

The uncounted

WITH [Winnie Byanyima](#) on the growing problem of inequality / [Paul Ladd](#) on the need for a data revolution / [Jean Philbert Nsengimana](#) on youth unemployment / [Alexandra Heinsjo Jackson](#) on tackling disability issues

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- Influence decision-makers and opinion-shapers to promote UN goals
- Stimulate debate and action on ways to make the UN more effective



The UN Mission in South Sudan conducts a training exercise in Juba
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Investing in youth for a better future
Arthur Erken, UN Population Fund

Can the SGDs end poverty?
Jason Hickel, LSE & Mwangi Waituru, VSO

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A Rohingya child looks through holes in a fence around a mosque in their slum in Sittwe, Myanmar
© Reuters/Damir Sagolj

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These are our numbers

Hayley Richardson on a global stock-taking exercise

These are exciting times at the United Nations. In the space of a few short months world leaders will (we hope) agree on new innovative sources of development finance (see page eight), a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and an internationally-binding climate treaty.

The second of these has particularly concentrated the minds of UN agencies and member states alike. Expected to finish off and build upon the work of the MDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are ambitious in both their aims and scale (see page 10).

Such is the weight of nery anticipation around this agenda that policymakers and UN commentators are in a perpetual state of speculation over the SDGs' merits and faults before they have even been adopted.

But before embarking upon the next era of development, it has become clear that we need a much more precise understanding of the state of the world. For how will we know how far we've come in 2030 if we do not know what our starting point was in 2015? Put simply, we must undertake what amounts to the world's biggest stock-taking exercise.

The UN has already begun this process. The MY World survey of what issues matter most to citizens around the world had over 7.5 million people take part, complementing a menagerie of other panels and working group consultations. And for the last 10 years the UN has published an

We need a much more precise understanding of the world. How will we know how far we've come in 2030 if we do not know what our starting point was?

Hundreds of refugees and migrants aboard a fishing boat are pictured moments before being rescued by the Italian navy. In recent months there has been a dramatic growth in the number of refugees seeking safety by undertaking dangerous sea journeys, including on the Mediterranean
© UNHCR



annual report tracking the progress of the MDGs, utilising the worldwide networks of expertise and information at its disposal.

But for all this we are still woefully ill-informed about the world in which we live. Swedish statistician, Hans Rosling, has found that when the public are quizzed on global demographic trends – such as the average life expectancy of the world's population – their scores tend to be worse than those of chimpanzees picking the answers at random.

I like to think *New World* readers could disprove this theory, and the following pages should help you to do so. You'll find expert analysis on a range of demographic trends, including youth unemployment (page 16), the cross-cutting discrimination faced by persons with disability (page 26), the global flow of migrants (pages 12–13) and urbanisation's contribution to economic development (pages 14–15).

But as UN Development Programme's Paul Ladd explains on page 18, our understanding of such global trends can at times be no more than a best guess, relying on outdated and inadequate information. He calls for a "data revolution" to improve decision-making, help measure the progress of the SDGs and equip citizens to hold their leaders to account.

A better understanding of the state of the world will also help us reach those who were forgotten by the MDGs. Left behind by unequal power structures which overlook the marginalised and the vulnerable, the success of the SDGs agenda will ultimately depend on how it benefits the world's most deprived people. According to Winnie Byanyima, Oxfam International's Executive Director (page 11), we must be prepared to challenge the status quo if the SDGs are to have any hope of doing so. ●

Get in touch

UNA-UK welcomes your thoughts and comments on this issue of *New World*, or your suggestions for future issues.

You can email the editor, Hayley Richardson, at richardson@una.org.uk, tweet us @UNAUK or write to
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New World – required reading for global citizens from all walks of life.



Sustainable development

Sir Jeremy on the central theme in geopolitics

Over the past 17 years, from the time I arrived at the UN in New York as UK Permanent Representative, I have thought a lot about the role of development in global politics. It did not take me long, arguing away in the heady atmosphere of the Security Council, to realise that international peace and security could not sit there in isolation as a grand top subject.

Peace and security would only know its true place if it saw itself (or rather if Security Council members saw it) as a sub-category of the UN's primary purpose, which is providing disadvantaged populations with the opportunity to develop.

Successful development is impossible in conditions of conflict, and conflict cannot be avoided where economic and social progress are hopelessly lacking. We must weave together the strands of peace, security and development. The first 15 years of the Millennium Development Goals have actually achieved more than the sceptics expected: the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has halved, and there have been notable improvements in most other areas.

The UN's draft Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must build on that, but there are still some critical issues to be tackled:

- Can inequality be reduced to insignificance?
- Does the world have enough resources for a global population of 8, 9, 10 billion people?
- What can the UK contribute?
- Can geopolitics be shaped to support these aims?

The answers? Yes, the SDGs will target inequality effectively if they are implemented. Yes, the world has plenty of riches still to offer, under wise management. Yes, the UK can be a persuasive and a material contributor, based on its laudable achievement of a 0.7 per cent of GNI development budget.

Ah, geopolitics. Freedom and greed promote fragmentation and competition. Local preference rules. Long periods

of peace, by definition, always end in war. The historical precedents are discouraging. I particularly worry about the breakdown of communication and understanding between big powers with strong national motivations.

But this is where the UN is so important. It has set the global norms, and the vast majority of global citizens respect them. It has inculcated the habit of political debate before resorting to violence. It provides the channels for delivery of help to those in need.

The UN has inculcated the habit of political debate before resorting to violence

UNA-UK, with some close partners, has recently appealed to the Prime Minister and other senior ministers to commit themselves over the coming months to giving the UK a central role in the revitalisation of the United Nations.

The election campaign showed a Britain apparently turned in on itself. That would be to succumb to the fragmenting trend of the last two decades. We have also proposed the drafting of a Security Council resolution to mark the arrival of the SDGs and to express the relationship between peace and development.

It is a statement of fact, not a moral injunction, to say that sharing and compromise, as opposed to competition and selfishness, are the path both to the avoidance of conflict and to a sustainable distribution of the world's resources. They do not come naturally to humans under pressure.

The UK, which has so often in the past shown as effective a capacity to work for global solutions as any nation, carries a responsibility – as a permanent member of the Security Council and as the largest multilateral donor – to drive for international cooperation. *New World* readers, please be active in insisting that the UK continue to do so. ●

● **Asia's 'boat people'**

The UN has expressed concern over the 25,000 people estimated to have fled Myanmar and Bangladesh; over 1,000 are thought to have died in their attempts to reach Malaysia, Thailand or Indonesia by sea. Some south-east Asian countries have been criticised for operating a so-called pushback policy, where boats have been turned around by naval vessels before they could reach land. Many of those attempting the crossing are Rohingya refugees fleeing long-standing persecution.

● **Healthcare gains remain fragile**

Two recent UN reports demonstrate that progress made in meeting healthcare targets under the Millennium Development Goals is both fragile and uneven. An International Labour Organization report states that 56 per cent of the rural population worldwide are without access to critical health services. In Africa the figure rises to a staggering 83 per cent of rural inhabitants. Meanwhile the UN's International Narcotics Control Board says that three-quarters of the world's population lack access to essential pain relief medicines, such as codeine or morphine.

● **ICJ rules on Balkan wars**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) – a principal organ of the UN – has ruled on a case in which Croatia and Serbia accused each other of breaking the Genocide Convention during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The ICJ found that while the material acts of genocide had been perpetrated, in neither case was there a deliberate intent to pursue this course, an essential element in distinguishing genocide from other crimes. The Court therefore rejected both claims in a decision that is both binding and without appeal.



A group of women gather after being displaced near Nyala, South Darfur. In June the Security Council condemned an increase in intercommunal violence in the region. The Sudanese Government's military offensive "Operation Decisive Summer" has newly displaced at least 80,000 people © UN Photo/Albert González Farran

● **Record temperatures in 2014**

According to the World Meteorological Organization, 2014 was the hottest year on record. This reflects a larger climate trend which will see a continuation of increasing temperatures and extreme weather events, such as the floods witnessed in the Balkans in May last year and the droughts affecting the US and China. A recent heatwave in India, which has killed over 2,300 people, has been blamed on climate change by the country's earth sciences minister.

● **Ban Ki-moon visits the Vatican**

In April, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon visited His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican. Mr Ban and Pope Francis discussed the Papal encyclical – a letter to Catholics everywhere – in which the Church has called for decisive action on climate change. The meeting followed a visit Mr Ban made to an Italian naval vessel involved in ongoing operations to rescue migrants stranded in the Mediterranean.

● **Middle East turmoil continues**

Numerous UN bodies continue to speak out against Islamic State's (IS) campaign of violence in Iraq and Syria. A report from

the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has said its actions may constitute war crimes, while the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has condemned the "cultural cleansing" of ancient artefacts and historic sites.

Meanwhile Saudi Arabia has led a military intervention in Yemen, where Houthi rebels had taken control of the capital and ejected the government. A coalition of 10 states conducted air strikes targeting the Houthi rebels, however the civilian casualties have been significant.

W Go to www.una.org.uk/magazine for an update on the situation in Gaza from Pierre Krahenbühl, Commissioner-General for the UN Relief and Works Agency

● **Fresh reports of sexual abuse**

Serious allegations of sexual exploitation committed by French peacekeepers in the Central African Republic have been revealed by a UN whistleblower. The abuses are reported to have taken place in 2014 prior to the formal establishment of the UN mission in the country.

A report into the incidents was leaked to the French authorities by a UN member of staff who was suspended pending an inquiry but later reinstated. OHCHR, which has been conducting an investigation into the abuses, said its first

concern was for the victims, witnesses and investigators named in the unredacted, leaked report.

● **Hazards for UN personnel**

The Security Council has expressed concern over South Sudan's recent decision to expel Toby Lanzer, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the country. A British national, Mr Lanzer took to Twitter to share "Heartfelt thanks to all of you who have voiced and demonstrated such strong support for our work in the past days, weeks and months."

