



AWARD CEREMONY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH
PRIZE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
2007

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CERIMÓNIA DE ENTREGA DO PRÉMIO NORTE-SUL
DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA
2007

THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC FOR ITS CONSTANT SUPPORT AND ITS
IMPORTANT COLLABORATION IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE AWARD CEREMONY OF THE
NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE.



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INTRODUCTION



IN SETTING UP THE EUROPEAN CENTRE for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (more commonly known as the “North-South Centre”), in November 1989, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe – and more specifically the Centre's ten founder States – took a visionary decision. At a time when the Berlin wall was falling down and all eyes in Strasbourg were turned to the east, retaining a global dimension and a southern perspective was inevitably a medium- and long-term concern.

In May 1990, as the “spring of the nations” was blowing over Europe and the first free elections were held successively in most of the former communist countries, the North-South Centre was set up in Lisbon. From the start, it has built on what, until today, still constitutes its fundamentally pioneering dimension and major development potential:

- **ITS OBJECTIVES**, both broad and ambitious: to provide a framework for European co-operation designed to heighten public awareness of global interdependence issues, and to promote policies of solidarity complying with the Council of Europe's aims and principles - respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- **AN OPEN HOUSE**: from the outset, the Centre was open not only to the Council of Europe's member States and the other Parties to the European

Cultural Convention but also to any other interested State and the European Community;

- **its DECISION-MAKING PROCESS:** unlike the other partial agreements (and the Council of Europe itself), the decisions – including those on the programme and budget - are not taken by the member States alone. The Executive Council, the NSC's decision-making body, reflects a balance between the four components of the Centre's action (governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society). This “quadrilogue” composition gives the NSC not only its originality but also real credibility in a field of action where non-governmental players are heavily involved;

- **its FUNCTIONING** and working methods: the practical implementation, unique at the Council of Europe, of the “quadrilogue” concept also has a direct impact on the NSC's functioning and working methods, which are more open, more transparent and more inclusive than those of a classic intergovernmental organisation. At the same time, the fact that the Centre is an offshoot of the Council of Europe is a major asset, giving it access to the intellectual and operational resources of the “parent institution” as well as the partnerships forged between the Council of Europe and the other European or international organisations relevant to the Centre's work.

Almost 20 years after the fall of the Berlin wall, Europe – and the world – have gone through profound changes. Indeed, a new paradigm - often called the “post-9/11” era - has gradually imposed itself, leading to:

- **INCREASINGLY** acute awareness that the fundamental strategic challenges for world stability now lie in the south rather than in the east;
- **GROWING** evidence that many of the issues to which modern societies are confronted are not only of global nature but also put at stake the future of humanity as a whole;
- **EVER GROWING** complexity of the international relations sphere, where many actors have emerged in addition to / competition with the traditional “players” (the states and the international organisations), and where basic notions such as multilateral action, the rule of (international) law and universally shared values are more necessary but also more contested than ever;
- **RENEWED PRIORITY** attached to an already old concept with revised contours: intercultural dialogue (as a response to the diagnosis of a “clash of civilisations” formulated back in 1993 by the American political scientist Samuel Huntington).

In this new area, the North-South Centre’s capacity of acting in different dimensions and mobilizing all relevant actors, together with its expertise in the fields of (global) education, youth co-operation and intercultural dialogue, are strong added values. Having concentrated its action, in recent years, on two priority areas (Africa and the Mediterranean), and promoted synergies with major actors such as UNESCO, the OSCE, ALECSO, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the “Alliance of Civilizations”, it also has a greater chance to “make a difference”. Recent initiatives within the Council of Europe (in particular the “White Paper on intercultural dialogue” which has been published in May 2008) or the European Union (such as the joint EU-Africa

strategy which emerged from the recent Lisbon Summit, or the “Barcelona process : Union for the Mediterranean” project) offer major opportunities in this respect.

Against this background, the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe is progressively turning from a “public relation” event into a political event of growing importance. Awarded annually since 1995 to two public figures (one from the North and one from the South, preferably a man and a woman), it highlights the importance of the “human factor”. The winners of the North-South Prize are recognised for their deep commitment, outstanding achievements and/or the hope they have generated in the field of individual rights protection, the defence of pluralist democracy and North-South solidarity and partnership. But they are also living examples that, in all circumstances and throughout history, individual men and women have been able, and are still capable, of stimulating overall progress for humanity. This has been of course the case of all previous North-south Prize winners, among which appear leading figures such as Peter Gabriel, Danielle Mitterrand, Patricio Aylwin, Mary Robinson, Graça Machel, Mário Soares, Xanana Gusmão, Stéphane Hessel and Bob Geldof.

It is not necessary to elaborate on Simone Veil and Kofi Annan, the two winners of the 2007 North-South Prize. Their lives and reputations speak for themselves. Some of the most relevant features are reminded in the speeches that are presented in this publication. It is enough for me to say that they are among the people about whom you can say that our world is a better world just because they are living in it.

DENIS HUBER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

JAIME GAMA

PRÉSIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA
PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL

**MR PRESIDENT
OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,**
MR PRESIDENT OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
MR SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
MR CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE,
MR PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE
DELEGATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
DISTINGUISHED PRIZE-WINNERS,
MS SIMONE VEIL AND MR KOFI ANNAN,
MINISTERS,
MAGISTRATES,
SECRETARIES OF STATE,
AMBASSADORS,
PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES,

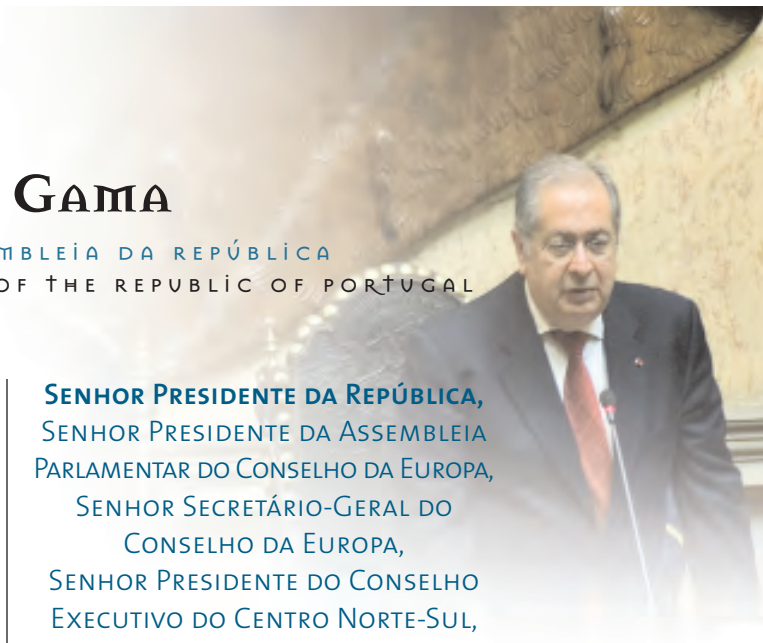


EVERY YEAR, IT IS A
GREAT HONOUR for the
Portuguese Parliament
to host the Council of Europe

SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA,
SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA
PARLAMENTAR DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA,
SENHOR SECRETÁRIO-GERAL DO
CONSELHO DA EUROPA,
SENHOR PRESIDENTE DO CONSELHO
EXECUTIVO DO CENTRO NORTE-SUL,
SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA DELEGAÇÃO
PARLAMENTAR PORTUGUESA À
ASSEMBLEIA PARLAMENTAR DO
CONSELHO DA EUROPA,
DISTINTOS LAUREADOS - SIMONE VEIL
E KOFI ANNAN -,
SENHORES MINISTROS,
SENHORES MAGISTRADOS,
SENHORES SECRETÁRIOS DE ESTADO,
SENHORES EMBAIXADORES,
SENHORAS E SENHORES DEPUTADOS,



É PARA A ASSEMBLEIA
DA REPÚBLICA uma
grande honra poder,
anualmente, ser o local de entrega
do Prémio Norte-Sul do Conselho



North-South Prize award ceremony. This has been the case since 1996 on the initiative of my predecessor, António de Almeida Santos. This prize is awarded by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, an important part of the council's structure that has been based in Portugal since 1990. This is why the President of Portugal, who was Prime Minister at the time, feels particular affection for this institution and has given us the honour of being here at this ceremony today.

