

NEW WORLD



Biodiversity: new age of extinction?

FEATURING **Nicholas Young** on 'silent emergencies'
\\ **Setsuko Thurlow** on surviving Hiroshima \\ **Mo Ibrahim**
on development data \\ **Mary Robinson** on climate justice



Taking stock of
the ICC

page 14



WMD-free
Middle East?

page 18



In danger:
10 UK species

page 20



UNA-UK

PLUS Fresh woes for DRC **page 10** Cancún climate talks **page 10** Towards Zero
page 16 Queen Elizabeth visits UN **page 22** Launch of 'Lobby for the UN' **page 34**
Interview with new UNA-UK Executive Director **page 35** Careers at the UN **page 47**

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From the Editor

An estimated 150-200 plant and animal species become extinct every day. While humankind is certainly not among them – the global population is poised to breach the seven-billion mark next year – we too are under threat from the rapid loss of biodiversity and the ecosystems we rely on to sustain us. In this issue of New World, we make the case for integrating conservation with action to tackle climate change (pages 11 and 20).

Ahead of the December 2010 UN climate conference (page 10), we also put the spotlight on the human face of climate change. In an op ed based on her speech at UNA-UK's major UN Forum event (pages 26-31), Mary Robinson explains why climate change is arguably the greatest threat to human rights (page 7). On page 8, Sir Nicholas Young highlights the devastating cycle of drought and heavy rains in the Sahel region. From the floods in Pakistan (page 24) to wildfires in Russia, extreme weather has manifested itself throughout 2010. No single event can be conclusively linked to climate change, but the increase in reports documenting the 'worst ever' weather episodes is a sobering indication of what might be to come.

This issue of New World is the first to be produced since Phil Mulligan became UNA-UK's Executive Director (pages 4 and 35). In line with his vision of UNA-UK at the forefront of domestic action on international issues, we want to transform our annual parliamentary initiative, Lobby for the UN, into a nationwide debate on our policy priorities for 2010-11: the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament.

To kick-start the campaign, we feature summaries of this year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (page 16) and MDG Summit (page 13), as well as contributions on possible areas for action. On page 12, Dr Mo Ibrahim argues that data is essential to achieving the MDGs, and on page 18, Dr Sameh Aboul-Enein and Hassan Elbahtimy analyse the prospects for a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East.

Details on how to register for our Lobby campaign can be found on page 34. Help us to ensure that these issues are high on the agenda – in Westminster, Brussels and beyond!

Natalie Samarasinghe, Editor

From the archive – 57 years ago



From *United Nations News, Coronation Issue*, April-June 1953
To read the full article, visit www.una.org.uk

Contents

DIRECTORY	4
IN BRIEF	5
OPINION	
Climate justice	7
Mary Robinson	
Silent emergencies	8
Nicholas Young	
Revisiting Hiroshima	9
Setsuko Thurlow	
IN FOCUS	
Fresh woes for the DRC	10
After Cancún?	10
Diversifying environmental policy	11
ESSAY	
Data is key to achieving the MDGs	12
Mo Ibrahim	
MDG Summit	13
GUEST BRIEFING	
Taking stock of the ICC	14
Kate Grady	
TOWARDS ZERO	
NPT follow-up	16
James Kearney	
WMD-free Middle East?	18
Sameh Aboul-Enein and Hassan Elbahtimy	
TEN...	
Species under threat in the UK	20
FEATURE	
Queen Elizabeth visits UN	22
DO SOMETHING	24
UN FORUM SPECIAL	26
WESTMINSTER WIRE	
UNA-UK in Parliament	32
Georgina Banks	
Henry Bellingham at UN Forum	33
Lobby for the UN	34
UNA-UK	
Interview with Phil Mulligan	35
Branch bulletin	37
Notices	38
Listings	39
Resources	41
Letters	43
UNYSA	
10/11 Youth Council	44
MDG campaign launch	45
YPN	
Young professionals' round-up	46
Careers at the UN	47
UNA-UK gift membership	48



Biodiversity
2010 target missed

p.11



Elizabeth II at the UN
Monarch returns after more than 50 years

p.22



Do something
Pakistan floods

p.24



UN Forum special
1,400 people attend major UNA-UK event

p.26

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Appointments

UNA-UK is delighted to announce the following appointments:



Phil Mulligan
Executive Director

Phil brings a wealth of experience to UNA-UK, having worked on issues ranging from sustainable development to gender empowerment in his previous roles as CEO of Environmental Protection UK and head of Voluntary Service Overseas in Indonesia. He also serves as Vice-Chair of Defra's Civil Society Advisory Board, as a trustee of the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers, on the Steering Group of the Brighton & Hove 10:10 campaign, and on the Sustainability Committee of a global law firm.

Upon being appointed, Phil said "it's a real honour to be associated with UNA-UK. This is an organisation with a lot of potential and it will be exciting to take it forward to its next stage of development. I'm also looking forward to meeting UNA-UK's members and supporters". (See page 35 for an interview with Phil)



Sir Jeremy Greenstock GCMG
Chair of the Board of Directors

Sir Jeremy will become Chair of UNA-UK in February 2011, when Lord Hannay of Chiswick reaches the end of his five-year term.

A member of the British Diplomatic Service from 1969 to 2004, Sir Jeremy has served in the British embassies in Washington DC, Paris, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. He was Ambassador to the UN for five years, attending over 150 meetings of Security Council, chairing the Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, and heading a Council mission to West Africa.

From September 2003 to March 2004, Sir Jeremy served as the UK's Special Representative for Iraq. He was Director of The Ditchley Foundation from 2004 to August 2010. At present, he is a Trustee of the International Rescue Committee (UK) and a Non-Executive Director of De La Rue plc and of Lambert Energy Advisory.

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Every member of UNA-UK receives a free subscription to New World, containing news and comment on the UN. By joining you will also be invited to take part in campaigns and to attend conferences, seminars and other events.

See pages 41 and 42 for our new exclusive membership offers.

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The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of New World is noon on 10 December 2010

The next issue will cover the period 1 February 2011 to 31 May 2011

All submissions should be typed and sent by email where possible to samarasinghe@una.org.uk. Photos should ideally be 300 dpi resolution

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In brief

New age of extinction?

The UN Environment Programme has warned that plants and animals are becoming extinct at what is thought to be the fastest rate known in geological history. On 18-29 October parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity will meet in Japan. They are expected to formally announce that the 2010 target to reduce biodiversity loss has been missed, and to agree a set of stronger measures. (See pages 11 and 20)

Clegg at the UN

Speaking at the opening of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in September, UK Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said that the UK had learned that democracy could not be created by diktat and that it would seek to restore its international reputation by pursuing a "hard-headed foreign policy based on liberal values". He emphasised the need for peacebuilding, not just peacekeeping, and pledged support for permanent Brazilian, German, Indian, Japanese and African representation on the UN Security Council.

Bachelet to head UN Women

Former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet has been appointed as head of UN Women, the new agency created to lead the UN's women's rights and gender equality work. Established in July 2010, UN Women merges the UN agencies and offices that currently have responsibility for these issues: the Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. It is expected to become operational in January 2011 and will have

an annual budget of at least \$500 million – double the combined budget of the four bodies it will comprise.

\$40bn for women's and girls' health

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit on 20-22 September secured pledges of over \$40 billion for women's and children's health initiatives. With just five years left to achieve the eight anti-poverty targets – agreed by world leaders in 2000 – the summit was seen as a crucial opportunity for states to renew their commitments. The UK pledged increased funding to tackle malaria and maternal mortality. (See page 13)

Food prices spark concern

Extreme weather events, such as the Pakistan floods and Russian wildfires, have damaged crops and pushed up food prices, threatening to derail progress in the fight against hunger. Earlier this year the UN World Food Programme (WFP) reported that the number of hungry people in the world – which topped one billion in 2009 – had fallen to 925 million, the first drop in 15 years. But WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran warned that this projection had not factored in disasters. Soaring food prices in 2007-08 led to riots in over 30 coun-

tries. This year, 13 people were killed and over 400 injured in Mozambique in September, after a sharp increase in bread prices sparked protests.

Floods follow drought in Sahel...

Months of drought followed by flooding this summer have put millions of people in the Sahel at risk. Crops and livestock have been devastated across the region. Displacement levels are high in Niger and Burkina Faso, whilst Chad is battling cholera (see page 8). Nigeria is also struggling to contain an outbreak of lead poisoning. A UN environmental emergency team was dispatched to investigate the deaths of more than 400 children this year due to contaminated waste resulting from illegal gold mining and spread by the floods. The Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says the clean-up operation will involve replacing tons of soil.

...and continue in Pakistan

Baroness Valerie Amos, the newly-appointed head of OCHA, has said the flooding in Pakistan is a "still unfolding crisis" (see page 24). Over 21 million people have been affected to date, with estimates of up to 1.2 million displaced. Rice and cotton crops have also been destroyed, putting pressure >>



Bechstein's bat, an endangered species in the UK – see page 20. © Arco Images GmbH/Alamy

>> on aid agencies to feed survivors and severely impacting exports. Rice exports from Pakistan, the world's third-biggest supplier, could drop by 35 per cent and the price of cotton hit a 15-year high in the US in September.

Amos has appealed for increased funds and a major re-think of disaster relief: "I think we have to recognise that we face bigger and bigger crises and we are going to have to work in a completely different way if we are going to grasp these". A review of how UN agencies and aid groups react to 'mega-crises' will be carried out in the coming months.

UN rights body under review

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC), established in 2006 to replace its much-maligned predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, is going through a two-stage review process. From October 2010 a working group consisting of HRC members will begin reviewing the functioning of the Council. In spring 2011 the General Assembly will consider the status of the HRC within the UN system, including whether it becomes one of the UN's principal organs. Currently, it reports to the Assembly. UNA-UK has submitted proposals on the review to the UK Conservative Party's Human Rights Commission.

Gaza flotilla enquiry

The report of a fact-finding mission set up by the Human Rights Council to investigate the interception by Israeli forces on 31 May of a convoy sailing to Gaza was published on 22 September. It concluded that international law had been violated during the interception and subsequent detention of passengers. The mission – which included Sir Desmond de Silva (Queen's Counsel and member of the Conservative Human Rights Commission) – also stated that the continued blockade of Gaza is 'unlawful'. The European Union (EU) strongly encouraged Israel to act on these conclusions in the context of its own and the UN Secretary-General's inquiries into the incident. The US expressed concern at the report's 'unbalanced' language, saying it could disrupt the direct Israeli-Palestinian talks now underway. The Council's focus on human rights issues in Israel and the Occupied Territories is likely to be a sticking point during its review.

"[Development aid] can, apart from in emergency situations, only be a contribution to national resources, never a substitute for them"



German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaking at the MDG summit. © UN Photo/Aliza Eliazarov

65th session of the UN General Assembly

Who said what?

Inflammatory remarks by the Iranian President dominated media coverage of the opening session of the General Assembly. Below we feature a selection of other soundbites:

"How can Mother Earth be turned into a business?" Bolivian President Evo Morales on selling carbon bonds

asking for political, economic and security support.

"Can one conceive of a credible role for [the UN] in world governance while Africa, comprising more than a quarter of its troops and occupying 70 per cent of the [Security] Council's agenda, has no permanent seat on it?" Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan

"Over 40 years, some 490 nuclear explosions were carried out [in Kazakhstan], affecting more than half a million people and damaging territory as big as today's Germany," Kazakh Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev urging states to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty.

"Let us be frank. Without a radical overhaul, the UN will not provide the leadership the world seeks from it, and needs from it." British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg

"Disability is not an inability, but diversity" Ecuadorian Vice-President Lenin Moreno Garcés, noting that the MDG targets make no explicit mention of persons with disabilities.

"What can one say of defence budgets that every year surpass by far what would be needed to attain the MDGs?" Haitian President René Préval

"We are now ready to talk." Serbian President Boris Tadic, announcing his country's willingness to engage with Kosovo. In July 2010 the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion concluding that Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from Serbia in February 2008 did not violate international law. In order to gain UN membership, Kosovo must ensure that no permanent member of the UN Security Council votes against its application and that it secures a two-thirds majority vote in the 192-member General Assembly. At present, some 70 countries are supportive, including the US and most EU states but excluding Russia.

"The strength of the community is measured by the well-being of the weakest of its members." Joseph Deiss, Swiss President of the 65th General Assembly, quotes his country's constitution during the high-level MDG Summit.

"Unfulfilled promises will not assist Somalia out of the current condition" Somali President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed



Climate justice – why people should be at the centre of the climate debate



Mary Robinson

Many people ask me why I have

become so interested in climate change, given the serious human rights violations that persist in our world. The answer is simple: I believe that climate change represents what is arguably the greatest threat to human rights that we will ever see.

For too long, climate change discussions have stagnated in the realms of science, a cause and consequence of three enduring misconceptions in industrialised countries: that the negative effects of climate change are a possibility rather than a certainty, that they are a threat to the future, not the present, and that they will affect plants and animals more than humans.

The 2006 report by world-renowned economist Nicholas Stern was the first of its kind to chip away at these perceptions. Now, as I witness firsthand in my travels, it is evident that climate change is already a reality for millions of people and its consequences are especially stark for impoverished communities in developing countries.

Across the world, people are struggling to secure basic necessities due to rapidly-changing environmental conditions. Farmers no longer know when to plant and when to harvest as a result of shifting seasonal patterns. Erratic rainfall has led to cycles of drought and flood. 'Rogue' weather events have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of the poor. And rising sea levels threaten entire communities, in the Maldives, Bangladesh, Vietnam and 60 per cent of Africa's coastal cities.

The image of a polar bear stranded on a shrinking ice floe, often used to convey

the impact of climate change, only begins to capture the real picture. Instead, we should focus on people: Constance Okollet, a Ugandan farmer coping with increasingly unpredictable weather and floodwater in her home; Ursula Rakova of the Pacific Carteret Islands, whose entire community has been forced to move to another country; and Sharon Hanshaw

'Politicians will not change until they feel pressure from their own constituencies and until they see the gains a green economy can bring'

from Biloxi, USA, a town still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and now under threat from a different consequence of the world's addiction to fossil fuels – the BP oil spill. These are only a few ways in which climate change impacts human lives and these impacts can, in turn, fuel greater challenges, such as increases in migration and conflicts over natural resources.

Like so many around the world, I hoped that last year's Copenhagen conference would signal a course correction for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). But no fair, ambitious and binding deal emerged. Collectively, our politicians failed us. They did not rise above narrow national self-interest, a self-interest driven too often by climate sceptics and the fossil fuel industries.

As COP 16, the 2010 meeting of UNFCCC parties, in Cancún approaches, a significant convergence of government views has yet to be crystallised. Technical and financial support to help the poorest countries adapt has also been slow to emerge. Most worryingly, the structure set up by the Copenhagen Accord – which aggregates country commitments to greenhouse gas reductions rather than creating a global target towards which all countries must aim – exposes the gap between science and politics. Based on existing com-

mitments, scientists anticipate a global temperature rise of three to four degrees, far greater than the two-degree threshold. Studies released in the last few months by Lord Stern and the UN Environment Programme, by Ecofys and the Potsdam Institute, and by Project Catalyst confirm that politics needs to catch up with science.

What we need is a climate justice approach. Climate justice compels us to consider the human impacts of climate change, as well as our shared responsibilities. This requires greater awareness, greater trust and a greater global commitment to holding political leaders accountable for protecting the rights of people across the planet. Just as each of us must take action in our own lives to recycle, reuse and reduce waste, we must urge our elected officials to understand not only that failure to act is unacceptable but also that tackling climate change, far from threatening economies, is an opportunity to create green jobs and a sustainable future.

Politicians will not change until they feel pressure from their own constituencies and until they see the gains a green economy can bring. Major companies are beginning to wake up to the opportunities and community leaders, entrepreneurs, and academics are starting to make a real difference. But, as always, we must ensure that the fruits of greening our economies also go to small businesses and workers around the world.

At the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in September states showed a willingness to weave together the issues of human rights, decent work, sustainable development and protecting the environment, and to adopt a truly 'climate just' approach. I am convinced that this is possible if we harness our collective potential and act together. ■

Mary Robinson is President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. This op ed is based on a speech delivered at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010 (see page 26).

Silent emergencies: crises that are slow to unfold are no less worthy of attention



Nicholas Young

This year has seen more than its fair share of high profile natural disasters. From the Haiti earthquake in January to Pakistan's devastating floods this summer, people around the world have been left struggling to cope with the destruction of homes, crops and infrastructure. Our television and newspapers have been filled with images of these dramatic events, focusing public concern and tapping into a level of generosity that has been nothing less than inspirational.

However, other crises, no less devastating, burn slowly beneath the surface and continue to receive little or no attention.

The severity of the crisis in the Sahel region, a vast stretch of northern Africa that is home to millions of people, has come about as a result not only of its scale but also of its duration: the people there have faced chronic food shortages for almost two decades. Put simply, we in the humanitarian community need to do more to challenge a system where silent emergencies such as these can continue to be neglected.

Right now, over 10 million people in the Sahel face acute food shortages. In Niger, over half the population is affected and 17 per cent are already experiencing severe malnutrition. The situation for children is of particular concern; in some

areas 50 per cent of infants are malnourished. Dead livestock – representing lost capital for people who are already desperately poor – lines the roads. There is still food in local markets, but the prices have risen to a level that makes it impossible for most people to meet anything approaching their daily nutritional needs.

The causes of this crisis are complex and longstanding. But this year, the Sahel region faced its worst drought in living memory. The lack of rain in combination with extreme heat destroyed this year's

'The struggle of families in Niger and Chad may not make the front pages in quite the same way as Haiti or Pakistan, but their problems are no less worthy of the attention of policy-makers and headline writers'

crop, with Chad, Niger and Mali particularly badly hit. To make matters worse, unusually heavy rains have now exacerbated the situation, as happened last year when crops were destroyed by extreme rainfall, wiping out stocks of staples such as maize, millet and sorghum. The global rise in food prices continues to exacerbate existing vulnerability.

