

“Development is the Name of Peace“

I. The heading of our panel¹ does quote an as well prominent as widespread assumption²: the thesis that successful development does reduce conflicts, and may even overcome conflicts totally.³ The insight stems from 19th century’s philosophy, and is prominent in Marx’ most famous opus “Capital“, the critical analysis of capitalist production. Karl Marx, having lived and worked both in Germany and England, claims in his works: The globalised world which came into existence only because funds and resources were internationalized would find peace only if and when the interests of capital [and capitalists] were chained and bound in a positive way. Economic interests had to be tamed⁴ by politics, only then the global society could develop in a way that enables peace between the peoples and nations of the world.

Capital restricted by good governance would enable people to go to work in the morning, to look after the needy in the afternoon, and to play [works by] Joseph Haydn at night. Marx thus paints a picture of all peoples living together peacefully as an aim of human history and progress.⁵ This picture in Marx’ “The Communist Manifesto“ and “Capital“ is of course drawn from concepts of a realm of peace in the Old Testament. The writings of Isaiah deliver the great model of the vision Karl Marx describes – and that is in reach when interests of man, of peoples and of capital are bound actively by politics and civil society.

II. Kofi Annan, then General Secretary of the United Nations, repeated this well-known thesis in the year 2000, at the famous millennium summit of the 55th General Assembly of the United Nations. The secret of peace among the peoples of the world: were development. This summit has been the largest ever of heads of state and governments in history. In September of the year 2000 all who took part in this summit agreed on a catalogue of measures for development. This catalogue did list tangible specifications of aims and deadlines. And the participants agreed even on a superior goal: to reduce poverty worldwide by half until the year 2015. The following facts were listed by the United Nations, supported by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Development Assistant Committee of OECD: In the year 2000 more than 1 billion people lived in extreme poverty, that is: 20% of global population had to live on less than 1 Dollar per day. More than 700 Million people did starve and were underfed. More than 115 Million children at school age were barred from education, and more than one billion people had no access to clear potable water.

¹ Bei bestimmten Tagungsformaten eher „section“ / „subsection“.

² „Thesis“ wäre eine wissenschaftlich fundierte Erkenntnis, dieser Begriff ist nach dem Doppelpunkt verwandt, um Ihre Argumentation in Abschnitt II vorzubereiten; man könnte auch schlicht „assumption“ wiederholen, wie es dann in Abschnitt VI geschieht. „Assumption“ ist die schwächere Annahme und bereitet so Ihre Gesamtargumentation vor, m. E. ohne die Pointe vorwegzunehmen; „insight“ wäre eine etwas stärkere Alternative, die aber mit der Zielrichtung Ihres Beitrags kollidiert.

³ Die Enzyklika „Populorum Progressio“ Pauls VI. (1967) zitiert den Satz (ergänzt um „new peace“), prominent wiederholt am 1.1.1987 von Johannes Paul II. (besonders Abschnitt 5); nur falls Ihre Hörer diese Version im Ohr haben (http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/messages/peace/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_19861208_xx-world-day-for-peace.html).

⁴ Erinnert im Sinne Marx’ an das Löwenbändigen; „restricted“ wäre sanfter.

⁵ „development“ ist im Beitrag anders besetzt; die beiden Worte wurden aus dem hegelschen Hintergrund von Marx’ Denken gewählt.

On the 9th of September 2000 189 member states of the United Nations decided by an unanimous vote upon the Millennium Declaration: a catalogue of basic and binding goals for all member states. The eradication of poverty, keeping peace and protection of the environment were thus confirmed as the major aims of the international community.⁶ The focus lay on fighting extreme poverty: poverty no longer was seen as deficiency in money earned, but as a general lack of chances and opportunities. Former decades of development goals had been much less comprehensive, less precise and less been given a time schedule compared to the goals of the year 2000. Besides, never before not only governments but also business companies, international organisations and even civil society had pledged themselves with one voice to put the spread of poverty to an end.⁷

The Millennium Assembly defined [among others] ⁸four fields of action:

First: Peace, security and disarmament,

Second: Development and poverty eradication,

Third: Protecting our common environment,

Fourth: Human Rights, democracy, and good governance.

Achievements were to be reached by clearly defined steps in these fields until 2015.

