# Definitions of Human Security

## United Nations Definitions

*Kofi Annan:*

"In the wake of these conflicts, a new understanding of the concept of security is evolving. Once synonymous with the defence of territory from external attack, the requirements of security today have come to embrace the protection of communities and individuals from internal violence. The need for a more human-centred approach to security is reinforced by the continuing dangers that weapons of mass destruction, most notably nuclear weapons, pose to humanity: their very name reveals their scope and their intended objective, if they were ever used."[1]

"We must also broaden our view of what is meant by peace and security. Peace means much more than the absence of war. Human security can no longer be understood in purely military terms. Rather, it must encompass economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament, and respect for human rights and the rule of law."[2]

"The demands we face also reflect a growing consensus that collective security can no longer be narrowly defined as the absence of armed conflict, be it between or within States. Gross abuses of human rights, the large-scale displacement of civilian populations, international terrorism, the AIDS pandemic, drug and arms trafficking and environmental disasters present a direct threat to human security, forcing us to adopt a much more coordinated approach to a range of issues."[3]

"Human security, in its broadest sense, embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her potential. Every step in this direction is also a steep towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and preventing conflict. Freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment -- these are the interrelated building blocks of human – and therefore national – security."[4]

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[1] United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Millenium Report, Chapter 3, p.43-44.
<http://www.un.org/millennium/sg/report/full.htm> 08/22/01

[2] Kofi Annan. "Towards a Culture of Peace." <http://www.unesco.org/opi2/lettres/TextAnglais/AnnanE.html> 08/22/01

[3] Kofi Annan. *Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization.* General Assembly Official Records Fifty-fifth session Supplement No.1 (A/55/1). New York: United Nations, 2000, p.4.
<http://www.un.org/documents/sg/report00/a551e.pdf> 08/27/01

[4] Kofi Annan. "Secretary-General Salutes International Workshop on Human Security in Mongolia." Two-Day Session in Ulaanbaatar, May 8-10, 2000.  Press Release SG/SM/7382.
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2000/20000508.sgsm7382.doc.html> 08/27/01

***Sadako Ogata, (former) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:***

"Several key elements make up *human security*. A first essential element is the possibility for all citizens to live in peace and security within their own borders. This implies the capacity of states and citizens to prevent and resolve conflicts through peaceful and non-violent means and, after the conflict is over, the ability to effectively carry out reconciliation efforts. A second element is that people should enjoy without discrimination all rights and obligations - including human, political, social, economic and cultural rights - that belonging to a State implies. A third element is social inclusion - or having equal access to the political, social and economic policy making processes, as well as to draw equal benefits from them. A fourth element is that of the establishment of rule of law and the independence of the justice system. Each individual in a society should have the same rights and obligations and be subject to the same set of rules. These basic elements which are predicated on the equality of all before the law, effectively remove any risk of arbitrariness which so often manifests itself in discrimination, abuse or oppression."[5]

"Threats to human security are varied – political and military, but also social, economic and environmental. A wide array of factors contribute to making people feel insecure, from the laying of landmines and the proliferation of small arms, to transnational threats such as drugs trafficking, to the spread of HIV. Once again, therefore, let me speak of human insecurity from <u>my</u> perspective. Refugees flee conflicts. One of the main factors of human insecurity is precisely the lack of effective <u>political and security mechanisms to address conflicts</u>."[6]

***Ramesh Thakur, Vice Rector, Peace and Security, United Nations University:***

"Human security refers to the quality of life of the people of a society or polity. Anything which degrades their quality of life – demographic pressures, diminished access to or stock or resources, and so on – is a security threat.  Conversely, anything which can upgrade their quality of life – economic growth, improved access to resources, social and political empowerment, and so on – is an enhancement of human security."[7]

***United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):***

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[5] "Inclusion or Exclusion: Social Development Challenges For Asia and Europe." Statement of Mrs. Sadako Ogata United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at the Asian Development Bank Seminar, 27 April 1998. <http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld/unhcr/hcspeech/27ap1998.htm> 08/22/01

[6] "Human Security: a Refugee Perspective." Keynote Speech by Mrs Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at the Ministerial Meeting on Human Security Issues of the "Lysoen Process" Group of Governments. Bergen, Norway, 19 May 1999. < http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld/unhcr/hcspeech/990519.htm> 08/22/01

[7] Ramesh Thakur. "From National to Human Security." *Asia-Pacific Security: The Economics-Politics Nexus*. Eds. Stuart Harris, and Andrew Mack.  Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 1997, p. 53-54.

