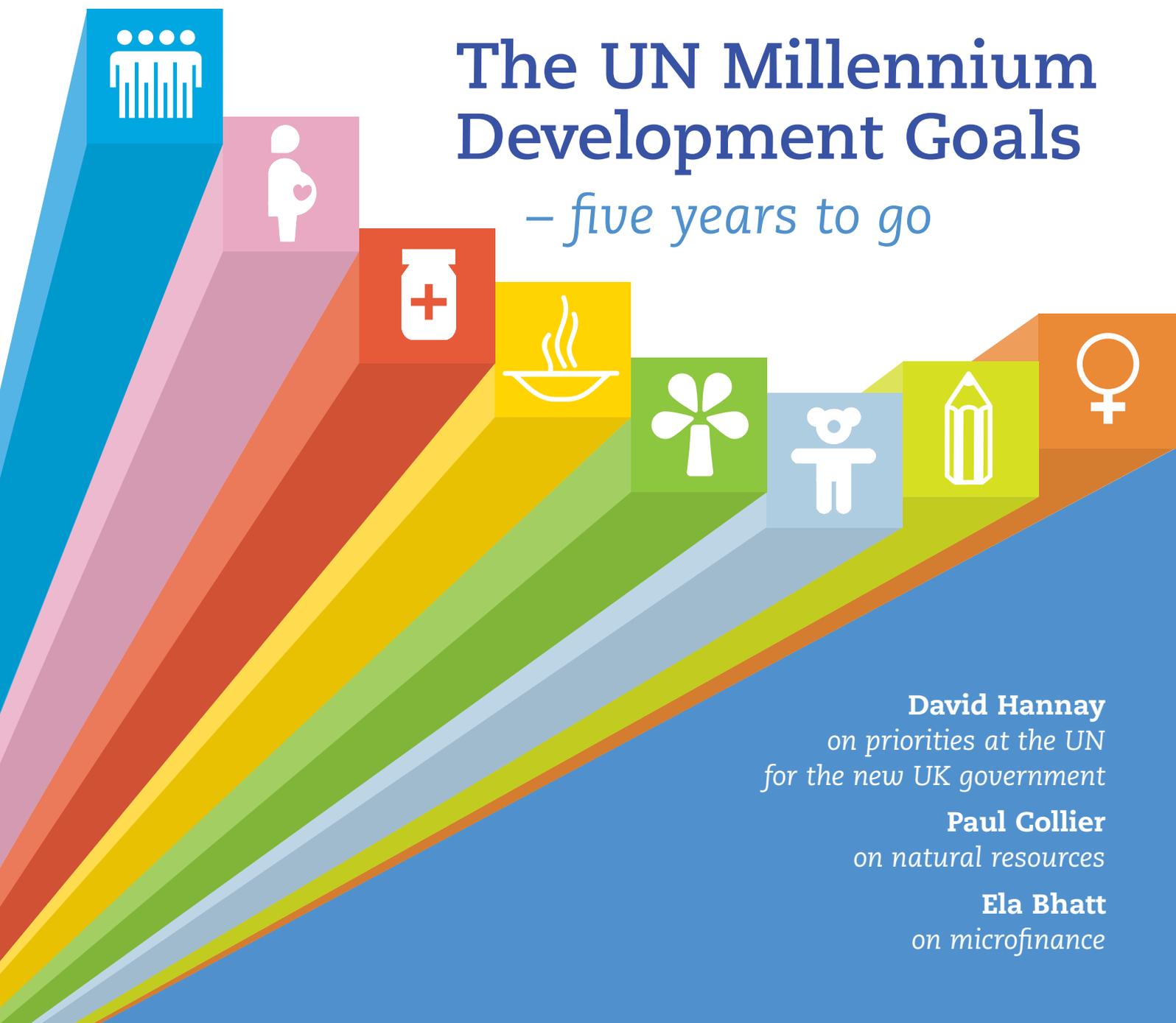


# NEW WORLD

## The UN Millennium Development Goals – five years to go



**David Hannay**  
on priorities at the UN  
for the new UK government

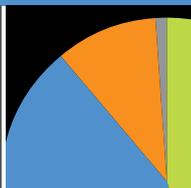
**Paul Collier**  
on natural resources

**Ela Bhatt**  
on microfinance



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negotiations

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Happy  
birthday NPT?

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## From the Editor

The UK's general election on 6 May 2010 was the first since 1974 to produce no clear majority, and commentators fiercely debated the prospects for the coalition government. At the United Nations, compromise and cooperation are also the order of the day. On page 12, Hannah Davies describes the UN's recent budget negotiations – an example of the challenge of 'multilateralism in action', and on page 11, we report on the ongoing discussions about a new UN women's agency.

The value of the UN was not an issue of controversy in the UK election. Support for an effective UN is, thankfully, a policy objective of all three main parties, whose leaders continue to serve as UNA-UK's honorary presidents. Britain's role at the UN must remain above party politics and be about how best to deliver tangible action on peace, development and human rights (page 24).

This New World also places a spotlight on finance for development (pages 7-10) as we pass the ten-year mark in the timeframe for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (page 16), an issue that will be highlighted at our major UN Forum event on 12 June 2010 in London. We are delighted that Helen Clark, Mary Robinson and Hans Blix will headline this free one-day conference. Over 1,000 people have already registered – see page 35 for details on how to secure your place.

Natalie Samarasinghe, Editor

## From the archive – 19 years ago



In this year's Report the UNCTAD Secretariat has devoted special attention to the problems of finance, investment and savings and has made a number of controversial proposals questioning many of the assumptions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which now pass as accepted wisdom.

For example, the Report warns against precipitate financial deregulation and the advice to give free reign to free market forces. The liberal approach backed by the World Bank – deregulation of interest rates, elimination of restrictions on external finance – has not succeeded in lifting domestic savings and investment in developing countries. Quoting the example of the successful efforts of South Korea, it points out that the government continued to intervene directly in capital markets, pursued active industrial policies and directed credits.

From *New World*, Nov-Dec 1991  
To read the full article, visit [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

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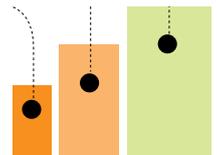
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## Introducing James Kearney

UNA-UK is delighted to announce the appointment of James Kearney as UNA-UK's new Peace & Security Programme Coordinator. A key focus of this role is to lead our 'Towards Zero' project on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. (See page 22)

James has a breadth of experience in the peace and security area, having worked for the Africa Educational Trust in London, Nairobi and Rumbek, southern Sudan; for John Grogan MP as a parliamentary researcher; and in the Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for nearly two years. During his time at the UN he wrote the first report on the feasibility of forming a 'watchlist for children and armed conflict', which has now been established. Prior to this, he was a volunteer teacher in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After studying history at Oxford, James attained a Masters degree in international relations from Cambridge University, where he also worked as a university tutor. He will shortly submit his PhD thesis to Edinburgh University. His M.Phil. dissertation focussed on how best to engage with non-NPT states in the area of nuclear-weapon compliance, and his doctoral studies examined camps in Rwanda as a case study in forging collective identity in post-ethnic-conflict environments. James is currently writing a report for the World Bank on the conclusions of his Rwanda research.



## Join us . . .

The United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading independent policy authority on the UN and a UK-wide grassroots membership organisation campaigning for a strong, credible and effective United Nations.

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**The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of New World is noon on 6 September 2010**

The next issue will cover the period 1 October 2010 to 31 January 2011

All submissions should be typed and sent by email where possible to [samarasinghe@una.org.uk](mailto:samarasinghe@una.org.uk). Photos should ideally be 300 dpi resolution

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## New UK Government

The UK has a Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government after the May 2010 general election produced no overall majority. On 14 May, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke separately to Prime Minister David Cameron, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Foreign Secretary William Hague, saying he looked forward to working with them on common goals such as action on climate change, nuclear disarmament and global development.

In a message ahead of UNA-UK's UN Forum event (see page 35), Cameron said that 65 years after the UN was founded, "its role is no less important. But the task for today's leaders is to make sure the UN can respond as effectively to the needs of 2010 as it could to the very different needs of 1945". The leaders of the UK's three main political parties are honorary presidents of UNA-UK. (See page 24 for David Hannay's article on UN priorities for the new government)

## Afghanistan mission extended

The UN temporarily pulled foreign workers out of the Afghan city of Kandahar and told local workers to stay at home following the death of two civilians in explosions in the city on 26 April. The move comes just over a month since the UN Security Council extended the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan for another year, with an expanded mandate to provide support for the parliamentary elections scheduled for September 2010.

## 40th anniversary of the NPT

5 March 2010 marked the 40th anniversary of the UN-backed Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT remains the cornerstone of the world's



Afghan elections in 2009. © UN Photo/Tim Page

nuclear non-proliferation regime and is up for review in May 2010. (See page 22)

## Strengthening civilian peacekeeping

In March 2010, the UN established a Senior Advisory Group to review current arrangements for deploying civilian experts in peacekeeping efforts, with the aim of improving the international response in the aftermath of conflict. The group is chaired by Jean-Marie Guéhenno, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

## Haiti's future still uncertain

More than a million survivors of the earthquake that struck Haiti five months ago have received emergency assistance to date. But vast numbers of people are

still affected and UN agencies are concerned that the rainy season will constrain recovery. To meet the shortfall in funding, the UN held an International Donors' Conference, 'Towards a New Future for Haiti', on 31 March, which raised almost \$10 billion in immediate and long-term assistance. To find out how you can help, visit [www.una.org.uk/dosomething](http://www.una.org.uk/dosomething)

## Climate negotiations: Bonn plus two

Participants at the March 2010 UN climate conference in Bonn agreed to intensify the negotiating schedule towards a binding international climate treaty by adding two meetings ahead of the major conference in Mexico at the end of this year. So far, over 120 states and the EU have submitted targets and pledges >>

>> under the Copenhagen Accord, the non-binding outcome document of last year's COP15 conference. After an ambivalent statement from key emerging economy emitters – including China – on how to bridge the rifts over reduction targets between developing and rich countries, hopes were buoyed by the tabling of a US climate bill in May. However, major obstacles remain to agreement on a binding international treaty in 2010.

### ICAO to develop volcano flight safety guidelines

Following the air travel chaos caused by the Icelandic volcano eruption in April 2010, the UN body responsible for flight safety is to establish guidelines for different aircraft, engine types and power settings operating in airspace affected by volcanic ash. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will convene a group of industry, manufacturers, governments and scientists to come up with a non-binding global risk framework. ICAO already has a system for tracking volcanic ash, set up after a BA flight experienced engine failure flying through an ash cloud in 1982.

### Greenhouse gas emissions calculator launched

Together with the World Bank, the UN environment (UNEP) and human settlements programmes (UN-HABITAT) have launched the first common system for calculating the amount of human greenhouse gases produced in a given city, including by specific sector or time.



A Bosnian Serb looks at an image of Radovan Karadzic. © Milan Radulovic/Alamy

The Global Greenhouse Gas Standard will allow cities to compare their performances and analyse differences.

### End of the line?

UN-backed proposals to ban international trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna, coral and several species of shark were rejected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in March 2010. Japan, Canada and several developing nations opposed the ban, claiming it would hurt fishing economies. According to the UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), over 70% of global fish stocks are depleted or fully exploited. Japan is the world's biggest importer of the critically-

endangered bluefin tuna. Earlier this year, a single fish was sold for a record \$100,000 at Tokyo's main fish market. (See pages 26 and 28)

### Oil-for-Food companies settle

Automotive company Daimler AG and chemical firm Innospec Inc, two major companies charged with violating the terms of the Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq, have agreed settlements of \$185 million and \$40.2 million respectively, following a US Department of Justice investigation into a host of corruption and bribery offences. Oil-for-Food, which was established by the UN Security Council and ran from 1996-2003, succeeded in providing \$31 billion in humanitarian assistance, but was mired in scandal as a number of firms – along with the Iraqi regime – enriched themselves through manipulating the supervised sale of oil. French oil giant Total is currently being investigated but the majority of the 2,253 companies accused by the independent commission of wrongdoing are not.

### Karadzic genocide trial

Radovan Karadzic, former president of the Republika Srpska, is on trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). He is the highest-ranking Bosnian Serb official to be indicted by the ICTY and is charged with two counts of genocide and a series of other crimes that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1992 and 1995. ■



Frozen tuna lined up for auction in Japan. © Robert Gilhooly/Alamy



## How to reconcile prosperity and nature: using natural assets to achieve the MDGs



Paul Collier

Nature is both valuable and vulnerable. As the debate around nature becomes ever more moralised, we are increasingly in danger of polarising between those who are passionate about preserving nature at any cost to the economy, and those who are passionate about preserving our prosperity at any cost to nature.

So far the result of this polarisation has been some truly lousy decisions across a range of seemingly disparate issues. Think of the disputes in America over climate change and in Europe over genetically modified organisms. But nature is most important for those countries that are stuck in poverty. Nature is their major asset and, potentially, their passport to prosperity.

Take those natural assets that are under the ground, like oil and minerals. Beneath the average square mile of the high-income world there is some \$300,000 worth of them. Now, take the average square mile of Africa and ask yourself: is the value of the assets there less or more?

Your answer is probably 'more': that is what around 98% of people choose. If so, you are a long way from current reality: the actual figure for known sub-soil assets in Africa is only around a fifth of that for the rich world. Most likely, this is not because there are fewer natural assets beneath Africa, but rather that less has been discovered to date. A reasonable guess is that Africa has much the same value of natural assets as we have. In one sense people are right to

think of Africa as resource-rich: resource extraction is already the dominant economic activity in the region. Africa (along with a few other troubled parts of the world such as Afghanistan) is the last frontier for resource discovery. Now that commodity prices are high, those resources will be discovered. What does this imply?

**'The plunder of nature – whether theft by the few, or unsustainable consumption by the present generation – is not, at heart, an environmental scandal: it is an economic scandal'**

If Africa's known sub-soil assets are only a fifth of our own, its unknown assets are likely to be correspondingly greater. Multiply by five Africa's current resource extraction to get some sense of the likely scale of the opportunity. The trillions of dollars that will flow from resource extraction make aid, remittances and foreign investment all look like sideshows. And now think of the history of resource extraction in Africa to get a sense of the risks involved. Historically, resource extraction in the region has more been plunder rather than transformation.

