



Migration: Radical Change is Needed



Security: Connecting Civilizations



MDGs: Everyone has a role to play



Coherence: Sustainable Development Worldwide

Inspiring a global mindset

an overview of 2007





Ruud Lubbers Initiator and Chair Worldconnectors

A view beyond borders

Over grenzen heen kijken

In 2007 the Dutch Round Table for People and the Planet evolved into: Worldconnectors. The name Worldconnectors was chosen because of the fundamental obligation of Dutch society to look beyond borders and to do that in a more present-day and effective manner. This is why we consciously chose in favour of a mixed composition of the group, with room for the business sector and civil society, besides the usual political and governmental partners. After all, – as the Earth Charter reminds us – in order to achieve effective governance, a partnership between government, citizens and the corporate sector is essential.

In 2007 kwam de Nederlandse Round Table for People and the Planet tot ontplooiing onder de appellerende titel: Worldconnectors. De naam Worldconnectors werd gekozen vanwege de ereplicht als Nederlandse samenleving over onze grenzen heen te kijken en dat op een meer eigentijdse en meer effectieve wijze te doen. Daarom werd bewust gekozen voor een ‘gemengde’ samenstelling waarin naast de klassieke politieke en bestuurlijke dimensie, bedrijfsleven en civil society hun plaats kregen. Immers, – zoals het Earth Charter, het Handvast van de Aarde het formuleert – voor doeltreffend bestuur is een partnerschap tussen regering, burgers en bedrijfsleven van essentieel belang.

The Round Table of Worldconnectors further pursues, and as far as the NCDO is concerned it succeeds the Commissie Claus, the ambition to sustain development cooperation as an effort of and by society. This reflects the tradition and ambition of the SID, the Society of International Development, which has incorporated many decades of UN philosophy and international experience in governance and which considers the time is ‘now’ to elucidate ‘complementary governance’ through the Round Table for People and the Planet (starting in the Netherlands). Lastly, it also meets the desire of DPRN (Development Policy Review Network) to modernise the scientific policy dimension through the partnership with the corporate sector and civil society, while the importance of media, writers and youth members is instantaneously acknowledged.

De Round Table of Worldconnectors bouwt voort, en is wat NCDO betreft een vervolg op de Commissie Claus, in haar ambitie ontwikkelingssamenwerking een inspanning van en door de samenleving te doen zijn. Het weerspiegelt ook de traditie en ambitie van SID, de Society voor International Development, die al vele decaden het VN-denken en internationale bestuurservaring bundelt én die nu de tijd gekomen acht ‘complementary governance’ zichtbaar te maken middels de Round Table for People and the Planet (te beginnen in Nederland). Het geeft tenslotte ook vorm aan het verlangen van DPRN (Development Policy Review Network) de wetenschappelijke beleidsdimensie te moderniseren door en in partnerschap met bedrijfsleven en civil society, waarbij direct onderkend werd het belang van een presentatie van media en schrijvers en die van jongeren.

“Stimulating involvement in a convincing, inspirational way”

This kind of modern approach is not complete without ample space and consideration for the contributions of women. Agreement was reached to focus the work on the UN Millennium Declaration and the Earth Charter, both belong to ‘We the people’ (both date back to 2000). In this first busy year our ambition was determined by themes; the importance of the Millennium Goals – after all, we have past the half way mark –; the consequences of our current migration policy – beyond fear, because we are one people, one society –; the theme security, which was coined ‘security in modernity’; and last but not least underlining the coherence in development cooperation in order to increase and preserve its credibility and modernity.

The Night of the UN proved yet again to be an excellent opportunity to stimulate the involvement of peoples with one another in a modern and therefore convincing, but above all inspirational way. Step by step, the Worldconnectors have become visible and they served as a source of inspiration for the participants; in particular the youth members and all those individuals who were affected by the publications and statements. Our website (www.worldconnectors.nl) has attracted increasing numbers of visitors.

Ruud Lubbers Chair Worldconnectors

This foreword and the concluding remarks by Ruud Lubbers are in English and in Dutch. The rest of this yearbook is in English.

“Betrokkenheid overtuigend en inspirerend vormgeven”

Zulk een moderne aanpak kon uiteraard niet zonder ruime aandacht voor de inbreng van en door vrouwen. Afgesproken werd het werk te enten op de Millenniumverklaring van de VN en het Handvest van de Aarde van ‘We the people’ (beide daterend van 2000). In dit eerste volle jaar werd de ambitie thematisch vormgegeven door aan de weg te timmeren met de Millenniumdoelen – wij zijn immers halfweg –; met de consequenties van de migratierealiteit – de vrees voorbij; wij zijn immers één volk, één samenleving –; met de veiligheid, ook wel aangeduid als ‘security in modernity’; én *last but not least* met samenhang in de ontwikkelingssamenwerking opdat deze geloofwaardig blijft en eigentijds, modern dus, vormgegeven wordt.

Ook de Nacht van de VN bleek andermaal een goede mogelijkheid de betrokkenheid van volkeren met elkaar op een moderne en daarmee meer overtuigende en vooral voor jongeren meer inspirerende wijze vorm te geven. Zo werden de Worldconnectors stap voor stap zichtbaar en dienden zij als bron van inspiratie voor de deelnemers; vooral voor de jongeren en voor hen wiens oog en oor getroffen werden door hun publicaties en uitingen. Zo werd ook de website (www.worldconnectors.nl) meer en meer bezocht.

Ruud Lubbers Voorzitter van de Worldconnectors

How it started, a brief history

On April 6, 2006, a group of influential people from different backgrounds gathered in The Hague. They had one thing in common: they felt it was time for more involvement in international cooperation and global sustainable development. The main question that day was: ‘Is there a need for a Round Table, a dialogue platform, on development cooperation?’ The answer was yes. Why? Because they thought there was a need to connect knowledge and views, to advance global thinking, to critically analyse current trends and ideas and propose alternative views and strategies.

The Worldconnectors engage in cross-sector dialogue, they aim to connect knowledge and views, advance global thinking, analyse current trends and propose alternative views and strategies.

Global issues

Discussions that day revealed the Round Table should move beyond development cooperation to encompass a broader scope of interest. Global issues should be the focus of attention.

With regard to the Netherlands, the attending members seemed to agree that currently, Dutch society is influenced too much by fear. Many citizens feel immigration has become uncontrollable and at the same time they feel political leaders do not protect them sufficiently. Participants of the Round Table should strive to overcome the current paralysis in society, through introducing new and innovative views on global issues, and through emphasizing interdependence; the connections between all members of the national and global society.

The launch

On 24 October 2006 the Round Table of Worldconnectors was officially launched in Amsterdam. The Worldconnectors agreed on a common mission, themes and criteria for membership.

They also held their first debate, on ‘New Leadership on Global Governance’. The launch of the Worldconnectors was made public later that day, during the ‘Night of the UN’.



© Rik Thijssen/St. IJleia

Who we are

The Worldconnectors are a group of prominent and engaged people from all walks of life. They have backgrounds in business, the NGO sector, government, knowledge centres, media and international organisations and they are opinion leaders in their field. Whatever their background or age, they all share the ambition for the Netherlands to play a proactive role in the global community. They are willing to contribute to this ambition by speaking on matters related to international solidarity, global sustainable development and universal responsibility in their own networks and in public.

The Worldconnectors are inspired by the UN Millennium

Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing education. The Earth Charter, a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society for the 21st century, is a source of inspiration as well.

Visit:
www.millenniumdoelen.nl
www.earthcharterinaction.org
www.handvestvandeearde.nl



In preparation of each Round Table meeting, a group of individual Worldconnectors with a special interest in the theme and external experts are invited to join a Working Group that prepares the meetings, public activities and the central statement on the theme. They are assisted by a Support Team that ensures the Worldconnectors have access to information resources and recent research, documents and trends related to the themes. The Support Team coordinates additional research when necessary and produces quick scans; concise informative documents on the themes.

What we do

The Worldconnectors meet four times a year at a Round Table to engage in cross-sector dialogue with each other on relevant themes. The central aim is to influence the political agenda and the policy debate in the Netherlands from a global perspective. Another goal is to reinforce a global mindset among the Dutch

public. The four meetings in 2007 focussed on the themes **Migration and Development, Global Human Security, Millennium Development Goals and Policy Coherence for Development**. These meetings are closed to the public to allow all Worldconnectors to engage freely in open dialogue and to exchange ideas.

Engaging the public

Following and sometimes preceding the Round Table meetings, public events and media activities were organised in which the wider public was engaged in the dialogue. The statement that was discussed at the Round Table meeting was published, accompanied by media coverage on the theme to stimulate the debate. This succession of events took place in the context of the first meeting in January 2007 and can be considered a great success. An article on migration and development was written by Halleh Ghorashi, Ruud Lubbers and Naema Tahir and was published in *NRC Handelsblad*. After reading this piece, more than 450 people visited the Worldconnector website, left a comment and inquired what they could do to contribute to the mission of the Worldconnectors.

