

# UNITING FOR PEACE

## RIGHTS AND HUMANITY

### Global Leaders Congress 2011



New thinking of Innovative Practice –  
Articulating the Paradigm of Justice and  
Sustainability

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Disarmament Demilitarisation Development Democracy  
4D FOR WORLD PEACE

## Revitalising Global Governance and Democracy

*For a just, peaceful and sustainable world*

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## **Introduction:**

Thanks Julia Hausermann for inviting me to speak at Global Leaders Congress. Rights and Humanity and Julia Hausermann are working tirelessly for peace, protection of Human Rights, just and sustainable world and their efforts are most commendable and inspiring.

It is indeed a pleasure to be among peace and human rights activists who are a driving force for change. As Margaret Mead said, "It is always a small group of committed people whose tireless efforts have brought changes to the world."

I am going to start with the words broken society which have been spoken and written widely after the recent riots in the United Kingdom. I will take it a step further and speak about the broken global society or poor governance in the world. I am also going to introduce a new campaign 4D for World Peace, the 4D's stand for Disarmament, Demilitarisation, Development and Democracy and will also suggest three initiatives/actions which can make a difference in our community, city, country and wider world for furthering peace, human rights, justice and sustainability.

What we are witnessing today is the leadership vacuum and breakdown of institutions across the world. It seems that the ongoing Euro crises will continue as Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Sarkozy, have not been able to put aside narrow national agenda to fix what is becoming more and more a weaker European Union. In America, President Obama is in constant duel/battle with the Republicans to successfully enact any meaningful legislation to what looks like a country in relative Geopolitical and economic decline. The mindset of today's leaders can be compared to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century colonists who for power, wealth, economic and military domination and extraction of resources indulged in military adventurism and still continue to do so.

The International institutions of today, many of which were created at the end of World War II, more than 60 years ago are increasingly becoming incapable of fixing the threats and challenges of today. UN is doing much good but is not democratic and representative. US treasury and Federal Reserve System, World Bank and IMF (International Monetary Fund) including European Central Bank and the Euro Group together have not been able to fix the financial crises since it started in 2008. This complex saga demonstrates once again the organisational failure to revive the global economy and avoid the recession and the economic downturn the world is heading towards and can lead to catastrophic consequences.

The decline of the global system for finance, economic growth and development have led to food prices rocketing, leaving millions on the brink of starvation. The worst humanitarian crisis in this century in horn of Africa where 12.4 million people are affected by drought and lack of adequate food, water and shelter is a result of that. The global warming, the food crisis and climate change crisis has put the planet in peril. This is not just an environmental issue. It is about justice. It is about denying the basic rights of people.

While addressing these issues we have a major ongoing conflict in our society – the wars between West and parts of Islam giving rise to Islamophobia. USA + NATO's continuing and aggressive war with some Islamic Countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia and Libya) which is known as "War on Terror." US and NATO have to come clean as to what

are the real reasons for pursuing War on Terror or is it a replacement of the cold war for illegal military invasions and occupations? These have led to violations of international law, human rights and assault to civil rights which are crucial to democracies.

The consequences of these wars are the appalling human right abuses in detention centres of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib. Human rights violations and torture occur in developed and developing countries, democratic societies and dictatorships alike on a daily basis throughout the world. The prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay, Bagram Air base in Afghanistan and of extraordinary rendition to countries notorious for practicing torture is just an extreme example of that. The cost of global war on terror to US anything between \$ 2 trillion (twice the cost of Vietnam war). Just imagine the opportunity cost if only these vast sums spent on global military could be redirected to better use.

### **The Changing Realities of the World:**

Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary General of the United Nations, explained eloquently the problems of international diplomacy and with the reform agenda of the UN. He said and I quote:

“The adherents of Realpolitik argue that the only ‘sensible’ approach to international relations is that the economically mighty and the militarily most powerful will always determine the conduct of world affairs and the conditions of United Nations. Not ethics, not norms of international law; not the principles of democracy; not the wishes and views of the other 180 or so nations and of the huge majority of humankind – ‘realism’ dismisses such references as the irrelevancies of ‘idealists’ and ‘starry-eyed utopianists’ and insists that traditionally measured power is the arbiter of our destinies. And all the ordinary rest of us might as well accept this. I refuse to.”

