

# 神戸市外国語大学 学術情報リポジトリ

## Inter-connectedness of peace and sustainable development as evolving mission of the United Nations

メタデータ	言語: English 出版者: 神戸市外国語大学外国学研究所 公開日: 2024-01-19 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: Kondo Tetsuo メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	<a href="https://kobe-cufs.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/2000029">https://kobe-cufs.repo.nii.ac.jp/records/2000029</a>

## Inter-connectedness of Peace and Sustainable Development as An Evolving Mission of the United Nations

Tetsuo KONDO<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Initiating and international carrier as a Japanese diplomat

I joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1981 after graduating from college. In many cases, the Ministry has to focus rather on bilateral diplomacy with major-power countries of the world than multilateral diplomacy at the United Nations (UN) and others fora. I personally preferred to work on the multilateral from the time I joined the Ministry, my first assignment as a new recruit of the Ministry was in the Treaty Bureau, with the scope of Japan's status in the UN.

My first post abroad was in France, as an attaché of the Embassy in training, in 1982. It was around the time when the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union was once again extremely severe known as the new Cold War or the Cold War II. In 1979, the Thatcher administration of the UK and in 1981, Reagan Administration in the US. And they confronted the Communist Block very harshly. In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, the national leaders were aging and the leaders of the Communist Party died one after the other.

In the memory of a young diplomat, time was that the early 1980s was also a time of heightened concern that nuclear weapons might actually be used on the European Continent. In particular, the year 1983 is remembered as the time when NATO, a military alliance of the West, and the Soviet Union, each planned to deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles near the border between East and West Germany. And it was when students in West Germany and other Western countries launched the anti-nuclear

---

<sup>1</sup> Professor Tetsuo KONDO is the former Director of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Representation Office in Tokyo 2014-2023. He served as Country Director of UNDP Chad (2010-2013), Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Kosovo (2007-2010), Senior Humanitarian Coordination Advisor, UNMIT Timor Leste (2006), Senior Advisor of UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok (2005-2006), Special Advisor to the SRSG, UN Mission for Assistance to Iraq (UNAMI), Amman, and Bagdad (2004), and Special Advisor, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships (BRSP), UNDP New York (2001-2004). He held various positions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA): Vice-President of UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board (2000), First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN (1996-1999), Assistant Director, Law of the Sea Office of Treaty Bureau (1992-1996), UN Bureau (1989-1992), Embassies of Japan in Zaire (DRC) (1986-1989) and France (1982-1986), and the Treaty Bureau (1981). He holds a postgraduate degree from Jones International University, USA, and a B.A. in Economics from Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan. He currently serves as visiting professor at the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Nagasaki University, and Sophia University.

peace movement. The United Nations, however, was not capable of dealing with such a situation due to the veto power of Permanent Members of the Security Council. A new approach to maintaining peace and security was sought by many governments.

Such a situation was the main reason that, from the time I joined the Ministry, I consistently expressed my preference for multilateral diplomacy and UN diplomacy, in particular, told the Personnel Division about my field of interest in my interview. That was among the reasons why I took the French language as a main area of my professional skill, which is highly versatile in the United Nations.

Thus, after working at embassies in France and Zaire, I was given the opportunity to work in the Social Cooperation Division of the United Nations Bureau and the Law of the Sea Department before assignment to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York in 1996 and then the secondment to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2001.

## 2. The United Nations in the 1990s

Let me share my thought on the background of the establishment of the United Nations:

The establishment of world peace cannot be the work of a single person, a single party, or a single nation. It must be a peace built on the cooperation of the whole world.

These were the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, one of the creators of the United Nations and the man who gave the organization its name, in a speech to the U.S. Congress in March 1945. Roosevelt himself did not witness the birth of the United Nations. He died a month after the speech, in April 1945, a few weeks before a meeting of international organizations was to draft the UN Charter.

The San Francisco conference, attended by representatives of 50 countries, was filled with joy and hope that the creation of this international organization would help humanity break the vicious cycle of war and retaliation and lead the world toward peace and security. The conference has been described as a "landmark" in human history, a testament to the high hopes and aspirations the world held for the new international organization known as the United Nations.

The Charter of the United Nations, adopted after three months of intensive debate and discussion, is the culmination of a pledge to "save future generations from the horrors of war, which twice in our lifetime have brought untold sorrow to mankind". I believe that the words in the preamble of the Charter were not written merely to reflect on past mistakes, but out of a sense of responsibility to the next generation.

