

Dear Friends,

It is an honour to be here today, in the presence of our future Einsteins, Darwins, C V Ramans, and Dr Kalams.

Let us all imagine only one President for the whole world, single currency, single language, single religion, no terrorism, no wars, no territorial issues, no trade disputes, no budget for defense, all children of this world having primary education and healthcare, having no fear and fully confident.

This is a dream we all think about and wonder why we can't have this. I suppose this is the same dream United Nations was born with and has vigorously pursued over the last 60 years. Unfortunately while children always dream that ideal society, they are inevitably the worst victims of social inequities. They bear the brunt of poverty, hunger and dislocation in case of a war, or flood; they bear the brunt of deep rooted social prejudices by being denied access to good education; they are exploited as child labor and bonded labor.

The United Nations and its predecessor the League of Nations were born in the time of World War. Over 60 years, the death and destruction through war has been reduced but a more formidable adversary in form of poverty and deprivation continues to stalk million of people esp. in developing and underdeveloped world.

Against this backdrop, the Model United Nation program has been, over the years sensitizing teachers and students to the issues of poverty, hunger, exploitation and creating Model U.N. Delegates, who have the ambition to learn something new, and to work with people to try and make a difference in the world. Model U.N. students tend to go on to become great leaders in politics, law, business, education and medicine. I really congratulate Ahmedabad International School for being part of this global initiative and am sure that, in years to come, we will see many leaders coming out from this program.

Let me share with you the quote from Mark Twain: **“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do rather things did. So throw of the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”**

I thank Ahmedabad International School and specially Gorsii Mam from the bottom of my heart for inviting me and giving me an opportunity to interact with the future leaders of our country.

Thank you.