My new book, *The Plundered Planet* (see page 26), proposes two clear definitions of that emotive word 'plunder'. One form of plunder is when natural assets that should belong to all are expropriated by the few. Plunder in this form has been common enough: in Africa ordinary citizens have repeatedly lost out, both to the companies that extract resources and to local elites. Plunder also happens, more subtly, when the present generation consumes natural assets without regard to the future. Life is good while nature is being burnt up, but it is not sustainable.

'Regard for the future' is not, however, the same as preserving nature. It is often neither sensible nor ethical for us to do so. If the poorest people on earth can sustainably escape poverty by using up their natural assets then it is unethical to discourage them. Rather than focus on preservation, we should ensure that whatever prosperity is attained is sustainable – so if natural assets are depleted, other assets that are at least as valuable should be handed on. The plunder of nature – whether theft by the few, or unsustainable consumption by the present generation – is not, at heart, an *environmental* scandal: it is an *economic* scandal.

Although the plunder of nature is at its starkest in the countries of the 'bottom billion', the world's poorest, the same issues are faced in our own societies. Fish are a good example of a valuable natural asset that is being alarmingly mismanaged (see page 28). There is so much over-fishing that many species are likely to disappear, but current attempts at regulating the industry are poor. In America, curbs on over-fishing rely upon limiting the days when fishing boats can work, which means that instead of public value being captured by the few, it is dissipated in an over-size fleet of idle fishing boats. The same dilemmas concern carbon emissions, which cumulate into a natural liability – analytically equivalent to depleting a natural asset. Again in America, emissions are being tackled by creating tradable emissions rights. But since these rights are being handed out through pork barrel politics, we risk replacing one form of plunder by the other: emissions rights benefit the few at the expense of the many.

There is an inescapable need for natural assets and liabilities to be regulated in order to avoid these two forms of plunder. Good regulation depends upon facing down the self-serving political lobbies and for that there is no substitute for an informed citizenry. At present we lack a critical mass of citizens who are well-informed about these choices and so, again and again, the struggle for good regulation is being lost. >>

>> I have written *The Plundered Planet* to help build such a critical mass. The same motivation has spurred a group of us to launch the Natural Resource Charter ([naturalresourcecharter.org](http://naturalresourcecharter.org)), a website designed to help the citizens of resource-rich societies. It sets out the chain of decisions that determine whether their natural assets will be harnessed for sustained prosperity, instead of repeating the sorry history of plunder. These range from informed public oversight of

natural asset exploitation to responsible behaviour by extraction companies, through initiatives such as the UN Global Compact. (See page 41)

The struggle for societies that are better informed about the choices of how to manage nature will be played out around the world in the next few decades. I hope you will be a participant in that struggle, through your ears, and through your voice. ■

*Paul Collier CBE is a Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford. From 1998 – 2003 he was the director of the Development Research Group of the World Bank. He is the author of three books, The Plundered Planet, (Penguin, May 2010), Wars, Guns and Votes (2009) and The Bottom Billion (2007).*

## Microfinance for the MDGs



Ela R. Bhatt

I have difficulty with the language surrounding the UN Millennium Development Goals. No matter how well-meaning, it often seems irrelevant to the daily challenges I see all around me in India. I work with families and communities that are very poor, and I notice that the prose of development economists and experts can actually compound the alienation and powerlessness of poverty. We need a new language that does not alienate the poor and marginalised, and puts decision-making power and control in their hands and communities.

This can best be illustrated by talking about access to capital. On the one hand, capital is impersonal, connected with the corporate world, investors and markets. It excludes the marginal, the subsistence economy of squatters, hawkers and scavengers who do not have registered house numbers, rent receipts, identity cards or social security numbers. These people struggle in the formal economy and the courts, often paying to acquire legitimacy through corruption and bribes – one form of capital that no one talks about.

If we reconsider the concept of capital so that it embraces the informal economy and those who work in it, it becomes a major force for social good. This has been the achievement of microfinance – a concept so successful that large banks and financial institutions are now scrambling to be involved.

The danger is that these new formal microfinance initiatives lack the spirit of survival, the adventure of risk and trust that lies behind the original community schemes which have created and sup-

**‘Access to capital allows informal workers to become citizens. Without capital, it is not just entrepreneurship that is difficult. Citizenship is impossible’**

ported a network of livelihoods, especially for women. The challenge now is to ensure that this new microfinance capital embraces rather than destroys existing skills and communities. It requires the private sector to forget its limited notion of capital as an overwhelming force, and embrace concepts of wealth that may not be immediately measurable.

The capital and wealth that I talk about are embedded in nature and the community. I want to see the hawker and the scavenger as capitalists. But these are capitalists who seek only small profits which enable survival. This is the difference between the economists’ idea

of work and the notion of livelihood understood by the marginalised. Livelihood seeks to preserve nature and community. Capital expressed in terms of stark economic choice could easily destroy both.

Access to capital must be seen as a political right. In the contemporary world, it is simply not possible to sustain the right to life and property without access to capital. Capital allows citizenship to be creative. It is part of the structure of current life and turns citizenship from passive to active, while emphasising prudence, care and simplicity.

Unfortunately, the rules are biased. The hawker is considered anti-social. Her work may be indispensable to the economy but she is considered ‘illegal’ by banks and city authorities. Access to capital, as the Self Employed Women’s Association Cooperative Bank experience shows, allows informal workers to become citizens. Without capital, it is not just entrepreneurship that is difficult. Citizenship is impossible.

So, we need an approach to capital that goes beyond prefixes like ‘green’ capital and ‘micro’ finance. We need to think anew if we are to create a fair world of rights, livelihood and stable peace. This needs not just new language but a new urgency and determination to create a sustainable economy in which everyone has a stake. It is an urgency which must be at the heart of the essential work of the UN and the drive to meet the Millennium Development Goals. ■

*Ela R. Bhatt is the founder of India’s Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) and a member of The Elders. More information at [www.sewa.org](http://www.sewa.org) and [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org)*

## Climate change finance: who pays Wen Hu won't play?



Mark Rusling

UNA-UK members will have shared in the global dismay that the weak and non-binding Copenhagen Accord provoked in December 2009. Then-UK Climate Secretary Ed Miliband blamed the Chinese government for scuppering a deal, after President Hu and Prime Minister Wen refused to accept binding emissions reduction targets. This left the EU in a sticky position. Largely ignored during the negotiations, the EU had set a target of 20% emissions cuts on 1990 levels by 2020. Their bargaining tool – if other developed countries made similar commitments, the EU would raise their target to 30% – was not taken up. With the major developing country emitters, led by China, rejecting emissions cuts, the question was: should Europe also refuse to play ball? Or should it lead by example?

Thankfully, Europe chose to lead by example. The UK, through the EU, has confirmed '20% by 2020' as its emissions reduction target for the next decade. However, international negotiations and national debates have focussed only on the extent of total emissions cuts and equity between developed and developing countries. There has been virtually no debate about who pays for emissions cuts within developed countries such as the UK. At the moment, poor people are paying disproportionately for the UK's contribution to international climate change policies.

Household energy consumption currently constitutes 27% of UK carbon emissions. Any policy to reduce UK carbon emissions must address domestic energy consumption, so lessons learned in this area can be applied elsewhere. In 2008-9, decarbonisation policies (the Renewables Obligation, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and EU Emissions Trading Scheme) together added £80 to an annual gas and electricity bill.

This figure will increase further in the next few years, with levies on bills for the Renewable Heat Incentive, Feed-In Tariff scheme, Carbon Capture and Storage and possibly for nuclear new-build. Ernst & Young estimates that British domestic energy bills will rise by

**'At present, the poor are bearing a load which is justified neither by the size of their carbon emissions nor by any principle of equity'**

20% by 2020 purely because of the decarbonisation agenda. The industry regulator, Ofgem, believes that in the near future up to 40% of customers' bills could be made up of climate change incentives and investments.

The problem with funding climate change policies through levies on bills is that this is deeply regressive. Domestic decarbonisation policies show this clearly. A millionaire pays the same amount as a fuel poor pensioner: £80 in 2008-9 represented around 12% of the average bill for a household in fuel poverty, but only around 7% of the average bill across all customers. The poor therefore pay a much greater proportion – in this case nearly double – of their income than the rich for the UK to comply with its international obligations on climate change.

CERT, the government's main domestic emissions policy, is enormously regressive – it, too, is funded by a levy on every British energy bill. If you live in the UK, around £45 of your bill this year will be paying for CERT, whether you are a 'have-not' or a 'have-yacht'. Oxford University's Brenda Boardman, who pioneered the concept of fuel poverty, estimates that the fuel poor pay £200 million a year in CERT levies on energy bills, and receive only £125 million of energy efficiency benefits under the scheme. This is unacceptable.

We should applaud the UK and EU for deciding to lead by example when other countries refused to agree binding targets at Copenhagen. However, we must shift the focus of the debate from the size of emissions cuts to consideration of who pays for the UK's current and future decarbonisation policies.

At present, the poor are bearing a load which is justified neither by the size of their carbon emissions nor by any principle of equity. This regressive funding will continue to be the case until decarbonisation policies are paid for through progressive general taxation rather than standard levies on bills.

The EU has rightly adopted binding and ambitious emissions reduction targets through the UN process. However, politicians and international organisations have been more willing to talk about the size of cuts than how these can be paid for equitably. This must change. The UK cannot effectively deliver its side of the bargain without a national pact agreeing not only that the targets are necessary, but that the policies to achieve them are fair. ■

*Mark Rusling is an adviser to the energy industry on fuel poverty policy and was formerly UNA-UK's Campaigns and Education Officer. He writes in a personal capacity.*

### Tips to help reduce your energy consumption...and bill

- use energy efficient light bulbs
- switch off the lights when you leave a room
- boil the kettle with only as much water as you need
- wash your clothes at 30° Celsius
- only run your washing machine or dishwasher with full loads
- turn your central heating down by one degree – this could cut your heating bills by 10%

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# In focus

## MONUC to end?

The Security Council is set to decide the future of MONUC – the UN Peacekeeping Force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – by 31 May 2010, the end date for the mission's extended mandate. MONUC has been in the DRC since 2000 and is the UN's largest mission, with over 20,500 uniformed personnel currently on the ground.

Despite frequent setbacks, MONUC has supported the Congolese government and fledgling security forces in avoiding a return to the full-scale civil war that left an estimated four million people dead

due to violence, disease and starvation. The mission also oversaw two multi-party elections in 2006, which confirmed Joseph Kabila as president.

With the country in the midst of a new period of instability, Kabila is now calling for MONUC to be phased out from June 2010 – the 50th anniversary of the country's independence – with the last peacekeeper leaving in the summer of 2011. Kabila has labelled MONUC a symptom of indefinite international 'trusteeship' and accuses it of failing to quash recent violence.

The Security Council is expected to extend the mission's mandate for 12 months but accompany it with an exit

plan that would fit Kabila's schedule. Senior UN officials have cautioned against premature withdrawal. On 1 May, UN humanitarian chief John Holmes said "everybody is aware that MONUC cannot stay forever. We need to make sure that the process is based on solid benchmarks and does not lead to undue shocks of any kind". Margot Wallström, Ban Ki-moon's special representative for sexual violence in conflict, who visited the DRC in April, warned that the country's capacity to deal with widespread rape was 'near zero'. Asked about the potential phase-out of MONUC she said "will it help the situation here? I think not... I have a lot of fears". ■

## What next for the 'Robin Hood Tax'?

February 2010 saw the launch of the Robin Hood Tax Campaign, a movement of nearly 50 organisations pushing for a global tax on transactions between financial institutions as a means to generate funds to fight poverty, hunger and climate change. As a long-standing member of the Stamp Out Poverty network which is leading this campaign, UNA-UK was among the first organisations to sign up. We believe that innovative financing is urgently needed if the world is to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 (see page 16).

The 'Robin Hood Tax' is in essence a repackaged and expanded version of the Tobin tax, first proposed by Nobel Prize winning economist James Tobin in 1972. Tobin's idea was to introduce a small international levy on currency transactions between financial institutions in order to discourage large-scale currency speculation. The Campaign claims that even a tiny levy (of around 0.05%) could raise as much as \$400 billion – revenue that could be put towards poverty reduction and development initiatives, as well as climate change adaptation.

The Campaign has received high-profile international support, from politicians, business and economists. But it has also drawn criticism from those who argue that it is unclear how the proposed levy would be regulated and implement-



© Robin Hood Tax Campaign

ed. Proposals for how the funds would be administered and disseminated are indeed vague, mentioning only an unspecified 'UN mechanism'.

In the meantime, other measures for curbing bank excesses are being considered by policymakers. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently proposed two new global taxes on banks – a flat rate levy called the Financial Stability Contribution to fund any future bail-outs, and a further tax on pay and profits called the Financial Activities Tax. Both proposals will be discussed at the G20 summit in June.

Supporters of the Campaign say the IMF proposals would have seemed

incredible just a year ago. The IMF also did not dismiss outright a 'Robin Hood'-style levy (though it warned about the potential impact on consumers). Carlo Cottarelli, head of the IMF's fiscal affairs unit, said that while he didn't consider such a levy to be the most effective way of reducing systemic risk in the financial sector, "this doesn't mean we rule out a financial transactions tax in other contexts". Duncan Green, head of research at Oxfam (a member of the Campaign), said that Cottarelli had opened the door to a 'Robin Hood Tax' in the future, taking into account "the seriousness of the public support [the tax] enjoys". ■



Commission on the Status of Women, March 2010. © UN Photo/Davra Berkowitz

## Progress on a new UN agency for women

In April 2010, UN Member States began negotiations on a new UN agency for women, following a resolution by the General Assembly in September 2009 on creating a body consolidating the various parts of the UN that work on gender issues. The Assembly tasked UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with developing a concrete proposal, with a view to formally establishing the new agency before September 2010.

The move was hailed by campaigners as an important step towards addressing the shortcomings of the current arrangements. At present, responsibility for gender equality and women's empowerment is divided across four bodies:

- the UN development fund for women (UNIFEM), which reports to the UN Development Programme;
- the Division for the Advancement of Women, which comes under the Department of Economic and Social Affairs;
- the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; and
- the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI).

Proposals for a composite UN gender entity were first mooted in 2006 by the High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence, established to explore how the UN could work more coherently and effectively. The Panel concluded that the UN bodies working on gender lacked power, profile, resources and coordination. With the exception of the Secretary-General's Special Adviser, none have representation on the

senior roles, asked states on 5 May to put forward names for a shortlist to be presented to the General Assembly.

