



The Millennium Project

World Federation of UN Associations

4421 Garrison Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016
U.S.A.

Tel./Fax: 1.202.686.5179
e-mail: jglenn@igc.org
<http://www.stateofthefuture.org>



Press Release

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Contact: Jerome C. Glenn, Director

+1-202-686-5179

The future continues to get better for most of the world, but a series of tipping points could drastically alter global prospects, according to the *2008 State of the Future* – the 12th annual report card on the future.

Half the world is vulnerable to social instability and violence due to rising food and energy prices, failing states, falling water tables, climate change, decreasing water-food-energy supply per person, desertification, and increasing migrations due to political, environmental, and economic conditions, says this report published by the Millennium Project, a global participatory futures research think tank affiliated with the World Federation of UN Associations.

However, it notes that "Ours is the first generation with the means for many to know the world as a whole, identify global improvement systems, and seek to improve such systems. We are the first people to act via Internet with like-minded individuals around the world. We have the ability to connect the right ideas to resources and people to help address our global and local challenges."

The report is a "global overview of our technological, environmental, social, economic future prospects, strategies to address them -- what the educated person should know about the world and what to do to improve it," says co-author and Millennium Project Director Jerome C. Glenn.

The report identifies 15 global challenges, ranging from water and energy to organized crime and global ethics. Other chapters include a global collective intelligence for energy, State of the Future Index, global assessment techniques, government future strategy units around the world, and environmental security.

Comprehensive, insightful, and highly readable, says Mohan Manasinghe, IPPC Vice Chair and co-winner of 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Enables us to think analytically about crucial global challenges Hans Blix, former Director-General, IAEA

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WFUNA New York office: One UN Plaza, DC1 – 1177
Nations Phone 212 963 5610; Fax 212 963 0447

WFUNA Geneva Office: E4 – 2A; Palais des
Phone 41 22 917 3239; Fax 917 0185