He believed in the necessity of a world organisation like the United Nations, which should be much more than the convenient facade if not pawn for some super powers – a regulatory body enhancing peace and security as well as human rights and a better life for humanity. A body guided by the notion of global solidarity.

What has now changed is that the permanent members of the Security Council are realising that they are no longer the superpowers of the world as they were once after the Second World War. Countries such as China, India, Brazil, Japan, Germany and others are playing a very important role in the 21st century. It is increasingly being realised that if proper status and inclusion is not granted to the emerging giants, they will bypass the UN Security Council and take their own decisions as they will be the one who will be running the show in the 21st century.

### **4D for World Peace recommendations for Justice, Human Rights and Sustainability:**

The threats and challenges of today - terrorism, climate change and financial crises are so vast and huge that it cannot be tackled by one single country no matter how powerful it may be. We are living in an interdependent world, a global village in which co-operations and not rivalries will work for the survival of mankind. As worlds states and people are more

intertwined than ever, no government, single group or individual can solve these issues on its own. Urgent cooperation and concerted action between states and civil society is needed.

I would argue that societies need a paradigm shift, for more robust world leadership and institutions for achieving justice and sustainability. For that reason Uniting for Peace have come up with a campaign called “4D for World Peace.” The 4D Charter through working together on disarmament, demilitarisation, development and democracy can achieve world peace by campaigning for:

- **Demilitarising** the global economy to shift resources towards health, education, development and human security programmes away from militarisation.
- Promoting and effective and credible United Nations for Protection of human rights, social justice and **Democracy**.
- Global advocacy for creating and promoting a culture of peace, diplomacy and sustainable **Development**.
- **Disarming** the world to invest in a future vision of World Peace
- Using the power of **social media** to work along with governments, international communities, NGOs, civil societies for creating international networks, coalitions and partnerships for elimination of existing and future threats.
- Exploring actions for revitalising **global governance**, democracy and rule of law.
- Creating institutions and frameworks which can prevent security measures undermining **human rights** – erosion of civil liberties under war on terror, reduce protection against torture; targeting of some ethnic communities, refugees, migrants, children and women.
- Protecting vulnerable countries, cities and populations from **climate change**
- Claiming **peace, security, food, shelter, education, jobs and health** as basic human rights as a human right
- Working for multilateralism through a more open, transparent and **democratic society**.

### **Three Action Ideas for Change:**

It is often said that peace, human rights, development and environmental organisations are fragmented and work in isolation. Today, I propose Rights and Humanity and other organisations present here to work together to make progress on peace, human rights and development.

The way forward for global institutions is to follow 4D for World Peace holistic and multilateral vision of dealing with all the interrelated threats and challenges of today. For this I would like to suggest **three** campaign ideas which can make a difference in our community, city, country and wider world.

#### **1) Making your city a culture of peace city.**

There are alternatives to war and we can work towards them by changing our own city or borough into a culture of peace city. It can build peace by organising events and festivals

including making a peace museum. Culture of peace can also be taught in schools and universities, civic and community organisations for a better future.

It's worth recalling UNESCO, Declaration of a culture of peace "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". Let us work towards the goals of this declaration.

## **2) Creating a media centre for peace and nonviolence.**

War reporting is mostly one dimensional and in the mainstream more and more media is telling the story of the leaders, corporations and the military. With the social media, we can tell the truth. Internet online services and social media are in more than one ways changing the society rapidly. Around two billion people across the world are connected to the internet via Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, MySpace etc. The ground breaking success of the social media can be seen by the recent civilian surge for freedom and democracy happening around uprising in Middle East and North Africa known as the Arab Spring and actions against government of India by Anna Hazare, anti corruption campaigner who inspired a wave of protest across the country. These are examples of citizen power which can force governments to pass legislations for the benefits and legitimate rights of the people.

