

Summer 2001

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Recommended Citation

Bucossi, Amy (2001) "The Millennium Assembly Presents Opportunities to Strengthen International Human Rights Protection," *NYLS Journal of Human Rights*: Vol. 17 : Iss. 3 , Article 5.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/journal_of_human_rights/vol17/iss3/5

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UN REPORTS

The Millennium Assembly Presents Opportunities to Strengthen International Human Rights Protection

The turn of the century “constitutes a unique and symbolically compelling moment” for the 189 Member States of the United Nations to “articulate and affirm an animating vision . . . in the new era” — the Organization’s desire and ability to act on behalf of humanity’s priorities. Moreover, it is “an opportunity to strengthen the role of the United Nations in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century.”¹ The General Assembly, through Resolution 202, designated its 55th session “The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations,” and agreed to convene, as its centerpiece, a Millennium Summit of the United Nations, to be held 6–8 September 2000, in New York City. Through Resolutions 254, 261, 281, and 948, the General Assembly further decided that the Millennium Summit would proceed under the general theme, “The Role of the United Nations in the Twenty-First Century.” The Summit involved six meetings and four interactive roundtable discussions, each chaired by a Head-of-State or Government, with each interactive session held in concurrence with the meetings.² Two co-chairpersons, President Tarja Halonen of the Republic of Finland, and President Sam Nujoma of the Republic of Namibia, jointly presided over the Summit.³

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The main, unanimously adopted Declaration to emerge from this largest gathering of world leaders in history, reaffirms the Member States’ faith in the United Nations as essential for a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world.⁴ The United Nations Millen-

¹ G.A. Resolution 202, U.N. GAOR, 53rd Sess., U.N. Doc. A/53/202 (1998).

² G.A. Resolution 281, U.N. GAOR, 54th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/54/281 (1999); G.A. Resolution 261, U.N. GAOR, 54th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/54/261 (1999).

³ G.A. Resolution 281, U.N. GAOR, 54th Sess., Annex, U.N. Doc. A/54/281 (1999).

⁴ G.A. Resolution 2, U.N. GAOR, 55th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/RES/55/2 (2000); *World Leaders Adopt ‘United Nations Millennium Declaration’ at Conclusion of*

nium Declaration recognizes the collective responsibility of the governments of the world to uphold human dignity, equality, and equity at the global level. The Declaration re-asserts "the sovereign equality of states," but declares that the central challenge today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all, acknowledging that, at present, both its benefits and its costs are disproportionately shared. It calls for global policies and measures, corresponding to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition. The Declaration is divided into seven operative sections, two of which give specific dates for action.

The Declaration cites freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility as six values fundamental to international relations for the 21st century. The world leaders contend that nations and individuals have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and thus, can no longer live as isolated microcosms. Instead, they must function as an emerging global community. As a main goal, the Declaration proposes establishing a "just and lasting peace" throughout the world, within which leaders rededicate themselves to uphold respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and for equal rights without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion. Moreover, all nations must strive for cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character.

Among the objectives within the declared aim of promoting peace, security, and disarmament, the leaders further resolve to spare no effort to free those subjected to the scourge of war, and seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of a wide-reaching destructive nature. The leaders resolve to provide the United Nations with the necessary resources for conflict prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes, and to take action against the international drug problem and terrorism.

Extraordinary Three-Day Summit, reprinted in, G.A. Press Release, U.N. Doc. GA/9758 (8 September 2000) (President of Poland stating that United Nations had played a vital role in finding a compromise to global dilemmas) [hereinafter "World Leaders Adopt"]. "This was the foundation of the creation of the United Nations 55 years ago and the Organization had lived up to this difficult task. In that respect, the Millennium Summit has proven that the United Nations was very necessary." Id.

