

UN50

The United Nations is fifty years old  
It has proven that war perpetuates war  
That dialogue is the foundation for peace.  
It led to Decolonization  
Mobilized the world until victory against Apartheid  
It initiated a peaceful co-existence in the Middle-East  
Helped build the momentum that led to the fall of the Berlin wall  
Participated in the eradication of small pox and institutionalized  
oral dehydration

The United Nations was born with fifty one member states  
In the presence of less than ten women  
In the absence of almost a whole continent.  
It later expanded to include 185 members of all continents  
It has allowed only two women to preside over the General-  
Assembly in fifty years.  
An African is the today Secretary-General.

Although the United Nations' Charter started with the words WE  
THE PEOPLE,  
The entire world suffered the consequences of a cold war  
That over emphasized narrow sovereignty  
Projecting a partial vision of our global neighborhood.

Though the United Nations meant to eradicate poverty,  
It found itself framed between Lords of Poverty  
Whose only goal was to create work for their firms  
And market their goods

The ideal of international cooperation was clearly stated in the  
Charter, as well as the realization of human rights and fundamental  
freedoms for all,  
Unfortunately, certain members became first among equals  
And our world suffered the imbalance created by a tiny North  
versus a huge South.

So as I brave the global mind set, to sit under a palm tree and  
dream about the future,  
I a WOMAN, from THE UNDER-LEAST DEVELOPED AFRICA,  
I still see a United Nations standing firm.  
A United Nations that will be an open place for world debates  
Where the chock of ideas will replace the sound of guns  
Where veto power is a hangover from the past.

I see a United Nations where invariably, black, yellow, red, white,  
man, woman will attain the highest leadership only because of their  
qualifications and experience.



I see a United Nations, where people of the world, the civil society, will help to shape the international consensus on issues that concern us all.

I therefore see a Security Council composed of governments, civil society, and women.

Financing the United Nations of the future will be similar to the levy on commons, to eliminate the concept of privileges in the world body, that creates confusion and dehumanizing terms like donor and assisted countries.

I see a United Nations that will be home of democracy, not only as a conditionality opposed to a so called third world, but as a global civil ethic.

The United Nations of tomorrow will celebrate our diversity as a precious gift from God, leading to maximum care for our planet with all its people, lands, rivers, birds, butterflies and tiniest of flowers.

Women rights will become human rights.  
All countries will ratify and implement the convention for the elimination of all kinds of discrimination against women, Not as a matter of equity, but as a societal survival act.

The United Nations may become smaller with fewer resources, but it will reflect the energy of a new millennium, the hope of a new generation, the light for the oppressed.

The United Nations is indispensable.  
No other institution to take its place.  
A world without a United Nations leads to greater chaos.

But the United Nations is you and I  
Your country and mine  
Your race and mine  
Your gender, belief, culture, behavior and mine.  
It needs our personal and daily attention  
To make it a reality or,  
We shall all be destroyed.  
Remember: Bosnia, Burundi, Chechnya, Oklahoma, Rwanda, World Trade Centre  
Remember all these events and others, before you decide to destroy the United Nations

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY UN  
IN 50 YEARS, WE SHALL BE HERE TO WITNESS THE REBIRTH.**

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