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What I would like to do is to start, first of all, with Aminata Touré because she brings a perspective of having thought about these issues and dealt with them in different ways in Senegal and in the multilateral system. So, Madam Touré, if I could start with you and then we will go further.

Aminata Touré

Thank you very much. It is always a pleasure to be here. We are talking about a fragmented world. I think societies themselves are fragmented, whether you are from a wealthy country or a less wealthy country, and that is the first thing that we need to acknowledge, that even in wealthy countries you do have people who feel left on the side. Internationally when we talk about international development, we have to reshuffle our concept. By the way, theoretically China is supposed to still be a developing country, which I think does not meet the criteria. We live in a world where we really need to stop and maybe offer a new length to analyze it. I think a sort of history is in the making, in a painful way most of the time.

However, what we are witnessing from where I am sitting, which is Africa – let us remember that it is 54 countries, an important grouping – that is where maybe the future of nutrition will be decided because you have 60% of available land, the youngest population in the world and huge resources. You cannot, therefore, talk about the future without doing a deep analysis of what is going on in Africa. I am from West Africa, and what is going on in Africa is sort of a mixture of concern, first, of course about security. We know what is going on in the Sahel, what happened between the former colonial power, which became a partner, and the relationship is not necessarily going well. In Mali, Niger and Chad you have new generations coming to power in questionable ways for sure, but they are there. How are we going to make sure that we have international development, on the side of international institutions, that works and partners who trust themselves? Because I think we are in the midst of a trust crisis among international partners, among countries who were under colonial powers and moved on, 60 years down the line, developing different relationships. Some people are saying it is not



that different between Africa and its former partners, so I think there is also a new way of looking at things from the other side.

Secondly, we do have, as I said, the youngest population in the world, so how are you going to make sure that that population is more of an asset rather than a liability, because liability also concerns our partners with international migrations and even securities and all of these things? I think what we really need to think about is what the solutions could be to make sure that we converge together and we define a civilized world. First of all, I think we have to think about the United Nations, which is getting weaker and weaker. International cooperation is occurring outside of the United Nations, which is still struggling to even find funding. We saw, I am sorry to say, what little relevance they have had in the Ukraine crisis, for instance, as well as in other crises. I was talking about the Sahel and other places. However, first, I think we need to give stronger teeth to the United Nations. Second, I think we need to open up the leadership. As we speak, I talk about 54 African countries and no permanent seat. That does not make sense to me, taking into consideration what I said before. We need to make sure that an important part of the world is part of the Security Council.

I think we need to redefine the relationship between former colonial powers and current developing countries, for instance, acknowledging what happened across history and maybe trying to make it right. I see that after the George Floyd events two years back that many countries are looking into their colonial history and trying to sort of make it right, as I said. Also, we need to have genuine international cooperation, which means that we are going to genuinely look into young people's rights and into women's rights and we are going to make sure that, on a solidarity basis, we are going to together define common goals and accomplish them, which also means that countries which pledge financially should come to the pot, which is not the case.

Of course you cannot talk about a fragmented world without talking about climate change. We have hopes that after Sharm El Sheikh we will really see genuine movement towards making the financial pledges a reality. That is what I wanted to say at this point. Let us look into the solutions, because we know the problems. We saw the problems and we know them, so now we should focus on the solutions. For me, the solutions are more unified visions that put human beings at the center. I know we have a lot of people coming from the private sector, which is important, and I think the private sector should look into their practices again because you only do business when you have peace, when you do not have unrest, when you have consumers who are healthy. Nobody is doing business in Ukraine, anyway, or in many other places that we do not talk about. That also brings up the issue of forgotten conflicts that go on over time and the feeling that it depends on where you sit on the planet for your conflict to be recognized and solutions brought up for peace to come back. I think it brings back the whole common issue of human rights. We are all human fellows. We have a common planet that we want to work and live in and to love and so forth. Maybe, therefore, if we start by the end we may find ways to converge. Thank you.

Masood Ahmed

Thank you very much for starting us off and thank you for saying that maybe we have described the problem often enough, but we need to not just define the solutions but also to make the bridge to the solutions.