

UN HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON THREATS, CHALLENGES AND CHANGE: IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND GLOBAL SECURITY



*Regional Consultation of the Americas on the 11th GPW of
WHO*

Washington, D.C., February 14-16, 2005

Director of Program Management

PASB/AMRO

PURPOSE

- Fundamental review of the collective security system
- Analyze threats to peace and security
- Evaluate how well existing policies and institutions are meeting them
- Recommend changes to those policies and institutions to ensure an effective collective response to those threats



MEMBERS OF THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL

- Anand Panvarachun
(chairman)
- Robert Badinter
- Joao Clemente Baena
Soares
- Gro Harlem Bruntland
- May Chinery-Hesse
- Gareth Evans
- David Hannay
- Enrique Iglesias
- Amre Moussa
- Satish Nambiar
- Sadako Ogata
- Yevgeny Primakov
- Olan Oichen
- Nafis Sadik
- Salims Ahmed
Salim
- Brent Scowcroft



NATURE OF THE REPORT

- One year of consultations around the world
- 101 far-sighted but realistic recommendations
- Addresses security concerns of all states
- Identifies ways in which U.N. can work better
- Seeks to strengthen the international rule of law and make all people safer



Central Message

“A More Secure World:
Our Shared Responsibility”

In a globalized world, collective security requires strong multilateral institution and action to ensure effective response to threats..



THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM

- 21ST Century: World of extraordinary challenges and extraordinary connectedness
- Vulnerability to new security threats evolving in complex and unpredictable ways
- Dilemma: they will divide us more or we come together to take effective action on a basis of shared commitment



Interconnected threats to International Peace

- Interstate conflict
- Civil war
- Economic and social threats
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Terrorism
- Organized international crime



Preeminence given to health

- Need to strengthen Public Health Systems
 - **HLP recommendation 8:** *International donors, in partnerships with national authorities and local civil society organizations, should undertake a major new global initiative to rebuild local and national public health systems throughout the developing world*



Preeminence given to health

- Need to emphasize capacities at global level
 - **HLP recommendation 9:** *Members of the World Health Assembly should provide greater resources to the World Health Organization Global Outbreak Alert and Response network to increase its capacity to cope with potential disease outbreaks*
 - **HLP recommendation 37:** *The Security Council should consult with the Director- General of the World Health Organization to establish the necessary procedures for working together in the event of a suspicious or overwhelming outbreak of infectious disease.*



Public Health Systems Capacities at Country Level

- Argument entrenched in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- Effective response to epidemics and stopping the proliferation of other communicable diseases need capable, responsible States with functioning public health systems and well funded strong public health capacities and health facilities
- WHO natural coordinating authority on international health and leader in such undertaking



Biosecurity

- Potential international security threat posed by the intentional release of an infectious biological agent or an overwhelming natural outbreak of an infectious disease links health and security
- Security Council to support WHO investigations and response coordination, to mandate greater compliance and to support international action to assist in cordon operations
- WHO should have in place the necessary organizational structure and procedures for processing information quickly and efficiently.
- Sovereignty vis-a-vis Global Security
- Reform of the Security Council
- Consistency with International Health Regulations



“The re-launching of the U.N.”

- Global debate about the future of the International System
- High Expectations by Member States
- International peace and security architecture reform
- International development arena reform
- MDGs
- Internal U.N. Reform



Recommendations on a More Effective U.N.

- Strengthen the General Assembly through better conceptualization and shortening of the agenda
- Better mechanisms to engage civil society
- Establish a Committee on the Social and Economic Aspects of Security Threats within ECOSOC
- Transform ECOSOC in a development cooperation forum (around MDGs and Monterrey Consensus)
- Reconsider the manner of and quantity of funding for the UN agencies, funds and programs.



Recommendations on the MDGs

- MDGs should be placed at the center of national and international poverty-reduction strategies
- Need to redress the dramatic shortfall in resources required to meet the MDGs
- Commitments to sound policies and good governance at all levels must be fulfilled
- Timetable for reaching the target of 0.7% of GNP for ODA
- Debt relief, longer rescheduling and improved access to global markets



WHO's role

- Recognized as a key element of the new proposed multilateral framework
- Report reaffirms central principles embedded in WHO's Constitution and mandates
- Recognizes how challenges in health (notably in infectious diseases) constitute threats to international peace and security
- Emphasizes that poverty, health and environmental degradation are essential elements in a comprehensive understanding of security



Moving Forward the Recommendations

- March 2005 Report of the Secretary General on MDGs and HLP
- Strategy in preparation by SG on how to move forward the HLP recommendations
- Millennium + 5 Assembly in September 2005
- Office of SG has expressed interest in working closely with WHO on thinking through the HLP recommendations pertaining to health

