the Prix Pictet. www.prixpictet.com

Executive Summary

Introduction

- > An international conference exclusively focused on the human impact of climate change and on boosting assistance to worst affected poor and vulnerable populations

- > Held 24–25 June 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland

- > Through 14 plenary and roundtable sessions over two days, the event dealt with the climate-humanitarian issue from the following angles:
 - Justice
 - Security
 - Agriculture
 - Risk Management and Insurance
 - Urban Planning and Design
 - Business Opportunities
 - Financing
 - Energy
 - ICT and Media
 - Health
 - Water
 - Practical Solutions
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Global Cooperation

- > The event was attended by over 300 high-level representatives and leading people from a broad range of different sectors public and private, including government and military, humanitarian, development and civil society actors, media, climate scientists, academia and think tanks, as well as participants from the telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, insurance, finance, and engineering industries

Key Observations

- > The scale of current impacts of climate change on people and communities, particularly in the context of multiple stresses, is immense, encompassing virtually the entire spectrum of social and economic development
- > There is an urgent need to minimize risks associated with climate change, since the additional stress exerted by minor changes in climatic conditions have and can cause serious devastation, including significant loss of life and livelihood
- > There already exists an adequate array of technical solutions and disaster risk reduction strategies for managing climate risks
- > However, as the world's poorest groups are the most vulnerable to climate change, since they have the least protection, they also by definition necessitate additional resources for even the most basic measures to be taken
- > Additional resources for the adaptation needs of the world's poor and vulnerable communities are currently grossly deficient
- > There is also a serious lack of international leadership to provide adequate additional resources for adaptation, either through traditional flows, international climate change agreements, or otherwise



Key Recommendations

- > Climate justice must be a priority on the international agenda, and an integral principle in the context of the ongoing negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to define a successor to the Kyoto Protocol for after 2012
- > Any future global climate agreement must include strong targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in order to realize climate justice by providing for adequate support and financing for the adaptation needs of the world's poorest and most vulnerable groups
- > Governments must empower communities at all levels to participate in decision-making and policy definition for adaptation to climate change in order to ensure the most effective and appropriate measures are taken

Key Priority Areas for Action

- > Improved regional cooperation for avoiding conflict triggered/aggravated by climate-induced resource scarcity
- > Increased support to small-scale farmers, including through resources, meteorological and agricultural information, cooperative organizations and equitable land tenure regulations
- > Greater emphasis on risk transfer to the private sector, including government support expanding the reach of weather index insurance and catastrophe bonds
- > Enhanced weather monitoring capacity for worst affected zones
- > Adoption of risk-averse eco-planning for future and retrospective urban planning and development
- > Promotion of the development of small and medium urban centres as an alternative to over-burdened and climate risk prone mega-cities and their slums
- > Increased support to local entrepreneurs as drivers of adaptation
- > Triggering of immediate increases in finance for adaptation by front-loading funds, including credited against future trading of emissions rights/levies
- > Accurate research on the specific energy needs and for appropriate energy solutions for the world's poorest communities



Pascal Couchepin, President of Switzerland (left); Michel Camdessus of the Commission for Africa

- > Creation of partnerships between influential media and advocacy organizations to ensure clear messages on the gravity of the climate problem are made available for communication to the public
- > Promotion of information and communication technologies, particularly mobile communications, for the rapid distribution of weather-related information, including weather forecasting and warnings
- > Promotion of partnerships between climate and health actors, such as between national health services and national meteorological services, for dealing with climate-sensitive health concerns
- > Sensible pricing of water, avoiding wastage while ensuring a basic supply for all
- > Improvement of knowledge exchange and extension systems towards and between communities affected by climate change

Select Outcomes

- > Global Alliance for Climate Justice – A global advocacy partnership for uniting committed leaders and institutions to build awareness and mass public support for realizing climate justice
- > Weather Data for All – A global project mobilizing public and private partners to ensure availability of reliable weather information to vulnerable communities affected by climate change





Reza Deghati
Paradise Lost; Sahara
Desert, Africa

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

“ This is not the time to take the time.
And we believe that this is not the time
to go on with business as usual. ”

Martin Frick, Deputy CEO/Director, Global Humanitarian Forum¹



¹Dr Frick assumed responsibilities as Deputy CEO / Director of the Global Humanitarian Forum as of 1 August 2008

The Programme

Martin Frick, Deputy CEO/Director of the Global Humanitarian Forum

Since the Foundation Board of the Global Humanitarian Forum first met on 17 October 2007 and agreed the initial focus for the Forum's efforts, "the human face of climate change", scientists issued on an almost weekly basis new alarming facts about climate change and it's faster than predicted escalation. Unfortunately, many tragic events linked to climate change also took place since then. While it is difficult to pin down any one harsh weather event as directly related to climate change – the increasing number, unpredictability and severity of weather speaks a clear language. And its role in inflicting human suffering is now well understood by specialists.

The fact that our greenhouse gas emissions retain heat within the atmosphere altering the global climate system is becoming common knowledge – as is the need to cut down these emissions (through "mitigation"), which stops that process. Outside of common knowledge is the fact that the changed global climate system is already causing significant damage and loss of life, especially among the billions of people on this planet that live in poverty. Also less known is the fact that if we could stop polluting today, if humanity "left for Mars" as one participant put it, the effects of global warming would continue to be felt for at least 50 years into the future. Since we are here to stay, and since despite the best efforts emissions are likely to continue to rise globally for some time, the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations need immediate assistance and support in building their resilience against these changes (through "adaptation").

Two factors are thereby most evident: time is running out and we will need an unprecedented joint effort from all of mankind to halt global warming and counter the adverse effects of it, particularly on the poorest and most vulnerable. Drawing-up the list of invitees to the 2008 Forum we did not ask ourselves "who is in charge", but rather, "who will be key" to developing

solutions and to put them into action. The response to our call – in particular given the short notice at which we invited – was overwhelming. Leading people from the most diverse backgrounds, royalty, business leaders, heads of major NGOs, heads of international organizations, world leading scientists, political leaders and Ministers and, not least, five young people from some of the world’s most affected areas. The result was a buzzing mix of people who normally wouldn’t meet united by their shared commitment.

No shortage of solutions in the conventional sense

The opening panels of the “Climate Witnesses” and on “Climate Justice in a Shared Global Ecosphere” set the tone for the meeting. In the following 13 roundtables and debates over two days, the participants studied, discussed, and challenged one another in-depth on how they themselves and their institutions could best contribute to building the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable.



< Laurent Moutinot,
President of the State
Council, Republic and
Canton of Geneva

<< HRH Princess Haya
Bint Al Hussein, Global
Humanitarian Forum
Board Member and UN
Messenger of Peace (left);
HM Queen Noor of Jordan

As it turned out, there was no shortage of solutions in the conventional sense. And here we mean efforts, programmes, projects, technical devices and the like which directly contribute to empowering vulnerable individuals and communities to persevere. And indeed, when browsing through the pages of this volume it is clear that many of the solutions are actually quite straightforward. The challenge is more in the realizing of these. And so the true solutions turned out to be of a more unconventional variety.

Our President, Kofi Annan did indeed ask us to bring around his table people that normally do not work side-by-side. And so we had a number of fascinating young engineers, like Daniel Sheridan from the UK, who created a see-saw equipped with a crank-generator able to power a school's IT needs. And he rubbed shoulders with business leaders like Carl-Henric Svanberg from Ericsson and stalwarts of the humanitarian and development communities as traditionally conceived, such as Kemal Derviş, the UNDP Administrator, or Minister Naomi Shaban of Kenya, and so on.

We see in fact that many of the solutions fail to take-a-hold precisely because we are not working together enough. The humanitarian community, the development community, the diplomatic community, the scientists and academics, the businesspeople, the media, the young people – and I could go on – they do all form solid communities unto themselves. But we are not yet working together as teams. And yet so much is on offer.

The military for example has more than proved its humanitarian utility, particularly during the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, but many of their valuable resources continue to go untapped.

We are not yet working together as teams

Much of what is contained in this volume has been made public before, as indeed many conferences and countless documents on climate change do exist. It was quite unusual that such a major international conference be exclusively devoted to the issue of the human impacts of climate change.

And it is perhaps more unusual than that all these ideas be contained in this one volume with such a range of view-points expressed alongside one another – as is evidenced by the unique combination of discussion leaders that were engaged in each of the different topics covered – which serves as a testament to the all-encompassing nature of the issue. And we must not forget that it was simply impractical to have all of the many thoughts and ideas expressed over the two days of the Forum documented here.

What we nevertheless have as a result is something of a roadmap for action and policy priorities for adaptation to climate change among those most vulnerable to it – and that as viewed by a number of the key figures from within and from without of the humanitarian-development community.

Some of the principle, immediate outcomes of this conference, such as the Global Alliance for Climate Justice, and the Weather Data for All initiative, will only bring fruit by capitalizing on the comparative strengths of partners from different sectors. Our CEO Walter Fust explains in more detail the Global Alliance and the Weather Data initiative when laying out the specific way forward following the Forum 2008 in his closing chapter of that name. It is in supporting this and other such work that the Forum hopes to demonstrate something of the significant potential that exists when all sectors of the global society are counted upon for tackling the humanitarian challenges we face.

The true value of this exercise and the work of the Global Humanitarian Forum are exactly as put by Kofi Annan: “together we can build a stronger global community.” We at the Global Humanitarian Forum support the construction of such a community. We thank all those who already came together with the Forum to do just that, and we invite others to join us in working to realize his vision.



Srgjan Kerim,
Former President of the
UN General Assembly





Munem Wasif
Series: Water Tragedy:
Climate Refugee of
Bangladesh; 2007;
Chilmari, Bangladesh

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

"A mother is feeding her
child in the time of moving
towards a new land."

“This is an extinction of my people and my culture.”

Jesse Mike, Climate Witness, Nunavut, Canada



< Jesse Mike

<< Mama N'Doda,
Guilherme Pastore
and Rishika Das Roy
(from left to right)

Climate Witnesses

The British Council selected five young women and men who bore witness to the Forum on how climate change has affected their lives and the lives of others. Moderated by British Council CEO, Martin Davidson, the session revealed some of the many alarming facets of the human face of climate change.

Rishika Das Roy (India)

Roy is a 17-year-old high school student living in Kolkata. She is passionate about communicating the issue of climate change to the community. Particularly concerned about the impact of global warming on the river systems and glaciers of the Indian subcontinent, she spoke to the Forum about the Sunderbans, the fragile low-lying coastal delta of the Ganges, spread across Bangladesh and India and covering some 10,000 square kms.

“Climate change has devastated Sundarbans”, said Roy. She described the futile but desperate attempts being made by the Sundarbans community to protect itself against the 3.14 mm rise in sea level – due to a combination of global warming and subsidence – who have constructed a 3,600 km long mud embankment there. The embankment requires reinforcing following every high tide because of the fragility of the mud used.

“What we fear more than death is that salinity will get into our soil”. Saline soil is unfit for cultivation for three years, said Roy. “Please tell me what my people are supposed to eat? As it is they survive on only 2 dollars a month.” Depleted freshwater fish stocks, due in part to the salinization of coastal river areas, mean basic nutritional needs can no longer be adequately supplemented from fishing. With a population density of 960 people per square km, further land loss is leading to severe demographic

Millennium
Summit

Annual Meeting | Global
2008 | Environmental
Forum

Millennium
Summit

Rishika Das Roy
(India)





pressures. Islands already now submerged or threatened by rising water will create some 70,000 refugees in the years to come. These refugees are set overwhelm an area that today is unable to meet the basic dietary requirements of its existing population.

Roy also spoke of solutions: “at a local level we can do a lot to empower women and empower our community”. Roy referred to the promotion of alternative occupations, not dependent on agriculture. Roy herself began a campaign called “Adopt a Mangrove”, where mangrove planting can be sponsored for \$10 a unit. “With \$1000 you could save lives, communities, women from becoming widows, or children from being orphaned”, said Roy, referring to the programme. The mangrove trees native to Sundarbans have breathing roots that anchor soil and collect alluvium from the river, raising the level of the surrounding land, preserving it from further degradation or inundation. Mangrove trees are also an effective natural carbon sequester and can act as strong bio-defences: “last year one row of mangroves reduced the speed of Cyclone Sidr from 250 km/h to 130 km/h”, said Roy.

Guilherme Pastore (Brazil)

Pastore is a 17-year-old university student from São Paulo. Despite his age, as one of the British Council's International Climate Champions, Guilherme has already had the opportunity to debate on issues of climate change with leading specialists from his country. Pastore spoke to the Forum about the varying impacts of climate change in Brazil, from increased tropical storm activity, to more severe drought and flooding.

In the north-east of Brazil increasingly harsh and prolonged droughts have become responsible for thousands of deaths due to spectacular crop-failure induced famine. Floods in the south of Brazil are having similar effects on food production and local communities. As a result many are fleeing the worst affected rural areas and settling in large urban slums. “They hope for opportunity, but end up finding none. They live in favelas, which are control-

led by drug trafficking organizations, increasing social tensions and violence”, said Pastore. He added that some 10% of Brazil’s population of over 180 million live in coastal areas now threatened by rising sea levels and increasingly severe tropical storms.

“The problem we are facing is indeed immense, but it is not impossible to solve,” said Pastore. He said that “if it is given real priority and actual worldwide action is taken immediately we still stand of, in the years to come, facing significantly less serious humanitarian impacts due to climate change, even though, unfortunately, some of them are already inevitable.”

Mama N’Doda (Togo)

N’Doda is a 24-year-old activist and co-founder of a non-governmental organization called Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE). Her organization focuses on coping with climate change through the preservation of local natural resources.

“The hour is no longer to criticize, or to judge, but to act”, said N’Doda, referring to environmental degradation, particularly the severe deforestation which has taken place in Togo. Such degradation leaves local populations more prone to climate change impacts, such as heavy-rain induced landslides, or extreme temperatures. N’Doda said her father’s crop of maize is yielding significantly less than in the past.

N’Doda’s organization is involved in reforestation and environmental education activities. She said education is one of the most important tools for preserving the environment, since many people are unaware of the complex interaction between environment and society. Armed with an understanding of that relationship, however, the same people can play a vital role in protecting the environment. N’Doda and her organization use, in particular, sketches to teach members of her community. “We have the solutions, but we lack the means,” said N’Doda; “united we are stronger, and together we can do it. A better world is possible.”



Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008 | Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting 2008

Annual Meeting



Jesse Mike (Canada)

Mike is a young Inuk from Baffin Island, Nunavut. She spoke of the impact climate change is having on her community and other polar communities in the arctic region. In a tragic example of the human impact of climate change, Mike spoke of one of her friends who was killed while hunting on thinning sea ice. Arctic region ice has been thinning at unusual and unpredictable rates rendering dangerous traditional polar community modes of existence.

Another casualty from her experience concerned an elder from her home community – an expert and authority on the local environment. Also a victim of thinner ice, the elder managed to survive an accident but had to have both legs amputated due to frostbite. “Now he can no longer hunt, and he can no longer teach his sons all his skills,” said Mike, highlighting not only the environmental, but also the cultural impacts of climate change and the marginalization of traditional knowledge. “We cannot predict anymore. We



“Throughout my 18 years living there, I have witnessed my Islands getting smaller, and smaller, and smaller.”

James Bing

cannot tell how it is going to be when we go out hunting. We cannot even tell from our own homes what the weather is going to be like.”

Polar communities are also being affected by melting permafrost, which is having serious effects on infrastructure throughout the region, causing, for instance, a bridge to collapse in a village north of Mike’s Baffin Island. “There is nothing we can do. We are just a small place with a few thousand people trying to live our lives every day in our culture with our people,” said Mike. “We don’t have the capacity to act against the world’s greed of consumption anymore.”

