

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS AT MUSIC FOR MEDICINE BENEFIT GALA CONCERT
New York, 14 December 2016

Your Excellency, Dr. Wolfgang A. Waldner, Austrian Ambassador to the United States,
Mr. Thomas J. McGrath, Chairman of the American Austrian Foundation,
Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky, Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation,
Esteemed members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra,
Distinguished awardees,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to be here.

This wonderful gathering comes at an uncertain time.

People around the world are worried about their future.

The carnage in Syria haunts our conscience.

Migrants and refugees are unjustly attacked.

Violent extremists slaughter innocent people.

Diseases are spreading – and developing countries, especially, struggle to cope.

Young people want to build a better future – but they can't even get a decent job.

Tonight's event may seem far from these challenges – but the American-Austrian Foundation is using this beautiful concert to raise funds for a response.

The world-renown *Wiener Philharmoniker*, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, shows the power of unity in diversity.

Each instrument contributes its own beautiful sound. They combine to play a symphony.

The countries and the peoples of the world are the same. When we combine our different strengths, we can achieve more than we ever would alone.

This is my message to Member States of the United Nations. I tell them that in our globalized world, no country can rise to the challenges on its own.

Music for Medicine is helping to strengthen the talent within countries.

This is in line with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our plan to create a life of dignity for all.

It focuses on people – because we believe that when we invest in individuals, they will create a new future.

By supporting training for medical professionals from around the world, Music for Medicine is helping to raise the next generation of specialists in family health, infectious diseases, maternal and infant care, and so much more.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I lived for years in Vienna, and I still consider that city my second home. I have visited many times. When I went back last week, I said, I feel like an “*echter Wiener*”. [A genuine Viennese.]

It may seem unusual for a Korean to have such a strong place for Vienna in my heart. But we are all connected. We are connected to our friends in Austria and we are connected to the suffering civilians in Aleppo. Our planet is smaller and our human family is one.

That is why I carry one simple message: Be a global citizen. *Seid Weltbürger und Weltbürgerinnen.*

I applaud the American Austrian Foundation and Music for Medicine for their spirit of global citizenship. I applaud the awardees for their impressive contributions.

Let us build a better future for all, where everyone lives with the human rights and human dignity they deserve.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment.