

November 16th, 2020

His Excellency Antonio Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations
New York, USA

Your Excellency:

Sincere greetings from Amman, Jordan. It is my great pleasure to inform you that I have issued a **“Global Partnership Declaration”** -- on this day of November 16th 2020, the United Nations designated *“International Day for Tolerance”*-- seeking to unite the world in a new spirit of Global Partnership to meet the emerging challenges of the 21st Century.

In this spirit, I am initiating a one-year long “Global Partnership Virtual Summit” in line with the principles of the UN Global Compact, founded by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as Chairman and myself as co-chair, and which I continued to co-chair with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

The Global Partnership Declaration is accompanied by my *“Open Letter to America and China from an Arab Friend,”* both of which I enclose for your consideration, as well as an historical note about Anson Burlingame, a little known statesman of the 19th century who is a towering inspiration for us today.

It is time to break the chains of the contemporary crisis and see our way to a better tomorrow. In my cover letter to world leaders in the political, civil and commercial spheres, I have joined in support of your statement that if the US and China go their own ways, the world is in danger of splitting into two rival blocs, and I endorse your appeal that they cooperate to overcome major challenges, such as the current pandemic and climate change. The recent U.S. Presidential election invites everyone to move from challenges, to opportunities, to solutions -- and define the interests all hold in common with the rest of humanity.

The importance of the US-China relationship is such that the whole world waits, poised precariously at an inflection point. Enabling partnerships for global resilience is precisely why Partnership is the final goal among the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Promoting tolerance, global resilience and youth empowerment for sustainable development are feasible options.

Over the last two decades the United Nations has created and catalyzed many successful multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize support, first for the Millennium Development Goals and the current, for the Sustainable Development Goals. In my capacity as Chair of the UN ICT Task Force, and subsequently as Chair of the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development, I participated in the formulation of both.

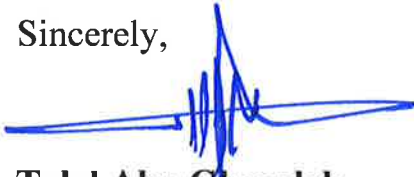
Given your unique moral authority and unparalleled personal commitment to work with all stake-holders to promote world peace and sustainable development, it is my honor to invite you to lead, with me working under your stewardship, to mount a global campaign encouraging global resilience in a new spirit of partnership between the United States and China working together on common global challenges while respecting their need to balance their complementary and competing interests. Under the leadership of your office, all may join to co-develop new principles for common actions towards building greater resilience, shared prosperity, equity, and sustainability to the benefit of all humanity.

With humility and hope, I nominate to you my Co-Founder and Declaration Co-Signer, Dr. Walter Christman, to serve you and the United Nations Office for Partnerships, as “*Special Envoy for Global Resilience*” to promote the call to establish a new spirit of Global Partnership. Dr. Christman is an American citizen with strong government and diplomatic experience in the Defense Department, State Department and in the White House. He has excellent inter-personal skills. He currently resides in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, but would be ready to work with your Office on this initiative.

Mr. Sarbuland Khan has capably assisted me in the past with UN issues and will work with your Office and Dr. Christman to forge this opportunity. He lives in New York. I am copying the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, His Excellency Henry Wooster, asking his support to facilitate his government’s endorsement.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Copy to:

- His Excellency Henry Wooster, United States Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- His Excellency Pan Weifang, Peoples Republic of China Ambassador to the Kingdom of Jordan



“From Challenges to Opportunities to Solutions”

**-- A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP DECLARATION --
TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL TOLERANCE and GLOBAL RESILIENCE**

November 16, 2020

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. ... Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.”

Article 1.1 United Nations Declaration of Principles on Tolerance

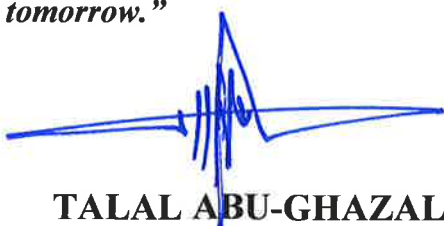
On the occasion of the United Nation's designated “*International Day for Tolerance*”, November 16, 2020, and answering the call of H.E. Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh's “*Open Letter to America and China from an Arab Friend*” in order to establish a Global Partnership for the 21st Century, this Declaration is being offered for endorsement by the global citizens of all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages:

“To foster better ties between the United States, China, and other nations to enhance global resilience in the 21st Century, the Global Challenges Forum Foundation offers to partner with the United Nations to host in Geneva, Switzerland in the coming year the informal convening of wise leaders from both nations together with invited advisors from other nations to fashion a sharable discourse and agenda for future collaboration.