The prize-winners speak for themselves, but our Parliament, as the venue for the ceremony, would just like to say that that it is a pleasure to receive them, because several speakers will be talking to us of each recipient's merits.

I would like to thank you for coming and to congratulate the winners of the North-South Prize 2007.

da Europa. Desde 1996 que assim acontece, por iniciativa e acordo de um dos meus antecessores, o Dr. António de Almeida Santos. Este prémio é da responsabilidade do Centro Norte-Sul do Conselho da Europa, uma importante estrutura do Conselho da Europa, sediada desde 1990 em Portugal. É por este motivo que o actual Presidente da República, na altura Primeiro-Ministro, dedica um especial carinho a esta instituição e nos deu a honra de estar presente nesta cerimónia.

Os laureados de hoje falam por si, mas a Assembleia, como local de atribuição do Prémio, apenas exprime que os acolhe com gosto, porque vários são os oradores que fundamentarão o mérito da atribuição deste prémio a cada um dos galardoados.

Agradeço a vossa presença e felicito os laureados titulares do Prémio Norte-Sul de 2007.



CLAUDE FREY

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

MR PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC,
MR PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC,
STATE SECRETARY,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
MR PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
PRIZE-WINNERS,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



FIRST OF ALL, on behalf of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe we would like to express our gratitude to the President of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic, Mr. Jaime Gama, for once again hosting the presentation of the North-South Prize in this prestigious chamber.

The President of the Portuguese Republic, Mr. Cavaco Silva, has graced our ceremony with his presence today. This is a highly symbolic act, Mr President, which reminds us all of your unfailing support for the universal and ubiquitous protection of human rights.

Your presence here also reflects your longstanding loyalty to and esteem for the Council of Europe in general and for the North-South Centre in particular. We will never forget that the North-South Centre opened in Lisbon in 1990 thanks to your active support, as the then Prime Minister.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The North-South Prize is awarded every year to two candidates who have distinguished themselves by their commitment to promoting human rights, defending pluralist democracy and encouraging North-South co-operation and global solidarity.

Ladies and gentlemen, respect for these values is more vital than ever if we want our planet to be anything other than an arena for economic rivalries and conflicts.

Obviously, any discussion of human rights highlights the complexity of the problem posed by this concept in contact with intercultural realities. And obviously we are aware that we must open up our approaches to justice and human rights to Otherness and pluralism by enriching our approaches with input from other human traditions.

Nevertheless, we are also convinced that only universal respect for these rights can provide the necessary tools for meeting the challenges of our century. Only the determined affirmation of universal and ubiquitous human rights can help us build a shared future beyond the boundaries of North and South, reflecting the whole diversity of the world and the right of all human beings to dignity.

Simone Veil, you are both the incarnation and a symbol of this hope. When you left of Auschwitz-Birkenau you immediately noticed the shifty looks that made us transparent. And as you wrote in your book, an extraordinary testimony titled *A Life*, “no doubt because of what I underwent after deportation, I have always been extremely sensitive about anything in human relations

which generates humiliation and debasement of others”. This is the virtue to which we are paying special tribute today.

Everyone knows about your career, Madam, as State Minister in the French Government, President of the European Parliament and member of the Constitutional Council. Your struggle for the adoption of the law on abortion in 1974, which attracted extensive media coverage at the time, is etched into all our memories, in France and abroad.

However, above and beyond all these forays and struggles, there is the aspect which Bernard-Henri Lévy emphasised when nominating you for the Prize: *“It would be understating the case to say that her whole life and all her ideas have contributed to the defence and elevation of human rights worldwide. Ms Simon Veil’s name is synonymous, genuinely synonymous, with human rights. Moreover, her attachment to safeguarding the memory of the victims of the Hitlerian crimes makes her one of the most effective fighters against a contemporary illness known as ‘the comprehension between victims’”*.

Madam, in awarding you the Council of Europe North-South Prize we are honouring a woman who, throughout her life, has clearly illustrated the primordial status of respect for human rights. You have experienced barbaric, Kafkaesque conditions. But you refused the inevitability of fate. You managed to find within yourself the strength to live and remain standing. Your life has become a symbol of courage. You are the President of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah”, which you instigated so that we would never forget the unspeakable, the abominable, the intolerable.

Kofi Annan: to be the Secretary General of the United Nations is to stand at the crossroads of all the difficulties, turbulences and conflicts of the world. His task is to cut the Gordian knot.

Let me just mention something in connection with my own country, Switzerland, which demonstrates that your achievements have not only been acknowledged by statesmen and politicians but also been fully recognised by ordinary people. As we all know, Switzerland votes all the time on everything. Before the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Swiss rejected membership of the United Nations by a majority of 75%. The world was bipolar at the time.

After 1989, the same question was again put to the Swiss people. You yourself took part in the pre-referendum campaign in Switzerland. You explained that the world had changed. You convinced us. However, I must tell you today that I am convinced that this clear vote in favour of accession to the General Assembly to the United Nations was obtained because by your action you personally demonstrated the need for this political Organisation and therefore the need for Switzerland to become a full UN member.

**ΣΙΜΟΝΕ ΒΕΪΛ,
ΚΟΦΙ ΑΠΠΑΠ,**

The Council of Europe North-South Centre hereby awards this Prize as a token of our appreciation, based on principle, reason and emotion, and in homage to your work, which calls us to shared responsibility and reminds us that humanity is accountable to humanity.

ΤΗΝΑΡΚΥΟΥ.



CLAUDE FREY

PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF DU CENTRE NORD-SUD
DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE,
MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE,
MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE D'ÉTAT,
MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE,
MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE,
MADAME LA LAURÉATE,
MONSIEUR LE LAURÉAT,
MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS LES AMBASSADEURS,
MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS LES INVITÉS,



EN TOUT PREMIER LIEU, au nom du Conseil exécutif du Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe, nous voulons exprimer notre gratitude à Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée de la République du Portugal, M. Jaime Gama, qui nous offre une nouvelle fois l'hospitalité, dans cette salle prestigieuse, pour la remise du prix Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe.

Monsieur le Président de la République du Portugal, M. Cavaco Silva, a accepté de rehausser par sa présence notre cérémonie. C'est un acte fort qui rappelle, M. le Président de la République, votre indéfectible attachement à la protection des droits de l'Homme partout et pour tous.

Votre présence manifeste aussi la longue fidélité et estime que vous portez au Conseil de l'Europe en général et au Centre Nord-Sud en particulier. Nous

n'oublions pas que le Centre Nord-Sud a ouvert ses portes à Lisbonne en 1990 grâce à votre actif soutien; vous étiez alors Premier Ministre.

MESDAMES, MESSIEURS;

Le prix Nord-Sud est attribué, chaque année, à deux candidats qui se sont illustrés par leur engagement dans la promotion des droits de l'Homme, dans la défense de la démocratie pluraliste, ainsi que dans la coopération Nord-Sud et dans la solidarité mondiale.

Mesdames et Messieurs, le respect de ces valeurs est aujourd'hui plus que jamais fondamental si nous voulons que notre planète soit autre chose qu'un camp clos de rivalités économiques et de conflits.