Worldconnectors on stage

The first public performance of the Worldconnectors took place during the ‘Freedom Debate’ which was part of the yearly Liberation Festival on 5 May in Wageningen. Rindert de Groot moderated the debate and wrote about it on his weblog:

“Hans Dijkstal, Naema Tahir, Erik Thijs Wedershoven and Willemijn Aerdts debated with each other on stage, which led to some interesting differences of opinion. Another young participant was invited to the stage to debate with the Worldconnectors; Ali Al-Jaberi (student of political science and an active member of the Dutch Youth Council). Erik Thijs Wedershoven argued that we should focus on reducing poverty, rather than trying to stop climate change. Climate change is an important challenge, but it is hypocritical to tell an African that he has every right to buy a car, but that it better be a hybrid, environmentally friendly one.

A billion people have quite different concerns and you can only spend your development dollar once. In the end, most debaters argued that climate and development are two sides of the same coin, but still: we will face difficult choices in the near future. We'd better start to try to understand alternative viewpoints, interests, demands and possibilities. One of the ways to do that, is by entering into a meaningful conversation with those who think differently.

After one hour of debate, public votes by applause, consensus as well as disagreement, Hans Dijkstal called upon the audience to remain on speaking terms with people who are fundamentally different from you. I can't agree more. I hope we'll soon be on stage again for another debate!”



RUUD LUBBERS

JOS VAN GENNIP



TON DIETZ

HENNY HELMICH

The initiators: "Connecting the World"

The Worldconnectors, also known as 'The Round Table for People and the Planet' was initiated by Ruud Lubbers (as chair), SID, NCDO and DPRN. These initiators guide and sustain the initiative in consultation with the members.

Ruud Lubbers: inspirator and chair

Ruud Lubbers has worked closely with SID, NCDO and DPRN in the development of the Round Table initiative and is now acting as the chair of the Worldconnectors. His extensive career includes his three terms as Prime Minister (1982-1994). Since then, he has been Professor of Globalisation at the University of Tilburg, visiting Professor at the Kennedy School for Government at Harvard University, president of World Wildlife Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2001-2005).

Ruud Lubbers is currently 'Minister van Staat' (Minister of State, a title awarded to a limited group of statesmen who are often called upon by the Dutch government to offer advice on various issues), and he plays a leading role in the global Earth Charter Initiative, among many other functions.

SID: opinion leader in the development sector

Over the past years, SID's Netherlands Chapter evolved from being the coordinator of an annual lecture cycle to an important platform for the debate on (the renewal of) international cooperation for policy makers and politicians, scientists, researchers and students, the NGO community, the primary sector and the media. The Society for International Development (SID) was founded in 1957 as the first global non-governmental organisation and now focuses on opinion making and policy development with respect to development cooperation. Confronted with the lack of a European platform to enable a broad dialogue between politicians, scientists, policy makers and civil society representatives, SID Netherlands took it upon itself to stimulate the creation of the Round Table of Worldconnectors.

Jos van Gennip, Chair SID Netherlands and Vice-President of SID International:

"Everybody seems to accept the impact of globalisation as far as communication, finances and investment opportunities are concerned. We profit from the low prices of textiles and other products; global travel is particularly attractive. Yet some think an exception should be made to migration, the opening up of our borders for the movement of human beings. We seem to want to close our minds, hearts and borders from the outside world. But closing borders is not a solution. Issues such as migration have no simple solutions, as none of the great challenges of globalisation do. They can not be resolved without taking into account their global dimension. We should ask ourselves why, in North Africa alone, five million youngsters try to access the western labour market every year.

By discussing the theme 'Migration and Development', the Worldconnectors have selected one of the most relevant issues, not only in the area of international cooperation, but in the field

of domestic policies as well.

Alternative solutions can be found in a combined and coherent approach, which deals with security and environment, with migration and poverty reduction, with policies at home, abroad and worldwide. I would like to coin this 'the world connection'. This international, global dimension is one of the reasons why I strongly support the initiative of the Worldconnectors."

DPRN: uniting science, policy and development practice

The Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) is a network of development experts and policymakers in the Netherlands and Belgium who aim to reduce the gap between science, policy and development practice. DPRN organises thematic and regional expert meetings and is



© Hans Ariëns



© Unesco/Niamh Burke

currently developing a web portal to provide searchable access to development expertise in the Netherlands and Belgium. DPRN is committed to stimulate informed debate and discussion of issues related to the formulation and implementation of development policies, in particular those related to Dutch policies and aid organisations. DPRN and its members also stimulate fruitful information exchange between scientists, policy makers and practitioners in the Netherlands (and Flanders) working in the field of development cooperation, peace and security, global environmental issues, and international trade and migration issues. In this process, it is a priority for DPRN to involve leading youth representatives and the media.

Other activities of DPRN are a web-supported journal (the Broker) that aims to connect the worlds of scientists and practitioners and a Netherlands Yearbook on International Cooperation. DPRN joined the Worldconnectors initiative to broaden the debate on the role the Netherlands could and should play in world affairs and international cooperation and to involve Dutch opinion leaders and the general public.

Ton Dietz, Taskforce member of DPRN:

"In 2006 the Schokland Agreement was signed. A crowd of people all pledged their renewed commitment to a more just world. The festive signing ritual was preceded by a discussion: Why is Africa still poor? I think the answer to this challenging question is a combination of five major factors, concerning geography and infrastructure, education, cultural institutions, unfair competition and unstable markets and failing legal systems. Halfway 2000-2015, we should

not close our eyes to what is staring us in the face: Africa will not succeed in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, unless something really big happens. This might happen, thanks to China and its insatiable appetite for Africa's resources. But certainly the world's collective efforts will be needed to change the MDG prognosis for Africa in an upward trend. Schokland marked the Netherlands' commitment to make that happen."

NCDO: involving people in international cooperation

The National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) stimulates participation of Dutch citizens in international cooperation and supports them through information, subsidies and advice. With the MDGs as a point of reference, NCDO organises campaigns, debates, educational activities, exhibitions, media productions and cultural projects. It also highlights the efforts of government and citizens to achieve the MDGs. Since 2003 NCDO has endeavoured to renew its National Committee structure through seeking a composition that will reflect NCDO's mission to connect with various crucial sectors of Dutch society. From the perspective of NCDO, the Worldconnectors replace the former National Committee because they provide substantial support for the work of NCDO. (The Worldconnectors, however, have not been given any managerial responsibilities within NCDO structures).

Henny Helmich, Director of NCDO:

"The Worldconnectors have chosen the UN Millennium Declaration and the Earth Charter

as basic starting points. I regard these two inspirational documents as important practical 'agendas' for concrete action. Both documents are the outcome of intensive deliberative processes in which civil society, but also political and business leaders played an active role. They are both grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which I regard as the ultimate agenda for action. Human Rights are not some lofty, soft hearted and noncommittal principles agreed upon in capital cities, nor are they principles which we promise to respect in our spare time. They are the universal norms agreed upon after the world experienced a period of barbaric cruelty and man-made disaster. Only through firm intentions to respect these norms we can expect humans, with all their differences, to live together without fear, to stay connected and to settle their differences in peaceful and mutual respect. At a global level we have the norms, knowledge, skills and also the wealth to enable all human beings to enjoy their human rights. We are working to reach the ultimate human frontier of universal human dignity. The Worldconnectors are a present and practical instrument to contribute to that aim."



The Support Team

Organising a Round Table meeting, getting media coverage, coordinating information flows, develop and update the website, documenting and assisting the thematic Working Groups. The Support Team works on a daily basis to make the Worldconnectors an effective initiative.

The support team consists of Alide Roerink (coordinator), Dušica Vukolić, Kari Postma, Jenny Hofman (NCDO), Gordana Stanković, Verónica Rivera Santander (first part of 2007) and Iem Roos (SID NL), Karen Witsenburg (until October 2007) and Koen Kusters (DPRN).

The quick scans and other preparatory documents are produced in close cooperation with Frans Bieckmann and Roeland Muskens (Wereld in Woorden) and editor Ruth Hopkins.



A radical policy change is needed

On 31 January the theme migration and development was discussed at the Round Table meeting. Migration can result in a win-win situation for all involved. But, to achieve this, there is a need for a radical change in how migration and migrants are perceived in the Netherlands. The Worldconnectors contributed to this change by debating and by publishing their statement and several articles on the issue in the media.

Kofi Annan once stated that international migration related to development should be viewed not as a threat, but as an opportunity. A positive attitude towards migrants and migration, com-

bined with sound migration policies, can result in a 'Triple Win'; beneficial effects for the country of origin, for the country of destination and for the migrants themselves.

However, the current Dutch attitude towards migration and migrants is defensive and has resulted in a fear-based attitude towards migrants. Dutch migration policies clearly lack policy coherence for development. We have to overcome this fear and we need policies that have a positive effect on developing countries.

During the Round Table meeting it was concluded that participation should be the way forward. Secondly, transnational

citizenship was considered essential by some. Migrants have multiple identities and diverse cultural backgrounds. Thirdly, it seemed pivotal to recognise circular migration as a modern-day reality.