Even in the best of times, the Sahel is a semi-arid zone, forming a border between the Sahara desert and sub-Saharan Africa. However, the desert is creeping south, and many are linking the drought in the Sahel to the larger processes of climate change and desertification.

Those on the frontline of disaster response are trying to address these severe

humanitarian needs. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the UN and NGOs, are distributing food to the best of their abilities in the affected areas. However, there are a number of problems with distribution, including political instability and a lack of funds.

More resources are urgently needed to save lives today and to restore people's livelihoods. Food security crises like these cannot be solved with simple food distributions – this creates dependency that can undermine local markets, perhaps lengthening the crisis in the long run. Long-term interventions and innovative solutions to these problems – such as cash grants and livelihoods support – are necessary to help those affected to deal with the immediate effects of food shortage and kick-start economic activity that will restore people's food security in the future. Such interventions are most successful when initiated early, before the need for critical food assistance becomes paramount.

While rapid onset disasters captivate the attention of 24-hour news organisations, crises that are slower to develop are far harder for rolling news networks to grapple with. But without increased attention focused on the urgent humanitarian needs in the Sahel, it is likely that many of those affected will be left without assistance. The struggle of families in Niger and Chad may not make the front pages in quite the same way as Haiti or Pakistan, but their problems are no less worthy of the attention of policy-makers and headline writers. ■

Sir Nicholas Young is Chief Executive of the British Red Cross, the UK's leading voluntary crisis response organisation, and part of the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. He chaired a panel on humanitarian challenges at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010 (see page 26).



Drought and famine have manifested themselves in the Sahel since the late 1960s. © UN Photo/John Isaac, 1986

Revisiting Hiroshima with one of its survivors



Setsuko
Thurlow

On 6 August 1945, I was a 13-year-old student at a girls' school and a member of the Japanese government's Student Mobilisation Programme. At an army headquarters about one mile from the hypocentre we students were starting our first day of work decoding messages. At 8.15am I saw a sudden bluish-white flash like a magnesium flare outside the window. I remember the sensation of floating in the air. As I regained consciousness in the total darkness and silence, I realised I was pinned under the ruins of the collapsed building. I could not move. I knew I was faced with death. Strangely, the feeling I had was not of panic but serenity. Gradually I came to hear my classmates' faint cries for help, "Mother, help me! God help me!" I felt hands touching me and loosening the timbers that pinned me. A man's voice said, "Don't give up! I'm trying to free you, keep moving!" By the time I came out, the ruins were on fire and most of my classmates had been burned alive.

I turned round and saw the outside world. Although it was morning, it looked like twilight because of the dust and dirt sucked up into the mushroom cloud. Streams of stunned people were slowly shuffling from the city centre towards the nearby hills. They were naked or tattered, burned and blackened. Eyes were swollen shut and some had eyeballs falling out of their sockets. They were bleeding, ghostly figures like a slow-motion image from an old silent movie. Many held their hands above the level of their hearts to lessen the throbbing pain of their burns. Strips of skin and flesh hung like ribbons from their bones. Often they would collapse in heaps, never to rise again. When darkness fell, we sat on the hillside, numbed by the massive scale of death and suffering we had witnessed, watching the en-

tire city burn. In the background were the low, rhythmic whispers from the swollen lips of the ghostly figures, still begging for water.

My sister and her four-year-old son were crossing a bridge at the moment of the explosion and both were horribly burned, blackened and swollen beyond recognition. My mother would later recognise my sister only by her voice and by a unique hair-pin she wore. They lingered for several days without medical care until death at last released them from their agony. Soldiers threw their bodies in a ditch, poured gasoline on them and threw a lighted match. They turned the bodies with bamboo poles. There I was, a thirteen-year-old girl, standing with my

**'A man's voice said,
"Don't give up! I'm
trying to free you,
keep moving!" By
the time I came out,
the ruins were on
fire and most of my
classmates had been
burned alive'**

parents, witnessing this most grotesque violation of human dignity, too traumatised to shed tears. Meanwhile, many of those who were in the city centre were simply vaporised, such as my sister-in-law, aunt and two cousins.

Some of the greatest suffering was experienced in the aftermath of the bomb. My favourite uncle and aunt were in the suburbs of Hiroshima and suffered no external injuries, but two weeks later began feeling sick. Their internal organs seemed to be dissolving and coming out in thick black liquid. Later we were told that if purple spots appeared on our bodies, this was a sure sign of radiation sickness and that we would soon die. Every morning our routine involved examining our bodies for these dreaded marks.

Thus my beloved city of 400,000 people became heaps of ash and rubble, skeletons and blackened corpses. By the end of 1945 almost 140,000 had perished.

Upon graduation from college in Hiroshima in 1954, I received a scholarship to study in the United States. Soon after I arrived I was interviewed by the press and expressed the commonly-held view of the survivors that nuclear weapons are evil and must be abolished. The

result was a flood of unsigned and threatening hate letters. I found that many people in the US were uncritically following the official narrative and regarded my stance as a challenge to their patriotism. Their strong reaction forced me to re-examine my commitment. It was tempting to back away, but I came out of this soul-searching with a stronger commitment to speaking out.

During this period, my education, career and family were the centre of my life. But in the early 1970s, I attended a disarmament conference in Hiroshima. There I was inspired by my role models – the physically-frail, old survivors who had transcended their personal tragedies and were predicting a dark future as long as nuclear weapons still existed. It dawned on me that resistance to the ultimate evil of nuclear weapons had been only a part of my life, not central to it. Ever since, I have been actively involved in speaking out on the need for nuclear disarmament and trying to rouse the sleep-walkers – those who do not see the peril of a world with nuclear weapons. Through the years I have found that the nuclear age is characterised by secrecy, deceit, misinformation and manipulation, representing a serious erosion to open democracy. Remembering those who have perished as a result of nuclear weapons is one way of reminding ourselves about how destructive these things are. Let us not only remember the past, but use it as warning for the future. ■

Setsuko Thurlow is a survivor of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb detonation. She lives in Toronto and, since the 1970s, has campaigned tirelessly for the abolition of nuclear weapons. During that time she has rubbed shoulders with diplomats and politicians at the highest levels, including at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2008, the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in 2009 and at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In 2007 she was awarded Canada's highest civilian honour, The Order of Canada, for her services to disarmament education. In August 2010, she attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, taking her place alongside the likes of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The inaugural International Day against Nuclear Tests was commemorated on 29 August 2010.

In focus

Fresh woes for the DRC

A UN report released on 1 October 2010 catalogues over 600 incidents of murder, sexual violence and looting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) between 1993 and 2003, when tens of thousands of people were killed. Prepared by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the 'mapping report', intended to help the Congolese government to combat impunity, heavily implicates Rwandan forces. Rwanda has protested vehemently against the report, threatening to pull out of UN peacekeeping missions.

The report comes less than a month after the UN Security Council called on the DRC to take "swift and fair" action after hundreds of civilians, including at least two dozen children, were raped by armed groups between 30 July and 2 August 2010. Addressing the Council, Atul Khare, Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, said: "our actions were not adequate, resulting in unacceptable brutalisation of the population." Earlier this year the American Medical Association surveyed 1,000 villagers in Ituri and North and South Kivu. 40 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men claimed to have suffered sexual assault, with 41 per cent and 10 per cent of victims, respectively, stating that the perpetrator had been female.

The UN mission in the DRC, MONUSCO, has since launched an



© UN Photo/Marie Frechon

operation to enhance the protection of civilians, resulting in the arrest of suspects. MONUSCO was established as a 'stabilisation mission', replacing its predecessor MONUC, whose 21,000-strong force was downsized by 2,000 in June as part of an agreement with the DRC for its eventual withdrawal. Its troops are dispersed across an area more than half the size of the European Union. The mission is anticipated to end by October 2011, the time of the next Congolese elections, and commentators are concerned that the plight of civilians, particularly in

the eastern provinces, will continue to worsen.

Although the country's five-year civil war ended in 2003, violence – including the recruitment of child soldiers and forced displacement – continues unabated. Most recently, civilians have been attacked by members of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA), following their expulsion from northern Uganda. UN peacekeepers have been patrolling the border between the two countries since September, following reports of arms trafficking by the LRA across DRC and southern Sudan. ■

After Cancún?

UN officials and state representatives are playing down the prospects of a legally-binding climate deal emerging from the 2010 UN climate conference, the 16th meeting of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Mexico from 29 November to 10 December. Throughout 2010 the 'road to Cancún' has been travelled cautiously – no surprise, given the amount of political capital and civil society aspirations expended in the lead-up to last year's disappointing meeting in Copenhagen.

COP15, the 2009 meeting of UNFCCC parties, produced no binding treaty, just fractured debates and financial commitments that have been slow to materialise. Rich countries pledged some \$28 billion in 'fast-start' finance to help poor countries take immediate action on climate change but the sums so far committed are much smaller. (As of September 2010, a UNFCCC website set up to monitor pledges showed that the UK, for example, has committed roughly a third of the £1.5 billion it pledged.)

Discussions on an effective follow-up regime to the Kyoto Protocol – the existing global framework which expires in

2012 – were deferred to this year, and now appear to have been deferred again. Speaking at the Major Economies Forum on Climate and Energy in September, Indian environmental minister Jairam Ramesh said: "We recognize that there is no breakthrough possible in Cancún but let's now try to cut our losses and see what we can do after Cancún."

This is not necessarily a disaster. Top UN climate official Christiana Figueres, who replaced Yvo de Boer as Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC in July, has said that while agreement at Cancún on a new climate deal might be unlikely, governments could agree a raft of techni-

cal, financial and institutional measures that could deliver real progress, with discussions on binding targets and legislation moving to the regional level. These measures could include arrangements to monitor country pledges, action on the ground – such as deforestation efforts, and delivering on the ‘fast-start’ finance promised at Copenhagen. According to Figueres, this funding is the ‘golden key’ to further agreements: “developing countries see the fast-start finance as proof of the seriousness of the industrialised world’s participation in the talks...If that is not there, it will be very difficult to talk about anything else.”

Meanwhile a series of so-called ‘rogue’ weather events – the monsoonal floods in Pakistan, mudslides in China and wildfires in Russia – have demonstrated that putting off action on climate change is likely to

be far more costly. Speaking at the UN in September, UK Foreign Secretary William Hague made an impassioned plea for foreign policy circles to play a more constructive role in shaping the global response to

tration of the events we will be encountering increasingly.”

Pakistan has said that it could cost \$10-15 billion to rebuild the country, while the damage to Russia’s economy is estimated

“While no one weather event can ever be linked with certainty to climate change, the broad patterns of abnormality seen this year are consistent with climate change models”

climate change, what he termed perhaps the ‘biggest foreign policy challenge’ of this century. “While no one weather event can ever be linked with certainty to climate change, the broad patterns of abnormality seen this year are consistent with climate change models. They provide a vivid illus-

to be \$15 billion – amounts that put the Copenhagen pledges of \$10 billion a year spread across the entire developing world into sharp context. “That’s the tension there”, said Figueres, “governments will need to go step by step, and that stands in stark contrast to the urgency of the science.” ■

Diversifying environmental policy

According to the UN Environment Programme, some 150-200 plant and animal species become extinct every 24 hours. Nearly a quarter of plant species, 12 per cent of birds and 21 per cent of mammals are under threat. Scientists believe this is greater than anything the world has experienced since, and possibly including, the end of the age of dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

These statistics will be in the foreground as states party to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meet in Japan on 18-29 October 2010. A key focus of the meeting will be to review the 2010 biodiversity targets set eight years ago.

The CBD was one of the treaties to emerge from the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, better known as the ‘Earth Summit’, which also produced the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Its main objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources (e.g. through transfer of relevant technologies).

In 2002, these objectives were translated by states parties into a concrete target, to be achieved by 2010, aiming at reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss worldwide. This commitment was subsequently incorporated as a new target under one of the UN Millennium Development Goals – MDG 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.

Earlier this year the CBD’s Global Biodiversity Outlook report issued a sober appraisal of progress, concluding that biodiversity was continuing to decline in all three of its main components – genes, species and ecosystems. According to Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, no country has met its targets. Urging governments to take action, he criticised policy-makers for separating action on climate change from preserving biodiversity, saying that one issue cannot be solved without addressing the other. He also emphasised the high economic cost of biodiversity loss: “it would be very short-sighted to cut biodiversity spending. You may well save a few pounds now but you will lose billions later.” An estimated 300 million people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods. Over 1 billion rely on fishing.

Campaigners hope that economic arguments will help to propel biodiversity to the top of governments’ agendas, much like the Stern Report did for climate change. Where robust action has been taken, results have been significant. Recent deforestation policies, for example, have curbed the rate of rainforest decline, and it is estimated that at least 31 bird species have been saved from extinction as a result of conservation drives.

However, action has been piecemeal and insufficient in scale to prevent decline in most areas. Instead of being integrated into broader policies, biodiversity considerations are often omitted from processes such as urban planning or included as an afterthought. The financial



Trash dumped in a mangrove-rich area of Timor-Leste. © UN Photo/Martine Perret

resources committed to conservation and sustainability are dwarfed by those poured into industrial development, rapid agriculturalisation and other potentially damaging activities.

States are expected to adopt a raft of measures in Nagoya to reverse this trend and integrate conservation into anti-poverty and development strategies. Djoghla has warned that “many plans were developed in the 1990s to protect biodiversity but they are still sitting on the shelves of ministries. Countries were legally obliged to act, but only 140 have even submitted plans and only 16 have revised their plans since 1993. Governments must now put their houses in order”. (See page 20 to find out about species under threat in the UK.) ■

Data is key to achieving the MDGs



Mo Ibrahim

At the start of this millennium, global leaders came together to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This was an historic occasion in which a series of time-bound targets for reducing poverty and promoting development were agreed. Ten years later the 2015-deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is fast approaching. In September, world leaders gathered to review progress and galvanise action where goals are in danger of not being met. All of this is taking place in the context of an increasingly polarised debate about the real value of aid that is at least partially linked to the global financial crisis and consequent pressure on aid allocations.

Progress has undoubtedly been achieved through development spending: millions of young men and women now have access to education, millions of children are being immunised to prevent death from easily controllable diseases. There is no denying that correctly targeted and tracked aid can have real impact.

However, there is also no doubt that some countries, particularly in Africa, are unlikely to reach the MDGs. This is in part because aid alone cannot solve Africa's problems. I have long argued that governance is the key to the challenges currently facing the continent. Africa is rich, in resources and potential, and there is no reason why we should be trailing behind in terms of development

and depending on foreign aid to prevent us from falling further behind. The key to this lies with a lack of accountable governance in many African countries. There is no certainty that Africa's own wealth or in fact the billions of dollars of aid that are poured into the continent always reach their intended destinations. An improvement in governance is vital if African countries are to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and progress beyond them.

Without data, it seems almost irrelevant – even preposterous – to pretend to genuinely track whether the MDGs have been achieved


That is why I set up the Mo Ibrahim Foundation in 2006 with the aim of improving governance in Africa. One of our core initiatives is the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, the most comprehensive collection of quantitative and qualitative data that assess governance in Africa. The Index is focused on the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by governments and non-state actors. We look at governance as experienced by the citizen. Not unexpectedly, the Index gives us mixed results across countries. But its core contribution is in laying the groundwork for an informed and results-orientated debate about our continent's governance.

Improving governance is not just limited to African governments.

Donors must also be transparent and accountable in the aid they provide, ensuring that it is linked to a country's own priorities, and that conditionalities are made clear from the outset. Citizens of donor and recipient countries are entitled to know what aid is going where and, most importantly, what that aid is meant to accomplish and what it finally achieves. Although there have been some positive steps through the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for

Action and other donor-led initiatives to improve accountability and transparency, there is still a lot to be done.

But accountability is only possible if we have robust mechanisms for tracking results. Citizens need to know what governments are achieving to be able to call for improvement in areas of weakness, just as governments need to know where to direct their resources and policy-making. Donors need to know what their aid is achieving in order to decide where to direct further aid. Tracking results will also put the arguments of sceptics to rest. Pointing, with facts and figures, to the concrete achievements of aid or African governments themselves, will silence those who argue against development



assistance on the simplistic grounds of waste or corruption.

However, assessing results is only possible if we have strong, reliable and relevant data. And therein lies a core issue. As we have learned through compiling the Index, the lack of data concerning Africa is worrying. To take two MDGs that cover issues vital to Africa's future success, poverty and maternal mortality, the latest available data are from 2005. Even up to that point, data for most countries are patchy at best. This means we have no means to track achievements in these areas over the last five years. No sensible private business would allow such casualness or neglect.

Without data, it seems almost irrelevant – even preposterous – to pretend to genuinely track whether the MDGs have been achieved, whether foreign aid is being spent effectively or whether African governments are fulfilling their commitments to their citizens. Donors, African governments, the United Nations, the World Bank and all other stakeholders have a vital role to play in improving the availability of statistical data. We must all work together to strengthen statistical offices in Africa. At the Foundation we are committed to working towards better data about Africa. As world leaders again come together to renew their commitments to achieving the MDGs and to review progress, we call on them to join us in this work, to put in place mechanisms to ensure more and more frequent data collection. Only then will we be able to move beyond pledges and declarations. ■

Dr Ibrahim is Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (www.moibrahimfoundation.org). He is a philanthropist and business leader who, until 2007, was Chair of Celtel International – a telecommunications company that operates in 15 African countries, covering more than a third of Africa's population.

Keeping the promise: UN MDG Summit

On 22 September, the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit drew to a close with governments pledging their support for the adoption of a global action plan to achieve the eight anti-poverty goals by their 2015 target date.

The three-day summit held in New York touted MDG successes, such as primary school education and access to clean water, but also pointed to key areas where progress has fallen short: maternal mortality, for instance, remains high with hundreds of thousands of women and girls dying in pregnancy or childbirth every year.

