



# THE GLOBAL EFFORTS INITIATIVE

*The Global Efforts 360 Initiative*

## *Shifting the Power Equation*



### **Shifting the Power Equation**

*“People must be given an opportunity to prioritize their development agenda and to actively participate in implementing the agenda. Our communities are havens of great minds, talents and potentials that if well nurtured will contribute significantly towards moving our communities and nations forward”*

The Global Efforts Initiative Founders

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world continues to face global challenges that have delayed developments across all sectors. International organizations have continued to invest commendable efforts in trying to save the world from the devastating effects of the global challenges and much more efforts towards the realization of the 2015 Millenium Development Goals. We must also commend the significant contributions made by the G8 countries towards the humanitarian course and therefore there is need for all of us as individuals to contribute our ideas and expertise for the benefit of being part of the process of finding solutions for challenges facing us today and ensure the achievement of the Millenium Development Goals.

This initiative through its website is for us to share our experiences, ideas and thoughts on issues affecting our lives in all spheres. This initiative will go a long way in influencing the decisions made by the international community committed and dedicated to the humanitarian course. Your contributions will play a very significant role, as they will shed light as the last and best hope for ending the current global challenges.

We therefore take this opportunity to invite all of you to take time and interact with each other on the forum and participate in leading a global effort on the current projects featured on the website and together lets champion the humanitarian course. This

initiative is aimed at empowering young voices that have not been heard. This is the chance for you to tell the world what you think is the best way forward to end the crisis she faces. I invite all of you to actively participate in the forum and chat sessions and share those ideas with others. Let us share our experiences by sending photos and video clips from our backgrounds on the website's video and photo galleries.

I appeal to world leaders, international organizations and other stakeholders to take time to be open and willing to actively participate in the exchange of ideas in this website and to support the progress of the Global Efforts Initiative. The world today faces difficult challenges and with every passing day we seek unity, forge partnerships and form strategic alliances to continue to rise above these challenges. Among the fundamental lessons that we have learnt in the past, if history counts, is we have the power to make the world that we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning.

Indeed faith should bring us together and therefore this initiative seeks to reaffirm this fundamental human principle. We recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not with soldiers and armies, but with sturdy alliances, partnerships and enduring convictions. They understood that power alone cannot protect us neither can our boundaries nor civilizations. They understood that our power grows through its prudent use, our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example and the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.

We are the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these principles once more we can meet new threats that demand even greater effort, greater cooperation and greater understanding among the community of nations. Our success depends on the reach of our prosperity and on our ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart, not out of charity but because it is the only route to our common good. The Global Efforts Initiative calls for humanity to embrace united efforts and collective responsibility not just for the benefit of a brighter tomorrow but also that of a better today.

This Initiative seeks to introduce a strategy that defines an era of new responsibility. This is the defining moment that reawakens the culture of pulling together for the common good and for the betterment of the human race. Our humanity has been defined by the challenges of poverty, disease, desperation, and homelessness and thus has culminated to a state of uncertainty and hopelessness widely shared.

Our faith in the ability to forge our communities and nations forward has fast run out and the bonds that tied us together are memories frozen in time. The particular faith that motivates each of us can promote a greater good for all of us. Instead of driving us apart, our varied beliefs can bring us together to feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted; to

make peace where there is strife and rebuild what has broken and to lift up those who have fallen on hard times. It asks each of us to take some measure of responsibility for the well being of people we may not know or agree with on every issue. Sometimes, it asks us to reconcile with bitter enemies or resolve ancient hatreds. And that requires a living, breathing, active faith. It requires us not only to believe but also to give something of ourselves for the benefit of others and the betterment of our world.

The Global Efforts Initiative uniquely endeavors to lead humanity in reconciling with its past and opening a new window of hope and faith in the efforts of each other. We seek in the end, the prosperity and the success of all humanity in their uniqueness in culture, religion, ethnic backgrounds, race and color. We were born out of revolution against an empire, we were founded upon the ideal that all are created equal and we have shed blood and struggled for centuries to give meaning to those words, within our boundaries and around the world.

