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Panel Discussion **HUMAN SECURITY: YOU AND I MATTER**

The world has changed dramatically in the past few decades, and we are living today in an increasingly complex environment. Growing violence and extremism in many regions of the world, coupled with persistent threats of climate change, poverty and inequality, transcend borders and spread their effects around the globe. As a consequence, common challenges are becoming increasingly global. Their resolution requires a different approach, which should be comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented. Thus, security can no longer be perceived only from the viewpoint of a state and its national security; instead, we have to shift the focus and the understanding of security from the state to the individual, as only this can bring lasting peace and security.

The human security approach takes into account such new realities. It is an approach which puts the protection of the individual at the centre and provides a framework in which threats to an individual's security are not dealt with in a fragmented, but in a holistic manner. It places special emphasis on protecting the human rights of the most vulnerable in different security situations, such as women and children in conflicts. It is a practical approach which brings together different actors in the field with the aim of finding long-term solutions to different challenges such as violent conflicts, natural disasters, access to health care and education, poverty, climate change and post-conflict reconstruction. The presence of landmines and other unexploded ordnance, for example, not only poses a serious threat to the safety, health and well-being of local civilian populations, but also hinders the return of refugees and other displaced persons after the conflict, reconstruction efforts and economic development.

Human security was introduced for the first time in the report of the United Nations Development Fund in 1994 with the aim of responding to new challenges to security. In 2005, the UN Summit pledged to enhance the human security approach. In 2010 and 2012, the United Nations General Assembly passed two resolutions which paved the way to a common understanding of what the human security approach entails. The vision of human security is also part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is the first-ever global universal agenda for achieving sustainable development and tackling poverty. With the focus on attaining sustainable development goals concerning people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, it provides a comprehensive and robust platform for achieving development, respect for human rights and lasting peace and security.

Thus, the panel will address challenges and threats to human security in the 21st century and seek solutions which comprehensively address the question of the security of the individual.

QUESTIONS

- What are the main challenges to the security of the individual in the 21st century? How can individual security improve state security and vice-versa?
- How could the human security approach contribute to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda?
- Could we argue that human rights are still only part of human security or has human security become a human right in itself?
- How do you see the human security approach developing in the future? How can the relevance of this approach be increased?