One key commitment emerging from the summit was a pledge by governments and private aid investors to put \$40 billion over the next five years towards accelerating progress on women's and children's health. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said "women and children play a crucial role in development. Investing in their health is not only the right thing to do – it also builds stable, peaceful and productive societies".

In his speech, British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg called on rich countries to live up to their promises on aid as he announced that the UK is to triple its spending on tackling malaria. He also reiterated the UK's commitment to raise spending on overseas aid to 0.7 per cent of annual economic output from 2013 – currently it is 0.5 per cent.

But while leaders from the developed countries reaffirmed their commitment to the goals, they also emphasised that strategic solutions by developing countries, such as domestic revenue raising and capacity building, were essential to ensure real progress in the long term.

Phil Mulligan, UNA-UK Executive Director, said "the meeting in New York was a real opportunity to generate momentum in these last crucial years for the MDGs. Governments must now ensure that the promises they made are embedded within their national policies if they are to yield results".

PRINCIPLES INCLUDED IN THE ACTION AGENDA ADOPTED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 22 SEPTEMBER

- Strengthening national ownership of development strategies
- Adopting macroeconomic policies that lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth
- Promoting national food security strategies that strengthen support for small-holder farmers
- Supporting participatory, community-led strategies aligned with national development priorities
- Promoting universal access to public and social services and providing social protection floors
- Implementing social policies and programmes, including appropriate conditional cash-transfer programmes, and investing in basic services for health, education, water and sanitation
- Ensuring the full participation of all segments of society in decision-making processes
- Promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development
- Enhancing opportunities for women and girls and advancing the economic, legal and political empowerment of women
- Investing in the health of women and children to drastically reduce the number of deaths from preventable causes
- Working towards transparent and accountable systems of governance at the national and international levels
- Promoting South-South and triangular cooperation
- Promoting effective public-private partnerships
- Expanding access to financial services for the poor, especially women, including through adequately funded microfinance plans, programmes and initiatives supported by development partners
- Strengthening statistical capacity to produce reliable disaggregated data for better programmes and policy evaluation and formulation.

Taking stock of the International Criminal Court



Kate Grady

In May-June 2010, countries gathered in Kampala, Uganda to review the Rome Statute, the international treaty establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC) that came into force in 2002. In the aftermath of the atrocities committed in Rwanda and the former Republic of Yugoslavia, the ICC's creation was widely hailed as an historic victory in the fight against impunity for the most heinous crimes. Eight years on, the Court has taken on five country situations but is yet to produce a conviction.

In this guest briefing, Kate Grady gives an overview of the ICC and reports on the Kampala review.

Jurisdiction and limitations

The ICC's remit includes genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It exercises jurisdiction on three bases:

- Crimes committed within the territory of a State Party to the Rome Statute;
- Crimes committed by a national of a State Party (regardless of where the crimes occurred); and
- Cases referred to it by the UN Security Council, irrespective of the nationality of the accused or the location of the crime. (This is a controversial aspect of the Court system, not least because of the politicised nature of the Security Council's decision-making.)

The Court's jurisdiction, however, is limited by the principle of 'complementarity'. This principle, intended to allow national courts to retain jurisdiction

over the most serious crimes, holds that the Court can only hear cases where the state in question has proved 'unwilling' or 'unable' to prosecute the crime itself. The ICC is also only able to consider crimes committed since 2002, when the Rome Statute entered into force. The third major limitation concerns those states that are not parties to the Court.

Some 60 per cent of UN Member States have signed up to the Statute (as of August 2010 there were 113 States Parties). Political heavyweights China, Russia and the US are notably absent, as are several Asian and African countries. Over the past year, calls for investigations into alleged war crimes in Gaza and Sri Lanka could not be followed up by the Court, as neither territory is party to the Rome Statute. While the Security Council could potentially refer such cases to the ICC, it has not done so. It is also highly unlikely that it would consider referring situations involving the Council's veto-wielding permanent members.



Demonstrators outside the Sudanese Embassy in London

Situations investigated to date

Within the Court's short life-time, five 'situations' (as they are termed under the Statute) have been investigated. In three of these (Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic), proceedings have started and are currently before the Court's chambers. The fourth, concerning the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007, is still under investigation. And the fifth – perhaps the most notable so far – is the situation in Darfur, Sudan, which was referred by the Security Council. The Court's Prosecutor subsequently brought proceedings, including against President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the ICC. He will be tried if, and when, the Court manages to have him arrested.



March 2009 © Shaun Curry/AFP/Getty Images

The remit of the review

The remit of the Kampala review conference was limited. It sought to 'take stock' of:

- 1 Complementarity of jurisdiction – including the responsibility of states to bring prosecutions before their own courts first and foremost;
- 2 Co-operation with the Court – specifically the duty of State Parties to execute the Court's arrest warrants; (This is notable in light of the African Union's 2009 declaration pledging not to co-operate with the Court in arresting Al Bashir: a product of African frustrations at both the perceived focus of the Court on situations within that continent, and the Security Council's performance with respect to Darfur.)
- 3 The impact of the Court on victims – with a call for more contributions to the trust fund for victims set up by the States Parties;

Defining aggression

An act of aggression: "the use of armed force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the UN Charter."

The crime of aggression: "the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a state, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter."

- 4 The tension between peace and justice – specifically, that one can sometimes frustrate the other e.g. when amnesties for perpetrators cannot be used as a bargaining tool in peace negotiations. The Conference highlighted both the strain between the two concepts and the positive aspects of their mutual reinforcement: after all, there can be no lasting peace without justice.

The crime of aggression

Various amendments to the Rome Statute were also debated, including the adoption of a definition of the crime of aggression, the Statute's fourth principal offence. This has been a source of controversy since the Statute's inception, with concerns focussing on potential politicisation of the Court, restrictions on states' ability to undertake military actions, and the supposed supremacy of the Security Council in peace and security matters. Therefore, when the Statute was agreed in 1998, states resolved to postpone the Court's jurisdiction over this crime until a definition had been adopted and conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction established.

Twelve years on in Kampala, a definition was finally adopted (see box), though the above concerns have only partially abated. At the Conference, some states expressed concern that any definition would give the Court too broad a remit, subsuming situations that might be technically unlawful but arguably legitimate, such as NATO's intervention in Kosovo in 1999. It is for this reason that the definition requires the

UN Charter to have been *manifestly* violated.

It was also agreed that the ICC can exercise jurisdiction over the crime of aggression in two situations: when a situation is referred by the Security Council and, in the absence thereof, when the ICC Prosecutor initiates – with the Court's permission – an investigation.

A step forward?

While the adoption of a definition of the crime of aggression is a positive development, States Parties can choose to opt out of the Court's jurisdiction with respect to this offence. Moreover, a further vote is needed to activate this jurisdiction – scheduled to be taken after 1 January 2017. And even then, the amendment requires ratification by at least 30 States Parties in order to enter into force.

Nonetheless, the decision to uphold the right of the Prosecutor to initiate investigations defeated suggestions by the permanent members of the Security Council that the Council should be the exclusive body for referring cases of aggression to the Court.

The Kampala Review Conference, therefore, might best be summed up as two steps forward, one step back. ■

Kate Grady is a barrister who was recently awarded her PhD thesis in international law. She is a Vice-Chair of the UNA-UK Board of Directors, Chair of UNA-UK's conference procedure committee, and, from November 2010, will serve as Chair of the Board's Policy Advisory Sub-Committee.

UNA-UK sent a delegation to the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (RevCon) in New York. The delegation consisted of Dr Owen Greene, Chair of the Centre for International Cooperation and Security at Bradford University; James Kearney, UNA-UK Peace & Security Programme Coordinator; and Dr Gari Donn, Convenor of UNA Edinburgh branch and member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors.

The delegation successfully established relationships with key UN, government and civil society representatives (including the Chinese party, whose delegates were keen to participate in future activities of UNA-UK's Towards Zero initiative), and Dr Greene, the head of UNA-UK's delegation, was part of the core team of three that drafted the Final NGO Caucus statement.

A report on the processes and outcomes of the conference, which was prepared by Dr Greene as head of the delegation, is available at www.una.org.uk/towardszero (hard copies can be requested by contacting James Kearney on 020 7766 3446 or kearney@una.org.uk).

Here, James Kearney reflects on the visit.

The May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

After three Preparatory Conferences over a period of three years, numerous preparatory meetings, and a nuclear security summit led by the US President, the four-week long Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference got underway on 3 May 2010 at the UN in New York. The conference, attended by the NPT's 189 States Parties, was based around the Treaty's three 'pillars': nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Each pillar was debated concurrently by sub-delegations aiming both to strengthen the NPT regime and defend their own state interests. Often, though not exclusively, debate would coalesce and occur between blocs of groups, for example – between the Nuclear Weapon States that have signed up to the NPT (China, France, Russia, the UK and the US) and members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Remembering the purpose of the NPT regime

The final week of the conference was the most frantic time for delegations, with late night conference calls back to national governments at crucial junctures. The real decisions, of course, were made behind closed doors, away from the media and NGO representatives, as was the case with much of the debate, which, for the most part, occurred in closed sessions.

Nonetheless, NGOs were still busy, holding side meetings, lobbying and promoting their own work. Within this politically-charged atmosphere, it was all too easy to lose sight of the goals for which the NPT was brought into being. A film shown during an NGO session which followed a world tour of the *Hibakusha*, survivors of the nuclear explosions in Japan in 1945, reminded those present of the importance of moving towards zero. I found the inspirational testimony of Setsuko Thurlow, one of the survivors of the Hiroshima bomb who also writes in this issue of *New World*, especially moving. (See page 9)

A renewal of confidence

In many ways the 2010 conference was a renewal of confidence in the NPT regime, and this is reflected in the final document. After last minute foot dragging, most notably from Iran, the final text was adopted by unanimous consensus on 28 May. Although it has inherent compromises, the document, and the conference, are widely held to have been more successful in terms of tangible outcomes than those of 2000 and 2005.

One of the most important aspects of the Final Document is the 'Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on Action' – a 64-point action plan which sets out steps to strengthen the NPT regime, and provide possible ways to move it forward. In section II, Action 25, for example, the Document states, "the Conference, noting that 18 States Parties to the Treaty have yet to bring into force comprehensive safeguard agreements, urges them to do so as soon as possible and without further delay".

With the Iranian nuclear question looming large (the Security Council was deliberating fresh sanctions on the country at the time of the conference), it was also a significant success for the conference to have revisited and reinforced the 1995 Middle-East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone initiative (see page 18).

On disarmament, many states, including those from the Non-Aligned Movement, had pushed for stronger language to be included in the Final Document, however there was significant reinforcement of the right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology, as seen in Follow-On Actions 37 to 64.

In conclusion, the NPT Review Conference 2010 was successful in reinforcing the value of the NPT and a multilateral approach to nuclear issues. But ultimately, its success will be measured by the extent to which the Follow On Actions are implemented during the next four years.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document is available from www.una.org.uk/towardszero



Dr Blix and Baroness Williams on the platform at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010.
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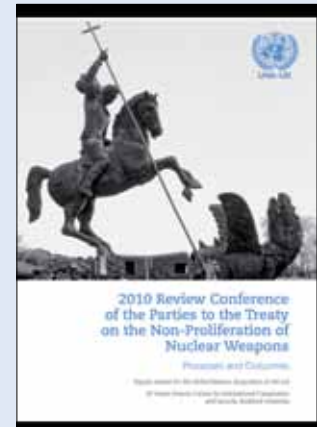
UNA-UK 'Towards Zero' advocacy

Since returning from New York, James Kearney has been undertaking advocacy on the outcomes of the conference, including conveying UNA-UK's views during a post-RevCon briefing at the FCO with the UK Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament.

Meanwhile, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay of Chiswick, initiated an exchange of letters with the UK Foreign Secretary, urging the government to maintain focus on nuclear disarmament and proliferation in the aftermath of the NPT Review Conference, and questioning the government's commitment to 'Continuous-At-Sea' deterrence – a decision taken ahead of the conclusion of its Strategic Defence and Security Review.

UNA-UK also hosted a major speech by Dr Hans Blix, former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its UN Forum event on 12 June – a mass civil society outreach conference attended by 1,400 people (see pages 26). In his wide-ranging presentation, Dr Blix contributed ideas on implementing the 2010 RevCon outcomes, and jointly fielded questions on how to get to 'nuclear zero' with Baroness Williams, a member of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. UN Forum also featured a workshop on the three pillars of the NPT, featuring presentations by the Acronym Institute and Global Zero Youth, and the first UK screening of 'Countdown to Zero', a film on the dangers of nuclear weapons that was shown at the UN during the RevCon.

In the coming weeks and months, the Towards Zero agenda will be carried forward through a high-level roundtable at the Royal Society, on, amongst other things, the future for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in the aftermath of the new NATO Strategic Concept. UNA-UK will also continue to work closely with Global Zero Youth and its own youth network, UNYSA, in putting nuclear issues back on the youth agenda. ■



Key NPT 2010 Review Conference Outcomes by 'Pillar'

Disarmament

- Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) committed to implementing steps towards nuclear disarmament
- Nuclear disarmament-related treaty negotiations to be established at the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD)
- Renewed international interest in strengthening NWS' security assurances to Non-Nuclear Weapon States
- Support for a process to begin discussions on negotiating a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction

Non-proliferation

- Encouragement for the universal adoption by NPT states of the Additional Protocol granting the IAEA increased inspection authority
- Support for the development of multilateral nuclear fuel cycle management
- Attention given to tightening NPT Article X on NPT withdrawal
- Questions raised on non-compliance with IAEA safeguard protocols

Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

- Further promotion of states' right to use nuclear energy
- Encouragement for states to voluntarily reduce use and development of highly-enriched uranium



Dr Aboul-Enein (right) with H.E. Maged A. Abdelaziz, Egypt's Permanent Representative to the UN, at the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. (Photo supplied by Dr Aboul-Enein)

A real opportunity for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in the Middle East

On 28 May 2010, Ambassador Libran Cabactulan – Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN and President of the eighth review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – announced its successful conclusion after four weeks of intense negotiations. At the conference, the 189 states parties to the treaty reached a hard-won consensus on the adoption of a final document that reviews treaty implementation and endorses future actions aimed at its strengthening. The conference demonstrated that despite differences among treaty members on a wide range of core issues relating to the

global non-proliferation regime, a near-universal consensus on the central importance and value of the NPT can be forged.

One of the critical issues that the conference addressed was tackling the lack of progress in achieving a nuclear-weapons-free zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East. The special importance of the region to the NPT was emphasised by a resolution adopted at the 1995 review and extension conference that formed an important part of a package of decisions to indefinitely extend and strengthen the NPT. The 1995 Middle East resolution focused on achieving the following

objectives: the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East as part of weapons of mass destruction free zone, the accession to the NPT by states in the region that have not yet done so, and the placement of all nuclear facilities in the Middle East under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

The goal of a nuclear-weapons-free zone or, more generally, a weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East, has been repeatedly endorsed by all states in the region, as well as the international community at the highest dip-

lomatic levels. Many resolutions are annually adopted to that effect by the UN General Assembly and the IAEA General Conference, in addition to other fora. But despite the wide support for the goal of establishing such a zone in the Middle East, no practical steps towards its fulfillment have been followed.

In light of the lack of progress throughout the past 15 years on this issue, the 2010 conference has endorsed a remarkable and forward-looking process towards the implementation of the resolution leading up to the establishment of the zone. The 2010 Review conference endorsed convening a conference in 2012, to be attended by all regional states on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Terms of reference for the envisioned conference will be taken from the 1995 Middle East resolution. To emphasise the international sponsorship of the process, the review conference assigned a special role in convening the conference to the UN Secretary-General and the three co-sponsors of the Middle East resolution: the United States, Russian Federation and the United Kingdom (also the NPT's three depository states).

On a parallel track, the conference endorsed the appointment of a facilitator to support the implementation of the 1995 resolution and to assist in the implementation of the follow-on actions including the necessary preparations for the envisaged 2012 conference. With such a mandate, the facilitator can hold direct and wide-ranging consultations with regional and international stakeholders. This is especially commendable given the current absence of regional dialogue dedicated to resolving the region's nuclear issues. The conference also endorsed the commissioning of technical studies by the IAEA as well as other relevant organisations to examine various technical modalities necessary for the establishment of the zone and its verification. Clearly, extensive preparations and support will be needed to satisfactorily achieve all of these outcomes.

By agreeing to this coherent plan, the conference has taken a significant and important step towards addressing the long overdue implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution. Regional states are now presented with a unique opportunity to put the Middle East

'States are now presented with a unique opportunity to put the Middle East on a non-nuclear trajectory. This opportunity must be seized through the constructive and sincere engagement of all regional states'

on a non-nuclear trajectory. This opportunity must be seized through the constructive and sincere engagement of all regional states in the implementation of the conference's plan. The role of the international community remains crucial in incubating this new process and in providing the needed support. Currently, key decisions need to be taken to keep up the momentum following the review conference. These decisions include the appointment of a facilitator, choosing the host country for the conference and taking practical steps towards engaging other relevant international organisations to address all technical questions. In that respect, the IAEA's role will be vital in devising a verification regime suitable for obligations under the zone.

