

NEW WORLD

MIGRATION

Helen Clark, head of the
UN Development Programme and
former Prime Minister of New Zealand
on why the migration debate
should be more positive

SPECIAL FEATURE

Haiti must not be forgotten



Trading out
of poverty

page 8



Beyond
Copenhagen

page 12



Jan Egeland:
Haiti lessons

page 9



UNA-UK

PLUS Curbing the arms trade **page 10** Sri Lanka and Gaza **page 11**
Britain's role in moving 'towards zero' **page 24** Celebrating UN Day **page 32**
LSE: feed the billion **page 39** YPN: Networking for good **page 41**

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Letter from the Editor

While the earthquake that devastated Haiti in January 2010 (page 19) was an act of nature, the country's underlying state of poverty has largely man-made causes. Slavery, occupation and crippling historical debt, coupled with high levels of corruption and political turmoil, have made Haiti one of the world's least developed countries. On page 9, former UN relief coordinator Jan Egeland asks why we 'continue to administer expensive band-aids'. Throughout this issue, we call for action that will help Haiti's long-term development, like debt cancellation (page 43) and preferential access for low-income countries to our markets (page 8), alongside emergency help (page 22).

This issue also seeks to challenge perceptions. Helen Clark argues that migration can be positive, even during a recession (page 16); we analyse how big a fiasco the Copenhagen climate conference was (page 12); and, as part of our Towards Zero campaign, we look at what role Britain, the smallest recognised nuclear state, can play in global disarmament (page 24).

How the UN itself is perceived will be shaped by its efforts in all these areas. Have your say on how the UN could work better at two major UNA-UK events – UN Forum 2010 (back cover) and our youth wing's Annual Conference (page 38).

Natalie Samarasinghe, Editor

From the archive – 6 years ago

"Migration is one of the tools we have to help put more of the world's poor on the right side of – and ultimately to eliminate – the vast divides that exist today between rich and poor and between fettered and free."

UN Secretary-General, 21 November 2003, Columbia University lecture

Migration is not a new phenomenon. People have moved since history began, to escape war, persecution, famine or natural disasters or simply in search of adventure and a better life elsewhere.

The significant flow of migrants (through legal or illegal channels), from developing countries to more developed regions in the last decade can be attributed to a set of push and pull factors, including demographics and differences in living conditions. Migrants provide a source of cheap labour in receiving countries, taking up the low and semi-skilled jobs that locals shun. They are viewed as a potential answer to the vacuum in the working population in Europe left by an ageing population. Their remittances constitute a significant portion of their home areas' GDP. Yet migrants are subject to restrictive social and employment legislation and suffer exploitation by traffickers. They are categorised as "outsiders" and "aliens". Media portray them in a less-than favourable light.

In the UK, the government has recognised the presence of and need for migrant workers but sees no need to ratify the *1990 UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*, insisting that migrant rights are provided for in existing UK legislation.

From *New World*, Jan-Mar 2004

To read the full article, visit www.una.org.uk/newworld

Contents

DIRECTORY	4
IN BRIEF	5
OPINION	
Fighting impunity for the most heinous crimes	7
Anna Macdonald	
Trading out of poverty	8
Peter Lilley, Michael Hastings, Clare Short, John Battle, Menzies Campbell	
The lessons from Haiti	9
Jan Egeland	
IN FOCUS	
Curbing the arms trade	10
Tackling corruption	10
Sri Lanka and Gaza	11
BRIEFING	
Beyond Copenhagen	12
Natalie Samarasinghe and Helen Franzen	
Copenhagen impressions	14
UNYSA's Chris Day blogs	
ESSAY	
Migration as a tool for development	16
Helen Clark	
FEATURE	
Haiti needs long-term support	19
DO SOMETHING	
Help Haiti	22
TOWARDS ZERO	24
WESTMINSTER WIRE	28
Georgina Banks	
RESOURCES	30
UNA-UK	
Celebrating the founding of the UN	32
Branch bulletin	34
Listings	35
UNYSA	
Checklist for 2010	37
UNYSA Annual Conference	38
LSE: feed the billion	39
YPN	
Networking for good	41
business.un.org	41
Interview: Andrew Collinson	42
DROP HAITI'S DEBT	43



Fighting impunity

How to strengthen genocide laws

p.7



UNYSA in Copenhagen

Youth member Chris Day blogs

p.14



business.un.org

Matching UN needs to funding

p.41



Drop Haiti's debt

UNA-UK supports the Jubilee Debt Campaign

p.43

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Tim Kellow left UNA-UK employment in December 2009 after three and a half years with the Association. Tim is currently in Sierra Leone working as a consultant to the NGO International Alert. We wish him every success in his future career.

Tim's replacement is currently under recruitment.

From the Executive Director

2010 will be an important year for the UN and UNA-UK. Galvanising political will on issues such as climate change, nuclear non-proliferation, and realising the Millennium Development Goals, is a crucial challenge for the international community.

This year will also see a general election in the UK. Whichever party wins, the government will face significant financial challenges. We must ensure that the work of the United Nations, which protects many of the world's most vulnerable citizens, does not fall prey to national budget cuts.

On 12 June 2010, shortly after the election, UNA-UK will hold its inaugural one-day UN Forum. We will revert to our traditional UNA-UK policy-making conference next year. The UN Forum will be held at Friends House in Euston, London, which has capacity for 1,000 participants. It will be free of charge and open to all. High-level speakers and workshop facilitators have been invited – Dr Hans Blix replied immediately accepting the invitation, and BBC presenter (and UNA-UK Vice President) Zeinab Badawi has agreed to chair an expert panel on ways to strengthen the UN.

UN Forum 2010 is set to be an unmissable event. Almost 200 people have already registered. Exact timings and a confirmed list of speakers will be publicised in the next issue of New World – sooner to those who have registered. So please save the date and sign up now – and get your family and friends to do so too! See page 36 for more information.

Sam Daws

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.

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

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The next issue will cover the period 1 May to 31 August 2010

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

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In brief

Earthquake devastates Haiti

Over 150,000 people have died after a 7-magnitude earthquake pummelled Haiti on 12 January. Buildings and basic services – including schools, hospitals, parliament, the only two fire stations in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and the headquarters of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti – have collapsed. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. The UN estimates that one-third of its 9-million strong population has been affected. (Read more on pages 9, 19 and 43)

Sustainable development is Ban's top priority for 2010

Sustainable development, in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), topped UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's list of 2010 priorities. Speaking at the General Assembly on 11 January, he also emphasised progress towards a binding climate agreement, a nuclear-free world and a new UN agency for women.

Malaria MDG on track

According to the World Health Organization, the incidence of malaria has been slashed by 50% in over a third of the most-affected countries. Funding has also more than doubled: from \$730 million in 2006 to \$1.7 billion in 2009. But there is still a shortfall. Over \$5 billion a year is needed to provide insecticide-treated nets and drugs.

End 'vulture culture'

The UN's independent expert on foreign debt and human rights has condemned the November 2009 ruling by the London High Court forcing Liberia to repay two private investment funds a debt of approximately \$20 million, dat-

ing back to 1978. The sum is equivalent to half of Liberia's annual health and education budget. In 2008, the World Bank reported that 54 law suits had been brought against poor countries over the past decade. UNA-UK is supporting a Jubilee Debt Campaign initiative to combat such 'vulture funds'. (See www.una.org.uk/dosomething)

UN publishes its CO₂ emissions

Following a 'painstaking' assessment, the UN has calculated its carbon footprint: 1.7 million tons annually worldwide, of which over half is generated by peacekeeping operations. The total, representing just 3.3% of New York City's emissions, includes all parts of the UN body, from the Secretariat to specialised agencies and field operations. Air travel is the main culprit, accounting for about half of the total.

Pillay condemns Uganda's 'anti-homosexuality' bill

UN human rights chief Navi Pillay has urged the Ugandan government to block a bill which prohibits homosexual relations and stipulates draconian sentences, including the death penalty. It also proposes

>>



Mother and children with an insecticide-treated mosquito net in Nigeria © Irene Abdou/Alamy



UN staff in Afghanistan pay their final respects to two colleagues killed on 28 October 2009.
© Eric Kanalstein/UN Photo

punishing – with up to three years in prison – anyone who fails to report within 24 hours the identities of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) people. Ugandan President Museveni has indicated that he might intervene.

Over 80 countries retain laws that criminalise homosexuality. In seven of them – Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Yemen, Mauritania, Iran and Nigeria – consensual homosexual acts are punishable by death. In December 2009, during a UN General Assembly (GA) debate, the Holy See strongly condemned violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, building on a previous GA statement supporting decriminalisation. The statement won cross-regional endorsement from 66 states in 2008.

Iran and North Korea: nuclear silence?

The end of 2009 saw the deadline pass for Iran to accept a UN-brokered deal to swap its low-enriched uranium for nuclear fuel, prompting talk of additional sanctions. Iran is already under three sets of UN sanctions for its uranium-enrichment programme. Meanwhile, North Korea called for a formal peace treaty with the US – its pre-condition for resuming the six-party talks it has boycotted since April 2009. The request has been met with scepticism in Seoul and Washington.

Fragile peace in Sudan

Ban Ki-moon used the fifth anniversary of Sudan's peace agreement on 9 January to urge a redoubling of reconciliation efforts ahead of this year's elections. The

UN has voiced concern over recent violence in southern Sudan in which more than 150 people have reportedly lost their lives. Attacks that left six peacekeepers dead in Darfur have also been condemned by the UN.

Violent attacks on UN worldwide

UN staff and offices were attacked in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Gaza and Somalia in 2009. At least 28 civilian UN staff members – the majority of which were local recruits – were killed last year, prompting the world body's staff union to call on UN member states to sign a global treaty protecting its staff.

War crimes tribunals extended

The Security Council has extended the mandates of the UN tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR) until 2012. The ICTY has indicted 163 people, two of whom remain at large, and 24 are presently on trial. The ICTR has completed 49 cases and 26 are in progress. Eleven accused remain at large.

