

Distinguished guests and Colleagues:

On behalf of all the UN research institutions in Trieste, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this event. These institutions are ICTP, my own, TWAS, ICGEB and ICS.

We have several reasons for the celebration. First, there is intrinsic reason of the spirit of cooperation that the UN symbolizes. Second, 2005 is the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, and is also the 60th anniversary of UNESCO. Third, as you know, one of our two international sponsors, namely the IAEA, received the Nobel Peace Prize this year.

We live in times when the trust among nations, and the trust in international organizations such as the UN, is generally low. The UN is often portrayed as inefficient but we know that it serves the important purpose of keeping alive a dialogue among nations. While the dialogue alone will not take us to world peace and prosperity, it is an essential first step. In the sixty years of its existence, the UN has certainly brought the world together as a community of nations. And parts of the UN, such as those in Trieste, work with great efficiency, little waste and exemplary commitment.

The Nobel Peace Prize given to the IAEA and its Director General, Dr. El Baradei, pleases us very much because it shows that the primary mission of IAEA is international peace and understanding. As part of the IAEA, we at ICTP take great pride in both the Prize and its implication. I wish to remind you of a statement of Mr. Andreotti, in 1984 the Foreign Affairs Minister of Italy, said of ICTP: "This Center can make an effective contribution to the solution of the central problem of humanity, namely that of peace." I think that in some indirect way, this has turned out to be true.

Italy contributes to the UN organizations in a number of ways. One of them is through the support it provides to a number of UN institutions in Italy. These institutions are what and what. In Trieste alone, we find ICTP, TWAS, ICGEB and ICS, all of which are represented here.

Since we at ICTP (similarly at other UN institutions in Trieste) are involved in high-level research, you may wonder how we contribute to the overall goals of the UN, and how precisely we fit into picture. I have prepared a few remarks on the UN Millennium Development Goals and where each of our organizations fit in the overall picture.