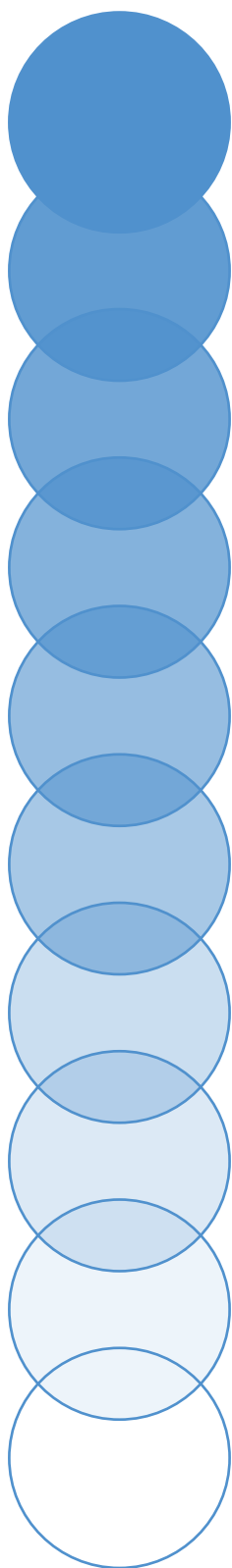
The last NPT review conference gave a much needed vote of confidence to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. However, the continued relevance of the regime will rely on concerted global efforts to strengthen, advance and address the current challenges that

nuclear weapons pose to security. A major achievement of the 2010 review conference has been the adoption of a concrete action plan towards the fulfillment of the 1995 resolution and in so doing, opening the way to resolving the region's intractable nuclear challenges. Past successes in reversing the nuclear tide include South Africa's historic decision to dismantle its nuclear weapons and join the NPT; decisions by Brazil and Argentina to roll back their nuclear programmes and create a bilateral verification agency; and the decisions by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to transfer nuclear weapons back to Russia following the breakup of the Soviet Union. The Middle East needs a similarly bold vision to rid the region of nuclear weapons and solidly put the region on a non-nuclear course. ■

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Hassan Elbahtimy is a researcher at The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC). He is also a PhD candidate and a research associate at the Centre for Science and Security Studies at the War Studies Department, Kings College London. He held the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship in 2006.

TEN 10



TEN SPECIES UNDER THREAT IN THE UK

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. Throughout the year, the UN, its partner organisations and civil society groups have been working to foster understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on earth.

The rich tapestry of life – which weaves together a huge variety of animals, plants, their habitats and surrounding environments – is under threat from human activities such as habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, over-exploitation of natural resources and the introduction of alien species. And the situation is getting worse.

The 2010 Global Diversity Outlook, produced by the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, reports multiple indications of continuing decline in biodiversity in all three of its main components: genes, species and ecosystems. It concludes that international biodiversity targets, set in 2002 to be achieved by this year, have been missed. (See page 11 for a fuller account.)

In the last issue of New World (Summer 2010), we reported on threats to global marine species and ecosystems. In this issue's Ten feature, we want to highlight species in the UK that are in danger. The following ten species are listed as priority species in the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan, produced as part of the UK's commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

1 Bechstein's bat

Once the most common bat species in the UK, Bechstein's bat is now one of the rarest, found in southern Wales and parts of southern England. Destruction of woodland is thought to be one of the main reasons for its decline.

2 Black-backed meadow ant

Possibly extinct in the UK (with the exception of a colony in the Channel Islands), one of the reasons for the decline of this species is believed to be the urban development of cliff tops.

3 Corncrakes

The corncrake is the only globally-threatened bird to breed regularly in the UK. Numbers have been devastated by modern farming techniques, mowers that kill chicks and adults, and a sharp reduction in potential nesting areas. Intensive conservation efforts have led to increasing numbers in Scotland, but without suitable habitat protection and restoration, corncrakes are unlikely to gain a foothold in England.

4 Devil's bolete

This brightly-coloured fungus is found only in association with beech trees, and appears to be declining rapidly throughout Europe. Southern England may now hold the largest viable – though diminishing – population. Loss of suitable beech trees and acid deposition affecting beech hosts are thought to be two main factors in its decline.

5 Field cricket

Habitat loss and alteration of grasslands led to a drastic drop in population levels, thought to be down to just 100 field crickets at one stage in the late 1980s. A captive breeding programme has since been initiated, with the aim of having ten viable cricket populations by the end of 2010.



Scottish wildcat © Ron McCombe/Alamy

6 Scottish wildcat

After outliving other British predators – such as the wolf, lynx and bear – by hundreds of years, fewer than 400 exemplars of the Scottish wildcat now live in the wild. Heavy deforestation and human persecution have confined the wildcats, which used to roam across the UK mainland, to the Scottish Highlands. Interbreeding with domestic cats is also a threat.

7 Shrilc carder bumblebee

Formerly widespread across southern England, this species declined by 75 per cent between 1970 and 1990, and then by a further 75 per cent in 1990-2000, due in large part to loss of unimproved flower-rich grassland.

8 Southern damselfly

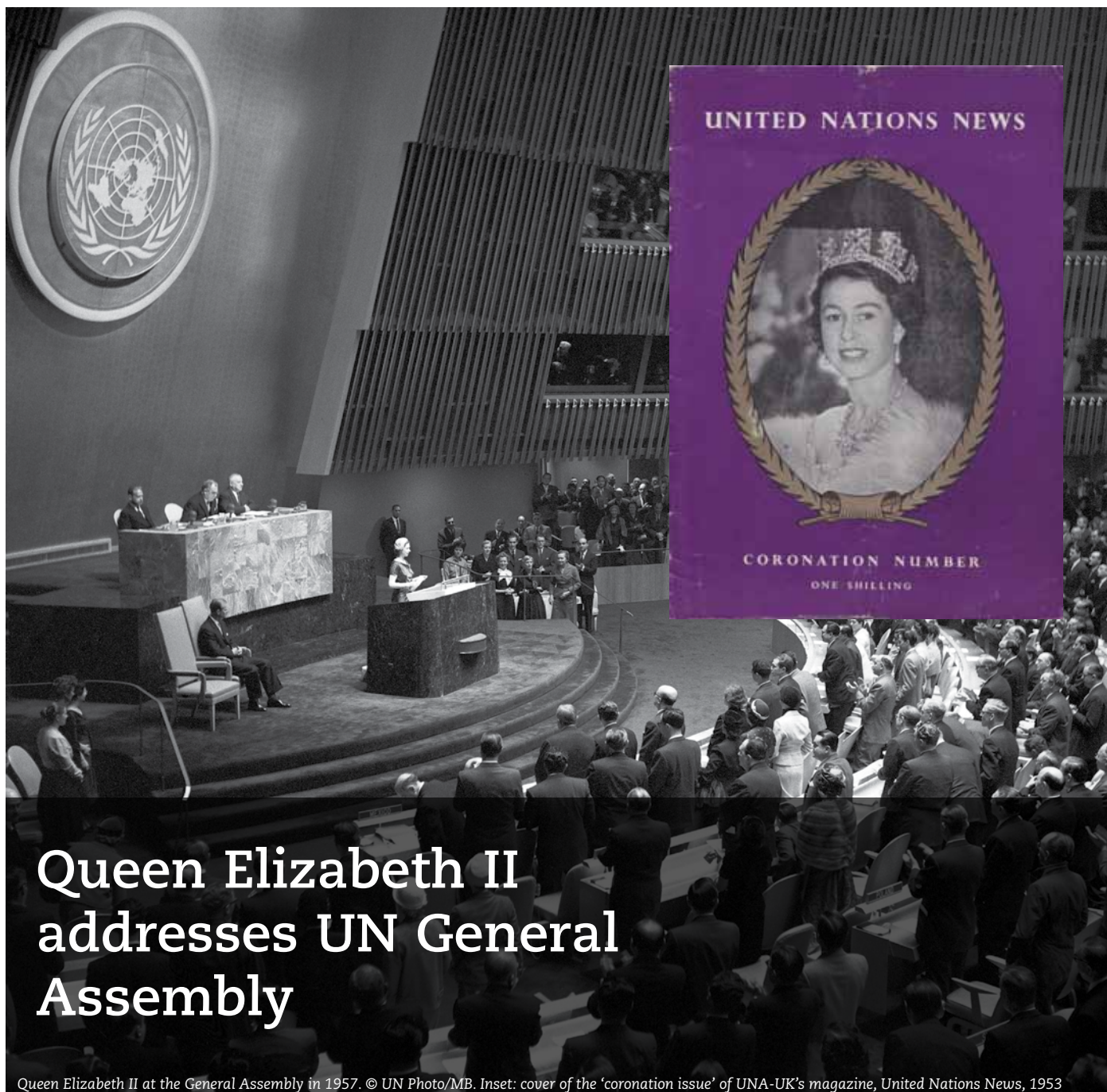
One of five members of the genus *Coenagrion* currently found in the British Isles (two others have become extinct in the last 40 years), this species is rare in the UK. The main factors leading to its decline are thought to be the removal of grazing animals (which maintain the open nature of its breeding grounds), land drainage and fertiliser run-off. The southern damselfly is already thought to have all but vanished from Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Romania, Poland and Austria. It is believed that up to 25 per cent of its global population live in the UK.

9 Water vole

The UK population is estimated to have dwindled by about 90-95 per cent, due to the American Mink, an aggressive predator of the vole, and unsympathetic farming and water-course management which have destroyed vast swathes of its habitat.

10 Isle of Man cabbage

Endemic to the British Isles, this species has collapsed and is considered to be at serious risk of extinction. The Manx Wildlife Trust began propagating it in 2006 in the hope of halting its decline.



Queen Elizabeth II addresses UN General Assembly

Queen Elizabeth II at the General Assembly in 1957. © UN Photo/MB. Inset: cover of the 'coronation issue' of UNA-UK's magazine, United Nations News, 1953

On 6 July 2010, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II addressed the UN General Assembly for the second time in her 57-year reign. During this historic speech, the Queen praised the UN for its many achievements and expressed hope that it will continue to lead global efforts to secure peace and prosperity for all.

The Queen, who is the Head of State of 16 of the UN's member states, last addressed the General Assembly in 1957 when the UN's membership was less than half of what it is today (82 compared to 192 countries). Paying tribute to the UN, she said "in my lifetime, the United Nations has moved from being a high-minded aspiration to being a real force

for common good. That of itself has been a signal achievement."

She highlighted some of the UN's "remarkable" achievements, such as tackling poverty, helping to reduce conflict and providing humanitarian assistance to millions of people, as well as the Organisation's ability to adapt to an ever-changing world. However, she also argued that a great deal remains to be done, from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (the UN's flagship anti-poverty initiative) to dealing with new and emerging challenges such as climate change and terrorism.

Noting that the world had witnessed tremendous changes during her reign, she pointed to the enduring aims and values

of the UN Charter: to promote international peace, security and justice; to relieve and remove the blight of hunger, poverty and disease; and to protect the rights and liberties of every citizen.

She closed with a plea for global unity, calling on the UN to "continue to show this clear and convening leadership while not losing sight of [its] ongoing work to secure the security, prosperity and dignity of our fellow human beings."

Following her speech, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described the Queen as "a living symbol of grace, constancy and dignity", and expressed his gratitude for her dedication to the values embodied by the UN.



Queen Elizabeth at the General Assembly podium in 1957 © UN Photo/AF



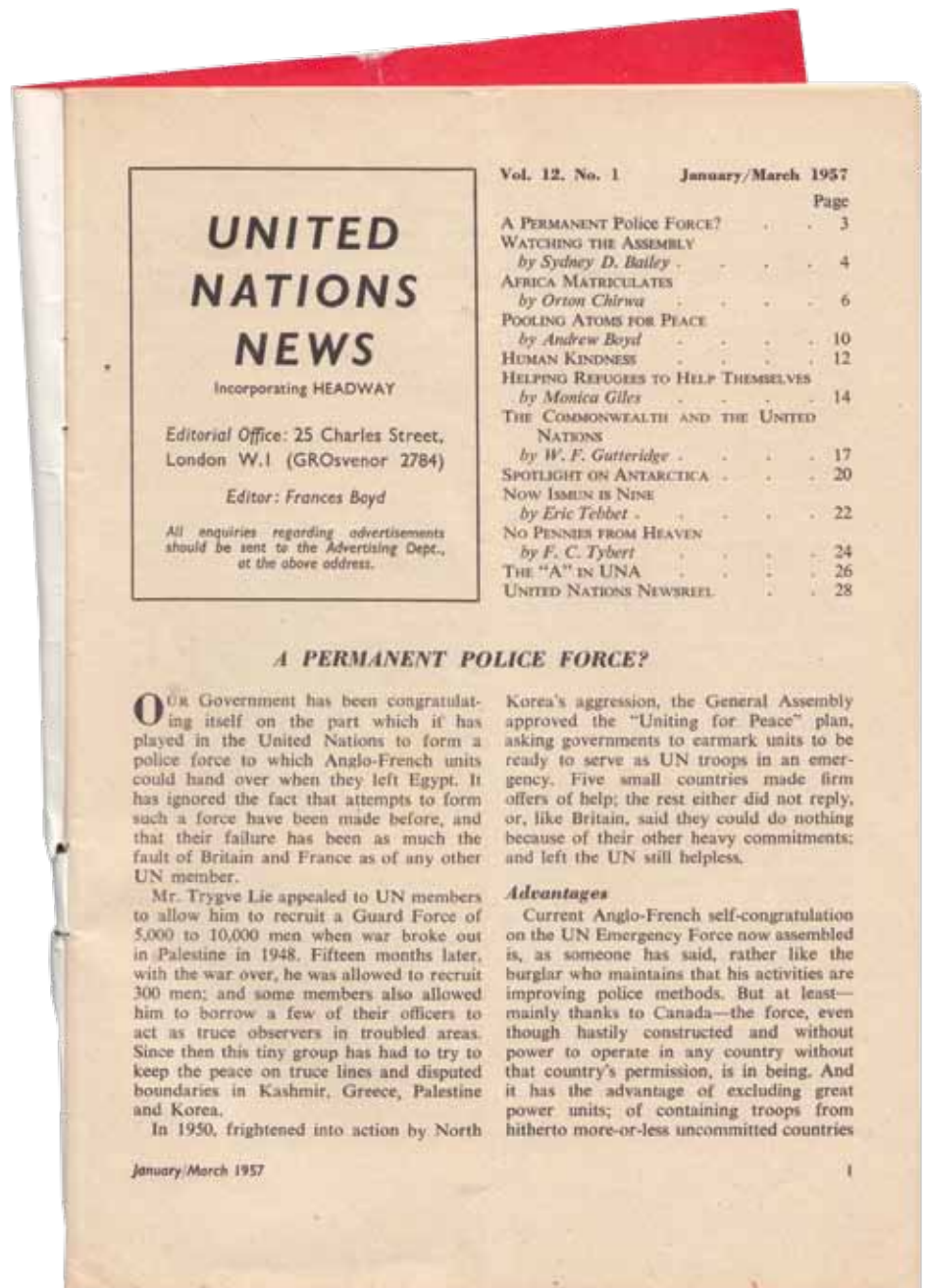
And again in 2010 © UN Photo/Evan Schneider

The world in 1957

- Dag Hammarskjöld was elected for a second term as UN Secretary-General
- Britain tested its first H-bomb in the Pacific on 15 May
- The International Atomic Energy Agency was established
- The Gold Coast gains complete independence – the first British African territory to do so
- The Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community was signed
- An 'Asian flu' pandemic claimed over 150,000 lives worldwide
- The 'space age' begins as the Soviet Union launches Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth
- 300,000 animals in the UK were slaughtered as a result of 'foot and mouth' disease

UNA-UK in 1957

- 290 volunteers assisted 73 refugee families in Austria in building homes
- UNA members raised £80,000 for refugees following the 'Hungarian uprising' in 1956
- A 'Christmas airlift' containing 50 tonnes of food and clothing for refugees was dispatched from London
- UNA's 'Special General Council' held an emergency meeting to demand British compliance with UN recommendations for a cease-fire in Egypt
- Representatives from UNA Norway and UNA Liberia spent time at UNA 'head office'
- UNA members adopted a recommendation on establishing a 'UN Commission to investigate the world oil situation' to govern the worldwide production and distribution of oil, and to consider setting up a UN Oil Organisation



Vol. 12, No. 1	January/March 1957	Page
A PERMANENT POLICE FORCE?		3
WATCHING THE ASSEMBLY		4
by Sydney D. Bailey		
AFRICA MATRICULATES		6
by Orton Chirwa		
POOLING ATOMS FOR PEACE		10
by Andrew Boyd		
HUMAN KINDNESS		12
HELPING REFUGEES TO HELP THEMSELVES		14
by Monica Giles		
THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE UNITED NATIONS		17
by W. F. Gutteridge		
SPOTLIGHT ON ANTARCTICA		20
NOW ISMUN IS NINE		22
by Eric Tebbel		
NO PENNIES FROM HEAVEN		24
by F. C. Tybert		
THE "A" IN UNA		26
UNITED NATIONS NEWSREEL		28

A PERMANENT POLICE FORCE?

OUR Government has been congratulating itself on the part which it has played in the United Nations to form a police force to which Anglo-French units could hand over when they left Egypt. It has ignored the fact that attempts to form such a force have been made before, and that their failure has been as much the fault of Britain and France as of any other UN member.

Mr. Trygve Lie appealed to UN members to allow him to recruit a Guard Force of 5,000 to 10,000 men when war broke out in Palestine in 1948. Fifteen months later, with the war over, he was allowed to recruit 300 men; and some members also allowed him to borrow a few of their officers to act as truce observers in troubled areas. Since then this tiny group has had to try to keep the peace on truce lines and disputed boundaries in Kashmir, Greece, Palestine and Korea.

