

- countries with underdeveloped democratic values and institutions, with only limited recognition and respect for the rule of law;
- thousands of weapons -- conventional, nuclear, chemical -- often under less than rigorous control either in terms of storage and maintenance or in terms of sales and exports;
- decades of environmental abuse and neglect -- in places, almost total devastation of rivers, soil, forests and air;
- underpinning it all, large deficits in many countries, economic frailty and underdevelopment in others, rising unemployment and growing economic disparities;
- any or all of which can lead potentially to uncontrollable mass migration of people to other parts of the world in search of a better future.

In short, we have a spectrum of flashpoints looking for a spark -- flashpoints that have already set off the rapid deterioration of our world in this decade; flashpoints that can set off a chain reaction implicating immediately the entire world.

We already see that social, economic, political and environmental linkages are so inclusive that no country can set itself outside the agenda of daily world events. And if problems are so inclusive, then solutions can only be found in new forms of co-operative or inclusive action, to protect global stability, basic ideals and individual well-being.

Co-operative action and inclusive solutions, therefore, call for a rethinking of such fundamental principles as the concept of national sovereignty.

Many of the sources of tension and conflict in the world are found in human rights abuses, persecution of minorities or political repression, which often lead to, or are compounded by, economic deprivation. Historically, these are intrinsically internal matters, but they are now legitimate concerns of the global community. Indeed, they must become a shared responsibility.

Sovereignty can no longer be absolute or exclusive. The world is too complex for this kind of absolute. In Cambodia, for example, sovereignty and key elements of governance are now temporarily separated, as we, as part of a UN force, precariously seek a solution to the unspeakable atrocities of this country's past.

Another fundamental principle that presents difficulties in the current environment is the inviolate nature of national boundaries. Physical boundaries, many of them recent or imposed