

MAKING A WORLD

*Celebrating
30 Years of
Development
Progress*

OF DIFFERENCE

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OF DIFFERENCE

*Celebrating 30 Years
of Development Progress*

1968 in the Developing World

53 percent of the people were illiterate.

62 percent of these illiterates were women.

The average woman had 6 children.

More than 1 in 8 of those children did not live to see their first birthday.

Nearly 12 million infants died every year — mostly from easily preventable diseases.

4 out of 10 people suffered from malnutrition.

3 out of 4 people did not have access to clean water or sanitation.

Life expectancy was just over 50 years.

4 out of 5 developing countries were not democracies.

Annual per capita income in the developing world was about \$700.

More than half of the people lived on less than a dollar a day.

THE SCOPE OF THE CHALLENGE

The developing world of 1968 was a time and a way of life that is too bleak for many people in wealthy nations today to even imagine. But, just three decades ago, the conditions in the developing world were all too real. Endemic poverty, sub-standard sanitation, despotism and a lack of economic opportunity combined to create a dismal picture in large parts of Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The situation in the developing world was cause for great concern among developed and developing nations alike. Such difficult living conditions were clearly a breeding ground for hopelessness that threatened to dim the aspirations of hundreds of mil-

Dr. [Paul] Ehrlich concluded, "The battle to feed all humanity is over. In the 1970s, the world will undergo famines — hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now."

lions of people. In capitals around the globe, alarms were going off among scientists, sociologists and politicians. The circumstances were so grim that many predicted a future defined only by calamity.

In "The Population Bomb," published in 1968, Dr. Paul Ehrlich warned of the dire consequences of rapid population growth and lagging food production. Arguing that the stork has passed the plow, Dr. Ehrlich concluded, "The battle to feed all humanity is over. In the 1970s, the world will undergo famines — hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this date, nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate."

Ehrlich was far from alone in his predictions. In 1967, William and Paul Paddock argued that famine would grow so severe that the international community would have to abandon many countries altogether and focus its resources on triage in countries that were salvageable. In these authors' view, global hunger would become so bad that nations like Egypt and India simply "can't be saved."

United Nations Secretary General U Thant told a closed-door meeting of representatives from 35 nations in 1970, "I do not wish to seem over-dramatic, but I can only conclude from the information available to me as secretary general that the members of the United Nations have perhaps 10 years left in which to subordinate their ancient quarrels and launch a global partnership to curb the arms race, to improve the human environment, to defuse the population explosion and to supply the required momentum to world development efforts."

New Era

1975, U. S. News & World Report, Inc.

"IF HUMAN RACE IS TO SURVIVE INTO THE NEXT CENTURY —"
Interview With Loren C. Eiseley, Authority on the History of Science

Will great breakthroughs in years ahead bring well-being or disaster to the world? In this interview, a noted scholar describes the perils of knowledge—and the promise of wisdom that could curb its abuses.

Q. Professor Eiseley, what is science and technology going to do for people in years ahead?
A. I think science, more and more, is going to be giving its attention to finding ways whereby humanity can live at peace with itself and nature.

If the human race is to survive into the next century, scientific technology will have to learn how to control the devastating forces it has unwittingly turned loose on the planet—the world's exploding population, the reckless pollution of the environment, the spiraling arms race and the escalating energy crisis. All of these disasters are rooted in the successes of our scientific technology of the past—from things like medical advances, sanitary engineering, atomic energy and the gasoline combustion engine.

This is the great paradox of the scientific age.
Q. Will science, in the next quarter of a century, be developing answers to the problems created?