Gender Equality Architecture Reform, a network comprising over 300 women's rights and social justice groups from around the world, has expressed exasperation that current negotiations have re-opened the debate on some elementary points. For instance, the G77 and non-aligned countries argue that the

**The High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence concluded in 2006 that the UN bodies working on gender lacked power, profile, resources and coordination**

Secretariat's senior management team. Together, they command just \$221 million annually, a fraction of the \$3 billion budget of UNICEF – the Fund for Children.

The Panel recommended a stronger, better-funded composite agency led by an Under-Secretary-General (the third-highest rank in the UN system). Mr Ban's proposal reflects these recommendations but sticking points remain for both states and campaigners, on issues such as the composition of the new agency's Executive Board, the level of NGO input and, of course, who leads it. Mr Ban, whose tenure has seen a 40% increase in women appointed to

new agency should simply be a sum of its parts. The EU, on the other hand, favours a stronger leadership role for the new agency, a position supported by campaigners. On finance, Mr Ban's proposal outlined yearly costs of \$500 million, half the amount stipulated in the September 2009 resolution.

And certain countries are now saying that the creation of the new agency can only take place in the context of wider UN reform, claiming that other recommendations of the High-Level Panel (e.g. on governance and finance) have not seen progress. Whether these obstacles can be overcome by September this year remains to be seen. ■

# Essay



## Negotiating the UN's budget

Multilateralism in action



Hannah Davies

It's 10.20pm on 23 December 2009 and there's standing room only in conference room 8 of the UN headquarters in New York. The President of the General Assembly and over 30 Ambassadors are debating fiercely as the deadline for the end of the General Assembly's 64th session approaches.

What is the debate about? Not climate change, not human rights or another high-profile UN concern but two questions of fundamental importance to its effectiveness: its budget for the next two years and the 'scale of assessment' that determines how much each of the 192 Member States pays towards that budget.

### Not just for anoraks – why budget negotiations should matter to you

Financing and budgeting are frequently ignored by commentators on the UN, dismissed as a niche interest or overly complicated. And yet they are fundamental to every single activity of the Organisation. A suspected war criminal in the former Yugoslavia is apprehended: this has a budgetary implication for the International Tribunal. The General Assembly passes a resolution creating a new expert panel on small arms control: again there is a cost involved. Obviously the UN needs money so that staff can be paid and equipment provided. But the budget negotiations are also a political process where countries pursue their interests.

We should also care about the UN's budget because the money ultimately comes – through governments – from taxpayers. Because of their indirect financial contributions, the UN's assessed budget is one place that connects the 'we the people' of the Charter with the actual operations of the UN.

The UN's budget is approved by the General Assembly's Fifth Committee, on which all UN Member States are represented. Since 1986, the Committee's working methods are also based on consensus – or more accurately, 'the broadest possible agreement'. While this principle has led to broadly consensual budgeting, it also means that every Member State – regardless of its size and influence – has a say in the full range of the UN's work through its scrutiny and approval of the budget. In practice, many countries negotiate in groups reflecting broadly shared interests – e.g. the EU and the Group of 77. Notable exceptions include the UN's two biggest contributors: the US and Japan.

### Budgeting after the financial crisis

Budgetary discussions are always tough but the 2009 negotiations were particularly hard-fought. The impact of the global financial crisis led to many countries seeking savings – both in terms of the overall level of the budget and the proportion of it that they were to pay.

Faced with their own budgetary challenges, many states were looking for the

UN to find efficiencies. Several developing countries meanwhile argued that the UN's activities should be strengthened to ameliorate the impact of the crisis that, after all, had originated in the developed world.

The first draft of the budget resolution, containing language from all of the main groups, was 30 pages long with over 380 paragraphs on everything from policies on the use of voluntary funds to employment of staff in peacekeeping missions. After weeks of negotiations, there had been barely any movement and most of the paragraphs had yet to be agreed.

After two days of round-the-clock negotiations, a compromise package began to take shape. This included funds requested for safety and security (e.g. an exceptional \$7 million from the budget for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan), an increase in posts for the UN Relief and Works Agency in Palestine, more money for development and a new Under-Secretary-General post in Nairobi.

Finally, in the early hours of 24 December resolution 64/243 was passed, approving the UN's budget for the next two years.

### Who pays? Review of the scale of assessment for 2010-2013

The apportionment of Member State contributions was also fiercely contested in the final months of 2009. The UN's scale of assessment is based on the capacity of states to pay, which is decided by a rather complex methodology. Although primarily based on share of world Gross National Income, this methodology is modified in a number of ways to reflect a broader definition of 'capacity'. For instance, the share of the largest contributor (the USA) is capped at 22% regardless of its relative Gross Domestic Product and there is a discount for countries with a low per capita income.

While one major group was happy with the status quo, others argued that changing global economic dynamics required a re-think of what was understood by 'capacity to pay'. Another group was unhappy about how exchange rates were calculated, arguing that excessive fluctuations as a result of changing commodity prices were not taken into account. Over the

## COMPARING FIGURES

### Global military spending \$1.464 trillion

(2010 estimate)

### Wall Street bonuses \$20 billion

(paid out in 2009)

### Transport for London £9.2 billion

(the city's public transport budget for the year 2009-10)

### City of London bonuses £6.8 billion

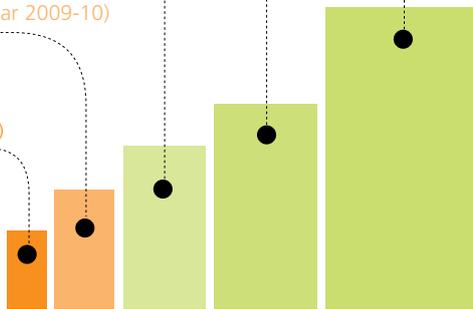
(estimate for 2010)

### UN peacekeeping budget \$7.9 billion

(actual approved for the year 2009-10)

### UN regular budget \$5.2 billion

(for the 2010-11 biennium)



### Breakdown of regular budget for the 2008-09 biennium (\$ millions)

Overall policymaking and coordination (incl. General Assembly, ECOSOC etc)	777
Political affairs	1248
International justice and law	97
Cooperation for development (international and regional)	960
Human rights and humanitarian affairs	301
Public information	186
Support services (e.g. management, ICT)	577
Internal oversight	39
Administration	125
Safety and security	239
Staffing	517
Other (including capital expenditure)	84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5156</b>

For further information on the regular and peacekeeping budgets, see the UN General Assembly Fifth Committee website: [www.un.org/ga/fifth](http://www.un.org/ga/fifth)

course of the negotiations, pages and pages of information were prepared by the UN statistics division and the contributions service. Spreadsheets reflecting a % change here or there were provided, but ultimately the result was not about technicalities. The debate was a political stand-off.

In addition to the regular budget assessment, the scale for the peacekeeping budget was also under discussion. While based on the same methodology, under the peacekeeping scale permanent members of the Security Council pay a premium and there are additional discounts for developing countries. As the clock ticked and there was still no movement, people began to ask what would happen if the Assembly could not agree. How would peacekeeping operations whose budgets were assessed only until the end of 2009 meet their costs?

After intense debate, the same methodology which had been used for the last nine years was ultimately adopted. But the Assembly recognised that it should be reviewed as soon as possible – the legitimacy of the scale of assessment is after all fundamental to the functioning of the UN. The different positions on this issue taken by Member States in 2009 reflect, perhaps, the broader changes in UN politics, which were observed at the Copenhagen climate conference.

So, after nearly three months of negotiations, the UN has a budget of \$5.2 billion over the next two years to implement its programmes on everything from the peaceful uses of outer space to the management of conference services. And there will be, at least in the short term, no change to the way it assesses how countries pay. The next big negotiation will be on the proposed \$8 billion to cover the peacekeeping operations which each have their own separate budget. This is also likely to involve difficult and protracted negotiations.

While the whole budget process can be seen as cumbersome and frustrating, it reflects to a great degree what the UN really is and does – multilateralism in action – with all member states engaged in a process to find agreement and consensus on the role of the UN. ■

*Hannah Davies is a Programme Management Officer in the UN's Department for Field Support. Previously she spent three years in the Secretariat of the Fifth Committee. In 2009 she undertook a sabbatical at King's College London doing research into the evolution of the financing of UN peacekeeping.*

# THE UN BUDGET-MAKING PROCESS

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA)

The Assembly has overall responsibility for approving and overseeing the budget.

## OFFICE OF PROGRAMME PLANNING, BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS (OPPBA)

OPPBA, the main control mechanism which is headed by the chief UN Controller, puts together the strategic framework for the two-year budget. Each specialised agency and major programme has its own control office which makes sure that departmental objectives and activities are in-line with inter-governmentally agreed priorities.

## COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION (CPC)

The strategic framework is reviewed by this 34-member committee, which reports to both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The General Assembly considers the CPC's report and adopts a resolution on programme planning which approves the strategic framework.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL

Based on the approved strategic framework, the Secretary-General proposes to the General Assembly a budget outline – an envelope figure for the biennium and agreed priorities for the UN's work.

## FINALLY, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES THE BUDGET

## FIFTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This committee considers the programme clusters and the ACABQ recommendations to produce a final budget level and priorities, and sends a report and draft resolution to the General Assembly for approval.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ)

This budget is reviewed by the ACABQ (a committee comprising 16 experts elected by the General Assembly with regard to geographic distribution) which then makes recommendations to the relevant committee of the General Assembly: the Fifth Committee. Even though ACABQ is advisory, its proposals command considerable weight.

## PROGRAMME BUDGET

The proposed programme budget that is produced consists of a number of clusters, representing each programme.

## VARIOUS UN DEPARTMENTS

The approved strategic framework and budget outline are used by UN departments to prepare their budget requests which are, again, coordinated by the OPPBA and Controller's Office.

### EXTERNAL BODIES

#### BOARD OF AUDITORS

This external body audits the UN's accounts and reports its findings to the General Assembly via the ACABQ. The Board consists of three Auditors-General from three Member States chosen by the Assembly. Each Auditor-General appoints a staff of auditors who inspect UN offices all over the world. From July 2010, the UK will be on the Board.

#### INDEPENDENT AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Another external body that serves in an advisory capacity to assist the General Assembly in its oversight responsibilities. Members of the committee are appointed in their personal capacity and are independent of the government that nominated them.

#### JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

This body helps ensure that the activities of the various parts of the UN system are carried out in the most economical manner and that optimum use is made of resources.

### INTERNAL BODY

#### OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES (OIOS)

This operationally independent office assists the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities through monitoring, internal audit, inspection, evaluation and investigation. Part of the OIOS mandate is to look into allegations of waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement.

## FINANCE FACTS

### Who pays?

Member States, according to the UN Charter (Article 17). Their contributions are divided into assessed (obligatory) and voluntary payments. The former are based on a state's relative ability to pay. Gross National Income serves as a yardstick, with poor and heavily-indebted countries paying significantly reduced rates.

The US, which would pay over 30% according to global income distribution, has a 'ceiling rate' of 22%. Assessed contributions by least-developed countries are capped at 0.01%.

For peacekeeping contributions, additional deductions are made to low income per capita countries, and a surcharge is levied on the five permanent members of the Security Council to reflect their role in authorising missions and permanent member priorities.

Voluntary contributions – preferred by Member States due to their flexibility – fund large parts of the UN's specialised agencies, with the majority going to food, children, refugees and development.

### What happens when states don't pay?

Article 19 of the UN Charter states that if a Member State is in arrears for two years, it loses the right to vote in the General Assembly (but not the other principal organs of the UN – e.g. the Security Council). In practice, exceptions are often made. For example, in October 2009 the Assembly decided that several conflict-ridden countries in arrears – such as the Central African Republic and Somalia, should be permitted to vote until the end of the current session.

The UN's largest financial contributor, the United States, has had a history of failing to pay its dues to the UN, often making payment contingent on specific UN reforms. The US has been careful never to fall more than two years behind with its payments, and thus lose its vote in the General Assembly. Under President George H. W. Bush and under the Clinton and Obama administrations, the US reduced its proportion of the UN's debt.

On 31 December 2009 the UN was owed a total of US\$2,248 million across its regular, peacekeeping, international tribunals and 'capital master plan' (headquarters renovation) budgets. Of this, 38% was owed by the US.

It is often forgotten that in the early days of the UN the big non-payers were the then-USSR and France. In the 1950s these states (which are permanent members of the UN Security Council) refused to pay for the continuation of a UN peacekeeping operation in the Congo, on the grounds that the continued mission resulted from a General Assembly resolution and not a decision of the Security Council. This dispute continued for more than a decade.

## UN PEACEKEEPING

### Top 5 Financial Contributors (% of total)

	FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (%)	NUMBER OF TROOPS
<b>US</b>	27.1	88
<b>Japan</b>	12.5	231
<b>UK</b>	8.1	283
<b>Germany</b>	8	294
<b>France</b>	7.5	1738

### NUMBER OF TROOPS

	NUMBER OF TROOPS	FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (%)
<b>Bangladesh</b>	10,850	0.001
<b>Pakistan</b>	10,734	0.016
<b>India</b>	8765	0.107
<b>Nigeria</b>	5872	0.016
<b>Egypt</b>	5466	0.019

### Top 5 Troop Contributors

Source: [www.un.org/en/peacekeeping](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping)

The chart above demonstrates that some of the smallest financial contributors to the UN's peacekeeping budget provide the most troops for UN peacekeeping operations. Conversely, some of the largest budget contributors provide very few troops on the ground. This is in part a result of financial considerations. The UN reimburses countries for the use of their troops. The amount paid provides a profit for developing countries but is usually not enough to compensate industrialised countries for the costs of the troops provided. Instead, countries such as the US and the UK have historically preferred to provide troops for UN Security Council-backed multilateral peace enforcement operations – such as Korea in 1950 or Afghanistan today – where they also discern a clear national strategic interest – rather than to traditional UN peacekeeping operations. UK peacekeeping troop numbers will decline further if the UN peacekeeping operation in Cyprus is wound down.