In 1998, as the First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, I was a delegate in charge of Asia and Africa for the Security Council where Japan was a non-permanent member. And

in 2000, I was elected to a Vice-Chair of the UNDP Executive Council. And because of this opportunity, I got appointed as a secondment to UNDP the following year to serve as the Special Advisor to the Administrator of UNDP.

### 3. Moving to international career at UNDP Headquarters then to the field

Immediately after my appointment in UNDP, the tragedy of the 9/11 attacks happened and the U.S. began air-striking Afghanistan, then Iraq. The following year 2002 saw Japan playing an active role in the international community at the Afghanistan Reconstruction Conference, chaired by former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Late Madam Sadako Ogata. Later, in April 2004, I became the Executive Director of the Donor Committee of the Iraq Reconstruction Fund Facility (IRFFI) and Special Advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI). Thus, I worked for UNDP in the form of secondment for four years. In March 2005, I decided to resign from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I had worked for more than 20 years, to work as a UNDP core staff. The Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations at that time was very supportive of my career track change and even told me that he would talk to the UNDP managers about my future and that I should go and consult with my family.

In the beginning, I was a bit hesitant about leaving the Government and transferring to a rather unpredictable life in the UN, but my resolve was solidified when the Security Council took up so many conflicts and humanitarian crises in various regions such as Afghanistan and Africa. When the case of a conflict is raised, the secretariat under the UN Secretary-General, the Department of Political Affairs, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations inform the Security Council Member States. Then the UN agencies are mobilized for humanitarian and recovery assistance. They recognize, evaluate, and assess the situation and formulate solutions. As I closely observed these series of response processes, I became more and more eager to be a part of them, and to do so in an international capacity.

In particular, my work in Afghanistan, where serious human rights and humanitarian problems had become chronic, accelerated my desire. While the Member States of the Security Council and other countries are also involved, but I thought that an international qualification would be better for activities in the field to support the affected people.

After leaving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was appointed to the Senior Advisor for Resource Mobilization and Strategic Partnership at the UNDP Regional Center for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok in March 2005, where I worked on post-disaster reconstruction assistance in the aftermath of Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Then, from June to December 2006, I was assigned to work as the UNDP Senior Advisor for Humanitarian Coordination and Resource Mobilization in Timor Leste.

Under International Law, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs is an institution representing a sovereign nation, and its activities are guaranteed to be legitimate as long as they comply with the instructions of the home government. In other words, if we do as decided by the Ministry, we are considered to have fulfilled our responsibility for the time being, no matter what the outcome may be. However, in the case of the United Nations, and especially in the case of development agencies such as UNDP, the responsibility is all about results, not to mention the legitimacy of the decision-making process. If the results of an activity do not meet expectations, the responsibility lies with those in charge in the field or at headquarters, regardless of the circumstances.

This results-oriented approach is strongly required in all aspects of work, and it is evaluated as individual performance and directly influences the subsequent treatment of the staff member. Furthermore, even when results are successful if the employee cannot clearly explain his or her individual contribution to those results, no matter how great the contribution, it will not be counted as part of the employee's performance. This was a fundamental difference in approach to work from my days at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where teamwork was a priority, and I felt a big gap there.

The work in UNDP in my early days was quite exciting. When I was on secondment immediately after joining UNDP, I did a lot of work as a liaison with Japan. As mentioned earlier, the year I was seconded, 9/11 happened, and conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and their reconstruction assistance and support for tsunami victims continued, so my work focused on calling for international cooperation and fundraising in response to these conflicts and disasters.

In East Timor, where I worked in 2006, I was involved in fundraising and coordination for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance provided by various organizations, including bilateral donor governments, the UN, and NGOs, in response to the civil unrest that occurred in March 2006. Specifically, I supported the Minister of Labor and Solidarity of the Timorese government and organized the relevant ministries in charge of humanitarian assistance to provide water, sanitation, food, shelter, security, medical care, education, and other assistance to the shelter camps of internally displaced people.

#### 4. UNDP Country Offices in Kosovo and Chad

Later, in 2007, after a very tough competition, I got the position of Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in support of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK). In Kosovo, I managed and supervised the overall operations of the UNDP Country Office, which had about 60 staff members. Literally, my job was to manage all activities, both programmatic (the substance of the business) and operational (the admin legwork, such as finance, human resources, procurement, and logistics). Kosovo is a region where Slavic peoples and Muslims border and conflict had been going on

there since the 13th century or so. The problems were deeply rooted, but I wanted to contribute to the creation of governance that would allow the suffering residents to live in peace for as long as possible.