James Bing (Marshall Islands)

Bing, 18, is active in a number of outreach and awareness programmes targeting young people and adults in the Marshall Islands and elsewhere in the Pacific. Bing said: “We have been living in the islands for thousands of years – living with our unique culture, stories, myths, and our very own unique language. Throughout my 18 years living there, I have witnessed my Islands getting smaller, and smaller, and smaller.”

The rise in sea level has caused the salination of much soil previously used for cultivation, causing agricultural productivity to decline in the islands. Bing noted: “before my grandfather and ancestors used to eat food that we ourselves planted, and now, I am eating out of American canned food.” A poor country, the Marshall Islands spends a disproportionate amount of its income on importation of basic foodstuffs.

Bing also made a plea that underscored the direct link between climate change and vulnerable communities, as understood by those most at risk: “I am begging you: think before doing your actions, because me and my people are the ones who are going to suffer the results of your actions.”





Munem Wasif
Untitled; Series: Water
Tragedy: Climate Refugee
of Bangladesh Flood; 2007;
Chilmari, Bangladesh

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

"Waters remain logged, and so the people have adapted to this aspect of climate and continue to exist in waist-deep flood waters."

“There is no broad-based movement for Climate Justice.”

Mary Robinson, President, Realizing Rights



< Mary Robinson of
Realizing Rights

<< Richard Branson of Virgin
Group (left); Ricardo Lagos,
Special Envoy of the United
Nations Secretary-General on
Climate Change

Climate Justice in a Shared Global Ecosphere

Richard Branson, Yvo de Boer, President Gayoom of the Maldives, and Ricardo Lagos led an open debate moderated by Mary Robinson on realizing climate justice.

Mary Robinson, President, Realizing Rights; UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002); President of Ireland (1990–1997)

“It is truly an honour to moderate this panel, but it’s also a challenge. After the fantastic testimony of those young people who were speaking from their hearts about their communities, about their lives, about their experience. As I listened to them I was so aware that they were looking for justice. What they were talking about, actually, was the erosion of their basic rights of all kinds, their dignity and rights as we have in the Universal Declaration, and we mark the sixtieth anniversary: rights to food and safe water – water that you can drink – health, education, which was so much emphasized, a strong gender dimension came out in what you were saying, and life itself – walking on the thin ice that wasn’t there before. The Inuit community have taken legal action against the United States in the Inter-American Court. They haven’t succeeded in full, but they have tried their best to have justice.

“I do think that we can galvanize a constituency around notions of equity and justice. That’s very different to the traditional approach to aid, where there is an aid fatigue to some extent.

“Here we have an issue that I think is different. The justice dimensions of it will appeal to grandmothers like myself, for the next generation, for my grand-children and their children.

“I do want to urge us when we are gathering in that we do try to frame our results around the notion of climate justice. Because if we want to get

political will, politicians listen to numbers of people. If we can get numbers together: the influential companies, the young people, the women's groups, the faith-based, the think tanks, the academics – if we can actually have an alliance for climate justice, for sustainable and just development, and have ideas that can ring to our world, then we'll get the political will, and then the job of those who have to go on the road to Copenhagen will be easier.”

President Gayoom of the Maldives

“The sea has been our friend over the ages. It has been the source of our nourishment. Now it's becoming our enemy. We are afraid of the sea, scared of the sea because of what it can do to us, because of what it has done to us already.

“Another experience was the Tsunami. Of course, the Tsunami may not be related to climate change as such, but it showed the vulnerability of the Maldives. The Tsunami came, within one hour we lost 62% of our GDP. And we are still working to rehabilitate, to reconstruct, to restore livelihoods lost, or damaged, or destroyed.

“Two thirds of our Islands are being eroded because of climate change, because of sea rise. We want that land back.

“A child born today in the Maldives may not see his life through in the Maldives. It is going to be a catastrophe of unimaginable proportions.

“Why hasn't the world taken action to correct climate change, to rectify the situation? We were giving attention purely to the scientific data.

“We are not thinking in terms of what it will mean for the ordinary individual. In the end individuals are being impacted by climate change. In the Maldives, people are losing their livelihoods. People are becoming poorer. People are losing their homes. This is because of global warming, because of climate change.

“I want this Forum and other fora to try and establish a link between climate change and human rights.”

“Right now we are in a very difficult fix, the small island nations, the vulnerable nations. We need more practical ideas. We need more funding for adaptation programmes.

“ The right to a
secure environment
is a basic human right.”

President Gayoom of the Maldives



“When you think of strengthening your shore defences that is a huge amount of money. Just to cite one example: Malé is the capital of the Maldives, it is about one square mile – that small. In order to protect the Island from sea level rise, we needed to build a sea-wall around Malé. We did it with Japanese assistance. It cost us \$66 million US. That was 15 years ago. Now the prices have gone up twice, three times. Now we envisage that if we want to protect only the inhabited Islands, which are 193 out of 1,190 Islands, we would require close to \$20 billion US, which is far above what we can afford. Our GDP is about \$800 million US a year. How can we get hold of \$20 billion?

“Although we agree that all human beings are equal, we cannot agree that all leaders are equal. For instance, I myself, I am the elected leader of a very small country. What international weight do I carry? I have one voice at the United Nations, out of 192 odd nations there. But real power is not in the hands of small countries. It is in the hands of polluting countries, the industrialized countries. So their responsibility is much more than our own responsibility. We are paying for the crimes that industrialized nations have committed already.



“An unbelievable, almost criminal lack of leadership.”

Yvo de Boer of the UNFCCC

“I would like just to end by saying that we have been speaking here about climate change, and saying that climate change is here right now. I would like to disagree with that. Climate change has been with us for the past 20 years. So we are 20 years late in taking any action. We need action now. We can't afford to lose even one more day. Now, I think action should be two-fold. One would be to drastically cut-down on greenhouse gas emissions by the polluting countries – a drastic cut-down. Number two is that the polluting countries, or the industrialized countries – the more wealthy countries – should be able to supply resources – adequate resources – technological, as well as financial resources, to the countries who are already affected by climate change, who want to adapt.”

Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

“You could reasonably argue that the poorest of the poor – those most directly affected by climate change – are the first to suffer the consequences of environmental degradation, and the last to reap the benefits of economic growth.

“As in the case of many mountains, because of climate change the Himalayan glaciers and lakes are disappearing. And as a result of that as early as by the middle of the century, one billion people that live on both sides of

that mountain range could be suffering from drinking water shortages. What are those one billion people going to do?

“It is predicted by the IPCC [the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], that as early as 2020, as many as 750 million Africans are going to be suffering water stress and loss of agricultural productivity. Where are those 750 million Africans going to go?

“We basically have just one and a half years up until Copenhagen, December 2009, to reach such an agreement. And I believe it is going to be, if not the, than at least one of the most complex international agreements that has ever been negotiated.

“The main problem that I see at the moment is an unbelievable, almost criminal lack of leadership. I see people gathering at international events. I see heads of state and government gathering at the event the Secretary-General of the UN organized in September of last year to express their concern over this issue.

“I see these high moments of commitment and then basically we fall back into rather conventional negotiations and haggling over issues that will not take us to the solution that we need.

“So my main call would be for accountability – to hold political leaders accountable to what they say at these international events.

“I think the markets are functioning. The approach that we have at the moment is the rich countries have targets to reduce their emissions. They have the opportunity to achieve those targets by investing in developing countries and reducing emissions there, which leads to an investment in sustainable development. And then we tax that transaction in order to pay for adaptation. And if we can, I think, amplify that architecture, we are on the right road.

“Part of the discussion needs to focus on who is the polluter, and then get that real polluter to pay. And for me that’s the consumer, not so much the producer.

“It’s the elected leaders of the world who are supposed to be taking us towards a global solution on this issue. Because unless they show us, as leaders, leadership, which is in their name, and ambition, that gets emissions going down, and therefore creates demand for the kind of technology we’re

talking about, nothing is going to happen. So it's those world leaders that need to be confronted with their leadership responsibility.

"I think equity is incredibly important. But let the search for equity not be an excuse to not act. I think what we are facing is a leadership challenge. And I think we are facing a leadership challenge from a very small group of countries."

Ricardo Lagos, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change; President, Club of Madrid; President of Chile (2001–2006)

"All of us are responsible for the state of affairs with regard to climate change. Nevertheless, some have bigger responsibilities than others.

"It is important to distinguish now, ten years after Kyoto, that the division between Annex I countries – the developed countries – and Annex II countries – the developing countries – is not enough. And I think that it's necessary and it is going to be necessary to include a category among non-Annex I countries, for rapidly emerging economies, and some middle income countries. And therefore for those countries we are not going to ask the same that we are going to ask to Annex I. But these kinds of countries also have to make some effort.

"It's also a question that those countries that are late-comers are profiting from the new technologies. The bulb lamp that we already used to have 15 years ago, 100 years ago, the energy they required was wasted – 95% of the energy was heat, and only 5% was to produce light.

"Late-comers are not necessarily condemned to repeat the kind of development as today's developed countries.

"Now a new paradigm will emerge, saying: 'At what cost?' What is the cost of having growth increasing per capita income in terms of emissions? And, therefore, we will have to move from a high carbon intensive economy to a low carbon intensive economy if we are going to be accepted in the future world of tomorrow. And tomorrow is today. There is no question that that kind of paradigm will appear.

"In the US Congress very recently some members of the upper chamber, some senators, presented an important bill, by which the State is going

to be able to have a tax on emissions. If you want to emit you have to pay that tax. It's a tremendous redistribution of wealth in the United States. Let's assume that that tax is going to be imposed. And let's assume that we are unable to have a climate change international agreement. Don't you think that those powerful countries are going to impose some tax on developing countries with regard to the exports that we are going to send?

"Up to now there is leadership in the General Assembly to make any speech, but there is no leadership in day-to-day negotiations that are taking place between now and Copenhagen.

"Better we participate in an agreement, or the rules of the game are going to be put by others and not by everybody.

"And this is the first time that mankind is facing a global problem. And this is the first time that we realize that no country, no matter how powerful it can be, is in a position to solve alone that issue.

"From the technological point of view, we know how to solve most of the issues, and therefore, it up to us now to take the decisions.

"Unless we have political will and leadership it is going to be very difficult. This is the most difficult negotiation that mankind has ever faced. And if we want it to succeed, political will, at the very end, from the major emitters, is going to be essential."

“ That is going to be essential: to have an agreement where all the nations are going to be able to participate. If that is not going to take place, we, the developing countries, are the most to suffer, because the rules are going to be put by others.”

Ricardo Lagos, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change



Richard Branson, Chairman, Virgin Group

“I personally believe that airlines should be taxed.”

“Global warming is absolutely catastrophic. And in a catastrophe of the level of World War III, nations would be rallying around and they would be dealing with the problem. It would be almost all they dealt with. Winston Churchill in the Second World War put everything aside. The important thing was to win that war. Politicians and business leaders, and the community as a whole should be taking global warming as seriously.



“Global warming is absolutely catastrophic.”

Richard Branson of Virgin Group

“But how much better it would be if governments could actually get together in Copenhagen in 18 months time and agree a much more methodical organized way to reduce people fuel emissions going forward?”

“As far as polluters paying, which Kofi [Annan] talked about – definitely they should. I think if you run a dirty business, an airline business, shipping business, Internet business, coal business, you should pay for the privilege, because you are doing damage. And maybe in actually paying for that privilege it would curtail demand somewhat.

“I think there’s a massive lack of political will. And one of the reasons that we [at Virgin] proposed setting up a war room was in case Copenhagen didn’t succeed.

“There are big companies, and Google is one maybe of the most influential in the world – like Google, and Virgin and others – that together can work together, to try to balance the politicians if they are not doing a good job. So I think the more influential companies in the world that get together to try to tackle these issues, the better.”

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

“There is a very small group of people in the world, the 11.4 million refugees – according to political persecution, or to war – that indeed have a number of meaningful rights guaranteed by international law. But migrants in general have almost no rights. Kofi Annan launched the first global debate about migration, but that debate was centred on economic aspects of migration and there was a huge reluctance, namely in the developed world, to discuss the human rights dimension of migration.

“And now we are looking at bigger and bigger threats of large numbers of people in small highlands, in Africa – because of drought – and in many other circumstances, being forced to be displaced: they are migrants against their will. And there will be millions, and millions, and millions into this world because of climate change, because of extreme poverty, because of conflict – and all these things are becoming more and more interlinked and more difficult to distinguish. And the problem is that these people have no rights according international law, and there is no will to discuss the rights of these

people. And this is a key problem in equity, because these can be the most destitute by climate change.”

Mo Ibrahim, founder, Celtel International; founder, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

“I really would like to approach the issue of justice here not through the approach of ‘please be kind to us’, because clearly that doesn’t work usually. This approach is through a market mechanism: we have established now carbon exchanges in the US, in Europe, where people are selling and buying carbon. I think it’s quite ridiculous that these exchanges are only regional when the problem is global.

“I think if that market becomes global, we’ll find a way to redress the balance, because then, rich countries, big industries, will have to go to the third world, to the affected people, and buy their carbon. And unless there is a dollar price for carbon, we as human beings who are not used to this concept of ‘where is this carbon? Where is it?’, but when there is a dollar price it focuses our mind.”

“So let’s have a sensible business approach. Let us have a price for this carbon. And let’s have a global exchange where the developed countries buy their carbon from the poor.”

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

“Climate change is hitting absolutely everywhere, and core parts of the world economy. This is not an issue of marginal and poor people. This is an issue of everybody. Arnold Schwarzenegger just declared a drought emergency in California. And that’s a pretty core part of the US economy, which is a pretty core part of the world economy. They’re stopping development throughout California now because of water stress, which will get worse because of climate change. We have massive floods in the American mid-west, extreme weather events in the Gulf of Mexico impeding development. I think

it's important not to take the view that this is about the poor. This is about everybody. Of course, the poor get hit hardest, because they have the least buffer. But if we portray this as an issue about the poor it won't get solved. This is an issue about the whole world.

“Second, I believe strongly for that reason also, we can achieve and need to achieve commitments from everybody. The idea that this is only about commitments of the rich countries is a mistake in my opinion, arithmetically. It won't work anymore. Half the emissions are from the developing countries. China is the largest emitter. We have to have an agreement in which all participate in appropriately differentiated ways, but binding commitments for the whole world. I believe since the whole world is recipient of the effect and contributor, in varying ways, that everybody can contribute.

“Third, we need technological approaches to get out of this. This will not happen through good will, or good behaviour, or turning off the lights in the evening, or walking to the corner. Those may all be wonderful things, but they will not add up in a world in which we have about 35 billion tons of carbon dioxide emitted, a world economy growing at 4-5% a year, a doubling time of roughly, now, 15 years. We need to get serious arithmetically about this, and that means a massive change of technologies. And what all the world can commit to do is to adopt sustainable technologies as they develop. This is going to be the thing that everybody, I believe, can agree to: safe power plants, long-distance automobiles and so forth.

“Fourth point I would make, quickly, is that the idea of this trading system is a very, very hard way to do this. Because it's bureaucratically a nightmare to chase after millions of enterprises, see what permits and what emissions, when one could tax a very small number of upstream energy sources. There is a profound advantage to a carbon tax rather than a trading scheme. This trading scheme is a mis-analogy to sulphur-dioxide trading, which came about because there is no upstream sulphur mine. So you had to go to the individual enterprises. But here we have the coal mines, we have the oil companies, and we have the natural gas companies. And by taxing a few places, which is the same economic effect, we could save ourselves needing to monitor literally millions of enterprises through a cumbersome and politically difficult trading system. So I think



Climate Justice panelists (from left to right) Richard Branson, Ricardo Lagos, Mary Robinson, President Gayoom, and Yvo de Boer.



Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

Annual Meeting
2008 | Global
Humanitarian
Forum Geneva

that this just got on the wrong course, bad model, wrong analogy, administratively flawed.

“Finally, we are going to find that there are some marvellous market opportunities. The poorest part of the world today is the Dryland regions: the Sahel, central Asia. It’s also the conflict zone of the world. It also happens to be the place with the greatest level of solar insolation in the world. And therefore, it is the place that’s going to produce much of the electricity of the world a half a century from now, when concentrated solar thermal power is our major energy provider – which it’s very likely to be. And so there are tremendous opportunities now in places that don’t seem to have it, to become huge energy providers, and technology providers – because you run solar together with drip irrigation, and you can get three crops per year from places where you can barely get a crop right now, because they have no power and no irrigation. And so the deserts will bloom.”

Ela Bhatt, founder, India’s Self-Employed Women’s Association

“It is not just climate that we are talking about. We have basically forgotten nature, and that nature is part of our life. Man works but nature also works. So, I think that the only way to bring nature, and man, and human’s work and livelihoods, together, is through decentralization of resources, and decentralizing power – power to decide, and decentralization of resources, including access to those resources.

“If individually, if we can decide that for our basic needs to be satisfied, namely, food, water, clothes, shelter, and primary education and health – for these five things are to be satisfied – if we decide that we will depend on local products and local services, created within one hundred miles of our area around us. So this will lead to the self-reliance of the communities, who have the resources, if not financial, but they are not dumb. It will also regulate our consumption and production.”

Caio Koch-Weser, Vice-Chairman, Deutsche Bank

“I think the critical link, and Yvo [de Boer] touched on that, and I’m glad it’s on the programme, that we have to explore, and the negotiating process has not sufficiently considered yet, is indeed on the one hand equity-justice, which is prominently adaptation – as we have learned – and on the other hand, how to mobilize beyond ODA and public flows – private sector flows, new financial products, insurance and all the rest. We have I think, and here I disagree with my friend Jeff Sachs – as an Economist I agree with you on the carbon tax notion – but I agree here more with Yvo [de Boer]. I think our experience with ETS [The European Union Emission Trading Scheme] and the political economy, is we should go with a cap-and-trade. It should be comprehensive, it should be fair, it should be predictable, longer-term. It should be much simpler, and there are many ideas on how you can make it much simpler than what Europe practices now. And this will, in turn, mobilize huge private flows on origination, renewables, and all the rest.

“But we have not made that argument, very practically yet, on the adaptation side. Now adaptation, of course, is about reducing future potential losses, on the one hand, and transferring and sharing risk in new ways – the insurance industry comes in. And my interest would be from Yvo [de Boer], also particularly from the negotiation process, how we could draw that link – adaptation, private financial flows and instruments – much more sharply.”





Robert Polidori
Bellaire Drive, New Orleans;
Series: After Katrina;
September 2005;
New Orleans, USA

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

“Will we let the vulnerable people be left to fight out as resources become more scarce or will we invest in ensuring more cooperation because there can be?”

Jan Egeland, Director,
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs



Roundtable

The Climate-Security Nexus: Conflict or Cooperation?

Moderated by

[Jan Egeland](#), Director, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs; Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on matters relating to the prevention and resolution of conflict; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (2003–2006)

Following the award of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize to former US Vice President Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has the link between climate and security been confirmed? The session produced a general consensus that there is a direct and intimate link between climate and security, and that climate change is leading to serious ramifications for security worldwide. Climate change increases the risk of conflict through scarcity of resources and corollary increased competition, migration and political instability. In many cases, however, competition can be strong grounds for cooperation.

In the Sahel, authorities testify to daily clashes between pastoralists and farmers competing over increasingly scarce resources in an atmosphere of environmental degradation and slow-onset climate change. The situation is compounded by the proliferation of trafficking and small arms. Thirty recognized armed groups operate in the area bordering the dwindling Lake Chad – home to some 30 million people.

In the context of globalization in particular, however, climate stress can be a greater incentive for collaboration and can serve as a positive focus for relations between states, since tackling climate stress and resource issues in unison can bring better results for all. Indeed, wherever there is a race for scarce resources, particularly in areas such as the Arctic, where there are

border disputes, there is source for conflict; but there is also a ground for cooperation. Fifteen years ago a whole series of water wars were predicted in the context of the Middle East's rapidly diminishing natural water resources. However, water conflict ultimately did not take place because regional resource cooperation was greatly improved.

Adaptation itself also plays a key role in avoiding conflict

Climate change adaptation itself also plays a key role in avoiding conflict, for instance through more investment in agriculture (including e.g. better irrigation, fertilizers and early warnings) that improve the efficiency of scarce resource use so that pastoralists and farmers can coexist. Other methods could include effective implementation of the Kobe declaration, which provides a recipe book for disaster reduction. In general, however, more assistance needs to be provided to those nations and regions that desire cooperation but are unable to foster it alone.



< Gareth Evans of
International Crisis Group

<< Jakob Kellenberger of
the International Committee
of the Red Cross

The current lack of leadership on global policy making mechanisms calls for immediate action from institutions to formulate good policies for better cooperation. Appropriate and adequately funded institutions and mechanisms should be capable of ensuring that leadership and policies favour collective action and cooperation.

Indeed, governments play a key role in ensuring that preventive measures are taken to address environmental issues. Control of natural resources being a key element for the distribution or control of political influence, appropriate internationally and regionally enforced incentive-disincentive mechanisms are needed to better combat any evolving or pre-existing abuse of such resources as they become more scarce.

In the context of expanding peace operations, humanitarian action requires additional assistance and can benefit from the increased cooperation and involvement of the military. During the tsunami, major earthquakes and fires, the value of the military's contribution has been clearly demonstrated. Particularly from a logistical perspective, the role of the military should also be expanded with respect to peace operations in close coordination and as a complement to the work of international and non-governmental organizations.

Potential for massive and uncontrolled migration as climate change intensifies

Scarce resources and desertification as a result of climate change also lead to forced displacement. The potential for massive and uncontrolled migration as climate change intensifies remains one of the greatest emerging threats to security today. The shift in importance from economic migration to environmental or climate migration demands a revision of the concept of migrants. Since climate change-induced migration is in fact a form of forced migration, as opposed to the primarily voluntary – though often clearly justifiable – economic migration, the distinction between migrants and refugees needs to be clarified. Climate-change driven migrants should also benefit from similar levels of protection and assistance as is foreseen by international law for conflict refugees.

Underlying vulnerabilities, notably extreme poverty and weak governance, increase propensity to conflict as an outcome of climate stress. Furthermore, these most vulnerable communities do not necessarily correspond to political boundaries – as is indeed the case for the impacts of climate change themselves. There is therefore a necessity for greater assessment and mapping of the most vulnerable communities on a zone rather than state-by-state basis, which has been traditionally the case.

Mapping, using latest techniques and tools, such as Geographic Information Systems, improves preparedness with respect to evolving emergency and security situations and should remain a clear priority. Information should however be exchanged and shared more readily and at early stages of research and assessment rather than only subsequent to “scientific verification”.

At the point when there is a recognizable growth in tensions on climate-related issues between (various) actors, and prior to conflict arising, dialogue should be proposed as an immediate measure, since its role in the resolution of conflict is proven to be significantly greater prior to armed clashes having actually taken place. Intervening prior to that stage, however, will require a general improvement of coordination and crisis management strategies for the short and longer term. In the immediate future however, regional crisis response networks able to quickly respond to potential conflicts may provide an efficient method for managing crisis escalation on a sub-regional basis, particularly where national capacity or will is lacking.

When addressing the climate-security nexus in practical terms, the session suggested the following principles be adopted by governments and organisations concerned:

1. “Do no harm” – recognizing the possibility that opportunistic leaders will attempt to use environmental problems as an excuse for greater authoritarianism.
2. “Do as much good as possible” – recognize the opportunities for using environmental concerns as cooperative solutions.
3. Work to improve early warning strategies both short and long-term.
4. Recognize the stress factors that impact and inflict the most suffering on vulnerable communities, including those with potential to trigger conflict.
5. Increase awareness and commit to tackling serious climate stress and conflict trigger points.
6. Revisit with renewed attention migration and associated social policies.

Lead participants:

Mats Berdal, Professor of Security and Development, Department of War Studies, King’s College, London

Gareth Evans, President and CEO, International Crisis Group; Foreign Minister, Australia (1988-1996)

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Rita Hauser, President, The Hauser Foundation; Chair, Board of Directors, International Peace Institute

Jakob Kellenberger, President, International Committee of the Red Cross

Alois Hirschmugl, Brigadier General, International Operations Command, Austrian Armed Forces

“Farmers, after all, have changing weather virtually every day and have to be able to react to that.”

Catherine Bertini of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Roundtable

5 Key Priorities for Food Security in a Changing Climate

Moderated by

Catherine Bertini, Senior Fellow, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Professor of Public Administration, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University; Executive Director, World Food Program (1992–2002)

In the context of a global food crisis compounded by climate change, some 800 million people are facing a chronic lack of food despite the fact that there is already enough food available globally to feed the world. The main issue is access to food for all: for those worst hit by the crisis, food is no longer grown locally in sufficient quantities or is imported but outside of the financial means of those who as a result go hungry. The session outlined 5 key priorities which in this context aim at boosting local agricultural production to resolve the access issue.

1. Improve Knowledge

Climate change means that accumulated traditional knowledge no longer provides farmers with an explanation for what is happening in terms of weather. Consequently, it is important to create an effective partnership between traditional knowledge and new developments and technologies, along with appropriate education.

There is a need to improve the dissemination of information on productivity and supply chain issues and weather, with an effective extension system enabling small-scale farmers to increase outputs. For instance, knowledge of which roads are operational and which are not is often not available to farming com-

munities, but could ultimately improve the delivery of products to local markets and those further afield. Such information could be made available through cell-phone and Internet based technology, which would have an important impact in terms of empowerment. Better research, e.g. on the disaggregated impact of climate change in different agricultural contexts, and better agricultural statistics, almost non-existent for some regions most vulnerable to climate change, could also greatly improve farmer decision-making in a number of contexts.

2. Focus on Small-Scale Farming

Small-scale farmers are not accommodated by the existing economic-trade system as are large-scale farmers. Farmers need to be able to make their own choices on issues such as the most appropriate seeds to use, which crops to grow and which markets suit their production. To this end it is important to strengthen farmers' organisations as an integral component of food production chain and in order to increase the strength of small-scale farmers in the market economy. The right inputs must be ensured for small-holder developing farmers, e.g. good quality seeds need to be provided on a sustained basis through the right supply network. Overall, support to small-



< Michel Jarraud
of the World Meteorological
Organization

<< Manuel Aranda da Silva of
the World Food Programme

HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, UN Messenger of Peace; John Holmes of the UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



scale farmers should focus on creating social protection systems and on the specific challenges faced, such as soil productivity and land degradation.

3. Increase Investment

Investment in agriculture has decreased dramatically in recent years, as development aid has diminished in comparison with emergency aid. There is also a lack of emphasis on agriculture in terms of national priorities, because agriculture is considered commercial, and not a public good, such as health. Commercial investments should be promoted, as should rural infrastructure and telecommunications connectivity, all while taking into account the potential environmental impacts and sustainability concerns related to the expansion of the agricultural industry. Governments in developing countries should also give priority to agriculture in their national development plans, since growth in the agricultural sector does significantly more for the poorest groups than growth in any other sector of the economy. In some situations

individual subsidies enabling small-scale farmers to become more effective and productive, as opposed to industry-wide subsidies, should also be considered as a useful financial mechanism.

4. Empower Communities and Women

The decrease in value of traditional knowledge can lead to the disempowerment of local farming communities. Farmers can be empowered not only through dissemination of information but through participation in decision-making. It is imperative that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed at local, national and international levels. Donors and governments can also benefit significantly from more accurate ground-level information about the challenges facing farmers on a local level.

With respect to land tenure, there is a need to revise the laws in many countries so as to enable people to own, manage and inherit land. This is particularly pertinent with respect to women, who in Africa constitute 80% of agricultural workers, and in Asia 60%.

The empowerment of women and their participation in decision-making, since they constitute such a significant proportion of the agricultural sector, needs also to be accepted as an integral part of food security.

5. Open Trade

It is essential to create a more favourable trade environment for food producers by ensuring that markets are more equitable, effective and open.

Yves Berthelot of the UN Intellectual History Project and Pascal Lamy of the World Trade Organization



Lead participants:

Jill Lester, President and CEO, The Hunger Project

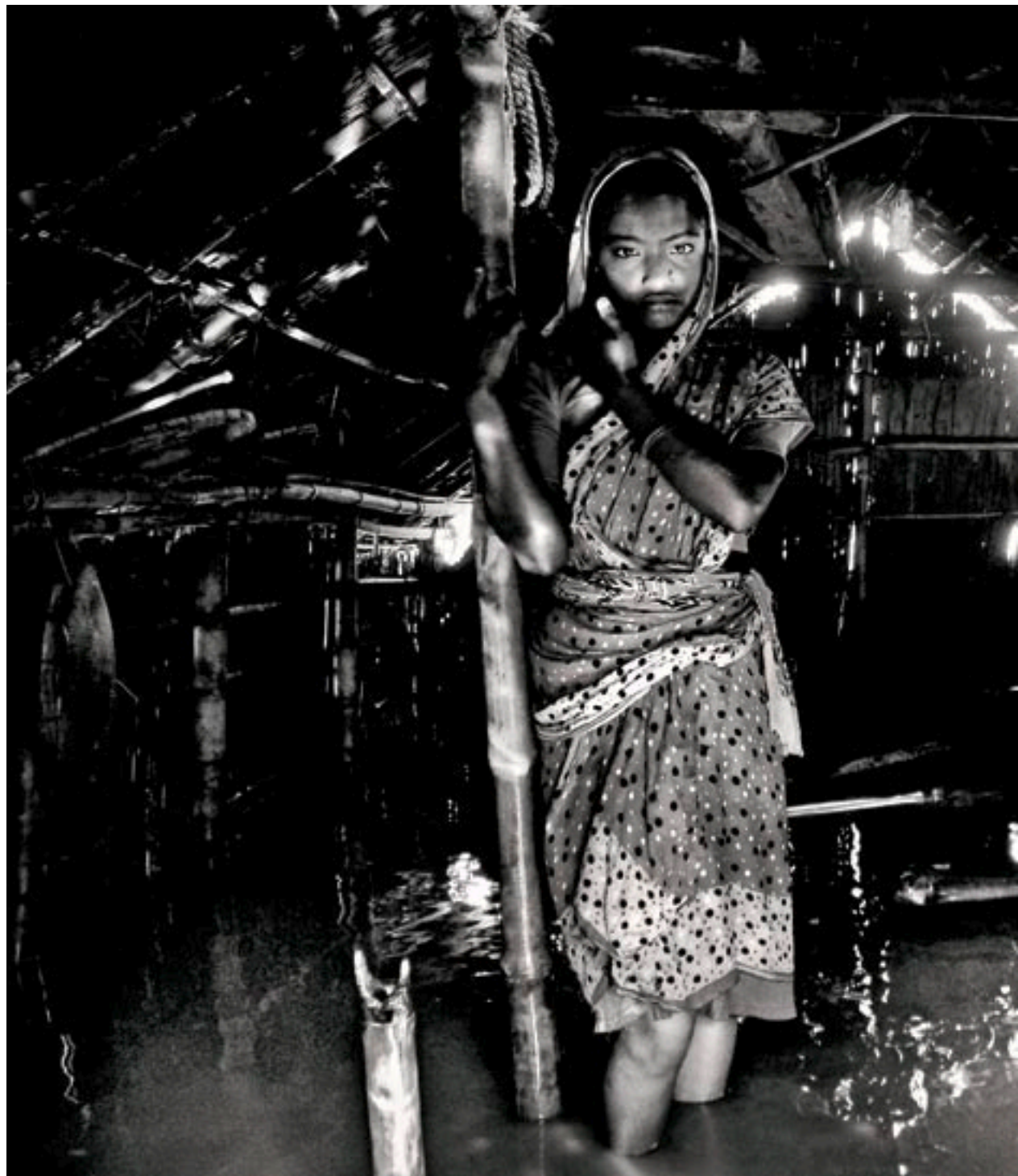
John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Coordinator, UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis

Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization

Pascal Lamy, Director-General, World Trade Organization

Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

Manuel Aranda da Silva, Senior Adviser to the Executive Director, World Food Programme; Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Mission in Sudan (2004-2007)





Munem Wasif
Series: Water Tragedy:
Climate Refugee of
Bangladesh; 2007;
Chilmari, Bangladesh

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

"Hahebanu (18), fighting for
12 days with the floodwater
in Kurigram"

“90% of the insurable losses occur in Japan, the United States and Europe. But 97% of the loss of life occurs elsewhere.”