Mindful of the historic example of Anson Burlingame we will carry forth our endeavors to promote international tolerance, sustainable development, and win-win cooperation at all levels and amongst all peoples.

We seek participants to co-develop Burlingame Principles for global partnership in the 21st Century, reaffirming the goals and objectives of the United Nations, and we will carry out this initiative in line with the principles of the UN Global Compact.

We call upon nations, international organizations, global corporations, foundations, global citizens and all enablers of this vision to join in common cause for a better tomorrow.”



TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH
Founder and Honorary Chairman



WALTER L. CHRISTMAN
Co-Founder and Chairman



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global

An Open Letter to America and China from an Arab Friend
on the UN DAY FOR TOLERANCE

By TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH

"It is not 'can any of us imagine better?' but, 'can we all do better?' The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present [...] We must disenthral ourselves, and then we shall save our country [...] Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history [...] We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."

– *President Abraham Lincoln, in a message to Congress, one month prior to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation*

"We should embrace the vision of a community with a shared future in which everyone is bound together....and we must make the right choice, a choice worthy of the people's trust and of our times. ...and build a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. Together, we can make the world a better place for everyone."

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Speech to the UN General Assembly, September 2020

The time has come for America to disenthral itself once again and rededicate itself to the first principles of American greatness, the greatest of which is tolerance and for which the need is not just urgent, but existential. The Coronavirus pandemic has rattled the world, and the most important question America faces is whether in the post-coronavirus order societies and nations will still have the confidence to govern themselves, because, in the words of Dr. Henry Kissinger, "failure could set the world on fire." The fire has started, literally, and not just in America's forests, but in her cities.

China's experience with the Great Cultural Revolution has equipped it to engage with tolerance the difficulties and challenges that nations can face when confronted with an identity crisis. China must remain steadfast and not overreact to impulsiveness. China's Great Cultural Revolution taught us that. In due course America will be back and will win the struggle it is going through.

Moving beyond my previous concerns that the U.S. and China may be headed for war, I am advocating in the aftermath of the U.S. Presidential election that the two nations now begin jointly to articulate their shareable interests with the rest of the world. To assure the good future all nations deserve, we must turn our attention to promoting resilience, developing tolerance, increasing equity around the world, and encouraging our youth to build a sustainable future. It is time to break the chains of the contemporary crisis and see our way to a better tomorrow.

With forty percent of the world's population under the age of twenty-five, youth are not the future; they are the present. It is their future that is at stake, and we must help to empower them to meet the global challenges of the twenty-first century, of which the Coronavirus pandemic is only the first to come.

I do believe in the America that made my dreams as a young man come true. At the age of 10, I was made a refugee to the Lebanese village of Ghaziyeh as a result of the war of 1948. The United Nations, with vital

U.S. funding, provided me, as a distinguished student, with a merit scholarship that provided me an American education at the American University of Beirut. It is that American education that propelled me to be where I am today: at the helm of a global organization with over 100 offices worldwide, headquartered in the Middle East. The American dream is not restricted to America. As a Palestinian, I know firsthand the impact and values of the United States because of the opportunities it has provided for strivers like me. America was open, giving, and kind to me and I owe her much of my success. In many respects I am an American Ambassador of goodwill.

It is with this intimate and personal understanding of the generative power of American tolerance that I ask the Chinese leadership and the Chinese people to continue their support for an enduring global partnership with America. This global partnership will take time to establish but for the love of humanity it must be done with thoughtfulness and patience.

Indeed, that is what I have already been doing. With great pride, I received a medal from President Xi for promoting Arab Chinese relations; received the Chinese Confucius Institute award for TAG-Confucius as the best center in the world; and it is China where we established our electronic products industry center; and, we served the Chinese Embassy in Jordan as outsource center and many more. Throughout our many decades of business relations and friendships, China proved to be reliable, fair, and honorable. I owe China a great gratitude. In many respects I am also a Chinese Ambassador of goodwill.

In this spirit, I am initiating a one-year long “Global Partnership Virtual Summit” on November 16th of this year, on the United Nations designated “International Day for Tolerance.” This initiative is in line with the principles of the UN Global Compact, founded by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as Chairman and myself as co-chair, and which I continued to co-chair with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

The date of this event is also the 10th anniversary of the Global Challenges Forum Foundation in Geneva, of which I am Founder. Together with my Co-Founder, Dr. Walter Christman, we are issuing a “Global Partnership Declaration” and inaugurating on 16 November at www.USChinaTolerance.com a platform to host and manage the global engagement process. The “Global Partnership Virtual Summit” will serve for one year as a facilitating partner -- inviting leaders of all nations, international organizations, global corporations, foundations, and indeed global citizens everywhere to join in the process of establishing a new Global Partnership for the 21st Century.