Then later in 2010, I moved on to another continent of sub-Saharan Africa as the UNDP Country Director and Resident Coordinator *ad interim* in Chad. What I first felt there was that Africa today is no longer Africa than those from developed countries, including myself, thought it was. The changes that not only Africa but the world is going through on a daily basis are so rapid that it is impossible to know what is happening there from afar only from news reports and literature. Africa is changing so fast!

When I was in a developed world such as Japan, Europe, and the United States, I honestly thought that Africa was all about poverty, starvation, and infectious diseases, where it was not easy for people even to survive. However, Africa is a region that, while it is riddled with poverty, conflict, and other challenges, also offers a wealth of hints on how to deal with common human issues, such as the environment, energy, food, and health. This is because African countries have only just begun to address those challenges in earnest, and they are making serious efforts to incorporate the knowledge and skills needed to solve these problems, with the cooperation made available by the international community.

To support the governments, businesses, and civil society people involved in these efforts, it is very the role of UNDP and the United Nations to create and implement programs and projects to help achieve their goals, and to disseminate to the world new ideas based on the voices of beneficiaries and lessons learned from implementation experiences.

## 5. Coping with hardship as the UN Senior Official in Africa

However, for me who just stepped in, in 2010, the Reality of Chad, the "Sahel region," where Chad was located in the deepest, has been going through a turbulent period since the beginning of that year. French troops intervened against a group of Islamist militants seeking secession in northern Mali, and a multinational force from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) joined the fight. It was in memory of many Japanese development workers, a militant terrorist group attacked the Ina Menas natural gas refinery plant in Algeria, killing hostages, including many Japanese, and issuing a statement advocating retaliation for the French intervention. Chad also dispatched 2,000 troops to Mali, and in a short period of time conquered Kidal, Mao, and Menaka, which were said to be the most difficult to capture.

Although it was not widely known, Chad's troops also overpowered rebel forces in the neighboring Central African Republic and defended the country's capital, Bangui, from attacks by the rebels. On the other hand, Chad was home to nearly 200,000 refugees from neighboring Darfur, Sudan, and Central

Africa, and the Chadian government was working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office to protect them. Furthermore, in order to address the risk of instability in the military situation in southern Libya after the fall of the Gaddafi regime in 2011, the new Libyan government was considering requesting the Chadian government to dispatch troops to help maintain security in southern Libya.

When I arrived in N'Djamena in October 2010, the capital of Chad, the UN peacekeeping mission (MINURCAT) was still active and Chad itself was experiencing a dire humanitarian situation, with 150,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) after the 2008 civil war.

My first task there as the Country Director of the UNDP Chad Office and the UN Resident Coordinator *a.i.* was to take over this MINURCAT (*la Mission des Nations Unies en République centrafricaine et au Tchad*) in accordance with relevant Security Council resolution (S/2010/611) to provide civilian protection, coordinate humanitarian assistance, and monitor the human rights situation. Another important task was to ensure the security of approximately 500 UN agency personnel working throughout Chad, including the management and supervision of a security force (*le Détachement Intégré de Sécurité, DIS*) of approximately 1,000 Chadian enforcement personnel trained under MINURCAT to ensure the safety of the UN and NGO personnel engaged in humanitarian assistance. The DIS project was handed over from the PKO mission to UNDP for implementation. I got a surprise promotion to serve as chief of the military.

In this way, over more than following two years, Chad, a "conflict-ridden" country that had been a client of UN peacekeeping operations, has transformed and worked with UNDP and other UN agencies to improve the humanitarian situation in the country. I worked with many senior government officials hand in hand to improve governance and administrative services, including national elections and decentralization. Chad also took a leading role in ensuring the security of neighboring countries. The change has been far beyond people's expectations, to be honest.

The Japanese government, through UNDP, has provided strong financial support for decentralization, strengthening the reconstruction and disaster reduction capacity (resilience) of the population, and human security projects in Chad, and together with the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the governments of France, the United States, and Switzerland. The Japanese government has been working on the consolidation of peace by supporting the National Development Plan. A donor group was also set in place to support the Plan National pour le Développement (PND 2013-2015), which was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. The drafting of the PND 2013-2015 was also undertaken by UNDP at the request of the Chadian authority. As Chad followed this plan and

achieved harmonious human development, it did not suffer another civil war like the one experienced in Mali.