Unfortunately this is not an isolated example of the targeted harassment of UN staff. Just a few days after Mr Lanzer's expulsion, the UN received news that two United Nations–African Union contractors in Darfur had been released after four months in captivity. There are 31 UN personnel who remain unlawfully detained in over a dozen countries around the world.

● **Investing in the future**

The UN's Every Woman Every Child partnership claims to have saved 2.5 million lives since its inception in 2010. Its work has focussed on interventions in 49 countries, such as

preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission and increasing oral rehydration treatment for tackling infant diarrhoea. Working with over 300 partners around the world, from governments to foundations and businesses, it is the fastest growing partnership of its kind in history.

● **Tackling extremism**

At the June G7 Summit in Germany, the Secretary-General shared an initial outline of the UN's Global Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The plan, which will be presented to the General Assembly later this year, will propose ways to address the causes of violent extremism, including intolerance, governance failures and marginalisation. It will also provide member states with concrete recommendations for action at the local, national, regional and global levels. Speaking at the Summit Mr Ban said "missiles may kill terrorists. But I am convinced that good governance is what will kill terrorism."

● **Healthy oceans, healthy planet**

The UN has stated that relieving the plight of the world's oceans is integral to sustainable development. Speaking on World Oceans Day, the Secretary-

"These inequalities are not random outcomes of an otherwise benign and gender-neutral economy and society ... they are wired into the ways in which economic, social and political structures work"

UN Women's report "Progress of the World's Women 2015-16". For more on this see Isabelle Younane's article at www.una.org.uk/magazine.

General highlighted critical areas of concern, such as overexploitation, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as unsustainable aquaculture practices, marine pollution and habitat destruction. According to a UN report, as little as \$5bn could help reverse ocean degradation.

These issues take on new significance as member states prepare to adopt major development and climate agreements later this year. It is thought that two out of every five people live in coastal areas and three out of seven depend on marine and coastal resources to survive.



Source: Progress of the World's Women 2015-16

Money talks

Why the UN's financing for development conference needs to go beyond aid to meet the challenges of the next era of development

Last year the UK quietly achieved the long-standing international target of spending 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development aid (ODA). With an election looming this seemed to fly mostly below the radar in the UK, but it has been a flagship element of the Government's foreign policy abroad.

Just a few of the UK's aid accomplishments recently highlighted by the Department for International Development (DFID) include:

- 3 million people in six countries supported to achieve increased food security
- 4.3 million babies delivered with the help of nurses, midwives or doctors
- 13 countries supported by DFID in freer and fairer elections

The UK has also become the world's largest funder of multilateral aid, delivering £6.3bn through these channels in 2013 – 50 per cent more than any other country. With this comes the potential for increased influence in global development forums, as seen in the Prime Minister's recent co-chairing of the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

A 2013 House of Lords inquiry into the UK's soft power similarly concluded that the aid spending projects “a vision of the UK as a helpful and generous nation that can provide expertise in effective international development.”

It has even been suggested that DFID's global reach and reputation may play a greater role in British diplomacy than the more traditional approach of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). This is a remarkable shift. Until 1997 DFID was a sub-section of the FCO, but now it commands its own protected annual budget of around £11bn. By comparison, FCO spending is roughly a quarter of DFID's, with some FCO work ‘badged’ as ODA in line with DFID priorities.

The bigger picture

So how does this dramatic shift in UK aid spending compare with wider trends? According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),

ODA has risen steadily in absolute terms and reached near-record levels in 2014.

However, as a proportion of GNI, spending has stagnated, and was lower in 2014 than in 2005. The OECD average in 2014 was 0.29 per cent, with contributions from France and Canada in particular declining over recent years. And despite numerous public pledges to the contrary, just six countries have actually met the 0.7 per cent target: Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Equally concerning is the sharp reduction in aid going to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – the 48 poorest countries on the planet, 34 of which can be found in sub-Saharan Africa, and which are often wracked by long-term conflict and instability. Figures show that ODA spent on LDCs in 2014 fell by 16 per cent from 2013 levels.

The OECD suggests that donors favoured middle-income countries, such as China and India, where the majority of the world's poor can still be found. Yet LDCs are far more reliant on ODA for the provision of essential services, with 40 per cent of government budgets being comprised of foreign aid.

“Traditional aid must work in untraditional ways”

Jon Lomøy, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

Another area where aid is falling far short of requirements is the financing of global public goods. These are the resources and services which mitigate global risks for the benefit of all countries, such as disease control, conservation and agricultural productivity. But according to the Center for Global Development, in 2012 less than a tenth of ODA (\$12bn) was allocated to global public goods – of which nearly \$9bn went to UN peacekeeping alone.

Though not new, these concerns become increasingly urgent at a time when, under the new Sustainable



In partnership with the World Food Programme, MasterCard is providing technical expertise that enables Syrian refugees to use prepaid cards to buy their own food
© Flickr/MasterCard News

Development Goals (SDGs), the pressure on the system is set to grow considerably. Since 2012, the UN's highly-anticipated SDGs have been meticulously consulted on and negotiated over, and are due to be adopted in September.

Billed as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals, the zero draft's 17 goals and 169 targets (see on page 10) go far beyond the eight – much narrower – MDGs embarked upon in 2000. Universal in their scope, the SDGs are intended to transform not only the poorest nations but the world's approach to its most intractable social, economic and environmental problems.

Considering the alternatives

If the ‘what’ of the SDGs has been all but decided, then an upcoming UN conference must answer the ‘how’. Aid is clearly one (albeit important) vehicle for development. But in July, member states will meet in Addis Ababa for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, where they will explore the alternatives.

For every
\$1 OF FOREIGN AID
going into a developing country,
\$5 IS COMING OUT
Raymond W. Baker in
Capitalism's Achilles Heel

Public finance

States are expected to pay a lot of attention to the resources that can be raised in-country. Tax revenue in lower-income countries typically stands at just 10–14 per cent of GDP, compared to 20–30 per cent in high-income countries. Despite the impressive results of capacity-building programmes for revenue officers – one \$15,000 project in Colombia saw tax collections jump from \$3.3m to \$5.8m in just one year – only 0.07 per cent of ODA was spent on this in 2012.

Ahead of the Addis conference, campaigners have been calling for states to commit to mobilising domestic public finance of at least 18–20 per cent of GDP, and using this income to fund a minimum spend of \$300 per capita (or 10 per cent of GDP, whichever is greater) on basic essential services.

Tax is increasingly an area which also requires international cooperation. It is thought that developing countries lose \$500bn in tax evasion annually. While the G7 and G20 have been proactive on this issue, much more remains to be done to end the problem of tax havens and to improve the transparency of financial reporting.

Private sector and trade

Lauded by the UK Government and others as the key that will unlock developing countries' potential, foreign direct investment will also feature strongly in Addis, particularly in relation to high-impact infrastructure projects.

Public-private partnerships are likewise viewed as a potential solution to a number of financing dilemmas. Some have undoubtedly made important progress (see our update on Every Woman Every Child on page seven) but a recent study of 330 multi-stakeholder partnerships, undertaken by the International Civil Society Centre, found that 38 per cent were inactive.

Developing countries will also want to focus on removing the barriers blocking their growing influence in trade. South–South trade has prospered in recent years, rising from eight per cent of all global commerce in 1990 to 25 per cent last year.

Financial inclusion

More than 2.5 billion people around the world have no access to formal financial services, stymieing their ability to save income, start small businesses and contribute to the broader economy.

Remittances are a popular option, but governments must address the unacceptably high associated costs, which can be as much as 20 per cent for intra-African transfers.

In many cases, however, these obstacles have resulted in some innovative alternatives that could usefully be >>

Essay

>> harnessed for wider benefit. Kenya's M-Pesa has featured in the pages of *New World* as an excellent example of mobile money transfer that could be replicated elsewhere.

According to the World Bank, in 2016 global remittances could reach

\$540BN

equivalent to the GDP of Sweden

Mind the gap

What is clear is that to implement such an ambitious range of development goals, each will require its own unique range of public and private, national and international finance. However, the gap between expectations for the Addis conference, and what can realistically be delivered, is significant.

Global finance governance operates in a highly fragmented policy environment. Although the UN is the only international organisation with the universal membership to address such a global issue, its clout is limited. Almost from day one the UN deferred this responsibility to two independent, specialised agencies – the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). But its Bretton Woods offspring have long since flown the nest.

The World Bank, for example, has embarked upon its own poverty eradication agenda while its President, Jim Yong Kim, has been largely silent on the SDGs. The

OECD, meanwhile, has launched the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, a programme pursuing ultimately the same ends as the Addis conference.

Add to this the G7 and G20's leadership on tax reform, the IMF's preoccupation with debt crises and a new BRICS-governed development bank, and you soon begin to appreciate the scale of the challenge in converging the interests of these institutions with 193 member states.

A 2009 Commission headed by economist Joseph Stiglitz made suggestions for how to improve the coordination of this cumbersome system. These recommendations remain highly relevant six years later but continue to gather dust.

Navigating these issues is the responsibility of the Addis conference's co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Guyana and Norway (as well as hosts Ethiopia), yet they may find the solutions are above their pay grade. It is vital they succeed, not only for the effective delivery of the SDGs but to ensure the agenda even gets off the ground.

As UNA-UK policy advisor, Alex Evans, recently put it, a poor outcome at Addis could "poison the atmosphere for the SDG summit in September and potentially the climate summit in December too, creating the risk of a cascading multilateral failure."

A failure of this kind is a risk, but not a foregone conclusion. Civil society must get behind the conference as a critical moment in building political will for the SDGs. It also needs to be a firm date in the diary for the world's finance ministers as they are the only ones with the authority to seal the deals needed. It is worth asking, is your finance minister attending? ●

Opinion



Winnie Byanyima asks, can we truly reach a point where no one is left behind?

I like the story I heard recently from Donald Kaberuka of the African Development Bank, who quoted a Senegalese taxi driver exclaiming: "I can't eat GDP!" Many ordinary people across the world will recognise this sentiment. A growing economy may be celebrated; but not when the spoils of growth are ever more concentrated into the hands of the richest few.