Donald Johnston of the International Risk Governance Council



Roundtable

Are the right risks insured?

Moderated by

Donald Johnston, Chairman, International Risk Governance Council;
Secretary-General, OECD (1996-2006)

While in industrialized countries the right risks are insured, developing countries display a striking lack of insurance coverage for even clear risks. In the context of increasingly severe weather caused by global warming, developing countries are also disproportionately at risk when compared with industrialized nations. Furthermore, lack of effective insurance coverage is also a major disincentive to development, while its widespread use can be a major driver of it.

Yet while developing countries seriously lack insurance coverage, or private sector risk transfer, their risks could be insured, and in most situations insurance can become a reality. There exist a number of innovative insurance and risk transfer mechanisms to increase insurance coverage for even the poorest groups, including, most notably, through weather index insurance and catastrophe bonds.

Catastrophe bonds reduce risk taken on by local direct insurance companies in areas prone to catastrophes, such as tropical cyclones. Reinsurance companies and investors cover the additional risk, making a healthy return where no disaster takes place, and covering the direct insurer if and when it does. The bonds encourage local insurers to extend coverage, by backstopping their own solvency, and should be given priority and scaled up.

Weather index insurance is insurance that is linked to a weather data index, such as rainfall – as opposed to a possible consequence, such as crop failure. If the rainfall amount is below the earlier agreed threshold, the insurance pays immediately, without having to assess loss. Using an index seriously



Kemal Derviş of the
UN Development Programme
(UNDP)

reduces transaction costs making it available for those with an income of between 2 and 4 dollars a day. Furthermore, when farmers are able to insure their crops they also have facilitated access to finance – or “insured loans”.

Weather index insurance has been tested in a number of regions, including India, and has proven its viability. However, lack of ground weather data in many poor and affected regions, and low general institutional/regulatory capacity in developing countries, including for national meteorological services, are some of the main barriers to scaling-up access to weather index insurance for these groups.

In general however, donors and/or international financial mechanisms linked to climate change, such as via the various United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adaptation funding mechanisms, should be employed to initiate such insurance schemes, on a short-term basis, with the need for subsidisation receding with the economies-of-scale growth of the industry in the medium-term. Particularly for the poorest groups also, a public-private partnership would be necessary to ensure access to insurance coverage for instance, for farmers earning 1 dollar a day or less. And even a small government contribution can increase the availability of insurance coverage by lowering premiums. Local and donor governments also have a major incentive in increasing coverage, and shifting risk to the private

(insurance) sector since 1 dollar invested today can secure 4 dollars of post-scenario coverage.

Furthermore, insurance is a win-win game for developing economies. Also in general across a domestic economy, when there is straightforward access to insurance, access to capital is also facilitated. Insurance also positively correlates to productivity by enabling a better management of risk to favour productivity. For instance, farmers that lack access to insurance coverage are more likely to invest in low-risk, but low-yield and, ultimately, low-profit crops.

In general, the humanitarian community does already fulfil an element of an insurer, providing relief immediately after a disaster in the form of food and water aid, reconstruction, and otherwise. A part of that role could be assumed by the private sector, through a well-functioning insurance industry. And where humanitarian relief is often late, and sometimes inappropriate, locally-financed relief, locally mobilized by the insurance sector could in certain situations also prove more effective. Transferring some of the risk-protection role from humanitarian response to the private sector, however, does still suffer from “mindset barriers” – where the private sector is not yet understood as being capable of assuming a reliable and non-discriminating humanitarian role in the traditional sense.

Lead participants:

Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden; Chairperson, Commission on Climate Change and Development

Mary Chinery-Hesse, Chief Advisor to the President of Ghana

Kemal Derviş, Administrator, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Ivo Menzinger, Head of Sustainability & Emerging Risk Management, Swiss Re

Jay Ralph, CEO, Allianz Reinsurance

Simon Upton, Chair, OECD Round Table on Sustainable Development

“The global community should mount an all new effort to support the front-line warriors, to provide them with resources, technical support and capacity-building, to help deal, particularly, with the 1.2, and soon, 2 billion people who live outside the normal definitions of urban planning.”

George Scharffenberger,
Executive Director, Richard C. Blum Centre for Developing
Economies, University of California, Berkeley



Roundtable

Design and Urban Planning: New Forms of Urban Life – New Forms

Moderated by

George Scharffenberger, Executive Director, Richard C. Blum Centre for Developing Economies, University of California, Berkeley

As of 2008, over half of the world's population now live in cities. The world's urban population is soon set to double, with 70% of this growth taking place in Africa and Asia. Currently, 1.2 billion people live in slums – a number set to reach 2 billion by 2030. Neither the poor nor the city authorities can cope with this growth and its associated problems such as housing, sanitation and water. However, strategic urban design and planning built by local communities in line with their strengths, including their particular environment and local resource bases, does provide opportunity for revitalizing development in the face of climate change and other challenges.

The session conveyed six priority action points for dealing with this situation:

1. **A revised urban model:** There should be a basic set of ecologically sound principles for contemporary urban planning. Today's cities reflect a model of urbanization developed in the age of industrialization when sustainability and climate-proofing were neither necessities, nor rarely taken into account. In an eco-age, when the interaction with the environment is becoming paramount, urbanization should and can develop a new model. China recently adopted a set of ecologically conscious principles intended to guide further urban development that could be replicated in an adapted manner elsewhere. In particular, urban centres today should aim at being more self-sustaining, more interconnected

with their immediate rural environment, more reliant on the local community in terms of materials, design and ideas. Although reliance on the local community should not be understood to mean isolation in terms of knowledge and expertise from further afield, but rather innovation that capitalizes at the local level. For instance, modern techniques permit the use of waste as a resource for clean energy and other means, which can be particularly powerful tools of development where e.g. traditional energy sources are beyond the financial means of slum-dwellers. More specifically, regulation should envisage sound planning based on evidence and modelling with optimum urban configuration, and this to be needs foreseen over regular timeframes, such as at 10, 20 and 30 year intervals.

2. **Mainstreaming:** Within any such urban development strategies/principles adaptation and mitigation to climate change, as well as disaster risk reduction would need to be firmly integrated in order to safeguard and sustain future development.
3. **Immediate support to front-line mega-cities:** There is a need for urgent mobilization and a practical commitment by authorities in cities not coping with the additional climate stress, particularly the coastal mega cities of the developing world whose slum-dwellers face disproportionate disaster risks. This should involve the transfer and sharing of information, knowledge, resources and capability.
4. **Co-creation:** Communities need to be more involved in local urban design. City authorities should favour more transparent planning with adequate possibilities for community participation.
5. **Education:** To become drivers of change themselves, populations need to understand the great urgency for that change, tempered with inspiring and positive messages about alternative but feasible visions of ecological urban design.

6. **Medium-sized urban centres:** Given the inevitability of the urban drift, which is in part linked to the increasingly less labour intensive agricultural sector, urban policies should form a component part of a nationwide or regional demographic development strategy. In particular, governments should favour development of, and improve incentives for settlement in, medium and smaller-sized urban centres as alternatives to mega-cities, where rural migrants mainly settle in dangerous urban slums. Medium-sized urban centres have the ability to operate as poles of development that interact more efficiently with, and mutually reinforce the development of, their surrounding environment and community. Such centres also draw less intensively on distant resources, since in most cases they are not maintaining populations beyond the capacity of the immediate sub-region.

Lead participants:

Michelle Colley, Risk Manager, Acclimatise

John Raftery, Dean, School of the Built Environment,
Oxford Brookes University

Darren Robinson, Group Leader, Sustainable Urban Development, Ecole
Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Malcolm Smith, Director, Integrated Urbanism, Arup Consulting

Amy Smith, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering,
co-founder, International Development Initiative, and founder, Designs for
Developing Countries Project, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements
Programme (UN-HABITAT)

“To support and assist vulnerable communities,
we must support local entrepreneurs.”

Michel Camdessus of the Commission for Africa



Roundtable

What Business Opportunities for Adaptation?

Moderated by

Michel Camdessus, Member, Commission for Africa; Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (1987–2000); Governor, Bank of France (1984–1987)

There exist a multitude of business opportunities for adaptation, in particular in the fields of construction and engineering, the pharmaceutical industry, telecommunications, the insurance sector, and agriculture – above all for adapted or modified seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation infrastructure. However, up-scaling the role of the business sector in adaptation for least developed and worst affected communities faces a number of habitual challenges.

Good governance and regulatory frameworks are essential for most business operations and for attracting/providing access to investment where most needed. Nevertheless, the role of government vis-à-vis the private sector and vice-versa needs to be understood and promoted on the basis of comparative advantages. Direct government intervention in the economy or government-intensive development programmes have in the long-run proved inefficient/costly and all too often ineffective. Furthermore, over-casting the role of the government with respect to the economy often exacerbates already difficult and complex problems, such as corruption.

Government should focus in particular on the rule of law, a well-regulated economy, and the provision of basic public goods which markets are unable to supply on an equitable basis. Within such an environment, business is a more promising and potentially powerful driver of development, in particular, via small-scale entrepreneurs. This paradigm should be reflected



> Ela Bhatt of India's
Self-Employed Women's
Association

>> Frits van Dijk of Nestlé

>>> André Schneider
of the World Economic
Forum

in appropriate development and government policies, with ultimately greater proportions of development assistance being attributed to the private and informal business sector in the future.

One method of achieving such a shift in focus would be to involve a broader range of stakeholders into policy definition, ranging from local farmers, women, entrepreneurs, grass-roots civil society organizations and local financing houses. And while ultimately a more effectively regulated economy will lead to better access to resources for the informal economic sector – including small-scale farmers and businesspeople – there is great scope for accelerating business driven adaptation and development through a fast-tracking of this process.

One of the biggest hurdles is the simple fact that small-scale entrepreneurs – in many cases able to be productive even in the most difficult regulatory scenarios – lack access to capital. For this reason, greater support for local microfinance institutions and a more robust venture capital system should be given highest priority.

Greater knowledge empowerment provides another important avenue for supporting entrepreneurs. The challenge is two-fold. On the one hand talented entrepreneurs in developing countries need international property right patent regimes that protect their prospective projects to the extent that banks can offer project financing on the basis of a promising and intellectual-ly-protected product. On the other hand, international property rights should grant more flexibility with regard to technologies able to provide important contributions to sustainable development in worst affected countries.

Furthermore, the free dissemination of knowledge, including in particular technology, as well as best practices, can play an important stimulatory role for economic development. A major knowledge exchange platform, including industry and entrepreneurs should be created to this effect using the Internet and latest media. By contributing to such a platform, corporations and industries could also benefit from the promotion (or improvement) of their corporate/industry image.

Lead participants:

Ela Bhatt, founder, India's Self-Employed Women's Association

Frits van Dijk, Executive Vice President and Zone Director for Asia, Oceania, Africa and Middle East, Nestlé

Iqbal Quadir, founder and Director, Legatum Centre for Development and Entrepreneurship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

André Schneider, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, World Economic Forum

Roland Stulz, Executive Director, Novatlantis, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Domain

“There were a number of people who made comments to the effect that in any event we could not expect more ODA to be generated in the coming years – which is a comment that I firmly reject. Because we have commitments.”

Jean-Louis Schiltz, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Communications and Defence, Luxembourg



Roundtable

Innovative Financing for Adaptation: What New Ideas?

Moderated by

Jean-Louis Schiltz, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs,
Communications and Defence, Luxembourg

While the extent to which Official Development Assistance (still far short of the 0.7% of GDP target) could be expanded to cover the additional financial needs of adaptation remained unclear, in no case should the financing of adaptation be derived from transferring funds earmarked for poverty alleviation and work to attain the Millennium Development Goals.

The idea of a new global fund for adaptation itself is problematic, since such funds are most effective when applied to very specific problems like HIV/AIDS. Given the range of applications of climate change adaptation – from relocating at-risk populations to reinforcing infrastructure – it would be difficult, if not impossible, to apply a successful integrated solution.

Highly efficient carbon trading markets (with minimal administrative costs) are to be favoured over, but not mutually-exclusive of carbon tax or pricing policies. Europe, in particular, views emissions trading as a means of generating substantial funds, parts of which could be assigned to funding climate change adaptation projects, as well as the development of alternative and renewable energy sources. However, expanding current regional and sub-regional carbon markets to a global level to produce a larger reservoir of funds for climate projects was up against, among other factors, the absence of a universal emissions measurement.

To meet the immediate windfall public-private forms of investment are to be encouraged, and there a more detailed meeting should be held in the near future bringing together relevant actors from both sectors to determine the scope of such partnerships. This was particularly pertinent since the private and financial sectors continued to lack awareness on climate change adaptation as compared with mitigation, and could benefit from more detailed and targeted information on opportunities for further involvement.

The “frontloading” of funds are one of the most effective tools for providing quick and predictable funds for meeting today’s most urgent needs, including under-funded adaptation priorities. Frontloading refers to a financial mechanism where a substantial initial investment is committed from the outset, leading to a proportionally greater impact than investments distributed evenly over time. Adaptation financing could be front-loaded against future trading of emissions rights.



< Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

<< Rajat Gupta, Chair of the Board, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

> Caio Koch-Weser of Deutsche Bank

>> Ivan Pictet, Vice President of the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva



Issues that continued to plague development financing in general were also voiced as areas of concern relating to additional financing for adaptation, in particular, local ownership and ensuring funding reached the community level. Therefore, it was suggested that a new financing model be developed for wide dissemination based on a community-led, locally-operated approach to project management.

Lead participants:

Rajat Gupta, Chair of the Board, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Senior Partner Worldwide Emeritus, McKinsey & Company

Caio Koch-Weser, Vice-Chairman, Deutsche Bank

Ivan Pictet, Vice-President, Global Humanitarian Forum; Senior Managing Partner, Pictet & Cie

Bernard Petit, Deputy Director-General, European Commission Directorate-General, Development

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany





Christian Cravo
Amazonia Riomadeira;
Series: "Waters of hope";
2004; Amazon, Brazil

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

"In today's world, the scientific concept of the evolution of life on Earth provides a limited appreciation of the role of water in our lives. This view needs to be revisited in order to broaden the reality of the facts: seeing water as a source of life, instead of just an infrastructural resource required for the well-being of all societies."

“We need to ensure that business and development organizations come together.”

Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



Roundtable

Energy for the Poor: Energizing the MDGs

Moderated by

Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Nearly 25% of the world's population (1.6 billion people) have no access to modern energy services whatsoever. Energy poverty – or lack of access to conventional energy – constitutes a significant challenge with respect to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while the additional burdens of climate change impacts are further exacerbated by the underlying vulnerabilities caused by energy poverty.

