

STATEMENT OF JAYANTHA DHANAPALA, PRESIDENT OF THE PUGWASH CONFERENCES ON SCIENCE & WORLD AFFAIRS AT THE 12TH WORLD SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES – CHICAGO. TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2012.

My thanks to co-Chairs President Gorbachev and Walter Vettroni for their initiative of bringing Nobel Peace Laureates together in an annual summit. The organizers of the 12th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates and the Mayor and people of this great city of Chicago deserve special thanks for their hospitality and for allowing us to “Occupy Chicago” – albeit temporarily and non-violently.

I have always believed that, quite apart from the giants of history, individuals leave mere footprints in the sands of time, which are, all too quickly, erased by the elements. Collectively though, what we leave behind in institutions is greater and more durable than all our individual contributions put together. Jean Monnet, the great architect of today’s European Union, once said, - “Nothing is possible without men; nothing is lasting without institutions.”

The world has rightly applauded the many outstanding men and women who have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. We have many of them with us today setting admirable benchmarks for us all. But it is also noteworthy that, since the Nobel Peace Prize was instituted in 1901, nineteen organizations have been awarded the Prize - some of them receiving it more than once. They have been organizations working in the field of peace, disarmament, security, human rights and humanitarian action. Alfred Nobel himself was known to have had links with the peace movement. His will specifically called for the Nobel Peace Prize to be awarded to those who "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding of peace congresses". The medal itself has the words “For Peace and Brotherhood of Men” engraved on it.

Today, 111 years after the first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded, we live in a world of 7 billion. Any survey of the global situation and the human condition reveals that we have a welter of unfinished business on our agenda. Foremost is an understanding of the fundamental fraternity of humankind so that we have a consensus on reaching common solutions to common problems impacting on the very survival of our planet. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), 15 major armed conflicts were raging around the world. In 2011 the world spent US \$ 1.74 trillion on military expenditure. Nine countries have an estimated 20,530 nuclear warheads - the most destructive weapon ever invented, countless times more powerful than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. Among conventional weapons, an estimated 875 million small arms are in circulation, globally produced by about 1000 companies in a hundred countries profiting from a trade worth US \$ 6 billion. They fuel intra-state conflicts and organized crime and violence.

In an evolving global system of nation states, priority has been given to national security, but human security today has become indispensable with the global economic recession adding to the challenges being faced by the peoples of the world. Common security, sustainable and inclusive development and human rights are inextricably interwoven. Poverty defaces the human condition. 925 million in the Bottom Billion of our world do not have enough to eat and 7.6 million children die each year through malnutrition. An estimated 10.5 million refugees and 27.5 million Internally Displaced Persons are the human cost of conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations and natural disasters. Hunger, disease, poor housing and sanitation continue to afflict far too many of our fellow human beings. As global leaders prepare for the Rio plus 20 Conference this June, inexorable climate change faces the entire planet challenging us all to make critical changes in our life styles and selfish consumption patterns for our common survival.

Ours is a rapidly changing world with new centres of political and economic power emerging. The influence of non state actors and new global and regional powers is growing at a time when

existing mechanisms for global governance are exposed as being weak, outdated and inefficient. The institutions, the treaties and the processes that we had established after World War II have to be revisited and revised. We have to learn the lessons from the ongoing economic crisis. I quote the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon who said, "While recently we have heard much in this country about how problems on Wall Street are affecting innocent people on Main Street, we need to think more about those people around the world with no streets. Wall Street, Main Street, no street – the solutions devised must be for all."

On 8 July 1955 Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell issued a Manifesto in London which ended with a humanist message "Remember your humanity" that has inspired my organization the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. As we deliberate the theme "Speak Up, Speak Out for Freedom and Rights" let us not forget our common humanity and that we must speak up for all so that we may have a peaceful and secure world order that is also just and equitable – and especially for the voiceless and for those whose governments do not let them speak up.