

## OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

Below are excerpts from recent official statements that prominently cite environment, population, health, and human security issues in the context of national and security interests. To read the full texts and for new statements, go to ECSP's Web site at [www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/ecsp).

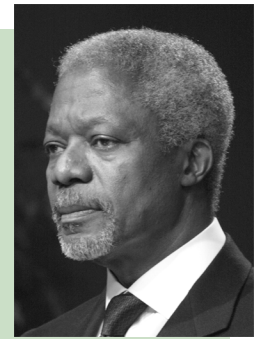
### **Kofi Annan**

*United Nations Secretary-General*

*Statement on the Millennium Development Goals and the International Year of Freshwater (2003)*

12 November 2002

"At the Millennium Summit in 2000, world leaders agreed to reduce by half, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water... Grave consequences lie ahead if we fail to meet these goals: the persistence and spread of deadly diseases, further damage to the global environment, threats to food security, and stability itself. And while water problems are most acute in the developing world, developed countries are also at risk."



Kofi Annan

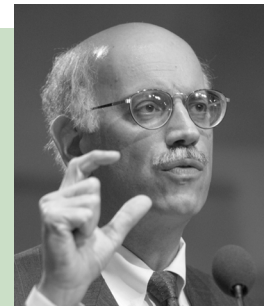
### **Andrew S. Natsios**

*USAID Administrator*

*Remarks at the Millennium Water Challenge Symposium, Houston, TX*

8 October 2002

"Fresh water is a precious commodity that is in short supply, especially in the developing world... [I]t affects conflict; it affects economic development, particularly in agriculture, but also industrial development; and it affects health, and we can't separate health, water—improvements in water—from the issue of sanitation. So thinking through these three principles, I think we can work together to improve the water situation in many countries in the developing world."



Andrew S. Natsios

### **Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**

*Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

*Statement at the Ministerial Meeting of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, Bangkok*

16 December 2002

"Today, well over one billion people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1 a day, and more than 800 million people go to bed hungry every night. The widespread poverty that we see today is exacerbated by environmental degradation, lack of arable land and water scarcity, unplanned urbanization and migration, wars, and military conflicts. Poverty is worsened by economic and social exclusion and marginalization, and fueled by a lack of access to basic social services."

## **Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**

*Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

*Plenary Statement at The Synergos Institute, New York, NY*

29 October 2002

“In Africa, the median age today is 18; sixty-three percent of Africans are younger than 25. In the Arab world, the median age is 19. In Asia, which contains 60 per cent of the world’s people, half of the population is under the age of 25...The point that I want to stress is that the current bulge in the youth population presents an unprecedented opportunity for growth and transformation if there is a concerted, massive investment in education, health care (including reproductive health), job creation and employment. It also presents an unprecedented environment for social unrest if we remain passive or limited in our responses.”

---

## **Peter Piot**

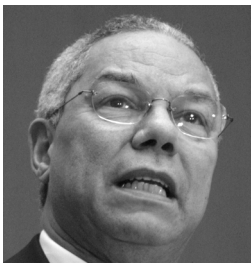
*Executive Director, United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)*

*Speech at the plenary session of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa*

30 August 2002

“If the world is to stand any chance of meeting its aspirations for sustainable development, then our action agenda must include a full-scale attack on AIDS...[That attack] has four indispensable components. *First*, serious resource commitments to fully fund the AIDS prevention and treatment programmes are needed to meet the targets agreed to in the Declaration of Commitment on AIDS adopted by the UN General Assembly and again endorsed in this Summit’s proposed action plan. *Second*, leadership from both governments and communities is required to break the silence around AIDS and develop the capacity to respond. *Third*, integration of action on AIDS into the core of development practice across sectors—in government and civil society. *Fourth*, a major commitment to redress the human resource crisis provoked by AIDS—a commitment that runs from increased prevention and accessible treatment to investment in new models of development that rebuild human capacity from the community up.”

---



Colin L. Powell

## **Colin L. Powell**

*U.S. Secretary of State*

*Remarks at World AIDS Day 2002 Event, Washington, DC*

3 December 2002

“In the global fight against AIDS, every nation, large or small, developed or developing, must be a leader; for every nation is vulnerable. No nation is protected by geography or by political boundaries or social boundaries or religious boundaries. AIDS will attack us all and is attacking us all. AIDS is ravaging communities, countries, and continents. Left to rage, it can rob us all of a more stable, prosperous, hopeful future.”

*Presentation at United Nations HIV/AIDS Plenary*

*New York, NY*

*September 22, 2003*

The appalling statistics do not begin to describe the magnitude of the destruction wrought by AIDS. AIDS is more devastating than any terrorist attack, any conflict or any weapon

of mass destruction. It kills indiscriminately, and without mercy.

Full text at <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2003/24294.htm>

---

### **Klaus Toepfer**

*Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

*Statement before the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum, Nairobi, Kenya*

3 February 2003

“All our work on global environmental assessment has confirmed that the crushing burden [of the] world’s population together with over-consumption and wasteful use of resources by the rich are two fundamental drivers of environmental degradation. A successful environmental strategy must take account of this relationship and the need for a capacity-building initiative for developing countries. Our discussions on support to Africa and NEPAD provide us with a concrete opportunity to address this question.”

---

### **James D. Wolfensohn**

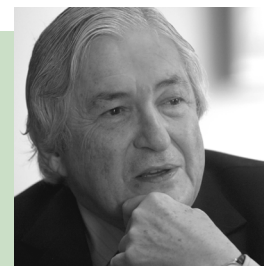
*President, The World Bank*

*Remarks at the Institute for European Affairs on a More Secure World, Dublin, Ireland*

21 January 2003

“[A]fter September 11, there was a focus on the issue of poverty and development. Today, there is less of a focus on this [issue], as we’re concerned about ourselves, we’re concerned about risk, we’re concerned about more immediate issues as we see them...[But w]hen we talk about the question of a stable world or creating a more stable world...we need to look at the question of poverty if there is to be stability and peace...What are we doing about this? If you’ll accept for the moment my proposition that the issue of combating poverty is also an issue of creating conditions for stability, hope, and peace, then where are we in addressing that issue?”

---



James D. Wolfensohn

### **Stephen Lewis**

*Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa to the U.N. Secretary General*

*The 13th International Conference on AIDS & STIs in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya*

September 21, 2003

...millions of children live traumatized, unstable lives, robbed not just of their parents, but of their childhoods and futures. How can this be happening, in the year 2003, when we can find over \$200 billion to fight a war on terrorism, but we can’t find the money to prevent children from living in terror? And when we can’t find the money to provide the antiretroviral treatment for all of those who need such treatment in Africa? This double standard is the grotesque obscenity of the modern world.

For more information, see <http://www.icasanairobi2003.org/index.php>