

# *THE PROSPERITY OF HUMANKIND*

Bahá'í International Community

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Part VII – Reshaping Institutions

in simplified language

Prosperity of Humankind - 8

# A global development strategy

Creating a global development strategy for humanity's maturity will require reshaping fundamentally all the institutions of society. This will involve all of the inhabitants of the planet: people in general, members of governing institutions at all levels, those serving in agencies of international co-ordination, scientists and social thinkers, all those with artistic talents or with access to the media of communication, and leaders of non-governmental organisations.



United Nations Conference on the Human Environment  
Stockholm 1972

# A global development strategy

The response must start with the recognition of the oneness of humankind, a commitment to justice as the organising principle of society, and an effort to build human capacity through a systematic dialogue between the scientific and religious sides of humanity. This will require a radical rethinking of most of the concepts and assumptions currently governing social and economic life. It must be driven by the conviction that, however long and difficult the process, the governance of human affairs can serve humanity's real needs.

# A new stage of development

This might seem an impossible dream, unless our collective childhood has indeed come to an end and our adulthood is coming. People today cannot imagine that such an effort can be carried out by today's despondent and fundamentally opposed peoples and nations.

# A new stage of development

Such a possibility can be imagined only if, as Bahá'u'lláh has stated, the course of our social evolution has arrived at one of those turning points when all of our existence is driven forward into a new stage of development. This statement comes from our deep conviction that just so great a transformation in human consciousness is under way.

# This is the day

To all who see in it what they have felt within their own hearts, Bahá'u'lláh's words bring the promise that God has, in this day, given humanity the spiritual resources fully equal to the challenge:

*O ye that inhabit the heavens and the earth! There hath appeared what hath never previously appeared.*

*This is the Day in which God's most excellent favours have been poured out upon men, the Day in which His most mighty grace hath been infused into all created things.*

# Dangers and hope

Never before have human affairs been so threatened by conflict, chaos and destruction. Dangers beyond anything in history gather around a lost humanity. However, the world's leaders should not allow this crisis to cast doubt on where this process is leading. A world is passing away and a new one is trying to be born.



# Faith and resolve

The habits, attitudes, and institutions that we have built over the centuries are being tested in ways necessary to human development. What is required of us today is faith and resolve to match the energies which the Creator of all things has granted to this spiritual springtime of the race.

# Bahá'u'lláh

*"Be united in counsel", is Bahá'u'lláh's appeal, "be one in thought. May each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday. Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches. Take heed that your words be purged from idle fancies and worldly desires and your deeds be cleansed from craftiness and suspicion."*

# Bahá'u'lláh

*“Dissipate not the wealth of your precious lives in the pursuit of evil and corrupt affection, nor let your endeavours be spent in promoting your personal interest. Be generous in your days of plenty, and be patient in the hour of loss. Adversity is followed by success and rejoicings follow woe. Guard against idleness and sloth, and cling unto that which profiteth mankind, whether young or old, whether high or low. Beware lest ye sow tares of dissension among men or plant thorns of doubt in pure and radiant hearts.”*



First International Bahá'í Convention, Haifa 1963  
Election of the Universal House of Justice