Significant attention was given to the allocation of peacekeeping expenses among Member States. Thirty-eight representatives⁵ requested inclusion of an item entitled "Scale of Assessments for the Apportionment of the Expenses of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations" in the provisional agenda of the 55th session of the General Assembly.⁶ The proposed item reflected the need to address the issue of ensuring a sound financial base for United Nations peacekeeping activities. It is the position of the representatives that the current "ad hoc arrangement" for determining the peacekeeping scale of assessments, approved by the General Assembly in 1973, is obsolete and requires revision attributable to the exceptional expansion of peacekeeping activities. As maintained by the representatives, the Member States should, therefore, engage in a thorough consideration of how to ensure that the scale of assessments can support current and future peacekeeping activities, including a discussion of operational reforms needed to strengthen peacekeeping, which would thereby maximize resources. The representatives believed that the Millennium Assembly would provide a timely opportunity to address this issue.

World leaders also made commitments to minimize the adverse effects of economic sanctions on innocent populations through regular reviews, urged constructive action on disarmament, and strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The Declaration also calls on Member States to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, while regarding all options open for this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.

Among the steps aimed at development and poverty eradication, the Declaration contains commitments to make the right to development a reality for everyone, and to free the entire human

⁵ Representatives from Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Vanatu, and Zambia signed the letter dated June 30th 2000 addressed to the Secretary General.

⁶ See G.A. Resolution 150, U.N. GAOR, 55th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/55/150 (2000).

race from want. Concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing resources to finance sustained development, the participants agreed to make every effort to ensure the success of the "High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development," and of the "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries," both to be held in May 2001. The Declaration calls for adoption of a policy of duty-free and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries, and an enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted countries. The grant of more generous development assistance is also anticipated.

On the topic of poverty, the Declaration resolves by the year 2015 to halve the proportion of people with an income of less than one dollar a day and of those suffering from hunger and a lack of safe drinking water. Additionally, the declaration ensures equal access to all levels of education for girls and boys and primary schooling for all children everywhere; a reduction in maternal mortality rates by three-quarters, and a reversal in the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other life-threatening diseases.

Frederick Chiluba, President of Zambia, stated that "[p]overty is not an accident, but a result of inequitable economic and political interaction in which the weak continue to be deprived of the resources necessary for development." In his opinion, it is intolerable that in this age of "modern technology, squalor, misery, and disease continue to ravage millions," particularly women and children. Measures to address this situation, he provides, include improved market access, deeper and broader debt relief, foreign direct investment as well as other capital inflows, and financial and technical support in the multilateral trading system.⁷

Concerning environmental protection, the Declaration states that the international community must do all it can to counter the threat posed to the planet by human activities. Therefore, the par-

⁷ See *Forty Speakers, Including 31 Heads of State/Government, Address Issues of Corruption, Sanctions on the Millennium Summit's Second Day*, reprinted in GA Press Release, U.N. Doc. GA/9753 (7 Sept. 2000) (statement of Frederick Chiluba) [hereinafter "*Forty Speakers*"]. See also Mohammad Sid-Ahmad, *Summit Fighting Against Poverty*, CHINA DAILY (November 3, 2000) (noting that anyone who should be doomed to deprivation in an age of plenty is an "unacceptable aberration," is due to "a defect in man's relations with his fellow man," and requires a fundamental shift in protection towards a global view that considers "man, not capital, to be the core element").

ticipants of the Summit resolved to adopt a new ethic of conservation and stewardship, making efforts to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" in 2002. The Declaration encourages improved management, conservation, and sustainable development of forests and water resources. It also presses for the full implementation of conventions on biological diversity⁸ and desertification.⁹

Additionally, the Declaration sets goals for promoting human rights, democracy, and good governance. The participants agreed to strive for full protection and promotion in all countries of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for, to combat all forms of violence against women,¹⁰ to take measures to ensure respect and protection of the human rights of migrants, as well as migrant workers and their families, to eliminate acts of racism and xenophobia, and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies. The world leaders also plan to work collectively for more inclusive political processes by allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries.

