

TRANSFORMING WAR INTO PEACE

Prof. Tignyanu and members of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, I thank you for the invitation, for which I feel greatly honored and privileged.

The humanity is engulfed and trapped into the tight grip of 3 Cs: Conflict, Covid and Climate Change. Therefore, it is the time when all of us must unite and face these challenges bravely, wisely and prudently.

As a teacher of soil science, I only know about a few basic concepts of this noble branch of science. Yet, I believe that we can use these simple principles of soil science and address the calamity that the humanity is presently trapped in.

Mahatma Gandhi said that “If you want real peace in the world, start with the children”. In the present Ukraine crisis, children, along with mothers, elderly and innocent civilians, have been victimized. Therefore, violence against children and innocent civilians must stop - immediately.

Mahatma Gandhi also believed that “Mother Earth (Terra Matre, Matre Bhumi, Soil) provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed”. Therefore, I make a plea to the invaders to please stop invasion and come to the discussion table. Afterall, “an honest disagreement about territorial claims is a good sign of progress”.

I also ask those who believe to be powerful that “the day the power of love overrules the love of power, we will have peace in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world”.

I must also make plea to the Ukrainians that they must ”never lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean. If a few drops of ocean get infected by something alien, the magnanimity of the ocean will purify the infected drops through its integrity and natural capacity to forgive”.

Those who are suffering because of the conflict in Ukraine and in other parts of the world, I make an earnest plea to forgive because “weak can never forgive, forgiveness is attribute of strong”.

Finally to all warring parties, I remind you the basic philosophy “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The World is one family”.

I join you all for peace in Ukraine and everywhere else in the world.

Professor Rattan LAL, Nobel Peace Laureate