The UN Resident Coordinator and the UNDP Country Director frequently meet with the President, Prime Minister, and ministers of various ministries for consultation. This is not surprising since Chad is a member of the UN and we UN staff are there to "serve" the member states in a neutral and impartial capacity. My cell phone was often busy with calls from the entourage of these senior officials of the government, and sometimes from the leaders themselves, at all hours of the day and night, interrupting my meals and sleep to go straight to meetings.

Once a month, the Chadian President, the late Idriss Déby gathered his ministers and representatives of the UN agencies and instructed us to implement results-oriented policies to improve administrative services to the people, such as health and sanitation, and to get support for them from UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, etc. The head of state is responsible to run the government. The impact of the actions taken by the head of state as the administrative lead is immeasurable. For instance, UNDP was the principal recipient of the Global Fund for HIV-AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and was responsible for the distribution of anti-malarial drugs and mosquito nets to the entire population.

In addition, as a senior UN official, I was sometimes asked for my opinion on the promotion of the democratization process in individual meetings with heads of the administration. In these activities, the experience I inherited from my seniors in the field of diplomacy during my time at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been very useful. This was not in a "diplomatic address" but a real business mode.

In Chad, I had the opportunity to meet with Michel Sidibé, the Malian Director-General of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), when he visited Chad in 2013. Mr. Sidibé, who had worked in the field for 25 years as a UNICEF staff member, asked himself:

Is the UN really necessary for the world of the future? After 25 years in the field, he always asked himself, "If the UN is just going to keep doing the same job it has been doing for the past 10 years, people may not need the UN anymore. The knowledge that the UN possessed was already in the hands of governments, corporations, and NGOs. If the UN is needed in the future, it is because it can communicate new ideas. For example, UNAIDS demonstrated and communicated the idea that national budgetary measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission of AIDS would significantly reduce health care costs for the future in a few years.

Citing Japan's technology and wisdom in making telemedicine possible, he told me that UNDP has an immense role to play in partnership with Japan in helping national leaders and citizens address the

common challenges of humankind and that it is up to us to demonstrate the results of our programs with evidence. I totally agreed.

UNDP had a great deal of expertise in areas such as program development, organizational capacity building, financial management, human resource management, and procurement. Furthermore, the ability to facilitate technical cooperation in a politically neutral manner was a great advantage. Much of this was done by locally recruited national staff in each country. Their in-country networks and horizontal connections among countries are invaluable sources of ideas, and this was especially true in Africa. In fact, many ministers and capable national leaders with UNDP's local staff background are often active in every country.

If the vitality of Africa can mobilize Japan's knowledge and technology through Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD), and if Japan could take a leadership role in solving the common challenges of humanity by learning more about Africa, we were sure to achieve results beyond our expectations. The effects will be even greater if we promote citizen-level exchanges, especially among students and other young people. From the field of Chad, I, too, aimed to make TICAD V in 2013 a great success for both Japan and Africa for that reason.

#### 6. Back to the home country to communicate the UN experience

I then served as the Director of the UNDP Representation Office in Japan in 2014. There are UNDP offices in about 130 countries. If we hear locally in developing countries that there is no one to run prefectural or city halls, we formulate and implement plans to create them. If we hear that there is no way to hold trials, we create a system to train judges, prosecutors, and lawyers. The job of the staff overseas is to understand what each country's problems are and to solve them.

The job of the staff at the Representation Office in Japan is to broadly explain UNDP's activities to the government, Diet members, mass media, academia and students, private companies, and NGOs. The Japanese government contributes a considerable amount of financial resources to UNDP. The support is made possible by taxpayers' money, so we need to explain to the public how it is actually used. It cannot be overestimated how much development work conducted by the UN agencies, the World Bank, and NGOs contributed to form the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) which not only advance poverty reduction in developing countries but promote commitment to everyone living on the planet.

The UN has to address the need for International Cooperation more than any moment in the past. The reason the current global development goals were named "Sustainable Development Goals" is obvious: our way of living and its impact on the environment would be unsustainable if we keep on living without

changing our current lifestyles. Some species on this planet come into existence and others become extinct due to changing climates. The UN must raise the alarm whenever human lives face the threat and risks of unsustainability, just as it does when conflicts cause the abuse of human rights.

The UNDP was established in 1966 when the newly independent nations in the developing world became UN Member States and made *démarches* at the General Assembly, calling for international support in offering solutions for the inclusive development of their people. Over time, the UNDP has become the largest development arm in the UN system with support from major donor countries, including Japan.