More than ever, in this hyper-connected world, the local is global and global is local. Challenges in one region have ripple effects across the globe. All challenges, no matter how remote they seem, are global challenges. And we must address them as such, in collaboration with one another. And this includes an American engagement with China. It has been done before. It can, and must, for the well-being of humanity, be done again.

The Honorable Anson Burlingame, an American statesman who is little-known today, can show us the way. On June 14, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Anson Burlingame as minister to the Chinese Qing Empire. Burlingame served as U.S. Ambassador to China from 1861 to 1867 and was invited by the Imperial Court to serve as China’s Ambassador to All the Treaty Powers (including the U.S.) from 1867 to 1870. Burlingame fostered a policy of cooperation between the Western powers and China, intended to secure settlement of disputes by diplomacy rather than by force. His efforts culminated in the Burlingame Treaty of 1868.

Burlingame’s legacy should be applauded as one of the most relevant reconciliation guides for our own time. His life story projects the promise of America; his underlying principles need to be studied and applied today. Honoring Burlingame’s contribution will be a good start to address properly what has become an open wound both to memory and history. China is a responsible actor and, with the United States, can collaborate with all nations in building trust empowered by the mutual obligation and a shared commitment to make a better world for the next generation.

I am issuing a call for America and the world to co-create with China in the spirit of Anson Burlingame the development of Global Partnership principles for the 21st Century. The goal should not just be to preserve peace in a post-Coronavirus world but to address the global challenges that lie ahead together, through Global Partnership. What better day to launch this initiative than November 16th, the U.N. Day for Tolerance?

I am calling all wise leaders from both nations, who together with invited leaders from other nations, may work out together a sharable discourse and agenda for future collaboration, carry forth our endeavors to promote international tolerance, sustainable development, and win-win cooperation at all levels and amongst all peoples. We seek participants to co-develop Principles for a Global Partnership for the 21st Century, reaffirming the goals and objectives of the United Nations.

“Men of virtue can cooperate, even when they don’t agree; men of meanness can’t cooperate even when they agree.” -- The Analects of Confucius

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Founder of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (www.tag.global)

Founder of the Global Challenges Forum Foundation (www.GlobalChallengesForum.org)

On 10th of November 2020



Historical Note on the Life of Anson Burlingame and the Burlingame Treaty

The year 2018 marked the 150th anniversary of the historic signing of the Burlingame Treaty of 1868 between the United States and China, a treaty duly ratified by the U.S. Senate and Emperor Tongzhi of China. It was the result of skillful diplomacy and painstaking work of Anson Burlingame, who was appointed June 14, 1861 by President Abraham Lincoln to be the first U.S. envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to China, 1860-1867, and later, upon retirement from that post, was appointed by Emperor Tongzhi of Qing Empire to be China's special roving ambassador, 1868-1870. to the U.S. and other major Western powers in Europe, on a ice-breaking mission to help Western nations understand, then, unknown, reclusive, and frequently misunderstood China and promote better relations between China and the West based on unprecedented principles of equality fairness, reciprocity, and mutual respect. The mission would also include the renegotiation of unequal treaties signed between Western powers and militarily defeated China, such as, the Treaty of Nanjing of 1842, the Wangxia Treaty of 1844, and the Treaty of Tianjin in 1858.

The mission was to begin with the U.S., where Burlingame had the distinct advantage of personally knowing President Lincoln and his former superior, William H. Seward, the Secretary of State, but also the intimate knowledge of the politics of inside Washington, DC and of the rising anti-Chinese movement in California and the western states. Regarding this bold and unusual appointment, American diplomatic historian, John W. Foster, wrote, "When the oldest nation in the world, containing one third of the human race, seeks, for the first time, to come into relations with the West, and requests the youngest nation, (the U.S.), through its representative, to act as the medium of such change, the mission is one not to be solicited or rejected."

Burlingame's Early Life

Anson Burlingame was born on November 14, 1820 in New Berlin, New York. He grew up in a poor family and spent most of his childhood in the rural areas: first in Seneca County, Ohio and then Detroit, Michigan. His main assets, according to historian of Civil War, David L. Anderson, were "a frank, noble disposition, habits of industry, a charming and persuasive manner, and promising talents as an orator." At the University of Michigan, he excelled in oratory, for which he received both fame and friends, far and near. He was also an outdoorsman, avid hunter, and an outstanding rifleman. Upon graduation he worked briefly in a law office in Detroit while he continued to accept public speaking engagements. In 1843, he was accepted into Harvard Law School from which he graduated in 1846.