Extreme economic inequality is spiralling out of control across the globe. In January, Oxfam calculated that just 80 people have the same wealth as the poorest half of the planet. This is manifestly unjust, and it also works against our aim of ending poverty. In many economies where there is strong GDP growth, inequality can undermine the link between growth and poverty reduction. Zambia, for instance, is one of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world, and yet poverty there has actually risen at the same time.

A rise in economic inequality is also a serious blow to efforts to achieve gender equality. Studies show that in more economically unequal societies, fewer women complete higher education, fewer women are represented in the legislature, and the pay gap between women and men is wider.

If governments care about ending poverty they must focus on a two-pronged approach: challenge the system that allows runaway wealth for a handful of people; and devise policies that reduce the inequality gap and increase economic opportunity and prosperity for those in greatest poverty.

They are often two sides of the same coin. Without progressive and effective taxation, a country is allowing private wealth to amass but also losing an important resource base to tackle poverty. Where free and good quality public healthcare or education is not universal, it stands to reason that those who can pay to be healthy and educated will do better. Without basic social protection, or effective labour laws, people are denied the right to demand fair pay and conditions from their employers



Children play in front of their slum in the Philippines with the Makati business district skyline in the background © Getty/Peter Charlesworth

(who go on to pay themselves and their shareholders vast sums).

For decades it has been advocated that we can deal with poverty simply by concentrating on moving those at the bottom up, and helping particular groups, such as women. This is inadequate, and the reason has to do with power: money no longer just buys a nice car, better education or healthcare. Increasingly, it buys impunity from justice, an election, a pliant media or favourable laws. This in turn leads to a perpetuation of policies that allow vast wealth to be accumulated by a small minority, and that increase economic inequality and therefore mean that poverty persists.

The UN's draft set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes a commitment to tackle economic inequality. It may not be formulated in the most robust way, but it is good news that all governments are on the verge of agreeing that inequality within countries matters and must be addressed.

How we do this will vary from economy to economy, but we are not short of analysis, examples or ideas to draw on. Professor Nora Lustig and her team at the Commitment to Equity programme are collecting compelling data on the impact of taxation and social spending on inequality. Their research underlines the need for spending on social security, health and education. But it also shows

that the way in which the money is raised is vital: progressive, direct taxation does much more to reduce both inequality and poverty than indirect taxes like VAT.

We must also ensure that tax revenues can be gained from the multinationals and rich individuals who are currently able to avoid paying a fair share. We need to reform global tax rules and Oxfam is very supportive of the call from the G77 countries for a new intergovernmental body on tax, which we hope will be discussed at the Financing for Development Conference in July.

Brazil is another interesting example, as reducing inequality there relied on more than the impressive Bolsa Familia cash transfer programme; it also required positive government action to make employment pay. Brazil's minimum wage rose by nearly 50 per cent in real terms between 1995 and 2011, contributing to a parallel decline in poverty and inequality.

The new SDGs must leave no one behind. We can do this; the tools are there. But to use them we must be prepared to stand up to some powerful interests and voices. My hope for the future is that, when politicians celebrate GDP, this success can be shared by all, and that Kaberuka's taxi driver will see it lead to more food on his family's plate. ●

Winnie Byanyima is Executive Director of Oxfam International

Sustainable Development Goals



End poverty in all its forms everywhere



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



Reduce inequality within and among countries



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development



**Nikola Sander
& Ramon Bauer on
visualising the global
migration system**

The surge of people risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean – described by the UN as “a tragedy of epic proportions” – has brought international attention to the issue of migration in recent months. Public anxiety about a looming European migration crisis, caused by large uncontrolled inflows from Africa and the Middle East, is growing.

How the European Union should respond to the rising influx and whether to relax or restrict immigration are hotly debated issues, but political rhetoric and populist media dominate over fact-based discussions. Who would be better equipped to neutrally inform public and political debates on migration than the scientific community?

Surprisingly, though, social scientists have been rather cautious about how to effectively communicate their findings to a wider audience, and their research has typically focussed on just one specific country or region. But because migration is a truly global phenomenon, the current inflows to Europe can be much better understood if placed in a wider context.

However, understanding where people are moving around the world has been difficult because of a lack of both comparable statistics and effective ways of extracting meaningful patterns and trends.

Migration is quantified using two types of data. Stock data is the number of migrants residing in a country, which is relatively easily to collect and compare across countries. Flow data are more dynamic, summarising the movement of people over a defined period. This allows for a better understanding of patterns and future trends, but many countries do not collect flow data and those that do use different definitions, making comparison difficult.

In a study published in the journal *Science* last year, we gave the first

comprehensive view of international migration flows over the 20-year period 1990–2010 (this timeframe does not reflect recent trends such as movements triggered by the recession in southern Europe or the violent conflict in Syria).

To quantify the global flow of people, we developed a methodology which estimates the number of movements required to meet recorded

changes in migrant stock data. We applied this method to the UN’s stock data to provide a series of “origin to destination” flow estimates in five-year periods. “Illegal” migrants and refugee movements are included where they are considered in the UN’s data.

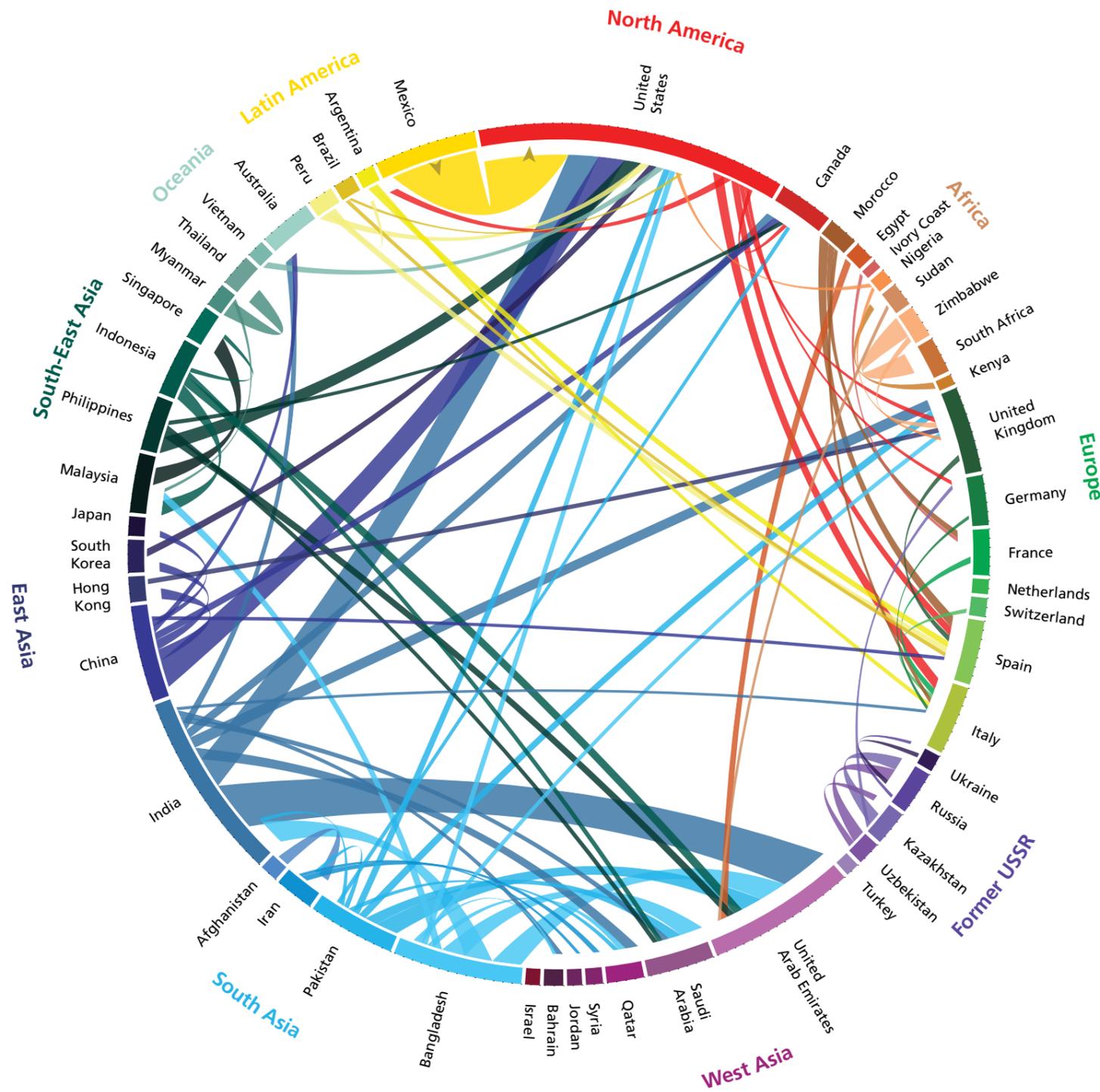
Contrary to the conventional wisdom, that globalisation results in a rising tide

of migration, our method indicates that migration has been relatively stable since 1995. At the global level, an average of just 6 in 1000 people moved between countries within each five-year period.

Visualising the complex patterns of global migration is essential for bridging the gap between science and the public. Our easy-to-read graphic shows the relative size and direction of migration

streams within the global system of flows. By focussing on migration between the 50 countries with the largest volume of movement (in excess of 70,000 people), we can highlight where people are migrating to in one visualisation.

The data show that most migrants move over short distances within the same region or between neighbouring regions, and relatively few move between



Visualising the data

The circular plot shows migration flows over the period 2005–2010 between the 50 countries with the highest volume of movement. Countries are arranged in a circular layout, with each country assigned a distinctive colour.

The band width denotes the size of the migration flow and assumes the colour of the origin country (the direction of the flow is also indicated by a greater separation of the band from the outer circle at the destination country).