### 7. Japan's engagement in UNDP, Human Security and SDGs

In 1994, the UNDP Human Development Report was published, introducing the new concept of “Human Security.” Human Security was conceived when the end of the Cold War gave rise to a peace dividend as a result of the savings generated through the abolishment of mass destructive weapons by major military powers. Human Security has been promoted by the Government of Japan as a key principle of its official development assistance (ODA) and formed the bedrock of its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2001–2015) (United Nations, 2015). I will discuss this later.

The lessons learned during the period of implementation of the MDGs were broadly examined not only by governments but also by political leaders, civil society, academia, and business leaders, as well as by the general public through web-based surveys. Extensive negotiations resulted in the setting of 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) with 169 targets. To achieve the SDGs, we should focus on their characteristic of universality, the role of the private sector, innovation, women, and youth.

First, one of the major characteristics of the SDGs is embodied in their principle of leaving no one behind. The SDGs are not only for poor countries but for developed countries as well (if they have people in need of assistance to escape extreme poverty). We should know that any issues that threaten human security, such as climate change, the marine environment, global health, migration, and refugee problems, cannot be solely solved by a single government but require intervention from the entire world.

Second, to achieve the SDGs by 2030, governments' responses in the form of ODA are not at all sufficient. The private sector is a key stakeholder in SDGs since it includes people who work in companies, consumers who buy products and services, and investors who provide funds. To this effect, the Japanese business concept of “win-win-win among providers, buyers, and communities” (“Sanpo Yoshi,” which means “good for all three parties” in Japanese) represents the approach of Japanese companies in their business conduct and matches the principle behind the implementation of the SDGs.

The UNDP administrator, Achim Steiner, visited Japan in November 2018 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Japan Business Federation (KEIDANREN). The MOU aims at fostering mutual cooperation between the UNDP and the Japanese business association to identify business products and practices that clearly generate impacts to help developing countries obtain solutions for achieving the SDGs.

Third, in this era of a fast and changing society that is mainly the result of advancements in technology, such as artificial intelligence (A.I.), we should continue our efforts to innovate businesses in all instances. Science and technology should define their added value to peoples' lives in line with the progress of the SDGs. Financial Technology (FinTech), research and development in healthcare, biochemical technology, alternative and renewable energy, recycling, and the protection of the environment are key areas of innovation, among others.

These technologies should be used to dispose of barriers to and exclusion from opportunities to access education, healthcare, and the betterment of life through the development of market economies. As such, social cohesion and inclusiveness should be ensured by means of new technologies. For instance, the virtual currency "MPESA" is widely used in Kenya to allow broader coverage in money transactions for those who cannot access banking services due to long distances to bank branches or the lack of social identification.

The most essential factor in achieving the SDGs in many countries, including Japan, is SDG5: gender equality (see Chapter 10). My past experience as a UNDP development practitioner for almost 20 years has clearly shown me that when the empowerment of women is centered on development programs, target communities are most successful in achieving planned outcomes. Women in Africa are often deprived of opportunities in education, access to healthcare, and success in business due to the custom of early marriage. In Chad, the government introduced a law that banned forced marriage for individuals under the age of 18, after strenuous efforts by the country's political leaders, associations for helping women, and the UN.

In 2016, the UNDP issued an Africa Human Development Report titled, "Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa." Gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa an average of USD 95 billion a year, peaking at USD 105 billion in 2014, which was equivalent to six percent of the region's GDP. According to the 2016 Africa Human Development Report, this jeopardized the continent's efforts toward inclusive human development and economic growth. The report analyzed the political, economic, and social factors that hamper African women's advancement, and proposes policies and precise actions to close the gender gap. These include addressing the contradiction between

legal provisions and practice in gender laws, debunking harmful social norms, transforming discriminatory institutional settings, and ensuring women's economic, social, and political participation.

Deeply-rooted structural obstacles such as the unequal distribution of resources, power, and wealth, as well as social institutions and norms that encourage gender inequality, are holding African women and the rest of the continent back. The report estimated that a one percent increase in gender inequality reduces a country's human development index by 0.75 percent.

The same principle applies to Japan in its SDG implementation and the growth strategy of its government. Unfair practices that are often uncovered in business and the academic community, such as the discriminatory treatment of female candidates in medical schools' entrance examinations, are unacceptable. Unfair perceptions such as attributing the responsibility of childcare to women only should be changed. Such changes would enable the Japanese community to reduce the risk of its dwindling birth rate and the consequent loss of its demographic dividend.