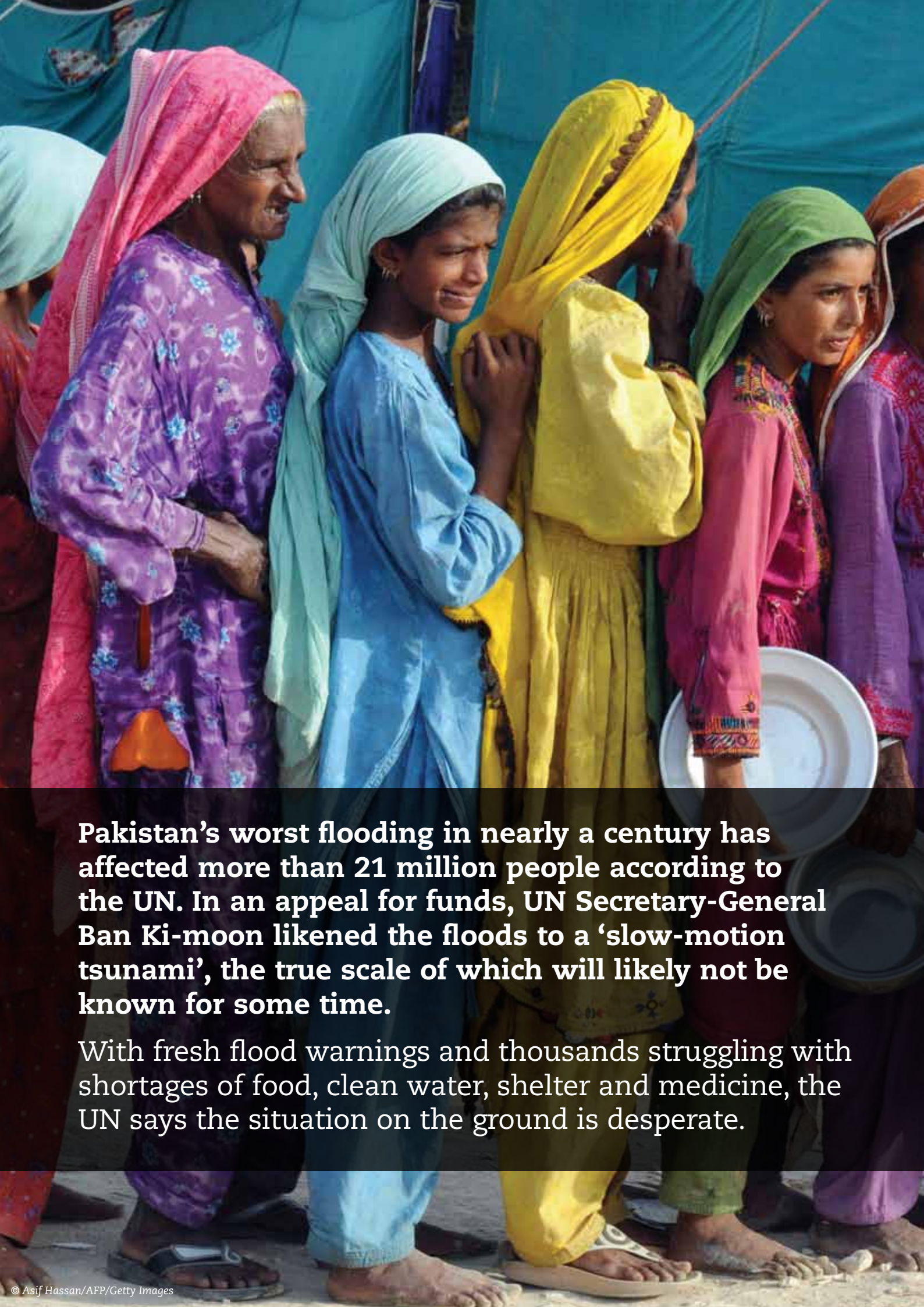
In 1950, frightened into action by North

Korea's aggression, the General Assembly approved the "Uniting for Peace" plan, asking governments to earmark units to be ready to serve as UN troops in an emergency. Five small countries made firm offers of help; the rest either did not reply, or, like Britain, said they could do nothing because of their other heavy commitments; and left the UN still helpless.

Advantages

Current Anglo-French self-congratulation on the UN Emergency Force now assembled is, as someone has said, rather like the burglar who maintains that his activities are improving police methods. But at least—mainly thanks to Canada—the force, even though hastily constructed and without power to operate in any country without that country's permission, is in being. And it has the advantage of excluding great power units; of containing troops from hitherto more-or-less uncommitted countries

January/March 1957



Pakistan's worst flooding in nearly a century has affected more than 21 million people according to the UN. In an appeal for funds, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon likened the floods to a 'slow-motion tsunami', the true scale of which will likely not be known for some time.

With fresh flood warnings and thousands struggling with shortages of food, clean water, shelter and medicine, the UN says the situation on the ground is desperate.



Do something

Donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Pakistan Floods Appeal by:

1. Visiting www.dec.org.uk
2. Calling 0370 60 60 900
3. Sending a cheque payable to DEC
PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL, and post it to:
DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal
PO Box 999
London
EC3A 3AA

DEC is an umbrella group of 13 major UK-based humanitarian aid charities, including the British Red Cross, Oxfam and Save the Children.

You can also donate to UNICEF, the UN Refugee Agency and the World Food Programme. Visit www.una.org.uk/dosomething for details.

UN FORUM SPECIAL

Over 1,400 people from all walks of life participated in UNA-UK's inaugural UN Forum event, held in London on 12 June 2010





“With little fanfare but great dedication, the UN Association of the UK and its kindred groups across the world carry forth the core values of the United Nations: justice, human rights, equal opportunity. You influence decision-makers and engage the young.

I am most grateful for your commitment and I welcome the efforts of this UN Forum to bring our mission to new audiences and constituencies. Your people’s movement is helping us to build a better world.”

**Message from UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon, 12 June 2010**

On 12 June 2010, UNA-UK held its inaugural UN Forum – a mass civil society event on UN issues – at Friends House in London.

Entitled ‘An effective UN in a more secure and just world’, the purpose of the event was to introduce a wide cross-section of the British public to the work of the UN and the host of global challenges it strives to address, and to stimulate thought and debate on ways of making the UN stronger, more credible and more effective.

The event featured major speeches by H.E. Helen Clark (head of the UN Development Programme), H.E. Mary Robinson (former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Dr Hans Blix (former head of the UN’s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency). Henry Bellingham MP, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister with responsibility for the UN, provided an overview of British priorities for the UN (see page 33), and participants also took part in a host of panel debates and workshops.

This site also includes:

- a film showcasing the highlights of the conference and featuring ‘vox pops’ from speakers and participants
- webcasts of all the plenary sessions
- audiocasts of the breakout workshops and panel discussions
- photos
- transcripts of the three main speeches
- notes for several of the other presentations
- the UN Forum promo animation

We are happy to post hard copies of the transcripts or CDs/DVDs of the recordings on request. Contact Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or membership@una.org.uk or by post to UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

We welcome your feedback on the conference. Please send your feedback to Rich Nelmes on the above details. You can also tweet @UNAUK or join the UNA-UK Facebook group.



Helen Clark speaks to participants © UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Helen Clark on the MDGs

H.E. Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, opened UN Forum 2010 with a speech on what is needed to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Adopted by the international community in 2000, the MDGs are a set of time-bound objectives aimed at reducing poverty and inequality by the target date of 2015.

“Our world collectively has the opportunity to offer a better life to billions of people... The actions decided on in September are critical to realising the promise of the MDGs for the world’s poor and for a more secure and just world.”

At the two-thirds mark of the schedule, Helen Clark reported that impressive results from around the world – such as the global drop in child mortality – demonstrate that it is possible to achieve the MDGs. She noted, however, that a series of concurrent crises – food, fuel, financial and environmental – has not made this task any easier. In 2009, for instance, the number of the world’s hungry topped one billion for the first time.

But, Clark argued, these setbacks should not become an excuse for lowering our ambition. On the contrary, meeting the MDGs is essential if we are to build societies that have a better chance of withstanding such shocks in the future.

World leaders therefore needed to agree a concrete agenda for the remaining five years of the MDG schedule at the UN’s MDG Summit in September 2010. (See page 13)

Clark’s eight opportunities for action to achieve the MDGs

- Development strategies must be locally ‘owned’
- Inclusive economic growth must be promoted
- Countries must invest in women and girls
- Health, education, water and sanitation services must be developed and their staff supported
- Social protection must be seen as a critical investment in building resilience
- Energy access and low-carbon initiatives should be expanded
- Countries’ ability to raise revenue domestically must be improved
- The international community must deliver on its aid commitments

1,400

people participated in the event



Mary Robinson at the podium © UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Mary Robinson on climate justice

H.E. Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland (1990-97), used her speech at UN Forum 2010 to reflect on the links between climate change, human rights and development. Declaring that climate change represents “what is arguably the greatest threat to human rights that the world will ever see,” she argued persuasively for a climate justice approach. See page 7 for an op ed prepared by Mary Robinson based on her speech.

96%

of the people who gave us feedback said they left conference better informed

89%

said they were inspired to find out more and get involved with the issues raised at the event



Dr Blix delivers his speech © UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Hans Blix moving towards 'nuclear zero'

Dr Hans Blix, former Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), provided UN Forum participants with an overview of the opportunities and challenges for moving 'towards zero' following the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. (See page 16)

He noted that several positive developments had taken place in the lead-up to the conference, such as the UN Security Council resolution on non-proliferation and disarmament, and that the outcome of the conference itself marked a welcome if modest convergence between the parties to the Treaty. But he also pointed to serious obstacles to nuclear disarmament, including developments in North Korea and Iran, as well as the continued belief in many capitals that nuclear deterrence is an essential component of national security strategies. Dr Blix ended by offering some thoughts on how this view could be reversed:

- Cooperatively developing the missile shield, now seen as protecting against reckless governments, between the US, Europe, Russia and China
- Withdrawing nuclear weapons in Europe under NATO command
- Developing 'good neighbour' policies between Russia and the countries around it

"No state can contend that alleged Iranian intentions to make a nuclear weapon constitute an 'armed attack' giving a right to armed action in self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. I am not sure these legal thoughts will impress in every capital but I do think armed action will not be taken because it would most likely lead to a conflagration and to a decision by Iran – if one did not exist already – to produce nuclear weapons."

Hans Blix on Iran

Shirley Williams on the UK's deterrent

Baroness Shirley Williams, who introduced Dr Blix's speech and jointly fielded questions with him, spoke about the UK's role in furthering multilateral disarmament efforts. She said the UK could minimise nuclear deterrence stage by stage: first, by reducing the number of submarines from four to three. Second, by replacing 'Continuous-At-Sea' deterrence with an alert deterrence, leaving one or two submarines in port, and finally, by extending the life of the existing deterrent – for instance – by using it less frequently.



Baroness Williams speaks on the UN's nuclear deterrent © UNA-UK/Mark Makela

"We are living in an extraordinarily fast-changing period where there is at last real momentum behind the attempt to at least minimise nuclear weapons and possibly to abolish them, and therefore for the UK to proceed with something that would last for 40 years at great expense to itself, would actually be to stand in the way of that momentum and I cannot believe that's in anybody's interest. We need to buy time, we can buy time, and we can buy time by reducing stage by stage."

Shirley Williams on the UK's nuclear deterrent





Zeinab Badawi chairs a discussion on UN reform
© UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Practical ways to make the UN more effective

Chair: Zeinab Badawi, BBC World News Today

- Dame Margaret Anstee DCMG, former UN Under-Secretary-General and first female head of a UN peace-keeping mission
- Dr Abiodun Williams, Vice-President of the Center for Conflict Analysis and former Director of Strategic Planning in the Office of UN Secretaries-General Ban and Annan
- Ambassador Kishore Mahbubani, Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and former Singaporean Ambassador to the UN

This wide-ranging panel discussion offered a host of recommendations, including:

- strong leadership by the UN Secretary-General and heads of UN agencies, and changes to the (s)election processes for these roles (for example, removing geographic rotation and instituting a single-term mandate)
- changes to representation on govern-

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

UNA-UK aims to stimulate thought and debate on how we can achieve real change in the areas of peace, development and human rights, and on ways to make the UN stronger, more credible and more effective.

Three panel discussions at UN Forum 2010 drew on the expertise of practitioners, academics and commentators who have extensive experience of working for or with the United Nations.

ing bodies of UN agencies, to ensure that more experts and fewer diplomats have a voice

- the ability to say 'no' to impossible requests by Member States e.g. for peacekeeping missions that do not have a clear mandate or adequate resources from the outset
- a consolidated UN budget, with more resources going to the UN's regular budget, and ending the pressures to maintain zero growth
- promoting the advancement of women at all levels, within the UN system
- developing a strong international civil service, which includes overhauling recruitment policies and improving the relationship between headquarters and field offices
- improve the provision of public information for example, by re-establishing UN information centres in major rich-country capitals, where the UN's role on the ground is not as visible
- a review of all past reform efforts to assess implementation and select the best recommendations

Is there accountability for human rights violations?

Chair: Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair, UNA-UK

- Elizabeth Wilmshurst CMG, Associate Fellow of International Law, Chatham House
- Sir Nigel Rodley, Member, UN Human Rights Committee and Chair, University of Essex Human Rights Centre
- Susan Hyland, Head of the Human Rights & Democracy Department, FCO

The panel evaluated the success of the UN human rights treaty bodies, the

UN Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court in fighting impunity for human rights violations. (See page 14 for a Guest briefing on the ICC).

Humanitarian challenges in the 21st century

Chair: Sir Nicholas Young, Chief Executive, British Red Cross

- Roland Schilling, UK Representative, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- David Bull, Executive Director, UNICEF UK
- Peter Scott-Bowden, Pandemic Preparedness & Response Coordinator, World Food Programme (WFP)
- Yolanda Foster, South Asia team, Amnesty International

The panellists discussed the economic, political and social challenges faced by the 'international fire brigade' responsible for delivering humanitarian relief, including:

- the economic downturn, which has led to increased pressure on services already under duress, including the need to prove their impact
- climate change and multiple natural disasters, which have resulted in 'complex emergencies'
- shifting power balances both internationally and within regions, which are increasingly being played out through humanitarian operations
- the perception of humanitarian operations as a 'Western' construct
- the threat to humanitarian workers

See page 8 for an op ed by Sir Nicholas Young on the Sahel food crisis.

WORKSHOPS

Five workshops, each aimed at particular UNA-UK constituencies, were conducted during the day. The workshops aimed to give participants an opportunity to engage with the issues being debated in more detail, and to enable them to find out more about how they could get involved with the UN and UNA-UK's work to further peace, development and human rights for all.



Student participates in workshop on UN careers
© UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Pressing UN issues for women

Chair/presenter: Suzanne Long, UNA Women's Advisory Council

- Kathryn Colvin CVO, member of the UK National Committee of UNIFEM
- Charlotte Onslow, Senior Gender Policy Advisor, International Alert
- Charlotte Gage, Policy Officer, Women's Resource Centre

In September 2009 the UN General Assembly unanimously supported the creation of the new UN women's agency – an important step towards addressing the gaps and challenges in the existing UN gender framework. This workshop sought to provide an overview of institutional developments to date, in addition to considering the pressing issues in peace, development and human rights that this new agency will need to tackle.

Learning about the UN Matters – an interactive session for teachers

Facilitator: Mary Morrison, UNESCO UK consultant

Aimed at teachers, educators and Model UN enthusiasts, this workshop sought to provide practical tips and ideas on teaching about the United Nations, using a free teaching resource, 'The UN Matters', jointly produced by UNA-UK and UNESCO UK. The resource offers an accessible introduction to the UN's work in peace, development and human rights work. It includes teacher's notes, lesson plans with curriculum links and student worksheets.

Free copies can be requested by emailing membership@una.org.uk or writing to Membership, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. The resource is also available for free download from: www.unesco.org.uk/unmatters

Getting to nuclear zero

Chair: James Kearney, Peace & Security Programme Coordinator, UNA-UK

- Carol Naughton, Senior Associate, Acronym Institute
- Matthew Harries, Global Zero UK Youth representative

As part of UNA-UK's nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament initiative, Towards Zero, this workshop aimed to provide participants with an 'eyewitness account' of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and to generate ideas on follow-up advocacy and campaigning work. (See page 16)

Information on the workshops on careers at the UN and business and the UN can be found on pages 44 and 46 respectively.



Helen Clark, then UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws, Hans Blix, Margaret Anstee and Nigel Rodley in the audience at UN Forum. © UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Westminster Wire



Sir Mark Lyall Grant, British Ambassador to the UN. Sir Mark addressed the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group on 8 July 2010. © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

UN APPG growth spurt

Following the UK general election in May 2010, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN (UN APPG) – for which UNA-UK provides the secretariat – undertook a successful recruitment drive, with over 60 MPs and Peers now signed up to the group. At the first AGM of the new Parliament, the following officers were elected: Peter Bottomley MP (Chair), Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Vice-Chair), Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead (Vice-Chair), Baroness Whitaker (Vice-Chair), Mark Lancaster MP (Vice-Chair), and Andrew George MP (Secretary). The rejuvenated group hosted its first guest speaker at a meeting in the House of Lords on 8 July (see below).

'No alternative to the UN' – Sir Mark Lyall Grant

On 8 July, the UN APPG hosted a talk and Q&A in the House of Lords with Sir Mark Lyall Grant, UK Ambassador to the UN. Sir Mark spoke on "Challenges facing the UN, and Britain at the UN" to an audience of Parliamentarians,

Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other representatives from missions in London, and members of UNA-UK's Board and Advisory Panel. The meeting was chaired by UNA-UK's Chair and Vice-Chair of the UN APPG, Lord Hannay of Chiswick. During his talk, Sir Mark examined some of the UN's successes and failures, concluding that although the Organisation needs reforming, "there is no alternative to the UN. It has unique legitimacy and representative authority, which allows it to provide a framework to tackle global problems, such as poverty, conflict, proliferation and climate change".

UK reviews nuclear posture

UNA-UK welcomed the UK government's commitment to undertake a nuclear posture review as part of its Strategic Defence and Security Review. However, UNA-UK Chair's, Lord Hannay, expressed regret at the Government's decision to maintain the UK's "Continuous-At-Sea" capability and not include this "relic of the Cold War" in the planned review. In a letter to the Foreign Secretary

(6 July 2010), Lord Hannay questioned the government's justification for this decision given the emphasis placed at the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference on the desirability of nuclear weapons states reducing the alert status of their weaponry, and the role that nuclear weapons play in their military doctrines as a whole.

