

6<sup>TH</sup>, OCTOBER, 2009

MR. CHAIRMAN,  
EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

AS WE STAND HERE TODAY BEFORE YOU, WE ARE BUT A SMALL PIECE OF THIS LARGER DELEGATION THAT RETURN YEAR AFTER YEAR TO PLEAD THE CASE THAT THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY SELF-DETERMINED BUT HAVE THE WISH AND RIGHT TO BE SELF-RELIANT WHILST SUPPORTING FREEDOM FOR ALL.

NOW THAT WE ARE FIRMLY ONE DECADE; TEN YEARS INTO A NEW CENTURY, A NEW MILLENNIUM, WE ARE ONCE AGAIN REMINDED OF THE REALITY THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS MUST BE REWARDED AND VIOLENCE ABOLISHED.

IN THIS NEW CENTURY WE ARE FACED WITH YET ANOTHER REALITY. THE REALITY OF ENERGY DEMAND BY AN EVER-EXPANDING WORLD.

THE SAHRAWI EMBRACE BOTH THESE TRUTHS AND COMBINED, OFFER THE ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE ON THE WORLD'S STAGE MORE VIABLY. MORE FEASIBLY.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS REALITY COME TO FRUITION CAN BE THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF SOLAR ENERGY.

SOLAR ENERGY ON A MORE WIDESPREAD USE IS IN KEEPING WITH THE SAHRAWI SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE MORES AND VALUES.

SOLAR ENERGY CAN OFFER THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE THE SAME POSSIBILITIES AS MANY COMMUNITIES LIVING OFF THE GRID AROUND THE WORLD. THE POSSIBILITIES OF CLEAN WATER TO CHARGED CELL PHONES AND INCREASED COMMUNICATIONS. THE POSSIBILITIES OF SOLAR OVENS TO REFRIGERATED MEDICINES.

FIRST, THE MOST URGENT NEED IS CLEAN WATER. THE SAHRAWI'S' OWN WELLS ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED, DUE TO HEALTH REASONS. AT THE MOMENT, THE MAJORITY OF CAMPS USE TANKERS TO TRANSPORT WATER FROM GENERAL WELLS. HOWEVER, THERE IS A SHORTAGE IN THESE WATER TANKERS. QUITE SIMPLY, THEY ARE TOO EXPENSIVE AND FEW NGOs CAN SUPPLY THEM. PUMPS AND PURIFICATION SYSTEMS CAN BE POWERED BY SOLAR CHARGERS CREATED BY SOLAR ONE, AT VERY VIABLE PRICE POINTS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, CAN BE MAINTAINED BY LOCAL HANDS. THEY CAN ALSO PRODUCE SMALLER UNITS FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES SUPPLYING THE POSSIBILITY OF LED LIGHTING AND MORE.



(ST2)

ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS IS THE INNOVATIVE SPIRIT OF MAN. CURRENTLY THERE ARE PRODUCTS AND TRAINING BY THE SOLAR ENERGY FOUNDATION; WINNER OF THE 2009 ASHDEN AWARD FOR ELECTRIFICATION OF RURAL AREAS. THEIR DAUGHTER COMPANY, SUNTRANSFER, DESIGNS PRODUCTS WHICH ARE HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE. THEIR "ST2" IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS BEING UTILIZED IN ETHIOPIA. IT IS WATER AND DUST PROOF ALLOWING FOR USES IN SOLAR LIGHT AND CELL CHARGING IN THE WETTEST OR DRIEST PLACES. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS MANY OF THE NEW PRODUCTS CAN BE ASSEMBLED LOCALLY, ALLOWING FOR THE EXTENSION OF COMMERCE. COMPANIES LIKE SOLARAID, A BRITISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHARITY THAT PROMOTES THE USE OF SOLAR ENERGY TO HELP REDUCE GLOBAL POVERTY AND CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TEACH AND SELL UNASSEMBLED SMALL SCALE SOLAR PANELS FOR RADIO, LIGHTS AND MORE. THE UNGERWO YOUTH GROUP IN MZUZU CITY, MALAWI IS JUST ONE GROUP BENEFITTING FROM THIS SOLAR

EXPLOSION.



SOLAR OVENS CAN BE BUILT FOR UNDER A \$1 USING SIMPLE SUPPLIES OF ALUMINUM AND CARDBOARD OR ON A LARGER SCALE OF \$100. BY COMPANIES LIKE THE SOLAR OVEN SOCIETY WITH PROJECTS IN PROCESS FOR AFGHANISTAN AND ETHIOPIA. CURRENTLY, THE PEOPLE IN THE CAMPS ARE USING COOKING GAS IN BOTTLES FROM ALGERIA. EVERY FAMILY HAS AN ALLOTMENT OF ONE COOKING GAS BOTTLE PER MONTH. THIS LASTS FOR 15 DAYS, THE REST OF THE MONTH THEY HAVE TO BUY IT. IMAGINE IF THE FAMILIES HAVE MORE CHILDREN OR GUESTS?

IT HAS LONG BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT IN ERADICATING POVERTY AND IMPROVING SELF-RELIANCE, SOLAR IS CLEARLY THE LEADER FOR OFF THE GRID COMMUNITIES, SUCH AS THE SAHRAWI CAMPS. HOW CAN YOU DENY THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE THIS?



(POWERING SEWING MACHINES IN NYC)



(RURAL PAKISTANI VILLAGE)



(HOSPITAL BED IN SAHRAWI HOSPITAL)

OR MUST THE SAHRAWI'S REMAIN ISOLATED, CUT OFF FROM  
POSSIBILITIES OF GROWTH AND FREEDOM? WHY SHOULD THEY  
NOT BE PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR ALLEVIATING EXTREME POVERTY BY  
2015?

THE DECISION THAT LIES BEFORE YOU IS NOT ONE OF  
BUREAUCRATIC JUDGMENT AND VISION BUT RATHER ONE OF A  
MORAL JUDGMENT AND VISION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY,

MISS CYNTHIA BASINET

NOBEL NOMINATED ENTERTAINER AND HUMANITARIAN