An Abolitionist in Boston and Washington, D.C. in the 1840s and 1850s

Upon graduation from Harvard in 1846, he began his practice at the Massachusetts in association with a senior law partner who was the son of George Nixon Briggs, a six-term Congressman and later, Governor of Massachusetts. He quickly joined the rising anti-slavery movement in New England and distinguished himself as an outstanding spokesperson for the movement and a rising political star in the 1840s and 1850s. He joined the Free Soil Party and was elected president of Young Men's Whig Republican Association.

After he returned from a trip to Europe in 1852, he decided to plunge into increasingly volatile North-South debate between freedom and slavery. He was promptly elected to the state senate from which he became known as a strong abolitionist. He was also widely recognized as a man of broad vision, exceptional intelligence, strong conviction, and moral integrity. In 1855, he was nominated by the Republican Party and elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served for three terms. He served on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. However, it was his radical stand against slavery and fiery speeches on the floor of the U.S. Congress that earned him national attention. In response to an unprecedented, senseless beating of a prominent anti-slavery U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, Charles Sumner, by Rep. Preston Brooks of South Carolina, an indignant

- Burlingame delivered on June 21, 1856 what the NY Times described as “the most celebrated speech” of his career, “In Defense of Massachusetts,” a scathing and sarcastic denunciation of Brooks’ assault on the floor of the U.S. Congress, branding him as “the vilest sort of coward.” The speech provoked Brooks to challenge Burlingame to a duel. Burlingame accepted without a moment of hesitation, and, in line with the practice in the weaning age of chivalry, choosing his weapon, the rifle, and picking Niagara Falls on the Canadian side to circumvent the U.S. ban on dueling. As it turned out, Brooks cowardly bowed out while Burlingame gained notoriety across the nation.

On the eve of the Civil War, Burlingame was so preoccupied in campaigning for Lincoln and Republican Party that he neglected his own reelection campaign for the fourth terminal 1860. He lost. Lincoln promptly appointed him to be the U.S. ambassador to Austria in 1861. Austria, however, objected to the appointment for domestic political reasons, prompting Lincoln to appoint him to be America’s first ambassador to China instead.

First U.S. Ambassador to China, 1861-67

At the age of forty-one, Burlingame arrived in China in October 1861 in Macao, a tiny Portuguese colony in southern China. His travel to Beijing was delayed for six months due to severe winter and the civil war. Burlingame used the opportunity to learn about China and its people and cultivate relations with foreign diplomats and merchants in southern and central China.

At the time of his arrival, China had just suffered another military defeat in the Second Opium War, 1856-58, that ended with another humiliating Treaty of Tianjin of 1858 that forced China to open more ports for foreign trade, allowed Christian missionary activities, legalized opium import, and opened the capital, Beijing, for foreign embassies and was deeply embroiled in a protracted and destructive civil war known in history as the Taiping Rebellion, 1851-1864, a rebellion that cost 20 million lives and nearly ended the Manchu regime of the Qing Dynasty. The Western powers had to choose between two evils: supporting an impotent, corrupt, but compliant regime or siding with the powerful, but relatively unknown rebels on the verge of toppling the regime. To play safe, they chose the latter and aided the regime in suppressing the rebellion in 1864.

Upon setting up the U.S. legation in Beijing, Burlingame quickly distinguished himself as a keen political analyst of China’s domestic politics, including palace intrigues in the Manchu royalty and emerging regional Chinese warlords, such as, Zheng Guofan and Li Hongzhang, proving himself to be a skillful and even-handed diplomat, winning both respect and trust among European diplomats in Beijing and Chinese government officials in the Qing court, especially Prince Kung, the point person overseeing foreign affairs. According to Frederick Wells Williams, his biographer, Burlingame was “a man inclined to estimate the Chinese character without prejudice and to credit people of every race and color with the possession of feeling a common-sense.” He advocated treating China’s sovereignty with fairness, equality and respect and opposed foreign intervention in the internal affairs and partitioning of China, as a matter of principle.