The ramifications of energy poverty are particularly acute for those living in rural areas and urban slums, limiting social and economic activity to daylight hours, and affecting health and welfare at even the most basic level. Without electricity, for instance, the refrigeration of food and medication is impossible. Where energy is available, the cost is generally higher than in many developing countries and is therefore beyond the means of most, including essential, uses.

There are a number of positive signs emerging in developing countries where enterprising individuals have developed “low-tech” solutions able to serve the energy needs of local communities. For example, hand-cranked rather than battery-operated radios are being used to deliver information and distance education to remote rural communities, and a number of enterprising local firms are producing energy from bio-waste. Such initiatives can and should be supplemented with development assistance aimed at creating entrepreneurial capacity to set up small and medium-sized companies in the energy sector.

Given the environmental impact of traditional modes of energy production there is an important need to refocus on new, cleaner and renewable sources of energy supply to the poor. In the interest of poverty reduction, however, there is also an urgent need to supply energy regardless of whether the source is “clean” or not. In these cases therefore, the focus should ideally not be foremost on how energy is produced, but on simply increasing the availability of energy services as is – the onus remaining with heavily industrialized countries to offset the subsequent increased carbon footprint of the poor by reducing their own energy consumption and emissions.

Access to financing for local energy initiatives remains an ongoing issue. Small entrepreneurs are encouraged to develop viable business plans to secure financing, and should receive additional assistance for that purpose.



< Kristine Pearson of
Freeplay Foundation

<< Jan van der Eijk of
Royal Dutch Shell

The session made a number of recommendations:

1. A comprehensive study of energy needs should be carried out as no such assessment currently exists. Such an assessment would lead to a greater understanding of the current situation and allow for appropriately targeted fund-mobilizing advocacy.
2. Energy should be recognized as an integral component of development, not as a separate issue (it was not included as a central part of the MDGs).
3. Development organizations should coordinate more closely on ensuring that energy needs are met.
4. Priority should be given to promoting local entrepreneurship for developing and providing appropriate energy services and solutions in those areas where energy poverty is most acute.
5. Taxation and pricing solutions should be used to reduce energy consumption in developed countries, with the aim of allowing more scope for emissions-based energy consumption in developing countries.
6. Research and development should also be conducted on solutions specific to the needs of the poor.

Lead participants:


John Drexhage, Director of Climate Change and Energy, the International Institute for Sustainable Development

Jan van der Eijk, Group Chief Technology Officer, Royal Dutch Shell

John McCall MacBain, founder and Director, MacCall MacBain Foundation

Susan McDade, UNDP Resident Representative, Cuba; Sustainable Energy Programme Manager, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP (1996-2006)

Kristine Pearson, CEO, Freeplay Foundation



Rajendra Pachauri,
Chairman, Intergovernmental
Panel on Climate Change
(IPCC)



“There has to be a very different role for the media in this world we are in, where such dramatic change is happening to us and where we need to get action.”

Barbara Stocking of Oxfam GB



Roundtable

Climate Change and Information and Communications Media

Moderated by
Barbara Stocking, Director, Oxfam GB

Information communication technology (ICT) is a powerful tool for re-righting the awareness deficit afflicting the climate problem, particularly its human face. ICTs also offer innovative solutions to different aspects of the climate problem itself.

The general public could benefit from more information regarding opportunities and pay-offs for tackling climate change on an individual level. While for global media, their reach and influence mean that they can, and should, play a key role in raising awareness. The media should be urged and assisted so as to communicate clear, simple and accurate messages on climate change.

Greater awareness of the scale and scope of the climate problem would correlate positively with the relative importance given to the climate issue among the voting electorate. This should in turn raise the political profile of the issue and increase the likelihood of firm policies and action from governments.

ICTs, particularly mobile telephone communications, now available in even the poorest communities, can also be powerful tools for communicating life and livelihood saving messages about climate impacts. More generally, the spread of mobile communications improves social equity and promotes economic development, making a positive contribution to addressing underlying vulnerabilities of affected communities.

Increasing access to mobile communications is, however, confronted by a series of private and government hurdles. In particular, the proceeds of universal access tax, intended to enable companies to fund rural communications, often ultimately benefits governments and not cell-phone service operators and their prospective customers. Alternatively, providing funding directly to mobile service providers for increasing access has little effect if the benefits are not directly passed on to consumers. So, there is an urgent need to improve transparency and regulatory controls in order to step-up access.

With regard to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, ICT industries, whose infrastructure contributes a significantly amount in terms of emissions, can make an equally significant contribution to diminishing these. Simple measures in this respect would also benefit corporates by helping to reduce costs through lower energy consumption. Such efforts could be initiated and promoted via a new set of global standards.

The session made a number of recommendations:

1. The media should be more conscious of the role they play in promoting awareness on climate change and how people can act.
2. Policies and practices should be improved to ensure that mobile communications are made accessible to the rural poor.
3. Globalised standards for communications technology so that ICTs can contribute to emissions reductions on a sector basis.
4. Funding must also be allocated to the communications side of programmes – and not just implementation – in order to raise awareness.

Carl-Henric Svanberg of
Sony Ericsson/Ericsson



Lead participants:

Hervé de Clerck, Editor-in-Chief, AdForum.com; Initiator, ACT Responsible

Mo Ibrahim, founder, Celtel International; founder, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Carl-Henric Svanberg, Chairman of the Board, Sony Ericsson Mobile
Communications; President and CEO, Ericsson

Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary-General, International
Telecommunications Union

“ Climate determines health. Climate change will kill people, will make them sick, will make them suffer, as a result will lead to economic and social consequences.”

David Nabarro, UN Senior System Coordinator for Human and Avian Influenza



Roundtable

Climate Change and Health: What Partnerships?

Moderated by

David Nabarro, UN Senior System Coordinator for Human and Avian Influenza

The session conveyed five main messages:

1. **The relationship of climate change and health must be properly framed and communicated:** Climate determines health and changes in climate affect health and can exacerbate existing health problems, above all for the poor – unless they can adapt to those changes effectively. Where that is not the case, climate change will cause widespread illness and death. As with the broader issue of the human face of climate change, the climate-health relationship must be communicated and presented in a clear and compelling manner, so that different stakeholders and the general public understand the gravity of the problem but also the common benefits of tackling it.
2. **There is a need for continuous production of good evidence on the links between climate change and health:** The intimate link between climate and health is a product of evidence already obtained. Constant reinforcing and updating of evidence will improve communication of the problem. Much more evidence will become available and it is important that further investment aims at intelligent research with reliable analysis and modelling targeted at the most pertinent issues and on the most relevant communities. In particular, a better understanding of the existing relationship between the environment and the spatial, seasonal and geographical distribution of disease is needed. Further research is

also needed to establish the positive health effects of efforts to reduce carbon emissions, including with regard to urban planning.

3. **Promising initiatives dealing with climate-health issues already exist and should be expanded and promoted further:** Promising work within existing health systems worldwide are tackling the climate-health nexus on a daily basis. However, this work needs to be expanded to deal with the specific issues of water and sanitation, architectural/infrastructure design, and appropriate functioning of health services. Better leadership and organization, stronger peer pressure on governments, and stronger community groups will be needed to effect these changes. Existing work in these respects needs to be scaled-up, although targeted programmes should be integrated with respect to the health establishment.
4. **There is a need to empower more individuals and groups to take action on climate change and health:** In order to scale-up and achieve more, empowerment is necessary. Already underway through training and education, via the Internet, and expanded community engagement, much greater scope for empowerment exists and should be given priority. In particular, health professionals at all levels should be trained to use climate information for public health decision-making. While within government, the ministry of health needs to be given greater status in order to address the cross-cutting challenges of climate and health.
5. **Partnerships should cut across sectors and must do in order to realize increased action:** A “sea-change” of action in the health sector, a number of excellent cross-sector and public-private partnerships on various health issues have led to new results. Creating and making available affordable medicines for developing and least developed countries depends on public-private partnerships. They require the participation of both developing and developed countries in innovation and manufacture, and a sustained investment to bring the drugs to market. One example is the Meningitis Vaccine Project (MVP), which is a partnership between the World Health Organization and the non-

profit Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH). Created in 2001 with core funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, MVP is developing, testing, licensing and introducing an affordable conjugate vaccine for Africa with the aim of eliminating epidemics of the disease in sub-Saharan Africa within a decade. The vaccine is more than twenty times as effective as the ones currently on the market and collaboration with the Serum Institute of India is enabling the MVP to meet its target price of less than 50 cents per dose, which makes the vaccine affordable for many sub-Saharan African governments. Another initiative has been led by the organization Innovative Support to Emergencies Diseases and Disasters (InSTEDD), which is a laboratory for technologies designed to improve community resilience and save lives through early detection and rapid disaster response. Founded by Google.org, InSTEDD is a non profit organization that develops long term partnerships with universities, corporations, international health organizations, humanitarian NGOs and communities. Together, they work to identify or craft and then field test technologies for better data collection and analysis, more efficient communications, and more effective response.

6. **Partnerships are needed to strengthen the collaboration between the health and climate communities to cope with climate-sensitive diseases:** New institutional arrangements are needed to bring together the health and climate communities to set climate and health research agendas, to improve surveillance of climate-sensitive disease and to provide the health sector with evidence-based tools for more timely warning of climate-related health risks. These partnerships are needed at all levels: between intergovernmental organizations; within and between government agencies and civil society; and within local communities. Several nascent examples exist, including the Health and Climate Working Group developed by the Ministry of Health and the National Meteorological Agency in Ethiopia to create a climate-informed health sector and beneficiary communities that routinely request and use appropriate climate information to improve the effectiveness of health

interventions. Similar institutional arrangements could be expanded to other countries, with the aim of rapidly increasing their capacity to cope with the impact of climate on health. These collaborative partnerships must also include food and water security issues, which have a direct impact on human health and well-being.

7. **While all partnerships are not without difficulties, a challenge is to create collaborative cross-disciplinary research partnerships:** These are needed to provide better climate-informed health outcomes and health-informed climate change policies. Research needs to transform from a focus on therapeutic solutions to human disease towards a more integrated approach, explicitly linking research on the human system with research on the environmental system. Achieving this is linked to a change in funding priorities and more effective partnerships between funding organizations and donors. A few examples exist, including the National Institutes of Health National Science Foundation Ecology of Infectious Diseases Program, a joint program for multi-disciplinary research in the US, and the Medical Research Council- Natural Environment Research Council initiative in Environment and Health in the UK. On the scale of the problem, however, these are relatively small efforts.

Lead participants:

Charles Knirsch, Vice President, Global Medical Research and Development, Pfizer

Francois Marc LaForce, Director, Meningitis Vaccine Project

Klaus Leisinger, President and CEO, Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development; Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on the Global Compact (2005-2006)

Eric Rasmussen, CEO, InSTEDD, President, Health and Climate Foundation

“ If you price water wrongly
you kill people.”

Jeffrey Sachs of The Earth Institute at Columbia University



Roundtable

Dealing with Regional Water Stress

Moderated by

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

Climate change is shifting the availability of water worldwide, with severe drought, dwindling groundwater sources, decreasing glacial and snow melt and changing rain patterns rendering land uninhabitable in a number of regions. Africa is the worst hit, where river basins have shrunk by up to 40-60% since the 1970s. Minor additional rises in sea levels could also lead to the salination of further clean water sources. These changes are taking place against a backdrop of fast accelerating population increases.

While much more can be done to improve the efficiency of water use, even in the face of climate change, infrastructure related to water management is both complex and costly. Any kind of efficient water system has to price water in some way. If water is entirely free, there will be no water for the marginalized. If it is too costly, there will be no access. Semi-market or “smart-subsidy” alternatives could include setting a government-supported minimum per capita water quota for free – a lifeline tariff – over and above which further water consumption would be charged the marginal costs of supply.

Water is a basic need. Indeed, access to clean water for individual and domestic use is a clear obligation under international human rights law, and access for these purposes should be prioritized over other water uses on a basis of equality and non-discrimination. Furthermore, in a number of regions where the collection of water is the responsibility of women and girls, where these are subjected to, for instance, confinement or intimidation, the right to water is equally infringed. In reality, the right to water is yet to be realized for

hundreds of millions of people on this planet. Governments have a duty to redress this situation, ensuring access as well as protection from pollution and depletion through regulation and legislation. That said, the good governance critical to ensuring respect of human rights, such as the right to water, also necessitate substantial funding as well as the overcoming of complex social and political challenges.

Involving marginalized groups in water management will be key to effective decision-making on dealing with water stress and improving water governance. Since water use and needs are ultimately local, more support is required to boost community organization, not only to maintain water infrastructure, but also to voice concerns on the issues being faced at that level so as to enable better informed decisions and policies.

> E. Neville Isdell
of the Coca Cola Company

>> Brunson McKinley
of the International
Organization for Migration

>>> Youba Sokona
of the Sahara and Sahel
Observatory

In terms of practical solutions – many exist, including rainwater harvesting, crop substitution (to less water-intensive crops) and advanced irrigation, such as drip-irrigation networks. Net import of water-intensive goods is also considered another promising strategy. Yet, while small projects can be of great assistance in local communities, even the most basic rainwater harvest-



ing methods or plastic cisterns cost more than the poorest can afford. The challenge is not just a matter of knowledge-sharing and technology transfer – in most cases the technological solutions necessary are available – it is the lack of financial means that remains the main impediment to dealing with water stress.

Just as the right to water is enshrined as a human right, it is also the very basis of life. If water cannot be made available, people have to move. Water scarcity creates migration. Despite what can be done to improve access to water, and because of delayed action, some worst affected communities are being pushed beyond their limit. So managing and respecting displaced persons is also central to the water issue. There is a need for better safeguards for basic shelter and necessities, as well as compensation regardless of the legal status of the migrants affected.

Where these needs are not being met, and water scarcity not being dealt with, conflict over access to what is left, and migration where there is none, is already fuelling conflict, with water playing an important and adverse role in crises such as those in Darfur or the Côte d'Ivoire.

Lead participants:

E. Neville Isdell, Chairman and CEO, The Coca Cola Company

Brunson McKinley, Director General, International Organization for Migration

Philippe Roch, Secretary of State and Director, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (1992-2005)

Youba Sokona, Executive Secretary, Sahara and Sahel Observatory





Munem Wasif
Series: Water Tragedy:
Climate Refugee of
Bangladesh; 2007;
Chilmari, Bangladesh

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

"Puspa Rani Roy is distraught with grief and uncertainty, as the vicious River Padma has washed away her home, cattle and other possessions."

“The knowledge exists, but it exists in disparate places, and is not connected and is not flowing to where it is needed. What we need is basically an effective mechanism for sharing and disseminating and facilitating adaptation.”

Rinalia Abdul Rahim of the Global Knowledge Partnership



Roundtable

Practical Solutions to Empower Vulnerable People and Communities

Moderated by
Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Executive Director, Global Knowledge Partnership

There exist literally millions of different practical solutions. The main challenge is getting the knowledge of the solutions to the communities that need them, making those understandable to the communities, and actionable.

The access problem is two-fold. On one hand, there is a need to improve the flow of information about those life and livelihood saving measures that can be taken. Techniques such as storytelling are highly effective in conveying simple but important messages at the local level. While fully harnessing social networks and global movements will be critical for stepping-up the general flow of information.

On the other hand, more work must go into identifying which solutions are needed where. A stronger voice must be given to communities to speak out on how they are exactly affected so as to better match solutions with needs.

Furthermore, improving community participation in decision-making regarding adaptation needs and measures is a key component of empowering vulnerable people and their communities, and should receive priority attention. Policy discussions and negotiations could benefit from human voices so that decision-makers have a better understanding of what is at stake for people worst affected.