Continue stimulus measures says ILO

The International Labour Organization has warned that premature withdrawal of national economic stimulus packages could prolong unemployment and make 40 million more people worldwide jobless.

World Bank launches 'green' index

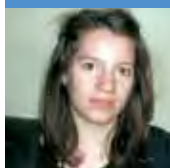
In December 2009, the private sector arm of the World Bank launched an eco-friendly stock market index in partnership with Standard and Poor's. The S&P/IFC Investable Emerging Markets Index is expected to mobilise more than \$1 billion for carbon-efficient companies over the next three years. It is hoped that the index will encourage carbon-based competition among emerging-market businesses, give carbon-efficient companies access to long-term investors, lower emissions in developing countries and reduce the carbon footprint of investor portfolios. ■



Sudanese people register to vote in April 2010 elections. © Tim McKulka/UN Photo



Fighting impunity for the most heinous crimes



Anna
Macdonald

In December 1948 the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. For the Aegis Trust, the Convention's sixtieth anniversary provided an opportunity to focus on the punishment of genocide and other mass atrocities. We launched a campaign to strengthen UK legislation on international crimes; UNA-UK and its Chair, Lord Hannay of Chiswick, were keen supporters.

In response to the year-long campaign, the British government announced significant reforms to UK law (see page 28). These reforms closed loopholes which had allowed suspected war criminals and genocidaires to visit and even live in the UK without any fear of arrest or prosecution. This was not just a theoretical problem. Before the changes to the law were announced, four Rwandans suspected of genocide were living in this country with no prospect of trial. The High Court had refused their extradition to Rwanda on fair trial grounds and they could not be prosecuted here because the UK only had jurisdiction to prosecute genocide that had been committed after 2001, when the International Criminal Court Act came into force. Britain had become a safe haven for individuals suspected of the most atrocious crimes.

The wider use of extra-territorial jurisdiction is a crucial part of any strategy aimed at improving the enforcement of international law. The UK government demonstrated commitment to this in its decision last year to strengthen domestic

law in this area. The US has also recognised the principle of extra-territorial jurisdiction. The Genocide Accountability Act of 2007 established that federal prosecutors can bring charges against individuals present in the US who are alleged to have committed genocide anywhere in the world. Senator Dick Durbin recently introduced a Bill into the Senate which would extend the law to cover 'crimes

'In developed nations that are willing and able to pursue war crimes trials, the political reality is that funding for things like immigration action is much preferred and trials are a last resort'

against humanity'. This Bill should be supported. Several individuals have been found in the US suspected of involvement in the Rwandan genocide, and in war crimes committed in Liberia and the former Yugoslavia. In one case prosecutors believed a suspect to have killed up to 100 people in the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia. He received a sentence of 63 months for immigration-related offences. It cannot be right that international crimes as serious as genocide or crimes against humanity committed on one side of the border cease to be punishable once the perpetrator steps across an imaginary line.

Clearly any changes to domestic law in this area will be more effective if they are accompanied by an increase in capacity and resources. The establishment of specialist War Crimes Units should help build the skills and expertise to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes. Such units already exist in Sweden, Germany and Canada. In those countries where they do not exist, advocates should be calling for them to be set up.

Funding is another massive hurdle in many countries. International criminal justice can be expensive. In developed na-

tions that are willing and able to pursue war crimes trials, such as Canada, the political reality is that funding for things like immigration action is much preferred and trials are a last resort. In states that are able but less willing to pursue suspects, the result is more likely to be that cases are quietly postponed. In lower-income countries like Senegal, where the African Union has requested the trial of former Chadian dictator Hissène Habré, the problem becomes even more acute. This would be a trial of immense significance – the first extra-territorial trial of an African dictator charged with crimes against humanity to take place in an African country – and yet, there is no money to fund it. This is a collective action problem to which the long-term solution might be some form of pooled funding for these types of trials.

Finally, let us return to the Genocide Convention of 1948. The Convention has significant weaknesses stemming from the specificity of Nazi crimes, which limit its applicability, such as its focus on intent and protected groups. In response to this problem, a team of lawyers and experts are currently arguing for a new International Convention on Crimes Against Humanity. These crimes are defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a wide range of prohibited acts such as murder, rape and torture. The creation of a new legal framework is sorely needed so that suspects can be fairly tried and prosecutors and defence lawyers can rely upon arguments related to culpability for the acts, rather than inferences about alleged intent of the suspect or legal contortions related to definitions of protected groups. ■

Anna Macdonald is Senior Policy and Campaigns Officer at the Aegis Trust. The Aegis Trust undertakes campaigns, policy work and research on the prevention of crimes against humanity and genocide and the enforcement of international law. Aegis runs the Kigali Memorial Centre in Rwanda and the Holocaust Memorial and Educational Centre in the UK. www.aegistrust.org

Trading out of Poverty: how the UK can lead in achieving MDG 8



Peter Lilley



Michael Hastings



Clare Short



John Battle



Menzies Campbell

One of the most important but rarely mentioned UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is the MDG 8 target to create a more open world trading system which will enable the poorest countries to 'trade out of poverty'. Virtually all the once very poor countries – like China, Brazil and India – that have succeeded or are succeeding in moving into the ranks of middle income countries have done so through trade. It is more difficult, however, for the remaining poor countries to follow in their footsteps since these 'later-comers' have to compete with China and co. So giving them preferential access to our markets is crucial for them to start on the road towards prosperity.

Sadly, progress towards meeting this target has been minimal. The Doha Development Round has broken down and the recession has intensified protectionist pressures. That is why we have come together to launch an all-party campaign called *Trade Out of Poverty*. We want to persuade not just the UK but all the G20 countries to give the poorest nations a real chance to prosper through trade. The richest countries do not need to wait for Doha. They can act now, individually, by adopting five key measures which would make all the difference to the 'bottom billion' – the world's poorest citizens.

First, rich countries must open their markets unconditionally to the poorest countries (all those defined by the World Bank as 'Low Income Countries' or LICs). The tariffs levied by developed countries have come down substantially but the highest remaining tariffs tend to be on agricultural products and labour-intensive manufactures – precisely those goods that the poorest countries can most readily produce. The US, for example, levies approximately the same amount in duty on imports from Bangladesh and Cambodia as it does on French and British imports which are six times greater in value. Indeed, US duties on imports from Bangladesh and Cambodia far exceed American aid to each country.

In opening our markets, we should not demand that LICs reciprocate by opening theirs. LICs (with average incomes below \$2.70 a day) account for 1/5 of the world's population but less than 1/50 of world trade. Our markets are vital to them but theirs are barely significant for us. Their export industries also pose no serious competitive threat.

Second, trade rules must be simplified. Complex rules of origin mean that countries entitled in theory to tariff-free access to developed markets actually pay high tariffs or find exporting unprofitable. The Commission for Africa calculated that the cost of providing goods that meet the rules of origin is equivalent to a 10% tariff. Non-tariff trade barriers also limit poor countries'

'Rich countries must open their markets unconditionally to the poorest countries'

ability to trade. For instance, differing sanitary and phytosanitary regulations set by developed countries impose prohibitive costs of compliance on developing countries. Harmonising regulations would facilitate trade and lower the cost of compliance.

Third, rich countries' export and domestic subsidies should be ended, particularly those which undermine poor countries' ability to compete on the products they grow and manufacture best. As a member of the EU, the UK's trade policies are determined at the European level and therefore the UK cannot act alone. What we can do, however, is lead the charge within the EU to adopt these changes. British MEPs must influence their colleagues from the continent to garner support for these changes, both in their own countries and in Brussels.

Fourth, there are two areas in which the UK can act independently and take action now: help reduce tariffs between developing countries and support investment in trade infrastructure. Ironically, the highest tariffs in the world are between neighbouring poor countries – partly because tariffs are the easiest source of government revenue. These tariffs are one reason why less than 10% of African exports go to African countries, while nearly three-quarters of European trade is within Europe. While change must come from within developing countries, the UK can help them move away from reliance on tariff revenues by providing advice and expertise to redesign customs and tax systems, and by topping up initial lost revenue through aid.

Finally, countries will only be able to take advantage of trade opportunities if they have the physical infrastructure

– roads, railways and ports – and the administrative infrastructure to meet quality, traceability and other requirements of developed markets. Over the last 20 years the proportion of aid budgets devoted to infrastructure has fallen by two thirds. The UK must put renewed emphasis on aid-for-trade to help developing countries build up trade capacity. Creating opportunities for LICs to export to the developed

world creates a clear win-win situation. Every pound developing countries earn from exports will ultimately be spent on extra imports from the developed world.

The UK must take the lead in persuading first the EU and then other G20 countries that creating trade opportunities for the poorest countries is not only crucial to ending world poverty but in their own interest. ■

Trade Out of Poverty is an independent all-party movement dedicated to helping the poorest countries trade their way to a better life for their people. This article was written for New World by the group's co-chairs: John Battle MP, Sir Menzies Campbell MP, Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE, Peter Lilley MP and Clare Short MP. www.tradeoutofpoverty.org

The lessons from Haiti



Jan Egeland

After the Haitians have received their life-saving emergency food, water and health care, the world must invest in adequate risk reduction for this disaster ridden nation. Or do we want to continue to administer expensive band-aids every five years for the rest of this century?

In every big disaster the same things happen. There is too much focus on international relief, while local efforts and national preparedness are largely ignored. The thousands rescued by community activists remain unregistered – those saved by international groups produce global headlines. The many graphic stories of victims receiving or not receiving external aid overshadow the main lessons from Haiti, from the tsunami and from Hurricane Katrina: most lives, limbs and livelihoods were lost needlessly. Simple preparedness and prevention measures agreed by nations at the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction have already saved countless lives in other Caribbean islands and elsewhere. But we have failed to give the people of Haiti their first line of defence against recurrent hurricanes, floods, mudslides and earthquakes.

In each catastrophe, the world is shocked that aid can be in the air from donor nations within hours but can take a week or more to go through all the bottlenecks to reach hundreds of thousands of

people trapped in the midst of damaged infrastructure. Journalists often exaggerate insecurity and looting in the midst of the catastrophe and aid workers the fear of epidemics. Abject pre-disaster mortality rates, disease and criminality are often forgotten.

In the intense real-time coverage of the emergency phase, there is much emphasis on individual relief flights and projects among the hundreds of parallel efforts. Uninformed judgements about huge national and international relief efforts are made on the basis of a few symbolic cases. Many also believe, wrongly, that military assistance is controversial in natural disasters.

‘Do we want to continue to administer expensive band-aids every five years?’

The earthquake in Haiti devastated one of the poorest societies on earth and a city of millions originally planned for less than 100,000. It also affected much of the two most important command centres for relief: the Haitian central government, which by definition should lead the national emergency effort, and the United Nations in Port-au-Prince, which is tasked with coordinating international assistance.

Emergency relief operations are always followed by independent evaluations and audits. After the tsunami in 2004 and the Pakistan earthquake in 2005, the emergency relief effort was generally judged to have covered immediate needs and allowed rapid initial recovery activities. However, the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition concluded that the international response was most effective “when enabling, facilitating and supporting local and national actors” and that international actors were less successful in their recovery and risk reduction activities than they were in the relief phase.

I fear we may yet again fail to draw the right lessons from the tragedy in Haiti. As is well documented, international emergency relief is one of the few well-organised sectors within international relations. Within hours of the emergency, the first UN relief coordination teams had been sent to Haiti, and ten million US dollars had been allocated from the UN-managed Central Emergency Response Fund to jump-start life saving relief. During the first days, a hundred international relief groups were organised within a dozen functional operational teams working on aid, from water and sanitation to food and logistics.

But international emergency relief is always too late for the tens of thousands who die needlessly in unsafe public buildings and apartment blocks. And it cannot cope with the initial wave of hundreds of thousands of physically and mentally traumatised people. Those affected in this earthquake were already extremely vulnerable, living in poverty in an overcrowded environment, where no one had invested adequately in disaster prevention. For decades now, we have allowed disasters to take many times more lives in Haiti than in similarly exposed Caribbean or other developing nations.

All evaluations prove that it is the degree of investment in development and prevention that determines how many or how few fellow human beings lose their lives, limbs and livelihoods. So the main question is not whether too few helicopters were allocated in the first five days, but whether we want to return every five years of this century with emergency relief – or help Haitians protect themselves from natural hazards. ■

Jan Egeland is Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. He was the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator from 2003-06.

In focus

Curbing the arms trade

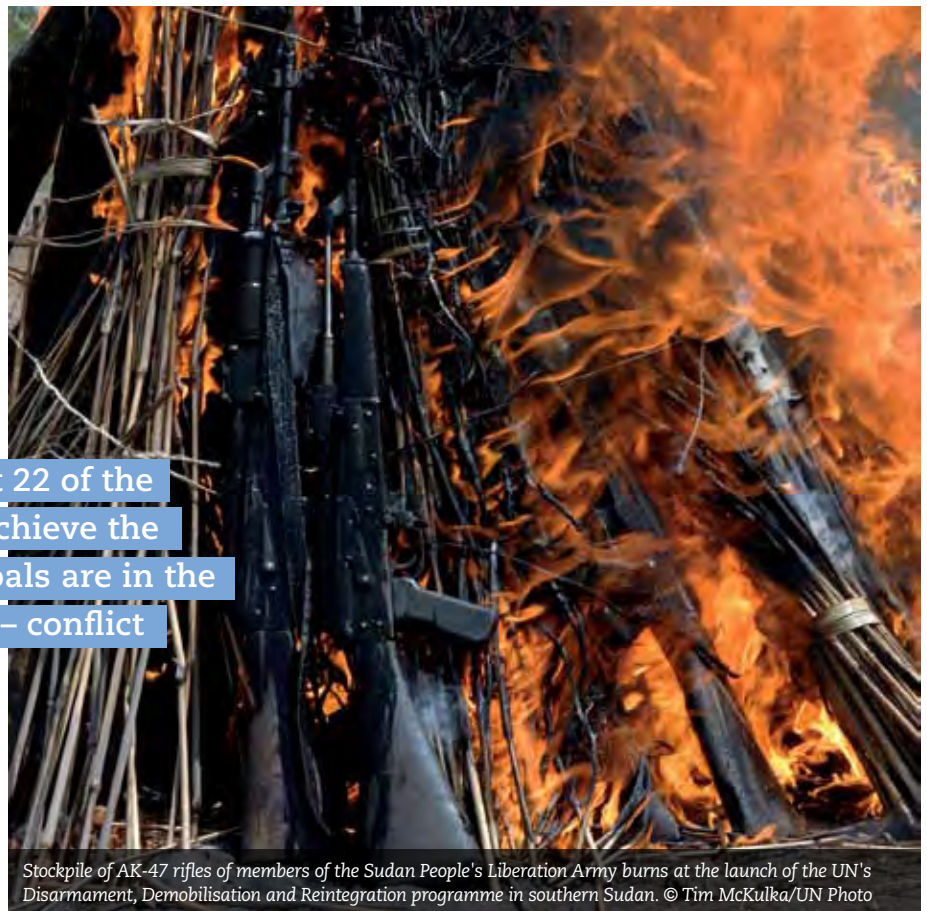
The UN General Assembly (GA) agreed in December 2009 to elaborate a legally-binding arms trade treaty (ATT) in 2012. The decision reflects positive diplomatic momentum towards controlling conventional arms as well as the growing recognition of the impact of armed violence on development.

According to the UN, at least 22 of the 34 countries least likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

According to the UN, at least 22 of the 34 countries least likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are in the midst of – or emerging from – conflict

are in the midst of – or emerging from – conflict. In a 2008 report called 'Shooting down the MDGs', Oxfam notes that in Burundi, which spends just five dollars a head per year on health, each firearm injury costs the health system in excess of 30 times that amount. The report also seeks to demonstrate that arms divert resources. It claims, for instance, that in 2008 South Africa was paying \$530 million a year under an arms deal (which had been mired in accusations of corruption) even though less than this amount – \$425 million annually – would have enabled all its citizens to have free access to water.

The Control Arms Campaign, of which UNA-UK is a member, recommends that the ATT draws together



Stockpile of AK-47 rifles of members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army burns at the launch of the UN's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programme in southern Sudan. © Tim McKulka/UN Photo

current obligations under international law, including those pertaining to corruption, human rights, humanitarian issues and organised crime. Such an instrument would require states to actively take responsibility for all arms deals under their jurisdiction, for example, by considering 'express prohibitions' (e.g. UN Security Council arms embargoes);

the likely use of the weapons and the impacts on development. The Campaign also calls for an enforcement mechanism and procedures for public transparency and accountability.

These issues are currently being discussed at the UN in a series of meetings in the run-up to 2012. For more information visit www.un.org/disarmament. ■

Tackling corruption

In November 2009 a review mechanism to monitor and implement the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was agreed in Doha. Under this new mechanism all signatories to UNCAC will be reviewed every five years to assess whether they are meeting their obligations to prevent and criminalise corruption, recover stolen assets and improve international cooperation in this area.

Corruption is recognised as one of the biggest impediments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It damages economies by distorting competition, can lead to a collapse in governance and diverts resources from those most in need. According to leading anti-corruption NGO Transparency International, 25% of African states' GDP is lost to corruption each year.

UNA-UK urged the UK government to make every effort to bring the Doha

negotiations to a successful conclusion, and to bring forward the Bribery Bill, which is currently making its way through Parliament. The Bill gives the UK a real opportunity to take the lead in fighting corruption at the national level. In the past, UNA-UK has been critical of the government's record in this field, particularly the decision to halt the investigation into the BAE Systems contract with Saudi Arabia, in apparent contravention of the UK's obligations under the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. ■

Calls for investigations grow in Sri Lanka...

Philip Alston, the UN's independent expert on extrajudicial executions, has called for a war crimes investigation into acts allegedly committed by the Sri Lankan army and the Tamil Tiger rebels during the final stages of the country's three-decade civil war.

Three independent reports commissioned by Alston strongly suggest that video footage released by Channel 4, which appears to show the summary execution of bound, blindfolded and naked Tamils by Sri Lankan army officials, is authentic. The Sri Lankan government denies this.

The run-up to the end of hostilities in May 2009 saw both parties display cal-

lous contempt for the (predominantly Tamil) civilians trapped by fighting. The Tigers ruthlessly used them as human shields while the government shelled 'no-fire' zones and limited the access of aid agencies to the 300,000 people caught up in the conflict and subsequently held for months in displacement camps. Several thousand are still there. Human rights NGOs have expressed concern over the manner of return and reports of sexual abuse and torture.

On the basis of these concerns, UNA-UK wrote to the British government in December 2009 to call on it and its partners to reconsider the European Union (EU) preferential trade agreement with Sri Lanka. The EU suspended the agreement later that month (see www.una.org.uk/dosomething for a full account).

After January's presidential election, the EU called on Sri Lanka to investigate 'the irregularities' reported by the election commission, as accusations of large-scale electoral fraud mount. Sri Lanka meanwhile has said the EU should 're-calibrate' its position in light of incumbent Mahinda Rajapakse's victory, which represented a clear validation of his methods. Rajapakse is expected to seek stronger ties with China and Iran in the face of Western criticism, unlikely to abate given the renewed media clampdown and freshly extended state of emergency. During the election, several websites were blocked and broadcasting outlets taken over by the military, and in the aftermath, a newspaper was shut down and its editor arrested. Another has disappeared. ■

...and linger over Gaza

One year on from the 2008/9 Israeli military action against Hamas in Gaza, initiated in response to Hamas rocket attacks on civilians in Israel, both parties face calls for investigations. According to UN estimates, the episode killed over 1,400 people, injured 5,000 and reduced infrastructure to rubble. More than 50,000 homes, 200 schools (including three run by the UN) and 39 mosques were damaged. A UN warehouse containing food and medicine was also destroyed after

white phosphorus in Israeli munitions set the building ablaze.

