

# SOLIDARITY AND THE DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS

**Ioan Voicu**

Assumption University of Thailand

## 1. FOUNDATIONS

We are witnessing planetary convulsions. An imperfect world order is under the risk of being replaced by a more dangerous and unpredictable global disorder. In a recent address at Harvard University Kofi Annan (the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General) stated *inter alia* that: "We are threatened now by a triple crisis... It challenges us both to live up to our best ideals and our best traditions. What does this crisis consist of? First, a crisis of collective security. Second, a crisis of global solidarity. And third, a crisis of cultural division and distrust."<sup>(1)</sup>

A realistic analysis of the global situation today would conclude that our perplexing world cannot be safe or secure if the divisions within it are not reduced. Solidarity is a universal concept and connotes protection and security for all. Yet, the world community has not been able to establish a globalization process based on solidarity, which might lead to viable solutions. A strong political impetus for promoting global solidarity is still on the waiting list of priorities.

In a diplomatic approach of these issues in the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted in Sao Paulo on 12 June 2004 on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Group it is emphasized: "The main strengths of the Group of 77 have been its unity and solidarity, its vision of fair and equitable multilateral relations, the commitment of its member States to the well being of the peoples of the South as well as their commitment to mutually beneficial co-operation."<sup>(2)</sup>

Developing countries are deeply concerned that multilateralism is in a relative crisis. Sensitive to this reality, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominique de Villepin, advocated in January 2004 the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity as a stimulus for exchange and dialogue, noting, however, that multilateral instruments