Source: “The global flow of people” by Nikola Sander, Guy J Abel and Ramon Bauer, published online at www.global-migration.info and in *Science* under the title “Quantifying global international migration flows”.

continents. North America, Europe and the oil-rich Gulf countries in western Asia are the destinations of flows that come from furthest afield (most of which go through the centre of the circular graphic).

There is also a noticeable circulation of migrants among sub-Saharan African countries that dwarfs the number actually leaving Africa. The media, however, prefer to pay more attention to the latter, which tends to fuel public anxiety. But when the level of income and educational attainment of populations increases, as in Asian and Latin American countries in economic transition, the rate of migration to Western countries also increases.

Over the period 1990–2010, Asia has become an important hub in the global migration system, and a growing number of people migrated from Asia to North America and Europe. Between 2005 and 2010, the oil-based construction boom on the Arabian Peninsula triggered a flow of about 4.9 million people from south Asia to west Asia.

You can take your own tour of the global flow of people by visiting the interactive version of our visualisation, created together with Null2 Berlin, at: www.global-migration.info.

Nikola Sander and Ramon Bauer are research scholars at the Vienna Institute of Demography of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

In focus

The phenomenon of urbanisation has changed not only the physical landscape but the political one.

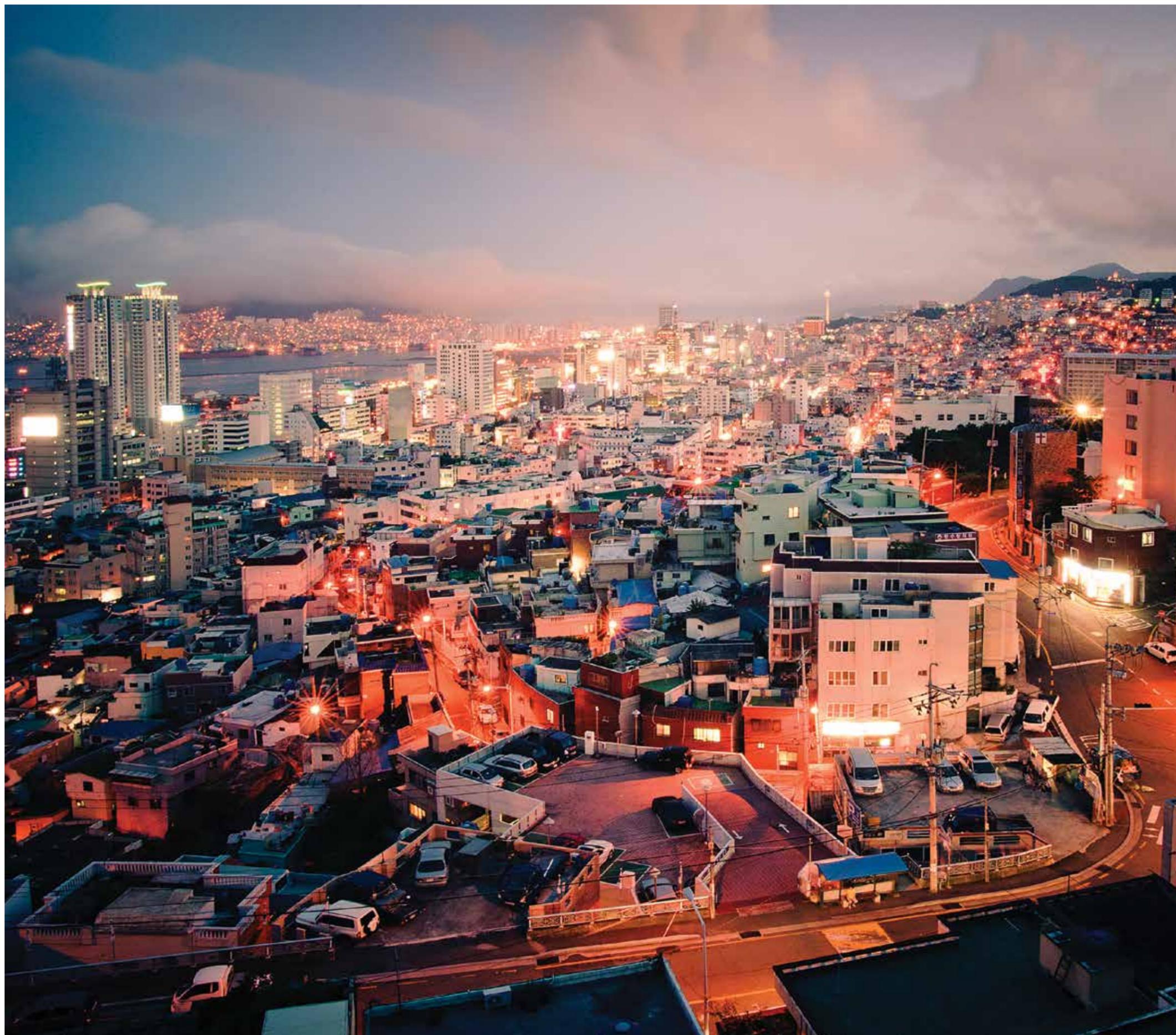
Countries from every region have puzzled over how best to accommodate the 54 per cent of the global population concentrated in urban areas. According to the UN, one in eight of these people live in one of the world's 28 mega cities, home to more than 10 million people each.

Cities can become deprivation traps for their poorest citizens. Unplanned or unsustainable urban growth can lead to creaking infrastructure, environmental degradation, high competition for jobs and strained social services.

In the Republic of Korea, where the 1960s income per head was on par with sub-Saharan Africa, cities like Busan (pictured) have been a key driver of development. Since then, the country's urbanisation rate has grown from 28 per cent to 83 per cent in 2010, whilst its economy is now the world's 13th largest.

Yet Korea faces a new trend. The populations of Busan and Seoul are declining, due to ageing citizens, low rates of immigration and the loss of industry. The challenge for modern states, therefore, is adapting to both the ebb and flow of urbanisation.

A view of Busan, the Republic of Korea's second largest city after Seoul
© UN Photo/Kibae Park



Feature



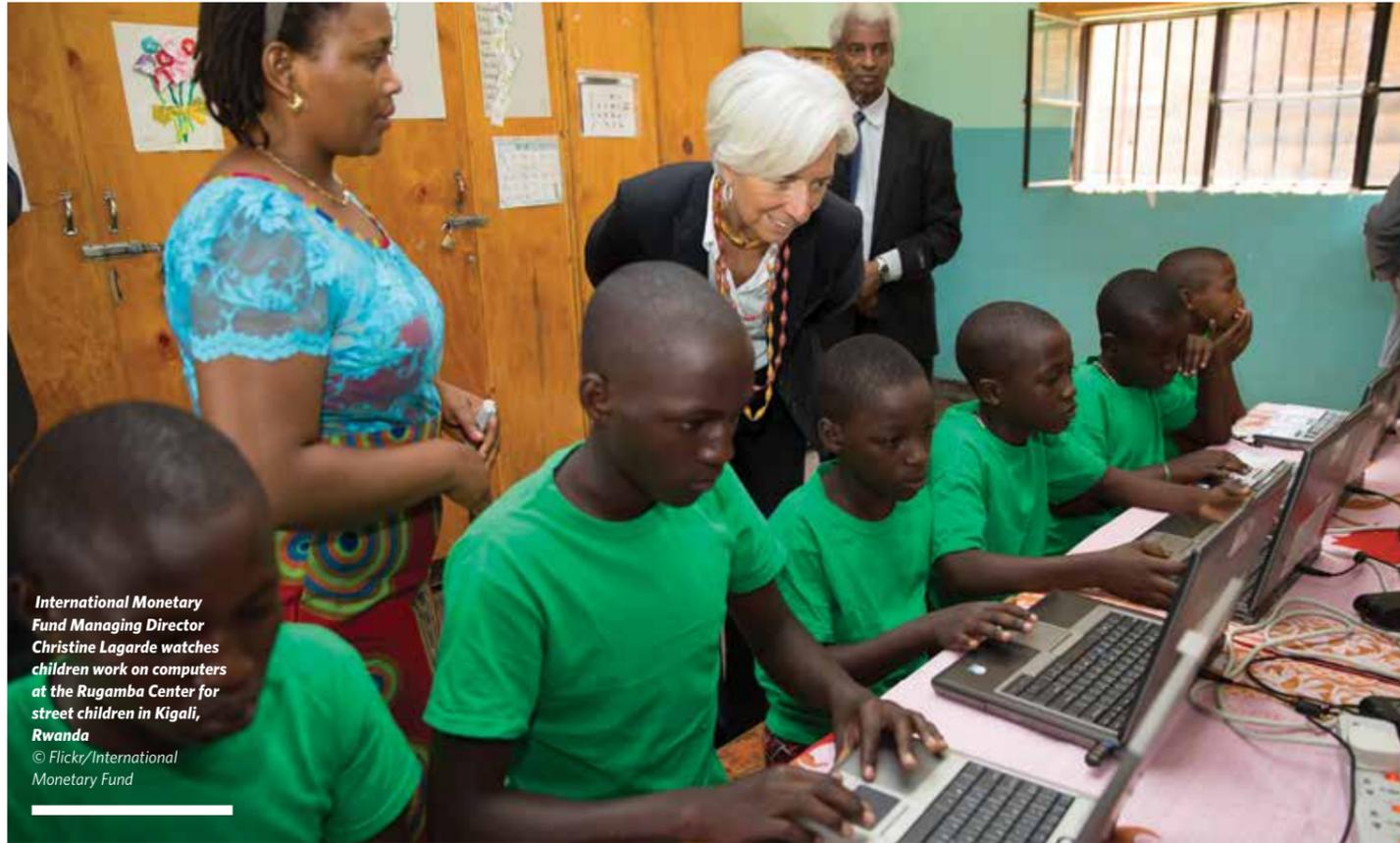
Jean Philbert Nsengimana on rethinking the response to youth unemployment

Around the world almost 300 million 15 to 24-year-olds are not in education, employment or training. In developed economies, unemployment is one of the most difficult crises facing policymakers. Greece and Spain, with youth unemployment rates in excess of 50 per cent, are an illustration of how acute and painful this problem can be. The International Labour Organization, a UN body, has spoken about a “scarred” generation of young workers around the world, and has a major programme dedicated to tackling the issue.