## TOP 5 CONTRIBUTORS AND OTHER P5 MEMBERS

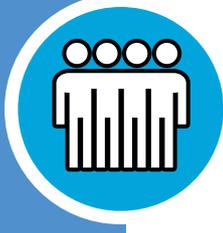
% of assessed contributions to regular budget (agreed in 2009 to apply for years 2010-13)

US (P5)	22.0
Japan	12.5
Germany	8.0
UK (P5)	6.6
France (P5)	6.1
<b>OTHER P5 COUNTRIES</b>	
China	3.1
Russian Federation	1.6

(P5 = one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council)

After a ruling by the International Court of Justice that such expenses were obligatory for all Member States, a deal was eventually struck in 1965 that consigned the unpaid arrears to a special account that did not count towards Article 19, and the two countries paid a small amount of voluntary

contributions in recompense. Thereafter the principle was established that all General Assembly expenditure was obligatory, but it was also later agreed that the UN budget would be passed by consensus, giving every country, particularly the largest contributors, an effective veto. ■



## Keeping the MDG promise

# 5 YEARS TO GO

### Adopted by the international community in 2000, the Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs) are eight time-bound objectives aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, and addressing a host of other social ills, by the target date of 2015. We are now at the two-thirds mark of this schedule – just five years remain for the international community to achieve the Goals. Declaring 2010 to be the ‘year of development’, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on governments to redouble their efforts and scheduled an MDG summit for later this year. Officially called a High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, the summit will take place on 20-22 September, just before the annual opening debate of the Assembly.

*“In the decade since the Millennium Development Goals were first agreed, we have learned a great deal about what works, and where we need to focus our efforts. Evidence shows that the Goals can be achieved, even in the poorest countries, when good policies and projects are backed by adequate resources. We can and must do more, especially given the growing impact of climate change, increasing global hunger, and continuing fallout from the economic and financial crisis. My message is simple: The MDGs are too big to fail. We are ready to act, ready to deliver, and ready to make 2010 a year of results for people.”*

**BAN KI-MOON, UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, 21 DECEMBER 2009**

### An action plan for 2010-15

In March, Mr Ban released a report entitled ‘Keeping the Promise’, which will serve as a basis for government deliberations at the September summit. The report identifies successes and lessons learnt, highlights gaps, emerging challenges and opportunities, and lays out specific recommendations for action to boost progress towards the Goals over the remaining five years. The report documents some of the major successes (e.g. in combating extreme poverty and hunger, improving school enrolment and child health, expanding access to clean water, and controlling diseases) that have been achieved, including by some of the world’s poorest countries. Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique and Niger, for example, have all managed to slash their child mortality rates by 40% or more since 1990. Yet progress has been uneven. Those five countries, for instance, are not doing nearly as well in terms of achieving MDG 5 on reducing maternal mortality. Challenges are most severe in the least-developed countries, those vulnerable to natural disasters, and states in or emerging from conflict. In the report, Mr Ban writes that shortfalls in achieving the Goals are not because they are unreachable, or because the time is too short. Rather, it is unmet commitments, inadequate resources and lack of focus and accountability that have resulted in the failure to deliver. Consequently, improvements in the lives of the poor have been unacceptably slow, while some hard-won gains are being eroded by the food and economic crises.

## Lessons from the past decade

Nearly ten years into the global effort to achieve the MDGs, the report identifies a number of key lessons learnt, including:

- **the importance of national ownership of development strategies.** Countries with the biggest success stories (see pages 18-19) did well by pursuing pragmatic policies based on enhancing their own capacity. The report argues that the international community should give more support to nationally-driven MDG strategies.
- **the need for smart growth.** Growth is not sufficient for progress, it must be equitable to maximise poverty reduction.
- **forward-looking macro-economic policies.** Hard-earned development gains can be reversed due to economic shocks, so countries

## 'The poor cannot wait. We must not use the economic crisis, the food crisis or other setbacks as an excuse for failing to live up to our commitments'

need policies that support stable growth e.g. sustaining public investment strategies and universal social protection.

- **stability – nationally and internationally.** Lack of predictable financing and ever-changing domestic and international priorities have been two important constraints to achieving the Goals. Coherent policies and consistent financial support are therefore crucial.
- **a holistic approach.** There is an urgent need for cohesion to secure progress on debt relief, trade, taxation and technology, as well as efforts to combat climate change.

## Equal partners in development

Finance for the MDGs needs to start at home, with developing countries raising and allocating domestic revenues. But rich countries must also deliver their long-standing promises of greatly expanded aid. Although official development assistance reached its highest level ever in 2008, an

estimated extra \$35 billion a year is needed by 2010 to achieve the target set by the G8 at Gleneagles in 2005 – the year of 'Make Poverty History'. 'Keeping the Promise' praises proposals such as the G8 L'Aquila Food Security Initiative of 2009, and calls for other innovative financing schemes to be developed. Mr Ban also recommends that the September summit should endorse a framework that consolidates global aid commitments, links them to results with timelines, and establishes monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

## Preparations for the September summit

From March 2010, the General Assembly has been holding informal interactive sessions involving the UN system, academia, civil society, the private sector and governments themselves, to provide participants with the latest information on the MDGs, and

to share best practice and challenges. And from mid-April, Member States have been meeting to discuss the nature and structure of the summit outcome document. UNA-UK has been running a year-long communications campaign in New World to promote action in the UK to realise the goals, culminating in our UN Forum event on 12 June 2010. We are delighted that Helen Clark, head of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), will deliver the opening speech at the event, and we hope it will energise the UK development community to press the British government to play a lead role in the September summit.

As UN Deputy-Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro said at the General Assembly on 4 March: "The poor cannot wait. We must not use the economic crisis, the food crisis or other setbacks as an excuse for failing to live up to our commitments". ■

*The Secretary-General's report and information on UNA-UK's one-year MDG campaign are available online at [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk).*

## COUNTDOWN TO THE SUMMIT

**4 MARCH** The General Assembly begins government consultations in preparation for the MDG Summit, with the Permanent Representatives of Denmark and Senegal as co-facilitators.

**16 MARCH** The Secretary-General presents his 'Keeping the Promise' report.

**APRIL** Release of the World Development Indicators and Global Monitoring Report by the World Bank, focussing on progress and policy recommendations for the MDGs.

**APRIL – JUNE** Some 30 MDG country reports will be issued, in cooperation with UNDP. In June a synthesis report will analyse 'lessons learnt'.

**7-9 JUNE** The 'Women Deliver' international conference will focus on maternal and reproductive health, the Goal towards which progress has been weakest. 'Countdown to 2015' – a multi-partner initiative involving WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and others – will launch a report tracking progress on child and maternal health.

**12 JUNE** UNA-UK's UN Forum event in London will feature a major speech by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark on the importance of civil society action in the lead-up to the summit.

**14-15 JUNE** The General Assembly will hold two-day informal interactive hearings with NGOs, civil society and the private sector in preparation for the MDG Summit.

**LATE JUNE** The 2010 MDG Report 2010 will provide the latest progress data for each Goal based on statistics from more than 20 UN and international agencies. UNDP will prepare an international assessment of what is needed to reach the MDGs for the G8 Summit, and a country-by-country scorecard of MDG achievement will be issued by the UN Millennium Campaign and Overseas Development Institute.

**24-25 JUNE** The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit will bring together business executives to assess how the private sector can contribute to achieving the Goals.

**28 JUNE – 2 JULY** Government ministers will gather at the UN Economic and Social Council to examine how to move forward on gender equality and empowering women.

**MID-SEPTEMBER** The report of the MDG Gap Task Force will present data and recommendations on how to meet international commitments on aid, trade and debt relief.

**17-19 SEPTEMBER** UNA-UK will join millions around the world in the mass civil society 'Stand Up and Take Action against Poverty' initiative.

**20-22 SEPTEMBER** UN Millennium Development Goals summit.



1

**ERADICATE  
EXTREME POVERTY  
AND HUNGER**

**MDG 1  
Eradicate Extreme  
Poverty & Hunger**

**Halve the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day, and people who suffer from hunger**

**Progress**

In 2005, 1.4 billion people, or one quarter of the population of the developing world, lived below the international poverty line, on less than \$1.25 a day in 2005 prices. In 1990, there were 1.8 billion poor.

Progress was uneven. The poverty rate in East Asia fell from 60% to 16% over this 15-year period; by contrast it stayed above 50% in sub-Saharan Africa, though there has been some progress since 1999.

**Challenges**

The UN estimates that last year, some 55 to 90 million more people lived in extreme poverty than had been projected before the economic and financial crisis.

The number of hungry people in the world topped one billion in 2009.

**Successes**

From 2001 to 2007, Nigeria's National Special Programme for Food Security contributed to a doubling of production and income of farmers.

Through a national subsidy programme, Malawi achieved a 53% food surplus in 2007, from a 43% national food deficit in 2005.



2

**ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL  
PRIMARY EDUCATION**

**MDG 2  
Achieve Universal  
Primary Education**

**Ensure that boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling**

**Progress**

In the developing world as a whole, net enrolment in primary education reached 88% in 2007, up from 83% in 2000.

Major breakthroughs have been achieved in sub-Saharan Africa, where the net enrolment ratio in primary education was 74%, up by 16% from 2000.

**Challenges**

But more than 10% of the world's primary-school age children – 72 million – are out of school.

Nearly half of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa, with Southern Asia having the next highest total. Most have never been inside a classroom.

**Successes**

The abolition of school fees in Tanzania in 2001 led to a net enrolment rate of 98% for primary schooling in 2006 – almost double the 1999 rates.

In Ethiopia, the net enrolment rate for primary school was 72.3% in 2007, an increase of 88% on 2000 enrolment rates.



3

**PROMOTE GENDER  
EQUALITY AND  
EMPOWER WOMEN**

**MDG 3  
Promote Gender  
Equality and  
Empower Women**

**Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education**

**Progress**

The gender gap in primary school enrolment has narrowed to over 95 girls for every 100 boys in developing countries, a 4% improvement on 1999 levels.

Women's share of national parliamentary seats increased to 19% in 2009, up by 6% from 1999.

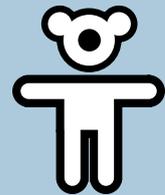
**Challenges**

But in other areas, women still suffer disproportionately. Close to two-thirds of employed women have 'vulnerable' jobs – part-time, seasonal, low or unpaid work.

**Successes**

In 2008, Rwanda elected a majority of women (56%) to its lower chamber of parliament, the highest level of female representation of any country.

Mexico's 'Oportunidades' conditional cash transfer programme led to an increase in secondary school enrolment rates of over 20% for girls and 10% for boys in rural areas.



4

**REDUCE  
CHILD MORTALITY**

**MDG 4  
Reduce Child  
Mortality**

**Reduce by two thirds the under-five mortality rate**

**Progress**

Deaths of children under five have steadily declined, from 12.6 million in 1990 to 9 million today, despite population growth.

Measles deaths in Africa fell by 91% between 2000 and 2006, from an estimated 396,000 to 36,000.

Child mortality rates have been slashed by 40% or more in the world's 50 least-developed countries.

**Challenges**

But in the developing world as a whole, the figures correspond to a 28% decline, well short of the target of a two-thirds reduction.

**Successes**

The under-five child mortality rate has fallen by 40% or more since 1990 in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique and Niger.

The under-five child mortality rate has reduced by 50% or more since 1990 in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Laos and Nepal.

**MDGs at a glance**



5

### IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

#### MDG 5 Improve Maternal Health

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio, and achieve universal access to reproductive health

##### Progress

MDG 5 remains the Goal towards which least progress has been made. However, some regions (Eastern Asia, Northern Africa, and South-Eastern Asia) showed declines of 30% or more in maternal deaths between 1990 and 2005.

The proportion of births attended by skilled health workers in developing regions increased (from 53% in 1990 to 61% in 2007), as did the proportion of pregnant women who had at least one antenatal care visit (from 64% to 79% in 2007).

##### Challenges

Maternal mortality has declined only marginally, from 480 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 450 per 100,000 live births in 2005.

Very little progress has been made in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 22% of all sexually active women are thought to use contraception.

##### Successes

Honduras reduced the country's maternal mortality ratio by 40% from 182 to 108 per 100,000 live births between 1990 and 2005.

In Malawi and Rwanda, removal of user fees for family planning services has contributed to significant increases in use of family planning services. In Rwanda, contraceptive prevalence jumped from 10% in 2005 to 26% in 2008. In Malawi, the rate more than tripled between 1992 and 2004.



6

### COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

#### MDG 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

To halt by 2015 and have begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of other major diseases

##### Progress

Globally, the new HIV infection rate decreased from an estimated peak of 3.5 million in 1996 to 2.7 million in 2008, a decline of 30%.

Between 2000 and 2007, measles deaths dropped by 74%. During this time, immunization coverage increased to 82%.

##### Challenges

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most heavily affected region, home to 67% of all people living with HIV worldwide and accounting for 70% of all new infections. But HIV prevalence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia has also nearly doubled since 2001.

Nearly one million people die each year from malaria.

##### Successes

Cambodia has managed to halt and reverse the spread of HIV, with the prevalence falling from 3% in 1997 to 0.8% in 2007.

The number of new HIV infections among children has declined five-fold in Botswana, from 4,600 in 1999 to 890 in 2007.

31% of African households owned an anti-malaria insecticide-treated net in 2008, up by 14% since 2006.



7

### ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

#### MDG 7 Environmental Sustainability

Promote sustainable development; reduce biodiversity loss; halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation

##### Progress

The world is on track to achieve the safe water target though 884 million people worldwide still use unimproved water sources.

The use of ozone depleting gases has been almost completely eliminated worldwide.

The lives of the urban poor are improving in almost every region: 2005 saw the proportion of slum dwellers decrease to 36% from nearly a half in 1990.

##### Challenges

Despite gains, 37% of the world's population did not have access to toilets or latrines in 2006. And gains were slow, with the situation easing only by 8% from 1990 levels.

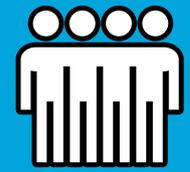
Every year, forests equivalent in size to Bangladesh are cut down.

##### Successes

In 2004, 75% of the rural population in Ghana had access to safe water, an increase of 92% on 1990 levels.

In Mali, the percentage of rural and urban populations with improved sanitation rose from 55% in 1998 to 84% in 2002.

Between 1999 and 2005, Costa Rica prevented the loss of 720 sq km of forests in biodiversity priority areas and avoided the emission of 11 million tons of carbon.



8

### GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

#### MDG 8 Global Partnership

Develop further a fair and open trading and financial system; deal with developing countries' debt; and improve access to essential drugs and technologies

##### Progress

Official development assistance in 2008 increased to \$119.8 billion (£81.5 billion) – the highest figure to date and the proportion of imports from developing countries admitted free of duty into developed countries rose by a quarter between 1996 and 2007.

