

HUMAN SECURITY UNIT

# STRATEGIC PLAN



2014  
-  
2017

People-centred  
Comprehensive  
Context-specific  
Prevention-oriented  
Protection and empowerment



**HUMAN SECURITY UNIT**

**STRATEGIC  
PLAN**

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**2014 – 2017**



United Nations, 2014

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# Foreword

The world continues to undergo dramatic demographic, environmental and technological change. Threats to peace, security and development are more complex and interrelated than ever before. While technological advances have brought new opportunities for political participation, poverty reduction and food security, disparities of income and other inequities are widening and vulnerable groups are being left behind. The pressures of urban growth and climate change present significant challenges throughout the world, while violent conflicts continue to undermine our aspirations for peace, development and social progress.

The common understanding on human security, agreed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/290 in September 2012, provides a useful way of thinking about how we respond to 21st-century challenges. By focusing on the interconnected pillars of peace and security, development and human rights, human security provides a comprehensive, integrated and people-centred approach for generating tangible improvements in the daily lives of the men, women and children this Organization exists to serve.

The added value of the human security approach is increasingly recognized by Governments, both at the national and local levels, as well as by regional organizations, civil society groups and the United Nations system. This Strategic Plan for the Human Security Unit lays out the strategies needed to further promote and mainstream the concept in order to realize its full potential.

BAN Ki-Moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
March, 2014



# Introduction

**Freedom from fear**

**Freedom from want**

**Freedom to live in dignity**

These clarion calls have come to epitomize the very goals of human security. Together, these fundamental freedoms are rooted in the core principles of the United Nations Charter and reflect the aspirations of humanity since time immemorial.

Now some 20 years after the term human security was first elaborated in a keystone report of the United Nations, and a decade after the landmark report of the Commission on Human Security, "Human Security Now", a series of positive circumstances have come together to give new impetus to the advancement of human security.

**It is therefore time to lay down a strategic plan for how the United Nations system can best translate human security into actions that give rise to more effective and tangible improvements in the daily lives of people.**

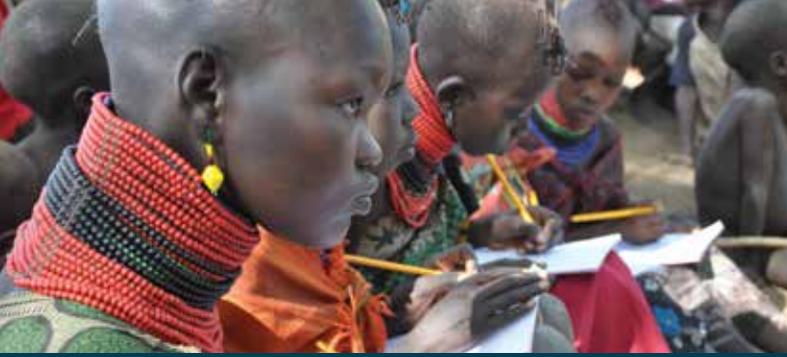
A strategic plan shows where one may wish to go and how to do so. It does not lay out in any great detail the steps to be taken but rather it is designed to lay out for all to see why an organization exists, what its primary purpose should be, and how it wishes to translate that primary purpose into broad lines of action designed to effect its attainment.

This Strategic Plan seeks to achieve these aims.

It describes the nature and the evolution of human security.

It lays out a comprehensive vision and mission framework which builds directly on the lessons learned in this 20-year journey and which encapsulates recent commitments to the advancement of human security.

It looks towards the future, laying out some general lines of action for the next four years.



# What is Human Security?

In September 2012, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus General Assembly resolution 66/290. The resolution provides an outline of what constitutes “human security”. (For the full text of the resolution, please see the appendix.)

Prior to the 2012 General Assembly resolution, debates among academics and Governments on the scope of human security and the principles which underpin its application had prevailed. Indeed, the landmark 2003 Report of the Commission on Human Security, while describing the various activities, elements and concepts that can come together to result in “human security”, itself did not provide a definition of human security. Even paragraph 143 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, entitled “Human Security”, where the Heads of State and Government stressed “the right of all people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair”, and recognized that “all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential”, did not resolve some remaining ambiguities. With the adoption of the General Assembly resolution, these ambiguities were clarified and a common understanding on human security was adopted by consensus at the General Assembly.

While the consensus resolution provides formal clarity, the following offers a brief outline of the principles that underpin human security. It does so in order to broaden the understanding of human security – a concept so crucial to our efforts to reduce the likelihoods of conflicts, help

overcome the obstacles to sustainable development and promote human rights for all.