This problem isn't just confined to developed countries. Commentators and experts have spoken of Africa's demographic boom as a blessing for its long-term prospects. The population of 15 to 24-year-olds in Africa is expected to rise by more than a third, to 275 million, by 2025. In Rwanda, young people between the ages of 18 and 35 make up 40 per cent of the country's 11.5 million population.

However, harnessing this demographic dividend poses a policy challenge for us, too. As our own economy continues to grow towards middle-income status, expectations among the young for stable, decent, paid jobs has also grown. Every day I meet young graduates who ask me about their career prospects in an increasingly globalised and competitive world.

We have made some progress. According to a recent household survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics in Rwanda, only 4.1 per cent of Rwanda's youth are now unemployed, but a bigger proportion remains



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde watches children work on computers at the Rugamba Center for street children in Kigali, Rwanda
© Flickr/International Monetary Fund

under-employed in the informal sector. The challenge is therefore far from over – as both population and expectations rise, we have to keep working to enable our ambitious young people to find decent jobs.

So what are the lessons that I have learned as a policymaker?

First, growth matters. Continued strong economic performance is the key to providing foundational conditions to unlock jobs. But while growth is necessary, it is not sufficient. Improving education, especially technical and vocational training, as well as expanding health coverage across the country is crucial in order to give people the skills and well-being to be productive in the workplace.

Second, ICT (information and communications technology) matters. Rwanda's Vision 2020, the cornerstone of our strategy, aims at transitioning from an agricultural to a knowledge-based economy. In 2014, the ICT sector grew at 25 per cent, ahead of the 7.1 per cent average GDP growth, and contributed more than 3 per cent to GDP – more than all agriculture exports combined.

The only way to ensure that this growth is sustained and its impact is multiplied is to ensure that all citizens are connected, financially included and digitally literate. We will extend high-speed 4G LTE internet to 95 per cent of the population by 2017. Under the leadership of President Paul Kagame,

the country's education is undergoing massive digital transformation. One laptop per child is more than just a policy headline; it is our long-term bet for providing our youthful population with the skills to make them competitive in the global knowledge economy.

Third, empowering girls and women matters. A critical element of any successful employment strategy – and often overlooked – is the role of women. In Rwanda 64 per cent of parliamentarians are women – the highest proportion of any parliament in the world – and gender rights are enshrined in our constitution. There are laws in place to give women the right to inherit land, share the assets of a marriage and obtain credit. Women are leading the way in Rwanda's next generation of entrepreneurs and we hope they will inspire others to think about starting their own business.

Fourth, private sector leadership matters. The best source of employment generation is not government but the people themselves. So as policymakers, perhaps our greatest challenge is how to create the conditions for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to not only survive but thrive. 98 per cent of all new jobs are created by the private sector and more than 90 per cent of them by SMEs.

Innovation hubs, like Kigali-based 'knowledge Lab' (kLab), help young people turn their ideas into viable

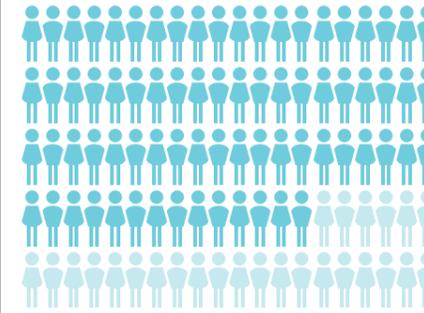
businesses. At kLab, young Rwandans are mentored and empowered with entrepreneurial skills which enable them to enhance their future prospects for employment by creating their own jobs.

Fifth, ease of doing business matters. Since 2004, Rwanda has substantially improved access to credit, streamlined procedures for starting a business, reduced the time to register property, simplified cross-border trade and made courts more accessible for resolving commercial disputes. Rwanda is among the few countries where the executive branch has made private sector development a priority by establishing institutions such as the Rwanda Development Board, whose main purpose is to design and implement business regulation reforms. These measures are clearly beginning to have an effect, with the World Bank ranking Rwanda as Africa's third most business-friendly destination.

The generation of young people who have grown up over the last 20 years since the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda have proven themselves to be brave and resilient. Now we must create the conditions for this generation not just to do well, but to excel. ●

Jean Philbert Nsengimana is Minister of Youth and ICT, Rwanda

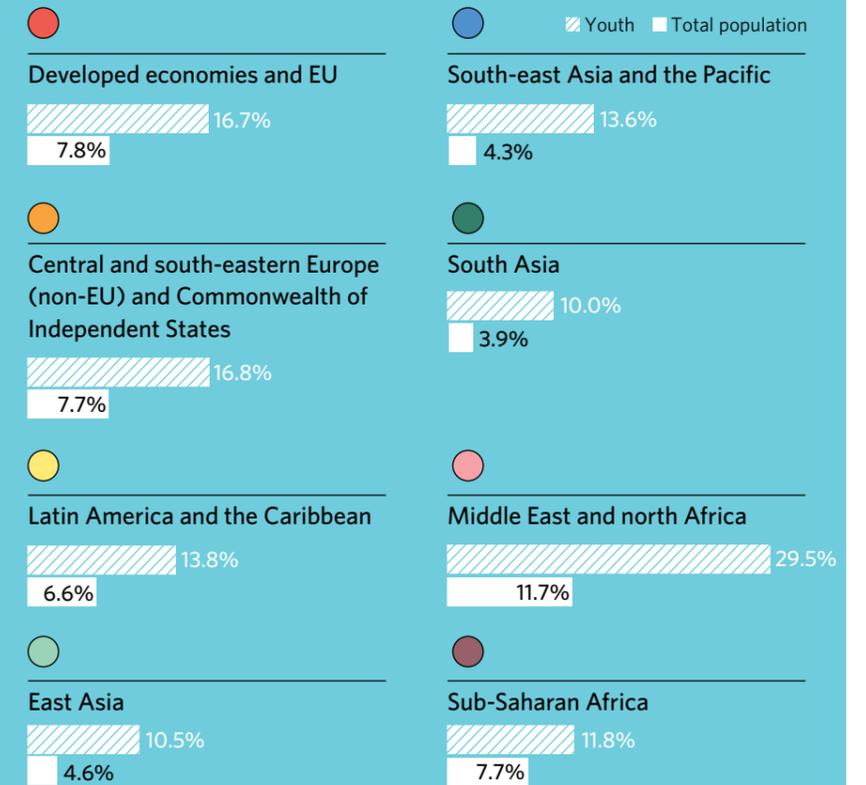
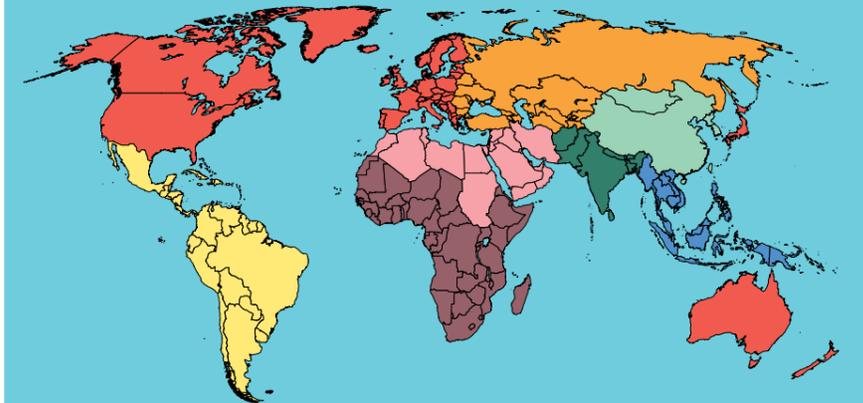
The global picture



Almost **74 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE**

(aged 15–24) were looking for work in 2014. Globally, the youth unemployment rate is almost three times higher than that of their adult counterparts.

Unemployment rates in 2014 by region



Sources: Data taken from the International Labour Organization's report "World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2015": www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/.



Paul Ladd on securing the people's data revolution

Almost 15 years ago the world agreed on a set of goals to eradicate the most extreme forms of poverty in poorer countries. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have helped to rally unprecedented action. For some goals, particularly those on communicable diseases and child mortality, the MDGs have galvanised political will and mobilised extra cash.

Over the lifetime of the MDGs, those interested in seeing whether sufficient progress is being made have faced an uphill struggle. In some countries there are big gaps in available data, collected by governments via household surveys. In some areas we have had to stretch our imagination and use estimates. It has all been done professionally and with the utmost of care, but the simple fact is that our data sources have been lagging behind our appetite for making the world a better place.

As we approach the 2015 end-date of the MDGs, a successor framework that hopes to advance sustainable development the world over is on the table. To put it mildly, unless we get on top of this data problem quickly, we will find it very difficult to see whether the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are driving the same kind of progress as the MDGs.

There are two reasons for this: first, UN member states are close to agreeing a new set of 17 SDGs with 169 targets – a significant expansion from the 8 goals and 21 targets of the MDGs. While this article isn't about how or why such a large agenda was chosen, everyone involved agrees that it presents a mountainous data challenge.

Second, not only will the new SDGs be measured for every country in the world, governments have said that it should apply to every person in every country, so as to "leave no one behind". As a result, many people have called for nothing less than a data revolution. If you want to read more about this, do look up the excellent report of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Panel, "A World That Counts".

But how can we make it happen?

There is no getting around it – we need to invest more money and time in basic



A census worker conducts interviews in a field outside Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Gathering data for China's most recent census in 2010 required the man-power of 10 million workers, equivalent to the population of Belgium © UN Photo/John Isaac

statistics. That means regular censuses and household surveys. We shouldn't see this as a cost – instead it's a basic investment in making the SDGs happen. The Democratic Republic of the Congo hasn't had a census since 1960, and some countries have only undertaken one survey in the 15 years of the MDGs – so we can't tell if the situation is getting better or worse.