Israel has rejected the findings of two UN inquiries, most recently the Goldstone report, which controversially accused both sides of war crimes. In his report, Richard Goldstone – who was previously Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) – recommended that the Security Council set up a commission to ensure that Israel and the Palestinian authorities conduct credible investigations into potential breaches of international law. He added

that the Council should refer the case to the ICC if internal investigations were "inadequate". The report was transmitted to the Council in November 2009 but has since remained in limbo as several members feel it may affect the resumption of peace talks.

Visiting Gaza in January, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put the spotlight on humanitarian issues. He stated that the quality and quantity of humanitarian supplies entering Gaza remained insufficient, and risked paralysing broader economic recovery and reconstruction. ■



Palestinian child leaves UNRWA school among rubble left by January 2009 military action in Gaza. © Mark Pearson/Alamy

Beyond Copenhagen

The United Nations climate change summit was held on 7-18 December 2009 in Copenhagen. The summit, a meeting of states party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), was expected to negotiate a new climate deal to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, the existing framework which expires in 2012.

The Kyoto Protocol was the first international agreement to commit countries to stabilising greenhouse gas emissions. Under Kyoto, 37 industrialised nations (so-called 'Annex 1' countries) took on binding emissions targets amounting to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the period 2008-12.

Developing countries were not set any targets. Instead, Kyoto recognised 'common but differentiated responsibilities' stemming from industrialised nations' overwhelming historical responsibility for the accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere. This principle remains central to many developing nations, including China, now the world's second-largest economy and its largest emitter. Kyoto was adopted in 1997. Four years later the detailed rules for its implementation were agreed. Four years after that, it entered into force.

The scientific and political landscape has changed dramatically since 1997. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body which reviews and synthesises the work of thousands of scientists from across the world, concluded in its most recent (2007) report that global warming is unequivocal and that most of the observed temperature increase in recent decades is very likely anthropogenic. Despite the recent media furore over some of the Panel's claims, these two conclusions are representative of scientific consensus and are shared by NASA and the Met Office. Likewise, most countries – including the US and China – have accepted that urgent action is needed to address the effects of climate change.

The run-up to the Copenhagen conference saw some of the biggest-ever civil society campaigns in support of robust action (see pages 15, 37 and 42). UNA-UK was part of this push. We called for legally-binding emissions targets, support for developing countries' adaptation efforts, protection for the most vulnerable and progress towards a green economy.

What was put on the table

UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown was among the first to propose a global figure for 'climate aid': \$100 billion a year by 2020, of which up to 10% would come from official development assistance. The Obama administration reversed America's aversion to emissions reduction targets (although its Copenhagen proposal to curb emissions by 17% by 2020 is measured against 2005 and represents a mere two per cent reduction against 1990 levels). Having set a target of a 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020, the European Union (EU) announced that it would increase this to 30% if other developed nations made similar commitments. It also plumped for a goal of limiting global temperatures to a two-degree Celsius rise.

Tuvalu, an island nation already experiencing a refugee and agricultural crisis due to rising sea levels, called for a lower target cap of 1.5 degrees. South Africa, home to Africa's largest economy, surpassed the EU's pledge by offering to reduce emissions by 34% by 2020 and by 42% by 2025 (predicated on financial and technical support).

Yet some developing nations – crucially China – maintained that the purpose of Copenhagen was to ensure rich-country commitments to a second phase of tougher Kyoto targets. This position was broadly endorsed by India while Bolivia and Venezuela said a single global deal would allow rich countries to dilute their Kyoto commitments and



Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Yvo de Boer on the 13th

called for 'reparations' for decades of rich-country pollution.

Many more developing countries, including most African states, held firm that they should only take on 'nationally appropriate mitigation actions' (NAMAs). These are measures – such as improving agricultural efficiency – that do not necessarily translate into emissions reductions but equally, are not without effect. China's national commitments include cutting emissions per unit of GDP by 40-45% by 2020 from 2005 levels. China also plans to become the world leader in exporting clean-energy technologies. Five years ago, it had no presence at all in the wind manufacturing industry; today it has 70 manufacturers. It also has one-third of the world's solar power manufacturing capacity.

What we got

The agreement that emerged from Copenhagen fell far short of



day of Copenhagen negotiations © Olivier Morin/AFP/Getty Images

As it stands, the 'Copenhagen Accord' is a political pledge that does not even commit industrialised countries to continuing their Kyoto commitments beyond 2012

these proposals. As it stands, the 'Copenhagen Accord' is a political pledge that does not even commit Annex 1 countries to continuing their Kyoto commitments beyond 2012. Countries at the conference did not sign it – they simply 'took note' of its contents.

Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, points to some positive outcomes, for example, that the summit 'raised climate change to the highest level of government'. Yet his stipulation that it 'brought an almost full set of decisions to implement rapid climate action near to completion' is vastly optimistic. Any headway made by the Accord is heavily qualified.

Temperature cap

The Accord recognises 'the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below two degrees Celsius' and that 'deep cuts in global emissions are required' to ensure that global warming does not rise above this limit. It does not, however, include long-term targets (experts estimate the cap would require a 50% reduction in emissions by 2050) or a timescale for a peak in emissions.

Emissions targets

Like the Kyoto Protocol, the Accord differentiates between industrialised and developing countries. The Accord states that 'Annex 1' countries alone should implement targets by 2020. It includes

no figures, speaking only of the targets 'to be submitted' by 31 January 2010. Developing countries are asked to implement and submit 'mitigation actions' while the least-developed and small-island states 'may undertake actions voluntarily and on the basis of support'.

Monitoring

The Accord makes provisions for all countries to be monitored internationally in some form but no detail is given. Annex 1 countries are to be monitored 'in accordance with existing and any further guidelines adopted by UNFCCC states parties'. For non-Annex 1 states, monitoring would take place at the domestic level, with national communications to the UNFCCC every two years.

Finance

Although the Accord puts figures for climate aid on the table (\$30 billion in short-term funding over the next three years in tandem with long-term funding amounting to \$100 billion a year by 2020) it does not list specific sources of revenue, nor does it give a clear indication as to whether all or part of this money will come out of existing aid commitments.

Innovation

The Accord lists several new mechanisms:

- a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund to support projects, policies, adaptation, capacity-building and technology
- a High Level Panel to study the contribution of potential sources of revenue
- a Technology Mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer

It also recognises the need to give long-term support to REDD – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries – projects. Deforestation and forest degradation account for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, second only to the energy sector. But again, details of these mechanisms (e.g. the modalities of technology transfer) are threadbare, leaving much to be worked out at a future date. >>

What to make of it

Speaking in a House of Lords debate on 14 January 2010, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay warned that “to delude ourselves that the outcome was really quite good is to underestimate the length and difficulty of the road that the international community has to travel”.

The fraught negotiations in Copenhagen demonstrated the difficulty of the road ahead.

Yet the Accord should not be dismissed entirely. It can still be forged into a binding agreement, provided there is the requisite political will. In the US, generating such political will has been made more challenging by the loss of a filibuster-proof majority for the Democrats in the Senate – making it less likely that the US will pass ‘cap and trade’ legislation. China, which has been blamed by UK climate secretary Ed Miliband for vetoing the inclusion of global emissions targets, even those pertaining to rich countries, is also unlikely to change its course.

What are the next steps?

The next major UN climate conference will take place towards the end of 2010 in Mexico. It will be preceded by a two-week negotiating session in Germany, scheduled from 31 May to 11 June.

In his speech in Parliament on 14 January, Lord Hannay recommended that the UK and EU employ both an implementation and a negotiation track post-Copenhagen. On the former, the UK and EU should implement the emissions commitments they have already made; increase investment in research; make greater use of renewable energy; and put ‘serious’ money towards climate aid and REDD projects. In terms of negotiations, Lord Hannay suggests:

1. pursuing the EU’s more ambitious target of 30% emissions reductions by 2020 – the Copenhagen bargaining chip that was brushed aside during the negotiations – without giving up on a longer-term reduction by 2050
- 2 working towards an EU proposal containing specific recommenda-

tions for monitoring and verification that can be put on the negotiating table this year

- 3 employing a more multifaceted approach to tackling climate change

Lord Hannay argued that using smaller groupings, such as the G20, to hammer out details, would support the 192-country framework and better prepare positions ahead of the meeting in Mexico. The two-degree temperature cap, for instance, was agreed by the G8 in the summer of 2009. Jonathan Pershing, US Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change, concurs. ‘It is impossible to imagine a global agreement in place that doesn’t essentially have a global buy-in. There aren’t other institutions besides the UN that have that. But it is also impossible to imagine a negotiation of enormous complexity where you have a table of 192 countries involved in all the detail’. The UNFCCC requires agreements to be made by consensus.

By 31 January, 55 countries had submitted their Copenhagen pledges. Most had been decided in advance by regional groups. The EU for instance, stuck to a 20% reduction in emissions, with 30% remaining conditional on action from other countries. The BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) handed in the NAMAs they had announced at a meeting of BASIC climate ministers to discuss a joint strategy for the 2010 UN conferences. Since Copenhagen, Britain has said that climate negotiations might best be served by preparatory meetings of the world’s largest polluters, i.e. the US plus BASIC.

This approach, if applied with caution, could yield results. De Boer, who has also endorsed the holding of preparatory meetings, says that ‘you have to safeguard transparency by allowing countries to decide if they want to be represented by others, and that if a debate is advanced, the conclusion is brought back to the larger community’. During Copenhagen, several smaller countries accused a sub-set of leaders of trying to produce an agreement on behalf of everyone.

Kyoto was a two-stage process. If Copenhagen is to succeed, it looks like it will have to be a multi-stage one. ■

Copenhagen impressions

Chris Day is a member of UNA-UK’s youth wing. He attended the Copenhagen climate change conference as an observer and kept a blog of his impressions. Here is a snapshot.

>> Day 1 (12 Dec)

As I approached the vast Bella Center, I saw protestors shouting, charity workers handing out leaflets, and a long queue of delegates shuffling slowly forward through heavy security. Inside, the main lobby was abuzz with hundreds of charity stalls and companies promoting the latest green technologies.