Positive aspects of migration

There should be a focus on the positive aspects of migration. Migrants broaden our horizon. But, more importantly: we need labour migrants. We need low-

skilled migrants for low-skilled labour, and high-skilled migrants to increase knowledge in the business sector and academia. But high-skilled labour immigration can also lead to a 'brain drain' from developing countries. Policies should be created which give migrants flexibility of movement between the country of origin and destination, here circular migration can play an essential role. Furthermore, one of the initiatives to tackle brain drain could be compensation mechanism.

The issue of migration should also be viewed from the perspective of the Dutch low-skilled workers. They fear they might be pushed from their jobs with the arrival of low-skilled migrant workers. To stop this fear, the welfare state should be made 'migration proof'. This can be realised by initiating serious deliberations on the introduction of a gradual mechanism of obtaining rights and claims to social security. There is a need for new migration policies that specify right channels of migration. This could help minimise misuse of the asylum procedure.

"Fruitful cooperation"

Halleh Ghorashi: "The article in NRC Handelsblad (published on January 27, 2007) had a big impact. I am still meeting people who refer to it. The Working Group built on mutual expertise and creativity. We managed to deepen the analysis and create new concepts and a new agenda."

Valentina Mazzucato: "I learned a lot from our process. I appreciated meeting Worldconnector Ruud Treffers (Director-General of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in the follow-up of the Round Table Meeting. This resulted in an invitation to advise on issues in the preparatory process of a new policy paper on Development and Migration."

Ruud Lubbers: "When the new cabinet took office, we expected new policies. We are still waiting for the policy paper on Development and Migration, but is there an important change? The tone of voice is different, which is an essential element."

The Working Group

Ruud Lubbers (chair), Naema Tahir, Halleh Ghorashi and Sayida Vanenburg. With contributions from Gabi Spitz.

External experts

Valentina Mazzucato (TransNet and University of Amsterdam), Frans Bouwen and Domenica Ghiddei Biiu (The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration), Hein de Haas (Oxford University) and Edwin Huizing (VluchtelingenWerk) shared their expertise with the Working Group.

Valentina Mazzucato also played an important role as facilitator of a discussion group on the concept of transnational citizenship at the Round Table Meeting and as advisor to the Worldconnectors in the drafting of the statement.

RTW special guests

Valentina Mazzucato (TransNet and University of Amsterdam), Edwin Huizing (VluchtelingenWerk) and Arthur Muliro (SID International).

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Interactive dialogue

After publication of the article on Migration and Development entitled "Vier de komst van migranten..." in NRC Handelsblad on January 27, 2007, the Worldconnectors received a huge response via the website. In the article, the authors Naema Tahir, Ruud Lubbers and Halleh Ghorashi, focussed on participation instead of integration, on trans-national citizenship and on circular migration. The article triggered hundreds of reactions from supportive readers and visitors of the website.

Valentina Mazzucato, head of the Ghana TransNet research programme and external member of the Working Group, held a presentation on migration and development at the annual meeting of NCDO, on 1 February 2007.

Ruud Lubbers discussed how to connect multi-culturality in the West to development assistance in the Global South with students of several universities. The debate, that took place in December 2007, was held as a result of the book *Zo zijn onze manieren* (by Pien van Langen and Francio Guadeloupe).

On 8 October the debating centre Rode Hoed in Amsterdam was packed with visitors who attended the debate on migration and integration between Ruud Lubbers and Paul Scheffer. *Volkskrant* commentator and columnist Paul Brill wrote about



the debate and quoted Ruud Lubbers as a Worldconnector. The debate was aired on VK TV and can still be viewed on the website <http://www.volkskrant.nl/binnenland/article467983.ece>.

Website poll

International migration should be viewed not as a threat, but as an opportunity.

- Agree: 96%
- Disagree: 4%

"International migration promotes the exchange of ideas worldwide. In a rapidly changing world this is essential and may offset nationalistic and overly chauvinistic opinions. It still is the responsibility of the individual to differentiate between sensible new ideas and fashion fads or even ideas that were rejected elsewhere for good reasons."



© Kristel van der Velde

Olav van Bockel in his reaction on the Worldconnector website.

In the media

- 'Vier de komst van migranten, haal alles uit hen wat ze in zich hebben - en dat is veel', article in *NRC Handelsblad* (27 January 2007) by Halleh Ghorashi, Naema Tahir and Ruud Lubbers.
- 'Walk the Talk! Proving the benefits of labour migration', by Ruud Lubbers in *The Migrant* (September 2007).
- 'Erken de last van meervoudige identiteiten zeker als ze een verschillende waarde hebben', by Naema Tahir in *Opinie & Debat* in *NRC Handelsblad* (13 October 2007).
- 'De Vrees Voorbij - een hartenkreet', Ruud Lubbers in *gesprek met Carolina Lo Galbo, De Bezige Bij* (2007).

What can you do?

The Worldconnectors are keen to initiate a dialogue with the general public. To realise this aim, there is easy access to the statements, quick scans and relevant publications on various issues at www.worldconnectors.nl. Connect your world to the Worldconnectors by reading the background documents on the website!



More than 6,000 people signed the manifest 'Een land, een samenleving' ('one country, one society'). The initiators of the manifest, among them Worldconnector Hans Dijkstal, have voiced their concerns about the increasing divisions in Dutch society on the website (www.eenlandeensamenleving.nl). The polarisation between Muslims and non-Muslims, natives and ethnic minorities has alarmed them as well as the harsh tone of the current debate on these issues. They are dedicated to making a change, to work towards a just and peaceful society and respect. You can help by signing their online manifest.



Atana encourages diversity in administrative, legal and social structures. Atana organised a meeting on 20 February 2007 with the aim of discussing the future of a diverse Netherlands on the basis of the recent coalition agreement. Worldconnectors Hans Dijkstal and Naema Tahir participated in this meeting. www.atana.nl



Connecting civilizations

The second Round Table took place in the Peace Palace in The Hague on 30 May. After the plenary session, there was further debate in three thematic workshops on the connection of civilizations, post conflict nation building and the balanced '3D-approach' (Development, Defence and Diplomacy). The key question was how to interconnect development, global human security, peace building and conflict resolution.

Global human security requires universal human development and the safeguarding of human rights in an increasingly interdependent world. Ours is a world in which dramatic changes have occurred on a global scale. The post Cold War era highlighted the emergence of increasing complex conflicts and it exposed new vulnerabilities of peoples and communities. The aftermath of '9/11' paved an easy way for the ominous War on Terror. The idea of a clash of civilizations is dangerously close to becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy, given the polarisation of global society. We are witnessing the use of religion to legitimise political, nationalist and military aims. We live in a world where we have to recognise that it is failing in its

aim to prevent nuclear proliferation and illegal trade in arms.

New challenges to peace

The Worldconnectors call for a global human security approach to foreign policy in order to address these new challenges to peace, security, development, human rights and dignity. They sincerely believe in the connection of civilisations. It is only through global interdependence and universal responsibility that today's challenges can be fully addressed. We, as the Netherlands and as part of Europe, should contribute to the strengthening and support of multilateral (regional) institutions that can effectively intervene in case of humanitarian emergencies. Besides that, a general common

European foreign policy should be given higher priority.

In the context of post-conflict nation building there should be much more room for local solutions. Therefore, thorough analysis of ethnic and other relationships is needed, before decisions to intervene are taken. Improved coordination between the military and development workers is necessary as well.

The prevailing integrated 3D approach - Development, Diplomacy and Defence - which currently determines Dutch foreign policy, should be balanced much more towards human security and development with less focus on military interventions. In case intervention is called for: be timely; have a clear objective and intervene in the internal division of power; do not

isolate 'the enemy' and do not exclude dialogue. The restoration of security often requires quick intervention, aimed at swift results. Soon after the termination of a conflict, reconstruction should be commenced to demonstrate clearly that peace pays. However, if the objective is to improve basic structures of security, a much more enduring attitude and approach is needed.



The Working Group

Jos van Gennip (chair), Monika Sie Dhian Ho, Jan Berteling, Joris Voorhoeve, Naema Tahir, René Grotenhuis (assisted by Cordaid colleagues Rick van der Woud and Fulco van Deventer) and Willemijn Aerdts.

RTW special guests

Laila al-Zwaini (Independent researcher and advisor), Christian Laheij (Euro's voor Vrede), Sam Muller (The Hague Institute of International Law), Paul van Tongeren (ECCP), Rick van der Woud (Cordaid).

"Contribute to a better world"

Monika Sie Dhian Ho: "The reason we started a Working Group Security was that the public debate on Development and Security in the past few years has been dominated by the 'War on Terror' paradigm (and within that paradigm, the version of the Bush administration prevailed). Critical remarks are made, rightly so, with regard to this interpretation because of, among other things, the emphasis put on Western security and geopolitical interests. The aim of the Working Group was to formulate an alternative view on 'Human Security', through which a contribution can be made to development and security. Members of the Round Table, with their various backgrounds, introduced amendments and additions.

The initiative of the Worldconnectors connects professional idealists with people who are a student, CEO, politician, writer, journalist or scholar in their daily life. I hope that the composition of the Round Table will lead to a more profound understanding of international issues through confronting differing perspectives, inspiration, and practical idealism; I hope everyone will continue to ask themselves how he or she can contribute to a better world."