Most of the world's religions were founded in the far West. The product of the plane where I've the the sho

Is human civilization in danger of growing itself to death? A group of former thinkers called the Club of Rome raised that question three years ago and sparked a global controversy. Based on an elaborate computer model developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The Limits to Growth" warned that if current trends in population and natural resource depletion remained unchecked, the card faced an ominous Midwestern catastrophe: a industry ground to a halt and worse, occupation. The resulting debate has

Visit to a Small Planet

Myrdal Finds the Outlook For South Asia Is Gloomy

By PETER KIHSS
In a long, often gloomy study of South Asia and its 748 million people—a fourth of mankind—the Swedish economist holds that the major need is for changes

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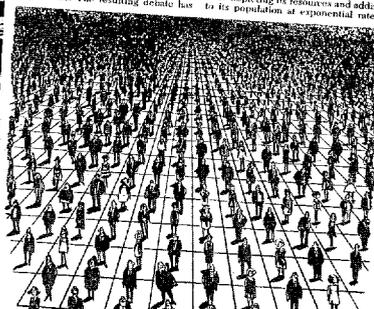
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FAMINE IN 1970'S HELD INEVITABLE

Dr. Rock Worried for Far East—U. S. Gains Hailed

A massive famine is inevitable in the mid-1970's in the developing nations of the Far East, according to Dr. John Rock.

"There is nothing we can do" to stop it, said Dr. Rock, the Roman Catholic physician who helped develop the birth-control pill and whose efforts



Commentators ranging from President Johnson to leading academics agreed that conditions in the developing world were ripe for violence, unrest and profound human suffering on an appalling scale. The combination of rapid population growth, miserable health conditions, authoritarian governments and lagging food production was moving the world to the brink of disaster.

THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

In response to these profound challenges, the industrialized nations of the world mobilized their resources and coordinated as never before. Among their first steps together was a gathering of senior representatives from the wealthy countries' foreign assistance programs at the Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland, in 1968. This first meeting of the directors of the 17 different foreign assistance programs was the beginning of a 30-year collaboration to combat poverty and promote decent living standards in the developing world. Working with the governments and people of the developing world, the international community committed itself to collaboratively address the root challenges of development. However, the task ahead seemed difficult indeed.

The Green Revolution

One of the greatest areas of concern for policy-makers in those days was the food situation in India. In 1966 and 1967, India had been battered by severe monsoons. Some estimated that 50 million Indians might die from the resulting famines. To meet the immediate need, the United States and other donors mobilized massive amounts of food aid to prevent mass starvation.

Even more importantly, the international community made the long-term investments that allowed India to dramatically increase its own food production. Called the Green Revolution, the use of new seed varieties and agricultural techniques boosted India's wheat production by 500 percent and more than doubled rice production.

Indeed, research — much of it made possible by foreign assistance programs — has increased agricultural yields around the world since World War II by more than the previous 1,000 years combined. The best indicator of success? When India faced a major drought in 1978, it was largely able to meet its own food needs.

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The Fight Against Disease

Donor assistance programs, carried out in close cooperation with developing countries, a range of non-governmental and development organizations and concerned citizens, have also been crucial in fighting one of mankind's oldest scourges: disease.

Elimination of smallpox was not the result of new technology or vastly greater health spending. Rather, it resulted from smarter spending and better coordination by the donor agencies... and the tremendous commitment of public health officials in the developing world.

Smallpox is estimated to have killed 300 million people during the 20th century — nearly all poor people, since the well-to-do had the means to protect themselves. Indeed, the basic means to prevent smallpox — vaccination with cowpox — was discovered more than 200 years ago. But even with the vaccine, smallpox continued to rage in the impoverished nations of the developing world.

A concerted international campaign, coordinated by the World Health Organization, led to the eradication of smallpox. This effort offers a powerful demonstration of the benefits of international cooperation. Elimination of smallpox was not the result of new technology or vastly greater health spending. Rather, it resulted from smarter spending and better coordination by the donor agencies, who launched the eradication campaign in 1967, and the tremendous commitment of public health officials in the developing world.

The last case of smallpox was recorded in a small village in Somalia in 1977. Not a single case has been reported in the last two decades.

The benefits of eradicating smallpox went to both developing and developed nations alike. The United States — although it had almost no smallpox cases in the late 1960s — still spent \$150 million in 1968 on smallpox immunizations and surveillance. Since vaccination is no longer required, the United States is able to entirely avoid this cost, equivalent to \$708 million in today's dollars.