Human security is a comprehensive framework for addressing widespread and cross-cutting threats. Recognizing that threats to individuals and communities vary considerably across and within countries, and at different points in time, the application of human security calls for an assessment of human insecurities that is people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented.

By identifying the concrete needs of populations under stress, human security directly and positively affects the daily lives of people. As a result, the advancement of human security gives rise to more immediate and tangible results that comprehensively address the root causes behind current and emerging threats; identifies priorities based on the actual needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of Governments and people; and reveals possible mismatches between local, national, regional and international policies and responses. The combination of these elements helps to strengthen actions taken by Governments and other actors in support of human security and people’s aspirations for peace, development and human rights for all.

The application of human security derives much of its strength from a dual policy framework based on the mutually reinforcing pillars of protection and empowerment. Application of this framework offers a comprehensive approach that combines top-down norms, processes and institutions with a bottom-up focus on participatory processes that together result in more sustainable, prevention-oriented and locally specific programmes that help reduce the impact of cur-

rent challenges and prevent the occurrence of future crises.

Moreover, by integrating the responses of relevant actors in a more coherent and efficient manner, human security builds on existing capacities of Governments and people through integrated and comprehensive responses that capitalize on the comparative advantages of a wide range of actors. This ensures coherence in the allocation of resources, goals and responsibilities across and among actors at the local, national, regional and international levels, thereby eliminating

duplication and advancing targeted, coordinated and cost-effective responses.

Lastly, human security is best safeguarded through proactive and preventive actions. By examining how the particular constellations of threats to individuals and communities can translate into broader insecurities, human security promotes the development of early warning mechanisms that help to mitigate the impact of current threats and, where possible, prevent the occurrence of future threats.



# Genesis and Evolution of Human Security

Two decades ago, the term “human security” emerged as a distinct concept within the lexicon of policy discourse and strategy. Slowly it gained acceptance as an innovative way for grappling with the complexities that face humanity. Over time, and based on a process of dialogue and consensus-building, the very nature of human security came to be articulated in a way that emphasizes its universality. Alongside this, a consensus has evolved that has resulted in the elaboration of an analytical and operational framework that harnesses the fundamental characteristics of human security itself, translating them into operating principles that are uniquely suited to respond to the multiplicity of multidimensional challenges that face the human condition. This brief chronology highlights the key milestones in this 20-year journey.

## 1994

The UNDP Human Development Report *New Dimensions of Human Security* coined the term “human security” within the United Nations system. The report highlighted several characteristics of human security: universal, people-centred, interdependent and early prevention.

## 1999

The Human Security Network (HSN), a group of like-minded Member States was formed to promote the concept of human security.

The Government of Japan and the United Nations Secretariat established the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) with an initial contribution of approximately US\$ 5 million.

## 2000

At the United Nations Millennium Summit, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the international community to advance, as the goals of the new millennium, the agendas of “freedom from fear” and “freedom from want” in the efforts of the United Nations to develop better responses to old and new challenges.

## 2001

The independent Commission on Human Security (CHS) was established to (1) mobilize support and promote greater understanding of human security, (2) develop further the concept as an operational tool and (3) outline a concrete action plan for its implementation.

## 2003

To mobilize support and provide a concrete framework for the application of human security, the CHS published its final report *Human Security Now*.

To capitalize on the momentum of the CHS, the Advisory Board on Human Security (ABHS) was established, tasked with advising the United Nations Secretary-General on the promotion of the human security concept and the management of the UNTFHS.

## 2004

In May 2004, the Human Security Unit (HSU) was established with the principal objective of placing human security in the mainstream of United Nations activities.

## 2005

In March 2005, in his final proposal for United Nations reforms, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan, while not making specific reference to the term “human security”, nevertheless uses its three components: “freedom from fear”, “freedom from want” and “freedom to live in dignity” as the main thematic principles of the report titled “In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all”.

In October 2005, the World Summit Outcome noted in paragraph 143 that “all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential”.

## 2008

In May 2008, the Office of the President of the General Assembly convened an Informal Thematic Debate on Human Security, attended by more than 90 Member States. The debate focused on the notion of human security, its multidimensional scope and its added value to the work of the United Nations.

## 2010

The first Report of the Secretary-General on Human Security was released on 8 March 2010. It provided an overview of discussions on human security, and outlined the principles and approach for its advancement and application to the priorities of the United Nations.

