

Statement of the World Federalist Movement **Remembering Kofi Annan**

The World Federalist Movement (WFM) joins in the worldwide expressions of respect and heartbreak in hearing of the passing of Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations from 1997 to 2006. We send our most sincere condolences to Kofi's family and his Foundation.

Current UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, described Annan as "a guiding force for good... In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organization into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination."

Many of the breakthrough achievements that Kofi Annan prioritized as Secretary-General are ongoing program priorities for the World Federalist Movement, such as improving the UN's peacekeeping capacities, the Responsibility to Protect, UN strengthening, Security Council reform, and the International Criminal Court.

After stepping down as Secretary-General, Annan served as the founding Chair of the Advisory Board of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), which WFM has been honored to host since 1995. Annan's support for the Rome Statute treaty and ratification processes establishing the International Criminal Court were indispensable.

Annan not only exemplified the purposes and principles of the UN, but also worked to reform and strengthen the organization. He very much led the historic 2005 UN reform process that still stands as among the most ambitious set of reforms since the organization's founding in 1945 - including the adoption of the Responsibility to Prevent principles, the establishment of the Human Rights Council, and the Peacebuilding Commission.

UN Dispatch columnist Mark Leon Goldberg recalls the press conference at the time:

"I expected the press conference to be a victory lap. Or at least include a degree of well-deserved self-congratulations. But what I remember most from Annan's remarks that day was how dissatisfied he sounded. That is because for all the important and necessary reforms to which governments gave their stamp of approval there was one they did not touch - nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament... Kofi Annan could never really be satisfied with the world as it was. He had extremely high ideals and the rest of the international community rarely lived up to his expectations of them."

These qualities were also apparent in Annan's strong public criticism of the decisions by United States and United Kingdom governments to invade and occupy Iraq in 2003, that caused Kofi to convene the 2005 UN reform process.

Annan will be remembered not only for his achievements at the United Nations but also for his post-UN work, which included his leadership of The Elders, an independent group of global leaders working for peace and human rights. His mediating efforts to negotiate a peace deal to end election-related violence in Kenya in 2008 is often cited as an exemplary implementation of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine.

In 2001, Annan was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his humanitarian work jointly with the UN as an organisation. In his acceptance remarks he said, "Today's real borders are not between nations, but between powerful and powerless, free and fettered, privileged and humiliated."