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Scream for peace

The first public performance of the Worldconnectors occurred on May 5 2006, Liberation Day. In Wageningen, Worldconnectors Naema Tahir, Willemijn Aerdts, Erik Thijs Wedershoven, Hans Dijkstal and Ali Al-Jaberi, student in political science and representative of the Youth Board, debated security issues. Rindert de Groot moderated the debate and made a live connection with Jan Pronk who held a lecture in Utrecht at that moment. The audience elected the best debater by screaming. This was measured by a decibel recorder. After the debate the Worldconnectors kicked off the NCDO campaign 'Scream for Peace' and encouraged the audience to raise their voices for peace and security.

During this campaign, from 5 May to World Peace Day on 21 September, the 'Scream Bus' gathered screams all over the country. On 21 September, Youth Worldconnectors visited a college in Laren where the students joined in a one minute long scream for peace. The event was covered on TV by TMF 'Scream TV'.

Website poll

Human security requires freedom from fear and want.

- Agree: 85 %
- Disagree: 15 %

"Fear inhibits the exercise of freedom. Want interferes with the right to freedom. And as long as freedom is compromised, fear and want will continue to be part of our existence, total security will continue to elude humanity." Henry Dele Oduenyi in a reaction on the Worldconnector website.

In the media

- Respecteer menselijke diversiteit. Nederland moet als thema de binding der beschavingen kiezen', by Naema Tahir, Ruud Lubbers, Jos van Gennip in *de Volkskrant* (1 November 2007).
- 'Voor vrijheid moet je blijven vechten', an essay by Willemijn Aerdts.

- 'Vrijheid is niet vanzelfsprekend', an essay by Naema Tahir. The 5th of May, Dutch Liberation Day, inspired Willemijn Aerdts and Naema Tahir to write essays about freedom and peace. The essays were published on the website of Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei.
- 'Veertigste 'lopend vuurtje' voor Pallas '67. Vrijheidsvuur en sms-debat in Wageningen op 4 en 5 mei' in *De Gelderlander*.
- 'Oorlog is nooit ver weg. Schreeuwen voor een vreedzame wereld', signed by the Youth Worldconnectors in *De Pers* (21 September 2007).



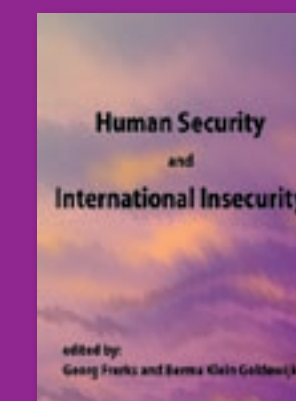
What can you do?

Suggested reading, to learn more about global human security:

Religion, International Relations and Development Cooperation, by Berma Klein Goldewijk. This publication was a result of the SID lecture series 2007. Religion is high on the agenda of international politics today. Though there has been a regression of religion in Europe, the international debate on the meaning and relevance of religion has intensified after the Iranian revolution and gained new strength with the terror attacks, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the proliferation of intrastate conflict, and the process of European integration.



Human Security and International Insecurity, edited by Georg Frerks and Berma Klein Goldewijk. Human security concerns everyday realities of violent conflict and poverty, humanitarian crises, epidemic diseases, injustice and inequality. It is about freedom from fear and freedom from want. Human security places the security of individuals, communities and global humanity ahead of the security concerns of the state.



Speak up for human rights: join Amnesty International and help make a difference across the globe. This 2.2 million-strong organisation fights to free prisoners of conscience, abolish the death penalty, stop violence against women and ensure everyone enjoys full human rights. Check the website for appeals for action and to see how you can become active. www.amnesty.org (English), www.amnesty.nl (Dutch).



Everyone has a role to play

Public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals is crucial if we want to engage and commit the general public. The Worldconnectors foregrounded the Millennium Development Goals at their Round Table Meeting of 6 July and again during a debate at the youth event Mystery Land. The aim was simple and straightforward: inspire others!

The Worldconnectors 'bold and positive' statement on the Millennium Development Goals was discussed and finalised at the Round Table meeting on 6 July 2007 in The Hague. It was part of the 50th Anniversary of the international SID Congress to support the Schokland Agreement of 30 June 2007. On this evening, the world was at the halfway point to reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This provided an important occasion to evaluate the progress achieved so far, to reaffirm the commitment to the MDGs and to call on all actors to support the urgent work to realise these goals.

The Worldconnectors are convinced that for the next half of the MDG-timeframe, all actors must reinforce their intellectual, political and financial efforts to

reach the MDGs. They called upon their government and their political leaders to be a leading example: in resource allocation to the MDGs, in policy coherence for development, in pushing for better policies within the European framework, in supporting good governance, democracy and the rule of law, and in creating a specific focus on the role of women to realise in particular those MDGs of which the fulfilment lags behind.

Poverty eradication first

The Worldconnectors believe that the MDGs are currently the most valuable shared programme in the global fight against poverty, hunger and disease. But they also realise that the MDGs are not perfect. Development is too complex to be summarised by merely eight goals and 48 indica-

tors. Ownership of the implementation of MDGs – in particular by women – will be crucial. The poor will need support in order to play their role in policy making. Development cooperation is all about building the capacity of poor people to take their fate into their own hands.

At the current pace and given the present politics, some of the MDGs at the national level will

not be met. Countries, notably in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab region, are seriously lagging behind; MDGs that deal with the position of poor women and children in particular have fallen into arrears. And even in countries where the MDGs are on track, not everybody is included in the progress.

The Worldconnectors are concerned that dramatic changes

on the global stage – particularly after '9/11' – have diverted attention and resources away from the fight against poverty. Currently more resources are invested in the military 'War on Terror' than all efforts combined to fight poverty. Poverty eradication should be positioned at central stage again.

The Working Group

Henny Helmich (chair), Hans Eenhoorn, Herman Mulder, Louise Groenman, Teresa Fogelberg, Anna Chojnacka, Sandra van Beest, Gabi Spitz, Erik Thijs Wedershoven. With advice and contributions by Naema Tahir and Ruud Lubbers.

RTW special guests

Jan Pronk (ISS), Mirian Vilela (Earth Charter International), Bram van Ojik (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

"Excellent guidelines for development cooperation"

Hans Eenhoorn: "In 2007 the Worldconnectors discussed a great number of issues, all of very high importance. However, too many issues were put on the agenda and there were limited follow-up activities to

increase the impact of our statements. The Millennium Development Working Group published a balanced statement on the importance of the Millennium Goals. The media tends to focus on the criticism, overlooking the fact that the MDGs still are excellent guidelines for development cooperation. I am not confident though that we succeeded in our aim to present the MDGs in a more positive light again.

Still, the Worldconnector initiative has great significance, which lies in the fact that a diverse group of very knowledgeable and motivated people are seizing the opportunity to exchange thoughts on global issues that have an impact on Dutch Society. It connected me with professionals who helped me to achieve many things for the School feeding Initiative Ghana Netherlands that I started and that is closely aligned to MDG 1, 2 and 8."



PUBLIC OUTREACH

Debate: Do people care?

MTV and Coolpolitics presented a unique debate during the dance event Mystery Land on Saturday 8 September 2007. Mark Rutte of the VVD, Mei Li Vos of the PvdA and Nicolette Kluijver of BNN (a Dutch public broadcaster) entered into a debate on worldwide poverty in relation to your own wallet. Youth Worldconnector Sandra van Beest presented her views on the MDGs. Mei Li Vos put an important question forward: "Do people care enough to help eradicate poverty themselves?" Sandra van Beest made another observation: "What good is wealth when you do not live in freedom? We can devote ourselves to poverty eradication, but

there are still too many people living under dictatorial regimes."

Worldconnector Naema Tahir delivered one of the 'Millennium Development Goals Speeches' which took place in the Waterstaatskerk during a public event in Schokland on Saturday 30 June. She devoted her talk to the position of women in society. Women are still underrepresented in the Dutch government, they still interrupt their careers to raise children, they are still earning less than men for the same work. In other countries though, women are often not even able or allowed to take part in public life. Can women here connect their world

with women in developing countries? The answer is yes, they should. Because they should learn from each other and empower each other. Any woman can be a leader, but she has to take the lead herself first.

Website poll

All Millennium Development Goals can only be reached if health, empowerment and education of women are put first.

- Agree: 70 %
- Disagree: 30 %

"A healthy, educated and financially independent woman ensures that her children encounter a similar fate!" Annick Nzambimana in her reaction on the Worldconnector website.

In the media

- '50 Miljoen euro tegen armoede' (Het akkoord van Schokland) cover article in *Trouw* (2 July 2007).
- 'Red gletsjers en armen met één plan', article about Millennium Development Goals and the Earth Charter by Ruud Lubbers and Herman Mulder in *de Volkskrant* (7 July 2007).
- MTV broadcast of the debate on the Millennium Development Goals that took place at Mystery Land. The debate was organised by Coolpolitics and financially supported by NCDO. Youth Worldconnector Sandra van Beest participated in the debate (28 July 2007).

