

The vision of a renewed United Nations

During the second World Social Forum (WSF) in 2002, I felt that a growing number of constructive, active people from around the world could be reached. Therefore, I started formulating my vision of a "**United Nations' Reform** – transparent + democratic + participatory" as one of three subjects for the WSF in 2003, again in Porto Alegre. During the year 2002, I discussed my vision with other interested visionaries. One of them was specially helpful: the director of UNOPS, the UN Management Organization, "Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations", Dr. Reinhart Helmke. He agreed with me on the need of a UN reform and gave me some valuable hints for the condensed one-page version of my reform vision, fully reproduced here as follows – unchanged as written in 2002 for the WSF 2003:

We need a strong, renewed United Nations!

This is a vision which could and should be transformed into realistic political goals and objectives.

To all members of civil society, who are somehow engaged for ONE world in diversity.

United Nations were and are a vision. World war II had provided the global shock and motivation to initiate our UNO as an instrument for peace. By now in 2002, it became visible what worked and what did not. The new global shock created by September 11, 2001 could have provided renewed impetus for a needed UN-reform. This impetus is almost lost again and starts dissolving in frustration about the predominant escalating "war on terrorism" – instead of also healing the underlying causes of the unjust and predominantly materialistic development-reality in our world. The UN could and should be a main actor in healing our world chronic illnesses like poverty, the majority-people's missing chances to satisfy their basic needs, like the lack of good learning possibilities. But the UN suffers from its own bureaucratic power-structures.

"A better world is possible" is more than a Porto Alegre activist's slogan. It is a true statement and could be effectively carried forward by a renewed United Nations, whose leaders and staff-members would then, hopefully, be measured by their managerial success instead of by well-sounding strategy-papers.

We need a UN which practices "good global governance" in participation with civil society (NGOs/PVOs, science, business and the world religions).

*Overlapping UN-sub-organizations and territorial egocentrism are consuming too much energy. A lack of transparency adds to the dilemma. We do **not** need a top-down central world government, but a truly democratic, transparent and unbureaucratic strong, firm, but gentle, coordinating agency, facilitating dialogue, based on **all** human rights and on shared values.*

*We need a UN capable of helping to solve global problems – but also respecting regional and local structures – down to communities and families – for ONE world in diversity. Such a reformed/renewed United Nations must be based on **values** and **principles**:*

*A renewed United Nations respects, follows and protects global **values**:*

- *The **golden rule**: Do not do to others, what you do not want them to do to you.*
- *Growth in holistic **quality** – instead of mere quantitative material growth.*
- *Favoring what furthers **community** – but respecting individuality in its diversity.*
- *As a central value: Undogmatic true **spirituality**, enabling Love and compassion.*

*A renewed United Nations must also follow/include such **principles**:*

- **Subsidiarity**: *Regulating and doing only what can not be better regulated and done in smaller structures (regional – like European Union – national, local or individual)*
- **Democracy** *through direct election of global delegates (min. 1 per country; in larger countries 1 per 10 Mio inhabitants) – a 2nd "chamber" next to the existing structure.*
- *Active **participation** of all sectors of civil society – respecting the elected structures.*
- *Enforceable **global law** – including international court of justice – protecting **all** human rights and nature + securing fair starting chances for the weak.*
- ***Transparency** in all UN-procedures, goals, -objectives, -plans and –structures.*
- ***Peacekeeping** and (if needed) Peacemaking through a **strong** global police-force.*
- *Reformed Security-Council and strengthened ECOSOC, truly **capable to decide**.*
- *Own **financial sources** (like tax on speculative global money transfers).*
- ***Integrated** democratic global finance- + trade-institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO).*
- ***Separate policy advisory and operational functions** in efficient UN sub-structures.*

The guiding principle for all of us should be: MITEINANDER / TOGETHER / ENSEMBLE.

Only the last but one line in the envisioned "principles" for a renewed UN was soon changed in the ongoing learning process: The line "**Integrated** democratic global finance and trade institutions..." was changed to a more realistic (but unfortunately still rather utopian) version: "*Global finance and trade institutions, which **serve** humanity...*".

In a longer version, not fitting on one single page, I added an additional sentence in the desired principle on democracy and a second UN parliament chamber: *Such a second chamber must also include representatives of the world's indigenous people, who live partly separated by political borders in diverse unnatural situations. Those representatives should be chosen by the indigenous peoples themselves.*

After arguing for my (further improved) vision in various publications, speeches and activities, like in the following World Social Fora (WSF) in 2004, 2005 and 2006, I finally realized in 2006 that I was defending utopia. Therefore, in the WSF in 2007, I did not present my UN vision anymore. It had to be re-considered in a more realistic political way, but was not given up. In the meantime, I concentrated on the Early Childhood subject and on our new vision of a world in balance through an Eco-social market system. So in my Nairobi seminar, I presented the Global Marshall Plan, calling it "Global Solidarity Plan".