In July 2010, the General Assembly passed a resolution “Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome”, in which Member States recognized the need to continue discussions on human security and to agree on its definition in the General Assembly.

## 2011

As a follow-up to the General Assembly resolution on human security, in April 2011, the Office of the President of the General Assembly convened an Informal Thematic Debate and Panel Discussion on Human Security. Inputs by Member States confirmed the emergence of a level of consensus by which the notion of human security could be framed.

## 2012

The second Report of the Secretary-General on human security was released on 5 April 2012. The report proposed a common understanding on human security based on the views expressed by Member States.

On 10 September, the General Assembly adopted General Assembly resolution 66/290 entitled “Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome” in which Member States agreed on a common understanding on human security. This seminal achievement provides the parameters for the application of human security across the United Nations and ensures that its implementation is rooted in the Charter of the United Nations.

## 2013

On 8 May 2013, a high-level event on Human Security was convened in New York to reflect on the added value and lessons learned from implementing the human security approach and consider the future integration of human security into the work of the United Nations and beyond.



# UNTFHS in Action

The UNTFHS was established in March 1999. Through its support to over 210 projects in more than 85 countries, including regional projects, the UNTFHS has played an important role in translating the human security approach into practical actions that have helped strengthen the human security of some of the most vulnerable communities and people around the world.

By combining a set of fundamental principles that characterize the human security approach, projects to date have drawn on the combined expertise of the United Nations system and have contributed to reducing the likelihoods of conflict, overcoming the obstacles to social, economic and sustainable development, and promoting human rights for all.

## Key principles for advancing human security

The human security approach is *people-centred*. It considers the broad range of conditions that threaten the survival, livelihood and dignity of people and their communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable. The human security approach puts people and their communities at the centre of responses to the threats they face.

In recognizing the complexity and interconnected nature of the challenges that confront the human condition, the application of human security is *comprehensive* in promoting freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. By being multisectoral and by drawing together all the actors necessary to respond to a challenge, the application of human security ensures coherence, eliminates duplication and advances integrated solutions that result in more effective and tangible benefits in the daily lives of people and their communities.

There is no “one size fits all” for human security. Threats to the human condition vary considerably within and across countries and at different point in time. A human security approach recognizes these contextual variances and avoids the misuse of blueprints which many times do not correlate to the context in question. *Context-specific solutions* such as these also recognize

the differing capacities of people, civil society and Governments.

The human security approach is philosophically different from those which seek to only solve problems – i.e., to treat the visible symptoms. By contrast, a human security approach is *prevention-oriented*, drilling down to ascertain the real causes of challenges to the human condition and building solutions to these threats that are in themselves sustainable and resilient, offering people flexible means to avert similar situations.

The human security approach recognizes that there are inherent responsibilities within the social contract of each and every society. Empowering people and their communities to articulate their needs is crucial for any people-centred approach to be viable. Likewise, top-down norms, processes and institutions, including the establishments of early-warning mechanisms, good governance and social protection instruments are fundamental characteristics of the human security approach. The human security approach therefore brings *protection and empowerment* measures into a framework that can better address complex challenges to the human condition.

These *five characteristics make up the human security approach* which can be used to address a multiplicity of threats to human security.

## The added value of the human security approach and the activities of the UNTFHS

With the passage of General Assembly resolution 66/290 in September 2012, and with over 210 projects completed and underway, in early 2013, an independent rapid assessment of projects funded by the UNTFHS was undertaken. Projects reviewed from around the world highlighted that, compared to the single-support silo-driven responses, the human security approach has allowed for a new way of thinking to highlight the interconnectivity of the challenges faced by a broad range of communities.

Moreover, the findings of the assessment not only confirmed the applicability of the human security approach and its components but, more importantly, they demonstrated that projects funded by the UNTFHS have resulted in a change of thinking among United Nations–implementing organizations and Government counterparts on the importance of the “whole of problem” solutions as opposed to quick fixes that fail to generate comprehensive and preventive responses for people and communities affected by widespread and cross-cutting challenges.

An additional value of the human security approach, as identified by the assessment, was its emphasis on protection and empowerment strategies that are based on the real needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of Governments and people. The assessment found that projects supported by the UNTFHS, by ensuring the active participation of Governments and people in the design and implementation of projects, provided strong evidence of a higher sense of local ownership and a greater determination to expand the gains made under the project to other groups and geographical locations.

