

WORLD LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE-CLUB DE MADRID

WORLD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

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LEADERSHIP PANEL

"A VISION FOR A SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR ALL"

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SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

By

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In this short paper on a vision for a secure and sustainable world for all, I will first say a few words about why vision is so important, some characteristics of a sound vision and then introduce a vision that we in the World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid (WLA-CdM) offers a secure and sustainable world for all: our byShared Societies Vision.

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF VISION

At a personal level, it is easy to be swayed by our own **convenience** without thinking about the consequences for us, for others and for the planet as a whole:

Our daily life is full of such choices and questions and too often we make our choices on the basis of convenience.

Similarly in the public sphere it is easy to find ourselves dealing with immediate challenges in pragmatic ways without thinking where short term solutions may lead us.

When faced with these kinds of decisions we need to keep in mind what is important.

And how can we keep that in mind if we do not have a vision which reminds us of our priorities and why they are important?

B. THE RIGHT KIND OF VISION

Of course not any or every vision will do. If everyone has a vision which is centred on his or her personal desires and convenience without paying attention to the needs of others, only a few will be able to realise their vision and achieve their goals and it will be at the expense of everyone else and the planet.

Therefore our vision must be **Realisable**. It should be ambitious, but it should not be a fantasy. In the context of sustainable development it has to take account of the limits that the planet places on us. We do not have limitless resources at our disposal.

It also means that our vision for our society must be **Shared**. Our personal visions need to be compatible with those of others, and our vision for the community, and indeed the whole world community needs to be Shared so that we are all working to agreed ends. But that is seldom the case at the moment and we need to work together to ensure that we have a vision that will, as far as possible, work for all.

And thirdly our vision needs to be **A by articulated**. We need to know what our vision is and we need to be able to express it, firstly to ourselves and secondly to others. Some people and organisations avoid the idea of a vision. That does not mean they do not have a vision, which we can see it from their actions, and often it is a selfish vision that is only possible at the expense of others. Of course some people and some organisations do articulate a vision which is incompatible with their actions and we need to challenge ourselves and others to avoid this inconsistency.

C. A SHARED SOCIETY VISION

In the light of these comments, I will now say something about a vision that I am satisfied meets the criteria I have set. This is the vision that we have in (WLA-CdM) that we call **A Shared Society”**.

It is a vision of:

- a society which belongs to all those living there regardless of race colour or creed;
- a society which is not owned by any one group in that society but belongs to everyone;
- a society which is shared because everyone shares in the benefits of living there but also shares in decision making and shares responsibility for the wellbeing of everyone.
- a society which respects the dignity of everyone and ensures equal opportunity and protection from discrimination

- a society which works for all.

This is not just a nice idea. It works.

Socially cohesive or “Shared Societies” are stable, safe and just. They are at ease with themselves, and with the diversity of their members’ cultural, religious and ethnic identities. They recognise and value these identities and their interdependence as strengths, working creatively with each other and with the wider global community to solve common problems and to promote respect for human dignity and release human potential.

We have looked at the impact of a Shared Society in relation to many current challenges including environmental sustainability, and we are satisfied that a Shared Society Approach provides an effective way to meet those challenges.

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