What can you do?

DPRN drafted an expert list. You can add your profile any time on the website (<http://dprn.fss.uu.nl>). Each six months the list will be updated. With these expertise inventories DPRN aims to stimulate dialogue and to seek common ground between the various sectors that work towards reaching the MDGs.

Join the 1% club. This new initiative helps to stimulate employees and others to donate 1 percent of their time and salary to poverty reduction or another idealistic goal. Go to www.1percentclub.org to learn more.



NCDO offers practical advice on starting your own development project and obtaining subsidies. On the NCDO website (mainly in Dutch) you can also find information about organisations who can connect you with international organisations. Go to www.ncdo.nl.



Sign your very own pledge to the Millennium Development Goals on www.hetakkoordvanschokland.nl.



Learn more about the Millennium Development Goals on www.millenniumdoelen.nl (Dutch) and www.un.org/millenniumgoals/ (English).





Sustainable development worldwide

How to achieve more coherence between development assistance, trade and investment and other elements of international relations? This issue was discussed during the Round Table meeting of October. The outcome was a concise list of considerations and proposals targeted at parliamentarians and policy makers, civil society and civilians, and the corporate sector.

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is needed at various levels: first, within a policy area, such as development policy or foreign policy. The second level is across governmental policies, for instance between development and trade or development and

fisheries. The third area is across the aid and non-aid policies of different countries, including multilateral forums such as the EU. These are all areas where aid effectiveness can be improved through more consistent and coherent (and inter-connected)

policies and actions, especially by governments.

In the statement on coherence the Worldconnectors lodge an appeal to realise an even more holistic approach, called 'Societal Coherence'. This is a plea for 'complementary governance' in which all efforts of the government, the private sector, private aid organisations and consumers should be aimed at eradicating poverty and sustainable development in all parts of the world.

Personal, political and public coherence

An example: actions that would be considered illegal in Europe can be commonplace in other countries – think illegal logging, child labour, or corruption. Activities we spent years campaigning against and working to abolish in our own country are not always effectively discouraged elsewhere by our own companies. Consumers often buy the products - which are the fruits of these activities - unaware of the total costs to the planet in terms of

the environment or human and social rights. And governments in Europe cannot press charges against the perpetrators if the production methods do not infringe on rules in that particular country. Companies are often fingered as the culprits, frequently unfairly. It is a multi-actor problem that requires cooperation as well as confrontation and poses tough questions: how do we encourage consumers to be ethical in their consumer behaviour? How can they know what is 'ethical'? How do we encourage companies and their suppliers to follow suit, or even to go beyond global standards? How do we ensure that international and development organisations are accountable to the people they aim to help? How do we mobilise and sustain the political will to tackle such problems?

In setting out to tackle this ambitious agenda, the principles of interdependence and shared responsibility in the Earth Charter offer particularly relevant 'anchors' with which to encourage PCD – not just 'policy coherence for development' but also 'personal' and 'political' or 'public' coherence for development.

The Working Group

Ton Dietz (chair), Alpha Barry, Sylvia Borren, Paul Hoebink, Tineke Lambooy and Herman Mulder.

External experts

Sony Kapoor (expert on international finance, development and the environment) played an important role in the WG meetings as advisor to the Worldconnectors in the drafting of the statement. Other external experts were Paul Engel (ECDPM), Sander Tideman (NCDO Board member) and Niels Keijzer (ECDPM).

RTW special guests

Otto Genee (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Peter Heintze (Evert Vermeer Stichting), Francis Weyzig (SOMO) and Peter van Lieshout (WRR).

"Off the page, into practical change"

Sylvia Borren: "Coherence is a difficult topic because it really covers everything. Like how our aid efforts are being undermined by unfair trade regulations and how debts are only cancelled with conditionalities. It is also about the (in)coherence of our present political practice. Discussions about coherence tend to be about systems and get technical - but we managed to bring people into the equation. We underlined the importance of a citizen and consumer movement, living coherently ourselves, and demanding the same of our politicians and of the corporate sector. The biggest challenge for the Worldconnectors is how to get our good thinking off the page, and into practical influence and change."

PUBLIC OUTREACH

More than 50,000 website visitors

The Worldconnectors website is updated with statements and reports after every Round Table meeting. Articles in the media and agenda items are also regularly renewed. The website functions as the communication tool for the wider public. On the site, visitors are encouraged to vote for the poll and to leave a message. Supporters are also encouraged to express their views through the email form.

In 2007 the website underwent a restyling. According to the web statistics, every month more people were able to find the website, which ultimately added up to more than 50,000 visitors per year. Most visitors are from the Netherlands and the United States. The homepage was visited most frequently, followed by the file download and the Who are we page. Of all weblogs 'Divided loyalties' by Henny Helmich was read most frequently. Concerning the polls, the one on migration received by far the most votes and reactions (645), followed by the article on migration in *NRC Handelsblad*. Ten percent of the visitors remains on the website for more than half an hour, which is quite unique.



Website poll

To reach coherence for development it is most effective to encourage accountability of all actors (governments, civil society and the corporate sector) through simple legal regulations.

- Agree: 13%
- Disagree: 87%

"For once let us not focus directly on regulations and sanctions or penalties, and let's see how it quite simply works out. The project of coherence for development is a process, including all the steps and downfalls necessary to reach an effective maturity in the near future. Too

many regulations and rules at the beginning will only disrupt this important process." M.P. van Schaik in a reaction on the Worldconnector website.

In the media

- 'Ontwikkelingshulp kan beter', by Paul Hoebink, Sylvia Borren, Ton Dietz and Alpha Barry in *Trouw* (13 November 2007).
- 'Doe meer tegen armoede', by Ruud Lubbers and Tineke Lambooy on World poverty day (17 October) on the website *Duurzaamnieuws*.



What can you do?

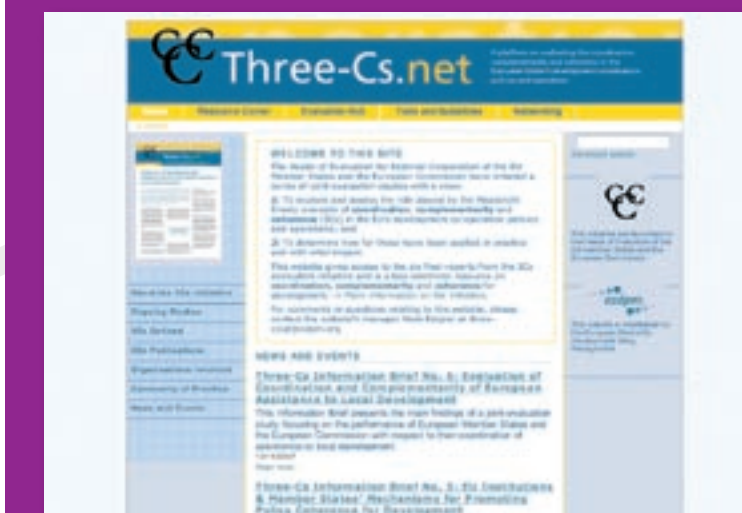
'Eat fair, beat hunger' is the credo of Fair Food, a non-profit campaign and lobby group that incites and enables consumers to eat and drink fair products. These are products whose production and trade contribute to the eradication of hunger and poverty in developing countries, and to the sustainability of production chains. Buy fair trade products and go to www.fairfood.org for more information.



Go to www.earthcharter.org or www.handvestvandeearde.nl to read more about the Earth Charter principles and download the leaflet with advice on how to implement them in your daily life.



The website www.three-Cs.net gives access to the six final reports from the 3Cs evaluation initiative and is an electronic resource on coordination, complementarity and coherence for development.



More information, reports, relevant documents, agenda, links and useful contacts related to the theme coherence can be found on the following websites: www.cgdev.org, www.evertvermeerstichting.nl, www.somo.nl, www.oecd.org, www.mvonderland.nl.

Honour and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfil their essential role in creating sustainable societies. Principle 12 c of the Earth Charter.

Stand up and make a difference

The involvement of young people is one of the basic principles of the Worldconnectors. From the start young people have been invited to Round Table meetings and are involved through public activities such as the Night of the UN and debates during youth events.

During the first Worldconnectors meeting in April 2006 the participants concluded that youth participation is highly recommended and valued. The aim was to select some five to eight young people (under 30) to participate in Round Table meetings. At the first meeting, related to the theme 'New Leadership on Global Governance', young people were represented by the current and previous UN Youth Representatives of the Netherlands.

In order to include more youth at the meetings in 2007, a selection of youth participants was made, based on the results of a thematic essay contest. The winning essays were 'Interesting times' by Alpha Barry and 'How planting a tree can help in living

our daily lives while at the same time contributing to the Millennium Development Goals' by Sandra van Beest.

After joining the Worldconnectors, Sandra and Alpha wondered on their weblog "if they [the Worldconnectors] would really be interested in our input after hearing from the likes of Sylvia Borren, Joris Voorhoeve or Naema Tahir? And would we, as youth members, not simply absorb and conform to the opinions of these experienced and knowledgeable experts?"

