



Dag Hammarskjöld
Foundation

The 3rd Annual Kofi Annan - Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture

Accra, Ghana 21 April, 2015

**Introductory statement by
Mr Henrik Hammargren – Executive Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation**

*Mr Commandant - Major General OB Akwa
Dr. Chambas
Ambassador Adamson
Madam Director
Your Excellences and distinguished guests*

It is an honour for me to represent the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation at this third Annual Dag Hammarskjöld-Kofi Annan lecture at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).

Since 2009 we have had the pleasure of working together as partners to institute this lecture and through this event recognise achievements and challenges of peacemaking, peacekeeping and in peacebuilding. The aim is to influence policy makers on issues of peace and security but also to honour the legacy of two great Secretaries-General.

The Foundation also organises a Dag Hammarskjöld lecture, which is held annually each fall in Uppsala, Sweden. In 2001 Kofi Annan delivered the Dag Hammarskjöld lecture.

We are indeed proud of our partnership with the Centre – as the work of our two institutions reflects shared values and principles. Like the two Secretaries-General, our two institutions share a mutual aim of strengthening multilateral approaches and capacities for peacebuilding and the United Nations as a whole.

Dag Hammarskjöld's vision for the UN was one of an organisation that would work for the common good of mankind; for peace; justice; human rights and democratic principles.

Kofi Annan shares these values, and often referred to Hammarskjöld during his terms in office and in his continued effort to develop the UN.

To understand both Hammarskjöld's legacy and vision one has to recall the specific contextual challenges of his time. The UN was still in its formative years. During his term in office some 25 African nations gained their independence. Hammarskjöld became passionate about African countries' independence, their sovereignty and their role in the UN and in applying the Charter to defend their interests.

As Secretary-General, he acted firmly and with uncompromising integrity, with the aim of safeguarding the interests of new and smaller Member States. In doing so,

Hammar skjöld became one of the architects of the UN we know today and also introduced the first armed Peacekeeping force.

However, during the time of Hammar skjöld, decolonisation and the Cold War also led to the rise of new armed conflicts, challenging the vision of a new global order as laid out in the UN Charter. The UN's role and impartiality were questioned. Sadly, these challenges continue. Armed conflicts continue to place extreme demands on the UN, on regional organisations, on nations and communities. Collective action through the application of the UN Charter remains the main instrument and common global position; it must be defended, applied and developed.

Hammar skjöld died on a mission in search for peace in Africa. However, his ethics, his views on solidarity and his sense of fundamental and universal values and human rights have not lost their relevance. Rather, the opposite, as this year's lecture will remind us.

Finally, this year's lecture also coincides with a Regional Consultation for the Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture.

A seminar on ***Regional Dimensions of Peacebuilding***, focused on a UN Peacebuilding Architecture responsive to the role of regional and national actors, will take place here at the Kofi Annan Centre following today's lecture.

Dr Chambas' lecture will be an important contribution also in this regard, shedding light on what is needed for effective and successful peacebuilding in West Africa and in informing the review of challenges and options.

Thank you.