To list all steps and intended achievements in these four fields in detail would lead to far.⁹ But criteria for development were defined. The idea was to enable the international community to observe the progress towards each aim, and to demand its fulfilment. Thus the international community in the year 2000 put pressure on itself to act. This was an improvement of the Millennium Summit with respect to the assumption that peace became possible by development. All countries, not only the rich ones, were obliged to increase funds for the poor, to combat corruption, to promote equality and democracy. Wealthy nations were obliged to use their power for the development of all nations. This meant an increase of funds for better development aid, effective debt release, substantial support for governments that fought poverty, and a reduction of trade barriers.

III. Intermediate results in the years 2010 and 2015¹⁰

Precise data in 2015 showed: There was progress in the implementation of development aid, though fragile in many countries. The number of people living in poverty had been reduced by 830 million men and women. The number of children who had no access to education was reduced by 50 million.

⁶ Erlauben Sie den Hinweis, dass die Millenniumserklärung acht Ziele umfasste (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Millennium_Declaration), ebenso die Millenniums-Entwicklungs-Erklärung (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Development_Goals).

⁷ Etwas weniger dramatische Alternative: ... agreed on the necessity to put an end to poverty.

⁸ Wie Hinweis 6: Laut Internetrecherche waren es acht Felder; die weiteren Felder sind für ein kirchliches statement vermutlich nicht unerheblich, besonders das erste Ziel (Grundprinzipien: Freiheit, Gleichheit, Solidarität, Toleranz, Respekt gegenüber der Natur, gemeinsame Verantwortung) und das sechste („Protecting the Vulnerable“) (am kompaktesten bei Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Millennium_Declaration).

⁹ Näher, aber auch „deutscher“: I cannot list each aim inside these fields in detail.

¹⁰ Formale Beobachtung: Einzelne Abschnitte haben eine Überschrift, einzelne nicht.

The number of children who died under five years of age was reduced remarkably, too. Access to potable water had been improved. In some fields¹¹ the United Nations were able to indicate some progress. Of course there was criticism: for example on how the aims had been defined; some data had been sugar-coated, and the United Nations had not taken into account, that planet earth never could sustain eight billion people, and that a struggle for resources were to be expected that was incompatible with development aims. Researchers in globalization like Franz-Josef Radermacher considered it scandalous that the definition of poverty¹² of 1,25 Dollar per day had not been adapted in 25 years though world economy had grown massively in this time.

IV. The task of religions in the process of development

One obstacle – among others – for development that was named in the United Nations' report on development in 2015 were influences of religions. In some countries gender equality could not be improved, because some religions were opposed to the equality of sexes. In the year 2017 the Pontifical University Gregoriana invited to a symposium, titled: "Cristiani uniti per un mondo in frantumi"; the conference was held on the occasion of the 500 years' anniversary of the reformation. Since John Paul II. had started [in 1986] to invite religious leaders from all over the world to Assisi the awareness¹³ has risen that all major religions are obliged to unremittingly help improve a peaceful living together in the world. It is a duty that comes from and is in accordance with each religion's self-conception¹⁴. The world's religions may neither be an obstacle to develop a peaceful living together, nor may the world's religions at any rate cause political or economic conflicts. With respect to all these reasons¹⁵ the annual meeting at Sant'Egidio is a very important part¹⁶ of the religions' shared responsibility.

V. An example¹⁷ how religions contribute

The United Nations' Refugee Agency publishes the number of 60 million¹⁸ refugees worldwide. In meeting their needs Christian churches and denominations do work together as a matter of course. The International Department of Caritas Germany and the Lutheran World Federation work together in most of the refugee camps in the Near East and do assume responsibility together. – The Community of Sant'Egidio and others try¹⁹ hard to put an end to the Mediterranean Sea's role of a graveyard for refugees: by achieving formal obligations that allow refugees to get straight to European and North American countries [without having to cross the Mediterranean on wreck-like vessels].²⁰ – Another example how Christians contribute to overcome²¹ conflicts is Germany's support of churches in the Republic of Columbia. There for more than fifty years Guerilla forces, paramilitary

¹¹ Wörtlich: „In some tangible steps of action“. Die gewählte Übersetzung scheint mir Ihre Argumentation besser zu unterstützen.

¹² Wörtlich „poverty level“, trifft m. E. nicht Ihren Punkt.

¹³ Weder „feeling“ noch „sensation“ passt m. E. wirklich.

¹⁴ Stärker wäre „identity“!

¹⁵ Knapper, aber schwächer wäre: „Thus“.

¹⁶ Wörtlich, aber nicht gut passend, wäre „pillar“.

¹⁷ Erlauben Sie den Hinweis, dass im Text drei Beispiele folgen, die Überschrift nur ein Beispiel ankündigt.