The next success in the campaign against infectious diseases will likely be polio, which has been eliminated from the Western Hemisphere, with global eradication possible around the year 2000.

Clean Water and Sanitation

Development assistance and international cooperation have also been crucial in bringing safe water and sanitation to millions of people. The 1980s were declared the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in an effort to tackle one of the most important problems in the developing world. Dirty water and inadequate sanitation are directly linked to the illnesses that are the leading causes of infant mortality in the developing world, and also provide a fertile breeding ground for

malaria-carrying mosquitoes and cholera. The donor community and its partners agreed to make a major push to improve water and sanitation conditions during the 1980s.

During that decade, dramatic gains were achieved. About 1.5 billion more people now had an adequate and safe water supply, and about 750 million gained access to sanitation. A number of new approaches were adopted. As a result of increased awareness of the need to involve women in all aspects of water supply and sanitation, the decade also became a vehicle for the social advancement of women.

Improvements in approach and technology have provided a basis for continued investment during the 1990s. However, about 1 billion people in developing countries still lack access to clean water, and 2 billion people still lack adequate sanitation service.

Oral Rehydration Therapy

Perhaps the greatest life-saving breakthrough in human history can be credited to a simple packet of salt and sugar that costs about seven cents, known throughout the world as ORT.

Diarrhea is one of the biggest causes of infant mortality in developing countries, leading to more than 3 million deaths of children under 5 each year. Deaths caused by diarrhea can be easily prevented by simple, cost-effective interventions, notably the use of oral rehydration therapy, or ORT.

Scientists from two cholera research projects in Bangladesh funded by foreign assistance programs first demonstrated success with ORT in adult cholera patients in the late 1960s. Subsequent field trials supported by development agencies in Egypt, Mali, Guatemala and other countries demonstrated that ORT had enormous life-saving potential. UNICEF estimates that its use has saved over 1 million young lives a year in the developing world.

From the Green Revolution, to eradicating smallpox, to ORT, to providing clean drinking water for a billion more people during the 1980s, international cooperation and the hard work of the people of the developing world have produced some remarkable successes since development ministers gathered at the Tidewater Inn in Easton, Maryland, some 30 years ago. Thanks to forward-looking investments, and the tremendous commitment of the people of the developing world to improve their own lives, the dark forecasts of the late 1960s did not become a reality.

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WHAT WOULD THE WORLD LOOK LIKE TODAY WITHOUT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE?

Conditions in the developing world have improved more in the second half of the 20th century than in the previous 500 years. Most of the credit must go to the people of the developing world themselves. Improved technology and communications, scientific breakthroughs, courageous individual leadership, private capital, the surge of democracy and many other factors have also played a role in this rapid progress. It is equally clear that foreign assistance programs have had a vital catalytic role in improving the world.

While it is obviously difficult to predict exactly what the world would look like today had there not been foreign assistance programs, it is clear these efforts have had a tremendous impact.

Certainly, a number of speculations can easily be supported. Without foreign assistance programs over the last three decades, there would probably be more than 500 million more people on Earth today, largely because international family planning programs would have been unavailable to tens of millions of couples. As a consequence, the world today would be more crowded, more polluted and poorer.

Conditions in the developing world have improved more in the second half of the 20th century than in the previous 500 years.

Five hundred million additional people would use 4.8 million more barrels of oil, or its equivalent, annually. Burning this additional fuel would add about 10 percent to total world carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, or about 2 billion tons of CO₂, and probably accelerate global warming.

The world would need to produce an additional 150 million tons of grain to avoid widespread malnutrition. Producing this much food would require an additional 64 million hectares of land — an area larger than the combined territory of France, the Netherlands and Belgium. The pressure for more agricultural production and for more wood and paper products would reduce the world's tropical forests by another 2 percent.