The Declaration also pledges to protect the vulnerable, notably children, refugees, and those displaced by conflict and natural disasters. The participants pledged to expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in emergency situations and to strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in and coordination of humanitarian assistance to current refugees and those reintegrating into society. The Declaration, moreover, encourages the ratification and full implementation of the "Convention on the Rights of the Child"¹¹ and its protocols on the involvement of chil-

⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (1992), available at www.unep.ch/bio/conv-e.html.

⁹ See G.A. Resolution 84, U.N. GAOR, 49th Sess., annex, appendix II, U.N. Doc. A/49/84/Add. 2 (1994).

¹⁰ See Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, adopted 18 Dec. 1979, entered into force 3 Sept. 1981, G.A. Res. 34/180, 34 U.N. GAOR, Supp. (No. 46, U.N. Doc. A/34/46, at 193 (1979), reprinted in 19 I.L.M. 33 (1980).

¹¹ G.A. Resolution 25, U.N. GAOR, 44th Sess., Annex, U.N. Doc. A/44/25 (1987). See also Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted 20 Nov. 1989, entered into force 2 Sept. 1990, G.A. Res. 44/25, 44 U.N. GAOR, Supp. (No. 49), U.N. Doc. A/44/49, at 166 (1989), reprinted in 28 I.L.M. 1448 (1989).

dren in armed conflict, and on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.¹²

MULTINATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE PLIGHT OF AFRICA:

Poland's President, Aleksander Kwasniewski, remarking on the second round table discussions, stated that, first and foremost, solidarity at the global level must be translated into solidarity with Africa.¹³ His contention was that circumstances particular to the continent must be addressed.¹⁴ Most importantly, he asserted that developed nations could help by reducing the debt of poor countries — the international community should not view Africa as a problem, but as a responsibility.¹⁵

Speaking for New Guinea, Prime Minister Lamine Sidime noted that African problems are not high on the international agenda; all countries, including African ones, must be equitably represented.¹⁶ Sidime also stressed that without Member State's resource support, the United Nations will be unable to effectively intervene in the fight against poverty in Africa.¹⁷

As an illustration of Africa's needs, Sabo Nassirou, Niger's Minister of Foreign Affairs, cited to studies carried out in Niger demonstrating that sixty-three percent of the population live in poverty, and thirty-four percent in extreme poverty. Only one child out of three attends school in Niger, and only fifty-percent of the population has access to drinking water. Nassirou stated that this situation is exacerbated by the high rate of population growth and, in turn, disproportionately affects the social sectors of education, health, and water distribution. Collectively, these deficiencies contribute to the weakening of the national economy.¹⁸

The resolution anticipates meeting the special needs of Africa by supporting emerging democracies and assisting Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication, and sustainable de-

¹² G.A. Resolution 263, U.N. GAOR, 54th Sess., Annex I, II, U.N. Doc. A/54/263 (1999).

¹³ See *World Leaders Adopt*, *supra* note 7 (statement of Alesander Kwasniewski).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ See Press Conference by Chairman of Second Roundtable (7 September 2000), available at www.un.org/search/.

¹⁶ *World Leaders Adopt*, *supra* note 7 (statement of Lamine Sidime).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.* (statement of Sabo Nassirou).

velopment. It aims to bring Africa into the mainstream of the world economy and, in particular, promises a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping on the continent in an effort to prevent conflict and promote political stability. On the economic front, it resolves to address challenges of sustainable development through debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced development assistance, and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment and technology transfers.

The resolution further promises to assist Africa in intensifying its capacity to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. The President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, in his statements regarding the Summit's second day, stood before the public as the leader of the country most seriously affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In his statement, he said that Africa's economically active are being decimated, that life expectancy is calculated to have fallen by 20 years, and that half of those who become infected are under the age of 25.¹⁹ According to Mogae, the thrust of their strategy to fight this "rampant scourge" is education coupled with concerted efforts to destigmatize HIV/AIDS.²⁰

On the situation in Africa, the Declaration concludes by asserting that world leaders will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities. The participants, therefore, reaffirm that the United Nations is an "indispensable common house of the entire human family," through which the leaders seek to realize universal aspirations for peace, cooperation, and development.