Since governments are more likely to take appropriate policy decisions where detailed information is available, this should be complemented by more in-depth disaggregated vulnerability research wherever possible, particularly in terms of social vulnerability – where the impact of climate change, for example, on women is under-documented.

Among those practical solutions on hand, priority should also be given to: making basic public goods more readily available, including as clean water, healthcare and education (strengthening against underlying vulnerabilities); improved early warning systems and emergency plans; eco-system protection measures; and, sensible development that avoids ongoing construction and utilization within high risk zones. In all circumstances, more transparency over funding of adaptation measures and direct community financing should be promoted.



< Judith Rodin of the
Rockefeller Foundation

<< Dean Hirsch of World
Vision International

Julia Marton-Lefèvre,
Director General, World
Conservation Union



Improving the learning capacity of affected communities through improved education also assists those communities to better understand the solutions available, ultimately making those solutions more effective and actionable faster.

Lead participants:

Madeleen Helmer, Head, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre

Dean Hirsch, President and CEO, World Vision International

Samuel Kobia, General Secretary, World Council of Churches

Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Judith Rodin, President, Rockefeller Foundation

“Adaptation starts today.
That’s the lesson.”

Bert Koenders, Minister of Development Cooperation, Netherlands



Roundtable

Coastal Cities in the Global South: Waiting for the Next Mega-Disaster?

Moderated by

Bert Koenders, Minister of Development Cooperation, Netherlands

18 of the world's 24 largest cities are coastal cities, 14 of these in developing countries. Coastal cities are vulnerable to rising sea levels, tropical cyclones and floods – all more frequent, severe and unpredictable with the advent of climate change. Due to their dense populations and weak general infrastructure, but central role in international, regional and local trade, the human and economic risks associated with coastal cities in developing countries are extreme.

For many of these cities the situation is compounded by the sustained and unplanned influx of migrants from rural areas – often itself also a result of climate change. Rural migrants most often settle in highly hazard-prone areas of coastal cities, and tend to lack the resources and information necessary to protect themselves.

In a situation where all too often no urban or land-use planning or building codes exist, and resources remain limited, different options are nevertheless available to city administrators for minimizing climate risks through short, medium and long-term adaptation strategies.

In particular, a number of actions that would help to avoid imminent mega-disaster can be taken in an immediate timeframe. For instance, the preservation of natural shorelines and existing mangrove forests, particularly in South Asia, improve local defences against storms and coastal flooding.

Designing and enforcing basic principles of urban planning, in particular, regulations that prohibit or redirect development in/from high-risk zones, such as flood plains and low-lying coastal areas, would also significantly reduce disaster risks. Likewise, the promotion of basic construction standards could help reduce the increasing vulnerability of coastal shanty-towns, in particular, to the ever-greater high winds of tropical cyclones.

Early-warning disaster preparedness education and training within local communities and of community volunteers has also clearly demonstrated its merit, minimizing loss of life in even the most severe disaster situations. Where disaster preparedness is not yet common practice, there is a need to provide city authorities better access to best practices suitable to their metropolitan area.

While such actions still require adequate (in most cases, additional) funding, in comparison to the type of large scale infrastructure that has been used to protect more wealthy coastal urban areas, each of the above strategies are in fact highly cost-effective. And while developing-country coastal cities are on average significantly more vulnerable to climate impacts than their industrialized counterparts, the imperative to act immediately in order to minimize urgent risks means favouring cost-effective adaptation strategies in the short-term, where there is a more realistic potential of mobilizing the necessary resources in good time.

The twinning of cities North-South could be strengthened and expanded on the basis of common challenges as a means of meeting the immediate resource deficit for urgent, short-term adaptation action, as well as for the sharing of vital expertise.

In the medium and longer-term, and prior to engaging in larger, more resource-intensive adaptation strategies, city planners and administrators must have access to extremely precise information concerning the risks specific to their metropolitan area. While there exists much general information regarding coastal city risk, the same is not true on a city-by-city basis, particularly for developing countries. Accurate information on city-specific risks

Adam Kimbisa,
Mayor, Dar es
Salaam, Tanzania



allow for more effective strategies to minimize those risks, and is essential for conducting accurate cost-benefit analyses so as to best prioritize available resources, which should ultimately allow for more protection for less.

For cities in those zones deemed most vulnerable to climate change, initiating such studies should be given immediate priority, since this type of research can demand 2-3 years for larger cities. A recent 3-year study for Shanghai produced extremely specific information able to adequately assist decision-making for disaster risk reduction for the entire Shanghai municipality, home to some 18 million people.

Lead participants:

Kee Nguan Goh, CEO, Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee; Brigadier General, Singapore Armed Forces (National Service)

Celine Herweijer, Principal Scientist of Future Climate, Risk Management Solutions

Adam Kimbisa, Mayor, Dar es Salaam

Markku Niskala, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



1



2



3



4



5



6

Human Faces of Climate Change: Testimonies from around the world.

In cooperation with Dev.tv and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Global Humanitarian Forum documented testimonies of people from different regions of the world affected by the impacts of climate change, and presented them at the Forum 2008. For the full video testimonies please consult the Forum's website at

www.ghf-ge.org

1
Bernard Knowles,
Farmer, Long Island,
Bahamas

2
Mbotele Mnani,
Traditional Authority Chief,
Maganga, Central Malawi

3
Joseph Zagwazatha,
Rice Cultivator,
Maganga, Central Malawi

4
Abdul Hamid,
Villager, Ulipur, Northern
Bangladesh



7



8



9



10



11



12

5
Jenna Meredith,
Mother of two children,
Hull, England

6
Eduardo Mamani Garcia,
Park Ranger, Cotapata,
La Paz, Bolivia

7
Filiberto Choque Maraza,
Ex-farmer, Road worker,
Cotapata, La Paz, Bolivia

8
Abdul Azeez,
Director of Conservation,
Banyan Tree Marine Labora-
tory, Maldives

9
Jessica Petsch,
(11years old), Schoolgirl,
Long Islands, Bahamas

10
Pedro Poma Sinani,
Subsistence Farmer,
Calahuancani, Altiplano,
West Bolivia

11
Diane Turnquest,
Disaster Manager,
Bahamas Red Cross New
Providence, Bahamas

12
Mossamat Rabeya,
Fisherwoman, Addarsho,
Kuakata, Southern
Bangladesh

“ This is the first definition of what is really a global problem that requires a global solution”

Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Union; Secretary-General, Council of the European Union; Secretary-General, NATO (1995–1999)



“ We have to cut emissions at least by half of the current level by 2050 – in a world economy that we hope will triple or quadruple during that period.”

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

Climate Change: Necessity for Global Cooperation

Moderated by

Philippe Mottaz, Director, World Radio Switzerland

Javier Solana and Jeffrey Sachs debated strategies for tackling climate change in global cooperation.

Javier Solana: “It’s such a fundamental problem that it’s probably the first global problem that only has a solution if everybody is on board. There is no solution by a group of countries, no solution by rich or poor, it’s a solution by everybody. Therefore this is the first definition of what is really a global problem that requires a global solution.

“Second, I think it’s very, very important that we have a scientific consensus about the definition of the problem. This doesn’t happen so often, it is the first time that we have a sort of a common approach and consensus about the causes, about the importance; still, we don’t have a consensus about the solutions.

“Our obligation, as politicians, I think, is to translate that consensus, which is scientific, which is social, into effective political decisions that can solve the problem.

“We need a fair solution, but a common solution. As I said, a solution in which everybody is engaged but everybody cannot or should not be engaged in the same manner in the solution.

“We think that it is important that the European Union assume the responsibility of being a catalyser of the solutions – and we would like very much to be a catalyser of the solution. What does it mean? To put on the table, objectives and ways to arrive to those objectives that can be formulated to the international community, and find the response, and if possible, the consensus, to construct around them.

“ It is important that the European Union assume the responsibility of being a catalyser of the solutions.”

Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Union

“Again, consensus exists on the definition of the problem, on the importance of the problem; still we have to continue working in order to find how to arrive there.

“I’d like to insist once again, that everybody has to be board, that differentiation should be another important issue, and I think some countries, the European Union among them, have to assume more responsibilities than others.”

Jeffrey Sachs: “The US is calling for a global approach that’s binding on all major emitters, not only the high income countries – I tend to agree with that position. I think with the next President we’re also going to be much, much farther along, so we should be looking forward to Copenhagen 2009, we’re going to have a President, no matter who’s elected, that is on the record strongly in favour of climate change mitigation. The question is actually now getting to a workable path.”

Javier Solana: “It’s very important that we get something meaningful, binding, clear from Copenhagen.”

Jeffrey Sachs: “From the point of view of the developing countries, their position is very clear, they want the chance to achieve economic development and they don’t want any agreement to stand in the way of economic development.

“From the point of view of climate, in reality we have to cut emissions at least by half of the current level by 2050 – in a world economy that we

hope will triple or quadruple during that period. So there are global physics constraints, like our physicists to my left, those are realities. There's also, absolutely, the imperative of finding a way to reduce emissions in a context which allows for economic growth, but at the same time commits all countries to low emission technologies – that's the trick.

“Where I slightly disagree with the tactics that the European Union has taken – and I think it's been a great catalyser – but just on tactics: to say that we'll catalyse by taking on commitments of the rich countries till 2020 and the rest will do voluntary actions until then, and afterwards, China and others will join with binding commitments – this will not work in my view from a negotiating point of view, I also don't think it's appropriate from an economic point of view. I believe commitments should be for everybody, but the way to get commitments for everybody is not to commit countries to asphyxiate their economies, but rather to get commitments by countries to adopt low emission technologies as they become available. It seems to me, this is the essence of the entire issue, which is a technological transformation to low emission technologies – long distance automobiles, renewable energy sources, carbon captured sequestration, green buildings – all the technologies where we have a path laid out; to get all countries to adopt those as best practice, best available technologies.

“And then finally, and I'll stop here, to add that for the poor there are financial transfers to help them to do it and technology transfers to enable them to do it. But within that context, China needs to bind, and by now it's the world's largest emitter. The United States will never agree to an agreement without China also binding, but I doubt that European companies will agree either because this is just a proposal of the commission, not a European-wide proposal – yet there's a lot of backlash in the private sector. So I think we should have universal binding, common but differentiated, strongly based on a technology pathway, that is shared.”

Javier Solana: “Let me say that I agree completely with Jeffrey. I think we have a complete understanding of the situation. Even, I would like to say, the proposals of the European Union that may sound too optimistic too – I wouldn't say naïve, because that's not the term – I think they are very good

to begin moving. There's no doubt that as we move further and closer to the date, everybody has to move on with the binding target.

"Now, what Jeffrey has said about technologies – absolutely fundamental – now we have to really be able to transfer technologies seriously. And maybe to accept rules on intellectual property a little bit more flexible than the ones we have – a very tricky point, but I think a very important point that we have to discuss.

"Third, I would like to say that for some of the solutions maybe that talking about per capita CO₂ emissions will be an interesting thing to talk about. Now it maybe that a potential deal, I don't know Jeffrey what you think about that, one binding for everybody, including developing countries, but more on the targets per capita – you look at the targets per capita – India is 2, China is 5, the European Union is 10, the United States is 20 – it's a lot. Therefore, in conversions there could be a very attractive situation for some of the developing countries."

Jeffrey Sachs: "I think the problem – stating it as political-will – is just not precise enough. The problem has to be put in its clear way. For example, the problem is not our electricity use; the problem is the carbon emissions that come from electricity use. It's really important to target specifically what the problem is.

“ The real point on this planet is that we cannot muster point one or point three of one percent of our income to help the poorest people of this world, and millions die as a result of that. And that is the sickness of our global society right now... It's a matter of getting real. It's not your lifestyle it's not my lifestyle. That's not the point right now. 10 million children will die this year of poverty and we barely lift a finger”

Jeffrey Sachs of The Earth Institute at Columbia University

And I say that, it may sound like a dumb point, but if we rail against energy use, we're railing against the wrong thing. If we start with talking about our lifestyle change and so forth, you create conflicts that are false conflicts.

"If we start with lowering emissions, you help to clarify what's really at stake here. And I think we don't do ourselves a service when the President of the Maldives yesterday, a wonderful country and facing a disaster so all my sympathy, but when he called this a crime I can't agree with that. And the reason is that I think calling it a crime is a big mistake, carbon dioxide is a side effect of a technology that has been the most transformative technology, modern energy of all of human history. It is a side effect we've come to appreciate and understand. If we call it a crime or if we go into completely what I think leads then to an antagonistic position, we will not reach a global consensus. If we stay on the pragmatic path, how do we get emissions down by half worldwide in a way which respects the absolute right, need, imperative, and political reality of poorer countries to develop then we're going to get somewhere. That's my main point.

"We've spent a tremendous amount of time on the European trading system, and debating taxes versus credits and so forth, but we've spent a tiny fraction of the time mobilizing technology, which partly comes through markets, but to a much, much greater extent also requires a partnership of government in national laboratories, and demonstration projects and basic research and development.

"If we're going to have carbon captured sequestration why don't we have one demonstration plant anywhere in the world yet? We've wasted a decade in not doing a single demonstration. What about funding for lithium batteries so we can have plug-in hybrids that get four times the mileage that we have? What about Spanish industry? Has wonderful technology for concentrated solar thermal. Let's build some of these, especially in Africa – so that we get the advantage of what will be the true transformative technology in the future. And this is a major missing piece of what we're doing. We're not mobilizing technology through technology policy. We're only talking about market fixes and tradable permits – spend much too much time on that, and much too little time on the reality of what we're going to need to get the job done, and demonstrating it, because it costs money to demonstrate it, and the private sector won't do it.

“And what Javier Solana said is absolutely right, we’re going to need to look hard at intellectual property as a core part of the strategy of this going forward – how to transfer intellectual property as part of this. That may be China’s number one demand actually, of everything: ‘ok we agree, but we’re not going to pay royalties for your technologies, you’re going to transfer then we agree!’

“And we have massive problems that we’ve been talking about for two days, and I spend all my time trying to raise funds for poor people – I can tell you how hard this is. That’s what I do for a living, that’s the problem on the planet because if we’re going to get real and unsentimental – we should face up to the children dying today. And when you go out to make an emergency appeal for food-aid, it’s like you’re staring into the face, you can’t get money for this food crisis, you can’t money for the water crisis, you can’t get money for the Millennium Development Goals – that’s far more important than debating lifestyles right now, frankly. Just as a serious matter, in terms of quantification, real effect, real potential, real help for people – that’s what we ought to be debating.”

Javier Solana: “I would like to say that, on awareness, you [Philippe Mottaz, moderator] asked about awareness, I think the level of awareness and the speed at which awareness has grown up is fantastic. I remember still, not many years ago, less than five, talking in Asia with the Asian countries – including China, India – the level of the discussion was really years away from what we are having today. With the same people you go today to Singapore, you go to China, you go to India and you get engaged in a debate which is serious and is pragmatic in a way. Therefore awareness is something that comes also from the very important scientific community. To have a consensus on the scientific community has been very, very good.

“Second, on technology, I agree with what Jeffrey has said. We are talking about a fantastic market failure. If we think we’re going to solve it through markets it will be a tremendous contradiction. Again, a fantastic market failure, which is what we have now. It has to be resolved with cooperation of the public sector, no doubt about that.

“The technology is ready, the technology has been developed pretty fast, the problem is very, very expensive and we have to look for the re-

“ We are talking about a fantastic market failure. ”

Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Union

sources – and only the markets will not find the resources. Therefore this is something that has to be said, it will never be solved.”