China’s Special Envoy to the U.S. and Europe, 1868-70

After serving six years in China, Burlingame decided to leave the post. In a telegram to Secretary of State Seward on Nov. 21, 1867, Burlingame tendered his resignation “in the interests of my country and civilization” and, in his own word, “cheerfully” accepted a new challenge: to head a special Chinese mission to the U.S. and major European powers. This was, indeed, an unprecedented appointment: never before had a foreigner been asked to lead a high-level delegation to the West in order to convey China’s “sincere desire to be friendly and progressive.” He proudly informed Seward, “I may be permitted to add that when the oldest nation in the world, containing one-third of the human race, seeks, for the first time, to come into relations with the West, and requests the youngest nation, through its representative, to act as the medium of such change, the mission is not one of be solicited or rejected.”

As China’s ambassador, Burlingame was well received in major cities across the U.S. on improving trade with and explicitly China’s sovereignty. In his hometown, Boston, he explicitly linked his own life, the fate of America, and the future of China. “I learned to denounce the pride of racism which denies the brotherhood of man,” he said. (See Gordon Chang’s book, *Fateful Ties*.) Recalling his early opposition to slavery in America, he continued, “I learned to plead for four millions of human beings, as I now speak for four hundred millions of human beings....I speak today as in the old time for the equality of men....for the equality of nations.”

The greatest challenge for Burlingame was how to incorporate these core values and principles in his renegotiations for new treaties between China and the Western powers, as he traveled eastward from China to North America and Europe. For this, he must summon his intellect, power of persuasion, and political skills as a diplomat.

The Burlingame Treaty of 1868

Among the Western powers, the negotiation with the U.S. was by far the most complex. Unlike most European powers, the U.S. had no particular interest in acquiring colonies beyond what it had already secured from “sea to shining.” Its primary foreign interest in Asia was the protection of American trade and mission in China and a reliable supply of cheap Chinese labor for the economic development of California and other western states in such industries such as, mining, agriculture, and above all, the completion of the transcontinental railway. Two major obstacles confronted the leaders in government and industries: China’s ban on its people from going abroad and rising anti-Chinese agitation and violence in California by the white working class. Lifting the ban would legalize Chinese emigration and facilitate recruitment and migration of Chinese abroad. Extending legal protection of Chinese workers from racial discrimination and violence would increase their security and productivity and help prevent them from fleeing back to China. Furthermore, west coast legislative effort to enact Chinese exclusion laws would conflict with east coast interests in protecting its profitable trade with China and mission to convert the Chinese to Christianity.

The challenge for Burlingame was how to craft a new treaty between China and the U.S. that would effectively address these conflicting interests and political obstacles. Fortunately for Burlingame, he had close political ties with and confidence of both President Johnson and Seward who had interest in protecting U.S. interests in China and completing the transcontinental railway and other economic development projects.

While in the U.S., he worked closely with Secretary of State Seward in crafting what was later known as the Burlingame Treaty of 1868. He also lobbied key interest groups, making sure that the treaty would be ratified by the U.S. Senate. The treaty incorporated not only Burlingame’s ideals of international relations but also satisfied the interests of both China and the U.S. Its main provisions included: the U.S. would not interfere with the internal affairs of China; China could appoint Consuls at ports in the U.S. with the same privilege of immunities of other Most-Favored-Nations, such as Britain, France, Germany, and Russia; either national would be open to unlimited immigration from the other, and citizens of one nation would be able to travel, study, and reside freely in the other nation.

After securing the approval of the treaty from the U.S., Burlingame continued his diplomatic mission to seek commitment to the same principles and values in the Burlingame treaty from the major European powers. He was well received by Queen Victoria of Britain and influential Foreign Secretary Lord Clarendon, Emperor Napoleon III of France, King William of Prussia, and Tsar Alexander II of Russia. Unfortunately, during his visit in St. Petersburg, Russia, he caught pneumonia and died at the age of 49 on February 23, 1870. His body was brought back to Boston and buried in Cambridge. The official burial ceremony on April 23 was attended by tens of thousands on the street as his carriage was dropped with both the Stars and Stripes flag and the Yellow Dragon flag of China. A Royal Decree awarded him posthumously as Civilian Rank 1 (equivalent to the position of Prime Minister) from Emperor Tongzhi and granted 10,000 liang (or 500,000 grams) of silver to his family.

In a tribute to Burlingame, Mark Twain wrote: “It is not easy to comprehend, at an instant’s warning, the exceeding magnitude of the loss which mankind sustains in this death.... the loss which all nations and all peoples sustain in it. For he had outgrown the narrow citizenship of a state and become a citizen of the world, and his charity was large enough and his great heart warm enough to feel for all its races and to labor for them.... He was a good man, and a very, very great man. America lost a son, and all the world a servant, when he died.”