"Human security can be said to have two main aspects.  It means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression.  And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities.  Such threats can exist at all levels of national income and development."[8]

"The list of threats to human security is long, but most can be considered under several main categories:
- Economic security
- Food security
- Health security
- Environmental security
- Personal security
- Community security
- Political security"[9]

***United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette:***

"What do we mean by human security?  We mean, in its most simple expression, all those things that men and women anywhere in the world cherish most: enough food for the family; adequate shelter; good health; schooling for the children; protection from violence whether inflicted by man or by nature; and a State which does not oppress its citizens but rules with their consent."[10]

***Hans Van Ginkel (Rector, United Nations University) and Edward Newman:***

"In policy terms, human security is an integrated, sustainable, comprehensive security from fear, conflict, ignorance, poverty, social and cultural deprivation, and hunger, resting upon positive and negative freedoms."[11]

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[8] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).  *Human Development Report 1994*.  New York: Oxford University Press, 23.  <http://www.undp.org/hdro/1994/94.htm> 08/02/01
[9] Ibid. p. 24-25.
[10] Statement by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette to a high-level panel discussion on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Octover 9, 1999. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/1999/19991012.dsgsm70.doc.html> 08/02/01
[11] Hans Van Ginkel, and Edward Newman. "In Quest of "Human Security." *Japan Review of International Affairs* 14.1 (2000): 79.

# Government Definitions

*Government of Canada:*

"For Canada, human security means freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, safety or lives."…"Canada has identified five foreign policy priorities for advancing human security:

1. Protection of civilians, concerned with building international will and strengthening norms and capacity to reduce the human costs of armed conflict.

2. Peace support operations, concerned with building UN capacities and addressing the demanding and increasingly complex requirements for deployment of skilled personnel, including Canadians, to these missions.

3. Conflict prevention, with strengthening the capacity of the international community to prevent or resolve conflict, and building local indigenous capacity to manage conflict without violence.

4. Governance and accountability, concerned with fostering improved accountability of public and private sector institutions in terms of established norms of democracy and human rights.

5. Public safety, concerned with building international expertise, capacities and instruments to counter the growing threats posed by the rise of transnational organized crime."[12]

*Human Security Network:*

"A humane world where people can live in security and dignity, free from poverty and despair, is still a dream for many and should be enjoyed by all. In such a world, every individual would be guaranteed freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to fully develop their human potential. Building human security is essential to achieving this goal. In essence, human security means freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, their safety or even their lives."[13]

*Government of Japan:*

1. "Human security may be defined as the preservation and protection of the life and dignity of individual human beings. Japan holds the view, as do many other countries, that human security can be ensured only when the individual is confident of a life free of fear and free of want."[14]

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[12] Foreign ministry website. <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreignp/humansecurity/menu-e.asp> 08/22/01

[13] Human Security Network homepage. <http://www.humansecuritynetwork.org/menu-e.asp> 08/22/01

[14] Yukio Takasu. "Toward Effective Cross-Sectorial Partnership to Ensure Human Security in a Globalized World." Statement by Mr. Yukio Takasu, Director-General of Multilateral Cooperation Department, at the Third Intellectual Dialogue on Building Asia's Tomorrow. Bangkok, June 19, 2000.
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human_secu/speech0006.html> 08/22/01

2. "Japan emphasizes "Human Security" from the perspective of strengthening efforts to cope with threats to human lives, livelihoods and dignity as poverty, environmental degradation, illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, the outflow of refugees and anti-personnel land mines, and has taken various initiatives in this context. To ensure "Human freedom and potential," a range of issues needs to be addressed from the perspective of "Human Security" focused on the individual, requiring cooperation among the various actors in the international community, including governments, international organizations and civil society."[15]

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[15] Government of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *Diplomatic Bluebook 1999*, Chapter 2, Section 3. <http://www.mofa.go.jp> 08/22/01

## Definitions from Academic Papers

*Kanti Bajpai:*

> "Human security relates to the protection of the individual's personal safety and freedom from direct and indirect threats of violence. The promotion of human development and good governance, and, when necessary, the collective use of sanctions and force are central to managing human security. States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other groups in civil society in combination are vital to the prospects of human security."[16]

*Lincoln Chen:*

> "The term human security…focuses the concept of security on human survival, well-being and freedom."  "…we conceptualize human security as the objective – the ultimate ends – of all security concerns.  In this schema, other forms of security, such as military security, are not ultimate goals.  Rather, these other forms of security are simply means for achieving the ultimate objectives of human security." [17]

