

Réunion : Débat général à la soixante-dixième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies

Date : 3 octobre 2015

Durée : 8'05" (122 mots/minute)

Oratrice : Dunya Maumoon, Ministre des affaires étrangères des Maldives

Difficulté : *

Éléments à fournir : /

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The first three words of the UN Charter read "We the People". Those words make it clear, that human life is at the heart of the UN Charter. And it must remain the key principle guiding our work.

This year, we mark the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Charter. Seventy years since the establishment of the United Nations. And there isn't a more opportune time to ask ourselves: Have we served, "We the people" well?

The answer to that question is, probably yes.

I say that because:

Succeeding generations have been saved from the scourge of inter-state war; yet we remain unable to counter intra-state conflict.

Our faith in fundamental human rights is reaffirmed in principle; yet, the equal rights of men and women, and of nations, large and small, are ignored.

The rule of law, and values of good governance, are advocated for some, but ignored for others.

We promised to promote social progress and a better standard of life...and yes, extreme poverty has been reduced significantly, more children than ever are going to school, yet, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, and ignorance and intolerance are rampant.

The Charter has failed to recognize the environment as an issue of importance, and we fail the environment, every day.

Despite all that, Excellencies, the United Nations is the best hope for humanity. And it must remain relevant.

If we want the United Nations to become more resilient,

If we want it to face the emerging challenges of our time,

If we want it to give hope to the many who perish away in dire situations, ...to inspire courage in the face of adversity,

...to protect the rights of nations regardless of size,

The UN must be reformed.

One important way of doing that is to redefine the concept of security: to include all issues that threaten all of humanity, including climate change. For us in the Maldives, climate change is a security threat. It damages our economy, deprives us of our rights, of our land, and of our way of life. It is a threat to the very existence of our nation.

Excellencies, when young children play by the beach, the waves lapping at their feet, when a fisherman looks to the sea for the day's catch, and when we feel the cool breeze of the ocean caressing us, we cannot imagine that, those same waters will become our watery grave.

Mr President, the Maldives is ready to act. We have always been the first in line. Together with other small island developing states, we have taken urgent action to keep the rise of global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius. We are reducing our emissions. We are working, in good faith, towards a legally binding agreement in Paris this year. And if we, the smallest can act, why can't the biggest?

Another such issue is oceans. Oceans are intimately linked with our lives and livelihoods. Oceans and their wealth are the drivers of our economy. They are the source of our food, and the backbone of our heritage and traditions. Without sustaining the wealth of the oceans, we achieve nothing.

This is why the Maldives banned turtle poaching in the early 80s. This is why the Maldives declared a biosphere reserve in 2012. This is why the entire Maldives is a shark sanctuary. We understand the value of our oceans and all the treasures that it contains. Our oceans are home to some of the most valuable marine habitats in the world. Yet illicit exploitation of natural resources, maritime piracy and other criminal activities threaten and undermine the peace and security of our countries.

Mr. President,

The United Nations rose from the ashes of war and destruction: where swarms of refugees crossed borders and seas: left everything behind, to seek safety and security, and to save their lives and the lives of their children. Today, we see similar pictures of girls and boys, women and men, seeking safety from war and certain death. I urge you,

show compassion. A good start will be to call it by what it is: a "refugee" crisis, not a migrant crisis.

These refugees are running away from senseless violence: barbarism that is carried out in the name of Islam. The Maldives condemns these acts of terrorism. The acts of these groups are not only un-Islamic, but also anti-Islamic. They are feeding into the rise of Islamophobia around the world. The international community must not let these groups re-define our beautiful religion of peace, tolerance, and compassion.

Excellencies,

The small island developing states of the world are different from the large states. We face different kinds of challenges that require very different responses. This is a fact that everyone now recognizes. Yet, the international architecture, including the UN system, is not designed to accommodate the unique features of small states. This needs to change, and changes need to happen now!

The Maldives has always believed that we can do anything we set our mind to, if we remain sincere in our intention, and unwavering in our commitment. And the United Nations has never failed to inspire us to do so. That is why the Maldives joined the UN, less than two months after gaining independence. And just a few days ago, we celebrated fifty years of our membership. The UN has served us well. And we are committed to expand and further strengthen this valuable partnership.

Mr President,

Fifty years ago, when we applied for UN Membership, there were those that doubted our ability to survive, and questioned our capacity to contribute. After fifty years of being a UN member, I say to those skeptics:

...We are not only willing, but also able!

...We are not only viable, but also valuable!

And as Maldivians, we are proud of what we have achieved.

Thank you.

Réunion : Journée mondiale de l'aide humanitaire

Date : 19 août 2016

Durée : 7'35" (122 mots/minute)

Oratrice : Ngozie ADICHIE, écrivaine nigériane

Difficulté : **

Éléments à fournir : /

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

I am very honored to be here.