Soon they found out that they did not lack any confidence while participating in activities with their new Worldconnector colleagues. It became clear to them that "even if we aren't that

famous, we can still make a valuable contribution to achieving a just, sustainable and peaceful world, like the Worldconnectors strive for."

At the Round Table Meeting in May the proposal to introduce an intergenerational way of working was discussed and accepted and the idea of a 'buddy' was introduced. By matching an individual youth member with a prominent and experienced Worldconnector, personal and inspiring interactions could develop. Sandra van Beest and Ruud Lubbers matched up, as well as Anna Chojnacka and Awraham Soetendorp, Sayida Vanenburg and Sylvia Borren and others who followed suit.



"Using our own strengths to contribute"

Sandra van Beest joined the 'Worldconnector family' early 2007. So far it has been an interesting experience for her. She relates her experiences as a Youth Worldconnector:

"Whenever I tell someone that I am part of the Worldconnectors, I always get the same response: 'Great learning school, Sandra, but what are you doing there?' I don't believe that my capacities or intelligence are questioned, but I do understand that it is rather unusual for a young person to be part of this great group of established experts. How can my contribution add to the knowledge of development cooperation, when my own professor is a Worldconnector too? I have realised that the Youth Worldconnectors contribute in a different way.

The first time I met the Youth Worldconnectors, I was impressed by their confidence, level of knowledge and 'can-do attitude'. Of course, they had been Worldconnectors a little longer and had established themselves within the group. It requires no explanation that the Worldconnectors are a great learning school.



our peers, writing articles for the media, bringing up creative ideas, sharing global experiences or passionate statements, or even asking critical questions, we use our own strengths to contribute to the debate. Possibly established experts might be inspired by the strength, wisdom and energy of young people, just like I was the first time I met the Youth Worldconnectors.

I like to see this group of Worldconnectors as a family. A rather large family in which all sectors of our community are represented. In a strong and social family, everyone is involved and everyone works together. Ignoring or neglecting a member of that family does not only mean we are disrespecting that member, we are also missing out on potential. With this in mind, I am happy to conclude that the Worldconnectors are a respectful family. A family that likes to use its full potential. A family that works together with youth, in achieving its goal: to inspire a global mindset among the Dutch population."

Every Worldconnector meeting can be seen as a full day of master classes. Besides that, we get advice from experts, work together in interviews and presentations, and get to meet a great network of interesting people. And we are all matched with a private buddy as well. Together with my buddy Ruud Lubbers, I gave a student press conference. As Youth Worldconnectors however, we do not just learn. We are, after all, experts too. When it comes to youth, we have strengths which can be quite different from the qualities of established experts. By involving

WORLDCONNECTORS AT THE NIGHT OF THE UN

"As we are, such are the times"

2007 saw the fifth edition of the Night of the UN, an initiative of the NCDO and the Nederlandse Vereniging voor de Verenigde Naties (NVVN). The night has evolved into the biggest event for youth with an interest in global issues, reaching almost 2,500 participants in 2007, and it receives wide media attention. Debates on issues such as water scarcity, poverty eradication and

conflict management took place next to theatre acts, music performances and deejay sessions. Ruud Lubbers, a well known guest at the Night of the UN, pulled the crowds with his lecture about the Earth Charter. Erik Thijs Wedershoven and Sandra van Beest also contributed to his talk. Lubbers underlined everybody's individual responsibility, quoting a 5th century theologian, Augustine of Hippo:

"As we are, such are the times". Naema Tahir appeared as special 'world guest' and provided comments and views on her selection of television and film fragments related to Pakistan, political leadership and women's empowerment. Paul Rosenmöller interviewed prominent politicians and opinion leaders. Willemijn Aerdts participated in a topical debate on security and Afghanistan.

The previous year, on 24 October, the launch of the Worldconnectors took place at the Night of The UN.

Dialogue with the audience

Dutch Youth Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Erik Thijs Wedershoven, entered into a discussion with the audience and Ruud Lubbers on the importance of having a youth

voice within the UN. Worldconnector Hans Eenhoorn strongly appealed to the public for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and for the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Louk de La Rive Box moderated – among other things – a dialogue in the UN Info Centre with Dutch peacekeepers who served in Lebanon and Afghanistan. Willemijn Aerdts invited the public to send messages to Kofi Annan, who served for 10 years as the UN Secretary General, and to present priorities to the new world leader, Ban Ki Moon.



Youth Essay Contest

By introducing a Youth Essay Contest in 2007, the Worldconnectors invited young people to write an essay about the question how to create a global mindset among the Dutch population, in relation to one of the following themes:

- Coherence between development assistance, trade and investment.
- How to interconnect development, global human security, peace building and conflict resolution.
- How to live your daily lives while at the same time contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

The winners, Alpha Barry and Sandra van Beest, received € 500,- and became a Worldconnector.

They joined the Round Table debates with Ruud Lubbers, Wim Kok, Sylvia Borren, and other Dutch prominent persons in the beginning of 2007.



Youth Worldconnectors expressed the need for global human security and called for a collective scream on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2007.

Opinie Oorlog is nooit ver weg

Schreeuwen voor een vreedzame wereld

Vandaag is door de VN uitgeroepen tot de Internationale Dag van de Vrede. Zes Nederlandse jongeren hebben in dat kader een verklaring opgesteld waarin ze uitleggen waarom zij strijden voor vrede.

Voor veel jongeren zoals wij, levend in West-Europa, lijkt oorlog ver weg. Wij hebben het niet zelf meegeemaakt. Maar in feite is oorlog nooit

ver weg geweest. Onze samenleving draagt nog steeds de littekens van de Tweede Wereldoorlog. En de Koude Oorlog ging gepaard met spanningen en een wapenwedloop tussen Oost en West. De Koude Oorlog was misschien 'koud' in Europa en de Verenigde Staten, maar in andere delen van de wereld – Mozambique, Angola, Vietnam – was de confrontatie tussen Oost en West bloedheet, en kostte veel slachtoffers. En er was

'Bosnië', een oorlog in Europa die twaalf jaar geleden 'eindigde' en waarvan de gevolgen nog altijd voelbaar zijn. We kunnen niet meer doen alsof oorlogen ver weg ons niet aangaan. Vluchtelingen uit conflicttegebieden zitten bij ons op school en werken met ons samen. Via internet zijn oorlogsbeelden met een paar muisklikken binnen te halen. Met de globalisering is de wereld

kleiner geworden: een dorp. Oorlogen vinden plaats aan de andere zijde van het dorpsplein. We kunnen het zien en ruiken. We lopen er dagelijks langs en horen het geschreeuw. In een kleinere wereld kunnen we niet meer lang de zijlijn blijven staan. Zonder vrede is ontwikkelingsonmogelijk. Oorlog, hongert, armoede en onveiligheid vragen onze voorurende betrokkenheid.

En dat geldt zeker niet alleen voor conflicten zoals in Irak en Afghanistan, waar de westerse landen, vooral meedoen vanwege de zogenaamde 'War on Terror'. We willen juist meer aandacht en Nederlandse inzet in 'vergeten conflicten', in regio's als Darfur, Zimbabwe en Oost-Congo.

© Alpha Barry (21), Erik Thijs Wedershoven (21), Gabe Spitz (22), Sandra van Beest (22), Sayida Vanenburg (21) en Willemijn Aerdts (22) zijn Worldconnectors. Vier keer per jaar komen ze bijeen om zich in te zetten voor een duurzame en vreedzame wereld. www.worldconnectors.nl

Inspiring a global mindset

Inspiring a global mindset among the Dutch public is one of the main aims of the Worldconnectors. Through publications of Worldconnectors or articles about the issues they discuss, a wider public is drawn into the debate. At the start of 2007 Halleh Ghorashi, Ruud Lubbers and Naema Tahir succeeded in doing just that by writing a frequently discussed article on migration.

In the article, published in NRC Handelsblad on 27 January 2007, Halleh Ghorashi, Ruud Lubbers and Naema Tahir call on policy makers and the public to change their attitude towards immigrants, to enter into an open dialogue and to focus on the positive input that migrants can bring to society. They claim participation and transnational citizenship are the keywords to make migration a success for all involved.

Opinie & Debat
Publicatie voor argumenten, ideeën en levensbeschouwing

Halleh Ghorashi, Ruud Lubbers en Naema Tahir
Halleh Ghorashi is Afghaanse vluchtelingenmanager van de Verenigde Staten en Ruud Lubbers is voormalig minister van Werkzamenen. Naema Tahir is een Nederlandse journaliste van 2007 tot 2008 en presentator van de tv-uitzending 'Naema Tahir in gesprek' op de Nederlandse tv. Naema Tahir is een Nederlandse journaliste van 2007 tot 2008 en presentator van de tv-uitzending 'Naema Tahir in gesprek' op de Nederlandse tv.