Bien évidemment nous sommes conscients, quand nous parlons de droits de l'Homme, de la complexité de la problématique de cette notion confrontée à la réalité de l'interculturalité. Bien évidemment nous sommes conscients qu'il nous faut ouvrir nos approches du droit et des droits de l'Homme à l'altérité et au pluralisme en fécondant nos approches par les apports des autres traditions humaines.

Cependant, nous sommes aussi convaincus que seul le respect de ces droits, partout, peut nous fournir les outils nécessaires pour relever les défis de notre siècle. Seule l'affirmation volontaire des droits de l'Homme partout et pour tous peut nous aider à construire, au-delà des rives du Nord et du Sud, un avenir commun, porteur de toute la diversité du monde et des droits de chacun à la dignité.

Madame Simone Veil vous êtes tout à la fois l'incarnation et un symbole de ce credo. A la sortie d'Auschwitz-Birkenau, vous avez connu "... les regards

fuyants qui nous rendent transparents”. Et comme vous l'écrivez dans ce livre —témoignage extraordinaire qu'est *Une Vie*, "...Sans doute, à cause de ce que j'avais subi en déportation, j'ai toujours développé une sensibilité extrême à tout ce qui, dans les rapports humains, génère humiliation et abaissement de l'autre". Et c'est à cette vertu que nous voulons aujourd'hui tout particulièrement rendre hommage.

En effet, tout le monde connaît votre parcours, Madame, en tant que Ministre d'Etat du Gouvernement français, en tant que Présidente du Parlement Européen et membre du Conseil Constitutionnel. Votre combat, largement médiatisé sur l'adoption de la loi sur l'interruption volontaire de la grossesse en 1974 est resté dans toutes les mémoires, en France et à l'étranger.

Mais, au-delà, et au-dessus de tous ces charges et de tous ces combats, il y a ce que Bernard-Henri Lévy relevait, en présentant votre candidature: “C'est peu de dire que toute sa vie, et toute sa pensée, ont contribué à la défense et à l'illustration des droits de l'Homme à travers le monde. Le nom de Madame Simone Veil est synonyme, véritablement synonyme, des droits de l'Homme. De surcroît, son attachement à sauver la mémoire des victimes des crimes du hitlérisme en fait l'une des combattantes les plus efficaces contre cette maladie contemporaine qui s'appelle la concurrence des victimes.”

Madame, en vous décernant le Prix Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe, nous avons voulu honorer une femme qui, dans toute sa vie, a démontré, par l'exemple, que le respect des droits de l'Homme est une exigence de principe. Vous avez vécu Kafka et vous avez traversé la barbarie. Vous avez refusé la fatalité du destin. Vous avez su trouver au fond de vous-même la force de vivre et de rester debout. Votre vie est devenue symbole de courage. Vous avez fondé et vous présidez la “Fondation pour la mémoire de la Shoah”.

Pour que l'on n'oublie jamais l'indicible, l'innommable, l'insupportable.

M. Kofi Annan: être Secrétaire Général des Nations-Unies c'est se situer au point de rencontres de toutes les difficultés, de toutes les turbulences, de tous les conflits du monde. Et il faut trancher le nœud gordien.

Permettez-moi d'évoquer un fait qui touche mon pays, la Suisse, et qui démontre que non seulement les Hommes d'Etat, les responsables politiques ont reconnu votre action mais aussi que la population l'a appréciée à sa juste valeur. La Suisse, on le sait, vote sur tout et tout le temps. L'adhésion à l'organisation politique des Nations-Unies avait été refusée à 75% avant la chute du mur de Berlin. Le monde était bipolaire.

Après 1989, la question a été reposée au peuple suisse. Vous vous êtes engagé, en Suisse, dans la campagne qui a précédé la votation. Vous avez expliqué que le monde avait changé. Vous avez convaincu. Mais je vous dis aujourd'hui ma conviction que ce vote clair en faveur de l'adhésion à l'Assemblée Générale des Nations-Unies a été obtenu parce que, par votre action, vous avez personnellement montré l'utilité de l'Organisation politique et donc la nécessité pour la Suisse d'y adhérer pleinement.

**MADAME SIMONE VEIL,
MONSIEUR KOFI ANNAH,**

Le Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe vous décerne ce prix en hommage et en signe de notre adhésion de principe, de raison et de cœur à votre action qui nous appelle à une responsabilité partagée, qui nous rappelle que l'humanité est comptable de l'humanité.

JE VOUS REMERCIE.

MESSAGE FROM
JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO,
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



I AM SINCERELY sorry to be unable to attend the award ceremony for the North-South Centre Prize in a city which is, as you may imagine, so dear to my heart. However, I wanted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Kofi Annan and Simone Veil on obtaining this award. In Simone Veil I pay tribute to a great European, who was the first President of the first European Parliament elected by universal suffrage.

I nominated Kofi Annan for the North-South Prize, and I would like to briefly explain why.

First and foremost, I consider Kofi Annan as an example for all politicians worldwide.

I am glad he has been given this award because his career is a perfect reflection of the aims of the North-South Prize. Born in Ghana, he went on to become the leader of the largest international institution in New York, working untiringly in fields that are essential for world peace and stability. It is impossible to imagine any better example of positive interaction between what is known as North and South.

I think we must also dwell on the efforts expended by Kofi Annan to bring peace and stability to troubled regions from the Middle East to Sudan, through former Yugoslavia and East Timor. The international community has

acknowledged the immense value of these efforts, which have quite rightly been rewarded with a Nobel Prize.

Lastly, Kofi Annan has also tackled a number of vital issues such as defending human rights, combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic and promoting an equitable multilateral order based on rules, sustainable development and fairer globalisation.

All these issues and values which Kofi Annan has promoted and defended with talent and conviction are now an integral part of the roadmaps drawn by the international community for the 21st century. His Millennium Development Goals are just one example. As you know, I am encouraging the European Union to work very actively in all these fields.

I would like to conclude with a direct message addressed to Kofi Annan: your example will remain an incomparable source of inspiration for me and, I am sure, for millions of the world's citizens. You really deserve this Prize!

ΤΗΑΠΚΥΟΥ.

MESSAGE ADRESSÉ PAR
JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO,
PRÉSIDENT DE LA COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE



JE SUIS SINCÈREMENT désolé de ne pas pouvoir assister à la cérémonie de remise du prix du Centre Nord-Sud, dans une ville que vous imaginez chère à mon cœur. Mais je tenais à féliciter chaleureusement Kofi Annan et Simone Veil pour avoir obtenu cette distinction. Je salue en Simone Veil une grande Européenne et la première présidente du premier Parlement européen élu au suffrage universel.

J'ai proposé le nom de Kofi Annan pour l'attribution du prix Nord-Sud et je voudrais en quelques mots vous en expliquer les raisons.

D'abord et avant tout, je considère Kofi Annan comme un exemple pour tous les responsables politiques dans le monde.

Je suis heureux qu'il soit distingué, parce que sa carrière traduit parfaitement les objectifs du prix Nord-Sud. Né au Ghana, il a été amené à diriger la plus grande institution internationale, à New York, en travaillant sans relâche dans des domaines fondamentaux pour la paix et la stabilité du monde. On ne peut pas imaginer meilleur exemple d'interaction fructueuse entre ce qu'il est convenu d'appeler le Nord et le Sud.

Ensuite, je crois qu'il faut redire les efforts que Kofi Annan a déployés pour amener la paix et la stabilité dans des régions troublées, du Moyen-Orient au Soudan, en passant par l'ex-Yougoslavie et Timor-Leste. La communauté in-

ternationale a reconnu l'immense mérite de ces efforts, qui ont à juste titre été récompensés par un prix Nobel.

Enfin, Kofi Annan s'est aussi attaqué à des questions essentielles: la défense des droits de l'homme, la lutte contre l'épidémie de VIH/sida, la promotion d'un ordre multilatéral équitable et fondé sur des règles, le développement durable et une mondialisation plus juste.