Thankfully we now have the prospect of new tools to help us out. While the digital divide still exists, it is fast eroding. Within the next few years most people, even in poorer countries, will have smartphones – and as a result will be able to access information and provide indications about how they live their life, how frequently they are accessing services, and how much money they are spending.

If carefully anonymised and aggregated, this information can give clues as to how well people are doing. This may never replace most official statistics, but between expensive surveys it can be a helpful proxy.

There are other ways in which people can generate data. Increasingly, surveys of limited yet representative groups of people are being used to find out people's opinions, values and well-being. While we have to recognise the limitations of these types of survey, they can help to plug

the gaps, and provide us with important information about how, and if, people see change happening.

These changes mean we are moving towards a slightly messier data world, but perhaps a more democratic one, with more providers and more users.

In the end, we have to think of data in its proper place. The information data can create is a bit like a book sitting on a shelf. Carefully written and beautifully designed, it will nevertheless mean very little – and will not change the way we think – unless it can be read and enjoyed.

But in many parts of the world it can be difficult to access even basic data. And even if we do, politicians may not feel comfortable with the close scrutiny that better information, used widely and wisely, can provide.

Ultimately, people are the real means through which we turn data into change. They identify a problem that needs solving, and mobilise the political will to do so.

Data without people is next to useless, and people without data can feel powerless. So the data revolution, as with all revolutions, starts and ends with people. ●

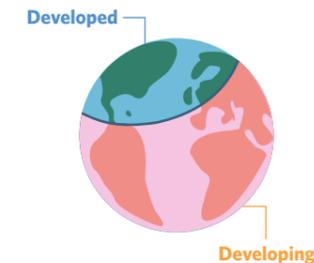
Paul Ladd is Director of Post-2015 at the UN Development Programme

10

demographic myths and misconceptions

1 Myth: the world's population is exploding

In fact: whilst the global population may yet reach nine billion in 2050, this trend is predicted to level off by the end of the 21st century. An unprecedented decline in fertility rates in recent decades has seen the number of children born per woman fall from 4.5 in the 1970s to 2.5 today. Female education, access to family planning and a reduction in child mortality have all contributed to women having fewer children.



2 Myth: the world is split between developed and developing countries

In fact: there are a variety of stages along the spectrum of global development. Other commonly-used labels include middle-income countries, fragile and conflict-affected states, least developed countries and emerging economies. The language we use influences debates around who should receive aid. With an economy worth \$2trn and the largest share of the world's poor, how would you describe India?

3 Myth: infectious diseases are the world's biggest killers

In fact: just one – HIV/AIDS – appears in the World Health Organization's leading causes of

death between 2002 and 2012. By far the biggest killer was heart disease, which caused 3 in every 10 deaths. This issue affects rich and poor countries alike, with the latter particularly affected by growing obesity levels. The Overseas Development Institute states that the majority of overweight people now live in developing countries, with factors including rising incomes and poor diet.

4 Myth: economic growth is the panacea for fighting poverty

In fact: GDP alone is not a sufficient indicator of development. Nigeria's GDP in 2014 was Africa's largest and ranked 26th globally. Yet it came 152nd out of 187 states on the UN's Human Development Index. From Bhutan's gross national happiness measure to Oxfam's suggestions for tackling inequality (see page 11), policymakers everywhere are searching for new answers to the age old dilemma of the fair distribution of resources.



5 Myth: there's not enough food for everyone

In fact: more than enough is produced globally, but it just doesn't reach everyone who needs it. One-third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted every year – that's 1.3 billion tonnes lost while 805 million people go hungry. The UN estimates that 80 per cent of hungry children in the developing world live in countries that produce food surpluses.

6 Myth: countries won't achieve their maximum potential without women

In fact: gender equality is an important goal in and of itself. It should go without saying that a country cannot reach its full economic or developmental potential if half of its population is unable to reach theirs. Enabling women to take control of their lives, claim their rights and contribute to wider society should be treated as both an end and a means of development.

7 Myth: a lot of British aid money just gets wasted

In fact: there are a number of mechanisms set up to avoid this. For example, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, which reports to Parliament, closely scrutinises British aid for its effectiveness and value for money. This view also ignores the vast good achieved by the majority of UK aid: a child's life is saved every two minutes thanks to immunisation and in just one year the UK helped 20 million people access clean water.

8 Myth: the Sustainable Development Goals only concern poor countries

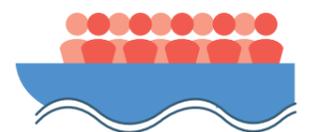
In fact: the proposed framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals will be universal, affecting everyone from Australia to Zimbabwe. There are a range of ambitious goals that will challenge all nations, from access to sustainable energy to the pursuit of gender equality. It is also designed to "leave no one behind", which means that a goal will not



be considered achieved until it has made progress across the whole population.

9 Myth: everyone is getting older

In fact: this depends entirely on where in the world you live. In Rwanda, those aged 18–35 make up to 40 per cent of the total population (see page 16). Whereas in Denmark, Germany and Italy, their representation was closer to 18 per cent. While the global average life expectancy has steadily increased to 71 in 2013 (up from 65 in 1990), there are also more young people aged 10–24 today than at any other time in history.



10 Myth: the biggest recipients of refugees are Western nations

In fact: just one (depending on your perspective), appears in the UN Refugee Agency's list of the 10 major refugee hosting countries. For the first time Turkey has become host to the single biggest refugee population with 1.59 million, mostly Syrians, just beating Pakistan with 1.51 million, mostly Afghans. The rest of the top 10 reads as a rough guide to some of the world's most unstable regions: Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Chad, Uganda and China.

Sources: UNFPA, FAO, WHO, ODI, COE, BOND, UNHCR, UNDP.

New UK Government must lead by example on world stage

On 7 May, the UK electorate surprised almost all pollsters by handing the Conservatives a slim majority in the House of Commons. In the preceding election campaign, however, foreign policy was largely absent.

UNA-UK led a determined campaign to inject global issues into the political agenda. Our foreign policy manifesto, launched in the winter 2014 issue of *New World* and distributed to politicians of all persuasions, set out 10 ways in which the UK can act as a “global force for good”. It was also used by our local UNAs as a basis for grilling party candidates at hustings events.

As part of this campaign, UNA-UK collected statements on the UK-UN relationship from five of the major parties (available to view at www.una.org.uk). All agreed that the UN remained central to British interests at home and abroad.

Prime Minister David Cameron quickly confirmed key cabinet posts, including:

- Philip Hammond, remains Foreign Secretary
- Michael Fallon, remains Defence Secretary
- Justine Greening, remains Development Secretary
- Michael Gove, appointed Justice Secretary
- Amber Rudd, appointed Energy and Climate Change Secretary

Attention now moves to the first session of the 2015–2020 Parliament. UNA-UK will continue to work to ensure that the new Government is engaged at the UN and leads by example on the world stage.

Experts call for greater UK engagement with UN peacekeeping

UNA-UK held a number of events in May to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. A joint conference, held annually with the Royal United

Services Institute and UNA Westminster branch, explored the theme “Rich states and UN peacekeeping: time to lead by example?”

This was followed by a memorial ceremony at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, which saw over 100 ambassadors and eminent guests lay wreaths to commemorate the more than 3,000 peacekeepers who have lost their lives in service to the UN.

The previous day, UNA-UK convened a roundtable of experts to discuss what more the UK could contribute to UN peacekeeping operations. While there was consensus that the UK could do more, the questions of how that could be done and under what strategic rationale remain. UNA-UK will be releasing a report based on the discussions in the coming months.

UNA-UK holds policy debate

Over 100 members and supporters of UNA-UK came together to debate foreign affairs at the UNA Policy Conference. Organised by and for the membership, the Policy Conference is a biennial occasion for members to share their thinking on issues pertinent to the UN’s work. This year’s event played a particularly important function as one of the channels for input into the Association’s next strategic plan. It also preceded UNA-UK’s Annual General Meeting (see page 23).

W A full report of the day’s discussions is due to be published by the Procedure Committee on the UNA-UK website by the end of July

New arrivals at the UN

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN (UN APPG) has hosted its first meeting with Matthew Rycroft, the new UK Ambassador to the UN. Setting out the various issues on the global agenda in 2015, Ambassador Rycroft discussed what the UK Mission’s priorities will be in the coming months.



In particular he referenced UK action on overseas development, UN peacekeeping missions and the appointment of a new UN Secretary-General.

Participants of the meeting were also joined by Stephen O’Brien, the newly appointed UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. Mr O’Brien highlighted next year’s World Humanitarian Summit as an important test for assessing whether the UN emergency response system remains “fit for purpose”.

The nuclear option

Ambassador Jaako Laajava, facilitator of the proposed Middle East Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction (MEZFWMD), told UK Parliamentarians and civil society that

he remains hopeful for convening a conference on this issue.

At a UN APPG meeting, Ambassador Laajava provided an update on the five rounds of informal multilateral negotiations that have taken place so far. He stated that “Enormous cooperation is required between states that have very little mutual trust ... confidence-building measures are essential.”

This issue also impacted heavily upon discussions at last month’s review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Consensus agreement proved impossible when Arab states suggested a MEZFWMD conference go ahead with or without Israel’s involvement. The US, UK and Canada blocked this outcome.

For more on the NPT see pages 24–25



Richard Nelmes, UNA-UK’s Head of Outreach, goes beyond intellectual arguments for the UN

I grew up in a small city in the East Midlands. When I was young, my understanding of the United Nations extended only to what I had learnt in the classroom. This organisation was hazy in my teenage mind; abstract and unrelated to the concerns of everyday life.

After all, what business did the good people of Derby have with those in faraway New York discussing the problems of other, equally distant, places?

But in actual fact, the links that my hometown has with the United Nations are strong. Our local MP in the 1940s, Philip Noel-Baker, laid its foundations by helping to draft the UN Charter. My city was a safe haven for refugees of the 1990s Balkans conflict. Locally-built Rolls-Royce engines help save lives by flying in personnel to peacekeeping missions.

Discovering these facts did two things. Firstly, it made me proud. Proud that our factories contribute to keeping the peace in some of the most dangerous parts of the world. Proud that our local politicians can have a vision that extends beyond their constituency’s boundaries. Proud that we are not only a refuge for people impoverished and traumatised by war, but embrace the energy and skills they bring us.

More importantly though, this discovery brought the world, and the United Nations, to my doorstep. With it came the abrupt realisation that my family, my neighbours, my classmates and I are an integral part of something much bigger and much more exciting than my own community. Suddenly, the people of Derby had every business with the work of the UN.

Of course, I think that all of us should engage with the global community; it’s a no-brainer that what happens ‘to them over there’ affects ‘us over here’. A few people even have the instinctive empathy and urgency that sends them to war zones, famines and floods on the other side of the world.

I wish I were one of them, but I must admit that I’m not. Show me how your problem is actually my problem, show me how I am already connected and invested, show me my, and my community’s, role – that’s when you’ll have my commitment.

I’m not the only one that needs an emotional connection before I’m motivated to act, in fact, I think I’m in the majority. That’s why, to celebrate its 70th year, I would like to invite you to explore and share your own local links with the UN in the same way that I have.

The tools I used for my research are available on the UNA-UK website to help you discover your own community’s connections. Will you use them and let me know what you find?

In summer, I will be following this up by asking you, and people across the UK, to share your hopes for the UN’s next 70 years. In autumn UNA-UK will provide everyone who has participated with a commemorative edition of the UN Charter that they can ceremonially present to their local council to mark their area’s involvement in the United Nations.

Every community has different stories to tell. I am deeply proud of Derby’s and I do hope you will join me and groups across the country in discovering and sharing your own.

Go to www.una.org.uk/our-un to get involved today.

Consolidating support for R2P

In March UNA-UK led a delegation to the US to learn more about work undertaken in New York and Washington on atrocity prevention. UNA-UK's Chairman Sir Jeremy Greenstock and Peace and Security Programmes Officer Alexandra Buskie were joined by Lord McConnell and Baroness Hodgson for the visit.

At the UN, UNA-UK's delegation was impressed by the assertiveness and commitment of the Deputy

Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, in taking the responsibility to protect (R2P) principle forward. While in Washington, UNA-UK met with members of the US Government's Atrocities Prevention Board, a forum for policymakers to discuss how to better respond to the threat of atrocities.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of R2P, UNA-UK has published a guide to inform the

public about this important principle. The publication contains information about the international community's efforts to prevent atrocity crimes and the UK's contribution to them. It also suggests ways the public can get involved with UNA-UK initiatives.

 For a copy of the R2P guide go to: www.una.org.uk



UNA-UK's R2P delegation meets with UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson
© UN Photo/Laey Felipe

Round up of UNA-UK monthly actions

Standing up for women

For International Women's Day we asked our members and supporters to Tweet Nicky Morgan MP, Minister for Women and Equalities, calling for the UK to protect women's rights at the UN. We estimate that your tweets reached nearly 200,000 people online. Thank you!

Commemoration

Last month we started a petition urging the UK Government to do more to celebrate the woefully undervalued service of UN peacekeepers, such as through a national day of remembrance. Over 450 signatures have now been passed on to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

Foreign policy push

Our ongoing campaign of raising foreign policy up the political agenda has now culminated. More than 2,100 of you have supported our campaign, sending a clear message to the Prime Minister that the UK must lead the way on global issues. Thank you for your support.

Local UNAs rise to the challenge to 'get published'

Earlier this year, UNA-UK challenged local UNAs to write to their local newspapers calling for renewed UK commitment to overseas development. The response was fantastic, with six letters making it into print in publications from across the country.

Members were asked to show that in tackling cross-border challenges such as climate change and Ebola, UK aid spending is an investment in Britain's future.

Coinciding with the UK aid bill going through Parliament and international negotiations on the new UN development goals, our letters challenge presented an invaluable opportunity to spark public discussion on the UK's role on the world stage.

We would like to congratulate the following local UNAs which made it into print:

- UNA Brighton, Hove & District - *The Argus*
- UNA Lymington - *The Lymington Times*
- UNA Norwich & District - *Eastern Daily Press*
- UNA Putney & Roehampton - *Wandsworth Guardian*
- UNA Saffron Walden - *Walden Local*
- UNA Southampton - *The Daily Echo*

A letter written by UNA-UK's Executive Director, Natalie Samarasinghe, was also featured in *The Daily Telegraph*. All of the published pieces are available to read at www.una.org.uk.

UNA-UK Annual General Meeting 2015

UNA-UK held its third Annual General Meeting on Saturday 16 May at the Resource for London centre.

67 members attended and two proxy votes were received. The full draft minutes of the meeting are available at www.una.org.uk/AGM2015.

The formal resolutions to accept the 2013-14 audited accounts and appoint auditors for the following year were both passed.

The AGM concluded with the presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to members from UNA-UK's regions and nations:

- **Keith Hindell** (UNA London & South East Region)
- **Margaret Matthews** (UNA Southern Counties Region)
- **Frances Mildmay** (UNA Scotland)
- **Canon Michael Swindlehurst** (UNA Eastern Region)
- **Chris Dickenson** (UNA Central Region)

Attendees also congratulated Gian Clare, UNA Central Region, for receiving an award from the Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa. This was given in recognition of his role in founding his local UNA branch as well as the Leamington Peace Festival, now in its 36th year.

Results of 2015 Trustee elections

Congratulations to the following Trustees who were elected to serve on the UNA-UK Board for a term of three years:

- **Enid Lodge** (North East and North West)
- **Kishan Manocha** (London and South East)
- **Elizabeth Richards** (Central and Eastern)

Welcome also to Dali Ten Hove, who was elected President of the 2015-16 Youth Council and will serve on the UNA-UK Board for one year. Angjela Nikaj was elected Vice-President.

Trustees Tim Jarman (Procedure Committee) and Viv Williams (Southern and South West) were re-elected.

Vacancy announcement

Chair - UNA-UK Board of Directors (voluntary)

UNA-UK is looking for an outstanding individual, passionate about the work of the UN, to lead and provide strategic guidance for the organisation.

The candidate: this is a voluntary position, ideally suited to someone with an excellent track record in:

- Furthering the values of the UN
- Political influencing and public service in the UK
- Managing an NGO or similar organisation
- Public speaking and audience engagement

Candidates should have the following:

- Well-developed networks that will help the organisation to reach wider audiences
- A sound understanding of governance
- International, UN and/or NGO experience
- Relationship management skills to ensure effective executive and board performance

The initial term of appointment will be one year from January 2016, with the possibility of reappointment for up to two terms of two years. Commitment of time is flexible, but an average of two days a month minimum should be assumed.

To apply, please email your CV and a covering letter to Mrs Natalie Saad, at saad@una.org.uk, by 31 August 2015.

Further information about the role can be downloaded from: www.una.org.uk/content/board-vacancies.

Committee vacancies

The UNA-UK Board also has three voluntary vacancies in its Finance & Governance Committee.

The Board is looking for candidates with experience in finance, investment, audit and fundraising, to join the Committee for an initial term of one year, with possible annual reappointment for a further five years. The Committee meets four times a year and reports to the Board.

To apply, please email a CV and covering letter to Mrs Natalie Saad, at saad@una.org.uk.

Surviving nuclear zero

UNA-UK's Ben Donaldson and Richard Nelmes on an innovative approach to the disarmament challenge



HMS Vigilant, armed with Trident 2 D5 nuclear missiles, returns to its base on the Clyde in Scotland
© Flickr/UK Ministry of Defence

Stop. Suspend reality. Now imagine a UK without nuclear weapons. What would fill the perceived gap in the UK's national security strategies? What would diplomatic relations with allies and adversaries look like? Would British citizens be safer?

This was the hypothetical proposition that challenged participants of "Surviving Nuclear Zero" – an event held by UNA-UK and the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) at the International Maritime Organization in London on 29 May.

The event brought together experts and university students at a time when, arguably, prospects for disarmament could not be bleaker. Momentum for disarmament among the nuclear powers has all but disappeared; frustration is growing among the non-nuclear weapons states and the latest Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference ended in May without a substantive outcome (see box).

Dissatisfaction among non-nuclear weapons states with the slow pace of disarmament is reflected by the growing numbers endorsing the Humanitarian Pledge to prohibit and eliminate nuclear

weapons. The Pledge, now signed by well over 100 countries, holds that any use of nuclear weapons in populated areas would be unacceptable because of the wide-ranging humanitarian consequences. If this support continues it is feasible that the Pledge could lead to a new treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons.

At the centre of Surviving Nuclear Zero was a thought experiment designed to stimulate similarly fresh approaches to this deadlocked debate.

During the morning, two parallel, but separate, roundtables devised the rudiments of a new UK security strategy that was devoid of nuclear weapons.

One group was composed of experts representing a range of perspectives – nuclear and security specialists; arms control campaigners, former diplomats and academics. The other was made up of university students from UNA-UK and BASIC's networks who had gone through a rigorous selection process. Discussions addressed defence concerns such as management of nuclear and other security threats, as well as the impact on the UK's relationship with NATO and our influence on the world stage.

After lunch, both groups presented their ideas to a live audience of over 100 students from across the country. The audience interrogated and voted on the proposed solutions, while contributing suggestions of their own. At the end of the event, all attendees were asked to reflect on the day's discussions and decide whether, overall, they believe a nuclear-weapons-free UK is viable. The majority voted yes.

Of course, this event did not solve the world's nuclear weapons problems but it did contribute in two ways. Firstly, it introduced our next generation of campaigners to those professionals at the forefront of the current debate, equipping them with the arguments they need to make their own progress. Secondly, it created the space to think beyond the current geopolitical situation. Shaking things up in this way encouraged participants – both youth and expert – to approach old problems from new angles.

