



I am delighted that New Acropolis, India, is hosting an important conference on Empowering Real Change to Facilitate Leadership for a Better World. It is most fitting that this conference is taking place during the year of Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

Humanity is going through a spiritual as well as an environmental crisis. The world is going through a grave and critical time. Poisoned oceans, depleted soil, contaminated water, and polluted air is becoming a serious problem of our time. Moreover, because of our overuse of fossil fuel we are facing

climate change due to greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.

This ecological crisis is caused by our obsession with consumerism, materialism, economic growth and high living standards. If we wish to create a sustainable and joyful future for humanity we need to bring about real change in our world view, in our consciousness, and in our way of life. We need to live in harmony with nature, we need to establish a world order based on social justice and we need to embrace the spiritual values of truth, love and compassion.

In order to accomplish such a transformation and bring about a holistic perspective, we need a new kind of leadership emerging from grass roots level and based in the principle of selfless service.

It is my hope that the people gathered at this New Acropolis Conference in Mumbai will be able to focus on these issues and lay a foundation for a new vision for Real Change and inspire a new leadership following in the footsteps of great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Wangari Maathai, Rachel Carson and many others who gave their lives for the upliftment of humanity.

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A Message from Satish Kumar

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