Toutes ces questions, toutes ces valeurs que Kofi Annan a portées et défendues avec talent et conviction font aujourd'hui partie intégrante des feuilles de route que la communauté internationale s'est données pour le 21^e siècle. Les objectifs du millénaire pour le développement, dont Kofi Annan a pris l'initiative, n'en sont qu'un exemple. Comme vous le savez, j'encourage l'Union européenne à se montrer très active dans ces domaines.

Je voudrais conclure par un message directement adressé à Kofi Annan: votre exemple restera, pour moi et, j'en suis certain, pour des millions de citoyens du monde, une source d'inspiration incomparable. Ce prix est largement mérité!

MERCI.



JOÃO BOSCO MOTA AMARAL,

CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO THE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

MR PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,
MR SPEAKER OF THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT,
MR PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
MR SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
MR CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
DISTINGUISHED PRIZE WINNERS, MS SIMONE VEIL AND MR KOFI ANNAN,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.



THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENTARY Delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe always follows the North-South Centre initiatives with great interest.

The North-South Centre, with its mission of fostering much-needed contact and dialogue between the two halves of the world, is the result of a successful initiative on the part of Portugal.

The prize, which is awarded every year to two personalities, from each side of the planet, clearly expresses the centre's goal.

As an example, I would like to point out the winners' commitment to promoting human rights, which is the focal point for collective efforts towards development and peace.

In this year's edition, the winners are prominent figures, who are recognised worldwide in their respective fields of activity. And they have inspired the presence at this ceremony of the highest authorities in the country, the President of Portugal and the Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, to whom I express my respect, and leading figures from the Council of Europe, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Secretary-General, to whom I extend a friendly welcome.

It is a particular pleasure to me to evoke the intellectual and political career of Madame Simone Veil, former President of the European Parliament, to whom I extend a warm greeting.

On behalf of the members of the Portuguese Parliament, I would also like to welcome the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

They are both deservedly famous. They require no introductions and further praise would be superfluous.

Simone Veil and Kofi Annan honour the prize that they are receiving today with their names.

The Portuguese parliamentarians of the Council of Europe can only rejoice at the increased visibility that the North-South Centre is achieving and congratulate its President, Monsieur Frey, our former colleague at the Strasbourg Assembly.

Human rights are an ideal that must mobilise the whole world.

The Council of Europe occupies an important place in the preparation and dissemination of human rights doctrine.

Born from the great emotional and civic shock caused by the horrors of the Second World War, the Council of Europe's goal is to disseminate the conquests achieved in our continent all over the world.

Madame Veil and Mr. Annan are qualified militants in the fight for human rights and need no encouragement to continue this purpose.

The Portuguese parliamentarians of the Council of Europe are proud to be in the company of such illustrious personalities, whom they would like to congratulate on the just reward that they are receiving today in the former Senate of the Portuguese Parliament.



JOÃO BOSCO MOÇA AMARAL,

PRESIDENTE EM EXERCÍCIO DA DELEGAÇÃO PORTUGUESA À
ASSEMBLEIA PARLAMENTAR DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA,

SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA REPÚBLICA,
SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA,
SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA PARLAMENTAR DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA,
SENHOR SECRETÁRIO-GERAL DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA,
SENHOR PRESIDENTE DO CENTRO NORTE-SUL DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA,
ILUSTRES HOMENAGEADOS, SENHORA SIMONE VEIL E SENHOR KOFI ANNAN,
ALTAS ENTIDADES PRESENTES,
MINHAS SENHORAS E
MEUS SENHORES:



A DELEGAÇÃO DA ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA na Assembleia Parlamentar do Conselho da Europa acompanha, sempre com o maior interesse, as iniciativas do Centro Norte-Sul.

Vocacionado para promover a aproximação e o diálogo, tão necessários, entre as duas metades do Mundo, o Centro Norte-Sul resulta, aliás, de uma iniciativa, bem sucedida, de Portugal.

O Prémio anualmente atribuído a duas personalidades de cada um dos lados do planeta exprime bem o compromisso institucional do Centro.

Destaca-se, como exemplar, o empenho dos galardoados na promoção dos direitos humanos, que é o ponto focal para onde devem convergir os esforços colectivos de desenvolvimento e de paz.

Na edição deste ano, os homenageados são figuras de primeiro plano, mundialmente reconhecidos nos respectivos campos de actividade e concitam a presença nesta cerimónia dos mais altos responsáveis do Estado Português — o Senhor Presidente da República e o Senhor Presidente da Assembleia da República, a quem saúdo respeitosamente — bem como do Conselho da Europa — o Senhor Presidente da Assembleia Parlamentar e o Senhor Secretário-Geral — a quem dirijo amistosas saudações.

É-me especialmente grato evocar o percurso intelectual e político de Madame Simone Veil, antiga Presidente do Parlamento Europeu, a quem cumprimento com muito apreço.

Cumprimento também cordialmente, em nome dos parlamentares portugueses, o anterior Secretário-Geral da Organização das Nações Unidas, Kofi Annan.

Uma e outro são tão justificadamente famosos, que dispensam apresentação e tornam supérfluos quaisquer elogios.

Simone Veil e Kofi Annan ilustram com os seus nomes o Prémio que hoje recebem.

E os parlamentares portugueses do Conselho da Europa só podem regozijar-se pelo reforço de visibilidade que assim alcança o Centro Norte-Sul, felicitando o respectivo Presidente, M. Frey, nosso antigo colega na Assembleia de Estrasburgo.

Os Direitos Humanos constituem um ideal que tem de mobilizar o mundo inteiro.

Na elaboração e difusão da doutrina dos Direitos Humanos, o Conselho da Europa ocupa um lugar de destaque.

Nascido do grande sobressalto emocional e cívico causado pelos horrores da II Guerra Mundial, o Conselho da Europa aspira a difundir por toda a parte as conquistas nesse âmbito alcançadas no nosso Continente.

Madame Simone Veil e Mr. Kofi Annan são militantes credenciados dos direitos humanos e não carecem de estímulos para manter bem alto tal propósito.

Os parlamentares portugueses do Conselho da Europa orgulham-se de estar nas mesmas fileiras, ao lado de tão augustas personalidades, a quem felicitam pelo justo galardão que hoje recebem na velha Sala do Senado, no Parlamento de Portugal.

LLUÍS MARIA DE PUIG

PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY to celebrate the presentation of an unusually named award, the North-South Prize.

North and South, like East and West, is an unfortunate man-made distinction. In a natural and just world like the one of which we all dream, North and South would be mere geographical concepts. And the only dividing line between the two would be the Equator, rather than that of wealth and poverty or indifference and despair.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, on whose behalf I am speaking this evening, has, precisely, managed to blur the division between East and West by bringing in under its roof, on an equal footing, all the countries of Europe with the sole exception of Belarus.

As direct representatives of the peoples who have elected us, we quickly realised that what unites us – our shared values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – goes far beyond any political dividing lines and national, cultural, religious and ethnic specificities.

What of the North-South division? Fortunately, the world is increasingly realising that it is just like any other globe in space: that it can only exist if both its halves are in perfect equilibrium.

Unfortunately, the main reason why this realisation is increasing is because

of the global problems we are all facing: global warming, terrorism, armed conflicts and insecurity triggering mass refugee movements, demographic imbalance, pandemics such as AIDS, etc.

We have no ready response to all these challenges, but we do have a number of keys to some doors. The first key consists of the words which are quintessential to the North-South Centre, namely interdependence and solidarity. In a global world we can no longer brush events aside, claiming they are someone else's business. Nor can we any longer impose solutions without dialogue, consultation and mutual assistance.

However, our greatest asset lies in the major world figures, with their global vision and action. These people are capable of overcoming even the deepest rifts and moving even the most difficult causes forward, thanks to their deep, unflinching attachment to human rights and the dignity of each and every human being.

