

MR. CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

TEN YEARS AGO WE WERE IN STOCKHOLM

WE WERE DRIVEN BY A FAST-GROWING POPULAR AWARENESS THAT OUR STRIVING FOR MATERIAL WELL-BEING BROUGHT IN ITS WAKE PROBLEMS WHICH RISKED DESTROYING THE VERY QUALITY OF LIFE TO WHICH WE ASPIRED. WE ASKED OURSELVES WHETHER THESE PROBLEMS WERE ESSENTIALLY THE FRUITS OF AFFLUENCE; WHETHER THE ENVIRONMENT COULD BE PROTECTED ONLY AT THE EXPENSE OF DEVELOPMENT - OR VICE-VERSA. BUT WE KNEW THAT SOME PROBLEMS HAD GROWN TO SUCH PROPORTIONS THAT ONLY WORLD WIDE COOPERATION COULD BRING THEM UNDER CONTROL.

WE HAD JUST BECOME CONSCIOUS THAT THERE WAS INDEED "ONLY ONE EARTH" AND THAT WE ALL INEVITABLY DEPENDED FOR OUR SURVIVAL ON THE RESOURCES OF OUR SMALL PLANET.

THIS CONSCIOUSNESS BROUGHT FORTH THE PRINCIPLES OF STOCKHOLM. OUR DECLARATION WAS INDEED A TURNING POINT. AND TODAY, TEN YEARS LATER, IT IS AGAIN TO THESE PRINCIPLES THAT WE RETURN. MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, THIS MEETING IS A REDEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF STOCKHOLM. THEY ARE STILL VALID, CONTEMPORARY, INDEED ESSENTIAL TO OUR CONTINUED SURVIVAL.

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