

Comments on the State of the World 2005: Redefining Global Security

Extract of Remarks by

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The State of the World 2005 report broadens the concept of security. I think it is very important that all people - both normal citizens and political decision makers, as well as business leaders - understand that issues like environmental protection and social justice are not "luxury" concerns - something which only rich societies can afford, or something which we can afford only if there are no economic pressures arising from the competition in the world market.

Environmental protection and social justice are the cornerstones of development, even necessities for our security. Injustice and environmental degradation can lead to processes, which foster terrorism, collapse of societies and massive waves of refugees.

One of the interesting findings presented in this year's State of the World report comes from a study funded by the CIA. It tells that high infant mortality is the clearest warning signal indicating that a country is in a downward spiral, which may end up in the collapse of the state and mass violence, civil war and/or ethnic killings. It is interesting for many reasons. First, maybe infant mortality is an indicator telling about the real state of democracy and economy. If a society is not taking care of the weakest - the babies - it is not taking care of people in general. Second, infant mortality is linked with the position of women. If the basic needs of women and mothers are met, they take care of the babies.

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