I shall not repeat what has already been said by previous speakers on the extraordinary careers and exceptional qualities of our two Prize-winners, Simone Veil and Kofi Annan.

However, since the Parliamentary Assembly could be said to represent the "voice of Europe and Europeans", I would like to stress how consistent your action is with the efforts of the Assembly and how conducive your universal stature is to amplifying this voice, not only in Europe but also throughout the world.

Simone Veil, our organisation is the European reference in the field of democracy and human rights, which you ardently defended throughout your judicial and political career. The memory of history and cultural co-operation, to

which you have devoted enormous energy, relying among other things on your personal experience of the Holocaust, are vital factors in helping us build a shared European future.

In pursuit of our goals we endeavour to co-operate as closely as possible with the European Parliament, of which you are a past President, in order to prevent duplication and reinforce the effectiveness of the European institutions for the benefit of our citizens.

We are advancing the cause of women's rights for which you have always fought. One illustration is the fact that in ten days' time, during the Parliamentary Assembly's April part-session, we will be holding a major debate on "access to safe and legal abortion in Europe", an *acquis* which is available to Frenchwomen thanks to your work.

Kofi Annan, the Parliamentary Assembly greatly appreciated your reform of the United Nations. It supported the reinforcement of the Organisation's parliamentary dimension geared to making the whole UN system more transparent, legitimate and answerable to its member States as well as the general public.

Like you, we would argue that if we are to overcome poverty, insecurity and disease we must begin with respect for human rights and for the dignity of each person, without distinction of race, ethnic origin or religion. Social cohesion, to which you have devoted so much energy, is one of the Council's main concerns.

The Prize which we shall be presenting to you this evening is a modest way of thanking you and a forceful way of telling you how much we need you and others like you for our future progress.

LLUÍS MARIA DE PUIG

PRÉSIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS,



POUS SOMMES RASSEMBLÉS AUJOURD'HUI pour célébrer la remise d'un prix d'un nom peu ordinaire – Nord-Sud.

Le Nord-Sud, tout comme le Est-Ouest, est malheureusement une distinction créée par l'homme. Dans un monde naturel et juste, tel celui dont nous rêvons, le Nord et le Sud ne devraient être que des notions de géographie. Et la seule ligne de partage entre les deux ne devrait être que celle de l'Equateur, non pas celle de la richesse et de la pauvreté ou celle de l'indifférence et du désespoir.

L'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe, au nom de laquelle j'interviens ce soir, a réussi justement à estomper cette division entre l'Est et le Ouest, en rassemblant sous son toit, sur un pied d'égalité, tous les pays de l'Europe, avec la seule exception du Bélarus.

En tant que représentants directs des peuples qui nous ont élus, nous nous sommes vite rendus compte que ce qui nous unit – nos valeurs communes de démocratie, droits de l'homme et prééminence du droit – va largement au delà des clivages politiques et des particularités nationales, culturelles, religieuses et ethniques.

Qu'en est-il de la division Nord-Sud ? Heureusement, le monde prend de plus en plus conscience qu'il est comme n'importe quel autre globe dans l'univers : il ne peut exister que si ses deux moitiés sont en parfait équilibre.

Malheureusement, cette prise de conscience croit surtout à cause des problèmes globaux dont nous souffrons de plus en plus ensemble : le réchauffe-

ment climatique, le terrorisme, les conflits armés et la précarité qui engendrent des flux massifs de réfugiés ; les déséquilibres démographiques ; les pandémies comme le SIDA, etc.

Nous n'avons pas une réponse toute faite à tous ces défis, mais nous avons quelques clés pour ouvrir des portes. La première, ce sont ces mots qui sont l'essence même du Centre Nord-Sud, l'interdépendance et la solidarité. Dans un monde global, on ne peut plus ignorer ce qui se passe en disant que c'est l'affaire des autres. Et on ne peut plus imposer des solutions, sans dialogue, concertation et entre-aide.

Mais le plus grand atout dont nous disposons, ce sont ces grandes personnalités dont la vision et l'action sont à l'échelle globale. Elles sont à même de surmonter même les clivages les plus profonds et de faire avancer même les causes les plus difficiles, grâce à leur attachement profond et sans faille aux droits de l'homme et à la dignité de toute personne humaine.

Je ne répéterai pas tout ce qui a déjà été dit par les orateurs précédents sur le parcours extraordinaire et les qualités exceptionnelles de nos deux lauréats, Madame Simone Veil et Monsieur Kofi Annan.

Mais puisque l'Assemblée parlementaire représente en quelque sorte « la voix des Européens », je tiens à souligner à quel point votre action est en harmonie avec elle et à quel point votre stature universelle est susceptible d'amplifier cette voix, non seulement en Europe mais aussi partout dans le monde.

Madame Veil, notre organisation est la référence européenne en matière de démocratie et de droits de l'homme, que vous avez ardemment défendus pendant toute votre carrière de magistrat et de femme politique. La mémoire de l'histoire et la coopération culturelle, auxquelles vous vous êtes consacrée

aussi de part votre expérience personnelle de la Shoah, sont pour nous des éléments essentiels pour construire un avenir européen commun.

Dans la poursuite de nos objectifs, nous nous efforçons de coopérer aussi étroitement que possible avec le Parlement européen, que vous avez présidé, pour éviter les doubles emplois et pour renforcer l'efficacité des institutions européennes au bénéfice de nos citoyens.

Nous avançons la cause des droits de la femme pour lesquels vous avez toujours lutté. A titre d'illustration, dans dix jours, pendant la partie de session d'avril de notre Assemblée parlementaire, nous consacrerons un grand débat à l'« accès à un avortement sans risque et légal en Europe » - un acquis que les femmes françaises ont grâce à vous.

Monsieur Annan, l'Assemblée parlementaire a hautement apprécié la réforme des Nations Unies que vous avez engagée. Elle s'est prononcée en faveur d'un renforcement de la dimension parlementaire de l'organisation, pour rendre l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies plus transparent, légitime et responsable, devant ses Etats membres mais aussi devant l'opinion publique en général.

Comme vous, nous défendons l'idée que pour vaincre la pauvreté, la précarité et les maladies, il faut commencer par le respect des droits humains et la dignité de chaque personne, sans distinction de race, d'ethnie ou de religion. La cohésion sociale, à laquelle vous avez consacré autant de votre énergie, constitue l'une des préoccupations majeures de notre organisation.

Le prix que nous vous remettons ce soir est une façon modeste de vous dire merci et une façon forte de vous dire à quel point nous avons besoin de vous, et de personnes comme vous, pour avancer.

TERRY DAVIS

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

YOUR EXCELLENCY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WEBSITE explains that the North South Prize of the Council of Europe has been awarded every year since 1995 by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe to two candidates who have demonstrated strong and visible commitment, outstanding achievement and clear hope for the future about the protection of human rights. The list of recipients of the Prize in previous years is indeed very prestigious.

As usual, this year's laureates come from the Northern and Southern hemisphere respectively.

However I must admit that I have always had a slight problem with the notion that a candidate for the Prize is associated with only one of the two hemispheres.

The fact is that the 26 exceptional personalities who have received – or are about to receive – the North South Prize have all been guided by ideas and principles which are universal, and that applies regardless of whether they were or continue to be active at a local, national, continental or global level. In other words, their compass is ethical, not geographical, and it results from their values - not the magnetic field of the Earth.

But it is also true that the world is riddled with economic, social and political divides. As long as they exist, these divides will represent a liability for the welfare of the world as a whole, and not only for its less fortunate half. Social and economic divides give birth to resentment and intolerance, and these can be exploited by bigots and extremists of all geographical origins and ideological provenance.