Accordingly, it was demonstrated that projects supported by the UNTFHS generated real positive change in the lives of people and their communities. As outlined in the assessment report, UNTFHS-funded projects have responded to current and emerging challenges by promoting social harmony, strengthening livelihoods, reducing inequities and enhancing the sense of dignity of people and communities from Colombia to Madagascar, Mongolia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and beyond.

At the same time, although it is apparent that over the past several years, projects supported by the UNTFHS have clearly made a difference in the survival, livelihood and dignity of people, it is necessary to place this body of solid, positive evidence in the context of the overall magnitude of the work of the United Nations.

UNTFHS-supported projects constitute a small fraction of the overall work of the United Nations. Yet even at this very small scale, they demonstrate that there are new ways of addressing the challenges that face humanity. They demonstrate that the United Nations itself can learn to work together to develop comprehensive approaches to the panoply of multidimensional challenges to human security.

In short, projects supported by the UNTFHS have proven the added value of the human security approach and have underscored the necessity to ensure the greater mainstreaming of human security at the local, national, regional and international levels and its usage both within and outside of the United Nations.



# A Decade of Stewardship by the Human Security Unit

Established in 2004, the HSU is a compact unit responsible for raising awareness and fostering acceptance of human security by responding to different situations of human insecurity through projects funded by the UNTFHS; by developing practical tools and training modules; by disseminating lessons learned; and by fostering collaboration with Governments, regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental and civil society actors, and academic institutions.

Raising awareness and fostering acceptance are complex functions and the past four years have been especially challenging and rewarding.

The steady progress in building the understanding and acceptance of human security, which ran through the mid-2000s, was accelerated in scope and pace with the passage of General Assembly resolution 64/291 in 2010 and the need to forge an agreed understanding of human security at the United Nations. The HSU has been at the very centre of this process of dialogue and consensus-building.

In its capacity as the focal unit for human security within the United Nations, it has played a crucial role in the development of the series of reports and recommendations which culminated in the landmark General Assembly resolution 66/290 in September 2012. In addition, the HSU has pioneered innovative ways to demonstrate the benefits of the human security approach through a reinvigorated portfolio of projects supported by the UNTFHS as well as the circulation of informational materials and training modules that have been instrumental in the growing recognition of the value of human security by a broad spectrum of Governments and non-governmental entities.

The time, therefore, has come to better articulate the mission, vision, goal and objectives of the HSU in its role as the principal entity for mainstreaming and broadening the awareness and usage of human security both within the United Nations and globally.



# Vision and Mission, Goals and Objectives

**T**his new Strategic Plan will cover the period 2014 to 2017, four crucial years for the furtherance of human security as a fundamental concept that combines the agendas of peace and security, development and human rights in a more effective, efficient and prevention-oriented manner.

These four years will also witness significant developments at the international level. New global objectives to succeed the current set of Millennium Development Goals will be articulated by the world community and new Sustainable Development Goals will be formulated which will give recognition to the importance of progressive environmental stewardship

for the future of humanity. These, along with our continued efforts to promote peace, to strengthen justice and to foster greater inclusive development are urgently needed if we are to advance the aspirations of people to live free from fear, free from want and free from indignity.

While the adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/290 in September 2012 was clearly a transformational moment for the advancement of human security, the global community requires a medium-term vision for human security that boldly explains how human security is central to the world community and people's aspirations for the twenty-first century.

## A vision for human security

**I**ntegrating today's national and global efforts to empower and protect people exposed to widespread and multiple challenges to their survival, livelihood and dignity.

## The Human Security Unit and its mission

**A**s the principal entity on human security at the United Nations, the Human Security Unit highlights the centrality of human security as a universal framework to respond to a wide range of challenges and opportunities in the twenty-first century. It promotes people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented solutions that integrate the agendas of peace and security, development and human rights and help strengthen the capacities of Governments and people to respond to current and emerging challenges.

Goals	Objectives
<p><b>1. Mainstream human security in the activities of the United Nations</b></p>	<p><b>Develop the tools and showcase lessons learned</b> to accelerate the level of usage of the human security approach as a planning lens and an operational framework among all organizations of the United Nations</p>
	<p><b>Support the implementation</b> of United Nations General Assembly resolutions on human security</p>
	<p><b>Review and amend the guidelines</b> that regulate the UNTFHS so as to ensure that projects supported by the UNTFHS contribute to the mainstreaming of human security in the activities of the United Nations</p>
	<p><b>Catalyse increased financial contribution</b> to the UNTFHS and <b>broaden the donor base</b> of the Fund</p>
<p><b>2. Extend global awareness of human security and the usage of the human security approach</b></p>	<p><b>Foster collaboration and information sharing</b> to promote greater understanding of the benefits of the human security approach among Member States and their support towards its implementation at all levels (local, national, regional and international)</p>
	<p><b>Communicate the lessons learned and the benefits of human security</b> so as to increase understanding of the benefits of the human security approach as a planning lens and an operational framework among regional and subregional bodies (CARICOM, AU, OAS, ASEAN, ECOWAS, MERCOSUR, etc.)</p>
	<p><b>Promote and support networks</b> among United Nations agencies, Member States, regional bodies, academic organizations and civil society groups to further the understanding of and the usage of the human security approach</p>