So long as our relationship with each other is defined by our differences, we will continue to empower those who sow hatred rather than peace and those who promote conflict rather than the co-operation that can help all of our people achieve justice and prosperity. But no matter what we choose to believe, let us remember that there is no religion whose central tenet is hate. This much we know. There is one law that binds all great religions together. Jesus told us to “love thy neighbor as thyself.” The Torah commands, “ That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow.” In Islam, there is a hadith that reads, “ None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.” And the same is for Buddhists and Hindus, for followers of Confucius and for humanists. This is the Golden Rule for all religions, the call to love one another, to understand one another, to treat with dignity and respect those with whom we share a brief moment on earth. We are all dedicated to a simple concept of E Pluribus Unum; Out of Many: We are One.

This Initiative recognizes that change cannot happen overnight. No policy, strategy or even agenda can eradicate years of mistrust nor can this initiative seek to answer the complex questions that have brought us to this point. But we are convinced in order to move forward, we must say openly the things we hold in our hearts and minds. There must be a sustained and united effort to listen to each other, to learn from each other, to respect one another and to seek common ground. As an initiative we are humbled by the task before us and firm in our belief that the interests we share as human beings are far more powerful than the forces that drive us apart.

Recognizing our common humanity is only the beginning of our task. Words alone cannot meet the needs of our people. These needs will only be met if we act boldly in the years ahead and if we understand that the challenges we face are shared and that our

failure to meet them will affect us all. So whatever we think of our past, we must not be prisoners of it. Our problems must be dealt with through partnership and that progress must be shared.

This initiative seeks to forge partnerships with all individuals, groups, institutions and organizations that have an interest in partnering with communities to empower their livelihoods. It is important that we introduce new ideas and opinions that will go a long way in ushering in a new perspective on how we approach the challenges that we face as a global community. New ideas will impact our world with new understanding and introduce a new approach on how we handle issues on human development.

History teaches us that if you want to change the world, you must get large numbers of people mobilized behind just two or three path breaking ideas. The poor will haul themselves out of poverty; all they need is a people driven, people motivated and people centered framework. We need an action agenda not stilted posturing; we need co-operation and unity; not brainless high volume altercations. We need to establish a clear sense of purpose; a mission, a vision, a goal and an objective. And it needs a small set of strategies that will harness the people of the planet in their millions.

We strongly believe that we are a people without boundaries. In the end, we will fairly share, protect and preserve available resources. There will be a greater connection, equity and appreciation between generations and across ethnic divides. We will provide an inclusive information network that will develop its capacity in technology and encourage and promote indigenous systems. We are governed by a common interest of prosperity and sustainability as an initiative. We will share resource persons and we will work together towards finding solutions; as a collective, to our contemporary challenges.

Now, there are those who will question the scale of our ambitions. Some who will suggest that our initiative cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short, for they have forgotten what humanity has already achieved; what empowered men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose and necessity joined to courage.

Many of us are skeptical that real change can occur. There is so much fear, so much mistrust. But if we choose to be bound by the past, we will never move forward. The Global Efforts Initiative seeks to say to every single human being on the face of this earth that, you, more than anyone, has the ability and ultimate responsibility to remake this world.

Our challenges may be new and the instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends, honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism, these things are surely old; these things are surely true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What the Global Efforts Initiative demands, is a return to these truths.

What is required of us now is a new era of collective responsibility. A recognition on the part of every human being that we have duties to ourselves, our communities, our nations and most importantly to humanity. Duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

Finally, all of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart or whether we commit ourselves to a sustained effort to seek common ground, to focus on the future we envision for future generations and to respect the dignity of all humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Let us work together in all the days and months ahead. For it is only through common struggle and common effort, as brothers and sisters, that we will fulfill our highest purpose. I ask you to join in me in that effort and I also ask you to support the Global Efforts Initiative. Pray for our communities and leaders and for the continued perfection of our union. As St. Augustine once said, pray as if everything depended on God; Work as if everything depended on you.

Welcome to the Global Efforts Initiative, Vision 360.

Thank you.

The Global Efforts Initiative