To improve the sustainability and quality of human lives through the achievement of the SDGs by 2030, the world should pay close attention to transformational leadership based on the extensive development experience acquired by The UN development agencies such as the UNDP. The key message is, "Leave no one behind, and reach the ones that are furthest behind first."

## 8. Long way to go to achieve SDGs as new threats of Human Security are emerging

Seven years after the SDGs were adopted by the UN in 2015, we are now at the halfway point, seven years away from the 2030 deadline. However, the world is still reeling from the unprecedented infectious disease of the Corona virus, while grave human rights violations and conflicts have resurfaced in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Yemen, and Ukraine, among others. The world is also being hit by numerous other threats, such as climate change and widening inequalities. Against this backdrop, in February this year, UNDP again published its Special Report on "Human Security - New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene". The key word in this report is to revisit the term "human security".

Here, I will discuss the contents of the report and how Japan and the world should face and overcome the threats it faces. Human security was first proposed by the UNDP in 1994 in its Human Development Report as mentioned earlier. Following the end of the Cold War, the concept was developed as a shift away from state-centered security, in which military force is used to protect territory, and towards a society in which each and every human being can live with dignity, free from 'fear' such as conflict, disaster, and infectious diseases, and from 'lack' of food, education, healthcare and other necessities for

life. It was considered groundbreaking because it proposed a new, human-centered approach to security. There is a deep connection between this concept and Japan.

One of the people who popularized this concept in the international community was the late Sadako Ogata, who served as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Together with Amartya Sen, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics, Ogata submitted a report in 2003 entitled 'Today's Challenges for Human Security'. The report stressed the importance of protecting the security of individuals and communities by protecting and developing the capacity, or empowerment, of each and every vulnerable member of society, as globalization makes it impossible for states to keep people safe in a conventional way.

The Japanese Government has placed the concept of 'human security' at the heart of its foreign policy and has actively promoted it for many years. Successive prime ministers have also repeatedly mentioned the importance of this idea in their speeches.

In its special report, the UNDP has presented a new approach to human security that takes into account the threats of the new era, while taking over the traditional idea of human security. Let's take a closer look. The data show the global figures for the Human Development Index, a comprehensive measure of education, health, and living standards. It shows that over the last 30 years, the figures have improved and development has progressed right up to the point before the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, it also shows that almost six out of seven people in the world now live in a state of insecurity. Why is it that, while on the surface development appears to be progressing and living conditions are improving, people are feeling increasingly insecure?

As reasons for this insecurity, the report cites five new-generation threats to humanity. These are the climate crisis, infectious diseases and other health threats, advanced digital technologies, inequality, and violent conflict. These threats are also intertwined with each other, further complicating matters. Let's look at them one by one: First is the climate crisis. It is said that the Anthropocene, the human-affected era, has arrived, in which human activities have come to have a significant impact on the Planet's ecosystems and climate.

As a result of the emphasis on economic growth and development that puts a heavy burden on the planet, inequality has increased around the world, and climate change and the disasters that accompany it have become more serious. Biodiversity has been lost and, conversely, crises of unknown infectious diseases have emerged, such as the COVID-19 pandemic disaster.

However, it is the vulnerable sections of society that are most affected by climate change, including disasters. In other words, climate change is increasing inequality. Even if certain measures are taken against global warming in the future, the report points out that 40 million people, mainly in developing countries, could lose their lives due to climate change as a result of rising temperatures by the end of this century.

While the main focus has been on protecting 'individuals and communities' from conflicts and disasters, the report calls for a new way of thinking: to protect not only humanity but also the entire planet.

It is clear that the effects of climate change and unknown infectious diseases will have a transnational impact on the planet and humanity as a whole. If all people and the planet are not safe, no one is safe.

Then there are the health threats. Global pandemics of infectious diseases such as the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to increase in the future. Health is the basis of 'human security' and a person's freedom and fulfillment in life depend on it. All countries are required to realize universal health coverage, i.e. a system that enables people to receive quality healthcare at a cost they can afford, irrespective of income. It is also important to reduce the burden of healthcare costs due to lifestyle-related chronic diseases.

Third, there is the threat of digital technology. Accelerated by the pandemic responses, digital technology has the potential to improve productivity by reducing the environmental impact and reducing the risk of medical infections. On the other hand, rapid digitalization can also threaten to increase inequality and violent conflict. Cybercrime is also increasing rapidly, with the cost of damage and countermeasures estimated at USD 6 trillion by the end of 2021. This problem needs to be tackled in concert by governments, international organizations, and others, and not just left in the hands of a few companies with a monopoly on the market.

