

But prosperity will not be achieved without peace and security. Events since the Millennium Declaration have blurred this part of the vision that it offered, making an alternative future of chaos and conflict seem all too plausible. A global strategy to defeat terrorism and contain the spread of deadly weapons - nuclear, biological and chemical, but also the small arms that take so many lives in the developing world - is needed more than ever. So is a shared understanding of the rules governing the use of force, and a collective effort to build lasting peace and stronger states in countries ravaged or threatened by civil conflict.

And neither prosperity nor security will be meaningful - nor, in the long run, sustainable - unless enjoyed by individuals everywhere. Human dignity and freedom must be protected, both against arbitrary violence and oppression and the constraints of extreme poverty, which deny people any real choice in their lives. No security agenda, and no development drive, will succeed unless based on respect for human dignity.

The temptation to curtail human rights in the interest of either security or development is self-defeating, and must be resisted. Protecting civilian populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is one of the most sacred obligations of every sovereign state. And when states are unable or unwilling to perform this duty, the international community, represented by the United Nations, has a shared responsibility to take action.

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