Chavannes vreest een onnozel volk; lezer schrijft over dichters, brieven
Menno van der Veen tegen de consumentenmaatschappij; Huygen hekkelt Amsterdamse spulzucht

Betuwelijn wacht gouden toekomst; de Sixties zijn definitief geschiedenis, en dat is geen ramp; Bas Heijne prijst zelfkritiek

Maar de richting waarin deze oplossingen worden gezocht, moet volledig anders. Centraal daarin moet een aantal kernbegrippen staan: participatie, 'circulaire' arbeidsmigratie en transnationale burgerschap.

PARTICIPATIE
Niet integratie van allochtonen moet de centrale opgave zijn, maar participatie van Nederlanders en buitenlanders moet de kern zijn.

TRANSNATIONAAL BURGERSCHAP
Wij moeten onszelf, oude en nieuwe Nederlanders, ook gaan zien als 'transnationale burgers', waarbij het tegelijkertijd leven vanuit verschillende culturen en identiteiten geaccepteerd en zelfs als positieve uitdaging wordt gezien.

Vier de komst van migranten, haal alles uit hen wat ze in zich hebben – en dat is veel

'CIRCULAIRE' MIGRATIE
Niet alleen kunnen migranten, met hun overlevingsdrang, hun grote inventiviteit en doorzettingsvermogen en hun originele inzichten, een positieve invloed hebben op de Nederlandse maatschappij. Omgekeerd kan de Nederlandse maatschappij, met haar rijkdom aan kennis, kunde en creativiteit, een positieve invloed hebben op de migranten. Het is de taak van de Nederlandse maatschappij om deze positieve invloed te vergroten en te verspreiden.

(NRC Handelsblad, January 27, 2007)

Dozens of articles, columns and interviews

In addition to media coverage on the afore mentioned global issues, the Worldconnectors mentioned the Worldconnectors initiative and various global issues in dozens of news articles.

(Vice Versa, December 2006)

'Multinationals zijn dé grote spelers in de wereld'
Teresa Fogelberg is directeur bij het Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), dat bedrijven, op- en investeerders op zijn lijn brengt over inhoud en criteria van duurzame verslaggeving. Het GRI is inmiddels uitgegroeid tot de grootste wereldwijde organisatie op het gebied van duurzaamheidsrapportage.

(Trouw, November 13, 2007)

Ontwikkelingshulp kan beter
In vergelijking met andere rijke landen doet Nederland veel aan ontwikkelings samenwerking. Maar kwaliteit en uitgaven moeten omhoog.

IK MAAK MIJN EIGEN REGELS
ZE STAKT BEKEND ALS KRITICHE PROSOPAIEN EN SCHRIEFT EEN VRIJSTAANDEND (FRANSISCH) ROMANEN. HET IS HET GEBOORTE VAN EEN NIEUW SCHRIJFSTER. TOCH HEEFT ZE NOG STEELLES MET HET GEBOORTE. ZOCHT ZE HEBBEN BEVRIJDEDE CRANES OP EEN LAKEN ZIJN VANT. KAN DAT EEN VANT HEBBEN. HEBBEN IN BESTE GOED NEDERLANDS. PRAAT ZAL ALLES IN HET NEDERLANDS.

(Marie Claire, July 2007)

Respecteer menselijke diversiteit
12 Forum: Bureaucratie
De menselijke diversiteit is een van de belangrijkste uitdagingen van de toekomst. Het is de taak van de Nederlandse maatschappij om deze diversiteit te respecteren en te waarderen.

(De Volkskrant, November 1, 2007)

'Alleen banaal niveau in ontwikkelingsdebat'
WRR
De WRR heeft een rapport uitgebracht over de Nederlandse ontwikkelingshulp. Het rapport concludeert dat de Nederlandse ontwikkelingshulp op een banaal niveau staat.

(Vice Versa, January 2007)

Red gletsjers en armen met één plan
De wereld kan een groot succes hebben als de rijke landen de armen helpen. Het is de taak van de Nederlandse maatschappij om deze hulp te ondersteunen.

(De Volkskrant, July 7, 2007)

Verbreed je horizon
Het is de taak van de Nederlandse maatschappij om de horizon te verbreden en de wereld te ontdekken. Het is de taak van de Nederlandse maatschappij om de wereld te ontdekken en de horizon te verbreden.

(Het kleinste koffietafelboek van Nederland, Coolpolitics)

- January
 - 'Multinationals zijn dé grote spelers in de wereld', interview with Teresa Fogelberg in *Vice Versa*.
 - 'Het ontwikkelingsdebat wordt alleen op banaal niveau gevoerd', interview with Monika Sie Shian Ho in *Vice Versa*.

- March
 - Book presentation 'Vertegenwoordiging van de Europese Commissie in Nederland', with a contribution from Naema Tahir.
 - 'Zeg het maar. Vrijheid van meningsuiting in de Europese Unie', contributions from 27 countries and some Dutch writers, among whom Naema Tahir.

- Columns in NRC Next by Naema Tahir.
 - 'De stille kracht', article about Ruud Lubbers and the Worldconnectors in *Vrij Nederland*, by Carolina Lo Galbo, with comments by Naema Tahir, Halleh Ghorashi and Alide Roerink.
 - 'Er is niets mis met een literair pamflet', Naema Tahir in discussion with some female authors, by Mischa Cohen and Jeroen Vullings in *Vrij Nederland*.

- June
 - Radio news bulletin, Joris Voorhoeve, Radio 1, NCRV.

- July
 - 'Ik maak mijn eigen regels', interview with Naema Tahir in *Marie Claire*.

- September
 - 'Vrouwen moeten zelf de spelregels gaan bepalen', Naema Tahir in *IS*.
 - Llink Desmet Live Radio: Ruud Lubbers and Sandra van Beest interviewed by Diewertje Blok about the Worldconnectors.

- October
 - Article about Sandra van Beest's speech on youth rights in the United Nations in *Noordhollands Dagblad, Schager Courant*.

Meet the Worldconnectors

At the Earth Charter network meeting in November 2007, Awraham Soetendorp spoke about the Millennium Development Goals. We might not reach all goals, but he was certain a lot had to be done in the coming years. "We can still effect fundamental changes in the world,

because you and I inspire each other, and that can happen a billion times."

Inspiration is the key word for the Worldconnectors. They are inspired by the UN Millennium Declaration and

by the Earth Charter. They inspire each other and they inspire others to build a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society. Coming from different backgrounds, they all participate in the Round Table of Worldconnectors on a personal basis. Meet these inspiring people:

NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTORS



JOAN BOER
is ambassador of the Netherlands to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.



AD MELKERT
is the Associate Administrator at the United Nations Development Programme.



HERMAN WIJFFELS
led the negotiations for the Dutch cabinet formation and is the Dutch representative at the World Bank.



RUUD TREFFERS
is Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



ROB DE VOS
was Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (until the end of 2007).



ROB VISSER
is the Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

STEERING GROUP



RUUD LUBBERS
is one of the initiators and the Chair of the Worldconnectors, an active member of the Earth Charter Commission and, among many other functions, the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands.



JOS VAN GENNIP
is president of SID Netherlands and NCDO and Vice President of SID International. He is one of the initiators of the Worldconnectors, and until recently, member of the Senate.



TON DIETZ
is a Taskforce member of DPRN, one of the initiators of the Worldconnectors, and professor of Human Geography.

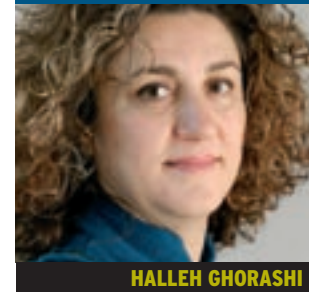


HENNY HELMICH
is the executive director of the Dutch National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO), and one of the initiators of the Worldconnectors.



JAN BERDELING
is the former ambassador of the Netherlands to the FAO and a member of the Steering Group of the Worldconnectors.

KNOWLEDGE AND ADVISORY CENTRES



HALLEH GHORASHI
is professor of Management and Diversity at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) in Amsterdam.



LOUK DE LA RIVE BOX
is Director of the Institute for Social Studies (ISS) in the Hague.



PAUL HOEBINK
is associate professor of Development Issues at the University of Nijmegen.



MONIKA SIE DHIAN HO
is Director of the Wiardi Beckman Foundation.

RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP



AWRAHAM SOETENDORP
is a rabbi of the Reform Jewish Community of The Hague and the Union of Dutch Reform Jewish Communities. He is a member of the Earth Charter Commission.

PROMINENT POLITICAL PERSONS



WIM KOK
is honorary Minister of State and the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands.



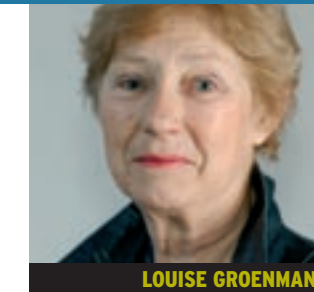
JELTJE VAN NIEUWENHOVEN
is the ambassador of the Third Chamber and a former member of Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party.



JORIS VOORHOEVE
is professor of International Organisations at Leiden University and professor of International Security at the Netherlands Defence Academy. He is a former Minister of Defence.



HANS DIJKSTAL
was the leader of the VVD, the Dutch liberal right wing party, and a former Minister of Internal Affairs.



