

MESSAGE TO THE GLOBE TREE CHILDREN

Nairobi 18 September 2009

Dear Globe Tree Children

As the Godmother of the Children's Meeting Place in Nairobi, I am very happy to send you this message. I will never forget the day when we inaugurated the Children's Meeting Place under the beautiful acacia tree in the United Nations compound in Gigiri in Nairobi 8 year ago when I was Sweden's ambassador in Kenya. I felt very happy to be there with you to in that moment and to reflect on our lives in this world and the importance of living in harmony and peace and to create a better world together.

I am now working for the UN in Nairobi for UN-HABITANT which is the agency working to improve the way we live in the cities in the world, which is trying to see that we have good houses and good homes to live in and that we have access to food and water and good education in a sound environment. When you now start building the World Home you will also contribute to a better life in a better world for all.

May I use this opportunity to send a special greeting to Children's Garden in Nairobi which I also visited 8 years ago which showed your strong engagement for the future and the hopes of all children in the world.

I would now like to welcome the World Home which I understand that you are starting to build today and I look forward to welcoming you again to the UN in Nairobi and to see what you have created together. I wish you all the best!

Whit my warm wishes,

Inga Björk - Klevby
Assistant Secretary General
UN-HABITANT, United nations in Nairobi

A Message from Tore Brevik –

The Godfather of the “Mother Tree”
at the Children’s Meeting Place at Gigiri in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dear children and friends, dear Kajsa,

I would very much have liked to be with you and take part in your celebrations and important meetings, but it was not possible this time. I felt so honoured when Kajsa asked me if I would send you a personal message on this very special day:

It is now 8 years since The Children’s Meeting Place was inaugurated under the beautiful acacia tree I was able to find a secure for all the world’s children at the United Nations’ headquarter in Nairobi.

At that time, I was Spokesman and Director for the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP and The United Nations Information Centre, UNIC.

I left Nairobi in the summer of 2002 and now live in Oslo, Norway.

But I can tell you, that almost every day, I think back to the interesting and wonderful 17 years my I lived in Africa. I often focus my memories on the times we could sit with my family and friends under the blue African sky in the shade of a beautiful, great acacia tree.

Your Mother Tree at Gigiri is very special; it is dedicated to the Children and the future of our plane.

You know that trees are extremely important to life on our Planet.

They give shelter and materials and purify the air. Trees have a special impact on the Earth’s Climate.

UNEP now has a major worldwide tree planting campaign going with a goal of planting 7 billion trees by the end of 2009.

It is not strange that trees have been given multiple mythic and symbolic qualities. Trees can symbolize strength and courage, resurrection and immortality. They can heal and renew strength and represent magic, youth,

beauty and happiness. And most importantly, we must not forget that trees are symbols of peace, hope and opportunity.

Globetree has started to create “The World Home”.

The planet Earth is our home, our cradle of life. But we are now facing serious environment challenges. We have not acted upon the many distress signals.

Global warming is the most serious of the problems. This is a serious threat to all of us: every country and nation, - young and old. As a grandfather, I am very concerned about the future of my grandchildren.

We must constantly remind our leaders and governments of their responsibilities to you, the children and young people and the global environment.

Let them know your hopes, fears and expectations for the future.

Each and every one of us has a responsibility for creating a good and healthy world home.

Listen to what your hart tells you and follow your thoughts with action.

Do not be afraid, believe in yourself and act on your convictions.

Seek the support of your friends and your family.

Together we have the power and ability to do good things and create a good future for Our World Home.

Kajsa asked me what I would bring with me into the World Home.

I would bring laughter, and colourful, bright flowers.

I like to thank you for enthusiasm and creativity.

Good luck to you!

Good luck to us all!