Peace Prize a well-deserved honour

Kwangari Maathai, Kenyan deputy environment minister, won the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2004. This is a wonderful achievement. She is the first African woman to win the prize; (1) (furthermore / on the other hand / but) she won the prize for doing something wonderful -- protecting the environment. Preventing environmental degradation is essential to world security and world peace, (2) (in contrast / so / actually) the recognition of the Nobel selection committee is very important. Environmentalists tend to focus on nature; (3) (as a result / nevertheless / in fact) they must also recognize the importance of social justice and peace in protecting nature. A starving person who comes across an edible plant or animal, (4) (for instance/besides / instead) will not pause and wonder whether it is endangered. (5) (In the same way / On the contrary / If) those living without justice or under conditions of terror, genocide or war, must worry about survival above all. (6) (In addition / So / Consequently) these issues must also be addressed (7) (if / since / just as) we are to protect nature. Droughts, extreme weather events, expanding disease vectors and the scarcity of fresh water are some of the expected problems in the future.

These stresses will create "environmental refugees" and conflicts over natural resources. (8) (When / On the contrary / As a consequence) environmental issues are essential to world security and world peace. Environmental security and national security are intricately connected. (9) (However / Likewise / Whereas) health cannot be separated.

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