

Introduction



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Half a century ago, delegates from 50 states gathered together to give birth to the world Organization, the United Nations.

Since then, many critical ideas and events have altered the shape of international relations. The 50th Anniversary could hardly have come at a more appropriate time. For an organization going through a time of great change and momentous challenge, it offers an opportunity to celebrate achievements, review lessons of the past and chart a new course for the future.

There is one important aspect of the anniversary which I believe is especially important: improving public awareness of the UN, building a wider constituency and demonstrating the system's continued relevance in the years to come.

A Vision of Hope, informing its audience of the work of the UN towards peace, development and democratization, is a valuable contribution to promoting continued and enlarged understanding and support for the Organization.