Jeffrey Sachs: “Again, it’s a matter of the numbers. If you look seriously at mitigation and all of the technology prospects, it is not too expensive. It looks to be that serious global mitigation – serious, that means getting emissions down by half, while a world economy triples or quadruples – should be feasible within an envelope 1% of global income per year. This is a phenomenal fact to understand. It means we can have global development and global growth and a safe climate. We don’t have to choose. That’s the false choice.

“But to get there – remember what 1% of world income today is: 700 billion dollars a year. It’s not a small amount of change. If we were to properly be investing that, and continued to invest that, we would be able to create a sustainable energy system in the world. So those such as Bjørn Lomborg or others who say let’s focus on adaptation (and pay little attention to it by the way) as opposed to mitigation because it is too expensive are just dead wrong on the numbers.

“The numbers are that we’re facing a global calamity on a business-as-usual trajectory, the costs of getting off that calamity are small, but not self organizing. Markets will not do this alone, and as Javier Solana just said, markets, even with carbon trading, or taxes, as I prefer, will never make the technology changes alone. For major social technologies, you need large-scale public involvement for regulation, public acceptance, demonstration, basic research, monitoring, right of ways. Social transformation doesn’t come packaged by markets – markets are a part of it, the public goods are a part of it. Technology transfer is inherently a public goods matter.





“ We will spend more on the Pentagon this year than the entire world, in all history, has given in aid to Africa. Consider that.”

Jeffrey Sachs of The Earth Institute at Columbia University

“You know how much the United States spent on sustainable energy last year? Three billion dollars – that’s 36 hours of pentagon spending to give you some perspective. That’s nothing! We spent 700 billion on the pentagon, but we spent 3 billion on sustainable energy technologies. That’s why a decade has gone by and we haven’t built one carbon capture demonstration plant.

“Unfortunately, Europe’s not doing really any better on this public spending on research and development. Budgets are tight. But when budgets are tight, public goods do not get financed, and when public goods do not get financed, we on this planet do not solve problems - that’s the beginning and end of it as far as I’m concerned. It’s not a huge amount of money but we better spend 1% of our income on this or we are going to face calamities.”

Javier Solana: “Comment: I do generally tend to agree. I think that having said what I’ve said before about the failure of markets, which is true for what climate change really is, in a way, if you want to look at it from that side, I think that we have to think about price. I don’t think that we can continue to go around without putting a price to pollution, to contamination, to emissions. That would be the beginning of thinking about potential trades, potential changes in responsibilities, etcetera, and potential transfer of technology in a much stronger manner. I think that’s another thing we have to think about, and discussing about how to do it, but I think that has to be done. For instance, if a ton of carbon pollution costs, let’s say, two dollars or two Euros, or whatever, you have to place a capture mechanism multiplied by five. If there is no price, there is no possibility to compute that. Therefore, something on pricing has to be done.

“I think that the approach of pragmatism, the approach of differentiation, the approach of ‘look at the figures’, the approach of ‘look at the real

nitty-gritty of the issue', is very important. But at the same time, in order to raise awareness, you have to talk about the big issues. Otherwise you will never mobilize public opinion. I think we have a very beautiful concept that we may begin to use. And some of them may be very dear to Kofi Annan. I like to say that we have to begin talking about responsible solidarity. Solidarity is no longer something that belongs only to the states. It is responsible solidarity that incorporates the global problems.

"We have to keep on mobilizing opinion with concepts that are understandable, which are sensible. And at the end they have to be applicable eventually with some modifications to a charter probably. Now, this is going too far, but let me tell you that our worries are something that we have to keep on putting on the table: raising awareness. But I think, honestly, that it is possible. We have the responsibility to make it real. But be sure that people, many people here, will commit themselves to make it real, and that's what we are trying to do."

Jeffrey Sachs: "We need for research and development probably 30-50 billion a year, rather than the 10 billion that we're spending now, worldwide. That's for demonstration projects. That's for massive scaling-up for transport, buildings, power, and so on. So that's a public component of research and development. Then there's a public component of meeting the needs of the poor. That's the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]; it's the adaptation fund and so forth. That's a budget that's been promised forever and not delivered – promised again last week. So that's a very important component, as well, different from this other number. On the energy side, most of the extra cost will be for consumers to pay an extra component for electricity,

"We have to begin talking about responsible solidarity. Solidarity is no longer something that belongs only to the states."

Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Union

another one or two cents a kilowatt/hour so that the power when they turn on the switch is clean power rather than dirty power. That's where the costs come in mainly. Or it may be the extra costs up front for the batteries in a plug-in hybrid that gets 100 mpg rather than 50 mpg. Where the budget costs come in is research and development, demonstration, diffusion and protection for the poor, the adaptation fund and honouring the commitment to the MDGs.

"I'd like to add something on the security linkage, because I think it is profound. The most unstable parts of the world are the poorest and in the line of climate change. They are the Drylands; the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. This is an arc of massive instability. And it's an arc of demographic stress, falling rainfall, tremendous water stress, lack of livelihoods, and it is absolutely, hugely impacted by climate change already, with a lot more to come. We are going to need to understand this, that to address security issues it will not be good enough to have an African Command of the US military. This is meaningless – chasing around people that are hungry and destitute, and without livelihoods. You can keep shooting but you're never going to solve a problem with a hungry population. So we need to have a development strategy as the core of the security strategy. Today there will be a national intelligence estimate released, which says that climate change is a US national security interest because of the vulnerability, not only of the US itself, but of fragile places in the world. This is extremely important, but please understand we will spend more on the Pentagon this year than the entire world, in all history, has given in aid to Africa. Consider that. That's where we've gotten this disastrously wrong. World aid in the history of Africa sums to about 600 billion dollars. We'll spend 700 billion on the Pentagon this year, so until we address these things, not only with the human face, but also with the security face, thank you, we'll never get this right.

"We need to understand Darfur as an ecological challenge, with a development strategy, not only peacekeepers. We'll put in 3 billion dollars in peacekeepers a year, but aid? Zero. This is a big mistake. There's no water there, not even for the peacekeepers, much less for the seven million people in Darfur. We need a water approach for Darfur. And I think one main point on



Jeffrey Sachs of The Earth Institute at Columbia University (left); Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, European Union

technology: if we get solar power large scale into Africa, this is fantastic for development, for climate change adaptation, for climate change mitigation, and for security. So let's build some solar concentrated solar thermal plants in Africa that can provide the electricity and a clean mechanism for development, and we'll get a lot of security gain out of that too, because you need the solar power to pump the water for the irrigated fields to provide the food so that people don't go hungry and also fall into massive violence. It all adds up together. This is one integrated issue which is so great that the Javier Solana has both portfolios – because they are integrated portfolios.”

Javier Solana: “On solar energy, I think that what you have said is feasible, and I think that the level of development and technological achievements are very good in the last period of time. Even the price, the price of a watt or megawatt or whatever you want to call it is really going down for solar energy, making it very, very important what can be done there. This is another very good piece of news about the last period of time, months.”





Benoît Aquin
Untitled 05; Series: The
Chinese "Dust Bowl";
April 2006; Wuwei Oasis,
Gansu, China

Prix Pictet – Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com

"One of the greatest environmental disasters of our time: the Chinese Dust Bowl, is probably the largest conversion of productive land into sand anywhere in the world. Three hundred million people are affected by dust storms in China... Hundreds of thousands of people have already been relocated and cities with ecological refugees have been created."

Results of the Interactive Road Map

Interactive session directed by
Markus Mettler, Chairman, co-founder & IdeaDirector, BrainStore

Participants of the 2008 Forum were engaged in a final session focusing on some of the key areas for action that emerged from the 2 days of discussion and debate. The session was directed by BrainStore, which since 1989 develops ideas using an industrial process. BrainStore's motto "It's possible", underscores the aims of a session which sought to lay the groundwork for the Forum's efforts to turn ideas into action. 17 different action areas were proposed to participants for reconsideration, including for ranking from 1 to 10. The overall set of propositions received an unusually high average score, with more than half at over 80%, suggesting something of the importance of all the different avenues for action proposed. Participants were also requested to propose key people and communities for involvement in the realization of each.

1. **Technological Solutions for Marginal Communities – 8.8**
Promote new business opportunities based on simple or latest technologies within worst affected/most vulnerable communities, e.g. solar voltaic panels providing energy, rainwater harvesting, or drip irrigation.
2. **A Dynamic Global Knowledge Exchange – 8.7**
Exchange knowledge on prevention, early warning, disaster preparedness, and climate-sensitive sustainable development, e.g. by twinning cities from comparably affected regions North-South.
3. **Get the facts and communicate them – 8.5**
Thorough research to obtain the facts of the impact of climate change on different social groups, and harnessing the full power of the information media industry to communicate these.



< Participants of the interactive session

<< Markus Mettler of BrainStore

4. **Promoting Accountability towards Copenhagen – 8.5**
Hold politicians accountable on the road to Copenhagen 2009, e.g. via a Satellite TV campaign with a weekly ten-minute programme juxtaposing political promises against real-time negotiating positions.
5. **Regional Networks – 8.4**
Build regional networks able to respond to man-made disasters and conflict escalation where national authorities lack the resources or will to intervene.
6. **Suitably Developed High Tech – 8.3**
Product and technology development that takes into account the special requirements of the poor; additional benefit: encourage entrepreneurship.
7. **Alliance for Climate Justice in Copenhagen – 8.2**
Globally unite varied voices of leading people for reaching an equitable global climate agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark by December 2009.

8. **National Eco Planning – 8.1**

Basic national urban planning strategies that incorporate a set of principles for sustainable design to: (a) minimize environmental impact and vulnerabilities; and (b) maximize efficiency of resource use.

9. **Trigger Greater Investment in Agriculture – 8.1**

Investment that supports particularly small-scale farmers – agricultural growth does significantly more for the poorest groups than growth in any other sector of the economy.

10. **Multi-stakeholder Cooperation – 7.9**

Develop regional platforms facilitating and encouraging cooperation between otherwise competing groups on key natural resources.

11. **Kick-start Weather Indexed Insurances – 7.7**

Accelerate the spread of low-cost insurance programmes for farmers in developing countries based on weather data indexes.

12. **Public-private Financing for Adaptation – 7.5**

Mixed public and private sector funding, including soft financing, where government assistance (e.g. seed finance) is combined with loans from the private sector.



The BrainStore
idea-generating process
in action

13. **Add a Price-tag to Water – 7.3**

Limit water usage per capita and price it appropriately (a basic contingent is assured for everybody, additional consumption costs extra), promotes more efficient management of water resources.

14. **Higher Ratio of ODA as Microfinance – 7.3**

Expansion of microfinance schemes, empowering local entrepreneurs rather than governments, and supporting entrepreneurship as a driver of change.

15. **Practical Action Manual – 7.3**

Clear instructions for simple measures on how every individual can act now – making practical solutions available to all, e.g. planting of mangrove or other trees, or painting roofs white instead of black for the cooling effect.

16. **Catastrophe Bonds – 6.5**

Cover local insurer's risk in disaster prone areas, increasing coverage in the affected community, and shifting the onus of disaster-recovery from traditional assistance to the private sector.

17. **Promotion of Medium Urban Centres – 6.3**

Promote the development of medium-sized regional urban centres as an alternative to, and to reduce pressure on (the slums of), major developing-country metropolises.

More information on the Forum's future work is given in the final chapter of this volume, "The Way Forward" by CEO Walter Fust, and a number of the solutions that were proposed for consideration by participants of the Forum 2008 have been integrated into the 2008-2010 work plan of the Forum and road map for follow-up to the meeting.





Chris Jordan
Remains of a home with
canal and levy in back-
ground, Chalmette neigh-
bourhood; Series: In Katrina's
Wake: Portraits of Loss
from an Unnatural Disaster;
Louisiana, USA

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com



The Way Forward

Walter Fust, CEO/Director General of the Global Humanitarian Forum

Globalization changed the face of this planet with breathtaking speed. The reality we face today demands a new approach to humanitarian and development challenges. It also offers much more for tackling them.

In 15 years at the head of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency I witnessed the evolving struggle of development and humanitarian work with the complexity of today's new challenges.

Humanitarian action has its roots in war and conflict relief, while development was largely a response to decades of asymmetric colonial economic exploitation. Today, we have moved into a phase where natural and environmental disasters are causing more damage than war. We are also in a changing economic environment: the Asian economies, once the poorest in the world, are now among the most powerful. And while much of Sub-Saharan Africa and a number of other sub-regions are still being left behind, the landscape of the global political economy is fundamentally changed.

Humanitarian assistance and development cooperation must not just adapt to this new reality, they should also capitalize on it. The recent surge in global economic growth is closely intertwined with the unprecedented technological development of recent years. And so, for instance, at the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency I invested significant work towards bringing information and communication technology solutions to the notice of the humanitarian-development world.

When our President, Kofi Annan, approached me to head up the Forum's Secretariat late last year, I was fascinated by the prospect of a new Forum independent of the generations of institutions that coexist within the humanitar-

ian and development world. A Forum capable of enabling humanitarian and development work to make the most of the twenty-first century, rather than just “cope” with the changes that have already taken place, and those that lie ahead.

This truly global task would require great leadership, and who better to lead that endeavour than Kofi Annan? It would also require a new type of reflection and collaborative action adapted to the world of today, and poised, ready for the world of tomorrow.

Such a tremendous amount of work is left to be done

So we unite leading people from all different fields worldwide, not only to share experiences and to look at humanitarian challenges from a fresh perspective, but for realizing solutions jointly, effectively – and fast.

We are still up against mammoth challenges in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. More than one billion people in this world live in extreme poverty – on less than one dollar a day. This basically means they never even see money. The number of people that survive on less than three meals a day is similar, as is the number without access to energy. In some areas these figures are growing. And, of course, the vulnerability of such populations is difficult to overstate, and is rarely understated.

In this situation, such a tremendous amount of work is left to be done. So when we think solutions we are more concerned with the method of implementation – which partnerships, what policies, which alliances – since as Kofi Annan writes, a great number – one participant suggested, a countless amount – of practical solutions, tools and mechanisms are available for tackling the humanitarian problems we face. But also because the potential and the solutions that do exist – not necessarily within the immediate grasp of the main humanitarian and development actors – need to be set free.

Our 2008 Forum centred on the massive impact of climate change on the world’s poorest and most vulnerable and on boosting support to these

groups. In fact, for much of the population of this planet, the adverse effects of climate change already do or soon will encompass all aspects of life. And yet in order to pave the way for available solutions, we have to first come to terms with the extent to which climate change actually redefines development and poverty reduction.

Since the Brundtland Commission, we understand the need for development to be sustainable socially, economically and environmentally into the future. But now we are at a stage where our impact on the environment is being conveyed back to us in highly dangerous and damaging ways. And so there is a great need for international, regional, national and local policies to take climate change into account. Development needs to be climate-sensitive if it is to last in this new hostile climate.

Alongside this recognition, many of those promising solutions that do exist are of immediate relevance for the areas where the impact of climate change is acute, such as the agricultural sector or coastal urban slums.

Development needs to be climate-sensitive

The plight of others is less straightforward. The Drylands of North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, is at once the driest, poorest and most conflict-prone zone of our entire planet. Climate change is aggravating the plight of this region, particularly through higher temperatures and increasingly severe water stress. Small Island States, and heavily populated low-lying coastal areas, such as the Sundarbans, are in many ways at the mercy of the world, since, in the face of relentlessly rising seas, adaptation means either mass relocation or mass protective infrastructure – both of which bring monumental economic, as well as social and other costs.

That said, we may still be able to save the majority of the Sundarbans, Small Island States and similarly exposed zones if a significant proportion of emissions are cut worldwide between now and 2020, as well as into the future. But even if that is the case, vast tracts of the populous Saharan bor-

derlands and the Sahel, would in particular by that time have passed a critical point-of-no-return: mass migration, potentially mass epidemics and social tensions if not armed conflict, massive loss of land, livelihood, homes, and ultimately life would be the near apocalyptic sentence to be handed down.

