

GLOBAL FOUNDATION FOR UNDERSTANDING

SIX PRINCIPLES FOR OUR FUTURE

1. COOPERATION OVER CONFRONTATION

The information and communication revolution is driving our societal evolution toward the possible attainment of a true global community. It is shifting our focus from a "national" to a "global" perspective. The ever-increasing worldwide exchange of information and communication through computer networks, the internet and the web has the potential of increasing understanding among individuals, groups and cultures which, in turn, can lead to the choosing of cooperation over confrontation.

2. UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The interconnection and interdependence of all life on Earth can not be denied. Nor can we deny the growing interdependence of humanity and our political, economic and social institutions. The globalization of communications, culture, technology and trade is proceeding at an extremely rapid rate. National borders, like many of the past walls between us, are being transcended. The major challenges we now face are global in nature and so must the solutions be. The world of the future can be a world of shared vision, values and goals while embracing cultural and religious diversity. One World - Unity In Diversity.

3. PAST DOES NOT EQUAL FUTURE

Accelerating revolutions in science and technology are leading to societal shifts that are reshaping our world. We must continually adapt to these changing realities by being open to the future. New realities demand new thinking and new approaches. To live in the past or desire a return to the past is to respond to former realities. The past limits us, as it is only what is known to date. The future, however, presents new possibilities that can't be known in the present. The future is a world of unlimited possibilities.

4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE

Securing a positive future for all is based upon individual acceptance of responsibility for the future. With our new knowledge, tools and resources, we have the ability to solve all of our collective challenges, both old and new, for the first time in history. We can feed, shelter and educate the world. We can return our wondrous planet to a healthy state. This will become a reality when a new understanding of our true potential has replaced the current worldview. To a greater or lesser degree, we all share responsibility for the current state of the world. We also all share responsibility for the shape of the future.

5. ONE WORLD, ONE FUTURE

As we share a common future, a concept of the common good must now transcend existing cultural, religious and economic differences. The narrower interests of each culture, group and nation must become secondary to the interests of all humanity and to that of the Earth upon which all life depends. Ultimately, we will all succeed or we will all fail. The wisdom of the choices we make today will determine our future.

6. THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

The explosion in our knowledge and tools over the past few decades has given us the power to control our societal evolution and eventual destiny. We have reached the crossroads of human history. The choices and decisions we make today will have a tremendous impact on all future generations. The current generations are the most important in history in terms of our impact on the future. There is no current challenge that cannot be met by human creativity, innovation and will. We must collectively make the choices that will lead to the creation of a peaceful, just and sustainable global community in the new Millennium. We must meet the challenge together to ensure that life survives and thrives into the long-term future!