Went to a side event on REDD. While most people recognise that deforestation is detrimental to the environment, REDD is often seen as controversial. If poorly managed, limiting the use of forests can badly affect indigenous populations. But environmental groups are working with them to manage the forests. An Amazonian leader explained how his village was using smart phones and Google Earth to report evidence of illegal logging.

>> Day 2 (13 Dec)

No negotiations today. Headed over to Klimaforum: the people’s climate summit. Met young people from France, Germany, Romania and the US and shared ideas about how to get people interested in climate change.

>> Day 3 (14 Dec)

Arrived an hour early for a speech by Nobel Prize winner Al Gore. It was like watching the sequel to his film ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ – live!

>> Day 4 (15 Dec)

Waited in the queue for two hours before being told that it would take another three. Was frozen so went to a speech by IPCC Chair Dr Rajendra Pachauri at Copenhagen University (two Nobel laureates in two days!).



‘Claims of a ‘significant’ deal emerge later, but to be honest, I found it disappointing. Such high hopes and only aspirations agreed. The world has a long way to go’

During the Q&A session it became clear that lots of climate change sceptics were present. Among them Lord Monckton, who accused Pachauri of misleading the world. It got heated. Someone had to ask Monckton to sit down to give other people a chance to speak. Hadn’t realised that some people actually believe climate change is an elaborate global conspiracy.

>> Day 5 (16 Dec)

Police out in force. They offered me coffee while I was queuing. Rumours circulating of a massive protest and attempt to break into the Center – guess they aren’t taking any chances. Earlier in the week 600 people were arrested during a peaceful march.

Today they used pepper spray on demonstrators.

Heard senior UN officials talk about the UN’s joined-up approach to climate change. Ban Ki-moon was busy trying to sort out the stalled negotiations but turned up about 30 mins into the event and made a great speech. At one point, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, who was sitting just in front of me, spoke about how her agency was preparing for an increase in natural disasters.

Stayed late because I suspected I wouldn’t get in the next day when Barack Obama and Wen Jiabao were

due to speak. Took photos of the small negotiating rooms where bilateral meetings take place, talked to youth activists staging a sit-in, and watched Fox News reporting on a man in a polar bear outfit...

>> Day 6 (17 Dec)

Couldn’t get in as predicted. Watched Obama’s speech live on the internet. Also watched ‘The Fossil of the Day Awards’, which named and shamed the country that had done most to hinder a deal that day. Newspapers full of stories about how badly negotiations were going.

>> Day 7 (18 Dec)

Final day of the conference. Watched leader after leader make speeches but still no news of a deal. Claims of a ‘significant’ deal emerge later, but to be honest, I found it disappointing. Such high hopes and only aspirations agreed. The world has a long way to go. ■

Essay

Migration as a tool for development

Even in times of recession the political debate around migration should be more positive



Helen Clark

For almost 20 years, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has produced an annual Human Development Report to draw attention to the wide range of factors which impact on human development. This flagship publication has framed debates on some of the most pressing challenges our planet faces, examining issues as diverse as water, human rights, democracy, and climate change.

This year, the report tackled the issue of migration, looking at it from the perspectives of migrants, the families they leave behind, and the new communities in which they live and work.

The overriding message of the report is that migration, both across and within national borders, has the potential to greatly improve the welfare of migrants, their families, and both the communities they leave behind and the new communities they join.

Some experts anticipate that migration will dramatically increase in future, driven by inequalities within and between countries and by the ease of travel. Meanwhile, the aging populations of developed countries are generating significant demand for migrant labour at the very time when developing countries are seeing a sharp increase in the size of their working-age populations. Migration can serve the needs of both.

Indeed the report emphasises that migration can have positive ripple effects for all involved. Migrants who move from developing to developed countries will often experience significant gains in terms of health, wealth, and education. The report also reveals that the families that remain at home experience improvements in their income and in the quality of the education and healthcare family members can access. Well-organised migration is positive too for the economies of destination communities, since it succeeds in matching workers with the employers who need their services.

Where unemployment has risen during the economic slowdowns, some countries have experienced a backlash against migrants. In such circumstances, the political debate around migration becomes negative. New roadblocks to migration can be

Figure 1: Global migration patterns



Just under 1 billion people are migrants. Of these, roughly:

740 million

moved within their own country

The remaining

210 million

crossed borders

but the majority

140 million

migrated from one developing country to another, or moved from developed country to developed country. Just

70 million

people actually migrated from a developing country to a developed country. According to UNDP about 5 million do so each year.

= 10 million people

erected which thwart the potential for it to contribute to increased human welfare.

As it is, a lot of aspiring migrants must already leap over many hurdles. The 'paper walls' of official documentation they must climb may be high and difficult to overcome. Many professionals find that their qualifications are not recognised in destination countries. This forces them to work below their capacity, and, therefore to contribute less than they could to the destination economy. Migrants, both external and internal, can find their access to basic

- finding solutions which benefit both destination communities and the migrants they receive;
- making it easier for people to move within their own countries;
- mainstreaming migration into national development strategies; and
- ensuring basic rights for migrants.

At UNDP, working with other UN agencies, we are leading the implementation of the European Commission-UN Joint Migration and Development

Migration, both across and within national borders, has the potential to greatly improve the welfare of migrants, their families, and both the communities they leave behind and the new communities they join

services such as schooling or public services curtailed, and, in too many countries, their basic rights abused.

One clear consequence of overly restrictive legal avenues to migration is not a decrease of movement, but, rather, the growth of irregular migration. Such movement is often dangerous and can make migrants, especially women, vulnerable to trafficking.

The Human Development Report demonstrates that fears about migrants taking jobs, lowering the wages of local people, placing an unwelcome burden on local services, or costing taxpayers money, are generally exaggerated. Rather, the report asserts that destination societies as a whole benefit from migrants, including through the innovation they may bring and through the building of increasingly diverse cultures.

To maximise the benefits of migration and minimise the potential downsides, the report suggests:

- opening up existing entry channels so that more workers can migrate lawfully, including on a seasonal basis;
- lowering the transaction costs for migrants;

Initiative. This links civil society organisations and local authorities in 16 developing countries with their counterparts in the European Union. The aim is to improve services for migrants and migration-related development policies and programmes.

In addition, we are working in China and India to connect internal migrants with improved access to public services. In the Philippines, UNDP and partners are helping to integrate gender-sensitive HIV and AIDS prevention messages into pre-departure seminars and programmes for migrant workers. In Albania and Senegal, we are helping to mobilise diasporas to help address priority needs of migrants, such as access to health care.

Across governments, development agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and communities, we can all play a part in helping realise the potential of migration to advance human development – to the benefit of migrants, their families, and their host communities.

Helen Clark is Administrator of UNDP and a former Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Figure 2

Emigration rates by HDI and income

Median emigration rates by origin country Human Development Index (HDI) group

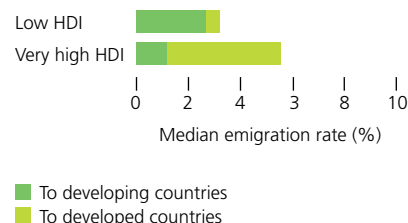
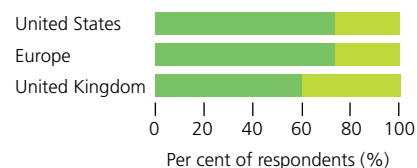


Figure 3

Support for opportunity to stay permanently

Preferences for temporary versus permanent migration, 2008



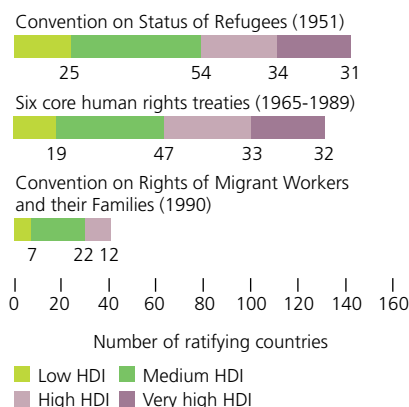
"Do you think immigrants should be:"

- Allowed the opportunity to stay permanently
- Only admitted temporarily then required to return to their country of origin

Figure 4

Ratification of migrants' rights convention has been limited

Ratification of selected agreements by Human Development Index (HDI) category, as of 2009



Migration messages

The world distribution of opportunities is extremely unequal

- Someone born in Thailand, for example, can expect to live seven more years and have almost three times as many years of education as someone born in neighbouring Burma

Migrants, especially the poorest, stand to gain the most

- A Bolivian moving from a rural to an urban area could see her wages quadrupled
- A family moving from Nicaragua to neighbouring Costa Rica would see the chances of their children being enrolled in primary school increase by 22 per cent