# Looking Towards Tomorrow

**M**ainstreaming and extending the awareness of human security and its usage will require the HSU to evolve over the four-year time frame of this Strategic Plan.

## What does mainstreaming imply?

Mainstreaming at its most basic level implies that a concept like human security and a framework like the human security approach bring together the different pillars of the United Nations in a more people-centred, integrated and efficient manner. It implies the increased use of the human security approach by United Nations bodies as an analytical lens to address interrelated threats to the human condition. And, it implies the recognition by United Nations agencies and departments of the universality of the human security framework and its relevance to addressing the range of highly interdependent challenges faced by people across and within countries.

The HSU will assume the responsibility to support the attainment of the goal of mainstreaming.

Developing tools and lessons learned is more than simply a communications exercise. These tools, in addition to highlighting the added value of the human security approach, provide best practices that can increase awareness and usage of the human security approach in situations as diverse as post-conflict peacebuilding, climate change and its impact on vulnerable communities, the multidimensional insecurities faced by disadvantaged urban poor and migrants, human trafficking, irregular migration and public health challenges that confront marginalized groups and their livelihoods, among others.

Supporting the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolutions has long

been a major function of the HSU. Now however this task takes on new dimensions whereby the HSU will be responsible for bringing together the information necessary to support the further understanding and mainstreaming of human security both within and outside of the United Nations.

The current approach of utilizing projects supported by the UNTFHS will slowly evolve over the next four years towards a model where activities will be designed as prototypes of actual mainstreaming.

What will such projects look like? There are a number of ways that the human security approach could be mainstreamed. Nevertheless, the crucial nexus will be at the country level where, based on extensive consultation, UNTFHS projects will be transformational people-centred responses that will demonstrate the practical benefits of the human security approach while showing the way for United Nations bodies to embrace and expand the use of the human security approach across the entire work of the Organization.

Undertaking these catalytic actions will require additional support for the UNTFHS. Supporting resource mobilization will be an important task for the HSU.

Extending global awareness of human security and the usage of the human security approach is the second major goal for the next four years.

For some time now, the HSU has been engaged in outreach-related activities leading to a growing interest in human security by Governments, regional organizations, civil society groups and the United Nations system. Now it is time to go

beyond this and encourage the application and mainstreaming of human security by a broader network of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Working with regional organizations such as the African Union, ASEAN, CARICOM and others presents unique opportunities to showcase how human security is universally relevant and not just something intrinsic to the United Nations system. Already there are encouraging initial

steps. The commitments made by the African Union, the European Union and the Pacific Island Forum lead the way in highlighting the increased recognition of the benefits of human security.

Establishing and supporting networks among United Nations agencies, Member States, regional bodies, academic organizations and civil society groups remains a primary objective and will increase in importance throughout the duration of this Strategic Plan.



# Providing Leadership

The HSU benefits from a multidimensional approach in its leadership and governance. Since its establishment, the HSU has drawn its strategic direction from the Office of the Secretary-General.

The Unit also benefits from the nearly decade-long guidance from the Advisory Board on Human Security (ABHS). The Advisory Board, established immediately after the release of the Commission on Human Security report “Human Security Now”, is an independent body composed of distinguished international experts known for their breadth of knowledge and deep commitment to human security. The ABHS advises the Secretary-General on both the overall application of human security and the specific work of the HSU and the UNTFHS. Its diverse membership provides a “bottom up” and “hands on” level of guidance which ensures that the advancement of human security is objectively driven and contextually relevant.

Two multilateral networks provide additional guidance to the HSU. The Human Security Network (HSN), established in 1999, is comprised of approximately a dozen Member States who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the promotion of human security within the United Nations. The HSN has been instrumental in drawing special attention to human security-related matters at the General Assembly.