GLOBALIZATION:

The Summit was convened with aims of addressing and, ultimately, providing humane mutual economic benefits to all nations and strengthening international relations among the people of the world. The central challenge declared during the Summit was making globalization fully inclusive and equitable. The leaders resolved to join together to promote the equitable distribution of wealth within and among nations, reversing the current widening of the

¹⁹ *Forty Speakers, supra* note 8 (statement of Festus Mogae).

²⁰ *Id.* Mogae delineates the following as requisites for education and sensitization: testing and counseling, adolescent reproductive health, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, acquisition of retroviral drugs, and medication and care for affected populations.

economic gap between the rich and the poor, as well as the simultaneous erosion of the economic independence of less developed countries. The leaders collectively established groundwork for negotiations that would shape the new world economic order, *i.e.*, globalization, which implies a mutually beneficial interconnectedness and includes the elimination of trade barriers that may narrow economic differentials among nations.²¹

According to Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore and Chairman of the Summit's first roundtable, the central theme of the discussions was how to counteract the negative forces of globalization.²² The roundtable's discussants proposed aligning the United Nations with other multilateral institutions to confront the challenges of globalization, and seeking new ways by which the United Nations could provide resources to help countries build infrastructures capable of coping with an increasingly interdependent world.²³ The Prime Minister further stated that he had concerns that globalization would result in the ability of large multinational corporations to destabilize economies, particularly through enormous capital flows. There were fears that such flows were beyond that which smaller developing countries could manipulate.²⁴ When asked whether there was any proposal to control such flows, the Prime Minister stated that the operative question should be how to motivate the United Nations to begin examining ways in which it could moderate the impact of such volatile flows of economics.²⁵

Marginalization is an evident reality of globalization and technological advance. Aleksander Kwasnieski, speaking on behalf of Poland, noted that the disparity between rich and poor countries continues to grow.²⁶ According to Kwasnieski, this trend and

²¹ Addis Ababa, *Ethiopia: An Opportunity to Set the Tone*, AFRICA NEWS (18 September 2000). The author insists that globalization will certainly result in total control of third world countries because highly developed countries have eliminated competition among themselves by forming global monopolies, while third world countries are competing among themselves and "are left with empty hands and poverty."

²² See *Millennium Summit First Roundtable Press Conference Chaired by Prime Minister of Singapore* (6 September 2000), available at www.un.org/search/ [hereinafter "Roundtable"].

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ See *Forty Speakers*, *supra* note 8. See also *Roundtable*, *supra* note 23 ("[o]ur world is becoming more globalized, yet at the same time more fragmented.

globalization's negative effects, in general, can be counteracted "only if we accept that the world's development must be founded on universal values."²⁷ In this respect, shared responsibility, or solidarity, will have an important role to play.²⁸

In the spirit of shared responsibility, many leaders have urged industrialized countries to consider forgiving the least developed nation's debts.²⁹ According to Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, debt forgiveness is not a financial loss to the global economy.³⁰ Instead, Mitchell maintains that debt forgiveness provides an opportunity to stimulate depressed and stagnant sectors of the world's economy and is, moreover, a necessary precondition to the furtherance of globalization and economic development.³¹

Similarly, Tajikistan's President, Emomali Rakhmonov, shared the widely-held view that forgiving the accumulated debts of countries would provide a powerful impetus to sustainable economic development. Rakhmonov called upon the United Nations to encourage processes aimed at reducing the gap in the development level between rich and poor nations.³²

As the voice of opposition, the President of El Salvador, Francisco Guillermo Flores Perez, stated that in order to facilitate development, poor nations must accept and shoulder responsibility for

While technological advances have brought the world closer, they have also opened up the divides between those who are able to cope with the resultant challenges and those who lack the capacity to do so").

²⁷ See *Forty Speakers*, *supra* note 8.

²⁸ *Id.* "Solidarity is sensitivity to the needs and anxieties of the weak. It is a willingness to cooperate and offer support. It is a priority of concerted efforts over unilateral action. It is respect for dignity and dialogue." *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.* Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar: "To improve the economic situation of developing countries, efforts to write off the debts of poor states should be taken seriously." *Id.* Tarja Halonen, President of Finland: "[T]here is no magic formula for development. . . . Increased assistance must focus on the individuals and their needs. We must forgive the debts of the poorest countries and remove obstacles from their trade." *Id.* "It is necessary to earnestly reduce or forgive developing countries' debts and to increase official aid with no strings attached." See Text of Jiang Zemin's Speech at UN Millennium Summit, World News Connection (September 6, 2000) (asserting generally that strong countries should support weak countries).

³⁰ See *World Leaders Adopt*, *supra* note 4.

³¹ *Id.* (requesting lending countries, financial institutions, and funding agencies to proclaim complete debt forgiveness for Grenada).

³² *Forty Speakers*, *supra* note 8.

their own problems.³³ Transferring responsibility to other nations, he asserted, frustrates the opportunity to change and perpetuate an attitude of blame, encouraging an assistance-dependent mentality.³⁴ “We are not asking the world to resolve our problems — what we are asking for is an opportunity to participate in the world economy on equal terms.”³⁵

Several smaller nations also warned of the potential risks posed by globalization. The Prime Minister of Andorra, Marc Molne, told the gathering that globalization could force small communities, such as Andorra, to lose their identity.³⁶ “If political globalization does not include the small states, we shall be less in all possible meanings of the world,” he said.³⁷

TREATY SIGNING EVENT

As world leaders debated the future of the United Nations, they also took definitive steps towards enhancing the universal legal duties and standards protecting individuals and the environment, offering justice against prohibited acts, and defending the rights of all. The Secretary-General’s Millennium Report challenge to all Heads-of-State and Government to use the Summit’s unique opportunity to ratify treaties garnered an exceptional response.³⁸ In his Millennium Report, the Secretary-General remarked that liberating all people from the scourge of war is possible only through increased respect for international law, “in particular, the agreed provisions of treaties on the control of armaments, and international humanitarian and human rights law.”³⁹

³³ *At Second Millenium Summit Session, Speakers Focus on Obstacles Frustrating Developing-Country Integration into World Economy*, reprinted in G.A. Press Release, U.N. Doc. GA/9751 (6 September 2000) [hereinafter “*At Second Millennium Session*”].

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *See Forty Speakers*, *supra* note 8.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *See Kofi Annan, We The Peoples, The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century*, G.A. Resolution 2000, U.N. GAOR, 54th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/54/2000 (2000), available at www.un.org/millennium.

³⁹ *Id.*

In an unprecedented demonstration of commitment to the international rule of law, a total of eighty-four delegations⁴⁰ participated in the event during the three-day Summit by signing, ratifying, or acceding to, a number of multilateral treaties of which the Secretary-General is the custodian. "The whole purpose of the treaty ceremony is not just to sign and ratify treaties but also to strengthen the rule of law and the international treaty framework," said Palitha Kohona, Chief of the United Nations Treaty Section.⁴¹ This framework contains standards for resolution of disputes by peaceful means in conformity with principles of justice in an effort to advance harmonious interactions among nations.

A total of 273 actions took place during the three days.⁴² The treaty actions related to approximately 37 treaties, the majority of which covered human rights, disarmament, the environment, and international criminal law.⁴³ The treaties that attracted the most attention included: the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child, concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict;⁴⁴ the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;⁴⁵ the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;⁴⁶ the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;⁴⁷ the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism;⁴⁸ and the Convention on the Safety of the United Nations and

⁴⁰ Of these delegations, 59 were at the level of Head of State and Government. See International Legal Instruments (visited January 5, 2001), available at <http://www.un.org/millennium/law>.

⁴¹ See *Record Number of Treaty Signings Expected During Millennium Summit*, reprinted in G. A. Press Release, U.N. Doc. GA/5627 (5 September 2000).