*David T. Graham and Nana K. Poku:*

> "Rather than viewing security as being concerned with 'individuals qua citizens' (that is, toward their states), our approach view security as being concerned with 'individuals qua persons' (Krause and Williams 1997).  Implicit then, in this conjunction of issues with ideas of human security and liberation is the notion of the ethical and moral.  As an approach that focuses upon the importance of the insecurities facing people rather than governments or institutional agencies, human security is concerned with transcending the dominant paradigmatic orthodoxy that views critical concerns of migration – recognitions (i.e. citizenship), basic needs (i.e. sustenance, protection (i.e. refugee status), or human rights (i.e. legal standing) – as problems of interstate politics and consequently beyond the realm of the ethical and moral."[18]

*Anne Hammerstad:*

> "According to both 'critical' and 'human' security approaches, security is about attaining the social, political, environmental and economic conditions conducive to a life in freedom and dignity for the individual."[19]

*Gary King and Christopher Murray:*

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[16] Kanti Bajpai. *The Idea of a Human Security Audit*.  Joan B. Kroc Institute Report, No. 19. Fall 2000, p. 1-4.
<http://www.nd.edu/~krocinst/ocpapers/op_19_1.PDF> 08/22/01

[17] Lincoln Chen. "Human Security: Concepts and Approaches." *Common Security in Asia New Concepts of Human Security*. Eds. Tatsuro Matsumae and Lincoln C. Chen.  Tokyo: Tokai University Press, 1995, p.139.

[18] David T. Graham, and Nana K. Poku.  *Migration, Globalisation and Human Security*.  London: Routledge, 2000, p.17.

[19] Anne Hammerstad. "Whose Security? UNHCR, Refugee Protection and State Security After the Cold War." *Security Dialogue* 31.4 (2000): 395.

"…the number of years of future life spend outside a state of "generalized poverty."[20]

"…our suggestion for a parsimonious set of domains for measuring human security would be income, health, education and political freedom and democracy."[21]

### *Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H., and Sam Arie:*

"Human security is an underlying condition for sustainable human development. It results from the social, psychological, economic, and political aspects of human life that in times of acute crisis or chronic deprivation protect the survival of individuals, support individual and group capacities to attain minimally adequate standards of living, and promote constructive group attachment and continuity through time. Its key measurable components can be summarized as: a sustainable sense of home; constructive social and family networks; and an acceptance of the past and a positive grasp of the future. It is suggested that these components can be best measured by trends in their inverse indicators (social dislocation, dynamic inequality, and discount rate) according to metrics and units that will require further specification."[22]

### *Global Environmental Change and Human Security Project*

#### *Steven Lonergan, Kent Gustavson, and Brian Carter:*

"As our perspective changes, it is important to adapt our policy framework to meet this change. On alternative is to focus on *human security*, recognizing the inter linkages of environment and society, and acknowledging that our perceptions of our environment and the way we interact with our environment are historically, socially, and politically constructed. In this context, human security is achieved when and where individuals and communities:
- have the options necessary to end, mitigate, or adapt to threats to their human, environmental, and social rights;
- have the capacity and freedom to exercise these options; and
- actively participate in attaining these options."
- …"Human security embodies the notion that problems must always be addressed from a broader perspective that encompasses both *poverty* and issues of *equity* (social, economic, environmental, or institutional) as it is these issues that often lead to insecurity and conflict."[23]

#### *Global Environmental Change and Human Security Project Website:*

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[20] Gary King and Christopher Murray. "Rethinking Human Security." *Political Science Quarterly*. (Winter 2002): In Press. Manuscript, p. 2. <http://gking.harvard.edu/files/hs.pdf> 08/22/01

[21] Ibid. Manuscript, p. 13.

[22] Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H., and Sam Arie. Human Security in Crisis and Transition: A Background Document of Definition and Application. Working Draft, Prepared for US AID / Tulane CERTI. September 2000, p.37.

[23] Steven Lonergan, Kent Gustavson, and Brian Carter. "The index of Human Insecurity." AVISO Bulletin Issue No. 6 (January 2000). <http://www.gechs.org/aviso/AvisoEnglish/six/six.shtml> 08/24/01

"Human security is not only concerned with threats to the physical security of individuals, it encompasses economic, health, and environmental concerns as well."[24]

### George MacLean:

"In broad terms, human security shifts our focus from traditional territorial security to that of the person. Human security recognizes that an individual's personal protection and preservation comes not just from the safeguarding of the state as a political unit, but also from access to individual welfare and quality of life. But human security does not merely "envelope" matters of individual benefit (such as education, health care, protection from crime, and the like); this is because these matters could be thought of as part of the objectives of sovereign states. Rather, human security also denotes protection from the *unstructured violence* that often accompanies many aspects of non-territorial security, such as violence emanating from environmental scarcity, or mass migration. Therefore, just as traditional notions of territorial security involve the structured violence manifest in state warfare, human security also attends to the issue of unstructured violence.[2] Human security, in short, involves the security of the individual in their personal surroundings, their community, and in their environment."[25]