In addition, an informal network of Member States along with representatives from the United Nations and civil society was established in 2006 to support collaborative efforts to advance the understanding and acceptance of human security. This network, known as the Friends of Human Security, provides an important and an additional platform to discuss openly the human security concept and its relevance to current and emerging challenges, and it further enriches the diversity of the guidance that is afforded to the HSU.



# Implementing the Plan

This Strategic Plan is firmly rooted in a 20-year evolution. Beginning with the issuance of the UNDP report “New Dimensions of Human Security” to the landmark report of the Commission on Human Security and culminating in General Assembly resolution 66/290, there has been a continual progression of refinement and growth in the understanding and acceptance of human security. Successive reports by the Secretary-General and accompanying formal and informal debates of the General Assembly have further reinforced recognition of the centrality of human security not only in relation to the United Nations, but most importantly as a means to enable people everywhere to respond to current and emerging challenges to their survival, livelihood and dignity – their human condition.

The next four years will mark a significant transformation in the United Nations itself, with 2015 the target date for reaching a new consensus on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Already, the world community, both Governments and civil society, have recognized that the future of humanity requires the articulation of a new set of global objectives that provide for a longer-term horizon with more flexibility and contextual relevance. The ensuing consultations have affirmed the centrality of a truly integrated

people-centred approach along four key dimensions: (1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security.

In short, the iteration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda is drawing inspiration from the principles of human security and its emphasis on people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented solutions.

The Goals and Objectives set out in this Strategic Plan point the way forward, recognizing that at each step in this journey there will be unforeseen opportunities on which to capitalize, and unanticipated risks to mitigate. Nevertheless, with the leadership provided by Member States, coupled with increasing support for human security and the UNTFHS, and the firm commitment of senior management of the United Nations system, the HSU is ably positioned to contribute to global aspirations for the twenty-first century and the attainment of the Vision of Human Security:

**“Integrating today’s national and global efforts to empower and protect people exposed to widespread and multiple challenges to their survival, livelihood and dignity”**

## Appendix

### General Assembly Resolution 66/290

United Nations

A/RES/66/290



General Assembly

Distr.: General  
25 October 2012

Sixty-sixth session  
Agenda items 14 and 117

### Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 10 September 2012

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/66/L.55/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

#### 66/290. Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and international law,

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,<sup>1</sup> especially paragraph 143 thereof, and its resolution 64/291 of 16 July 2010,

*Recognizing* that development, human rights and peace and security, which are the three pillars of the United Nations, are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to General Assembly resolution 64/291 on human security;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Takes note* of the formal debate on human security organized by the President of the General Assembly, held on 4 June 2012;

3. *Agrees* that human security is an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people. Based on this, a common understanding on the notion of human security includes the following:

(a) The right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair. All individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential;

(b) Human security calls for people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people and all communities;

(c) Human security recognizes the interlinkages between peace, development and human rights, and equally considers civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> A/66/763.

A/RES/66/290

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(d) The notion of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect and its implementation;

(e) Human security does not entail the threat or the use of force or coercive measures. Human security does not replace State security;

(f) Human security is based on national ownership. Since the political, economic, social and cultural conditions for human security vary significantly across and within countries, and at different points in time, human security strengthens national solutions which are compatible with local realities;

(g) Governments retain the primary role and responsibility for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. The role of the international community is to complement and provide the necessary support to Governments, upon their request, so as to strengthen their capacity to respond to current and emerging threats. Human security requires greater collaboration and partnership among Governments, international and regional organizations and civil society;

(h) Human security must be implemented with full respect for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity and non-interference in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of States. Human security does not entail additional legal obligations on the part of States;

4. *Recognizes* that while development, peace and security and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations and are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, achieving development is a central goal in itself and the advancement of human security should contribute to realizing sustainable development as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Acknowledges* the contributions made so far by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, and invites Member States to consider voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

6. *Affirms* that projects funded by the Trust Fund should receive the consent of the recipient State and be in line with national strategies and priorities in order to ensure national ownership;

7. *Decides* to continue its discussion on human security in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, seeking the views of Member States in that regard for inclusion in the report, and on the lessons learned on the human security experiences at the international, regional and national levels.

*127th plenary meeting  
10 September 2012*

## Photo Credits

- Page 4* Combating human trafficking for at-risk women and children, Cambodia (UN/Christopher Reardon)
- Page 5* Pastoralist communities faced with multiple insecurities, Kenya (IOM)
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- Page 17* Vocational training and small enterprise development, Afghanistan (UN/Eskinder Debebe) Vocational training

# HUMAN SECURITY UNIT

# STRATEGIC PLAN



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