Without foreign assistance over the last 30 years, smallpox would still exist as a disease, and up to 80 million lives would have been lost to this killer. Industrialized nations could be spending billions on immunization and surveillance costs. Because the Green Revolution would not have taken place, India would use twice as much land as it currently does to produce the same agricultural yields.

Hundreds of millions of people would never have had a chance to get a basic education because support for building schools, providing books and encouraging educational reform was not forthcoming. More than 10 million entrepreneurs, mostly women, would never have received "microenterprise" loans to help start small businesses. More than 80 nations would never have received assistance in helping put basic economic reforms in place.

Tens of millions of victims of war and famine would not have received emergency assistance when they were most vulnerable. Africa would not have in place an extensive famine early warning system that helps warn governments and farmers about the potential for upcoming droughts. Latin America and Asia would not have received assistance in mitigating the damages from natural disasters as diverse as volcanoes and avalanches.

Every year, 5 million more infants would have died — a fact made even more remarkable when one considers how steeply the absolute number of deaths have fallen at a time when total population has grown tremendously.

In short, without foreign assistance to help support the efforts of the people of the developing world, the world would be a far worse place in which to live — for young and old, for urban and rural, for North and South.

Indeed, probably the greatest lesson of development over the last 30 years has been that investments in people have the highest returns. Educated, healthy people able to participate in a democracy make a greater contribution to a developing country than any road, bridge or dam. By giving people the power to change their lives, development assistance is helping change the world.

Consider the broad changes from 30 years ago. Literacy has risen by almost 50 percent. Infant mortality has been halved. The average woman now has three, not six, children. The percentage of people living in absolute poverty has been cut almost in half. Seventy-one more nations have become 'free' or 'partly free.' The percentage of population with access to clean water has tripled. Life expectancy has risen by more than a decade.

From 1968 to 1998 in the Developing World Good News

Literacy has risen by almost 50 percent.

Girls and women have significantly closed the gap in gender disparity in education.

The average woman now has 3, not 6, children.

Infant mortality has been halved.

5 million fewer children die every year.

1 out of 6, not 4 out of 10, people suffer from malnutrition.

The percentage of population with access to clean water has tripled, and access to sanitation has more than doubled.

Life expectancy has risen by more than a decade.

71 more nations have become free or partly free.

Annual per capita income has risen by more than 60 percent.

The percentage of people living in absolute poverty has been cut almost in half.

THE ECONOMIC RECORD

Recently, the development record of the 90 countries that were seen as presenting the most difficult development challenges in the 1960s was reviewed based on World Bank statistics. Development cooperation efforts have largely concentrated on these nations over the last 30 years. These 90 countries now account for over 3 billion people.

How do these nations stand today? The progress of these nations can be viewed as falling into four broad groupings that offer very useful insight into the state of development today.

The first group of 25 countries, accounting for almost 700 million people, is made up of nations whose progress has been so substantial that they are no longer considered developing countries. As recently as the late 1970s, most of these nations received substantial amounts of foreign assistance. Now, some of these nations are even new aid donors themselves, including Portugal, Greece, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore. In many instances, the public has forgotten that these countries were major aid recipients in the past. (See map.)

The second group — 15 countries accounting for roughly 400 million people — has reached middle-income status. These nations still receive some concessional aid, but most of them should no longer need assistance over the next decade. This group includes countries such as the Philippines, Morocco, Jordan, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, Jamaica, El Salvador and South Africa.

The average economic growth rate for these first two groups of countries was about 3 percent annually during the 30-year period.

Knowledge for Development

Two important trends stand out when looking at the last 30 years. First, it is clear that well-being in the developing world can improve without per capita income necessarily rising. Broad improvements in social indicators, without an accompanying rise in per capita annual income, occurred in Africa during the last two decades, and in Latin America during the 1980s. Social indicators are somewhat autonomous from pure economic progress. The important lesson of this trend is that improvements in social indicators are often the result of the continued dissemination of knowledge through greater literacy.

