

**Message from Mr. Üner Kirdar
Scholar, Diplomat, International Civil Servant
Former Senior Official of the United Nations
and the United Nations Development Programme**

Heartfelt congratulations, Brother Sri Chinmoy and the UN Peace Meditation Group, for your devoted and successful 30 years of service in unyielding support of the United Nations and its goals. Your valuable work and commitment to make the United Nations a stronger organization, and the world a better and more humane place, is acquiring more importance each day.

At the doorstep of the New Millennium, humanity faces several pressing global challenges and neglected issues. As a result of the rapid globalization process, established social values and ethics, as well as cultural traditions, are undergoing enormous changes. Increased emphasis on materialism, consumerism and competition are eroding the more traditional norms such as cooperation and collaboration. In this "survival of the fittest" environment, a growing number of marginalized people are feeling increasingly alienated and returning to spiritual values and searching for inner security. Inner security enhances the human security. The world cannot become a secure place, as emphasized by the United Nations Charter, unless people's security can be ensured in their homes, in their jobs and in their communities.

I am grateful that 15 years ago you honoured UNDP, in its highest days, by bestowing upon it, through me, the U Thant Peace Award for advancing the cause of human development. At present, you deserve the same type of honour for your good, unselfish and committed work for the realisation of the same cause.

With my best wishes,

Üner Kirdar

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