## **3) Global Leadership Summits and Heroes/Ambassadors of Peace**

Leaders more and more are taking unethical and damaging decisions bringing the whole world into economic, social and political chaos. By inspiring, teaching and educating a new generation of leaders we can meet the challenges of 21st century and make a difference. Future leaders with a love for learning, sense of possibility, and understanding of world around them – can serve the world and bring greater opportunities for future generations.

Peace heroes and not military heroes, should be more visible in our cities, monuments and museums. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class and our nation; this means we must develop a world prospective an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole.

## **Conclusion:**

We have covered a lot of ground today and it is clear from the above discussion that revitalising global governance will lead to peace and disarmament, protection of human rights, environment, rule of law and development of the poorest regions of the world. If that can be put into practice by leaders and global institutions then we stand a fair chance of solving the huge problems of the 21st century. Let's go for it and realise our dreams of changing the world to a better place as Gandhi said and I quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Thank you for listening.

The full version of this speech can be downloaded from:

[www.unitingforpeace.org](http://www.unitingforpeace.org)

#### Notes:

1. 4D Manifesto and 4D for World Peace booklet [www.unitingforpeace.org](http://www.unitingforpeace.org)
2. "Revitalising Global Governance and Democracy," by Vijay Mehta in March 2006, The New School of Athens, Athens, Greece
3. The Brunei Times, "The Culture of Peace has come," 11 October 2009
4. Article by Vijay Mehta written for the Indian Institute for Public Administration, "Reforms in Global Governance and Democracy: for a Just, Peaceful and sustainable World" January 2010.
5. What the world will look like in 2025.
6. Exploring Different Aspects of Peace and Non-violence, Vijay Mehta, 2010.
7. "Charter for a World without Violence" – <http://www.nobelforpeace-summits.org/CHARTER/charter.htm>
8. "The Methods of Non-violent Action" by Gene Sharp.
9. "101 Peace Ideas" by Vijay Mehta  
[http://www.unitingforpeace.com/resources/101\\_peace\\_ideas.html](http://www.unitingforpeace.com/resources/101_peace_ideas.html)
10. "Weapons of Mass Democracy" by Stephen Zunes September 2009.
11. "Norway 7/22 2011: WHAT, WHAT NEXT WHAT TO DO?" by Johan Galtung, 2011
12. "New World," UNA UK, Autumn 2011.
13. "Time Running Out: Transformation of the International Institutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" by Vijay Mehta. A talk given at Commonwealth Journalists Association. March, 2009
14. "Ban ki Moon urges future generation of leaders to make a difference," UN News Service, September, 2011.
15. "The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels Wars and Poverty in the Developing World," by Vijay Mehta. Pluto Press, to be published in Spring 2012

Vijay Mehta is the Chair of Uniting for Peace ([www.unitingforpeace.org](http://www.unitingforpeace.org)), president of Mehta Centre ([www.vmpeace.org](http://www.vmpeace.org)), Founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity ([www.fortuneforum.org](http://www.fortuneforum.org)). He is an author and global activist for peace, development, human rights and the environment. Some of his notable books are The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future, Arms No More, and The United Nations and Its Future in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

He along with his daughter Renu Mehta founder of Fortune Forum charity held two summits in London in 2006 and 2007. The summits raised over a million pounds for charity and attracted a worldwide audience of 1.3 billion people (one fifth of humanity) including print and media coverage. The keynote speakers for the first and second summit were Bill Clinton, former US President and Al Gore, former US vice-President, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize 2007.

Vijay Mehta has appeared in various TV programmes including BBC World, Press TV, Ajtak-24 hour Indian news channel, and Think Peace documentary, Canada, among others. The Sunday Times, Independent, Observer and Guardian newspapers, among other journals have written about him. His life is devoted to the service of peace, humanity and our planet.

The Sunday Times described him as a 'longstanding activist for peace, development, human rights and the environment', who along with his daughter, Renu Mehta, has set a precedent for striving to change the world. (The Sunday Times, 1 February 2009). Vijay Mehta's new book "**The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels Wars and Poverty in the Developing World**" will be published by Pluto Press in Spring 2012.