But the costs of moving are often very high

- Figure 2 shows the poorest often cannot afford to migrate

Both origin and host communities can benefit greatly

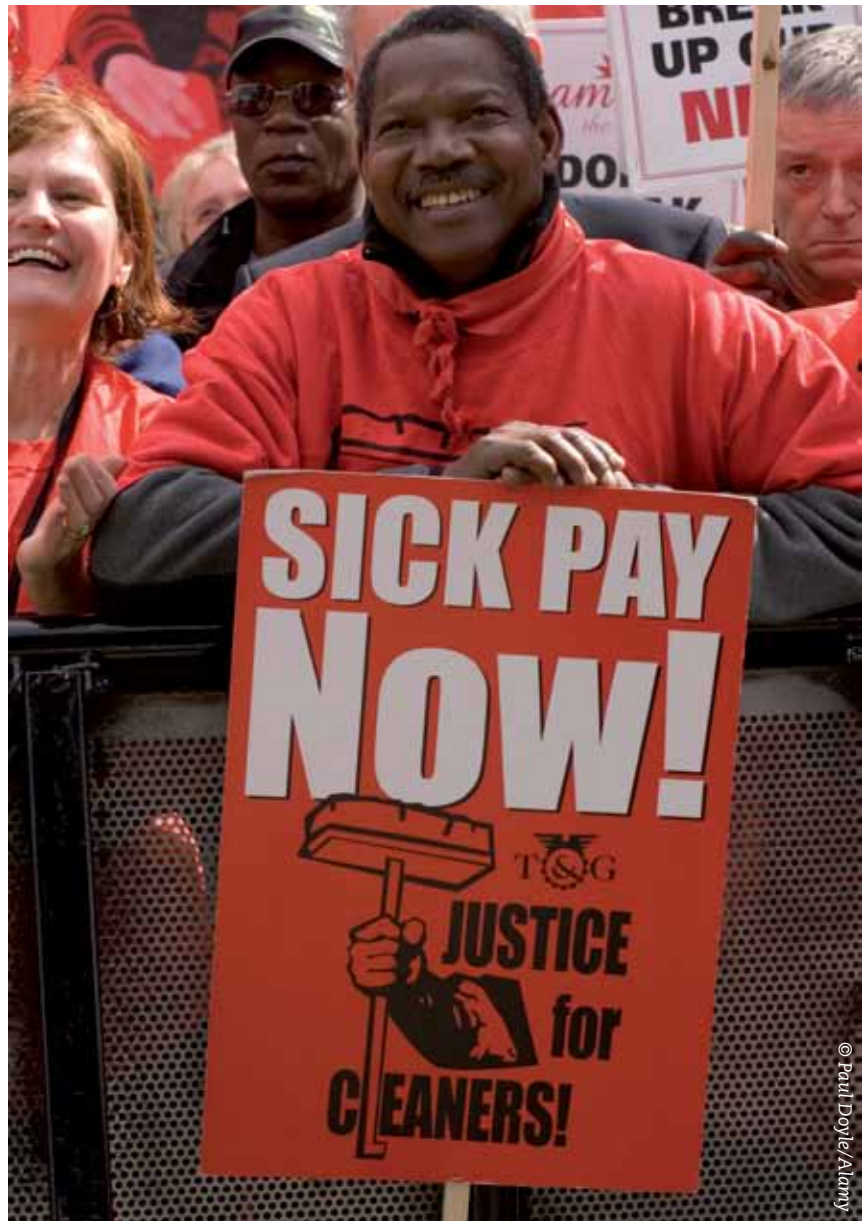
- In 2008, remittances sent home by migrants to poor countries were over \$300 billion – roughly three times the amount of official development aid (ODA), even though ODA was at its highest level that year
- Migrants can help the labour market in their destination countries e.g. the availability of low-cost domestic work and childcare means that more locally-born females can take jobs
- Migrants plug labour-market gaps and increase productivity and innovation. Data from the US suggest a striking correlation between the increase in migrant university graduates and in science and engineering patents issued

Popular concerns about migrants are often exaggerated

- While some groups – e.g. low-skilled workers – can be affected by migrant workers, there are generally few (if any) job losses in OECD countries as investment rises in response to immigration
- Most people favour immigration when jobs are available, and most support allowing migrants to stay permanently rather than temporarily (see figure 3)

And can lead to movers ending up worse off

- At the worst end of the scale, they can fall prey to trafficking. But even successful migrants tend to fare badly in terms of human rights and access to services. Few states have ratified the UN migrants' rights convention (see figure 4) ■



Do Something!

Just 42 states have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and only 15 further countries have signed it. No member of the European Union is among them.

On the occasion of the Convention's 20th anniversary, a global campaign was launched last year on 18 December – International Migrants Day, to challenge countries to end abuse of migrants by protecting their human rights.

The campaign calls on governments to act immediately to ratify the Convention, which provides legal standards for national law that recognise the specific vulnerabilities of migrants and promote humane and lawful working and living conditions.

The International Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrants' Rights Convention – a network of UN agencies, international organisations and NGOs – is leading the campaign.

Write to your MPs and MEPs to urge them to ensure that this issue is brought to the table in 2010.

Visit www.una.org.uk/dosomething for more information



FEATURE:

Haiti needs long-term support

Haitians set up a tent city near the airport. © Marco Dormino/UN Photo

On 12 January 2010 an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude shook Haiti. About 3 million people – a third of the population – have been severely affected. When *New World* went to press, the estimated death toll ranged from 150,000 to 200,000. At least 1.5 million Haitians are now homeless.

This humanitarian crisis has been compounded by the difficult pre-existing conditions in the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere: more than three-quarters of its population lives on less than \$2 a day. Many social services, such as education, are run almost entirely by non-state actors. In addition to years of crippling debt, political turmoil and high levels of organised crime and violence, Haiti was

battered by a series of hurricanes in 2008 that left over 800,000 displaced.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, is densely populated. The city's slums and shanty towns have been severely damaged. Several public buildings – including hospitals and schools – fared no better owing to the poor quality of construction. Basic and emergency services are not working and the high level of casualties in the civil service has significantly reduced Haiti's capacity to respond.

Speaking on 19 January, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said this is the "most serious humanitarian crisis" in decades, surpassing those caused by the Asian tsunami and Cyclone Nargis in Burma.

The UN in Haiti

Continuing political instability has seen the UN's mandate in Haiti repeatedly extended since 1993. MINUSTAH – the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti – has been present since 2004, following the escalation of armed conflict in the country. In addition to its protection brief, the Mission's mandate included a raft of responsibilities, including fostering governance, training the national police and reporting on the human rights situation. MINUSTAH personnel comprise 7,031 troops, 2,034 police, 488 international and 1,212 local civilian staff and 214 UN volunteers. Many were affected by the disaster.

>>

The UN experienced its single largest loss of life as a result of January's quake. Its Haitian headquarters, as well as several other buildings housing UN offices, collapsed. To date, 92 UN staff have been confirmed dead and many are still unaccounted for. Hédi Annabi, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative to Haiti, and his Deputy Luiz Carlos da Costa were among those killed.

Initial response

In the immediate aftermath, UN staff and peacekeepers already on the ground were able to help search for survivors, treat the wounded and begin clearing roads. On 13 January, Mr Ban ordered \$10 million to be released from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to kick-start humanitarian relief efforts while UN agencies began to mobilise supplies, experts and resources (see box opposite).

The international community also responded quickly. By 14 January, 17 international urban search and rescue teams had been deployed. By 15 January, over 100 governments and organisations had pledged more than \$150 million, in addition to food and medical supplies.

Speaking in Parliament on 14 January, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay called on the UK government to work closely with the UN, in particular the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and to contribute generously – both logistically and financially – to emergency and longer-term relief efforts. UNA-UK has also encouraged its members to support the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal (see page 22 for information on how to donate).

The UK government trebled its initial pledge of \$10 million following the release of a UN flash appeal and its own assessment of the situation. As of 21 January, British aid included support to the World Food Programme (WFP) to help transport and communications; to the World Health Organization (WHO) to prevent the spread of malaria and dengue fever; and to OCHA, to bolster coordination efforts.

Relief challenges

Following a 2005 UN review of the global humanitarian system, which highlighted a number of gaps, a new 'cluster' system was adopted. The system groups UN agencies, NGOs and other international organisations around a sector or



Ban: this is the most serious crisis in decades

UN Secretary-General stands beside the remains of the UN headquarters. © Marco Dormino/UN Photo

service during a humanitarian crisis. In Haiti, there are 12 such groupings*. But challenges remain.

Coordination

With Haiti's main port and roads rendered inoperable by the earthquake, its main airport has faced the problem of juggling UN, government and NGO aid flights, with the simultaneous arrival of US troops, intended to boost security. Mr Ban has urged NGOs to work more closely with the UN and each other to avoid further bottlenecks in ferrying vital supplies and to ensure that supplies are not duplicated.

Logistics

Haitian President René Préval stated that although help came very fast, when it arrived the question was "where are the trucks to transport it? Where are the depots?". Parts of Port-au-Prince have still not received food due to poor access. The UN has secured 3,500 square metres of

warehousing for supplies but storage remains an issue.

Security

Signs of unrest are increasing as the situation grows desperate. There have been unconfirmed reports of rape and the shooting of looters. A WFP staff member reported that it was hard to carry out their work without protection from MINUSTAH or US troops – both of which have now received reinforcements. On 20 January, Mr Ban announced that the UN would begin distributing \$40 million through cash-for-work programmes to reduce the potential for unrest.

Supplies

Tents, and suitable sites for them, are in short supply according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), leaving hundreds of thousands vulnerable ahead of the rainy season. Aid group Partners in Health reported that people were carrying out their own amputa-



tions as a result of the lack of emergency equipment. Fuel has also become a scarce commodity. One week after the disaster, UNICEF contracted a fuel provider to supply five gallons on a daily basis.

It is clear that the people of Haiti need substantial emergency and long-term humanitarian assistance. The international community must continue to support the UN and its partners long after the situation disappears from the headlines. ■

*Camp Coordination and Camp Management (IOM); Education (UNICEF); Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (IOM); Food (WFP); Logistics (WFP); Nutrition (UNICEF); Protection (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – OHCHR – with UNICEF for Child Protection and the UN Population Fund – UNFPA – for gender-based violence); Water, Sanitation & Health (UNICEF); Agriculture (Food & Agriculture Organization – FAO); Early Recovery (UN Development Programme); Emergency Telecommunications (WFP); Health (WHO/Pan American Health Organization).