LOUISE GROENMAN
is director of the Expertise Centre of Age and Society and a former member of Parliament.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY ACTORS



PETER BAKKER
is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Koninklijke TNT Post.



TINEKE LAMBOOY
is a lawyer and university lecturer/researcher with a focus on corporate social responsibility.



HERMAN MULDER
is the former Senior Executive Vice President Group Risk Management of the ABN-AMRO bank.



HANS EENHOORN
is a member of the UN Task Force Hunger and Associate Professor of 'Food Security and Entrepreneurship' at Wageningen University. He is chair and initiator of School Feeding Initiative Ghana Netherlands.

(NEW) MEDIA



PIETER BROERTJES
is editor in chief of de Volkskrant, a national newspaper.



PAUL ROSENMÜLLER
is a journalist and a former member of Parliament for GroenLinks (the Green Party).



ROEL JANSSEN
is editor of NRC Handelsblad, a national newspaper.



NAEMA TAHIR
is an expert in human rights law for the Council of Europe, opinion leader on migration and women's empowerment and she recently published her second novel (Eenzaam Heden).

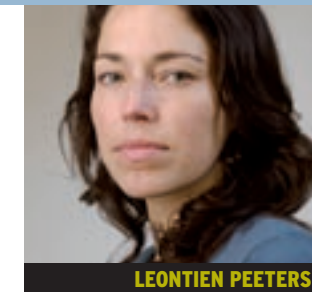


RINDERT DE GROOT
is editor in chief of MTV Coolpolitics.

YOUTH



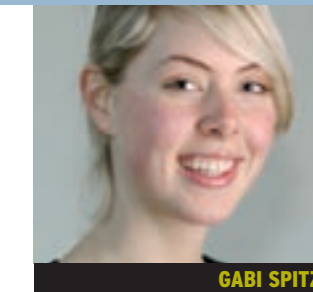
ERIK THIJS WEDERSHOVEN
was the official Youth Representative of the Netherlands to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2005-2006.



LEONTIEN PEETERS
is Manager Communications and Events for the Business in Development Challenge. She represented the Dutch youth to the UN General Assembly.



WILLEMIJN AERDT
is student of International Law and International Affairs. She is a member of the board of the United Nations Association the Netherlands (NVVN).



GABI SPITZ
was the official youth representative of the Netherlands to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and currently works as project officer for SPARK*.



ANNA CHOJNACKA
is a former Youth Representative of the Netherlands to the General Assembly of the United Nations and director of the 1%CLUB.



SAYIDA VANENBURG
is consultant Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility. She represented the Netherlands at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



TERESA FOGELBERG
is Senior Director Business Engagement and Stakeholder Relations of the Global Reporting Initiative.



SYLVIA BORREN
is the Executive Director of OxfamNovib (until February 2008) and the chair of the New Dialogue (a Dutch platform of civil society organisations).



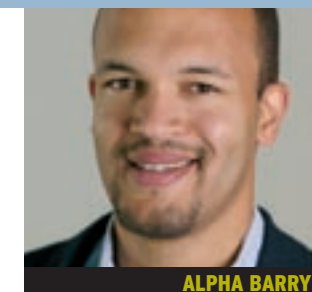
RENÉ GROTENHUIS
is Director of the international development organisation Cordaid.



JOHAN VAN DE GRONDEN
is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the Netherlands.



SANDRA VAN BEEST
is the official Youth Representative of the Netherlands to the General Assembly of the United Nations 2007-2008.



ALPHA BARRY
is Assistant Programme Officer for Indonesia and the Philippines at the Democratisation and Peace building Department of ICCO.

SUPPORT TEAM

ALIDE ROERINK is the project manager of the Worldconnectors at NCDO.
DUŠICA VUKOLIĆ is the programme officer of the Worldconnectors at NCDO.
VERONICA RIVERA SANTANDER represented SID NL in the Worldconnectors Support Team (first part 2007).
GORDANA STANKOVIĆ represents SID NL in the Worldconnectors Support Team.
IEM ROOS represents SID NL in the Worldconnectors Support Team.
KAREN WITSENBERG represented DPRN in the Worldconnectors Support Team (until October 2007).
KOEN KUSTERS represents DPRN in the Worldconnectors Support Team.
KARI POSTMA is communication officer at NCDO.
JENNY HOFMAN is the administrative officer of the Worldconnectors.

A new year, new themes and new Worldconnectors

In 2008 the following themes will be discussed in the Round Table meetings (a further focus will be decided in the Working Groups in consultation with experts and the Steering Group):

- Sustainable Development and Climate Change
- Connection of Civilization
- New scarcities and Power Shift: Energy, Food and Water
- Responsibility of Europe in the world (poverty eradication, sustainability and security)



A step forward

Looking beyond the start of this year, the Worldconnectors will be contributing their thoughts and analysis to the issues 'Climate Change' and 'New Scarcities'. In addition, the idea of 'Connection of Civilizations' will provide the necessary scope to approach the diversity of civilisations, traditions, religions and life convictions as a chance. After all, the Netherlands will have to relate to the European adventure, or in other words; the image of Europe as a crucial partner and source of values in the world will be pivotal during our Round Table Meetings.

The Worldconnectors, bearing in mind these issues, have an important task to fulfil, which relates to the closing paragraph of the Earth Charter:

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

2008 will be a special year because it also signals the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This presents us with a chance and a duty to clearly divulge the importance of the Earth Charter as an additional chapter to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Additional because the obligations are not just directed at governments (as is the case with the UDHR) and because it contains a broader agenda – that is, the sustainability agenda. This step forward by 'we the people' simultaneously provides a new occasion to shape the symbiosis of secular, democratic political endeavor with those based on religion. In this way, the people of the Earth will openly declare their responsibility towards one another, towards the broader community and towards future generations.

Ruud Lubbers

Een stap voorwaarts

Op de jaarovergang vooruitblikkend zullen de Worldconnectors hun bijdrage leveren aan 'Klimaatverandering' en 'Nieuwe Schaarste'. Daarnaast zal 'Binding van en door beschavingen' ruimte bieden aan diversiteit van beschavingen, tradities, godsdiensten en levensovertuigingen als kans te formuleren. Tenslotte zal Nederland in relatie met het Europese avontuur of beter gezegd: het Europa als wezenlijke partner en bron van waarden in de wereld centraal staan in een Round Table meeting. Met deze themata zullen de Worldconnectors inhoud geven aan onze opdracht, zoals die krachtens het slot van het Earth Charter luidt:

Laat onze tijd de geschiedenis ingaan als een tijdperk van de omslag van een nieuwe eerbied voor het leven, de vastbeslotenheid duurzaamheid te realiseren en intensivering van de strijd voor rechtvaardigheid en vrede en de vreugdevolle viering van het leven.

2008 wordt een bijzonder jaar omdat het ook zestig jaar Universele Verklaring van de Rechten van de Mens betekent. Dat biedt de kans en de opdracht duidelijk te maken dat het Handvest van de Aarde het nieuwe aanvullende hoofdstuk is op deze Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Aanvullend omdat de opdracht zich niet alleen richt op regeringen (zoals de UVRM doet) en een bredere agenda – namelijk die van de duurzaamheid – kent. Deze stap voorwaarts in en met "we the people" biedt tegelijk een nieuwe gelegenheid gestalte te geven aan de symbiose van seculiere, democratische politieke inspanningen met die van levensbeschouwingen. Zo zullen volkeren van de Aarde hun verantwoordelijkheid jegens elkaar, jegens de grotere levensgemeenschap en jegens de toekomstige generaties openlijk uitspreken.

Ruud Lubbers

Colofon

Worldconnectors
Inspiring a global mindset -
an overview of 2007
is published by NCDO
February 2008

NCDO
PO Box 94020
1090 GA Amsterdam

Author:

Suzanne Heuts

Editor:

Ruth Hopkins

Design:

BBK/Door Vriendschap Sterker,
Amsterdam

Printer:

Sterprint, Woerden

Contributors:

Ruud Lubbers, Sandra van Beest,
Rindert de Groot, Naema Tahir,
Halleh Ghorashi, Monika Sie
Dhian Ho, Sylvia Borren,
Jos van Gennip, Hans Eenhoorn,
Jan Berteling, Henny Helmich,
Ton Dietz, Dušica Vukolić,
Jenny Hofman and Alide Roerink.

Photos:

Ed Lonnée (most of the photos
of the Worldconnectors), Hans
Ariëns, Rik Thijssen (St. Ilea),
Kristel van der Velde, Hollandse
Hoogte, UN, Unesco.

A word of thanks:

All visitors of the Worldconnectors website who expressed their views on the central themes and formulated their reactions to the polls.

This magazine is printed on
FSC paper.

English or Dutch?

All communication of the Round Table is in English. The very name Worldconnectors indicates that the goal is to connect different worlds and to re-connect the Netherlands with the wider world. In the 21st century, communication in English is a necessary tool to fulfil this goal as well as to facilitate participation of non-Dutch speaking persons and to exchange information with our colleagues of SID International and with our international guest speakers. Media activities aimed at involving the Dutch public are conducted in Dutch.