

FOREWORD

We are celebrating this year the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, the second universal organization ever established. I don't regard it necessary to elaborate on the failure of the first one. The UN did not repeat many of the mistakes of its predecessor, the League of Nations.

Endurance of the The United Nations to many severe tests until now is a success in itself. This is mainly because the founders of the UN were able to reflect their aspirations to the Charter. War was declared illegitimate in the Charter and many of the aspirations of humanity, such as peace, cooperation, development, well-fare, justice, democracy, human-rights, gender equality, cultural heritage, protection of health, safety of food and agricultural products, issues concerning children, demographic policies, matters pertaining to migrants and refugees and other matters were listed as priority tasks for the states to be fulfilled for their peoples.

United Nations Charter was followed by many conventions, agreements and other international instruments to institutionalize the conduct of international relations in conformity with the Charter. Certain specialized agencies were established to carry out the wide-ranging tasks of the Organization. By the help of this wide network of specialized bodies, as well as the great variety of international legislative arrangements, it was intended to establish harmony, intensive cooperation and experience sharing among nations for mutually beneficial achievements and win-win situations for everybody.

United Nations Organization has been a source of inspiration to many regional organizations as well and in fact encouraged such groupings. This in turn encouraged and supported the civil society, non-governmental organizations within member nations. All these efforts have been aimed at attaining a better life standard, sustainable development and enjoyment of rights and liberties and foremost security by all.

The question that comes to mind now is whether and how far these aims have been reached. It seems difficult at this moment to conclude that the targets of success have been achieved satisfactorily. On the other hand, perhaps this is why we continue to need the United Nations Organization.

However, the UN is at a crossroad at the beginning of the 21st Century or the Millennium, whichever you might take as a basis for a time frame. The Organization

needs some maintenance, repairs, and foremost reform in order to be able to equip itself against the yet undefeated challenges during its past experiences since 1945 on the one hand and the new challenges, threats and risks encountered at our times and which man-kind will be confronted with inevitably in the future, on the other.

The UN Organisation is not sufficiently equipped, especially against new challenges such as, international terrorism, transnational organized crime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, widely spread poverty waiting to be eradicated, corruption, failed states, micro-nationalism, disparity of wealth among nations and individuals, democratic standards and human rights to be achieved everywhere in the Globe and by all members of mankind, equality and justice, environmental or ecological challenges, etc. Therefore it is obvious that the UN needs a substantial reform and the reform process should start with the Security Council.

Being aware of this, all member nations are putting forward some ideas to improve the UN system. A High Level Panel composed of wisemen has contributed recently some new ideas to the reform plans, however, there is no unanimity among nations on how to make the UN a more comprehensive, more representative and also a more influential Organization which could intervene more effectively in international conflicts and better authorize and equip its future peace operations.

In this great ocean of sacred and noble aims, activities and discussions in and around UN Organization in determining its future, we have desired in our modest capacity to contribute with a drop of ideas and observations by this "Special Issue" of our journal "Perceptions" published by our Center for Strategic Research. Using this occasion we would like to inform our distinguished readership that our Center also celebrates its 10th Anniversary this year.

It will be noticed by our readers that we have selected and allocated a prominent place in this special issue to topics related to gender problems among a rich variety of issues. We regard solutions of problems pertaining to women as one of the top priorities of the United Nations in the forth-coming years. Among the variety of other points, we have chosen a minimum of other 7 topics for discussion, which you can see in the following pages.

We should also bring to your attention the fact that in this issue, we did not stay in the limits of our publication policy of maintaining only strict academic standards.

but went out of our way to include the "Opinions" of some veteran personalities who have served the cause of the United Nations in their lifetime and identified themselves with its specialized agencies and institutions throughout their long respected careers.

In concluding my remarks for this issue, I would like to emphasize my sincere desire to see full solidarity of the international community for a better future under the auspices of an upgraded United Nations Organization and a sustainable world order at a higher level for mankind.

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