Rapid response to 12 January earthquake: UN ACTION IN WEEK ONE

13 January:

- MINUSTAH peacekeepers help search for survivors, treat the wounded and begin clearing roads to aid relief efforts
- Mr Ban orders \$10 million to be released from CERF
- First UN experts and supplies are dispatched
- Edmond Mulet, former Special Representative to Haiti and current Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, is sent to Haiti to assume full command of MINUSTAH

14 January:

- WFP begins operations, initially assisting about 8,000 people. It aims to scale this up to one million people within 15 days and two million within a month
- Work starts on 15 food distribution centres
- UN emergency response team arrives

15 January:

- Operations centre established at the Port-au-Prince airport
- UN begins to coordinate aid flights and international rescue teams
- Distribution of medical supplies starts
- UN launches an \$550 million emergency flash appeal
- UNHCR encourages other countries to join the US, Canada and the Dominican Republic in halting returns of Haitians

16 January:

- WHO team arrives in Haiti
- UNICEF leads agencies in distributing water at 52 points
- IOM leads distribution of jerry cans, water purification tablets and plastic sheets

17 January:

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service starts passenger and cargo flights
- WHO reports that seven field hospitals have arrived and three are operational
- WFP is now feeding over 70,000 people

18 January:

- WFP initiates moving 10,000 gallons of fuel from the Dominican Republic
- Water tanks installed and portable water is distributed to 100,000 people
- UNICEF begins work on identifying and registering children who have been separated from their parents

19 January:

- The UN Security Council votes unanimously to boost peacekeeping forces in Haiti by 3,500 personnel
- Substantial new warehousing is secured for supplies
- UNFPA reports that it has distributed 1,500 hygiene kits


20 January:

- UNDP begins cash-for-work programme by employing 400 Haitians to boost the local economy and deliver urgently-needed aid
- WHO announces the arrival of medicines to treat 120,000 people for emergency conditions and trauma
- UNHCR reports that two aircraft with tents and plastic sheets for over 90,000 will arrive the following week
- OCHA reports that the Flash Appeal is 27% funded – \$152 million has been received, while an additional \$87 million has been pledged. Donors are being urged to convert pledges into cash

THE UN'S LONG-TERM STRATEGY

- **Food security:** with the March planting season fast approaching, FAO will work to provide seeds, fertiliser and tools, and to restore critical infrastructure
- **Shelter:** the IOM is planning structural improvements, such as kitchens and latrines, to ensure that the displaced are housed in proper settlements
- **Education:** nearly 50% of school-aged Haitian children were out of school prior to the earthquake. UNICEF is working to provide learning and recreational resources, with a view to establishing temporary schools while refurbishing and replenishing those damaged
- **Communications:** the earthquake damaged the telecommunications infrastructure, severely hampering aid operations. UN radio networks need to be expanded and basic internet and phone services must be re-established
- **Health:** with the infrastructure destroyed and waste management damaged, WHO is working to carry out rapid health assessments, contain outbreaks of communicable diseases, restore primary health services, provide trauma counselling and reopen hospitals
- **Sanitation:** UNICEF priorities are to produce safe drinking water, provide hygiene kits and rebuild waste management services
- **Security:** ongoing protection by MINUSTAH (and US and other forces) will be necessary until the national security services are rehabilitated. OHCHR, UNICEF and UNFPA are leading work to identify protection gaps, help separated families and prevent sexual abuse





On 12 January 2010 an earthquake devastated Haiti, one of the world's poorest countries. The people of Haiti will need substantial humanitarian assistance. It is crucial that we continue to support longer-term reconstruction efforts, even after the immediate crisis has receded from the headlines.

Do something.

Donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Haiti Earthquake Appeal.

Visit www.dec.org.uk, call 0370 60 60 900 or send a cheque made payable to 'DEC HAITI EARTHQUAKE' to DEC Haiti Earthquake, PO Box 999, London, EC3A 3AA

- **£25** will pay for a kit of household essentials
- **£50** will feed a family for a fortnight
- **£100** will fund temporary shelters for two families

DEC is an umbrella group of 13 major British-based humanitarian aid charities, including the British Red Cross, Oxfam, Islamic Relief and Christian Aid.





towards zero

Charting a path to a world without nuclear weapons

In the Winter 2009 issue of *New World*, UNA-UK launched 'Towards Zero', our campaign for nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament. The first phase of this five-year initiative is primarily aimed at influencing British decision-makers to consolidate support across Westminster and Whitehall for 'global nuclear zero' and to push for government adoption of viable strategies to advance this goal.

As the smallest of the five nuclear-weapon states recognised by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Britain's contribution to the nuclear debate must be carefully calibrated. The US and Russia (who together possess 95% of the world's nuclear arsenal) and nuclear aspirants North Korea and Iran dominate the headlines, and it is an illusion to think the nuclear policies of these countries – and of China, India, Pakistan and Israel – will be crucially affected by decisions taken by the UK on its own. On the other hand, Britain clearly has an important role to play, as a founding member of the NPT, a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a member of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It is in this context that UNA-UK, with partners RUSI and BASIC, convened a conference on 3 December 2009 on what Britain can do to further global nuclear zero (see page 26) and that our Chair, Lord Hannay, initiated a major debate on non-proliferation and disarmament in the House of Lords on 21 January 2010.

Two former foreign secretaries, two former defence secretaries, high-level military figures and a former secretary-general of NATO participated in the debate. FCO Minister Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead and Lord Howell of Guildford, Shadow Minister for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, also set out their positions.

A number of upcoming tests for Britain and the international community were discussed:

- the ongoing US-Russia negotiations on a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
- the April 2010 Global Nuclear Security Summit, convened by US President Obama, which will focus on safeguarding against nuclear terrorism and improving security for nuclear materials worldwide
- the NPT Review Conference in May 2010
- nuclear posture reviews by the US (due to be put to Congress in March) and NATO
- the UK's Strategic Defence and Security Review (due after the 2010 general election)

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

Lord Hannay opened his speech by drawing attention to the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), a joint initiative of the Australian and Japanese governments which has just produced a practical agenda for global policymakers (www.icnnd.org). He urged the UK government to use the Commission's report as a 'global White Paper'.

The bulk of Lord Hannay's speech was on how to make a success of the NPT Review Conference. Bitter disagreements at the last review meeting in 2005 meant no outcome document was adopted. He stressed that the conference must cover all three objectives of the NPT if it is to avoid a similar fiasco this time, and added two more objectives for the international community.

➤ Objective 1: Commitments by nuclear-weapon states

Lord Hannay asked the government whether it was giving active consideration to:

- the 20 steps towards nuclear disarmament set out in the ICNND report
- updating and strengthening negative security assurances – pledges made by nuclear powers to non-nuclear-weapon states that they will not use nuclear weapons against them
- moving towards 'no first use' commitments, or at minimum, a statement that the sole purpose of the UK holding nuclear weapons is to deter others who have them

➤ Objective 2: Strengthening machinery to prevent proliferation

Lord Hannay offered some suggestions for strengthening the application of the Additional Protocol to the IAEA's safeguards agreement, which gives the agency much wider powers:

- making its ratification mandatory by Security Council resolution
- making it a condition for the supply of nuclear material by members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group

He also said that it was high time to make withdrawal from the NPT a 'costly option'.

➤ Objective 3: The right of all states that fulfil their NPT obligations to have access to civil nuclear energy

Underscoring the need to reduce the proliferation risk from the expansion of civil nuclear energy, Lord Hannay urged the UK to implement the methods for guaranteeing the supply of enriched uranium which were proposed but not adopted at the IAEA Board meeting last summer.

➤ Objective 4: Universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Russia, France and the UK are the only nuclear powers that have ratified the CTBT. The US Senate will be considering ratification in the next months. Ratification by the US would likely bring about a significant number of other ratifiers, notably China. Lord Hannay called on the government to do all it can – without being seen to interfere in American domestic politics – to explain why it considers this to be an essential building block of the international nuclear architecture.

➤ Objective 5: A Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT)

Despite enjoying broad support from the main nuclear-weapon states, the FMCT has yet to be negotiated. Lord Hannay suggested the UK pushes for a moratorium on producing fissile material until the treaty is negotiated and enters into force, noting that the same approach worked for the NPT.

Government response

Responding on behalf of the government, Baroness Kinnock made the following points:

- the UK would consider how best to make use of the ICNND's recommendations
- progress towards universal adherence to the IAEA Additional Protocol would be a UK priority at the NPT Review Conference
- the UK was due to discuss IAEA funding at a donors' meeting later this year
- the government was working on a UK-led nuclear fuel assurance proposal
- "when it is useful to do so, we will willingly include the UK's nuclear weapons in a future multilateral disarmament negotiation"

Opposition response

Lord Howell noted that the Conservative Party's position was not very different from that outlined in the government's 'Road to 2010' paper. He listed a number of steps that his party would take if in power, including:

- mounting a strategic dialogue between the 'nuclear five' to achieve further stockpile reductions
- attempting to close the loopholes in the NPT, including by seeking a Security Council resolution which would refer any breach of the treaty to the Council
- improving the ability to track and block the trade in nuclear-weapons technology
- strengthening the Proliferation Security Initiative, a US-led multinational initiative involving the interdiction of third-country ships on the high seas on the basis of carrying nuclear materials >>

UNA-UK ADVOCACY

- **29 October 2009:** UNA-UK Chair and Executive Director attend launch of the Top Level Group of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
- **19 November 2009:** UNA-UK Chair raises UK preparations for NPT Review Conference in Queen's Speech debate
- **21 November 2009:** UNA-UK's youth wing holds conference on nuclear disarmament and launches 'Towards Zero' campaign pack
- **25 November 2009:** UNA-UK Chair presses government to ensure that any revision of NATO's nuclear posture is in line with the UN Security Council decision to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons
- **3 December 2009:** UNA-UK, RUSI and BASIC host 'Towards Zero' conference (see page 26)
- **7 December 2009:** UNA-UK Chair and Executive Director meet with FCO Minister Baroness Kinnock and discuss, inter alia, the NPT Review Conference
- **19 December 2009:** UNA-UK Executive Director chairs session at Oxford University conference comparing international negotiations on nuclear non-proliferation and climate change
- **21 January 2010:** UNA-UK Chair initiates major House of Lords debate on nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament
- **2-4 February 2010:** UNA-UK Chair participates in Global Zero Summit, Paris
- **4 February 2010:** UK launch of ICNND report hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN (for which UNA-UK provides the secretariat), the APPG on Global Security and Non-Proliferation (co-convened by UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay) and the Top Level Group. Speakers were: ICNND Co-Chair Gareth Evans, UK Commissioner Shirley Williams and UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay
- **9 February 2010:** UNA-UK Executive Director attends FCO consultation on preparations for the NPT Review Conference
- **February/March 2010:** 'Towards Zero' conference report released
- **May 2010:** UNA-UK supports expert participation in NPT Review Conference

During this period, UNA-UK has provided a venue for monthly meetings of a liaison group of specialists on nuclear policy issues.