The second trend demonstrates that social indicators show more stability than economic indicators. Social indicators do not deteriorate simply because of a recession. Again, this is consistent with the notion that the transmission of knowledge and education do not disappear simply because of an economic downturn.

Twenty-five Assisted Nations with Rapid GNP Growth 1965 - 1995



A third group of 10 countries, accounting for approximately 1.3 billion people, is still poor but has made clear, steady progress over the past decade. Each of the countries in this category has achieved growth in per capita income averaging at least 1.5 percent annually. This group includes countries such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bolivia, Uganda, Mozambique and Ghana. The prospects for continued growth are good in these countries but, in many instances, tenuous. Continued progress in this group would mean major reductions in global poverty. It is abundantly clear from the first three categories of countries that remarkable development progress has been made around the world over the last three decades.

On balance, the last 30 years reflect a period of remarkable progress and achievement in economic growth in the developing world.

Some 40 countries, accounting for 600 million people, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, continue to preoccupy the development community. Even here the story is not entirely negative. Development progress has been intermittent and uneven, but assistance has made these difficult situations better. In this group of countries, there have been very significant reductions in infant mortality and major improvements in literacy, sanitation and life expectancy. However, a number of nations in this category, including Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Liberia and Rwanda, have seen their development progress stalled or badly reversed by longstanding civil conflicts.

On balance, the last 30 years reflect a period of remarkable progress and achievement in economic growth in the developing world. Improvements in economic growth have been accompanied by historic numbers of nations embracing democracy and widespread improvements in living standards for billions of people. Foreign assistance programs have played a modest, but crucial, catalytic role in these developments.

GOALS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Perhaps what is most remarkable about the achievements of the last three decades is that they came during a period when development as a field was relatively new and the ideological struggle of the Cold War was at full pitch. During this time, the development community spent an inordinate amount of energy debating whether economic growth actually reduced poverty or whether it exacerbated economic inequality within societies. The evidence has become clear: Sustained and rapid economic growth is probably the single most powerful force in reducing poverty.

Programs that save children, and educate them, give economic opportunity and dignity to the poor, and strengthen civil society are not merely humanitarian, they contribute to the productive capacity of societies. Poverty reduction programs contribute to sustainable growth with equity.

This is an age of convergence. The ideological confrontations of the Cold War have been left behind. People and governments everywhere are embracing open markets and democracy in an almost geometric progression.

New partnerships between governments, business, non-governmental organizations and citizens are proliferating. There is wide agreement on the best approaches to secure lasting development. Innovations in technology and communications are making cooperation possible between individuals and institutions continents apart. It is this convergence of approaches and cooperation that hold the key to the future.

No one would suggest that the international community can now rest on its laurels. In the middle of the next century, we will see the high-water mark of human population. Although fertility rates are slowing, the world's population is still increasing by the equivalent of an additional New York City every month.

We will see the capacity of our oceans, forests and farms stretched to the limit. Urban crowding and pollution will be increasingly severe problems. It is estimated that one in eight plant species are threatened with extinction in the next few decades.

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The 21st Century Goals of the International Community

By 2005

End gender discrimination in education;
Implement strategies that will reverse current losses of environmental resources by 2015; and,
Build capacity for democratic and accountable governance, protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law.

By 2015

Cut extreme poverty in half;
Secure universal primary education for all;
Reduce infant mortality rates by two-thirds;
Cut the number of mothers who die giving birth by 75 percent; and,
Make family planning services available to all who want them.

No one would suggest that the international community can now rest on its laurels.

Widespread poverty is still a reality in many parts of the world. More than 800 million people still face malnutrition. More than 100 million children are not in school. New infectious diseases are only a plane ride away from any nation's capital. The impact of global climate change will place thousands of miles of coastline at risk of flooding. Shoring up fragile democracies will also be a serious challenge for the international community.

The end of the Cold War has presented the international community with an unprecedented opportunity to work collaboratively to promote development — using tools and methods already field-tested and field-proven. In May 1996, the official development assistance ministers of 21 industrialized nations agreed to work together to help improve conditions in the developing world.

