

Today, the United Nations is more relevant than ever.

- to provide peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance around the world
- to assist women and children in war zones and in the developing world
- to protect human rights and preserve the environment
- to immunize children and to address the global AIDS crisis
- to inspire young people with a global perspective so they can become leaders for the future

UN Peacekeepers are present in 13 countries that are currently engaged in conflicts.
The World Food Program provides about one-third of the world's food aid each year.
UN relief agencies provide aid and protection to some 25.7 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide.
Every year the UN saves up to 3 million children's lives with its immunization campaigns.
UNIFEM, the UN women's fund, supports women's participation in peace-building in over 30 countries.



“Despite the sense of vulnerability and uncertainty that pervades the global consciousness, people and nations retain the hope of uniting around a common humanity...”

They look for ways to translate into reality the ideals expressed in the United Nations Charter, which established the fundamental principles of international law.”

– Kofi A. Annan, Secretary-General, the United Nations

We, religious leaders, stand firmly in support of the United Nations and are grateful for the leadership of Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan during these challenging times.

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“Suspicion, mistrust and intolerance are the primary barriers to world peace. By increasing our spiritual awareness, we can contribute meaningfully to global peace and harmony.”

– Mr. Hiroshi Matsumoto, President, Inner Trip Reiyukai International Senior Advisor, World Council of Religious Leaders