In 1967, almost 50 years ago, my parents lived in Nsukka, a university town in eastern Nigeria. They had 2 small children, a house, a car, friends, a stable life.

Then the Nigeria Biafra war started.

Only days later, my parents heard the sound of shelling and gunfire. So frightening, so close, that they had very little time to pack anything before they ran. They left almost all their belongings behind.

They ended up in another town, a town already very crowded. They could not find a place to stay. Even the refugee camps were full. My father was desperate. He was worried about being out in the open because of the possibility of air raids. He knew a man who was from that town. A man named Emmanuel Isike.

Emmanuel lived in a cramped house that was full of people: members of his extended family, people whose homes the war had also snatched.

My father also knew that it would be very difficult for Emmanuel to accommodate them, very difficult to stretch what was already badly stretched. Still, my father knocked on Emmanuel's door. Emmanuel looked at my parents holding onto their two small daughters, their faces shadowed in despair, and he said: "We will make room for you".

I think often of that moment because I wonder if my parents would have survived the war, had they not benefited from that act of kindness.

For 3 years my parents were refugees. And they owed a lot not only to Emmanuel but also to many humanitarian workers, those women and men magnificent in their bravery and their vulnerability, and their commitment.

But my parents were not just refugees. Nobody is ever just a refugee. Nobody is ever just a single thing. And yet in the public discourse today we often speak of people as single things. Refugee. Immigrant.

We dehumanize people when we reduce them to a single thing. And this dehumanization is insidious and unconscious.

It happened to me some years ago.

I was visiting Mexico from the US and at the time, just as it is now, the political climate in the US was tense. And there were debates going on about immigration.

And immigration was often synonymous with Mexicans. And Mexicans were all portrayed through a singular lens of negativity. There were stories about Mexicans being arrested at the border, stealing, fleecing the health care system, bringing disease...

I remember walking around on my first day in Guadalajara, a beautiful city, watching people who were going to work and school, people who were laughing, people who were buying and selling in the market. At first I felt surprised, and then I was overwhelmed with shame.

I realized that I had been so immersed in the American media's narrow coverage of Mexicans, that I had forgotten their humanity. And I could not have been more ashamed of myself.

In my language, Igbo, the word for love is *Ifunanya*. And its literal translation is "to see".

So, I would like to suggest today that *this* is a time for a new narrative. A narrative in which we truly see those about whom we speak.

Let us tell a different story. Let us tell the story differently.

Let us remember that the movement of human beings on earth is not new.

Human history is a story of movement and mingling. Let us remember that we are not just bones and flesh. We are emotional beings. We all share a desire to be valued. A desire to matter.

Let us remember that dignity is as important as food.

When we speak of people who are in need, let us speak not only of their need, but also of what they love, what they resent, what wounds they pride, what they aspire to, what makes them laugh.

Because if we do, then we are reminded of how similar we are in the midst of our differences, and we are better able to imagine ourselves in the same situation as those in need.

We cannot measure our humanity, but we can act on it. Our humanity is that glowing center in all of us.

It is what makes us speak up about an injustice even when that injustice does not personally affect us.

It is what makes us aware that we are better¹ off if our fellow human beings are better off.

It is what made Emmanuel in his cramped home full of relatives still open his door to my parents, and say: "We will make room for you".

I am not making the simplistic suggestion that all borders must be completely open because that is impractical.

There might not be enough room for everyone, but there is certainly room to do more. There is room to honor more commitment, room to bridge the divide between what has been promised and what has been accomplished.

Emmanuel could have said no to my parents, and he would have had understandable reasons for saying no. But he chose to say yes, and his reason for saying yes was his humanity. We can create room for people.

And today in this world that has been scarred by so much suffering, creating room for people is not only doable, it is a moral imperative.

It is the moral imperative of our time.

Thank you.

Réunion : Réunion du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies consacrée à La situation au Moyen-Orient

Date : 21 novembre 2016

Durée : 8'07" (128 mots/minute)

Oratrice : Samantha Power, Ambassadrice des États-Unis d'Amérique

Difficulté : ***

Éléments à fournir:

Joint Investigative Mechanism for Syria	Mécanisme d'enquête conjoint sur la Syrie
Jabhat Al-Nusra	le Front el-Nousra

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you, as always, for presenting us with the unvarnished and unbiased facts.

Your remarks show once again what happens when this conflict continues and when Russia and the Assad regime relentlessly pummel civilian areas from the air and regularly block deliveries of humanitarian aid on the ground.

