

Sadruddin Khan in that role will lead to adoption of a report which provides insights into how the United Nations' organizations and member states can together prevent refugee situations from reaching existing proportions. We believe that report should provide an impartial basis for examining broader aspects of international refugee problems including, for example, the proposed initiative by the Federal Republic of Germany regarding international guidelines for preventing massive flows of refugees.

Even in more tranquil situations, there is work to be done. This is the International Year of Disabled Persons, to promote the rights of more than 500 million disabled people throughout the world to full participation and equality in a barrier-free world.

And there is the position of women, in all countries, and the need to improve their condition, socially and politically, and to promote the equality of women with men. An important step in this direction is the recent entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

But, Mr. President, if collective world concern for individual human rights, and for organized efforts to promote the rights of women and the specifically disadvantaged are important recent phenomena, the emergence during the last 30 years of some 100 sovereign states must be counted as one of the most significant changes the world has ever seen. Dag Hammarskjold was of course centrally involved in the process of assisting these new states to enter into the life of this institution. This was a period of birth and hope. But for many of those new states, perhaps for most, this hope was quickly tempered by the economic realities which faced them.

One reality which was evident immediately to the new states was that any economic interdependence which then applied was heavily skewed on the side of dependence and vulnerability for them. It was an asymmetrical relationship. The developing countries were acutely aware of this, but the developed world was not. That has now changed. I think that the change in perception on the part of developed countries towards the reality of global interdependence is of great significance, even a source of hope.

The growing realization that to an increasing extent our economic futures are linked, can spur us towards solutions. The Brandt report has, I think, contributed in