Donors from around the world agreed to work toward the “21st Century Goals.” These goals set specific targets such as endeavoring to end gender discrimination in education by 2005. Also by 2005, environmental strategies should be put in place that will reverse the loss of natural resources by 2015. These 21 nations also agreed that by 2015: Extreme poverty be cut in half, infant mortality rates be reduced by two-thirds, global malnutrition be halved, the numbers of mothers who die giving birth be cut by 75 percent, and family planning services be available to all who want them. Support for democratic governance, human rights and the rule of law is seen as essential to progress toward all of the goals.

This agreement on specific goals and targets by the donor community is unprecedented and represents a major step forward in international cooperation. Donors have clearly placed an emphasis on producing results and working together. The G-8 nations reiterated their endorsement of the 21st Century Goals at the 1998 G-8 Summit. These are ambitious goals, but they are eminently worthy and achievable targets.

WHAT IF WE DON'T REACH THE 21st CENTURY GOALS?

Success or failure in reaching these targets will have a profound impact around the globe. While the goals may seem somewhat abstract to the average citizen of the developed world, failure to reach them would deeply touch the lives of millions of people. The goals are intrinsically interrelated. Success toward any goal makes realizing the others that much easier. Conversely, setbacks in reaching any of the 21st Century Goals make the others that much harder to attain. For example, reaching the goal of cutting malnutrition by 50 percent will likely be impossible without significant progress in improving basic education and boosting per capita incomes.

A better understanding of the implications of not reaching the 21st Century Goals, and the importance of not approaching these goals in a piecemeal fashion, can easily be seen by looking at several models based on the impact of development. Take the goal of universal basic education. In 1995, about 80 percent of girls of primary school age in developing countries actually attended school. The 21st Century Goal is to reach 100 percent enrollment for both girls and boys by 2015. As we have seen, girls' education leads to other improvements in economic and social conditions. Girls with more education are better able to acquire knowledge that will improve their lives and those of their family members. They are more likely to earn income outside the home. They are likely to have fewer children, and these children are likely to be healthier.

In Brazil, for example, women with no education have an average of five children, while those who attend even just four years of school average three children. The infant mortality rate for children born to women with no schooling is about one in 10, while women with four years of school see rates of about one in 20. Rates for malnutrition and immunization of children show similar disparities.

This Brazilian data can be used to give a rough estimate of the global consequences of falling short of the girls' education target. Suppose that the net enrollment ratio for girls is raised only to 90 percent — not 100 percent — worldwide by 2015. That would mean 33 million girls of primary school age would not be in school in 2015. Later in life, those 33 million girls will have 67 million more babies than if they had been given four years of school when young. About 11 million more of those babies will die in their first year. There will be 25 million more children experiencing moderate or severe malnutrition, and 63 million fewer children in the world would go without inoculations against the most common diseases. Clearly, it behooves the world to achieve the 21st Century Goal for universal basic education.

There is a similar interrelation between development goals in the areas of agricultural technology, nutrition, the environment and population growth. Most of the Earth's land that is best suited for agriculture is already being farmed. Globally, farmland makes up about 6 million square miles, an area somewhat smaller than South America.

If agricultural yields do not keep pace with growing populations, another 3 million square miles of land would need to be farmed by the middle of the next century to keep pace with the explosion in the number of new, and hungry, mouths to feed. To put it in perspective, 3 million square miles is an area about the size of Australia. Forests and other environmentally sensitive areas would likely be severely harmed in the search for additional, marginal farmland.

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As Norman Borlaug, 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his pioneering breakthroughs in agronomy, has noted, "World peace will not be built on empty stomachs and human misery. Deny farmers access to modern technology, and the world will be doomed, not from environmental degradation, as some would have us believe, but from starvation and social and political chaos." While the 21st Century Goals are simple and clear, whether we achieve them or not will be felt in almost every facet of life in both developed and developing nations.