⁴² See International Legal Instruments, *supra*, note 41. 187 signatures, 86 ratifications or accessions.

⁴³ See *World Leaders Respond to Secretary-General's Call to Sign and Ratify Treaties*, reprinted in G.A. Press Release, U.N. Doc. GA/9741, PI/1268 (25 August 2000).

⁴⁴ See International Legal Instruments *supra*, note 41 (57 signatures, 2 ratifications).

⁴⁵ See *id.* (57 signatures, 1 ratification).

⁴⁶ *Id.* (18 signatures, 4 ratifications).

⁴⁷ *Id.* (12 signatures, 4 ratifications). The statute prosecutes those who have committed genocide, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity. See *Time to Commit to Human Rights Protection*, M2 PRESSWIRE (6 September 2000), available at. 2000 WL 26603725.

⁴⁸ See International Legal Instruments, *supra* note 41 (10 signatures, 2 ratifications).

Associated Personnel.⁴⁹ The signatures and ratifications of the Member States reflects the desire of the States to solidify enforceable rights and responsibilities amongst themselves, effectively enhancing the rule of law in international relations.

CONVENTION OF WOMEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
ON EVE OF WORLD SUMMIT

On 5 September 2000, for the first time ever, women Heads-of-State and Government met at the United Nations in a closed session prior to the Millennium Summit.⁵⁰ The meeting, which was also attended by women heads of United Nations agencies and organizations, provided a forum for the women leaders attending the Millennium Summit to focus on issues and recommendations in areas that they considered critical to the advancement of women, including peace, security and disarmament, development and poverty eradication, protecting the environment, good governance, democracy and human rights, protecting vulnerable groups, and strengthening the United Nations.⁵¹ The recommendations included calling on the United Nations to: ensure the participation of women in peacekeeping operations; develop enabling conditions for women to combat poverty;⁵² support the advancement of women in government by employing specific methods and target times to ensure more equal representation of women and men at each level of government; ensure the prevention and punishment of discrimination and violence against women;⁵³ adopt policies to protect and promote the full spectrum of the human rights of indigenous women; and improve women's representation at all levels within the United

⁴⁹ *Id.* (7 ratifications and accessions).

⁵⁰ Currently, there are nine countries with a woman head of State or Government: Bangladesh, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, New Zealand, Panama, Saint Lucia, San Marino, and Sri Lanka. *See Women Heads of State. Government Convene at United Nations on Eve of World Summit, reprinted in G.A. Press Release, U.N. Doc. GA/9756 (7 September 2000).*

⁵¹ *See Id.*

⁵² *Id.* Among which are guaranteeing women's equal access to education, making girls' education a priority, encouraging national programmes for women's access to credit and information, and providing affordable healthcare to women and men.

⁵³ *Id.* This includes encouragement of international cooperation in combating all forms of violence and abuse (including trafficking of women), putting into force the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which recognizes rape as a war crime, and taking measures to prevent racist acts against women.

Nations system. The event was organized by the Council of Women World Leaders located at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The Council includes in its mission bringing together women at the highest levels of policy-making.

REDEDICATION TO RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

In a statement to the press,⁵⁴ the co-chairs of the Millennium Summit agreed that the Summit presented an opportunity of truly historic dimension to shape the actions of the international community for years to come. They stressed that it is essential for the United Nations to fulfill its role as a universal and indispensable organization in a changing world subject to the rapid pace of globalization. The co-chairs propose that the Summit provided a unique opportunity for the Heads of State and Government to freely engage in dialogue on consequential issues vital to peace, human security, international cooperation, development, and poverty eradication. They were also that they would have the opportunity to work closely together for the successful completion of their historic and challenging joint responsibility of materializing the Summit Declaration into subsequent actions.

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⁵⁴ See *Statement to the Press on behalf of the co-chairs of the UN Millennium Summit*, 5 September 2000, available at www.un.org/millennium/co_chairs.htm.