People like Simone Veil and Kofi Annan have worked all their lives against such divisions, and against all forms of extremism, racism and intolerance. They have worked all their lives for more justice and more humanity in world affairs. They have worked all their lives for a world in which North and South will become a matter of geography - not a matter of fate. That is why they are here today, and that is why we are immensely grateful to them both.

We are indeed paying tribute to two exceptional personalities.

Simone Veil was deported during the Second World War, and she survived the horror of the camps. She was the main political personality behind the liberalisation of abortion in France, and she was the first President of the directly elected European Parliament. Mrs Veil also founded and chaired the Foundation for the memory of the Shoah.

Kofi Annan is a former Secretary General of the United Nations and a winner of the Nobel Prize. He initiated the reform of the UN system with the twin

objectives of more transparency and more democracy, and he launched the Millennium goals. As we have seen in recent weeks, he continues to be a man of peace - mediating in complicated and devastating conflicts.

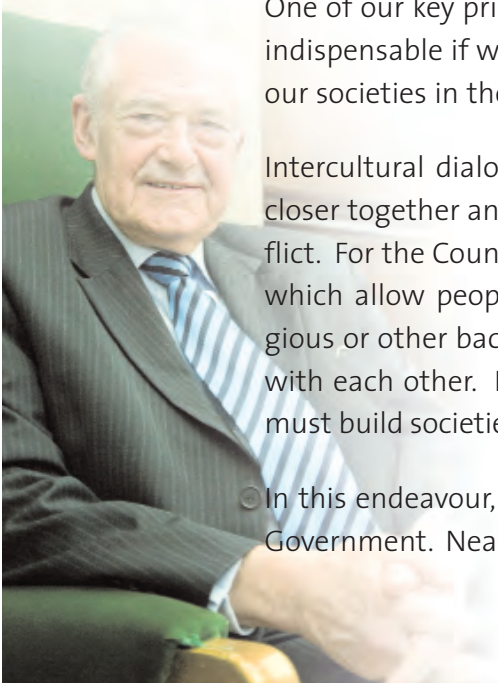
The award which Simone Veil and Kofi Annan will receive today is a recognition of their contribution to dialogue between people from different countries and different parts of the world, a dialogue based on respect for human rights and a commitment to democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

This is also the central objective of not only the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, based here in Lisbon, but also the Council of Europe as a whole.

One of our key priorities is the promotion of intercultural dialogue, which is indispensable if we want to counter the threats and exploit the potential of our societies in the 21st century.

Intercultural dialogue is important because it brings peoples and cultures closer together and reduces the risks of misunderstanding, tension and conflict. For the Council of Europe, the ultimate objective is to create conditions which allow people from different cultures and with different ethnic, religious or other backgrounds not only to live alongside each other, but to live with each other. Intolerance is bad, but tolerance is not good enough. We must build societies in which people not only tolerate, but respect each other.

- In this endeavour, we have always had strong support from the Portuguese Government. Nearly two decades ago, their contribution was vital in the cre-



ation of the North South Centre. For those who may not know, the Prime Minister at the time was H.E. Mr Cavaco Silva, now President of the Republic of Portugal.

And in 2005, under the Portuguese Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe adopted the “Faro Declaration” on the Council of Europe Strategy for Developing Intercultural Dialogue.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Portuguese Parliament for its continuous support for the North South Prize ceremony and for the other events organised by the North South Centre.

But my final words are again for our two laureates. They are persons of great moral authority, and moral authority, as Mahatma Gandhi said, is never retained by any attempt to hold on to it. It comes without seeking, and it is retained without effort. That is why people like Simone Veil and Kofi Annan are so important, and why they are so valuable.



SIMONE VEIL

FOUNDER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE
“FOUNDATION POUR LA MÉMOIRE DE LA SHOAH”



I GREET THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, the President of the Assembly of the Republic, the President of the European Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the President of the North-South Centre’s Executive Council, and the parliamentarians present. Good evening to you all.

In receiving the North-South Prize, which you have awarded to me jointly with Mr Kofi Annan, I cannot hide from you the emotion that I feel.

As I express my gratitude, my thoughts turn to the far-reaching development of North-South dialogue as we have lived with it for some twenty years. I have known a time, during my presidency of the European Parliament, when North-South dialogue was a major and priority concern for our institution. Through the Lomé agreements and the missions to investigate the offences committed against human rights in various places, for example in countries such as Chile and Argentina, the North had a very watchful relationship with the South.

When the Berlin Wall came down almost twenty years ago, things changed greatly for the better as well as for the worse. They changed for the better to the extent that democracy, alas not everywhere but in many countries, has made significant progress which is to be welcomed. They changed for the worse because Europe, with the removal of the Soviet straitjacket imposed behind the Iron Curtain since Yalta, assigned a new level of priority to this recovered part of itself in its efforts to deliver aid.

At the same time, anyone can plainly see that the substance of human rights has itself evolved and henceforth extends to goals as recent as bioethical research.

That is what I wished to say, in a few words, on the occasion of this ceremony, assuring you again of all the personal attention which I pay to the activities of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, which has an enormous and uplifting task before it.

SIMONE VEIL

FONDATEURICE ET ANCIENNE PRÉSIDENTE DE LA
“FOUNDAȚION POUȚ LA MĂMOIRE DE LA SHOAH”

MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE,
MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE,
MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE,
MONSIEUR LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT DU CENTRE NORD-SUD,
MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS LES PARLEMENTAIRES,

BONSOIR À VOUS TOUS



ΕΠ ΡΕΧΕΥΑΠΤ̃ ΛΕ ΠΡΙΧ ΝΟΡΔ-ΣΥΔ, que vous m'avez décerné conjointement avec M. Kofi Annan, je ne saurais vous dissimuler l'émotion qui est la mienne.

En vous en exprimant ma gratitude, ma pensée va vers l'évolution profonde du dialogue Nord-Sud, telle que nous la vivons depuis une vingtaine d'années. J'ai connu l'époque, au temps où je présidais le Parlement Européen, où le dialogue Nord-Sud était, pour notre Institution, une préoccupation majeure et prioritaire. A travers les accords de Lomé, à travers les missions d'enquête sur les infractions commises ici ou là, par exemple dans des pays comme le Chili ou l'Argentine, aux droits de la personne humaine, le Nord vivait avec le Sud une relation très attentive.

Avec la chute du Mur de Berlin, voici bientôt vingt ans, les choses ont beaucoup changé, pour le meilleur comme pour le pire. Pour le meilleur, dans la

mesure où la démocratie a fait, hélas pas partout, mais dans nombre de pays, des progrès significatifs, dont il convient de se réjouir. Pour le pire, parce que l'Europe, avec la levée du carcan soviétique qui avait pesé depuis Yalta derrière le rideau de fer, a consacré une nouvelle priorité, dans ses efforts d'aide, à cette partie retrouvée d'elle-même.

En même temps, chacun voit bien que le contenu des droits de la personne humaine a lui-même évolué et s'étend désormais à des objectifs aussi récents que la recherche bioéthique.

Voilà ce que je tenais à dire, en quelques mots, à l'occasion de cette cérémonie, en vous réitérant l'assurance de toute l'attention personnelle que je porte aux activités du Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe, qui a devant lui une tâche immense et exaltante.





Κοφι Άνναν

FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

MR. ANIBAL CAVACO SILVA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

MR. JAIME GAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL

MR. TERRY DAVIS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

MR. LUIS MARIS DE PUIG,

PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CLAUDE FREY,

SIMONE VEIL,



IT'S A GREAT HONOUR for me to be here today receiving this award together with Simone Veil, a woman whom I have admired for a long time for her moral courage and long devoted public service.

This award recognizes the interdependent world we all share and live in today. It promotes the values of solidarity, reconciliation and mutual respect over exclusion and mistrust.

In an era of interdependence, problems cannot be neatly contained within national borders.

If some of us are poor, we are all the poorer. And if some countries are unstable, we are less secure.

