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AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE BOOK

YOUTH AND GLOBALISM - A PERSPECTIVE

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

The World Assembly of Youth is very grateful for your attendance and participation at this important event, which marks the launching of our book on Youth and Globalism.

For the past four years, the World Assembly of Youth has been guided by a Millennium Plan of Action, focused on creating a world that is peaceful, just and equitable. Our objective has been to teach the young people to live in harmony with each other, despite different cultures and traditions. We have also been advocating for young people to desire a world that is equal and fair for all, ensuring that world resources benefit all of humankind.

The World Assembly of Youth has realised that the unipolar world order is a dangerous world order. A world in which a single big power commands the smaller nations is not a just world. For more than 50 years, we have witnessed the suppression of the Palestinian people by the US-backed Israeli regimes. In September 2001, we witnessed the angry reaction by terrorists, who hijacked airlines and crashed them into the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the US. In retaliation we witnessed the US-led bombardment and occupation of Afghanistan. Then there was Iraq last year, and who knows where the Western unipolar powers will turn to next.

It is clear that oil was a critical part of these US-led excursions into the Middle East. The US consumes over 25% of the oil produced worldwide, 50% of which it imports. Of the imported oil, the Gulf countries represent about a quarter of US crude oil imports. With Iraq and Afghanistan being important oil -bearing nations, the US was obviously more after oil than assisting the people of these countries.

These Western superpowers are accumulating nuclear weapons and even building atmospheric weapons shields, whilst they are destroying the weapons of others and ensuring that they become the sole world power.

All this fighting will not stop until we realise that a culture of peace and non-violence is the best way of life for humankind. We cannot speak of disarmament when the

same people who are pushing for disarmament are the ones who are secretly developing deadly nuclear weapons that are a hazard to the whole world.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

One of the main challenges facing our world today is the lack of an ideology. Young people have no ideology to guide their active participation in society and in national and world affairs. Since the 1920s, some of the ideologies that were popular in the world include socialism, communism, fascism and Nazism. Most of these ideologies faced a natural death as they were not sustainable, and based on creation of feelings of supremacy and hate, coupled with oppressive state policies.

However, the global youth movement was at its peak during the Cold War. One part of the world was a proponent for communism, favouring the ideologies of the Left. The other part of the world was a proponent of free and open economies, more to the centre and the right. This gave the young people an ideological framework and inspired them to commit themselves to human development. These are the ideologies that powered many nations to achieve independence from the 1940s onwards. It can be said that the bi-polar world was good for the youth movement, as it provided a rich mix of ideologies that inspired youths to dedicate their lives for the greater good of their societies.

Since the end of the Cold War, there has been very little ideological orientation for young people. The world is now unipolar, and the West would like us to believe that life is all about making money and becoming richer than everyone else. In the unipolar world, there is a deep void where philosophy and ideology should have been guiding our active participation in society.

It is clear that the superpowers of the West do not want any new ideologies in the world, for they know that ideology can be a powerful force against unipolarism and the dominance of a single world power. As a result, it can be seen that the West is merely a proponent of capitalism, consumerism and materialism as the new ideologies of the contemporary world.

Americans spend more than U\$8 billion a year on cosmetics - \$2 billion more than the estimated annual total needed to provide basic education for everyone in the world. Europeans spend U\$11 billion on ice cream alone, whilst more than 60% of the world population lives below the poverty line of earning U\$1 per day. The three richest people in the world have assets that exceed the combined gross domestic product of the 48 least developed countries. The developing world has 80% of the world's population and consumes 20% of its resources. The developed world has 20% of the world's population and consumes 80% of its resources.

As you can see, there are serious disparities in the global distribution of resources.

It is not possible to have world peace unless the global community makes an endeavour to distribute global resources more equitably. If everyone has enough to survive, then there will be world peace and understanding.

This does not have to go to the extremes of Communism, which has failed in many parts of the world, but rather in the framework of a new ideology which promotes a free market policy whilst ensuring that marginalized communities receive attention and assistance.

In my book I have proposed a new ideological offering to inspire young people towards a world of peace, justice and equity. This book is centered on the ideology of Globalism. This is a new ideology, which we are lobbying young people to embrace. Globalism is an ideology that is good for the future of the world. It does not promote hate, intolerance, selfishness or imperialist conquests, it rather advocates for a fair and equal global human development.

Globalism therefore promotes peace, justice and equity as the fundamental requirements of all peoples. It promotes an economic policy that fosters entrepreneurship but also provides a social safety net for the disadvantaged. It encourages a democratic political dispensation which upholds and strengthens the nation-state, but encourages global understanding and cooperation. Globalism promotes unity in the diversity of world cultures.

Globalism is not about losing national identity, but about strengthening national identity in a global context. We believe that guaranteeing national sovereignty and integrity is the foundation of global peace and understanding.

Through this book, we hope that young people will adopt the principles of Globalism and lead the struggle for global peace, justice and equity. The youth are the future, and it is through them that we can secure a world that is better for all.

On behalf of the World Assembly of Youth, I would like to invite you all to obtain copies of the book and to enjoy and be inspired by reading them.

Let us progress towards a global community that is peaceful, just and equitable!

I thank you.

Ends.