The road to Cancún

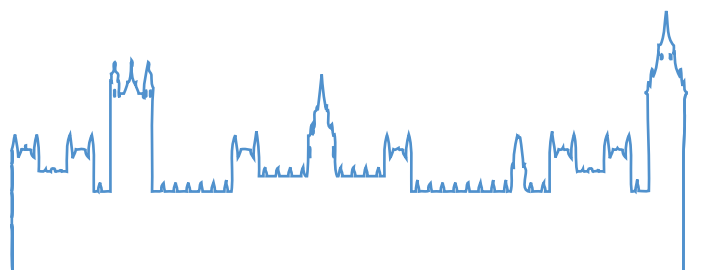
In a letter to Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (24 June 2010), UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay commended the UK government on its commitment to support the EU's offer to increase its 2020 carbon emissions reduction target from 20 to 30 per cent, should other countries agree to do so too.

In light of the recent criticisms levelled against the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Lord Hannay urged the Government to undertake a renewed campaign to set out the facts which justify the need for urgent action. He also sought reassurance that the government will work tirelessly to seek a legally binding climate agreement at the Cancún climate change conference in December 2010.

Aid priorities

The UK government has 'ring-fenced' its international development budget from spending cuts and pledged to increase overseas aid over the next three years to reach 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income in 2013. Given the challenging financial climate, these commitments indicate a much-needed concern for the world's poor by the British government and electorate. A root-and-branch review of bilateral, multilateral and humanitarian spending by the Department for International Development (DFID) has, however, caused some anxiety among UK aid charities concerned about the impacts on the ground of a realignment of spending priorities.

The 'Bilateral Aid Review' will scrutinise circa 90 countries that currently share around £2.9bn of UK aid. International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell has said "it is not jus-



tifiable to continue to give aid money to China and Russia. Other country programmes which are less effective will be closed or reduced and the savings will be redirected towards those countries where they can make the most difference”.

Effectiveness reviews should be welcomed and British commitments made at the September UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit (see page 13) are positive signs. Ceasing support to all middle-income countries (MICs), however, may not be advisable. A new study by the Sussex-based Institute of Development Studies has shown that of the world's 1.3 billion poor people – those

who live on less than \$1.25 a day – about three quarters live in countries classified as ‘middle income’. While many MICs (Brazil, for example) have run successful national poverty eradication programmes, DFID's targeted interventions in countries like Nigeria, home to Africa's second largest economy as well as 20 per cent of the continent's poor, have had great impact on its MDG performance.

Other news

- UNA-UK's Chair and Executive Director Phil Mulligan met with the UK Foreign Secretary in September

to brief him prior to the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly.

- UNA-UK has submitted proposals for the forthcoming review of the UN Human Rights Council – the first part of which is due to commence this autumn – to the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission.
- UNA-UK's Chair and Executive Director met with new Foreign Office Minister, Henry Bellingham MP, at the beginning of July to brief him on the work of the organisation and to discuss future priorities and activities. ■

British UN reform objectives

Henry Bellingham MP, Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister with responsibility for the United Nations, delivered a speech at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010 (see page 26) on the UK government's UN objectives. After underscoring his commitment to fostering the FCO's 65-year old partnership with UNA-UK, Mr Bellingham conveyed the determination of Foreign Secretary William Hague to build a more dynamic foreign policy. Britain, he said, should have a foreign policy with a conscience.

He paid tribute to all those who work with the UN, saying that the Organisation is unique in its reach and wide membership, and has a fundamental role as a peacekeeper, a peace-builder, a deliverer of humanitarian aid and a supporter of countries emerging from crisis.

Describing the UN as ‘the only body that has the legitimacy and moral authority to respond to global threats’, Mr Bellingham stressed that we must ensure that the UN is in the best possible shape to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. He then outlined some of the UK's key areas of focus in terms of UN reform:

- Reform of the UN Security Council, through an intermediate model, to make it more representative of the modern world.
- Improving coordination between UN humanitarian agencies to avoid duplication.
- Clear, achievable mandates for peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions, matched by adequate resources.
- Regular and rigorous oversight of peacekeeping missions to ensure effectiveness on the ground.
- More emphasis on peacebuilding and conflict prevention in those countries where insecurity remains high.
- Support for the UN's review of international civilian capacity.
- Ensuring the review of the UN's Peacebuilding Commission is strategic and country-focused.
- Consideration of the UN Regular and Peacekeeping Budgets to take into account the current economic climate and the need to pursue good budget discipline, and more modernised cost-share calculations to secure value for money.

Mr Bellingham concluded by saying “in the face of global uncertainty and in the face of the threat of terrorism, it is easy to be pessimistic. But I am an optimist



© UNA-UK/Mark Makela

and believe we have the potential to do more on conflict prevention, more on peacebuilding and more towards meeting the MDGs”.

Mr Bellingham was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office on 14 May 2010. His portfolio includes the UN, Africa, climate change, conflict resolution and global economic issues. He previously served as Shadow Minister for Constitutional Affairs/Justice, and as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Sir Malcolm Rifkind, when the latter was Secretary of State for Defence and then Foreign Secretary.



Join in the conversation

24 October – UN Day

**LAUNCH OF LOBBY FOR
THE UN 2010-11:
a national debate on
international issues**

JOIN OUR PARLIAMENTARY CAMPAIGN!

SIGN UP AT

**www.una.org.uk/lobby
to receive:**

- launch newsletter on 24 October
- campaign toolkits
- issue briefings
- the latest news and action updates

Traditionally launched on UN Day (24 October), 'Lobby for the UN' is UNA-UK's annual parliamentary campaign to foster dialogue on international issues between voters and MPs.

Running throughout the parliamentary year, the campaign pushes for robust action on peace and security, sustainable development and human rights. It also raises awareness of the vital role the UN plays in addressing these challenges.

This year UNA-UK is launching a **new format** for 'Lobby for the UN'. Instead of a single UN Day event, we will be initiating **a range of activities over the next few months** to equip our members and supporters to lobby effectively on our two policy priorities for this year:

- nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament, and
- the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Nationally and internationally, we are at a crucial juncture in both these areas. 'Lobby for the UN 2010-11' will aim to build on the momentum of this year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT RevCon) and UN MDG Summit. Our Towards Zero programme is working to translate the outcomes of the NPT RevCon into a tangible action agenda, against the backdrop of NATO's nuclear posture review.

With just five years left until the target date for achieving them, UNA-UK will also be highlighting MDG successes and shortfalls, taking into account the global environmental, energy and economic crises as well as the UK's own realignment of development-spending priorities.

In order for us to be effective in our advocacy, we need our members and supporters to demonstrate that these issues are high on the public agenda. A world without nuclear weapons, without poverty and inequality – this goal is in all our interests, and we need a strong, credible and effective UN to achieve it. With your help, UNA-UK wants to send this message to local councils, devolved administrations, Westminster, Brussels and beyond.

'Lobby for the UN 2010-11' is your chance to take part in a national debate on international issues. Sign up today!

Lobby for the UN: join in the conversation

Visit www.una.org.uk/lobby for more information or contact UNA-UK Executive Assistant Georgina Banks on banks@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3457.

Join in! Register at **www.una.org.uk/lobby**

In this section

- [Interview with Phil Mulligan](#)
- [Branch bulletin](#)
- [Notices](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Listings](#)
- [Letters](#)

UNA-UK

The United Nations Association of the UK



Interview

Phil Mulligan, new UNA-UK Executive Director



Phil Mulligan in the audience at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010. © UNA-UK/Mark Makela

Trygve Lie, the first UN Secretary-General, once described his role as 'the most impossible job on earth'. Some would joke that the same could be said of your new post. What inspired you to apply?

This job brings together everything that I have studied, worked on and always believed in. There is no more important organisation in the world than the UN, so what better job could there be than working to make the UN stronger and more effective? My role at UNA-UK will allow me to work on a far wider range of issues than I have previously, and they are all issues I feel passionately about. I was also inspired by Sam Daws's dedicated leadership of the organisation over the past six years. Many NGOs leaders are realising just how precarious a position they are in. It is inspiring to be joining an organisation like UNA-UK, which has a long history but also the potential to grow and develop.

Your previous roles include CEO of Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) and the head of VSO in Indonesia. What have you learned that you believe will be useful to your new role?

My five years in Indonesia brought me face to face with many issues that are important to UNA-UK, such as international development, sustainability, security and human rights. At EPUK I increased my technical knowledge of climate change issues and of influencing policy. I come to UNA-UK with previous CEO experience and a good understanding of the NGO sector and membership-based organisations. All of this will be useful, but I will want to ensure there is a genuine learning culture at UNA-UK as it is vital for organisations and individuals to be continually reflecting and trying to improve. In both my previous roles I faced steep learning curves, which will be useful at UNA-UK as I still have a great deal more to understand about the UN. >>

>> You are taking up the UNA-UK reins at a time of great potential but also of great challenges for the NGO sector as a whole. What will you prioritise in your first year at UNA-UK?

First, I will prioritise developing my own understanding of the organisation, its culture, history, operation and processes. My second priority will be ensuring there is sufficient income to meet existing commitments and objectives. Third, as any new CEO would do, I will be fundamentally questioning everything we do to try and drill down to our core purpose to ensure we can have most impact. By the end of the first year I would like everybody inside and outside the organisation to be completely clear about who we are and what we offer. Ultimately I also envisage the development of a new long-term strategic plan, developed in consultation with a cross-section of our stakeholders, including – of course – representatives of our membership constituencies.

And where would you like to see UNA-UK in five years' time?

Essentially UNA-UK is in good shape and therefore I hope to be able to concentrate on growth and increasing our profile and impact. I feel UNA-UK already talks effectively to its existing audiences but it could be reaching many more people and decision-makers. I would like the organisation to grow and develop as well as broaden its income streams. 'Towards Zero' is a great example of the depth and quality of work the organisation can undertake. I believe there is potential for similar programmes addressing other big UN issues. But I also want to see the organisation working more programmatically, by which I mean that its overall impact needs to be greater than the sum of its parts. We may need to focus down our activities so that we concentrate on where we can have the most impact and that all of our work is mutually supportive.

What do you think are the most pressing challenges facing the UN today?

There are a lot of challenges! That said, I do feel that the risks posed by climate change are of a scale unprecedented in human history. The challenges, meanwhile, of trying to reach the necessary global agreement to abate emissions growth are among the most difficult ever faced through multilateral processes. The floods in Pakistan and the Sahel crisis are sad examples of the increase in natural disasters that lie ahead if we do not deal with climate change. The pressures cre-



Phil attended UNA London & Southeast Region's summer council (see page 37). From left to right: Sheila Kesby, Polly Higgins (speaker), Joyce Edmond-Smith (chair of the meeting), Phil Mulligan (UNA-UK Executive Director), Debbie Tripley, Jack Hazelgrove (Chair, UNA Brighton, Hove & District branch), Bernadette Vallely (speaker) and Roger Hallam. © Neville Grant

'Climate change is a gateway issue: if we do not get a new global deal through the UN system, almost every other aspect of the UN's work will be adversely affected'

ated through climate change will impact on many other issues: migration, human rights, fragile states, poverty, health, biodiversity, food security etc. Climate change is a gateway issue: if we do not get a new global deal through the UN system, almost every other aspect of the UN's work will be adversely affected.

What role do you think that the UK government, and UNA-UK, can play in supporting the UN as it works to address these challenges?

The UK government has taken a leading role in international climate change negotiations, and domestic actions to try and reduce emissions, both of which are to be commended. However, we now need the UK to show true global and inter-generational leadership, which will mean making difficult and unpopular decisions. Education and awareness-raising are vital to enable the development of a culture where such decision-making is seen as morally responsible rather than politically suicidal. UNA-UK is in a unique position to convey to a confused and sceptical public the importance of gaining a new global deal and also, through mobilising supporters, to help create a political environment which allows the necessary decisions to be made. I would like to see UNA-UK at the forefront of domestic action on climate change, supporting a

government that is at the forefront of global action.

Your wife Diane is a global advisor with Sightsavers International, on the UK Equality & Human Rights Commission Disability Committee, and the UK's nominated candidate to stand for the 2012 elections to the Expert Committee of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Is UNA-UK getting 'two for the price of one'?

My wife Diane is an absolute star. She is an inspiration to me and on a phenomenal professional trajectory. She is a great source of advice and knowledge that I can draw on about international development, human rights, disability issues and the UN system. She has become a global player in her field, which was recognised this year with her award of an OBE for services to equality and disability. I will certainly be trying to get all the value I can out of Diane to support me in my role at UNA-UK, if only I could find a slot in her diary to fit me in!

Finally, can you tell us something about yourself that not many people know?

At the end of my PhD fieldwork in Madagascar, where I was studying the impact of globalisation on indigenous peoples' property rights, Diane and I got married. It was a small traditional wedding but after nine months of living in a remote village with no running water, sanitation or electricity, we were both very ill. Following our wedding we had to trade our planned honeymoon visiting the national parks for medical emergency evacuation flights back to the UK and immediate admittance into the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. We had picked up such rare diseases and parasites that student doctors from all over London were called in to observe us and I believe we still appear as case studies in teaching resources! ■

Branch bulletin

Wandsworth MUNGA on child rights

On 7 July some 90 ten year-olds from 14 schools in Wandsworth gathered for a Model UN General Assembly focussed on education and the rights of the child. Each school represented a different country. The meeting was chaired by Neville Grant, Chair of UNA London & Southeast Region. Organiser Karen Mears, of Wandsworth's Professional Centre, said "the event was an outstanding success. The children participated with intelligence and enthusiasm, and showed how much they had learned about the problems faced by children – especially girls – around the world".

L&SE Region on the 'road to Mexico'

Entitled 'The Road to Mexico', London & Southeast Region's Summer Council meeting in Brighton on 24 July aimed to contribute to the UK's (and UNA-UK's) climate change policies in the run-up to COP16 in Cancún at the end of this year (see page 10). Addressing the meeting, Bernadette Vallely, Chief Executive of the Women's Environmental Network, spoke about the disproportionate effect of climate change on women; Polly Higgins, advocate of Planetary Rights, discussed the potential of a new international crime of 'ecocide'; and Debbie Tripley, Chief Executive of the Environmental Law Foundation, made the case for addressing environmental issues as part of the National Planning Framework. After the presentations, participants took part in action workshops to formulate proposals to present to UNA-UK and the UK government. Members were pleased that UNA-UK's new Executive Director, Phil Mulligan, took an active part in the proceedings. A full report of the meeting is available at www.unalondonandse.org

Southern Counties UNA reflects on the UN at 65

Branches from across the region participated in the UNA Southern Counties annual conference at Chichester University on 20-22 August. Opened by the Mayor of Chichester and Viv Williams, Chairman of UNA Chichester branch, the conference featured presentations on: 'The UN in its 60s: will it ever triumph



Neville Grant and students at Wandsworth MUNGA. © Liz Shaw

over entrenched national self-interest?' by David Wardrop, Chairman of UNA Westminster branch; 'What the UN Association could do' by Trisha Rogers, UNA-UK Board Member; 'Given the financial crisis, are the MDGs feasible? Given climate change, are they still relevant?' by Jan Vandemoortele, retired UN Resident Coordinator; and 'The work of the UN High Commission for Refugees worldwide' by Mans Nyberg of UNHCR. Workshops on publicising the work of the UN and on nuclear threats were also held.

UNA West Oxfordshire branch raises money for Pakistan

A community coffee morning, raffle and cake stall organised by the branch on 21 August raised nearly £900 in two and a half hours for the World Food Programme's emergency work in Pakistan.

UNA Church Stretton campaigns on freedom of expression

A 'defamation of religions' resolution is routinely proposed at the UN Human Rights Council by a number of states, led by the 'Organization of Islamic Conference' grouping. NGOs, including Article 19, Reporters Without Borders and Human Rights Watch, have campaigned against the resolution on the grounds that it has the potential to severely limit freedom of expression. For this reason, several countries – the UK included – have consistently voted against it. The branch has adopted this issue as one of its campaigns and has written to Henry Bellingham MP, FCO Minister with responsibility for the UN, to stand firm as this resolution rears its head again. The branch's letter and response received are available at www.una.org.uk/members_forum.

UNA Wales update

Stephen Thomas left UNA Wales in June 2010, after 13 years of dedicated service as Secretary. Martin Pollard is now Acting Chief Executive of the association, with Naomi Blight as its Programme Coordinator.

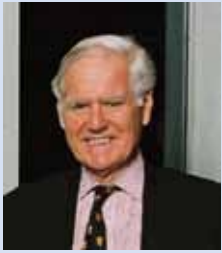
Following a vote by its members last year, UNA Wales will soon be integrated constitutionally and financially with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA), based in the Temple of Peace, Cardiff. The move will enable UNA Wales to benefit from WCIA's status as a registered charity, for example through Gift Aid donations.

The executive committee has been replaced by a 'UNA Wales Council', which will work on campaigns and other activities on behalf of members and branches in Wales. There are currently three branches affiliated to UNA Wales (Menai, Cardiff and Montgomeryshire) as well as a Vale of Glamorgan branch. Branches are being encouraged to promote their work via the WCIA website.

Over the coming months, the WCIA will be devising a new five-year strategic plan which will incorporate the work of UNA Wales. Increasing membership from all age groups will be part of this plan, with a committee of young volunteers advising on the 18-30 age group. We will also be seeking to develop new forms of campaigning and advocacy and to increase the profile of UNA Wales.

We hope to share more detailed plans with colleagues from other nations when the UNA-UK conference convenes in Cardiff in June 2011.

To get in touch with UNA Wales, please contact naomiblight@wcia.org.uk or phone 029 2022 8549. ■



Remembering Sir Marrack Goulding

Born in 1936, Sir Marrack Goulding is widely held to be one of the fathers of UN peacekeeping. He joined the UN in 1986, after a distinguished career in the British diplomatic service, which included stints in the Foreign Office, the UK Mission to the UN in New York and as Ambassador to Angola. He first served as UN Under-

Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, before taking over the reins at the Department for Political Affairs (1993-7).

