



A Letter of Hope & Possibilities: A Secured Future.

21 January 2042

Doha, Qatar

Dear youth of 2022,

You would call us the future generation. Many predicted that by the time we were of legal age, the world would be gone. But surprisingly, even against the odds, we are flourishing in fertile soil. You all were really doubtful it was going to work, but the seeds of peace you planted are blooming brighter than ever before. It was not instantaneous of course, but we are enjoying the fruits of your labor. Back in your era, you used to talk about youth being the missing piece, the captains of their soul who did not have a say in the future of their countries. That you were not included in the process of decisions that affected you. Nowadays, it is so funny to think that it could even happen, that a nation wants to develop without its youth involved and engaged every step of the way. For any politician, to think this way now, would be the end of their career, the end of progress all together.

When young people started to step in and take more responsibility, soon some got scared. The decision-makers wondered, *how are these inexperienced troublemakers ever going to make a change or contribute?* But they failed to realize that they were once young, that they wanted to be in positions of influence and they also envisioned a better world for the future. And then, it clicked for them. Nothing was going to get better unless they provide youth the opportunities they didn't have growing up. Intergenerational cooperation became real and its ripple effects were felt by all. The question evolved from *why do you want to participate* into *how can I help you to be powerfully included, to feel meaningful, to do your work with grace? How can I be your partner for peace?*

Here in the future, we do not worry about bombshells falling on our roof or fear of mass shootings when going to class. Here in the future, we do not worry about a bullet transversing our skulls, but rather contemplate the thoughts that cross our minds. Here in the future, we spend more time in nature, honoring the land we walk on and treating our mother earth with respect. Nature is not a stranger we need to conquer. We are nature. Our respiratory system is not only our lungs, but is also in the clean air we breathe. We do not only walk on our feet, but on the rich soil we grew from. Here in the future, equality, equity and justice aren't aspirations, they are the norm. Here in the future, the word "freedom" is no longer necessary to even be mentioned, because it is already embedded in our everyday life, just as the water that we drink.



There is still conflict, of course, but not the kind of conflict that makes you lose your loved ones or ones that destroy homes. It is the kind of conflict the world deals with using words, not guns. It is the kind of conflict that pushes us to grow, to expand our compassion, to broaden our minds, to act upon our words. It is also the kind of conflict that constantly reminds us to not take all of your efforts for peace for granted. You paved the way, you showed us other options, you reminded us that violence is not a friend we wanted to keep around. Today, regardless of the different colors, class, creed, sexuality, ability, gender, and religions, all people are seen, heard, and engaged. Each one of us is understood and considered a valid human being. Instead of dragging one another down, we lift each other up. This inclusive world is one that prioritizes kindness for the masses and ridicules greed for the few. It is one that praises collective prosperity over individual success. It is a world where we all feel happy and connected with our collective story, instead of our individual pride. It is a world where people are not consumed by the products that they buy, where collectively, people decided to buy another story different to consumption to be plentiful. It is the world you imagined and worked tirelessly for, and we are forever indebted to you.

We are writing to you to remind you not to give up, to never stop, to never think that a world in peace is unattainable. Because it is, and we are the proof. You know, sometimes you are so concentrated on the path that you miss your surroundings. Many felt lost, felt rejected, felt that inside new borders their humanity was not appreciated. However, we all belong, we have always been part of earth. We temporarily forgot that the world is a large living organism and that we are part of it, as much as a wave is part of the ocean. Back in those days we were so blind as a society. We were fearful and thought that we could use our tanks and our guns to bring about peace. It took us time to realize maybe we would have been better off investing in tools of mass construction. Instead of blowing up cities, we could have seen communities rising up so high. And that is what eventually happened. Contrary to what many would have thought, all these young peace architects did not get their degree from a university, they were average people, using the tools in their back pockets to build the world they dreamed of. And it is not about sculptures or sky-scrapers that are seen from afar. It is not about passive compositions that are unmovable. Their artworks could not be destroyed. They allowed a new system to be born, one that is bulletproof, one that cannot be killed, but is susceptible to adaptation. A new way of relating emerged. It is the poetic engagement with one another, beyond labels, only seeing family, sisters and brothers.

Even with all the fear of acting, even when your security was compromised, even when the game seemed to be rigged, you all found a new scenario in which to play, one that was not leaving anyone behind. We are proud of you for not giving up. We are proud of you for staying the course. We are proud of you for building the world you dreamed of, because it is one we would not trade for anything.



Remember, never give up. Even when the road may seem long and dark, never give up. Peace is indeed possible. It is the greatest gift we could have ever received.

Grateful beyond words,

Nova, together with a young group, enjoying a bright sunny day, drinking coffee in the mountains, looking at the fields of healthy food keeping us nurtured, while the hummingbirds sing their gorgeous hymns of love.