Mobile phone penetration in sub-Saharan Africa rose from less than one in 50 people in 2000, to close to a quarter of the population in 2007. They are increasingly used for banking, commerce, medical advice and disaster management services.

##### Challenges

In 2008, the only countries to have reached or exceeded the target of official development assistance of 0.7% of Gross National Income were Denmark, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden (UK expenditure that year was 0.43%).

Only 1.5% of the population in the world's least-developed countries had access to the internet in 2007, compared to 64% in rich countries.

##### Successes

In April 2009, the G20 agreed to provide \$50 billion to support social protection, boost trade and safeguard development in low-income countries. Failure to fulfil this promise will not only impede further progress towards the MDGs, but could jeopardise gains already made.



A person's head is visible in profile on the left side of the frame, looking towards a vast landscape filled with a large amount of discarded plastic and other waste. The background is a clear blue sky.

Every 3.6 seconds  
**a person dies of starvation.**

Every 30 seconds  
**a child dies of malaria.**

Every minute  
**a woman dies in  
pregnancy or childbirth.**

**THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS:**  
eight targets agreed by world leaders to reduce poverty  
and inequality by 2015

There are just five years left to achieve them.

**Do something**

Visit [www.una.org.uk/dosomething](http://www.una.org.uk/dosomething)  
for five ways in which you can support the Goals

As *New World* goes to press, UNA-UK's delegation is preparing to attend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York. James Kearney, our new Peace & Security Programme Coordinator (see page 4); Dr Owen Greene, Chair of the Centre for International Cooperation and Security at Bradford University; and Dr Gari Donn, UNA Edinburgh branch and member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors, will be representing the Association. A report will be featured in the next issue of *New World* and will be available online earlier.



# towards zero

*Charting a path to a world without nuclear weapons*

## The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Since its entry into force 40 years ago, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has been the framework for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Every five years, the Treaty is reviewed by its parties, and from 3 to 28 May 2010, the 189 states that have ratified the NPT are meeting in New York to discuss issues such as: disarmament and security assurances, safeguards and controls, verification and compliance, access to nuclear technology, a nuclear-free Middle East, and ways to close loopholes allowing for easy withdrawal from the treaty.

The last Review Conference in 2005 was unable to reach agreement on a substantive outcome, with one of the main sticking points being whether disarmament or non-proliferation should be prioritised. Since then, North Korea (which withdrew from the NPT in 2003) has tested nuclear weapons; the UN Security Council has placed sanctions on Iran for its uranium-enrichment programme; and India, Pakistan and Israel remain outside the international nuclear regime.

Yet the last five years have also seen an unprecedented revitalisation of international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. In 2006, the UK substantially reduced its nuclear warheads. Two years later, France followed suit. In September 2009, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on working towards a world free of nuclear weapons. In April 2010, the US and Russia (two states possessing over 90% of the world's

nuclear arsenal) signed a treaty obliging them to reduce their warheads by nearly a third. And there are now five legally-declared regions free of nuclear weapons: Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

US President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit – the last big event on the nuclear calendar before the Review Conference – also brought some success with it: a communiqué aimed at making all nuclear material secure and a number of state commitments. Immediately after the summit, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay wrote to the British Foreign Secretary, calling for the UK to match those steps in an appropriate manner, for example, by making clear that it would never contemplate the use of its nuclear deterrent against non-nuclear-weapons states in good standing with their NPT obligations.

### So what are the prospects for the 2010 Review?

A week into the conference, there were some positive signs. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton boosted the transparency agenda by declaring that the US would, for the first time, reveal the size of its stockpile (the Pentagon later stated that the US had, in September 2009, 5113 deployable nuclear warheads) and by announcing a \$50 million subsidy for the International Atomic Energy Agency's new 'peaceful uses initiative'

intended to help countries develop infrastructure for safe use of nuclear power. Commitments by countries such as Indonesia – which announced imminent ratification of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), reversing its earlier stance of waiting for US ratification – also denote progress. The CTBT is now just eight short of the required ratifications for entry into force.

But despite the positive momentum, old sticking points – such as Iran, Israel and the wider Middle East – remain. Iranian President Ahmadinejad, as expected, made an inflammatory speech on the opening day of the Review Conference, as the Security Council considers fresh sanctions on the country; and the gulf has widened between the 110 non-aligned countries lending support to a Nuclear Weapons Convention (a treaty abolishing them) and the five permanent members of the Security Council who do not.

With very few successes or breakthroughs coming out of the 2000 and 2005 Review Conferences, the focus this time round will be on laying the groundwork for discussions on key issues – most notably how best to engage with countries in the Middle East in setting up a nuclear-weapons-free zone, and building consensus on the IAEA Additional Protocol, which gives the Agency wider powers with regard to access and verification. The final goal has thus changed from 'ultimate consensus' to the construction of the first steps on the road towards zero.

## UNA-UK and Global Zero

*David Hannay reports from the February 2010 Global Zero summit in Paris*

UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay of Chiswick participated in the second high-level summit of Global Zero, a non-party-political initiative championing a world free of nuclear weapons. At the summit, over two hundred former prime ministers, foreign and defence ministers, politicians, arms control negotiators and diplomats discussed a four-stage action programme aiming at global disarmament by 2030.

Lord Hannay represented the UK with former Foreign Secretaries Margaret Beckett and Sir Malcolm Rifkind. There were strong contingents from the other four recognised nuclear-weapons states (China, France, Russia and the US) as well as groups from India, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico and other developing countries. Alongside speeches by leading Global Zero supporters, such as Ambassador Richard Burt, who was US President Reagan's chief arms control negotiator, the meeting launched the movement's youth wing and saw a screening of the new film 'Countdown to Zero' (see page 26).

Reporting on the summit, Lord Hannay said: "despite the obvious difficulties of making progress on a complex

and contentious agenda, the certainty of strong opposition to many parts of the agenda in the US Congress and the difficulty but also necessity of bringing into the negotiations the non-recognised nuclear-weapons states (India, Israel and Pakistan), not to speak of North Korea and Iran, there was a general view that progress was now, for the first time since the turn of the century, both highly desirable and practicable.

I found the two full days of meetings extraordinarily impressive and encouraging. It was striking how closely Global Zero's programme fits with UNA-UK's 'Towards Zero' campaign, and the scope for cooperation was obvious. Of course, there will be setbacks along the way, but what is clear is that the global movement 'towards zero' now includes many who would never have subscribed to such objectives during the Cold War. Equally striking was the general view that, if this opportunity to change the direction of travel on multilateral nuclear disarmament is missed, we shall find ourselves living in a much more insecure and unpredictable world".

## Global Zero in UK universities

*Report by Global Zero UK youth representatives Katie Taylor (Cambridge), Matthew Harries (London) and Andrew Gibson (Lancaster)*

Thirty students from around the world, including three from the UK, were invited to attend the Global Zero summit in Paris this February. Since our return, we have each been working on our campuses to get nuclear disarmament on the agenda and to devise ways for young people to express informed views on nuclear issues.

Activities so far have included online network building using sites such as Facebook, petition drives and speaker events. We have also been attending meetings held by other organisations to try to foster links between groups working towards similar aims. The meeting organised by UNA-UK's youth wing, UNYSA, is a good example (see page 38).

We at Global Zero were encouraged to discover that UNYSA has been working on non-proliferation and disarmament over the past year, and are delighted that we will be working together to generate public support for these aims and to communicate that support to our leaders. We are planning a joint event this autumn that will highlight the connections between nuclear issues and energy security. And we are also on the lookout for UNYSA representatives who want to use Global Zero materials in their campaigns.

For more information, contact us at [globalzero.ukstudents@gmail.com](mailto:globalzero.ukstudents@gmail.com) and visit [www.globalzero.org/en/sign-declaration](http://www.globalzero.org/en/sign-declaration) to show your support. ■



Katie Taylor, one of Global Zero's UK youth representatives, asks the panel a question at a joint event organised by the Foreign Office and UNA-UK's youth wing. See page 38. © Mark Makela

# Westminster Wire

## What the new government's priorities at the UN should be



David  
Hannay

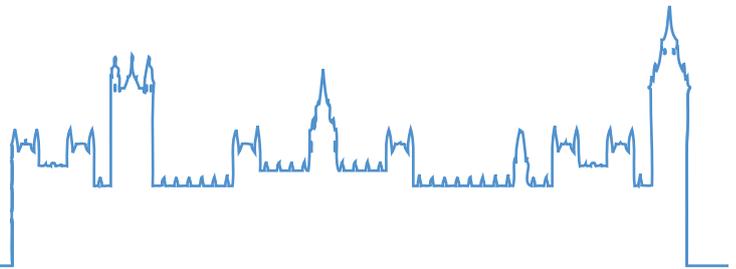


UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

The United Nations, like other foreign policy issues, did not figure prominently in the May 2010 UK General Election campaign. Support for the UN is, fortunately, common ground between all three main parties. But warm words, however welcome, will not be what counts for the UN. Instead, the UN will need support in terms of policy, resources and decisions from the incoming government.

Here are a few ideas on policy priorities and action that UNA-UK would like to see the new government take during its first few months in office:

- Stand by Britain's commitment to donate 0.7% of Gross National Income by 2013 to development aid, and help the UN to make a success of the Millennium Development Goals (see page 16) during the remaining one-third of the period set for achieving them;
- Take forward the climate change agenda, which fell so far short at last year's Copenhagen conference, and move significantly beyond the Copenhagen Accord, working for a legally-binding set of agreements, tougher limits on carbon emissions, generous provision for technology transfer to developing countries and finance to help them to build low-carbon economies, and a robust international system for the monitoring and verification of commitments entered into;
- Ensure that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (see page 22) sets a new direction of travel towards a world free of nuclear weapons, with action on multilateral disarmament by the five recognised nuclear-weapons states and strengthened non-proliferation disciplines, negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, universal ratification of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, and measures to reduce the proliferation risks from the expansion of civil nuclear energy;
- Strengthen the UN's peacekeeping capacity and that of regional and sub-regional organisations prepared to undertake those tasks, and make an operational reality of the 'Responsibility to Protect' as a preventive tool for helping countries to avoid state failure;
- Build up the UN's under-utilised Peacebuilding Commission so that it can play a more effective preventive and post-conflict role in a wider range of countries and strengthen the UN's coordination on the ground;
- Develop stronger and better coordinated international mechanisms and resources for handling major natural disasters such as those in Indonesia and Haiti, in particular aimed at ensuring a more rapid response in the first moments after such disasters;
- Make a contribution to the 2011 review of the UN's Human Rights Council, aiming to remedy the shortcomings of the Council's first five years of operation and to overcome the excessive politicisation of its debates which has so often frustrated efforts to improve the observance of the rights set out in the Universal Declaration;
- Play a key role in supporting the new UN agency for women to ensure that it is structured and resourced to effectively address the pressing issues facing women in peace, development and human rights; and promote gender equality
- Work for UN institutional reform on a sectoral basis, wherever a broad policy consensus emerges for change, ensuring that such reformed or new institutions give more weight and representation to the views of the main emerging developing countries;
- Give solid support to the work of the International Criminal Court and to the remaining single-country international courts so that the culture of impunity for gross breaches of international humanitarian law continues to be eroded;
- Put to good use our position as a significant member of the EU and seek to ensure the EU's develop-



ing Common Foreign and Security Policy gives full and effective support to the UN.

This list is long, but its very length illustrates just how many of the challenges that face the world today can only be handled through multilateral

responses far beyond the capacity of any individual nation. Even a Britain weakened by recent financial and economic setbacks remains one of the world's most prosperous countries and one of those most capable of lending a hand when it is needed most. Nothing would be more short-sighted than if we were

to weaken our practical support for the UN just when its indispensability is most in evidence. ■

*David Hannay is Chair of UNA-UK and a former British Ambassador to the UN.*

## UNA-UK in Parliament

In the dying days of the last Parliament, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay expressed his pleasure at the successful outcome of three major UNA-UK campaigns: *“Parliament has not been too popular lately but we should give three cheers for the passage of the Debt Relief, Bribery and Cluster Munitions Bills”*. See below and [www.una.org.uk/dosomething](http://www.una.org.uk/dosomething).

## End to debt profiteering

Britain has become the first country to ban profiteering from third world debt, following the passage of the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act. Aimed at protecting the world's poorest nations, this new law prevents so-called ‘vulture funds’ from pursuing debt repayment beyond the level assessed by the World Bank as fair and sustainable under the international ‘heavily-indebted poor countries’ initiative.

Until now, ‘vulture fund’ investment companies could take advantage of the relaxed laws in UK courts to buy up defaulted third world debt at dramatically reduced prices, before suing for immediate repayment, making excessive rates of profit in the process.

Despite coming close to derailment, cross-party agreement was secured after the introduction of a sunset clause requiring the law to be reassessed before being made permanent in a year's time.

UNA-UK strongly supported the Jubilee Debt Campaign's initiative to ‘End the Vulture Culture’.

## Bribery Bill adopted

After 12 years of delays – and several major bribery scandals (see page 6)

– anti-corruption laws in the UK will be modernised to meet the country's international obligations under the 1997 OECD anti-bribery convention.

The new Bribery Act introduces a comprehensive scheme of bribery offences to equip prosecutors and courts to deal effectively with corruption in the UK and abroad. Key provisions include:

- making it an offence to offer, promise or give a bribe, or to request, agree to receive or accept a bribe either in the UK or abroad;
- the creation of a discrete offence of bribery of a foreign public official in order to obtain or retain business;
- the creation of a new offence in relation to commercial organisations which fail to prevent a bribe being paid by those who perform services for or on behalf of the organisation.

Chandrashekhar Krishnan, who heads the UK arm of leading anti-corruption NGO Transparency International, said the Act “sends out a strong message to UK plc and the rest of world – the UK will not tolerate bribery. Ethical practices must be firmly embedded in all echelons of business. The era of ‘business as usual’ is over”. But campaigners warn that we are not yet ‘home and dry’ as the bribery offences in the Act will only come into effect once guidance is issued on adequate procedures for companies to follow to prevent bribery – another important item for the new government's ‘to-do’ list.

## Cluster munitions ban ratified

The Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act received Royal Assent on 25 March 2010 and entered into force with immediate ef-

fect. The Act implements in UK law the provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, enabling Britain to formally ratify the Convention.

Following ratification by Burkina Faso and Moldova, bringing the total number of ratifications to 32, the Convention is set to enter into force on 1 August 2010.

