

The New Future of Human Security

人類安全保障的嶄新未來

緒方貞子 Sadako Ogata 國際協力機構理事長 Chairman of JICA

We are all here very much concerned and committed to reducing poverty and I am certainly one of them. But, what I would like to do is to focus on a concept Human Security, which I had the pleasure of co-chairing a commission to look into security matters. And I think this concept helps us focus on people, which is all about security matters as well. In today's world, we started with your assumption that today's world globalized world. There is no way to assure security of people by just focusing on the traditional state security apparatus I'm thinking. Because insecurity comes not only from external aggression or threats, but also through a globalized world channels of, let's say, SARS, or downturn- some of the down turns in the world finances, also it's of difficult- across the border migration problems there're lots of things that disturbs people's daily lives.

And when we went around examining what the security means for example we had some consultations and talking with NGOs in South Africa. We were reminded that insecurity is the norm for many of the people, not security. So from there, we had to examine what does that mean to be secure in today's world. I was the High Commissioner for Refugees, so I saw a lot of people in secured. And the causes of their insecurity was not external aggression very much. This was fighting within communities, and within countries. And traditional security concept did not help them. So, from there, we've started to look into what does it mean to be secure. You have to have two things. You have to have a functioning government that protects through the right kind of roles and so on. But you also have to have very much of a bottom up approach trying to give people education, health, social assurances and so on, so they themselves can participate and be part of a state or society and state come together.

It is my great pleasure to have the chance to address you today. Thank you very much.

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