



Esteemed Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
dear Participants, NGO's
Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear Friends,

may I say how pleased and honoured I am to be here with you on the occasion of this NGO Conference on Reconciliation. Allow me to share some thoughts with you on the Reconciliation Strategy Program.

The Reconciliation Program was drawn around 2005 and has since then developed to give the Family of Nations a developmental perspective and an effective tool in reaching their objectives.

We are here to review what the Reconciliation program has to offer and to give more insight into its roots, its development and progress, its merits and advantages.

The Roots of the Reconciliation Concept are not new, but ages old. It is a time honoured and respected path for sustainable freedom and development for a more harmonious Society. The Program is designed and structured naturally around the human Ideal of Reconciling.

Everyone of us had personal experience on reconciliation. We remember that the moment we offered reconciliation through an act of friendship and that gesture was accepted, we felt like a heavy burden was lifted from our shoulders, we felt relieved. Suddenly the World was a much warmer and a more happier place than before and we felt an inner gratification that now everything is as it is meant to be. We felt larger, more in harmony than before and enriched.

This transformation encouraged that reconciliation works indeed, it encouraged us to new commitments, elevated our mind and soul and therefore helps and inspires us to accomplish even more.

The Idea of Reconciliation is for today's World divided an ideal that brings worth to the individual, society and to the family of Nations.

The „Global Reconciliation Strategy Program“ was introduced in March 2008 in a Power Point Presentation to all UN Bodies and to some Nation States at the UN Headquarters in New York. It was also presented to the secretariat of the Secretary General, at that time to the honourable Kofi Annan.

The S.E.R. Foundations introduced the Program as a first step to foster peace, order and justice not only to strenghten all efforts and in order to reach the 8 Millenium Development Goals, but also to overcome narrow minded individual and national interests, to unite and focus for the good of all and for the desperate needs of the poor and neglected.

Now, how is the Program put into action.

The first step was that we brought the Program to the knowledge of the United Nations through the aforementioned presentation in 2008 and then started concrete Action. The S.E.R. Foundation inspired 12 Nation States to bring the Reconciliation Spirit into the General Assembly and got the Assembly to vote for the „2009 United Nations International Reconciliation Year“ and we are immensely grateful to these Nations mostly from the South Americas and the Asia Pacific Region.

Through the introduction of the UN Reconciliation Year, the yearly Reconciliation week (last week in April), organised from the S.E.R. Foundation since 2006, garnered support for the cause with 160 international Projects on Reconciliation.

To aid and motivate these Projects the S.E.R. Foundations sponsored a Prize Award for Reconciliation Projects. The awarding Ceremony took place August 07th in Basel, Switzerland. We had the highest approval and recognition through our Honorary Speaker and Guest Mr. Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon on Sport for Development and Peace.

With this Ceremony we not only celebrated 12 outstanding international Projects, but also that the Reconciliation Program stepped, with the help of the UN Declaration, onto a wider global stage and more into the public awareness.

The S.E.R. Foundations now garner support for the „UN Declaration of a Reconciliation Decade“ and you are very much invited not only to promote and

support this effort, but also to take part and promote the Reconciliation Projects the Foundation encourages every year through the websites of the Foundations and Global Balance.

Mankind is seeking peace and we all agree that this desirable state is a first step from which on we can evolve into further development in the pursuit of happiness.

If we look at the merits and advantages of reconciliation we can see tangible successes. For this we turn with great respect and admiration to contemporary fathers of Reconciliation like Gandhi and Martin Luther King amongst many many others known and unknown.

One of the most recently and shining living examples in using this great integrative power are Nelson Mandela and Bishop Tutu.

Through the Reconciliation Process South-Africa found peace and well being. Bishop Tutu gave the essence of this process to the people. In his own charismatic exuberance he shouted on the occasion of the opening concert of the World Soccer Games in Johannesburg in 2010, to the people: "Can you feel the magic? South-Africa has developed from a ugly caterpillar into a beautiful beautiful Butterfly".

Reconciliation helped and was part of this process. The transformation happened in small steps, developed by an elevated mindset with an deep and realistic understanding of the situation. This understanding led to compassionate Action, inspired and guided by high minded magnanimity.

This indeed is a true and shining example of the transformative Powers of Reconciliation on a National Level. It enabled the society of South-Africa conquer the divide, to reconnect and use their given talents better for the opportunities to come.

Reconciliation is not an easy way or a lofty Ideal. It is the way and it is a very pragmatic way of work indeed, it requires on one hand a tight focus and also an open attitude on what is achievable and how it is achievable. It requires to set aside all fixed programmes, complex ideologies or hidden agendas. It is restoration of the sane mind to heal an invalid situation.

Because acting on behalf and in the Spirit of Reconciliation lets us connect and reconnect with whomever and whatever we lost the connection.

This is what we want, reconnecting to what we feel we have lost and this is why we feel ourselves intuitively drawn to the concept of Reconciliation. To become more than one, to become Family on a personal and global level.

Allow me to introduce to you to the Reconciliation Family of Virtues.

The Name of the Father is Magnanimity and Respect. The Name of the Mother is Desire and understanding Wisdom. The Name of the sister is Perseverance and Patience. The brother is called Courage and Vision and the youngest child is known as Intuition and Grace. They work together as one with their individual qualities coming into action when needed and to support the others in order to achieve their shared vision.

Reconciliation is needed so that a harmonious Society becomes a living reality and to produce concrete and tangible results for the development in all levels of Society, Politics, Business, the United Nations and others to the betterment of all.

The Reconciliation Spirit can become a ferment and driving power like an underlying current for the transforming processes our World needs so much.

Let us ask ourselves, do we have the courage to step daily over external or self imposed barriers?

There is no easy answer to this question, as life presents itself with new obstacles every day.

So let me conclude this speech with an example from the wonderful Greek language, the language of the great ancient Philosophers.

The greek word for Reconciliation is *Symfiliossis*. It is very much worth to note that this word is female by character.

Conference “Global Reconciliation beyond 2000“
Speech - United Nations Vienna, 29. November 2010

Symfiliossis consists of two words. *Sin* means „in the Center“ and „with someone together“ and *filia* means „Friendship born out of peace“.

So let us hope for a World Order guided by Magnanimity and a Decade of Reconciliation Diplomacy.

There is nothing to add.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.