Fourth, is inequality. The pandemic revealed that the more vulnerable people in terms of human security are the more marginalized they were and the more exposed they are to compounding threats. Women, for example, faced an increased burden of domestic work due to the stay-home status of all family members and a sharp rise in domestic violence. In addition, the urban poor were doubly hit by an increased risk of infection and reduced income. Furthermore, the COVID-19 disaster has led to increased hunger, and at present, some 2.4 billion people out of a global population of approximately 8 billion are food insecure.

Finally, this poverty and inequality can trigger violent conflict. Currently, the world is being shaken by Russia's military attack on Ukraine. In Kosovo in the former Yugoslavia, where I used to work, there

was a conflict caused by ethnic confrontations. At that time, UNDP, with the support of the Japanese Government, stabilized the situation by implementing projects to restore the livelihoods, nutritional status, education, and security of women and children affected by the conflict, based on the idea of 'human security'. It is in the midst of conflict that the significance of human security is once again in focus.

In bringing humanity's various efforts to fruition, it is not enough to take only stove-piped measures to deal with the threats of the new era, which consider separate responses for each issue, but it is necessary to rethink the very way people live their lives. The report quotes Amartya Sen as pointing out the need for 'people who can make decisions according to their own values and sense of purpose'. In order to confront threats and achieve the SDGs, the question is whether each of us can make value judgments and take action and whether humanity can 'stand in solidarity' with each other, and with humanity and the planet.

#### 9. Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives

To follow up, UNDP also published its annually issued independent report; "Human Development Report 2021-2022", in September 2022. The theme of this report is "Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives".

Despite this unsettled situation, we have not been able to take effective measures. Not only that, we are causing wars, taking many lives, and making humanity insecure. We are unable to stop the waste of resources and the destruction of the environment. The pandemic has subsided considerably, partly due to the development of vaccines, but many people in poor countries are still unvaccinated. What to do about them and how to prepare for the coming pandemic is still more important. The fact that our efforts are not working is reflected in the ranking of the Human Development Index, HDI, published annually by UNDP.

The Human Development Indicators are made up of data on the progress of development from three perspectives: health, economy, and education. Looking at the Human Development Index on a year-by-year basis, there were 87 countries worldwide that had fallen far behind by 2020. For what purpose have we ever given development assistance, economic cooperation, or aid? There is a sense of crisis that all has been lost.

Thus, compounding threats such as environmental changes, global warming, ever more difficult situations such as inequality, technological advances and the new threats they have created are growing, leading to higher stress levels in mental health indicators. These combined factors are increasing the sense of insecurity in times of uncertainty. As a result, even in affluent countries like the USA, there is a growing sense of insecurity, increasingly violent political disagreements, and deepening social

divisions. In last year's mid-term elections, by a narrow margin, the Democrats took the majority in the Senate, but the Republicans took the majority in the House of Representatives.

Then there was the Brazilian presidential election. Former President Bolsonaro, an ultra-nationalist who has been called Brazil's Trump, lost to Lula by a very small margin of 0.1 to 0.2 percent. What it means is that the public is split in two, with nationalism and individualism, and there is hardly any dialogue between the two. They don't even want to talk to each other. If this situation continues, what will happen is that conflicts will occur and the gap will widen and widen. You can see this in the reports that UNDP published in 2022.

UNDP does this kind of research and analysis, but more important is the implementation of assistance such as poverty reduction projects. UNDP does things like vocational training to bring in income, support for governance, electoral support, and so on, so UNDP has a very good idea of what the people living in the communities in the country are feeling. The result is the Human Development Report that we compile.

What do we need in these times, UNDP proposes what it calls the "three I's". The first "I" is innovation. This is Schumpeter's theory of innovation, which says that solutions conceived within the same problem paradigm are not solutions. The next "I" is Investment. It is a tool to link people's satisfaction and well-being to their community. Investment is the enrichment of people's lives through this tool. The third "I" is Insurance. This includes car insurance and national health insurance. Health insurance reduces the actual cost of treatment to 30% of the cost of illness.

In the traditional understanding of economics, labor, and capital were necessary for enterprises to produce. Now that we are in the era of the Anthropocene, this concept has to change. In other words, the problem is now that companies are using the natural environment, such as air, but are not paying for it. If we can think in this way, it will be an answer to the demand made by developing countries to developed countries at COP27 to compensate for the large-scale natural disasters that are now occurring due to climate change.