In opposition-held eastern Aleppo, at least 289 people have reportedly been killed since Tuesday. One Syrian volunteer reported 180 air strikes on eastern Aleppo on Saturday alone. Think of what you were doing on Saturday and imagine being subjected to 180 air strikes while you were doing it. A horrifying video from eastern Aleppo affirms a shocking inhuman barrage on civilian neighbourhoods.

Of course, we will hear today from the Syrian regime, the Russian Federation, we will hear a very different narrative. Russia will no doubt talk at length about how its unilateral

pause in air strikes over eastern Aleppo was some kind of humanitarian gesture. The reality is that the Assad regime and Russia are continuing their starve-get-bombed-or-surrender strategy in eastern Aleppo: bombing the city's 275,000 residents, pausing to see if any will surrender to the Assad regime — a regime that, as both we and the Syrian people know, has systematically tortured those who have found themselves under its custodial authority. Would any of us trust that regime with the lives of our family members, with our kids, with our parents, with our siblings?

Consider that when Russia paused their air strikes over eastern Aleppo they did so unilaterally, meaning that they never deigned to coordinate their efforts with the UN or any other organization actually providing aid. That was not a humanitarian gesture.

Consider that during this pause in strikes Russia and the Assad regime never gave the UN permission to deliver a single parcel of food or medicine to eastern Aleppo — not one. That was not a humanitarian gesture.

Consider that Russian war regime planes dropped leaflets warning the people of eastern Aleppo to leave or be annihilated, as many of us discussed at our last briefing.

And consider that residents of eastern Aleppo reportedly received text messages warning people to flee before a “strategically planned assault” would happen.

Consider that last month Russia vetoed a resolution in this Council meant to end atrocities in Aleppo.

These also were not humanitarian gestures.

And remember that eastern Aleppo is not an isolated case, it is part of a countrywide strategy. Across Syria, Russia and the Assad regime are waging a campaign that includes sieges, the blocking of humanitarian aid, the indiscriminate bombardment of civilian areas and the use of barrel bombs.

So, members of this Council, we need to separate fact from fiction today. When we renewed the Joint Investigative Mechanism for Syria last week, I and many of you spoke

about how we could not uphold the norm against chemical weapons use if we did not know what party was using chemical weapons. Here again, to uphold the humanitarian demands of this Council, we need to speak frankly and very specifically about which parties are responsible for the suffering of the Syrian people. That means condemning the atrocities committed by terrorist organizations like Jabhat Al-Nusra and ISIL — which the United States has done and will continue to do — but that also means telling the truth about Russia and the Assad regime's actions. Today I will focus on just two features of regime and Russian terror

First, the Assad regime and Russia must stop the campaign of attacks that has destroyed countless schools, hospitals, homes and other civilian infrastructure.

Russia and the Al-Assad regime's merciless attacks must end and those behind such attacks must know that we and the international community are watching their actions, documenting their abuses, and one day they will be held accountable.

Now I know right now today, with wind at their backs, these individuals feel impunity. So, though, did Slobodan Milošević, Charles Taylor and countless war criminals before them. Today's atrocities are well-documented, and the civilized world's memories are long.

Second, the Assad regime must end the suffering and torture in detention centres throughout Syria.

The United States, I want to stress, recognizes that non-State groups have also committed many abuses against detainees, including torture. We condemn any group using such tactics in the strongest terms and we demand that immediate access be granted to monitor all detention facilities, whether regime, or terrorist or opposition.

ISIL atrocities are in a category unto themselves, which is why the United States leads a 67-member coalition to defeat this terrorist organization.

Let me conclude: in January, the UN and the world raised alarm that the people in the community of Madaya, besieged by allies of the Assad regime, were starving.

Today we have reports of starvation again. Save The Children reported recently that Madaya is now also seeing an increase in child suicide attempts, something virtually unheard of in the town before.

One of these kids is a 15-year-old named Omar. Omar told a reporter recently,

“There is nothing left for me here, and I felt the easiest thing to do was to kill myself. I tried to throw myself from the balcony, but it wasn’t high enough.”

Omar’s dad is in jail. His mom had to leave Madaya but she left Omar behind, so he did not get recruited into the Government’s security forces.

“There is nothing to eat” Omar says. “We are being strangled here. It is like I am in prison”.

And Omar has one other thought; one that you might expect from any teenager:

“I miss my mum waking me up in the morning.” he says.

We — not just members of the Security Council, but all Member States of the United Nations — must be clear that the Assad regime, Russia and their allies are responsible for this destruction, both physical destruction and, for countless children like Omar, psychological destruction.

And in the face of that destruction, this overwhelming suffering, the perpetrators must know that the pursuit of a military solution is as foolish as it is brutal. Attacks on civilians fuel terrorism; they do not defeat terrorism. The perpetrators must also know that, like their ignominious predecessors through history, they will face judgment for their crimes.

Thank you.