During his time as head of peacekeeping, the number of missions more than doubled, troops swelled from 10,000 to 55,000 and the peacekeeping budget grew tenfold. These efforts were rewarded in 1988 by a Nobel Peace Prize, collectively awarded to UN peacekeeping forces. After retiring in 1997, Goulding became Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford, and a member of UNA-UK's expert advisory panel.

UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay told New World: "The untimely death of "Mig" (as he was always known) Goulding has robbed us of a distinguished diplomat and academic, and of someone who served the UN with great loyalty and effectiveness. His time at the UN coincided with a tumultuous period, when the end of the Cold War brought about a massive expansion in the organisation's activities in peacekeeping and conflict prevention; and he was at the heart of the UN's policy making over the Middle East, Somalia, Angola, Bosnia, North Korea and many other crises. His calm decisiveness, together with his remarkable capacity for capturing in clear and unpolemical language the difficult choices the UN faced, made him a key aide to two successive Secretaries-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar and Boutros Boutros-Ghali. His account of those years in his memoir 'Peacemonger' is one of the best records of life within the UN Secretariat."



A Canadian soldier showing Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding (third from right) land mines that have been found in the surrounding area of Daruvar, eastern Croatia. (1992)
© UN Photo/John Isaac

Memorial seminar and service, 6 November 2010:

St Antony's College, Oxford, will be hosting a seminar on 'Building international institutions' in memory of Sir Marrack at 10.30am on 6 November. A memorial service will take place at Magdalen College later that day, at 2.30pm. Prospective attendees should contact Kathie Mackay on dev.office@sant.ox.ac.uk

Notices

2010/11 OUTREACH GRANTS

As part of our current membership drive, UNA-UK is delighted to announce that it has again established a fund to help branches, regions and nations organise activities around the UK. Grants of £100-£400 are available for events that will be held between 1 September 2010 and 30 June 2011. Applications must be received by 31 March 2011.

Full details are available from Carol Hodson, Deputy Director (Finance & Governance), on hodson@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3455.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE UNA-UK BOARD

At its meeting on 3 July 2010, the Board appointed Kate Grady as its Vice Chair. She will become Chair of its Policy Advisory Committee after the current Chair, Neville Grant, steps down at the next Board meeting on 27 November 2010.

Stephen Harrow, having been co-opted as a Director of UNA-UK, was appointed as the Board's other Vice Chair, and Chair of its Management & Finance Committee.

Nadim Ahmad, having been co-opted as a Director of UNA-UK, was appointed Chair of the Board's Audit Committee.

UNA-UK POLICY-MAKING EXPLAINED

UNA-UK has issued a new guidance note on its policy-making process, covering questions such as: 'how is UNA-UK's policy decided?' and 'what happens after policies are adopted?'. We hope this note will be useful to new members and those not acquainted with UNA-UK policy-making, as well as a good refresher for those more experienced in this area.

The document is available at www.una.org.uk or by contacting Rich Nemes, Membership Officer, on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456.

UNA TRUST SEEKING TRUSTEE

The UNA Trust is seeking to recruit a Trustee who shares our values, ideally with legal experience or experience of the charity of NGO sector, to complement the skill-sets of other Trustees. Applicants with an interest in international affairs would be particularly welcome. Please contact Carol Hodson, UNA-UK Deputy Director (Finance & Governance), on 020 7766 3455 or hodson@una.org.uk for an initial discussion.

Listings



15 OCTOBER

UNA CANTERBURY

Together with the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Kent, the branch will host a lecture and Q&A session on 'Meeting the challenges of a multi-polar world' with UNA-UK Chair, Lord Hannay of Chiswick. This event will take place from 6pm in the Woolf Lecture Theatre 1, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NN.

Contact: Geoff Meaden
on 01227 752275 or
geoff.meaden@gmail.com

19 OCTOBER

UNA CHELTENHAM

The branch will hold its AGM, starting with a welcome drink and address by the Mayor, followed by a discussion of business and finally a talk on 'Human rights' by Rod Fielding, President of UNA Central Region. This event will take place from 7 to 9pm at Close Municipal Offices (Pittville Room), Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 9SA.

Contact: Sue Thompson
on 01242 235072 or
suehompson682@hotmail.com

22 OCTOBER

UNA EXETER & DISTRICT

The branch will hold a UN flagraising ceremony led by the Chairman of Devon County Council and followed by a speech from Branch Chairman, Noel Harrower. Light refreshments will be served.

This event will take place from 10.30am at County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD.

Contact: Noel Harrower on
01395 271731

22 OCTOBER

UNA NEWBURY

The branch will host a talk and Q&A session by a representative

from Wateraid from 7.30pm at the Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AA.

Contact: Eleanor Brooks
on 01234 567890 or
ebrooks@westberks.org

22 OCTOBER

UNA LUTON

Together with Luton Borough Council and Luton Council of Faiths, the branch will hold an event entitled 'One World - peacing together' from 7 for 7.45pm to 10pm at Holy Ghost Church, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD. The event will celebrate UN Day and will also serve as the public launch of the branch. Speakers include Councillor Tom Shaw, Mayor of Luton and Dr Nazia Khanum OBE, Chair, UNA Luton.

Contact: Dr N Khanum
on 01582 566468 or
nkhanum@aol.com

23 OCTOBER

UNA LYMINGTON

The branch will hold a lunchtime lecture on 'The Non-Proliferation Treaty: can we reduce nuclear threats?' by Desmond Swayne MP TD, from 12.30 to 2.30pm at Lymington Community Centre, New Street, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9BQ.

Contact: Patricia de Mowbray
on 07525 171716 or
patricia@radioactive.org.uk

23 OCTOBER

UNA BIRMINGHAM

The branch will mark UN Day with an international supper party and a talk on 'The Human Rights Council' by Rod Fielding, President of Central Region, from 7pm at St Columba United Reform Church, Chantry Road, Moseley B13 8DD.

Contact: Gillian Briggs on
01214 496032 or Elizabeth Way
on 01214 491727

UNA-UK CONFERENCE 2011

We are delighted to announce that the next UNA-UK policy-making conference will take place in June 2011 in Cardiff.

Conference 2011 is still some time away but we wanted to include a provisional timetable for conference policy-making to enable members and branches to plan ahead.

15 April 2011

Deadline for submission of policy issues and domestic motions

6 May 2011

Deadline for Preliminary Agenda to be sent out

20 May 2011

Deadline for submission of comments/amendments to the agenda

10 June 2011

Deadline for Final Agenda to be sent out, though this will likely be sent out considerably earlier

More information will be available shortly. Contact Rich Nelves on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456

24 OCTOBER

UNA BRIGHTON, HOVE & DISTRICT

The branch will hold a joint meeting with the Interfaith Contact Group on the theme of biodiversity from 2.30 to 4pm at Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF – near the Pavilion.

Contact: Kathy Doughty
on 01273 581220 or
arctopad@tiscali.co.uk

24 OCTOBER

UNA SHROPSHIRE (CHURCH STRETTON)

The branch will hold a UN Day church service with speaker the Rt Rev. Alistair McGowan, Bishop of Ludlow followed by tea/coffee, from 3.30 to 4.30pm at St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton SY6 6DQ.

Contact: Ruth Davies
on 01694 724304 or
daviescs@btinternet.com

24 OCTOBER

UNA SUNDERLAND

The branch will hold its Annual UN Day Service from 10am at the Sunderland Minster, High Street West, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR1 3ET.

Contact: Kenneth Kay
on 01913 886058 or
kkay1@btinternet.com

24 OCTOBER

UNA HARPENDEN

The branch will hold a UN Day service to be addressed by the Bishop of Bedford on the theme of 'The unity of humanity', from 6.30pm in the URC Church, Vaughan Rd, Harpenden Hertfordshire AL5 4HA.

Contact: Trevor Evans
01582 713895 or
jandt.evans@ntlworld.com



Join in the conversation

24 October

**LAUNCH OF LOBBY FOR THE UN
2010-11:
a national debate on
international issues**

This year, UNA-UK is launching a new format for its annual parliamentary campaign: 'Lobby for the UN'. Throughout 2010-11, we will initiate a range of activities to equip our members and supporters to lobby on our two policy priorities for this year: nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament, and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

We need your help to demonstrate that these issues are high on the public agenda. Sign up now to be part of Lobby for the UN! On 24 October we will be launching our campaign website with news, information and action points. Register today to keep up-to-date with all the latest developments.

Lobby for the UN: join in the conversation

Visit www.una.org.uk/lobby for more information or contact UNA-UK Executive Assistant Georgina Banks on banks@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3457.

24 OCTOBER

**UNA SAFFRON WALDEN
& DISTRICT**

The branch will hold its Annual United Service of Prayer and Rededication to the UN Charter at 6.30pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Church Path, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1JP.

Contact: [Hannah Shaw-Ridler](mailto:hhridler@btinternet.com) on 01799 527279 or hhridler@btinternet.com

24 OCTOBER

UNA BIRMINGHAM

The branch will hold its annual UN Day flagraising ceremony from 9.30am to 10.30am at the Lord Mayor's Parlour, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB, followed at 11am by UN prayers at both Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB and St Martin in the Bull Ring, Edgbaston Street, Birmingham B5 5BB.

Contact: [Gillian Briggs](mailto:Gillian.Briggs@una.org.uk) on 01214 496032

26 OCTOBER

UNA SHEFFIELD

Together with Sheffield University UNYSA, the branch will host a talk by Dr Miles Larmer of the University on 'The UN in the Congo 1960-2010: the dilemmas of peacekeeping in Africa', from 7.30 to 9pm at the Quaker

Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield (beside the cathedral).

Contact: [Cliff Crellin](mailto:Cliff.Crellin@una.org.uk) on 01142 302102 or patricliff@gmail.com

13 NOVEMBER

**UNA LONDON
& SOUTHEAST REGION**

The region will hold its AGM from 1.30 to 4.30pm at the Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA. Tea/coffee will be served at 3pm, after which there will be two addresses: Baroness Kennedy, president of the Region, on violence against women, and Marie-Claire Faray of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, on the plight of women in the DRC. Places are limited.

Contact: [Wendy Higgs](mailto:Wendy.Higgs@una.org.uk) on 020 8318 1050

18 NOVEMBER

**UNA SHROPSHIRE (CHURCH
STRETTON)**

The branch will hold its AGM, preceded by a report from the Guides entitled 'Ships and Stampede' to mark their centenary celebrations and tea/coffee. This event will take place from 7 to 9.15pm at the Methodist Hall, Church Stretton SY6 7BG.

Contact: [Ruth Davies](mailto:Ruth.Davies@una.org.uk) on

01694 724304 or daviescs@btinternet.com

19 NOVEMBER

UNA EXETER & DISTRICT

The branch host a talk by Stuart Mole, former Director-General of the Royal Commonwealth Society, on 'The Commonwealth, the UN and democracy', to be followed by a discussion. This event will take place from 7.30pm at Friends' Meeting House, Wynard's Lane, Exeter EX2 4HU.

Contact: [Noel Harrower](mailto:Noel.Harrower@una.org.uk) on 01395 271731

20 NOVEMBER

UNA LYMINGTON

The branch will host a talk by Peter Cadogan from WaterAid entitled 'How developing countries are being helped to have safer drinking water,' from 12.30pm to 2.30pm at the Lymington Community Centre, New Street, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9BQ.

Contact: [Patricia de Mowbray](mailto:Patricia.de.Mowbray@una.org.uk) on 01590 679030 or patricia@radioactive.org.uk

22-29 NOVEMBER

UNA WESTMINSTER

The branch will hold its 5th Annual 'We the Peoples' Film Festival, screening films on subjects linked to the three pillars of freedom; freedom

from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity. The themes of the UN 2010 International Year commemorations – biodiversity, rapprochement of cultures, and youth – will also be prominent. For more information, visit www.wethepeoples.org.uk

Contact: [David Wardrop](mailto:David.Wardrop@una.org.uk) on 020 7385 6738 or info@unawestminster.org.uk

UNA-UK branches, regions and nations wishing to publicise events in New World should ensure that the information submitted is accurate, clear and complete. Events listings must include the following points of information:

- Title/purpose of the event
- Start and end times
- Venue details
- Contact point (full name, telephone number, email address and, where applicable, web address)

Events listings should be sent to website@una.org.uk or UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

UNA-UK takes no responsibility for the events and/or campaigns organised by UNA-UK branches, regions or nations.

Resources



BOOKS



America, Hitler and the UN: How the Allies Won World War II and Forged a Peace

Dan Plesch

I.B. Tauris, November 2010

Many people today have forgotten that the UN was forged in the midst of the confusion and complexity of wartime. How did the armies of the United Nations co-operate in the final years of World War II to contain – and ultimately reverse – Nazi expansionism? And when and for what purpose did the UN undertake to tackle the international economic and social challenges, not only of warfare but of a post-war world transformed beyond recognition?

Drawing on previously unknown material from the UN archives, Dan Plesch analyses responses, from high-level political elites to grass roots level. Arguing that the Allied defeat of Nazism should properly be called a UN victory, Plesch has pieced together how the UN intervened in surprising ways at a pivotal time in European history – essential reading for anyone with an interest in military or diplomatic history or contemporary international relations.

www.cisd.soas.ac.uk



The Prosecutor and the Judge

Heikelina Verrijn Stuart
and Marlise Simons

Pallas Publications,
December 2010

Benjamin Ferencz and Antonio Cassese embody the history of international criminal law from Nuremberg to The Hague. The Prosecutor and the Judge is a meeting with these two remarkable men through in-depth interviews by Heikelina Verrijn Stuart and Marlise Simons about their work and ideas, about the war crimes trials, human cruelty, the self-interest of states; about remorse in the courtroom, about restitution and compensation for victims and about the strength and the limitations of the international courts.

www.aup.nl



Human Development Report 2010 – 20th Anniversary Edition

UN Development Programme
(UNDP), November 2010

Widely considered the most influential of the many regular reports by multi-lateral institutions, UNDP's Human Development Reports are unique among UN publications for their tradition of intellectual independence. Though sponsored by UNDP, they do not represent its official views or policies and are best known for their innovative and often controversial analyses of critical issues

and for the annual Human Development Index, created as an alternative to income-based measures of national and individual well-being.

The 20th anniversary edition examines decades of data trends and refines the original Human Development Index with new databases and methodologies. It also features the Multidimensional Poverty Index, a new index is designed to provide a fuller, more accurate picture of acute poverty on the household level than traditional 'dollar-a-day' formulas.

www.undp.org



Humanitarian intervention and the United Nations

Norrie MacQueen

Edinburgh University Press,
March 2011

Does humanitarian intervention 'work'? Could it work better if approached differently? Or should we just, in the words of one critic, 'give war a chance'? Since the end of the Cold War and the subsequent surge in civil and international conflicts, the UN has been faced by an ever-increasing set of demands on its military capacity. This book traces the evolution of its armed humanitarian intervention from the grand ambitions for forceful collective security through the 'brushfire' peacekeeping of the cold war years to its engagement with the present globalised yet fractured world order.

www.eupublishing.com

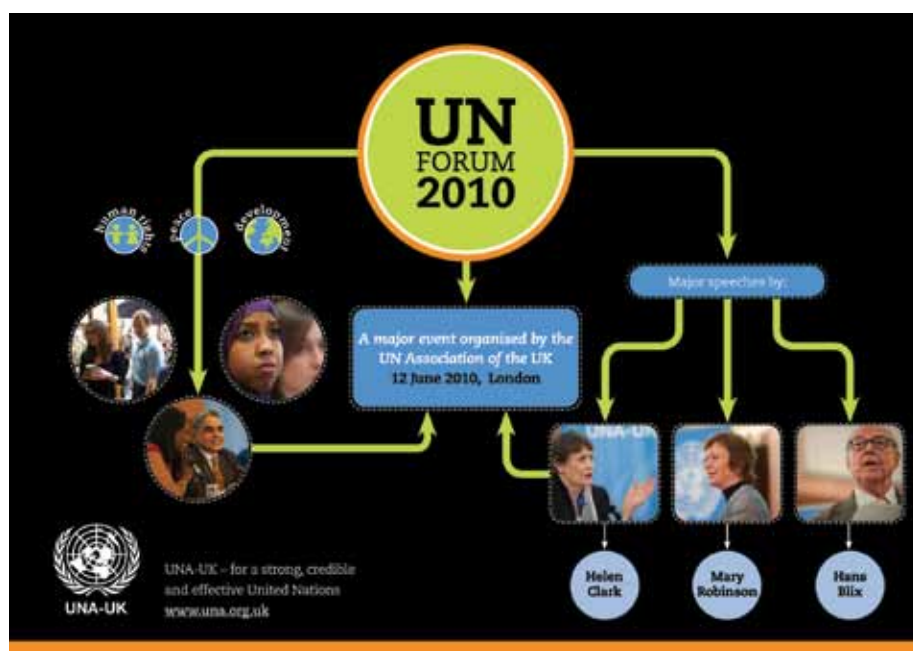
Looking for the perfect present?

UNA-UK membership – a gift that inspires

Costing just £25 for 12 months, UNA-UK membership lasts all year and can spark a lifetime's interest in the United Nations.

Available from 1 November, visit www.una.org.uk/perfectpresent or contact 020 7766 3456 or membership@una.org.uk for a gift form.





UN Forum e-report

On 12 June 2010 UNA-UK held a major one-day civil society event in London entitled 'UN Forum: for a more secure and just world'. The purpose of the event was to highlight the pressing challenges facing the UN today, and to stimulate thought and debate on how to make the Organisation stronger, more credible and more effective.

Over 1,400 people participated in the event, at which H.E. Helen Clark; H.E. Mary Robinson; and Dr Hans Blix delivered keynote speeches. A host of panel discussions and workshops also took place. This e-report features summaries of the day's proceedings, with links to web- and audio-casts of the sessions.