### Astri Suhrke:

"Whether the threat is economic or physical violence, immediate protective measures are necessary if longer-term investments to improve conditions can be relevant at all. It follows that the core of human insecurity can be seen as extreme vulnerability. The central task of a policy inspired by human security concerns would therefore be to protect those who are most vulnerable. …The philosophers do not tell us precisely who the vulnerable are, but it is self-evident that those exposed to immediate physical threats to life or deprivation of life-sustaining resources are extremely vulnerable. …Other persons can be place in equally life-threatening positions for reasons of deep poverty or natural disasters. This gives us three categories of extremely vulnerable persons:
- victims of war and internal conflict;
- those who live close to the subsistence level and thus are structurally positioned at the edge of socio-economic disaster; and
- victims of natural disasters.

In this schema, the condition of abject poverty or powerlessness is not qualitatively different from vulnerability to physical violence during conflict. Indeed, it recalls the concept of 'structural violence' developed in the 1970s by Johan Galtung."[26]

### Caroline Thomas:

1. "Human security describes a condition of existence in which basic material needs are met, and in which human dignity, including meaningful participation in the life of the

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[24] < http://www.knaw.nl/hdp/global.htm>

[25] George MacLean. *The Changing Concept of Human Security: Coordinating National and Multilateral Responses*. <http://www.unac.org/canada/security/maclean.html> 08/22/01

[26] Astri Suhrke. "Human Security and the Interests of States." *Security Dialogue*. 30.3 (1999): 265-276.

community, can be realized.  Such human security is indivisible; it cannot be pursued by or for one group at the expense of another."[27]

2.  "[W]hile material sufficiency lies at the core of human security, in addition the concept encompasses non-material dimensions to form a qualitative whole."

"The quantitative aspect refers to material sufficiency." "…[t]the pursuit of human security must have at its core the satisfaction of basic material needs of all humankind.  At the most basic level, food, shelter, education and health care are essential for the survival of human beings.

The qualitative aspect of human security is about the achievement of human dignity which incorporates personal autonomy, control over one's live and unhindered participation in the life of the community.  Emancipation from oppressive power structures, be they global, national or local in origin and scope, is necessary for human security.  Human security is oriented towards an active and substantive notion of democracy, one that ensures the opportunity of all for participation in the decisions that affect their lives.  Therefore it is engaged directly with discussions of democracy at all levels, from the local to the global."[28]

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[27] Caroline Thomas, and Peter Wilkin, eds. Globalization, Human Security, and the African Experience. Boulder/London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc, 1999, p.3.

[28] Caroline Thomas.  *Global Governance, Development and Human Security*.  London: Pluto Press, 2000, p. 6-7.

## Definitions of Structural Violence

*Johan Galtung:*

"We shall refer to the type of violence where there is an actor that commits the violence as *personal* or *direct*, and to violence where there is no such actor as *structural* or *indirect*." … "There may not be any person who directly harms another person in the structure. The violence is built into the structure and shows up as unequal power and consequently as unequal life chances." [29]

"…if people are starving when this is objectively avoidable, then violence is committed, regardless of whether there is a clear subject-action-object relation, as during a siege yesterday or no such clear relation, as in the way world economic relations are organized today. We have baptized the distinction in two different ways, using the word-pairs personal-structural and direct-indirect respectively. Violence with a clear subject-object relation is manifest because it is visible as *action*. It corresponds to our ideas of what *drama* is, and it is personal because there are persons committing the violence. It is easily captured and expressed verbally since it has the same structure as elementary sentences in (at lease Indo-European) *languages*: subject-verb-object, with both subject and object being persons. Violence without this relation is structural, built into structure. Thus, when one husband beats his wife there is a clear case of personal violence, but when one million husbands keep one million wives in ignorance there is structural violence. Correspondingly, in a society where life expectancy is twice as high in the upper as in the lower classes, violence is exercised even if there are no concrete actors on can point to directly attacking others, as when one person kills another." [30]

## Definitions of Cultural Violence

*Johan Galtung:*

"By 'cultural violence' we mean those aspects of culture, the symbolic sphere of our existence – exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science (logic, mathematics) – that can be used to justify or legitimize direct or structural violence." [31]

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[29] Johan Galtung. "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research." *Journal of Peace Research* 6 (1969): 170-171.
[30] Ibid. p. 171.
[31] Johan Galtung. "Cultural Violence." Journal of Peace Research 27.3 (1990): 291.