The venue for this event was generously provided by the International Maritime Organization, to whom we owe our thanks. ●

What is the NPT?



The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), ratified by 191 countries, aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear technology



India Israel Pakistan

At least three states known to have possession of nuclear weapons are not signatories to the Treaty: India, Israel and Pakistan



Given the minimal progress made by nuclear weapons states in disarming, disillusionment with the NPT is growing and alternative forums increasingly being sought



In force since 1970, the NPT commits the five recognised nuclear weapons states (China, France, Russia, the US and the UK) to disarmament, while the remaining states agree not to acquire the weapons



The NPT is reviewed every five years, though any significant changes to its formal structure is difficult as amendments generally require consensus to be adopted



In 2010 states agreed to hold a conference on a Middle East Zone Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction. This has yet to take place, blocking consensus in 2015



The buzz in the room

Surviving Nuclear Zero participants were encouraged to express their views via Twitter, here are some top picks.

Preparing for #SNZ15 amid revision. How does getting rid of one's nukes change one's relationship to neighbours and the rest of the world?

Nick Bruetsch, @Adelaar101

↩ ↻ ⭐ ...

Youth roundtable #SNZ15: topics covering cyber-attacks, #terrorism, #climatechange. How would a non-nuclear UK tackle these threats?

United Nations Association – UK,

@UNAUK

↩ ↻ ⭐ ...

The hot topic in the expert room: what impact would UK disarmament have on other policy decisions

#SNZ15 @UNAUK Natalie

Samarasinghe, @Natalie_UNA

↩ ↻ ⭐ ...

Preparing to present our solutions for a UK without nuclear weapons #SNZ15

May Elin Jonsson, @May

ElinJonsson

↩ ↻ ⭐ ...

Youth innovators' 1st pitch: confidence-building, intelligence sharing would mitigate 'defence gap' posed by lack of #nuclearweapons

#SNZ15 United Nations

Association – UK, @UNAUK

↩ ↻ ⭐ ...

What would happen if UK denuclearised #SNZ15? Probably not much, but big opportunities for more progressive foreign & defence policies @UNAUK

Nick Ritchie, @UKTrident

↩ ↻ ⭐ ...

The last word



Alexandra Heinsjo Jackson on the UN's work promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the Arab region

Tell us how you came to join the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

My engagement in UN issues really took off with internships at the Save the Children UN Office and the Delegation of the European Union to the UN in New York, followed by a position at the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department. This is when I first learned about the UN Young Professionals Programme (YPP), and after passing the examination in 2012, I was recruited to the ESCWA office in Beirut where I have been working for the past two-and-a-half years.

Having gone through the process, I have seen first hand the kind of opportunities that the YPP offers to people at the beginning of their careers. I got to move to a new and exciting duty station, develop my expertise and skills and engage with a region that has undergone unprecedented change over recent years.

Tell us a bit about your work

ESCWA is the UN's development arm in the Arab region, and we work to strengthen cooperation among countries to achieve equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. As ESCWA's disability focal point, I conduct research, organise events and advise governments on ways to promote the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities.

In this role, I have had the opportunity to be part of a number of exciting projects. Last year, we launched a major publication entitled "Disability in the Arab Region: An Overview", which is the first report to compile and analyse disability statistics for all 22 Arab countries.

What has been your best day on the job so far?

Probably the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December last year. We partnered with five other UN agencies in Lebanon to organise a large event on persons with disabilities in humanitarian crises. We had a large audience and got

significant media coverage, and most importantly we managed to shine a light and raise awareness on a hugely neglected issue. In doing so, I think the event demonstrated the power and impact that the UN has when we speak and act as one.

What are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

Working in the Arab region brings with it many opportunities but also several challenges. One of the most crucial ones is the impact of armed conflict and instability. The region is grappling with a number of complex crises, which are giving rise to tremendous humanitarian and development needs that affect millions of people. These situations also create difficult operating environments, which definitely has an impact on our work but also makes our role and presence all the more important.

How does disability intersect with other issues?

Disability is very much a cross-cutting issue. Whether you look at education, housing or any other development sector, persons with disabilities have rights, needs and voices that need to be fully included.

It is also important to recognise the diversity among persons with disabilities, who are defined by a wide variety of characteristics including gender, age, ethnicity, etc. These factors often interact to create different barriers and varying levels of inclusion.

For example, women with disabilities in the Arab region tend to face higher levels of discrimination than men with disabilities, which leads to more limited access to education and employment, as well as increased protection concerns.

What are the prospects for the inclusion of disability issues in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Organisations of persons with disabilities and other actors have been actively involved in the ongoing discussions leading up to the expected adoption

of the SDGs in September. A lot of progress has been made as a result and the proposed goals currently contain all of seven disability-specific targets.

The big challenge will be translating these aspirations into concrete action. We will need more accurate and reliable disability data in order to effectively monitor progress, with solid indicators for measuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities against all goals and targets.

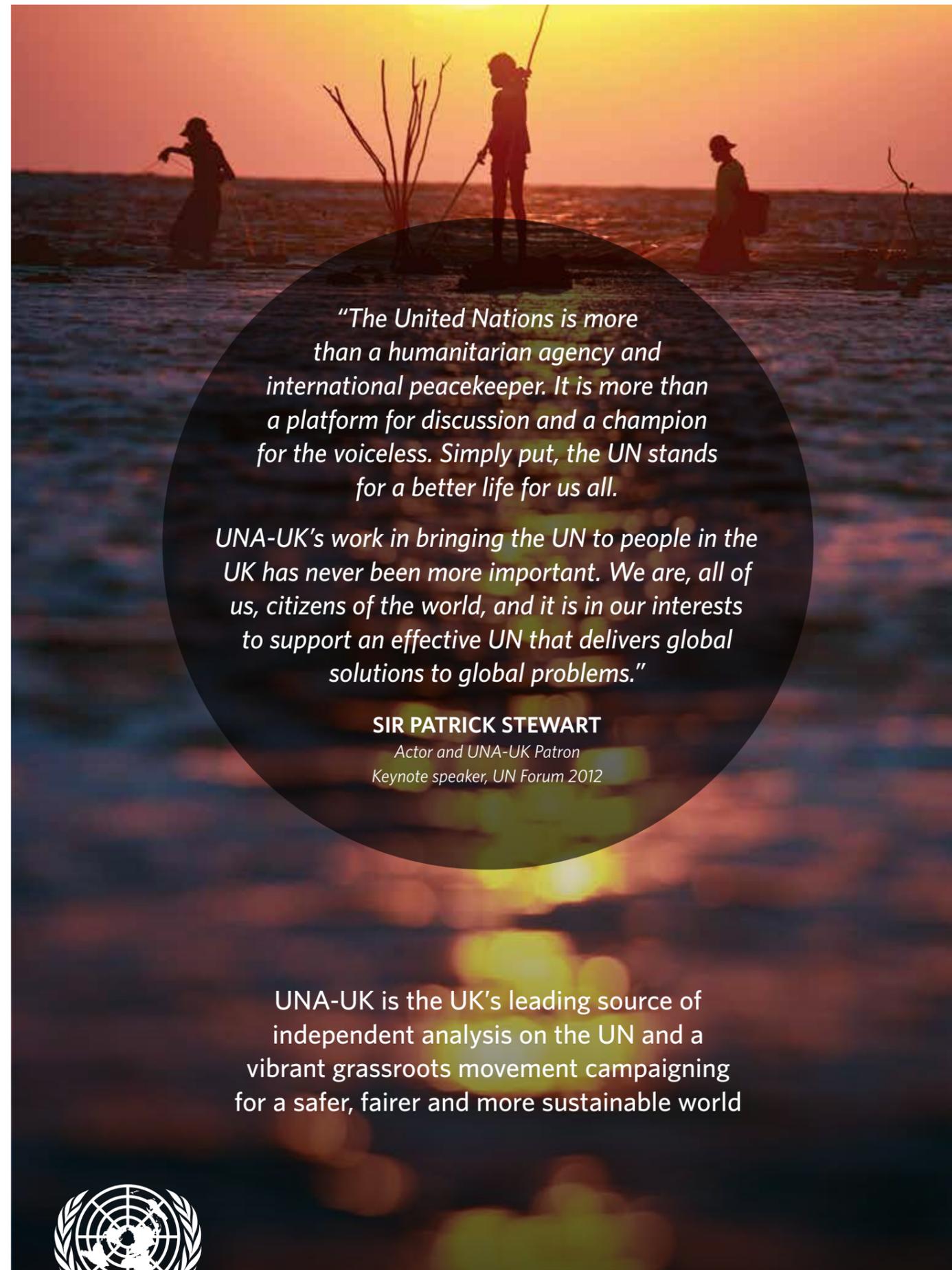
Success will also depend on the extent to which governments promote and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of development policies and programmes.

Disability is very much a cross-cutting issue. Whether you look at education, housing or any other development sector, persons with disabilities have rights, needs and voices that need to be fully included

Finally, what does the future hold in store for you?

Working for the UN is a lot about flexibility and learning skills that you can apply to different contexts. As such, I hope to get the opportunity to serve and contribute to the work of the Organization in various duty stations. I would also love to continue my work in the field of human rights, in particular as they relate to persons with disabilities. ●

Alexandra Heinsjo Jackson is an Associate Social Affairs Officer at ESCWA, where her work focusses on the rights of persons with disabilities. She has an undergraduate degree from McGill University and a master's degree from Uppsala University



"The United Nations is more than a humanitarian agency and international peacekeeper. It is more than a platform for discussion and a champion for the voiceless. Simply put, the UN stands for a better life for us all."

UNA-UK's work in bringing the UN to people in the UK has never been more important. We are, all of us, citizens of the world, and it is in our interests to support an effective UN that delivers global solutions to global problems."

SIR PATRICK STEWART

*Actor and UNA-UK Patron
Keynote speaker, UN Forum 2012*

UNA-UK is the UK's leading source of independent analysis on the UN and a vibrant grassroots movement campaigning for a safer, fairer and more sustainable world



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