¹⁸ Aus 2017 kenne ich die Zahl von 68,5 Millionen Flüchtlingen, davon 59,7 Millionen jeweils Flüchtlinge im eigenen Land. Könnten Sie die Zahl überprüfen? Oder „more than“ einsetzen?

¹⁹ Noch wertschätzender wäre „work hard“.

²⁰ Ergänzung!

²¹ Alternative: „resolve“.

forces, government forces and gangs are had been at war²². This war had led to innumerable victims, dead and wounded, and about 6 Million internally displaced persons. Since 2008 German development cooperation does support the Columbian state und people²³ to overcome²⁴ violent conflicts and achieve lasting peace in Columbia. Since 2012 the Columbian government, supported by Germany, actively searches for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Compensations for victims, restitution of land, the matter of transitional judicial institutions²⁵ and questions of “memoria” are accompanied by Germany. Churches²⁶ facilitate dialogue between state and civil society, and we²⁷ do use possibilities of consulting and low interest funding from the bilateral governmental development cooperation. Columbians approved the peace initiatives on October, the second, 2017. Now there is the chance that a conflict of several decades after great pains and much patience peacefully comes to an end.²⁸ – What is it Christian churches could, Christian churches must contribute to overcome conflicts [of this kind]? [At least]²⁹ To mediate in conflicts³⁰, to support the high esteem of justice and memoria, and to facilitate projects that enable peaceful development.

VI. The assumption that is the heading of this panel does contain quite an amount of validity. At the same time it has its clearly marked limits. Development in itself does not lead to peace. Dag Hammarskjöld, this great man, once said: At the beginning of his political life³¹ he had been convinced that people and nations would find somehow automatically the way to peace, if economic development becomes possible, if education is distributed, and if people are enabled to care for their fate by themselves. At the end of his life he had to state: All this is not enough. Quite obviously the readiness³² of human beings, of peoples [and nations]³³, to find the way to peace does not stem from autonomy, or independence, alone. Both, in individual and in general ethics, I am convinced³⁴: Readiness for peace does need an additional source. Jesus himself does give an hint saying: “Peace³⁵ I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.” [John 14:27]

Bückeberg, Germany, 25 September 2018.

²² Wörtlich: „did combat against each other“, m. E. trifft die Übersetzung oben den Sinn besser.

²³ Müsste hier ergänzt werden: „as well as the churches“? Sie hatten die Passage als Beispiel christlicher Hilfe angekündigt; in der Durchführung kommen die Kirchen jedoch nicht vor; erst am Ende des Kapitels wird – m. E. jedoch als generelle Aussage zum ganzen Thema – die Frage gestellt, welchen Beitrag die Kirchen zur Überwindung von Konflikten leisten müssen. Vielleicht habe ich aber auch zu wenig Vorkenntnisse!

²⁴ Wörtlich, aber deutlich schwächer: „to work on“.

²⁵ Oder: „of transitional justice“, ist eher auf Gerechtigkeit allgemein, nicht so sehr die Rechtsinstitutionen bezogen.

²⁶ Wörtlich hatten Sie: „We“.

²⁷ Das „Wir“ legt Ihre persönliche Beteiligung nahe; verzeihen Sie, dass ich nicht weiß, ob Sie direkt involviert sind (oder hier gezielt als Deutscher schreiben). Alternative könnten wieder „churches“ sein, also jetzt „they“.

²⁸ Ich schlage diese Formulierung vor, weil im Hintergrund stets die Alternative des blutigen Ringens um einen Sieg (wie in Mexiko?) war.

²⁹ Bitte streichen Sie die Klammerwörter, falls sie Ihrer Intention zuwiderlaufen; ich meinte, dass Ihre Punkte so am besten „rüberkommen“.

³⁰ Alternative: „among parties“.

³¹ „career“?

³² „Willingness“ würde stärker die eigene Entscheidung, „disposition“ die Abhängigkeit von verschiedensten Umständen ausdrücken; das oben gewählte „readiness“ fasst beide Aspekte und ist zugleich relativ neutral.

³³ Sinngemäße Ergänzung!

³⁴ Schwächer: „in my opinion“; das deutsche „gilt“, möglich als „it is true“, wäre im Englischen eine semantische Doppelung.

³⁵ Das Possessivum „Euren“ ist nicht in den Übersetzungen und im griechischen Text vorhanden. M. E. wird die Aussage dadurch nicht abgeschwächt, im Gegenteil. – Die ausgewählte englische Übersetzung ist die NRSV.