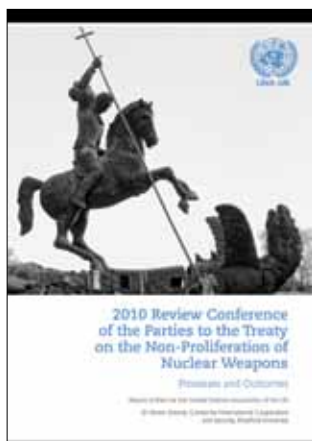
www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010



Updated 'Guide to Careers at the UN'

In September 2010 UNA-UK launched a re-designed version of its Young Professionals Network website. A revised 'YPN Guide to Careers at the UN' was produced, based on information from the UN's own updated careers portal (careers.un.org). The site also features profiles of YPN members who have worked or interned for the UN, and interviews with young professionals working in a range of fields.

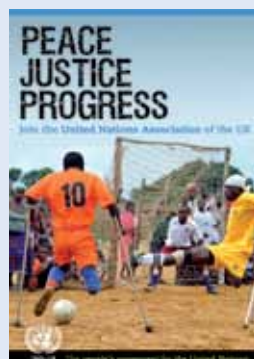
www.una.org.uk/ypn



New 'Towards Zero' report

As part of 'Towards Zero', UNA-UK's nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament initiative, UNA-UK sent a delegation to the May 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. In this report, Dr Owen Greene, who headed the delegation, provides his analysis of the conference processes and outcomes, highlighting key areas for focus during and after the Review Conference.

www.una.org.uk/towardszero



Membership: leaflet designs and 'Foreign Affairs' offer

Three fresh cover designs have been produced for UNA-UK's membership leaflet, one of which is enclosed with this issue of New World. UNA-UK is also delighted to announce that it has secured half-price subscriptions to the prestigious international relations journal 'Foreign Affairs' for members of UNA-UK.

www.una.org.uk/join

All resources are available for free download from the UNA-UK website. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact our Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or membership@una.org.uk

LETTERS



Send your letters to:

Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK,
3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL
email: samarasinghe@una.org.uk

Dear Editor,

It is becoming increasingly obvious that extreme weather conditions are occurring much more frequently in many areas of the world. Monsoonal rains have flooded vast areas of Pakistan. Various parts of China have also had serious flooding. Several countries in Africa are suffering from flooding and droughts. And Russia has recently experienced temperatures of 40 degrees centigrade. How many more such events will it take to convince sceptics of the effects of climate change?

Climate change poses serious threats to global peace and security. Take Pakistan: it is clear that the resources of the Pakistani Army and civilian public services are now under severe pressure, and there is a risk that extremist groups could try to take advantage of the fact that Pakistan's government is occupied with disaster relief.

In view of this, and given that Pakistan is a nuclear power, the international community, through the UN must do all it can to assist with disaster relief while being alert to all possible scenarios. The government of Pakistan must ensure that all materials, especially nuclear, which might be of use to rogue elements are made secure, and if necessary request assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

David J Thomas

Porthcawl

Dear Editor,

I am truly shocked – as I'm sure are many others, by the controversial plans for UNESCO to administer a life sciences prize in the name of, and donated by, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea. By sponsoring this prize, UNESCO would be associating itself with a dictator who has spent thirty years doing little more than consolidating his power and enriching himself at the expense of his nation. The \$3 million donated to UNESCO by Obiang for the prize appears to be, in

effect, a bribe to consolidate his own position and make it seem respectable.

In July 2003, state-operated radio declared Obiang a 'God' who is 'in permanent contact with the Almighty' and can 'kill anyone without going to hell'. UNESCO would be in serious danger of bringing itself into disrepute by administering this award – as indeed would the African Union, if the AU takes over the administration of the prize. That however is entirely a matter for the AU.

One wonders what scientist would willingly accept a prize with this man's name on it?

Neville Grant

London

Editor's note: the proposed prize was established by the UNESCO Executive Board, which consists of 58 of the Organization's Member States, in 2008. It has so far not been awarded. In an appeal to the Executive Board on 15 June 2010, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova described protests against the prize as unprecedented, saying "I am receiving letters, messages and statements on a daily basis from a range of constituencies – not only from NGOs but from representatives from the scientific community, from Member States, parliamentarians and intellectuals from all regions. Many have urged me to sever UNESCO's association with the Prize...[others] have appealed to me to protect and preserve the prestige of our Organization." Ms Bokova intends to raise the issue again at the next UNESCO Executive Board meeting in October 2010.

Dear Editor,

What a wonderful day UN Forum was [see pages 26] – an experiment that really worked. Far better than an expensive residential weekend; that free day was worth a mint! A great tribute to the organising team, led by Kate Grady. My only cavil was that with such a huge turnout it was hard to put a question, so I am posing it now:

Relating to discussions about the MDGs, I would like to question whether poverty is really the prime problem. Isn't 'character deficit' more worrying? Corruption chokes so many fine plans; greed, power play, over-indulgence and indiscipline whittle away the moral fibre needed for reform.

Poverty reduction in the UK since the Second World War has not actually increased contentment, many surveys suggest. Nor in the USA, the richest nation: it leads the world in divorce, suicide, drug addiction, violence and gun crime.

Perhaps the less we arrogant, self-righteous Westerners meddle with the rest of the world, telling them how to live, the better. A new humility is needed.

Yours sincerely

John Munro

Arundel

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on the vastly improved New World. I read it no longer dutifully but instead enthusiastically.

John D Anderson

UNA Shipley & Baildon branch

Dear Editor,

The UN International Day of Older Persons is celebrated on 1 October each year. Older people continue to give much to their countries and local communities after retirement. John Walters, our erstwhile branch membership secretary, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday this May, is a shining example.

Mr Walters is a veteran campaigner for international peace and security, and a well-known town/parish councillor. In addition to championing international causes, he has campaigned for local issues such as safe footpaths, water fountains and street lighting. He is a retired customs officer and served in Belgium with the Allied forces during the Second World War.

John's passion for international solidarity came from his late father, a member of the League of Nations Union, UNA-UK's predecessor.

Let us celebrate older persons throughout the year!

Luckshan Abeyesuriya

UNA South Lakeland & Lancaster City branch

From your
youth council

UNYSA
United Nations Youth and Student Association



New Youth Council: raring to go

Autumn is a busy time for the Youth Council and UNYSA branches alike. University Freshers' Fairs held across the country are crucial in reaching out and involving new members. New committees are being appointed, events calendars are being set and plans are being made for the months ahead.

A kick-start for MDGs

With this in mind the UNYSA intends to kick-start the new academic year with a conference in early November. The aim of the conference is twofold: to launch our main campaign focus this year; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to offer UNYSA branches and their members a great event to start the academic year.

Hosted by the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy in the Brunei Gallery of the School of African and Oriental Studies, the conference will feature presentations by a range of UN agencies working on the MDGs.

Participants will also be provided with all the necessary information and material needed to launch their very own MDG campaigns. Visit www.una.org.uk/youth for updates.

Want a career at the UN?

At UNA-UK's UN Forum on 12 June (see page 26), UNYSA co-hosted a workshop on careers at the UN, led by Janos Tisovszky, Deputy Director, UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels. In his frank and wide-ranging presentation, Janos Tisovszky gave both a general account of how to apply for jobs at the UN and personal insights into the everyday realities of working for the world body. Youth Council President Isabella Hayward then spoke about how UNYSA can help young people to develop skills and experiences useful to those seeking a career at the UN. Afterwards, UNYSA members had a chance to quiz them both. Visit www.una.org.uk/ypn to listen online.

The International Year of Youth

On the 18 December 2009, the UN General Assembly proclaimed an International Year of Youth from August 2010, with a particular focus on 'dialogue and mutual understanding'.

This year UNYSA will do more to make sure that your voices are heard – not only in the way we approach our events, but also in the way we set our aims and agenda. If you're buzzing with ideas, why not drop us a line? Write to unysa.uk@gmail.com

Looking for reinforcements

The current Youth Council has some ambitious ideas for the year ahead, but we need to fill some vacancies on our Youth Council:

- **Model UN and Education Officer**
This year, we want to do more to support and coordinate education and MUN activities across the country. We are searching for a current university undergraduate who has extensive experience in organising MUNs.
- **Outreach and PR Officer**
We also want to work towards our goal of having a UNYSA branch at every school and university in the UK(!), and providing better support to our existing branches, especially in the north of the country. Our ideal candidate is someone with experience of university society publicity work and lots of ideas on how to reach out to institutions that don't have UNYSA branches.

Interested? Visit www.una.org.uk for information on how to apply

We hope that all of you will get involved with UNYSA this year – let's make 2010-11 the year of UN youth in the UK!

Your Youth Council

Isabella Hayward (LSE), Lawrence Kettle (Aberystwyth), Aditi Jaganathan (UCL), Bobby Kensah (KCL), Ella Mi (King's School), Emma Mi (King's School), Annah O'Akwanu (Kent), Shahla Khan (UWIC)

What else is on the horizon?

- **Lobby for the UN:** Participate in UNA-UK's 2010-11 parliamentary campaign! Running throughout the parliamentary year, Lobby for the UN will focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals and nuclear non-proliferation – UNYSA's two campaign priorities. We need your help to demonstrate that these issues are high on the youth agenda! To register and to find out more about this exciting series of events, visit www.una.org.uk/lobby (further details on page 34)
- **Stop the Spread II:** building on the success of UNYSA's award-winning nuclear non-proliferation initiative, launched by last year's Youth Council, we are working with Global Zero Youth on the next generation of our 'Stop the Spread' campaign pack which we hope will be launched at a high-level seminar at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in the spring. Visit www.una.org.uk/youth for updates
- **Bolster your CV!** We are planning to host a workshop on 'organisational management' for UNYSA members and branches in spring, to encourage the development of key skills such as project management. We are also developing the resources we offer on careers in the international arena in conjunction with UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network. Visit www.una.org.uk/ypn or see page 47 for more information
- **Have your say!** UNYSA members turned up in their hundreds for UNA-UK's major UN Forum event in June 2010 (see page 26). Morris Marah, former Youth Council member and part of UNA-UK's film team, spoke to dozens of young people at the event, canvassing their views on the UN and current affairs. You can watch these vox pops by visiting www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010

These contributions were some of the most inspiring of the day and we want to hear more from you! Let us know why you are part of UNYSA and what issues you care about the most. See the adjacent box for details.

UNYSA wants to hear from you!

We want your views and ideas on the issues that matter the most to you. Send us a short video on one or more of the following topics:

- If you could ask the UN Secretary-General one question, what would it be?
- What is the most pressing challenge the world faces today?
- Why does the work of the UN matter to you?

We also want to know what you think we should be doing!

Tell us:

- Why you joined UNYSA
- What UNYSA could do to make a difference in the UK
- What UNYSA's top priorities should be

Videos should be no more than three minutes, in mp4 or Quicktime format, and no larger than 20mb.

Upload your video using a file-sharing website such as yousendit.com or rapidshare.com and send the link, along with your name, school/university and UNYSA branch (if applicable) to Natalie Samarasinghe on samarasinghe@una.org.uk

Only entries from UNYSA members resident or studying the UK will be accepted. Selected entries will be posted on the UNYSA website and UNA-UK YouTube site.

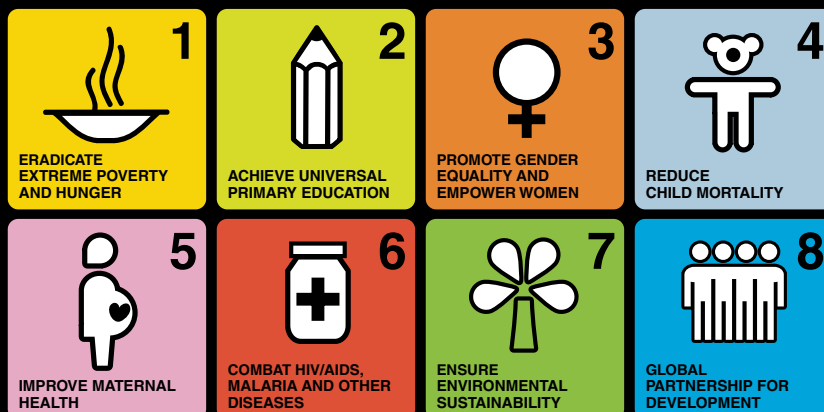
Have your say!

UNYSA MDG CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

November 2010. London.

Visit www.una.org.uk/youth to register and find out more

Be part of the solution.



YPN: all about career development



YPN and Global Compact at UN Forum

YPN co-hosted a workshop on 'practical tips for young professionals in business' with the UK Network of the UN Global Compact (UK UNGC) at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010.

Chaired by YPN member Susannah Anastasi, the workshop featured presentations by Steve Kenzie, UNGC UK Focal Point; Deb Leary, CEO, Forensic Pathways & Deputy Director, UK UNGC; Andy Mason, Group Sustainability Manager, RBS; Sandra MacLeod, Chief Executive, Echo Research; and Hugh Elliott, International Government Relations Manager, Anglo-American plc.

Participants gained an overview of the UN Global Compact, a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative which aims to mainstream these goals across the international business world and catalyse private-sector action to support them. They then heard from the representatives of UNGC member organisations who spoke about the challenges facing business in the current economic climate.

Despite these challenges, Deb Leary, Andy Mason, Sandra MacLeod, and Hugh Elliott all believed that there was now an opportunity to rebuild and expand the notion of sustainability as part of corporate social responsibility worldwide. They emphasised that while successful integration of sustainability into organisational practice would require managing conflicting company concerns related to short-term instability of the market, it would ultimately be beneficial to adopt a long-term perspective through 'joined-up behaviour'.

UK companies and the MDGs

A new report, produced by the International Business Leaders Forums, surveys the contribution of UK companies to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the UN's flagship anti-poverty initiative. The report focuses on three ways in which almost all companies can contribute to achieving the MDGs:

- First, by getting engaged through their core business operations and value chains to deliver profitable and innovative market-based solutions to development challenges, to spread responsible business standards and practices, and to minimise negative impacts on development.
- Second, through social investment, volunteering and strategic philanthropy activities that harness corporate competencies and are aligned with business and community interests.
- Third, through engaging in public policy dialogue, advocacy and institution strengthening to help improve the overall enabling environment for development.

The report is available from www.iblf.org

Public-Private Partnerships: What does it mean for the UN?

The UN University Office at the UN, New York (UNU-ONY) held a Forum at the end of June entitled 'Public-Private Partnerships' with Amir A. Dossal, Executive Director at the UN Office for Partnerships in New York. An interactive webcast of the event allowed YPN members to participate and pose questions on the issue. Listen to the webcast at www.una.org.uk/ypn

New UN academic initiative

A new programme entitled the UN Academic Impact (UNAI) will be formally launched by the UN Secretary-General at the UN in New York on 18 November. Based on ten core principles, the programme aims to create stronger links between institutions of higher education and research with the UN in order to further the UN's work in peace, development and human rights. (www.academicimpact.org)

UNAI now has a Facebook page and a Twitter feed to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments: www.facebook.com/ImpactUN and www.twitter.com/ImpactUN.

New YPN website!



After receiving extensive feedback, we have overhauled the Young Professionals Network website to focus on what you care about most: international careers.

THE NEW SITE FEATURES:

- **Tips on careers at the UN** – including an exclusive podcast of a UNA-UK workshop on UN careers led by Janos Tisovszky, Deputy Director of the UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels
- **The nuts-and-bolts of applying for UN jobs** – including information on National Competitive Recruitment exams and how to navigate the UN application portal
- **Interviews and profiles of YPN members working in peace, development and human rights**
- **Details of jobs, training and internship opportunities**
- **Up-to-date info** on events going on in and around London
- **A range of resources**, including a revamped YPN 'Guide to careers at the UN'

"I had almost two years' work experience when I applied for my consultancy at the IAEA – I'd say this definitely helped. Dispelling one of the many UN myths, I didn't have a second language. While knowledge of two or more official UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese) is a great benefit, for headquarters placements fluent English is often sufficient."

Matt Ripley, UN Office in Vienna

www.una.org.uk/ypn

Have your say!

UNA-UK is calling on YPN members and the organisations they work for to contribute ideas on the UK's international development and overseas aid policies.

The UK government has said that the budget of the Department for International Development (DFID) will be ring-fenced, and that it is committed to spending 0.7 per cent of national income on development aid by 2013 (see page 32).

To this effect, DFID is carrying out a comprehensive review of its areas of work, working methods and its partners, including multilateral organisations such as the UN and the World Bank.

Send DFID your ideas on:

What areas to focus on to have the most impact

At present, DFID is focusing on action to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, in particular tackling malaria and improving maternal health and family planning.

Who the UK should work with

Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, has said that DFID will focus on fewer countries to increase its impact. The Department will be examining bilateral aid to decide which countries to prioritise, and multilateral aid, to assess the effectiveness of organisations such as the UN

How the UK can improve its own aid effectiveness

DFID is asking for comments on the coalition's programme for government and ideas on how to deliver these commitments as cost-effectively as possible – including by supporting anti-poverty groups.

You can contribute to the review by visiting www.dfid.gov.uk

Looking for the perfect present?

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UNA-UK gift membership available from 1 November!

Costing just £25 for 12 months, UNA-UK membership lasts all year and can spark a lifetime's interest in the United Nations.

The gift welcome pack includes:

- Limited-edition UNA-UK travel card wallet and luggage tag
- The three latest issues of UNA-UK's flagship magazine New World
- A UNA-UK pin badge

Throughout 2011, your chosen recipient will also receive:

- New World magazine, the UK's leading source of news and comment on the UN
- Publications, newsletters and resources
- Invitations to exclusive UNA-UK events

We can send the gift welcome pack to any address in the UK, either directly to the recipient or to you – in case you want to add a personal message.

UNA-UK membership – a gift that inspires

Visit www.una.org.uk/perfectpresent from **1 November** or contact 020 7766 3456 or membership@una.org.uk for a gift form.

