



Personal Contribution to the Helsinki Process

**The Helsinki Process: harnessing the benefits of globalization to address  
the world's new challenges**

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## **The Helsinki Process: harnessing the benefits of globalization to address the world's new challenges**

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This new phase of the Helsinki Process has set itself an ambitious task: to design and implement methods and procedures that address the toughest global challenges, to put into operation concrete problem-solving networks and, ultimately, to deliver substantive change. The importance and uniqueness of the process is that it can build on existing efforts and link outcomes from the many commissions and proposals already realized. To succeed, the process must mobilize all the actors who have to be part of effectuating such change.

We all agree on some common aspirations – including those of human rights, of the dignity of the individual, of democracy, of decent conditions, of freedom from violence, of the need for solidarity in confronting the worse difficulties, deficiencies and shared problems of our planet. We do not always concur on, nor carry out, the policies and actions needed.

And yet we know many aspects that are proving successful. Most important, we know that we have to continue to harness the benefits of globalisation so that they can be enjoyed by more people. We need to increase the positive impacts of this globalisation while at the same time manage more effectively the processes of change and respond to disruptions.

We see that enormous advances come from strengthening the institutions of governance, respecting and implementing the rule of law, stimulating economic growth, facilitating business development, and encouraging openness to the world, particularly through trade and investment flows. The challenge is to combine domestic policy reform with ways to enable developing countries to seize the opportunities that come from these increased trade and investment flows, thus attaining a better integration into the world trading system.

There is a lively debate going on about the best ways to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (with a fast approaching target date). Clearly, resources must be mobilized towards achieving these goals, which constitute a broadly agreed set of development objectives. Huge amounts of aid are already in existence and pledged; more than 20 African countries, for instance, are even now dependent on such aid for most of their public budgets. The challenge is to make such aid much more effective in achieving results. Finding ways to do this and increasing its impact is surely one of the tasks of this Helsinki Process.

But this new phase of the Helsinki Process can also go beyond this endeavour and more precisely define each further global challenge, launching uniquely powerful methods, networks and actions. Innovative mechanisms can be established where

adequate international institutions do not exist. However, in order to precipitate massive, durable and valid change, we must work also on local levels. This Helsinki Process can be extraordinarily significant by using its convening power at all levels and among all actors.