Transforming the utopian vision to change the UN from inside.

Concerning an urgently needed global structure, which could handle effectively our integral world problems, which cannot be handled on "lower" levels, following the subsidiarity principle, just a humble vision will not be sufficient. Kofi Anan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations, had truly made an effort to adjust his huge organization to the needs of our time. He got entangled in the hardened postwar structures, which were created mainly to avoid a third world war. He also did hurt himself in potentially touching the interests of imperialistic thinking state structures and the comfortable life of those, who now benefit from the UN system as it is. Renewal from the inside of the UNO must still be tried to at least heal, what is possible. But real renewal will need basic rethinking from qualified outside sources.

After I realized the utopian character of my treasured vision of a renewed United Nations, I had to find a solution, which would at least contain the seeds of a possibility to become reality. That brought me back to looking at the original conceptional work, which was preceding our existing United Nations. That gave birth to a new further "improved vision":

In need of a new political initiative.

Just as there was a devoted think tank officially charged by the USA, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China in 1944 to develop the security structure of the United Nations in Dumbarton Oaks near Washington, D.C., USA, we today need a renewal of such a think tank in some neutral place in the world. This think tank should be composed of a mix of engaged people from various relevant sectors of life (like science, religions, business and social as well as environmental movements) from all areas of the world. Democratic political structures should not be excluded. But they should in no way dominate the initial conceptual work. Globally conscious politicians from a few respectable countries could initiate such a conference. As a starting point, the original concepts of what is today the relatively powerless "Economic and Social Council of the United Nations – ECOSOC" could be used for practical reasons to avoid to "rediscover the wheel". But to wait for renewal only or predominantly from inside the United Nations will most likely not make much sense.

We need a new integral vision of a peaceful, fair and just balanced world organization as a result of a new think tank. The conceptual result of a new think tank must then be widely made known and could be discussed in a fair and totally transparent open global consultation process. This process could be comparable to the new consultation process, which derived from the Global Marshall Plan Initiative.

Elder statesmen and recognized ethical personalities could form a filtering body to eliminate utopian extremes and power games. Existing world rulers from democratic countries could chaperon the process to make it stronger and more visible without interfering in the design of the content.

The final outcome of such a search for a global solution would probably not need a totally new organizational framework. If it is conceived independently from the existing power structures, it could be based on the existing representation of all the states in the United Nations and on an additional world parliament (a second chamber). If accepted by enough countries, such a renewed concept could slowly and gently be merged with those United Nations' outer structures, which do exist already.

If the suggested values and principles in the utopian ex-vision above would at least be considered by a visionary think tank, the attempt of the humble vision for a renewed United Nations may not have been totally in vain. It is mainly up to new generations to participate in building our new sustainable world. We older ones should, however, assist in the healing process, when being asked to do so. We could then rest with a better feeling that we have contributed "what we can".

VISION WORKS

**is Peter Hesse's first book in English,
published for the 25th anniversary of the
"Peter-Hesse-Foundation**

SOLIDARITY IN PARTNERSHIP for ONE world in diversity".

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**by the "Peter-Hesse-Stiftung (-Foundation)"
Otto-Hahn-Strasse 2, D-40699 Erkrath, Germany**

**The hardcover book has 380 pages, contains 125 color photos and 30 drawings.
It is being sold for € 29 – ISBN 978-3-9811650-2-9.**

VISION WORKS !

**From vision to action.
From Haiti to ONE world in diversity.**

**by
Peter Hesse**

**VISION WORKS !
is the story of a
Wake-up call for change,
which happened in Haiti in 1981.**

**This led to a learning process to "heal-solve" problems and make visions work
– first in Haiti and later in and for ONE world in diversity.**

**It is also the story of a search for meaning in life. Emotional experiences,
intuition and initially unnoticed higher guidance propelled the learning process.**

**It became successful – supported by an awakening consciousness
for our "ONE world in diversity" and some mystical experience along the path.
The "Peter-Hesse-Foundation" became an instrument for change in this process.**

(hand-logo)

Why this book ?

Who might enjoy reading, who might benefit from reading this book ?

**Those, who seek a fulfilled, happy life which makes some deeper sense for themselves
and for our world.**

**The book addresses readers who, like me, are constructively angry and dissatisfied
with our world sliding out of balance, readers who want to be engaged in a sustainable,
integral development of humanity, who especially want to give children a chance
through good early care and education.**

VISION WORKS

**also deals with global visions which developed in the learning process,
visions for a peaceful, better balanced world and for a legal world order.**

One such example is the vision of a renewed United Nations.

**A realistic view transformed this vision to utopia – but gave birth to an improved vision
as outlined in the following 3 pages (pages 241 to 247 in the book)**