As Minister Burt Koenders of the Netherlands said: “adaptation starts today”. It must start today. And if one message met with consensus at the Forum 2008 it would be the sense of urgency with which the global society in all its facets – private, governmental, civil and otherwise – needs to come together and act on this question.

Solutions do exist for even the poorest regions

And again, solutions do exist for even the poorest regions of the Drylands belt, even what we can call “business solutions” – in this case particularly solar energy or drip irrigated and adapted agriculture. But solutions are painstakingly slow to arrive or even non-existent in many areas in part because of inadequate institutional frameworks, but mostly because of a lack of up-front financial means. And this itself is partly due to the limited short-term gains offered by even the most compelling business-model solutions – and not least the associated comparatively-high risks.

Indeed, one of the Forum’s key initiatives focuses on mobilizing large-scale adaptation across fragile parts of the Drylands Belt region. Launched in Dubai last November in association with The Earth Institute at Columbia University and our Foundation Board member, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, it will conduct and compile in-depth disaggregated research on the humanitarian impact of climate change on the Drylands-belt region. The work will both identify the most effective solutions and demonstrate the urgent need for their implementation, with the ultimate aim of accelerating that process.

Across the different debates and discussion at the Forum 2008, a number of other important areas of work continually resurfaced, in particular the need for community empowerment and inclusion in decision-making,

greater investment in agriculture, stronger extension systems, knowledge exchange, more research for accurate policy definition, and a favouring public-private partnerships, among others.

One area of work that the Forum will be pursuing as a follow-up to the Forum 2008 is to initiate a global study on the energy needs of the poor. There exists no detailed assessment of the specific needs of the 1.6 billion people on this planet that lack access to any modern forms of energy or energy services as enjoyed by the well-off. If we are to achieve Millennium Development Goals we need to energize the world's poorest communities, and the types of energy used will also play a key role with respect to mitigating climate change, and not least for improving the resilience of those most vulnerable to climate impacts. The study is intended to support more targeted energy solutions and the advocacy work necessary to mobilize the will and the resources to support their implementation.

And so we also see that of all the issues that did resurface again and again, the issue of financing ultimately overrides them all. All solutions do indeed cost money, and while some may also make money as said, these most often also require seed capital in order to get off the ground. Who will pay the US\$40-80 billion estimated as the yearly cost of adaptation for the worst affected?

The issue of financing ultimately overrides them all

To answer that question we are forced to confront another major issue: the impact of climate change is both difficult to isolate – because all too often climate change is very closely linked to other issues: social, political, economic, demographic, health and so on, as indeed testify the many topics covered at the Forum; it is also difficult to attribute from a cause and effect or “blame” point-of-view.

Health issues, like malaria, for instance, are not caused by climate change, they are aggravated by it – in this case since higher temperatures favour mosquito breeding, which spread the disease – and while approximate



Global
Humanitarian
Forum

Annual Meeting & Conference
2009

Global
Humanitarian
Forum

Global
Humanitarian
Forum

Kofi A. Annan

Walter Fust, CEO/Director-General of the Global Humanitarian Forum (left) and Kofi Annan, President of the Global Humanitarian Forum at the press conference.

estimations based on different probabilities can be made, it is very difficult, if close to impossible, to clearly define where existing problems end and where the influence of climate change begins.

Meanwhile, everybody is basically contributing to the climate problem, in enormously varying degrees, but all the same, to a certain extent, we are all responsible. Furthermore, we cannot say that this particular contribution of emissions is causing that particular damage here or there. Because indeed greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere accumulate over many years and it is their total concentration that is changing the climate system globally, with the corollary ramifications then having their effect more locally.

As it stands, those changes are being felt very, very locally. It is the individuals and their communities and businesses that are suffering, and only really as a consequence then, whole industries, economies, and regions, as is the case with much of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Yet while it is clear that people cause the problem, and that people suffer from the problem, we must not forget that the same people can also solve the problem. And indeed people representing their nations will gather in Copenhagen, Denmark, next December to agree on a global climate agreement that can be a major contributing solution, particularly with regard to the financing of adaptation in worst affected communities. This is a landmark opportunity that needs to be taken full advantage of. It is also a negotiation that will have dire consequences for the future of this planet if it fails to meet even rudimentary expectations.

Unfortunately, as the 2008 Forum underlined – in particular Yvo de Boer – there is a considerable deficit of leadership and political will, particularly on behalf of major emitting countries, to make the agreement that the scientists, the economists, and the humanitarians among others insist we need. That would be an agreement with appropriately differentiated but drastic and binding short, medium and long-term emissions targets. Equally importantly,

it must be able to provide adaptation financing adequate enough to meet the needs of those most vulnerable to the adverse effects of that change, which is of course understood to be no small sum.

Why, then, when we are presented with such an opportunity, when we are engaging ourselves, on a fast-track, into one of the most important negotiations ever for the future of this planet, can there be such a lack of leadership? As Mary Robinson said “politicians listen to numbers”, and unfortunately, the numbers – the numbers of voting constituents and political pressure groups in the major emitting countries – are not valuing the making of a strong and equitable Copenhagen agreement to the extent necessary.

The as yet unfamiliar human face of climate change

Last year the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to former US Vice President Al Gore and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is led by one of our Foundation Board members, Rajendra Pachauri. The prize rewarded primarily efforts for raising awareness on man-made climate change. And indeed there is a much greater awareness of climate change than in the past. However, climate change continues to be understood by the general public, by the business world and others as a serious but distant concern, an environmental concern, or an issue solely related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Forum 2008 firmly revealed the as yet unfamiliar human face of climate change. It clearly demonstrated that climate change is happening now, or even, as President Gayoom of the Maldives said, it's been happening for 20 years already. Whichever date you chose, climate change is no longer the distant or anonymous problem it once was: today it is impacting on people, on their communities, on health, on society, fuelling conflict and so on. The general lack of awareness of this aspect of the problem – of the human face of climate change – then comes somewhat despite the Norwegian Nobel Prize Committee's association of climate change with peace.

Furthermore, we must not forget that public consensus on the science of climate change is a relatively recent phenomenon, and the Nobel Prize did really mark something of a milestone in this respect. People begin to draw the linkages between climate change and its already visible adverse effects. And while impacts are being felt to a greater extent among the poor and vulnerable, who are most exposed, changes are also taking place in rich countries that force people there to confront the reality of the human impact of climate change. As Jeffrey Sachs noted, severe drought in the American South West, in California, and ever more violent tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico are killing people and seriously impeding development.

This is clearly a worldwide concern

Without the full picture of climate change – one where the human face also prominently figures – the urgency felt at our Forum 2008 cannot be expected to coexist among the general public, nor their leaders. That said, the lines that will really trigger general global awareness on climate change and on the importance of the negotiations concluding in Copenhagen are ready to be drawn. This is clearly a worldwide concern, not just an issue of the world's poorest – who continue as those most vulnerable to climate change today – because even today, developed nations and their citizens are by no means safe from the adverse effects of our changing climate.

“ We hope with each successive step together, we can build a global community able to make the best of what the twenty-first century has to offer, in order to deal with the worst of what it can bring.”

So climate change forces us not only to see the question of justice in the sense that those who contributed least to a problem suffer the brunt of its consequences – as glaring an injustice as that is – but also in the sense that individual human beings, wherever they may be, are having their basic rights violated when often unpredictable and near unstoppable climate change strikes home. Because while any given individual may be held responsible for their contribution to climate change – and these vary greatly – no single individual has agency enough to solve the problem.

Ricardo Lagos and Javier Solana called climate change humanity's first global problem. Of course, we have faced challenges through the world wars and the Cold War, and these have manifested across the globe. But on a global level they divided peoples and nations. Climate change impacts indiscriminately on people the world over. So climate change is also ground for uniting people across national and economic divides worldwide.

While no single individual, maybe even no single country, as Lagos suggested, is capable of tackling the climate problem, all together anything is possible. So while climate change is perhaps the first global problem, it is also perhaps the first truly unifying global solution waiting to be concretised.

And it is exactly for this purpose that at the closure of the Forum 2008 Kofi Annan announced the formation of a Global Alliance for Climate Justice. His vision is to awaken our global solidarity around the climate problem. The first great task of this Alliance will be to successfully campaign for a strong and equitable global climate agreement in Copenhagen next year. It hopes to amass enough “numbers” – numbers of people, voters, institutions and pressure groups – for valuing and to push for a firm response to the climate problem. The campaign will aim at high visibility and massive public support, and will constitute one of the central pillars of the Forum's work in follow-up to the 2008 Forum. If the campaign receives enough support, politicians will have to answer to those numbers, greatly increasing the likelihood of decisive action.

All together anything is possible

Another major initiative that was launched at the closure of the meeting was a public-private partnership to make weather data available for all. The initiative aims to mass deploy remote automated weather monitoring stations across the entire African continent (as a first phase). It will also aim at bridging the information gap on weather forecasting and warnings to poorest and worst affected groups, in particular using cell-phone technology. The lack of accurate weather data and forecasting services is currently a major protection and planning deficit and an impediment to development progress for many communities worst affected by climate change, above all small-scale farmers. Making weather data, as enjoyed by developed countries, available to all, including the poorest groups, will be a major step forward in terms of capacity-building for adaptation to climate change.

The Forum 2008 was really the starting point for our work at the Global Humanitarian Forum, and a stepping stone for the greater global community in the road towards overcoming the humanitarian impacts of climate change. And the human face of climate change continues as a principle focus for our 2008-10 work plan. We intend to already be in a position to present first results of the work we will be supporting by the time we re-gather for the 2009 Forum. And we hope with each successive step together, we can build a global community able to make the best of what the twenty-first century has to offer, in order to deal with the worst of what it can bring.



Forum President Kofi Annan at the closure of the two-day event.





Carl De Keyzer
Moments before the Flood,
2007; Belgium

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008
www.prixpictet.com



About the Forum

Established in 2007, the Global Humanitarian Forum is an independent, impartial and non-profit foundation under Swiss law. It aims to build a stronger global community for overcoming today and tomorrow's humanitarian challenges. The Forum channels the voices and efforts of the broader humanitarian community into constructive debate, advocacy, and the development and mobilization of collaborative solutions. The Forum's centrepiece event, the Annual Forum, is held each summer in the world's humanitarian capital – Geneva – also home to the Forum's Secretariat.

The Foundation Board

President

Kofi Annan 2001 Nobel Peace Laureate;
UN Secretary-General, 1997–2006

Vice President

Ivan Pictet Senior Managing Partner, Pictet & Cie

Catherine Bertini Senior Fellow, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation;
Professor of Public Administration, Maxwell School of
Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University; Executive Director,
World Food Program, 1992–2002

Michel Camdessus Member, Commission for Africa;
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, 1987–2000;
Governor, Bank of France, 1984–1987

Mary Chinery-Hesse Chief Advisor to the President of Ghana)

Jan Egeland Director, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs; Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on matters relating to the prevention and resolution of conflict; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, 2003–2006

Blaise Godet Permanent Representative of the Swiss Confederation to the UN Office at Geneva

Jacques Forster Vice-President, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; Vice-President, International Committee of the Red Cross, 1999–2007

Rita Hauser Board Chair, International Peace Institute; President, Hauser Foundation

Dean Hirsch President and CEO, World Vision

Alois Hirschmugl Brigadier-General, International Operations Command, Austrian Armed Forces

HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein UN Messenger of Peace; Chairperson, International Humanitarian City

Hans Küng President, Global Ethic Foundation

Ricardo Lagos Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change; President, Club of Madrid; President of Chile, 2001–2006

Goh Kee Nguan CEO, Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee; Brigadier General, Singapore Armed Forces – National Service

Rajendra Pachauri 2007 Nobel Peace Laureate; Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Chairman, The Energy and Resources Institute/TERI

Mary Robinson Honorary President, Oxfam International; Chancellor, University of Dublin; UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1997–2002; President of Ireland, 1990–1997

Judith Rodin President, Rockefeller Foundation

Amartya Sen 1998 Nobel Economics Laureate; Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University

Jean-Louis Schiltz Minister, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Communications and Defence, Luxembourg

Barbara Stocking Director, Oxfam GB

Marianna Vardinoyannis Goodwill Ambassador, UNESCO; President, Child and Family Foundation

James Wolfensohn Founder, Wolfensohn Centre at the Brookings Institute, Washington DC; President, World Bank Group, 1995–2005

Muhammad Yunus 2006 Nobel Peace Laureate; Founder and Managing Director, Grameen Bank

Contact

Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva
Villa Rigot, Avenue de la Paix 9
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Phone +41 22 919 75 00, Fax +41 22 919 75 19
info@ghf-ge.org





The Foundation Board of the Global Humanitarian Forum (from left to right): Judith Rodin, Marianna Vardinoyannis, Hans Küng, Ricardo Lagos, Goh Kee Nguan, Catherine Bertini, Alois Hirschmugl, Ivan Pictet (Vice President),

Mary Chinery-Hesse, HRH Princess Haya, Jan Egeland, Kofi Annan (President), Barbara Stocking, Rita Hauser, Michel Camdessus, Jacques Forster, Dean Hirsch, Blaise Godet, Jean-Louis Schiltz, Mary Robinson and Walter Fust (CEO).

The Forum expresses its many thanks to Viola Krebs, Jay Wilson, and Irene Amodei of ICVolunteers, who organized the reporting of the event. Thanks also go to our two plenary moderators Philippe Mottaz of World Radio Switzerland and Nisha Pillai of BBC News, to Prix Pictet for the many photographs made available to the Forum for this volume, and to our conference rapporteurs:

Zainab Ahmed
Alexandre Brugmann
Nuria Bruner
Katherine Foster
Emma Greenaway
Reem Ibrahim
Idriss Jebari
Tara Kelperman
Aileen Kwa
Catherine Matovu
Lina Nerlander
Alessandra Sauven
Christopher Simpson

The Forum also thanks the event's chief conference organizer, Daphné Romy, and the many volunteers that made the meeting possible.

Compiled and edited by Matthew McKinnon

Photo credits:

Daniel Rihs

pages 9, 11, 52, 54 (right), 58, 60 (left), 63, 86 (right), 93, 102 (right),
116, 124, 125, 129, 144, 151, 158

Magali Girardin

pages 16 (right), 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 46, 74, 76,
78, 80, 81, 84, 88, 90, 94, 100, 102 (left), 106, 108, 109, 110, 113,
133, 134, 138, 154

Keystone

pages 2, 54 (left), 60 (right), 66, 68, 86 (left), 102 (centre)

Prix Pictet, Shortlist 2008

cover, 12, 20, 32, 50, 64, 82, 104, 130, 136, 152



ISBN: 978-2-8399-0449-0

Forum 2008: The Human Face of Climate Change
Published by the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva – © 2008

This publication is available from:

Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva
Villa Rigot, Avenue de la Paix 9
1202 Geneva, Switzerland
Phone +41 22 919 75 00
Fax +41 22 919 75 19
info@ghf-ge.org

www.ghf-ge.org

Design and layout: Waldburger Consulting GmbH/Meier Media Design GmbH, Switzerland
Printed by Stämpfli Publikationen AG, Switzerland



Founded in 2007, the Global Humanitarian Forum is an international organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, working to harness the full potential of the global society for overcoming humanitarian challenges. The Forum 2008 was the first annual centrepiece event of the Global Humanitarian Forum.

ISBN: 978-2-8399-0449-0



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests and other controlled sources

Cert no. SQS-COC-023903
www.fsc.org
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council



Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva
Villa Rigot, Avenue de la Paix 9
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Phone +41 22 919 75 00
Fax +41 22 919 75 19
info@ghf-ge.org
www.ghf-ge.org