## Recruiting for the UN APPG

The recent UK general election has brought an unprecedented number of newly-elected MPs into the House of Commons – an invaluable opportunity for UNA-UK to increase engagement with British parliamentarians. UNA-UK provides the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN (UN APPG), which aims to raise awareness in Parliament of the UN, its work and relevance to Britain. A leaflet about the UN APPG has been circulated to all MPs and Peers along with an invitation to join the group. Watch this space for developments.

## UNA-UK hustings round-up

In March, UNA-UK produced a ‘Hustings Guide’ to help its members and supporters place international issues on the agenda during the UK general election campaign. (See page 31)

## New FCO Minister for the UN

Henry Bellingham MP (Con) has been announced as the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Minister with responsibility for the United Nations. His portfolio also includes Africa, global economic issues, climate change and conflict resolution. ■

# Resources



## BOOKS



### **The Plundered Planet: How to Reconcile Prosperity with Nature**

Paul Collier

Allen Lane, Hardcover, May 2010

Is it possible to continue to feed and clothe ourselves without despoiling the planet for future generations? Can the poorest nations harness the economic opportunities that natural resources provide for long-term economic growth? What kind of framework do we need to deal with these issues? These are just some of the questions addressed in the latest book by Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University and a former director at the World Bank. Paul Collier uses ground-breaking research to offer realistic and sustainable solutions that reconcile the immediate needs of the world's growing population while sustaining the planet for future generations. (See page 7)

[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)



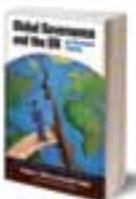
### **Power in Numbers: UNITAID, Innovative Financing, and the Quest for Massive Good**

Philippe Douste-Blazy and Daniel Altman

PublicAffairs, February 2010

This book provides an inspiring case study for anyone interested in social justice, public health, philanthropy, or fundraising. It examines UNITAID's Massive Good initiative, to collect small donations via a check-box on the world's biggest travel websites, which has enabled it to continue uninterrupted by the financial turmoil that has blighted other aid programmes.

[www.publicaffairsbooks.com](http://www.publicaffairsbooks.com)



### **Global Governance and the UN: An Unfinished Journey**

(United Nations Intellectual History Project Series)

Thomas Weiss and Ramesh Thakur

Indiana University Press, May 2010

While the existence today of institutions, practices, and initiatives – together forming 'global governance' – bring a greater measure of predictability, stability, and

order to trans-border issues, significant gaps remain between global problems and the available solutions. This book provides an intriguing analysis of the world's collective problem-solving arrangements and examines the UN's role in bridging the gaps that remain.

[www.iupress.indiana.edu](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu)



### **Foreign Aid for Development: Issues, Challenges, and the New Agenda**

George Mavrotas (ed)

Oxford University Press, February 2010

Foreign aid is one of the few topics in the development discourse with an uninterrupted yet volatile history in terms of interest and attention from academics, policymakers, and practitioners alike. Does aid work in promoting growth and reducing poverty? Will a new 'big push' approach accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals or will another opportunity be missed? Can the lessons of almost half a century of aid giving be learnt? This volume brings together leading aid experts to review the progress achieved so far, identify the challenges ahead, and discuss the emerging policy agenda in foreign aid.

[www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

## FILMS



### **Countdown to Zero**

Lucy Walker (Director)  
Lawrence Bender (Producer)

A fascinating and frightening exploration of the dangers of nuclear weapons, exposing a variety of present day threats and featuring insights from a host of international experts and world leaders who advocate global disarmament. Countdown to Zero includes interviews with Jimmy Carter, Mikhail Gorbachev, Tony Blair, and Pervez Musharraf. All yield a unified message: our only option is to eradicate every last nuclear missile.

Having premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, Countdown to Zero was screened at a high-level meeting in Washington DC in the lead-up to the President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit in April.

[www.takepart.com/countdowntozero](http://www.takepart.com/countdowntozero)



### **The End of The Line**

Rupert Murray (Director)

Narrated by Ted Danson and based on the book by Charles Clover, The End of the Line explores the devastating effect that overfishing is having on fish stocks and the health of our oceans. Species cannot survive at the rate they are being removed from the sea. This film moves beyond doomsday rhetoric to proffer steps that governments as well as consumers can take to reverse this disturbing trend before it's too late.

(see page 28)

[www.endoftheline.com](http://www.endoftheline.com)

Both these films will be screened at UN Forum 2010 – a major UNA-UK event being held on Saturday, 12 June 2010 at Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

To find out more and to register for the event, please visit [www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010](http://www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010)

## NEW UNA-UK POSTERS

UNA-UK has produced a set of seven posters which highlight key areas of our work.

The posters are available for free in A2 format, and can be requested by contacting Rich Nelmes, UNA-UK Membership Officer, on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456.

They are available online in A4 format at [www.una.org.uk/resources](http://www.una.org.uk/resources)



## LETTERS



Send your letters to:

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

All UNA-UK resources are available for free download from [www.una.org.uk/resources](http://www.una.org.uk/resources) or by contacting our Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or membership@una.org.uk

# Have you considered becoming a 'Friend of UNA-UK'?

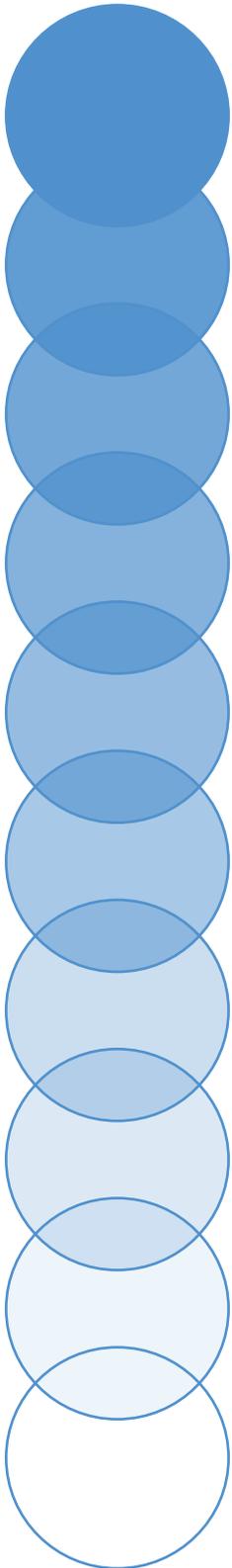


'Friend of UNA-UK' is a new membership category for those able to give the Association additional financial support. If you commit to a monthly payment of £5 (or £6 for joint members) via Direct Debit, you will receive a complimentary copy of *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, edited by Sam Daws and Tom Weiss.

If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider increasing your financial commitment to UNA-UK in this way.

If you would like to become a Friend of UNA-UK or would like more information, please contact our Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456 or membership@una.org.uk.

# TEN 10



## TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT FISH

*“Forget diamonds, forget gold: in terms of importance and worth to over a billion people worldwide, fish are infinitely more valuable.”*

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Fish and seafood products provide a major source of employment, contribute to food security and are among the most widely traded commodities worth billions of dollars annually. But we are destroying them and devastating the environment they live in.

Throughout 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, the United Nations will be working to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on earth.

### Here are ten facts to help you raise awareness of this issue:

-  Over 75% of the world's fish stocks are fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.
-  Each year, the International Union for Conservation of Nature evaluates thousands of species to ascertain the numbers threatened. In 2010, it reported that 32% of the fish it analysed were threatened – a higher percentage than for mammals, birds, reptiles or amphibians.
-  Bluefin tuna is one of the top ten most critically-endangered species. With just three years left to extinction if current fishing rates are sustained, it features on conservation lists alongside the tiger, polar bear, panda and gorilla.
-  The rate of global fish depletion has increased more than four times in the past 40 years. Commercial populations of cod, hake, haddock and flounder have fallen by up to 95%.
-  Fish and fish products have outstripped agriculture in global expansion of trade, with the global fishing fleet estimated to be 2.5 times larger than dwindling fish stocks can sustainably support.
-  Fish and seafood provide almost 20% of the world's total animal protein intake, but unless the current situation improves, stocks of all species currently fished for food are predicted to collapse by 2048.
-  Up to 58% of coral reefs are under threat, with deep-sea trawling playing a major role in their depletion. Reefs are home to about one million species, including a quarter of all marine fish species.



© Robert Gilhooly/Alamy



Oceans are home to 80% of life on earth and remove about a quarter of the CO2 emitted by human activities.



They are cleared at twice the rate of forests.



Oceans cover two-thirds of the world's surface. They in turn are covered by 46,000 pieces of plastic litter floating per square mile. In the Pacific, a vortex drawing in waste from the US and Japan has resulted in the formation of a relatively stationary floating garbage patch. Earlier this year, a similar but more dispersed patch was discovered in the North Atlantic. Both patches are much larger than the UK and can trap and poison marine life.

**\* Data from the UN Food & Agriculture Organization, which uses the following definitions:**

**Fully exploited** = fishing of a particular species is operating at or close to a level with no expected room for expansion

**Overexploited** = there is no potential for expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion or collapse

**Depleted** = catches are well below historical levels, irrespective of the amount of fishing

## Do something!

Humans rely on the biodiversity of the planet for food, fuel, medicine and other essentials. Yet the world's rich diversity of life – in the seas and on land – is being lost at a greatly accelerated rate because of human activities.

**Visit the UN's International Year of Biodiversity website to find out about:**

- The important role biodiversity plays in our lives
- Which species and habitats are under threat
- Efforts to combat biodiversity loss
- How people are marking this international year
- What action you can take

[www.cbd.int/2010](http://www.cbd.int/2010)

**Biodiversity is life.  
Biodiversity is our life.**

## UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws to take up new role at the University of Oxford



© Benedict Parsons/UNA-UK

Before becoming UNA-UK's Executive Director Sam Daws worked for three years as First Officer to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York. This photo with Sam was taken at Mr Annan's speech to UNA-UK in 2006 to mark the 60th anniversary of the first UN General Assembly, held in London in January 1946.

Sam Daws announced at UNA-UK's Annual General Meeting on 6 March 2010 that he would soon be moving on from UNA-UK after nearly six years as Executive Director.

Sam is leaving UNA-UK to become Senior Research Associate at the Centre for International Studies in the University of Oxford, directing a project on UN governance and reform. He intends, in due course, to establish a broader research institute on the United Nations, with a particular focus on giving a voice to UN practitioners and scholars from the developing world.

By the time that this issue of *New World* is published the Board of Directors hopes to be in a position to announce the result of the recruitment process for Sam's successor. Check [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk) for the announcement.

At the AGM, Sam gave his warm thanks to UNA-UK's Chair Lord Hannay, and to the staff of the Association, for their remarkable service.

He also paid tribute to UNA-UK's members and supporters:

*"You play an indispensable role, in all four nations of the UK, in explaining why a strong, credible and effective United Nations matters to the people and government of this country. It has been a real privilege to have been given the opportunity to serve as UNA-UK's Executive Director, and I am enormously grateful for your personal support and encouragement, and for all that you continue to give to UNA-UK."*

At the AGM Lord Hannay praised Sam's leadership as Executive Director. He said that UNA-UK owed a huge debt to Sam for the skill and determination with which he rescued it from a serious financial crisis. Lord Hannay expressed the Association's heartfelt thanks to him and the team that has worked with him.



© Marcus Dawes/UNA-UK

Sam Daws with Lord Hannay and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at a UNA-UK event at the Royal Geographical Society in London on 13 June 2008.

Lord Hannay later told New World:

*“All of us at UNA-UK are having to come to terms with the prospect of life without Sam Daws, following his announcement at the AGM on 6 March that he would be taking up an academic position in September. Sam’s contribution to UNA-UK over the last six years has been beyond praise.*

*The combination of his encyclopaedic knowledge of the UN with a work ethic that makes most of the rest of us feel quite exhausted makes him an extraordinarily hard act to follow. During the last few years, under Sam’s inspiring leadership, our tiny professional staff has gone from strength to strength. We are all immensely grateful for the outstanding contribution he has made.”*

## Hustings round-up

The 2010 UK General Election brought with it a great deal of anticipation and debate. In March, UNA-UK produced a ‘hustings guide’ to help and encourage our members to hold local hustings events to quiz parliamentary candidates on key international issues, such as Britain’s relationship with the UN, nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament, climate change and the Millennium Development Goals.

Several UNA branches hosted or took part in hustings events. And two of them sent us brief summaries of the meetings:

### UNA Purley with Sutton

On 16 April, UNA Purley with Sutton branch joined forces with Sutton4Peace and several other local organisations to hold a hustings meeting in the Quaker Meeting House in Sutton. Candidates present were: Tom Brake (LD), Shafi Khan (Lab), Philippa Stroud (Con) and Peter Hickson (Green). The meeting attracted an audience of over 60 people who asked a series of questions on foreign and defence policy. Local UNA members Jas Weir, Tina Coombes and Dev Lutchman asked about

the treatment of immigrants, the future relationship of the UK and the UN and the position of Muslims in British society. (Based on a report by Jas Weir)

### UNA Blackheath & Greenwich

On 26 April, members of UNA Blackheath & Greenwich participated in a major parliamentary hustings event organised by Friends of Blackheath Halls. The event attracted an audience of 500 people, and candidates from the three main parties shared the platform with two independent commentators. The candidates were: Pete Patterson (LD), David Gold (Con) and Nick Raynsford (Lab). Sixty questions were submitted to the Chair but most focussed on domestic issues such as the economy, health and education. The only question of international significance raised was on the issue of maintaining an independent nuclear deterrent. Questions submitted by UNA branch members on climate change and overseas aid were sadly not selected. UNA branch members felt the range of policy issues covered at the meeting was disappointing and that not enough attention was given to international issues. (Based on a report by Neville Grant)

## UNA-UK Conference 2011

We are delighted to announce that the next UNA-UK policy-making conference will take place on 17-19 June 2011 in Cardiff. Through UNA Wales we have secured the Temple of Peace as the primary venue for the conference and are currently exploring options for the keynote speech.

Conference 2011 is still some time away – and we have our inaugural UN Forum event to look forward to this year – 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

### 17-19 June 2011

Conference 2011, Cardiff

## Policy-making guidance note

A guidance note on how members can have input on policy issues between conferences will be available online soon.

Hard copies will be posted to branches, regions and nations in July 2010, and can be requested from 5 July 2010 by contacting Rich Nelmes, UNA-UK Membership Officer, on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456

## Branch bulletin

As part of our membership recruitment drive, UNA-UK launched an outreach grant scheme to help branches, regions and nations hold events and activities around the UK.

