

later the adoption of the Universal Declaration was indeed the gross violations of these rights that occurred during and immediately before the Second World War. Two of the main purposes of the United Nations, as proclaimed by Article 1 of the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security and to promote respect for human rights. That association is, Mr. President, no accident.

We live on a planet that is governed - if one can indeed say that it is governed - by a legal order that is becoming obsolete. During my own lifetime, we have lived through two world wars which have shattered our world. We are still suffering the consequences. How many wars, declared or not, now divide nations and peoples. It is governments that make wars; it is individual men and women who are made to suffer by them. Perhaps the radical change in the very nature of international law to which I have referred and which is being brought about chiefly by this new world law of human rights will help us keep this planet a place where men and women can continue to live.

I have talked about a revolution in the nature and structure of international law. But what is law? Law tells us what should happen. It does not tell us what will happen. That is why, in developed legal systems, there exist elaborate mechanisms for the implementation and enforcement of the law - the courts, the police, etc. At the international level, these mechanisms are weak when indeed they even exist. Most of them are directed, moreover - although this is not their declared purpose - only to the education of world public opinion. We sometimes call it the organization of shame. It is true that governments, even authoritarian governments, are sensitive to public opinion. But, however important, what we have is not enough. The challenge of our generation is to devise adequate measures of implementation and enforcement.

This is the message, Mr. President, that I want to convey in this short intervention. Never in the history of the Universal Declaration has it received the public attention which it has during this 40th anniversary. Perhaps this is the élan vital that will help us to bring peace to our world and universal recognition of the dignity of man and of woman.