A DIPLOMACY OF CRISIS PREVENTION

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, over 4 million people have been killed in violent conflicts. Last year, there were over 35 million refugees and internally displaced persons around the world. Investments in development play a vital role in preventing future crises. Improved living standards and democratic systems are the best means to prevent conflict and instability. There is every reason to believe that investments in development can be every bit as effective as defense spending in averting conflicts.

Indeed, experts have found increasing correlation between poor development indicators and civil unrest. A variety of prominent organizations, ranging from the United Nations, to the Carnegie Commission on Violence, to the Congressional Budget Office, have looked at the factors that cause nations to erupt into civil war. While the methodologies used by these organizations in their studies varied, there was a remarkable confluence in their findings.

Those nations at greatest risk were characterized as sharing common elements:

- high infant mortality rates;
- rapid population growth;
- high population density;
- large youth populations;
- a lack of strong democratic institutions;
- a history of ethnic disputes; and,
- sharp and severe economic distress.

As the Congressional Budget Office study found, there is "a fairly striking correlation between economic malaise on the one hand and domestic unrest on the other."

Around the globe, the ground is extraordinarily fertile for more of the conflicts we have seen since the end of the Cold War. Clearly, the international community needs to do a better job addressing these fundamental causes of social unrest and underdevelopment.

Challenges for the Future

The world's population is still increasing by the equivalent of an additional New York City every month.

95 percent of the world's population growth in the coming decades will occur in the cities of the developing world.

By 2015, cities with a population of more than 1 million are expected to nearly double in Latin America, triple in Asia and quadruple in Africa.

It is estimated that 1 in 8 plant species will be threatened with extinction in the next few decades.

More than 800 million people still face malnutrition.

More than 100 million children are not in school.

180 million children under the age of 14 work as child laborers.

About 70 percent of the people living in poverty are women.

There are 5,000 new HIV infections daily around the world.

An area of rainforest the size of a football field is destroyed every second.

Continued international investments in promoting both democracy and free markets in the developing world are vital. Historical experience shows the mutually beneficial relationship between economic growth and democratic political systems in the longer term. As the economic capacity of a country increases, political and economic power tends to flow to greater numbers of people. More prosperous citizens demand a larger voice in the direction of society.

The fact that advances in democracy and economic growth are closely linked provides one of the reasons that continued foreign assistance to poor countries can make such a difference.

A fascinating statistic emerges when we look at the nexus of famine and governance. As we have learned, drought does not have to lead to famine. But a study of famines around the world over the past several centuries concludes that famines as a result of crop failures have been common occurrences in countries that are not democratic, but no famines have occurred in democratic countries.

IN CONCLUSION

The actions taken today by the international community will have a tremendous impact on the shape of the future. Whether support for international development continues will be a key determinant in deciding if the remarkable momentum toward prosperity and democracy can be maintained around the globe.

Can we afford to squander this opportunity to improve the lives of future generations? Having seen the dramatic changes development has made in the last 30 years, is there any real excuse not to make the very modest commitments that improve the lives of tens of millions of people?

It is important to remember that development is much more than an opportunity, it is also a global imperative. In a world where markets are truly global, and economies are increasingly interdependent, how can we ignore the more than 1 billion people who live on less than one dollar a day? Will the citizens of industrialized nations come to fully appreciate that on issue after issue — whether it be combating infectious diseases, dealing with pollution or preventing conflict — that active international engagement improves their own domestic conditions?

Will future generations look back and celebrate our vision?

Development has been successful, and can be successful, because people everywhere are deeply committed to improving their own lives and realizing their shared dreams. International collaboration, the people of the developing world and a great deal of hard work helped avert the dire predictions of 1968. Now, it is our turn to help realize the next generation of successes.

Today, the world enjoys a greater wealth of skills, expertise and technology than ever before. By utilizing this incredible body of knowledge, we can achieve what today's skeptics think impossible. By working toward a common and more prosperous future, we can continue to make a world of difference.