In November 2009 we wrote to all branches, regions and nations, inviting them to apply for grants of up to £500 for events and activities taking place before 31 March 2010. In order to be eligible for support, events and activities had to meet the following criteria:

1. helping to further UNA-UK's goal of communicating why the UN and its work matter to the general public; and
2. providing an opportunity to increase the member and supporter base of UNA-UK.

Three branches applied for grants – you can read more about their exciting initiatives below.

The scheme was limited to events and activities taking place before 31 March 2010. We hope – funding permitting – to be able to run another such scheme in the future, and will keep you posted.

**BRANCH:** UNA Exeter & District branch  
**INITIATIVE:** [Beyond Copenhagen: The Outcome and What Next? Conference on climate change](#)

About 70 people attended this UNA Exeter & District event on 20 February at Jury's Inn, Exeter. Opening the event, Susan Matthew, one of the branch's Vice Presidents, said that the UN was the only global organisation that could bring together 192 countries to talk about climate change, but also quoted Achim Steiner (Executive Director, UN Environment Programme): "trying to take so many countries through the same door towards a more co-operative global warming policy has proved challenging".

The first speaker, Dr Jeff Ridley, a scientist from the Met Office, cautioned against too much emphasis on grand plans and technological solutions rather than the necessary lifestyle changes. He was followed by Dr Duncan Russel (Exeter University Politics Department), who said that domestic difficulties and eco-



From left to right: Dr Jeff Ridley, Susan Matthew, Dr Stuart Barr, (Exeter University Geography Department) and Dr Duncan Russel

nomie worries had prevented a global deal, but pointed to the positive rise of local initiatives. The last speaker, Dr Stewart Barr, (Exeter University Geography Department), also encouraged community-led participation for sustainable living, but warned that large-scale behavioural change would be difficult to achieve. Rather than launching big national propaganda campaigns, he advised policy-makers to fund local projects, which are sprouting up around the country.

During the discussion, several participants spoke about their experiences with such local projects: from targets to reduce carbon footprints to food projects. Branch chair Noel Harrower summed up one of the main conclusions of the discussion: "The poorest countries are paying the price today," he said, "but it is our own grandchildren who will pay it later, if we do not

heed the warnings". (Based on a report by Noel Harrower, Branch Chair)

**BRANCH:** UNA Lymington branch  
**INITIATIVE:** [Brockenhurst College UN essay competition](#)

UNA Lymington branch joined forces with Brockenhurst College to run an essay competition to encourage students to research and understand the role of the UN, and support its work in human rights, conflict resolution, social development and environmental protection. The competition was the brainchild of Angeline Hampton, one of the branch's members. Branch chair Jean Vernon-Jackson MBE DL, said "this is a wonderful example of how we can engage the younger generation in global issues. The winning students showed that they understood why the UN evolved and why UNA members continue



Andrew Sime and Jake Durham receiving their prize cheques

to support it. Many congratulations to Andrew Sime and Jake Durham for their outstanding achievement!”

**From Andrew's essay:**

**‘Should the United Nations continue? YES it should. If it was not for UN intervention then many lives would have been lost’**

**Jake's essay:**

**‘One thing the human race has proven time and again, is that it is unpredictable. Nothing can be said for certain except for this; if the UN is there to deal with it, it will be dealt with’**

The two students were awarded their prizes – £100 and £50 respectively – by Jean Vernon-Jackson and Angeline Hampton. Di Roberts, Principal of

Brockenhurst College, said, ‘This is a great example of a local organisation and our students coming together for the benefit of all. Our thanks to Jean and her team for providing us with this opportunity to engage and learn about their great work.’ (Based on a report by Brockenhurst College and Patricia de Mowbray, Hon. Branch Secretary)

**REGION:** UNA Central Region

**INITIATIVE:** Climate change conference on 20 March at the Birmingham Midland Institute

The region welcomed two expert speakers to this event, which tackled the topic of climate change from two very different angles. Chris Philpott, who has been researching and writing a book on ‘green spirituality’ for over ten years, gave a talk about the physical, political and spiritual causes of climate change. He also described his experience of going to the Copenhagen climate conference in December 2009 to join the protests. While he was disappointed with the outcome, Chris reported how much the

alternative NGO event ‘Klimaforum’ had inspired him.

Chris Crean (Friends of the Earth) then gave his reaction to the Copenhagen conference and spoke about the prospects for a legally-binding climate agreement being agreed in 2010. He also talked about a recent article by former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, on ‘climate justice’.

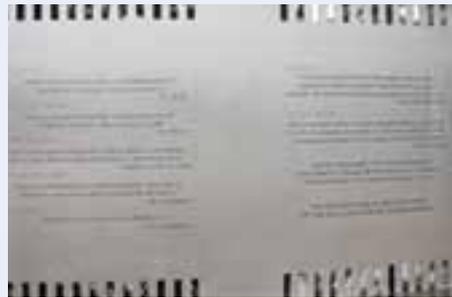
The presentations were followed by a lively debate and Q&A session on what we can all do to alleviate the effects of climate change. Chris Crean was very inspiring in listing examples of climate projects in the Midlands, and Chris Philpott took questions about the ethical climate issues that are often ignored by the media. All in all, UNA members had an informative and enjoyable time in exploring the issues of climate change and it was hoped that the December 2010 climate conference in Mexico would prove more fruitful than Copenhagen. (Based on a report by Gian Clare, Regional Chair)

## UNA in the community

UNA Shropshire branch used a Community Celebration to mark the opening of a Sports and Leisure Centre in Church Stretton to consider what being ‘united’ really means. Writing in Stretton Focus magazine, the branch’s project leader Barrie Oxtoby said “The UN is an international network of almost 200 nations and being united locally is a first step in learning how a community or nation can be united”. The branch canvassed the views of local citizens in order to try to relate local branch activities to what the UN tries to achieve internationally.

UNA Twickenham & Richmond branch together with the local Amnesty International group, raised nearly £10,000 for a public art installation to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The official launch was held on 10 May: a welcome reception in the Mayor's Parlour was followed by the unveiling of the installation outside the Civic Centre by the Mayor of Richmond Cllr Celia Hodges. Students from schools that had participated in the fundraising (Christ's School and Greycourt School) were present, alongside Twickenham Day Centre residents and the artist, Samantha Haynes.

Two great ways of raising the profile of the branch, UNA-UK and the UN in the community!



Public art commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights created by artist Samantha Haynes and commissioned by UNA Twickenham & Richmond branch and the local Amnesty group.

# Listings



## 27 MAY

### UNA MERTON

The branch will hold a discussion evening entitled 'From Copenhagen to Bonn' reviewing the climate change negotiating positions of the major national groups, and considering how a fair and legally binding agreement on climate change could be achieved this year.

This event will take place from 7.30pm to 9pm at Wilberforce House, 119 Worple Road, London SW20 8ET.

Contact: Alison Williams on 020 8944 0574 or [alisonwilliams36@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:alisonwilliams36@tiscali.co.uk)

## 30 MAY

### UNA SOUTHAMPTON

The branch will hold a wreath-laying ceremony in memory of UN peacekeepers, attended by the Mayor of Southampton. This event will take place from 12pm to 12.15pm at Southampton Cenotaph, Watts Park, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LP.

Contact: Margaret Matthews on 023 8055 7334 or [memat56@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:memat56@tiscali.co.uk)

## 31 MAY

### UNA BEXHILL & HASTINGS

The branch will host an open organic fruit and vegetable garden and coffee morning to raise funds for the local branch, and awareness of UNA-UK and sustainability issues. This event will take place from 10am to 12pm at 13 Thornbank Crescent, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 3ND.

Contact: Allan Bula on 01424 210410

## 8 JUNE

### UNA WESTMINSTER

The branch will hold a meeting entitled 'The UN – 1942-1945: winning the war and preparing for the peace'. The meeting will be addressed by Dr Dan Plesch,

Academic Director at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS, using archive material showing the wartime leaders as men of extraordinary vision and social concern.

Location and time to be confirmed. For more information see [www.unawestminster.org.uk](http://www.unawestminster.org.uk)

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

## 17 JUNE

### UNA LEWISHAM

The branch will host a talk entitled 'A nuclear free world and how to achieve it', chaired by the mayor of Lewisham with guest speaker Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Chair of UNA-UK).

This event will take place from 7.30pm at Lewisham Town

Hall, Civic Suite, Catford Road, London SE6 4RU.

Contact: Gurbakhsh Garcha on 020 8699 2050, 07952 983254 (mobile) or [bwana\\_singha@yahoo.com](mailto:bwana_singha@yahoo.com)

## 19 JUNE

### UNA HARPENDEN

The branch will hold a public meeting with Paul Ingram, Executive Director of the British American Security Information Council, who will talk about prospects for global nuclear disarmament. This event will take place from 11am to 12.30pm at St Nicholas's Church Hall, Harpenden AL5 2TP.

Contact: Trevor Evans on 01582 713895 or [jandt.evans@ntlworld.com](mailto:jandt.evans@ntlworld.com)

## 20-22 AUGUST

### UNA SOUTHERN COUNTIES

The region will hold its annual conference from 6pm on 20 August to 3.30pm on 22 August at Chichester University, Bishop Otter Campus, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 6PE. The theme of the conference will be 'Making a reality of the UN's aims', with speakers David Wardrop (Chair, UNA Westminster branch), Jan Vandemoortele (retired UN representative and humanitarian coordinator) and John Madley (food and agriculture expert). Further details will be available shortly.

Contact: Patricia de Mowbray on 01590 679 030 or [patricia@radioactive.org.uk](mailto:patricia@radioactive.org.uk)

**IRC-UK ANNUAL LECTURE 2010**  
**SOLDIERS ON THE SCHOOL RUN:**  
**SENSIBLE STRATEGY OR DISASTROUS COMPROMISE?**  
THE RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ARMIES DELIVERING AID

**14 June 2010**  
7PM  
Royal Geographical Society, London

**Dr Ashraf Ghani**  
Chairman of the Institute for State Effectiveness and former Afghanistan presidential candidate

**Major-General (ret'd) Tim Cross**  
Former British Army Commander in the Balkans and Iraq

**Mike Young**  
IRC Regional Director, Asia and Caucasus

**Sir Jeremy Greenstock** (invited)  
Director of the Ditchley Foundation and former UK Special Representative to Iraq

**IRC.org.uk**  
LECTURE  
020 7662 0400

**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE SERVICES**

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](mailto: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.

# UN FORUM 2010

Saturday, 12 June 2010  
9am - 6.30pm  
Friends House  
Euston Road, London  
NW1 2BJ

An  
unmissable  
event for anyone  
interested in  
international  
affairs

Featuring Helen Clark:  
"Achieving the MDGs means  
quite simply a better life for  
billions of people."

and Hans Blix:  
"The chances are now good that  
we shall move toward a revival  
of nuclear disarmament. But it  
won't come automatically."

and Mary Robinson:  
"Climate change has  
already begun to affect the  
fulfillment of human rights."

This event is free but  
you must register in  
advance



Countdown  
to 2010/11



Speakers at UNYSA's Annual Conference pictured with the 09/10 youth council (from top left: Luke Harman, Sophie Tholstrop and Ying Staton (DFID), Caroline Hurford (WFP), Alix Walton, Chris Day, Morris Morah, Hao Chen and Nick Boucher) © Giles Hastie/UNA-UK

# UNYSA

United Nations Youth and Student Association



This is the last issue of *New World* in which we, the current UNYSA Youth Council, will be reporting to you. When we took up the mantle last year, our overriding aim was to engage more young people in the work of the UN. In addition to our two main campaigns – Stop the Spread (of nuclear weapons) and Seal the Deal (on climate change) – we sought to foster stronger and more active university and school groups, increase our education initiatives and fundraise for UNA-UK and UN activities.

While we haven't (yet!) seen the desired outcomes of our campaigns – a world without nuclear weapons and an effective new global climate deal – this year has brought with it a number of UNYSA successes. Our Stop the Spread campaign won international recognition at the World Federation of UN Associations. We have started to take UNA-UK's education resource 'The UN Matters' to schools. With the help of UNA-UK, nine UNYSA branches received funding for Model UN activities (see page 39). UNYSA branches have fundraised for Haiti (Kingston raised £3,500) and the World Food Programme (LSE collected £800). And our Annual Conference in Oxford was, quite simply, brilliant!

At the Annual Conference, a new team was elected to lead UNYSA during the 2010/11 academic year. With diverse backgrounds and experience – school, undergraduate, postgraduate, recent graduate and mature students – they reflect the breadth of UNYSA's UK-wide membership.

The new Youth Council has already begun planning for the coming year: the next generation of Stop the Spread to complement our exciting partnership with Global Zero youth (see page 23) and a renewed push to support the UN Millennium Development Goals (see page 16)

Thank you for your support, enthusiasm and commitment over the past year. We will remain involved with UNYSA as members of UNA-UK, and look forward to reading about UNYSA's achievements in *New World*.

#### **The 2009-10 Youth Council:**

Nick Boucher, Pranav Sawhney, Hao Chen, Chris Day, Luke Harman, Sagal Ali, Morris Marah and Alix Walton

p.s. Hope to see you all at UNA-UK's UN Forum event on 12 June 2010 (see page 35). In addition to the amazing speaker line-up, there will be a workshop on UN careers run by the UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Places are filling up fast so register now to secure your place [www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010](http://www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010)

## UNYSA fighting poverty

UNYSA members debated poverty, hunger and international development at its 2010 Annual Conference in Oxford on 27 March. Entitled 'Fighting poverty: helping the UN to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)', the event aimed to stimulate ideas on how to make the MDGs a reality and to inspire young people to take action on these issues.

Students from all over the UK were joined by members of UNA-UK and its Young Professionals Network – making this year's UNYSA annual conference (only the third to be held independently of UNA-UK's own conference) the best-attended to date.

The keynote speech was delivered by Paul Collier, award-winning author of 'The Bottom Billion' and Director of Oxford University's Centre for the Study of African Economies. Collier outlined the potential of natural resources such as oil and mineral wealth to transform the poorest countries for the better and called for proper stewardship of these resources, avoiding both unchecked 'plundering of the planet' on the one hand and environmental romanticism on the other. (See page 7)

His speech was followed by a presentation from Caroline Hurford of the World Food Programme on food security, and the challenges facing the WFP – the largest humanitarian agency in the world – on the ground. Participants then heard from Sophie Tholstrup and Ying Staton from the UK Department of International Development, who spoke about what the UK is doing to support the MDGs.