With these and other ideas in mind, I would like to invite everyone to think about how we can achieve the SDGs. Young people around the world are taking on this challenge, and UNDP is working with the Citi Foundation on the Youth Co:Lab Innovation Challenge, a programme to support social innovation and social entrepreneurship by young people. The competition attracted 9,000 young people, including high school students, from 28 countries, mainly in the Asian region, and many great ideas were presented. I encourage everyone to think about how they can achieve the SDGs with their own business ideas and apply for the competition. We look forward to hearing from you.

For example, there is a case study of a business that created an app called MyMizu, which shows places where you can drink water for free in Google Maps. With this app, you can get water for free with your own plastic bottle. There is also an initiative to support women to study abroad to learn these IT skills, a business run by a manager who is in her early 20s. These places have been awarded with excellent results.

These are programs for young people, but also for large companies, such as members of the Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and companies listed in the first section, these large companies are also trying hard to achieve the SDGs. Another program that UNDP supports is SDG Impact. This is a guideline for companies to be judged on the basis of whether they are creating value to achieve the SDGs when deciding which companies to finance. For companies, this means that when they raise funds, they can show that their business plan is based on these guidelines. In Japan, Mizuho Bank has participated in this and received training.

An international fund called the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has been set up to help developing countries achieve the emission reductions, targets, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NCDs) they have set themselves to combat climate change together with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JICA and others, plays a central role in the implementation of GCF projects.

In May 2023, the G7 Summit was held in Hiroshima, and Japan chaired the G7 Summit. Japan has always shown leadership in the field of health as chairperson of the G7 summits, and at the time of the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000, the Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis was established. Seven years later at the Toyako Summit, seven years after that at the Ise-Shima Summit, and again this time, the seven richest industrialized countries in the world cooperate with each other and say that the world should cooperate in confronting and solving infectious diseases, malaria and other diseases that take human lives and that we should help each other. We have put forward an agenda.

I believe that these efforts are the force behind Japan's strong leadership at the UN. It is the major task of the UN in the future to call for efforts by countries to think of others and to work in solidarity.

## 10. Conclusion: Message to emerging young leaders

To National Model UN members, I would offer a hint on international careers. Before I became a diplomat, I studied development economics in my undergraduate study, specializing in macroeconomics and economic development theory. However, I strongly questioned why poor countries stay poor if the market economy grows with expansion and equilibrium. And I eventually realized that it was a problem of governance of the country and the international community.

So, I would like young people to just come closer and observe the global governance of the international community and the governance by governments in developing countries by walking on the ground with their feet. The UN has not yet reached the stage where it can be an institution of global governance like, for example, the World Government, but for now, it is a showcase for many efforts to improve governance through international cooperation.

And please don't say that you are not yet experienced enough to express your own opinions. The "Imperial Rescript on Education" in the Meiji Era of Japan once taught that an attitude of "reverence and frugality" is a virtue, but the virtue of respecting others but not being reserved and expressing one's own opinion too much does not apply at all in the international community. As long as you are involved in improving governance and striving to fulfill your responsibilities in order to contribute to development and peace, I urge you to leave your small ego behind and stand up for the cause and express your opinions out loud.

I believe, including myself, that language and communication skills are, after all, a matter of how effectively you can convey them in a language that everyone can understand. No matter how beautiful the words you use, if there is no content, the words will be meaningless. I hope that we will not hesitate to engage in friendly competition with each other's personalities, and especially as the younger generation, I would like you to raise and discuss issues.

## References

- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). (2016). Africa Human Development Report 2016. New York. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hdr/2016-africa-human-development-report.html>
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). (2021). Human Development Report 2021-2022. New York. <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2021-22>
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). (2022). 2022 Special Report on Human Security. New York. <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2022-special-report-human-security>
- United Nations Meetings Coverage & Press Releases. (2010). The Council recognizes the critical role that the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité will be called upon to play in the future to protect civilians in Chad. <https://press.un.org/fr/2010/CS10134.doc.htm>
- United Nations. (2015). News on Millenium Development Goals. New York. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- United Nations. (2023). Sustainable Development Goals. New York. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

### Abstract

In this article, I will discuss the world developments surrounding the UN and my involvement since the 1980s, when I started my diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, my work on the UN Security Council and my peacebuilding and humanitarian work since I moved to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). I will then explain my role as Director of the UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo in communicating the work of the UN to the wider Japanese public in Japan, as well as the cooperation of the UNDP and Japan on the SDGs and human security.

Keywords: Multilateral diplomacy, Security Council, peace and development, SDGs, human security