All of us are confronted by new threats which could not have been foreseen when the United Nations was created in 1945.

The High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change identified these clearly as being:

1. War between States;
2. Violence within States, including civil wars, large scale human rights abuses and genocide;
3. Poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation;
4. Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons;
5. Terrorism and
6. Transnational organized crime.

Even a cursory review of these threats should make it patently clear that no one country, however powerful, can deal with these threats alone.

In this globalised world, a threat to one is a threat to all.

A terrorist attack in an industrial country can have an impact well beyond its borders, with devastating consequences for the well-being on millions in the developing world.

Anyone of 800 million international airline passengers every day can be an unwitting carrier of deadly disease, (Avian flu).

And the erosion of State capacity anywhere in the world weakens the protection of every State against transnational threats, such as terrorism and organized crime. If States are to be secure, international co-operation is a must.

I therefore applaud your efforts to hold the North and South together. After all we are in the same boat. And solutions to these problems will only come if we work together – across borders, across boundaries of race, religion, language and culture.

The tendency to divide humanity into mutually exclusive groups or categories must be overcome.

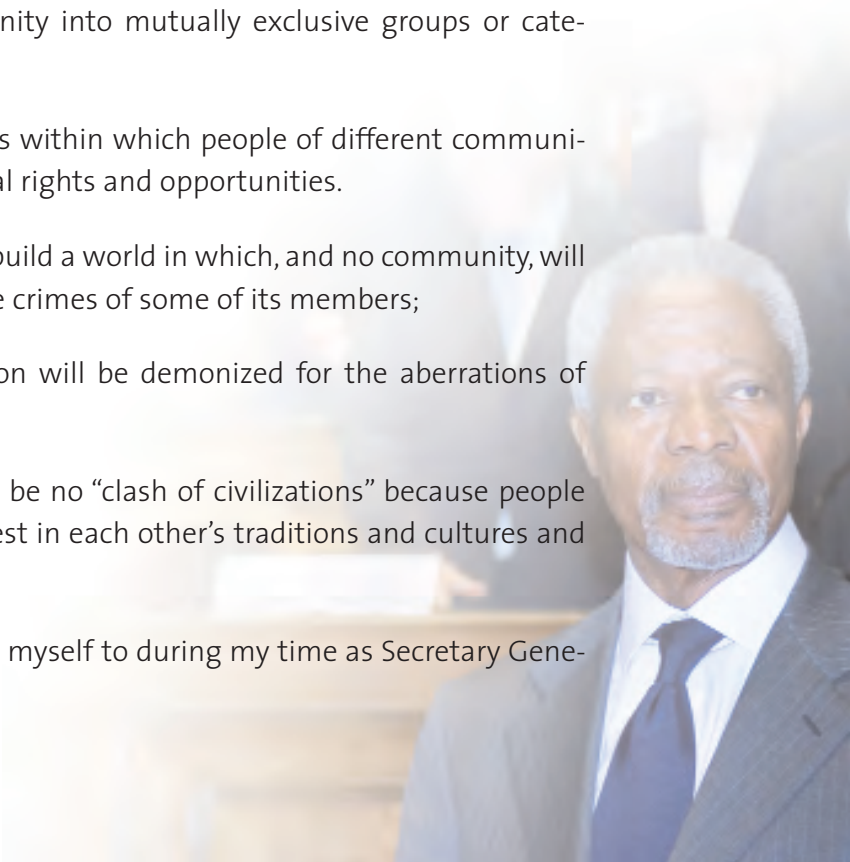
We must work to build nations within which people of different communities can coexist and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

As important is our resolve to build a world in which, and no community, will be punished collectively for the crimes of some of its members;

A world in which no religion will be demonized for the aberrations of some of its adherents;

A world in which there will be no “clash of civilizations” because people will strive to discover the best in each other’s traditions and cultures and to learn from it.

These were all issues I devoted myself to during my time as Secretary General of the United Nations.



After I stepped down, I have devoted my time and efforts to a few of them but with an impact far beyond their definitions, these are climate change and the green revolution in Africa. Climate change is an all encompassing threat. Threat to security, health, economic well-being and social stability. Its impact on our lives is all too evident.

Rising temperatures change weather patterns, bring more floods, extreme storms, and severe droughts. Lives are taken away, people go hungry, and homes are destroyed. As warming intensifies, many more people will be hurt or affected. Little has been done to lessen its impact on the most vulnerable, including those already struggling to survive.

The Global Humanitarian Forum's first annual meeting will expose the human face of the climate challenge. The meeting will take place in Geneva this June and bring together leading experts from diverse fields. They will be the foundation of new and creative partnerships for action. Feeding the majority of the poor and vulnerable populations in Africa, and moving beyond subsistence to prosperity, while preserving the natural re-source base and the environment, is one of our most pressing development challenges.

An estimated 200 million people-one third of Africa's population – go hungry every day. They wrestle with it when the rains fail and crops wither in the field, when a shipment of food aid is riddled with weevils and when depleted soils yield pitiful crops.

African farmers work against the odds, as poverty and hunger deprive them of health, and competition for scarce resources heightens risks of violence

and instability. Africa is the only region in the world where per capita food production has been declining for the past three decades. Cereal yields remain at one-quarter of the global average. Compounding this situation has been the rapid rise in global food prices.

To meet this challenge we must work with the continent's small holder farmers to rapidly and sustainably increase food production. This is the goal of AGRA, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, whose board I chair. We aim to encourage a dramatic change in agricultural productivity to prevent the numbers of hungry and poor from surging. With such change, Africa can meet the Millennium Development Goals of ending poverty and hunger, improving health and child mortality, and sustaining the environment.

And that is why I am also the Chairman of the Africa Progress Panel, which has as its mission to facilitate the North-South dialogue and ensure that the North lives up to its commitments on development assistance, and the South honours its responsibilities for better governance.

As I have said in the past, the only promises that matter are the promises that are kept. And it is here that all those who have committed to Africa's development. Particularly Europe, can do better.

We all have a shared interest in pushing Africa forward and realizing its hidden potential for the benefit of all. The Panel is engaging face-to-face with decision-makers, such as the presidents of the G8, EU and AU. We make sure political leaders know how they are doing in delivering on commitments,

and urge them to face the challenges and ramp up progress to agreed goals. Our focus is to support African governments, build institutions of good governance, enhance peace and security, stimulate growth through investment, job creation and just trade regimes.

We are all bound together as human beings. If we remain indifferent to the suffering of others, we are only depriving ourselves of our own humanity.

We need to act together as humanity for humanity. And now is the time.

ΤΗΑΝΚ ΥΟΥ.

A portrait of António Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red tie. The background is a blurred interior setting.

ANTÓNIO CAVACO SILVA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF
EUROPE,

HONOURABLE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
HONOURABLE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE,

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,
HONOURABLE AMBASSADORS,



I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED to take part in this ceremony for the award of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe, thus associating myself to the decision of paying tribute to the notable contributions of Koffi Annan and Simone Veil on behalf of the defence of Human Rights.

The last few decades were singled out by a growing assertion in the value of the protection of Human Rights, outlined by the awareness of the value of human life, by the disavowal of the violation of the basic rights of Man, and by the search for economic and social policies that respect and promote the dignity of the individual and the welfare of the communities. I want to pay due tribute to the role of Governments and civil societies, as well as International Organizations such as the Council of Europe, who have contributed towards this end throughout the last sixty years.

However, the path already covered must not allow us to forget that the promotion of a fairer and freer society is an objective which continues to demand a persistent and dedicated action from us all.