The new UNYSA Youth Council, led by third-year LSE student Isabella Hayward, was elected at the conference.

Isabella said "being entrusted with the role of UNYSA President is extremely exciting. For the past year, I have been involved in running the local UNYSA branch at the LSE, and thus have an insight into the potential of UNYSA as a network and how it can support its branches across the UK. This year, we will continue the work begun last year on campaigning, education and outreach, but will also hopefully organise more events and develop a coherent support system for local branches".

Those of you who couldn't make it (and participants who want to re-live the experience!) can visit [www.una.org.uk/youth](http://www.una.org.uk/youth) to read more about the day and access speaker presentations, photos and vox pops from the event.



Paul Collier delivers his keynote address. © Giles Hastie/UNA-UK



Ella Mi (Model UN & Education, King's School), Rico Graf von Liss (Model UN & Education, Cardiff), Lawrence Kettle (Vice-President, Aberystwyth), Isabella Hayward (President, LSE), Shahla Khan (Southern Region Chair, Cardiff), Adivi Jaganathan (Campaigns, UCL), Bobby Kensah (Campaigns, KCL graduate), Emma Mi (Outreach, King's School) © Giles Hastie/UNA-UK



Matthew Harries, a Global Zero UK youth representative canvasses views at the conference. © Giles Hastie/UNA-UK

# UNA-UK's youth wing debates nuclear issues at the FCO

On 16 March, UNA-UK's youth wing, UNYSA, organised a joint event with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. The event, which was held in the prestigious Locarno Rooms of the FCO, considered nuclear challenges in the 21st century.

About 30 students from across the country, selected on the basis of their prior involvement and interest in nuclear policy issues and campaigning, took part. They first heard from an expert panel consisting of FCO Minister Ivan Lewis, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay of Chiswick and Paul Ingram, Executive Director of BASIC, before having an interactive debate with the speakers in small groups, each concentrating on different aspects of the topic: nuclear non-proliferation, multilateral disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Entitled 'Stopping the spread: can we do it?', the event built on UNYSA's STOP THE SPREAD campaign, which aims to mobilise young people – in the UK and internationally – to campaign for action on nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament.

*A video of the day, featuring interviews with UNYSA members, photos and more are available on the FCO website: [www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/news/21480373/21811454/nuclear-unysa-160310](http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/news/21480373/21811454/nuclear-unysa-160310)*



UNYSA members listen to the panel (from left to right): Paul Ingram, Executive Director of BASIC; Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair of UNA-UK; then-FCO Minister Ivan Lewis; and Judith Gough, deputy head of the FCO's Security Policy Group. © Mark Makela/UNA-UK



Ivan Lewis is interviewed at the event. © Mark Makela/UNA-UK



UNYSA members Khotso Marumo and Morris Marah during the breakout session. © Mark Makela/UNA-UK

## Model United Nations

In addition to providing resources and helping with speakers, UNA-UK was pleased this year to be able to support UNYSA branches with funding for Model UN activities. Below are short reports of four of the events:

### Aberdeen triumphs at SCOTMUN

Simon Gordon, a second year International Relations and Anthropology student at Aberdeen University, was named best delegate at this year's Scottish Model UN (SCOTMUN). Both SCOTMUN and Aberdeen UNYSA, which sent its first-ever official delegation to the event, received support from UNA-UK.

SCOTMUN 2010 was hosted by the by the universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews. Four other members of the Aberdeen team also received awards: Theis Ryttoft Nielsen, Cristina Pecheanu, Benedikt Poetz and Anna-Sofia Olesen Yurtaslan. Cristina Pecheanu, MUN President, UNYSA Aberdeen, said: "the success has put Aberdeen on the MUN map and we hope that it will inspire others to join and we can continue to grow and improve." (Based on a report by Cristina Pecheanu)

### Birmingham UNYSA: European Model Arab League

EuroMAL 2010 was a great success. Ghayth Armanazi, former ambassador of the League of Arab States to London, gave the opening address, speaking about the formation of the League, its successes and failures, and hopes for the future. Next day's negotiations (which started a little late as a result of the brilliant socials the evening before!) were interspersed by two 'crisis' scenarios: the first was Iranian support of Yemeni rebels and the second, an attack on a Sudanese oil field with Lebanese connections. These scenarios escalated the next day, with delegates trying to deal with the crises while discuss-



Cristina Pecheanu and the Aberdeen UNYSA team at SCOTMUN. © Cristina Pecheanu

ing a pan-Arab train network. In the end, five resolutions were passed (despite a mythical war breaking out in the region!). (Based on a report by Carl Bjorvang)

### WestMUNster simulates the IAEA

The 3rd Annual WestMUNster conference saw students from six universities simulate the International Atomic Energy Agency, with a special debate on energy security.

Delegates discussed whether nuclear energy or renewables and biomass were the way forward, and passed resolutions on reducing reliance on fossil fuels and global funding for non-nuclear energy sources.



WestMUNster. © Nasreen Shaikh/UNA-UK

The Best Delegate Award went to Dimitrios Kiouis from Kingston University who represented Cyprus and did an excellent job in mediating between the two dominant blocks that formed.

The relatively small group made the event a good introduction into the world of Model UN. First time MUN-er Jenny Madalura, a student at the University of Westminster, said it "was a great way to meet people" and that she would definitely participate in more conferences. (Based on a report by Eliza Khor)

### London International Model UN

This year's LIMUN, which also received UNA-UK support, secured great speakers – from Luis Moreno Ocampo (Chief Prosecutor, International Criminal Court) in the opening ceremony to Susan Hyland, head of the UK Foreign Office human rights and democracy group, in the Human Rights Council session. LIMUN is one of the biggest Model UN simulations in Europe – find out more: [www.limun.org.uk](http://www.limun.org.uk)

## Towards an Alliance of Civilizations: Bridging Cultures to Achieve Peace and Development

The second annual Global Model UN, organised by the UN Department of Public Information and the World Federation of UN Associations

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
14 - 18 August 2010



18-24 year-olds enrolled in a college or university can apply. Applications close on 21 June 2010.

[www.un.org/gmun](http://www.un.org/gmun)

WE CAN END POVERTY.EU

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY  
ENTER UN ADS AGAINST POVERTY COMPETITION



END POVERTY  
2015

Ahead of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) review summit in September, the UN Regional Information Centre in Brussels has launched a European ad competition open to all.

The ad should create awareness of the MDGs and mobilise civil society to put pressure on politicians to deliver on the promises they made when they signed up to the MDGs in 2000.

The three top ads will be chosen by a jury of renowned experts, with a first prize of 5000 Euros.

Visit [www.unric.org](http://www.unric.org) for more information



## YPN and the Global Compact



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK  
OF UNA-UK

### Working for good: YPN workshop at UN Forum 2010

Since the Network's inception, UNA-UK's young professionals have led the Association's work on engaging business in the work and principles of the UN – through seminars, campaigns and participation in the UK Network of the UN Global Compact.

On 12 June, at UNA-UK's major UN Forum event, the two networks – YPN and the UK Global Compact – are teaming up to provide you with a practical workshop on making your business better. Participants will gain an overview of the Compact, share best practice and get tips on how to engage the organisations they work for.

The event will also be the UK launch of a new Global Compact resource on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UN Forum is free and open to all, but you must register in advance and pre-book your workshop choices.

All the workshops – one of which is on careers at the UN – have limited space. Visit [www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010](http://www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010) to secure your place.

### What's the deal with YPN and the Global Compact?

*Susannah Anastasi, your representative, reports*

On 1 March 2010, I attended the UK Network of the UN Global Compact's quarterly meeting on behalf of UNA-UK. UNA-UK has held the role of observer to the Network since 2007.

The UK Network is a focal point for UK-based signatories of this voluntary corporate citizenship initiative, and aims to further the Global Compact's ten principles that cover human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. It regularly convenes meetings to share best practice on how to integrate these principles into business strategy and practice, and also has working groups that are active in areas such as reporting, small and medium-sized enterprises, and communications.

The theme for the meeting on 1 March was 'Integrating the Global Compact Labour Principles in Supply Chains'. Presenters such as Mark Barnett (The Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution Ltd), Tony Campos (FTSE Group), and Janet Williamson (Trades Union Congress) shared their experience of managing international supply chains and dealing with issues such as labour

rights, and a lively debate ensued.

The meeting also saw the appointment of the new UK Network Chairman, Andrew Cave, Head of Corporate Sustainability for the RBS Group. He takes over from Michael Spenley, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Shop Direct Group (Littlewoods) who has been involved with the UK Network since it was established. For more information, visit [www.una.org.uk/ypn](http://www.una.org.uk/ypn) and [www.ungc-uk.net](http://www.ungc-uk.net)

### Global Young Professionals gains momentum

*By Tim Jarman (YPN member and GYP co-founder)*

After attending the 39th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) in August 2009, I reported on the fledgling Global Young Professionals (GYP) initiative. GYP existed then as an informal network of young professionals programmes – a format that had worked well in the past. However, we realised that in order to achieve the aims we set out for GYP, such as the worldwide promotion of UNA young professionals programmes and supporting UNAs around the world in setting them up, we needed to become an official programme of WFUNA.

I am very pleased to be able to report now that at a recent meeting of the WFUNA Executive Committee in New York, it was agreed that GYP would become a programme of WFUNA. This means GYP will now report directly to the WFUNA Secretary-General, Bonian Golmohammadi, with whom I will be working closely to further build on the momentum we gained last year.

As this 'new era' for GYP takes shape, more details will be released via the YPN website and right here in New World. This is a very exciting time for YPN, as we take a lead in shaping the global approach to young professionals programmes within WFUNA's worldwide family of UNAs.

[www.globalyoungprofessionals.org](http://www.globalyoungprofessionals.org)



## THE YPN INTERVIEW:

**NAME:** Heather Blake

**PLACE OF WORK:** UK  
Representative for Reporters  
without Borders (Reporters sans  
Frontières – RSF) London

**YPN MEMBER SINCE:** 2009



### What do you do at RSF and what motivated you to work there?

Press freedom and freedom of expression have always been two fundamental human rights at the heart of my belief system, both professionally and personally. I am a journalist with a deep interest in human rights and have written about this subject in both my fiction and non-fiction work.

I joined RSF in June 2009 as I wanted to be involved with an NGO that fused together these two passions. The organisation was looking for someone to open an office in London, and I guess it was a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

### Tell us more about what you do in the UK and how we can support your work.

For RSF, having an office in London is vital – London is the capital of global media and human rights NGOs, and in many ways the British media leads by example in terms of a free and responsible press; though nothing is perfect of course.

Our work in the UK has three focus points:

- First, supporting the UK media at home and abroad against censorship, libel laws and injunctions. The case of Suzanne Breen in Northern Ireland, who was threatened with jail for protecting her sources, is a recent example. We also support British journalists working abroad whose work and human rights are under threat.
- Second, research. One of our main projects will be the RSF annual Index on Press Freedom throughout the world, which is published online in the autumn.
- Third, supporting legislation that enhances, and speaking out against laws that hinder, a free and responsible press through lobbying, articles, events and press conferences. We recently partnered with English Pen and Index on Censorship in support of the UK libel law reform campaign.

### Why do you believe that press freedom is so important?

Press freedom is a basic fundamental human right. It is the honest and uncensored voice of a nation, the ultimate freedom in a democracy. Even though we may not always like or agree with what is being said, even though certain segments of the press should act more responsibly – despite these imperfections which accompany a democratic state, there is perfection in allowing freedom of that which has the power to instigate great thought and change.

### A record number of journalists were killed in 2009 – what do you think is behind this trend?

It is absolutely unacceptable when a journalist (or indeed anyone) is detained, violated or killed simply for publishing an article, and expressing their opinion.

I am not an expert on analysing trends but my own professional opinion is that this increase could have something to do with the expanding power of the internet. As the 2008 US presidential election demonstrated, the internet is an influential tool for political campaigns. Anyone with access to the internet had the freedom to comment, twitter, and have ‘their say’. The UK experienced this during the 2010 General Election. Such developments may well have inspired journalists – professional and freelance – to try and instigate change in countries where the human right of press freedom is not respected.

Changes experienced in emerging economies, particularly those with oppressive regimes or that are new to democracy, could also be a factor. As these countries open their markets, there will also be a push to open up other areas of professional pursuit, such as the media. For journalists, there is nothing more exciting than being at the forefront of pivotal political, social and economic changes. Old habits die hard, however, and repressive regimes will fight against such change.

### One major RSF campaign this year is combating cyber censorship – why did RSF choose to highlight this issue?

The internet has no boundaries. It is worldwide and can be utilised anywhere at anytime. It is vital that responsible laws need to be put in place to protect the vulnerable: like children. But some proposed legislation, like the internet bill in the UK, goes beyond responsibility and does not take into account the need to protect the law-abiding internet user from copyright owners and corporations who may abuse the new laws. The everyday household appliance, the computer, has become the gateway to the information global highway (when used responsibly); and there is a serious threat to it becoming overregulated and no longer a fun, educational tool.

### What does the future hold for press freedom?

Press freedom is a human right and also a responsibility. The countries that have the privilege of debate, free press and freedom of expression need to continue to set a precedent and maintain this freedom.

The UK is one of these countries – here, a strong, free and responsible press is tradition. I have been to many countries, and have yet to experience the level of interest in the news found in the UK. I am always struck by the diversity and number of people who read newspapers on the tube or bus and the abundance of free papers in London. The BBC and news radio culture is unique; nothing else quite like it exists anywhere else. We are a nation of newsreaders and listeners!

Press freedom will always have its challenges, some countries more than others; but I believe that there is enough international interest and awareness to ensure that press freedom is a cause that will always be fought for.

### What advice would you give to readers interested in campaigning for press freedom?

For all those interested: continue to be interested, continue to let your voice be heard. Without a strong, responsible press, and without those who wish to fight to maintain the human right of press freedom, the world would be a rather dull and very scary place.

Only a free press  
can hurt them  
Support our fight

“Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But around the world, there are governments and those wielding power who find many ways to obstruct it ...

All governments have a duty to protect those who work in the media. This protection must include investigating and prosecuting those who commit crimes against journalists.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
World Press Freedom Day 2010

**THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS:**

**10** journalists have been killed

**65** journalists have been jailed

**118** citizen journalists writing for online forums have been imprisoned

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