Inequality, inequity, poverty, and persecution for the most varied reasons, are wrongs which still exist in all the regions of the Globe, and oblige us to strengthen the defence of human rights, freedom and democracy, and that we gather together to build a fairer and more inclusive society, in which people may live in dignity and in peace.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is only fair that we should recognize the valuable contribution of the European Centre for World Interdependence and Solidarity, the North – South Centre, to the knowledge of the current issues of global interdependence and for the promotion of policies based on a closer and more equitable relationship between the North and the South. Twenty years after the Madrid Appeal, which led to setting up, in 1989, the North-South Centre, these concerns continue to be fully relevant, as we are anyway reminded daily by what is happening in the international stage.

In effect, the growing global interdependence obliges us to face challenges which also demand answers agreed at an ever wider level. We are however

well aware that agreed answers will not be easily available if respect for the Other and solidarity towards the less prepared do not underlie them, in order that advantages may be taken from the opportunities provided by globalization.

It is through the assertion and the share of these values that a more balanced and sustainable worldwide standard of development can be forged. The building of fairer and more equitable societies is largely based on this standard. It is an objective that congregates us all and to which we are all called upon to contribute.

The two winners of this year's North-South Prize early understood and accepted their responsibilities. Their actions are an example to all of us and strengthen our hope in a better and fairer world, based on Man's permanent valuation.

The life of Mrs. Simone Veil is a notable instance of the endeavour to promote human rights, particularly those of women, children, the aged and the immigrants. From adversity and suffering, Simone Veil knew how to gather the strength and the conviction required by someone who dedicates their whole life to the public cause, to the defence of a society which is fairer and more attentive to its more fragile members. This continuous and persevering militancy on behalf of human dignity, present in all her actions, is a source of inspiration and deserves our true recognition.

As a Nobel Peace Prize winner and with a life dedicated to the great causes of the United Nations, of which he was a notable Secretary General, Kofi Annan can well be shown as the symbol of a permanent search for peace and for the welfare of Humanity. Allow me to emphasize his role in the fight against AIDS, his inexhaustible endeavours in the definition and pursuit of the Objectives of the Millennium, his capacity for intervening and conciliation, crucial for the resolution of several international conflicts, such as that which recently afflicted Kenya.

In the meetings we held, I myself had the privilege of benefiting from his views, always knowledgeable, clear and intelligent, on the issues which are included in the international agenda of these times.

I end by thanking the North-South Centre for the opportunity it has provided us, with the award of this prize, to distinguish these two great figures of our times and, through them, to outline the greatness of the ideals that guided their lives and the value of their example.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

SECRETÁRIO-GERAL DA ORGANIZAÇÃO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS

SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA DA REPÚBLICA

SENHOR PRESIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA PARLAMENTAR DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA

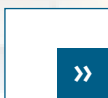
SENHOR SECRETÁRIO-GERAL DO CONSELHO DA EUROPA

SENHOR PRESIDENTE DO CONSELHO EXECUTIVO DO CENTRO NORTE-SUL

SENHORAS E SENHORES DEPUTADOS

SENHORES EMBAIXADORES

MINHAS SENHORAS E MEUS SENHORES



É COM UMA SATISFAÇÃO MUITO ESPECIAL que participo nesta cerimónia de entrega do Prémio Norte-Sul, do Conselho da Europa, associando-me, deste modo, à decisão de homenagear os notáveis contributos de Koffi Annan e de Simone Veil em favor da defesa dos direitos do Homem.

As últimas décadas foram marcadas por uma crescente afirmação do valor da protecção dos Direitos Humanos, configuradas na consciência do valor da vida humana, no repúdio das violações dos mais básicos direitos do Homem, na busca de políticas económicas e sociais que respeitem e promovam a dignidade dos indivíduos e o bem-estar das comunidades. Para tal contribuíram Governos e sociedade civil, mas também Organizações Internacionais, como o Conselho da Europa, a cujo papel, ao longo dos últimos sessenta anos, quero prestar o meu tributo.

No entanto, o caminho percorrido não nos deve fazer esquecer que a promoção de uma sociedade mais justa e mais livre é um desígnio que continua a exigir de todos nós uma acção persistente e empenhada.

A desigualdade, a injustiça, a pobreza e a perseguição pelos mais variados motivos, males que ainda hoje grassam em todas as regiões do Globo, obrigam a que forcemos a defesa dos direitos humanos, da liberdade e da democracia, e a que nos mobilizemos na construção de uma sociedade mais justa e inclusiva, em que todos os cidadãos possam viver de forma digna e em paz.

MÍNHAS SENHORAS E MEUS SENHORES,

É da mais elementar justiça reconhecer o valioso contributo do Centro Europeu para a Interdependência e Solidariedade Mundiais, o Centro Norte – Sul, para o conhecimento dos actuais problemas da interdependência global e para a promoção de políticas assentes num relacionamento mais estreito e solidário entre o Norte e o Sul. Transcorridos vinte anos desde o Apelo de Madrid, que levou à criação, em 1989, do Centro Norte-Sul, estas são preocupações que se mantêm plenamente relevantes, como se encarrega de nos lembrar, a cada dia, a realidade internacional.

De facto, a crescente interdependência global coloca-nos perante desafios que exigem, também eles, respostas concertadas a um nível cada vez mais abrangente. Sabemos bem, no entanto, que respostas concertadas dificilmente serão possíveis se não lhes estiver subjacente o respeito pelo Outro e a solidariedade perante aqueles menos preparados para tirar partido das oportunidades que a globalização proporciona.

É pela afirmação e partilha destes valores que se forja um padrão de desenvolvimento mais equilibrado e sustentável a nível mundial. É nele que assenta, em larga medida, a edificação de sociedades mais justas e mais solidárias. Trata-se de um desígnio que a todos congrega e para o qual todos somos chamados a contribuir.

Os dois laureados do Prémio Norte-Sul deste ano cedo compreenderam e aceitaram as suas responsabilidades. A sua acção constitui um exemplo para todos nós e reforça a nossa esperança num mundo melhor e mais justo, assente na permanente valorização do Homem.

A vida da Senhora Simone Veil é um notável exemplo do empenho na promoção dos direitos humanos, em particular dos direitos da mulher, das crianças, dos idosos e dos imigrantes. Da adversidade e do sofrimento, Simone Veil soube retirar a força e a convicção necessárias a quem dedica uma vida inteira à causa pública, na defesa de uma sociedade mais justa e mais atenta aos seus elementos mais frágeis. Esta contínua e perseverante militância pela dignidade humana, presente em todas as suas acções, constitui fonte de inspiração e merece todo o nosso reconhecimento.

Prémio Nobel da Paz e com uma vida dedicada às grandes causas das Nações Unidas, de que foi um notável Secretário-Geral, Kofi Annan é bem o símbolo da determinação na permanente busca da paz e do bem-estar da Humanidade. Permitam-me que releve o seu papel na luta contra a SIDA, o seu inesgotável empenho na definição e prossecução dos Objectivos do Milénio, a sua capacidade de intervenção e conciliação, fundamental para a resolução de variados conflitos internacionais, como aquele que afligiu recentemente o Quénia.

Nos encontros que mantivemos, eu próprio tive o privilégio de beneficiar do seu parecer, sempre conhecedor, lúcido e inteligente, sobre as questões que integram a agenda internacional dos nossos dias.

Concluo agradecendo ao Centro Norte-Sul a oportunidade que nos dá, com a concessão deste Prémio, de distinguir estas duas grandes figuras do nosso tempo e, através delas, de sublinhar a grandeza dos ideais pelos quais orientaram as suas vidas e o valor do seu exemplo.

MUITO OBRIGADO.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

DEPIS HUBER

ORGANISATION OF THE CEREMONY

FIFI BEPABOUD

MÓNICA MENDES

MARIA JOÃO RINHO

SABRINA MARTÍNHO

EDITORIAL WORK

FIFI BEPABOUD

MÓNICA MENDES

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RICARDO MONTEIRO

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WENDY GRAÇA

PROOFREADING

FIFI BEPABOUD

PAULA SMITH

RICARDO MONTEIRO

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