From left to right: Baroness Shirley Williams, Mariot Leslie (FCO) and Malcolm Chalmers (RUSI) © Marcus Dawes/UNA-UK

What can Britain do to further global nuclear zero?

On 3 December 2009, 190 leading experts and representatives of governments and civil society organisations gathered in London for 'Towards Zero', a one-day high-level conference organised by UNA-UK in collaboration with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and the British American Security Information Council (BASIC). The purpose of the event, part of UNA-UK's 'Towards Zero' initiative, was to debate Britain's role in furthering nuclear non-proliferation and multilateral approaches to disarmament.

An outline of the conference sessions is included here. All public presentations are posted at www.una.org.uk/towardszero. A report containing a synopsis of speeches

with a summary of key recommendations will also be available on the website shortly.

Speaking at the conference, Baroness Williams, underscored the importance of cross-party support, saying that firm public commitments ahead of the UK general election next year were vital. She also urged her colleagues in the recently-formed Top Level Group of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation to ensure that their message is heard at the highest levels in Britain.

Visit www.una.org.uk/lobby for ideas on how to encourage your MP to make nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament a genuinely cross-party issue.

The Guardian's diplomatic editor Julian Borger blogged about the conference:

Baroness Williams called on the 'top level group' of British parliamentarians to lock their party leaders publicly into as much common ground on disarmament as possible before the election campaign got going in the spring. Otherwise, Williams said "you can forget about progress" for a year or two. She was very pessimistic about the chances of Senate ratification of the CTBT next year, and suggested that Britain's recently-retired defence chiefs visit Republican senators to try to persuade them that America's closest ally is not lying awake at night worrying about the reliability of US warheads. Williams also thought the UK and France could get together to offer to train 100 nuclear inspectors for the IAEA to help beef it up and preserve the expertise of a fading generation of weapons experts. (www.guardian.co.uk)

What is Britain's role?

Chair:

- Lord Hannay, Chair, UNA-UK

Speakers:

- James Arbuthnot MP (Chair, Defence Select Committee)
- Mike Gapes MP (Chair, Foreign Affairs Select Committee)

The international context

Chair:

- Professor Malcolm Chalmers, RUSI

Speakers:

- Mariot Leslie (Director-General, Defence and Intelligence, FCO)
- Baroness Williams of Crosby (Advisor to the Prime Minister on Nuclear Proliferation)

A US perspective

Chair:

- Paul Ingram, Executive Director, BASIC

Speakers:

- Ambassador Stephen Bosworth (US Special Representative for North Korea Policy)
- Mark Fitzpatrick (Senior Fellow, International Institute for Strategic Studies)

Building trust and confidence

Chair:

- Professor Nick Wheeler, University of Wales, Aberystwyth

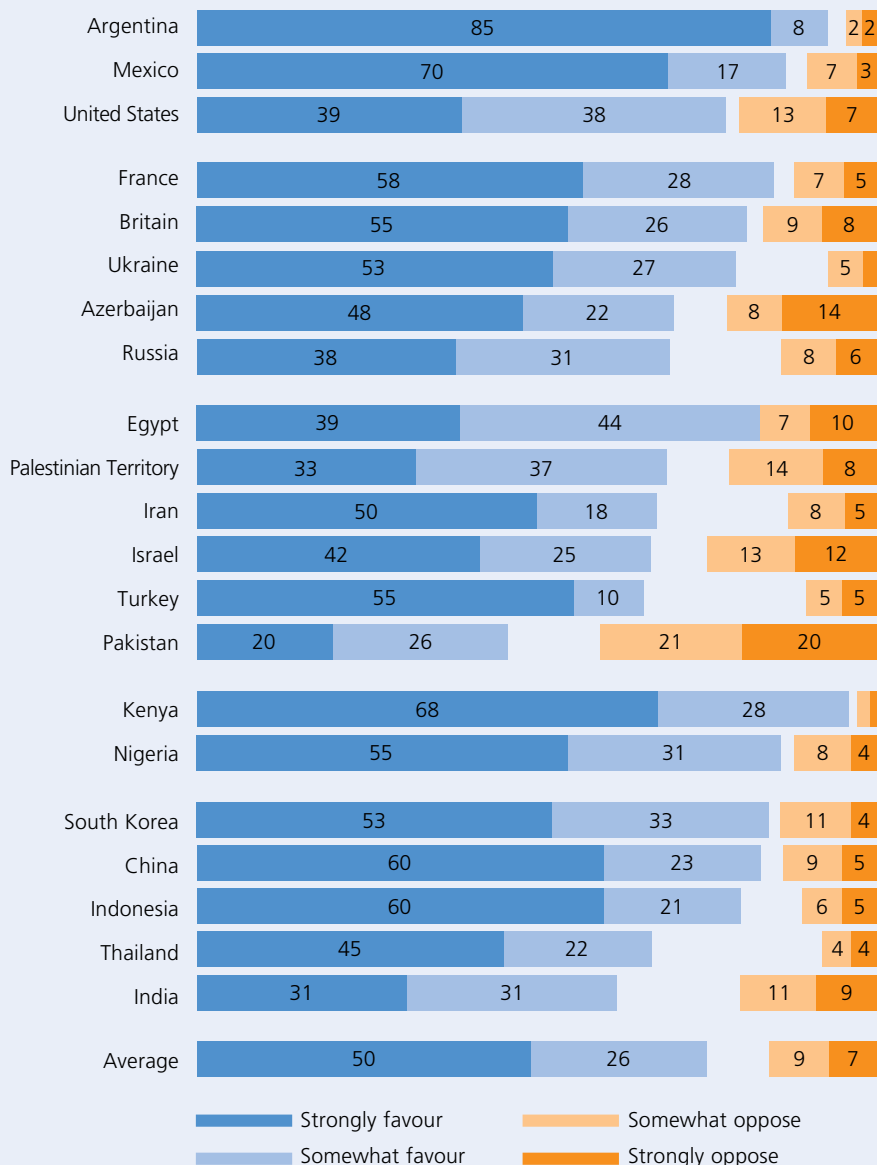
Speakers:

- Professor John Simpson (Director, Mountbatten Centre for International Studies)
- Ambassador Alyson Bailes (Visiting Professor, University of Iceland)

Global Zero poll on eliminating nuclear weapons

Global Zero, an initiative launched by 100 leaders from around the world, recently commissioned a poll of public opinion on eliminating all nuclear weapons according to a timetable. The poll, carried out by WorldPublicOpinion.org, found that 76% of respondents in the 21 countries surveyed favour such an agreement. In the five nations with large nuclear arsenals and advanced delivery systems, large majorities favour the plan: Russia (69%), the US (77%), China (83%), France (86%), and Great Britain (81%).

Question asked: Now consider a possible international agreement for eliminating all nuclear weapons. All countries with nuclear weapons would be required to eliminate them according to a timetable. All other countries would be monitored to make sure they are following the agreement. Would you favour or oppose such an agreement?



© WorldPublicOpinion.org



Westminster Wire

Parliament acts on genocide legislation

A legal loophole that prevented genocide suspects found on UK soil from being brought to justice has been successfully closed. Previously, suspects who were not formally resident in the UK could not be prosecuted, extradited or deported. Crimes that took place before 2001 were also excluded. UNA-UK strongly supported the Aegis Trust campaign (see page 7) to redress these shortcomings. Having achieved the partial success of pushing back the 'start' date for crimes to 1991 – thereby allowing prosecutions relating to the wars in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone and Liberia – UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay continued to press for revision of the 'residence' criteria, most recently during the Committee and Report stages of the Coroners and Justice Bill.

The new legislation does not abandon the criteria completely but greatly expands the definition of 'residence'. 'Residence' now includes people in the UK to work or study; those claiming asylum or applying for leave to remain; those who cannot be deported to their country of origin; and any individual who is detained in lawful custody.

Genocide adviser addresses UN all-party group

Speaking at a meeting in the House of Commons on 16 November 2009, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Dr Francis Deng told parliamentarians, practitioners and academics that "prevention is everybody's responsibility". Dr Deng went on to outline the crucial role of the Office of the Special Adviser in monitoring trends and acting as both an early-warning mechanism and a catalyst to mobilise the international community when necessary.

Cluster munitions update

The UK is on track to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in 2010 after the Cluster

Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill passed scrutiny during the Committee stage in the House of Lords. The CCM will only enter into force once it has been ratified by 30 states. To date, 24 states have done so. Speaking during the reading on 8 December, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay praised the government for already having destroyed a third of its stockpiles of this deadly weapon, and urged it to include a commitment to destruction in the Bill.

New appointments

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead has assumed responsibility for the UN portfolio at the FCO following Lord Malloch-Brown's decision to stand down last summer. A keen supporter of the UN, her appointment was welcomed by UNA-UK. Our Chair and Executive Director met with Kinnock in December 2009 to brief her on the work of the organisation and to discuss future activities and priorities. Meetings were also held with Sir Mark Lyall Grant, the new UK Ambassador to the UN, before he took up his posting in November.

Voting rights for British citizens working for international organisations abroad

UNA-UK is continuing to pressure the UK government on the issue of voting rights for British citizens working abroad for international organisations such as the UN, many of whom become disenfranchised from voting in the UK after 15 years. So far, the government has only said that it is looking into the matter.

'Lobby for the UN' 2009-10 well underway

UNA-UK's annual parliamentary lobby, a year-long campaign to promote dialogue between voters and MPs on UN issues, was launched on 27 October 2009 at a meeting in London. This year's lobby focusses on two key issues on the UN's agenda: climate change and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. At the

launch event, Ashok Sinha (Director of the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition), Dr Nick Ritchie (a nuclear expert from the Bradford Disarmament Research Centre) and UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay encouraged participants to lobby their MPs on these pressing issues.

Details of 'Lobby for the UN' 2009-10, including a briefing pack with questions to pose to your MP, can be found on www.una.org.uk/lobby. Here are some additional action points.

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

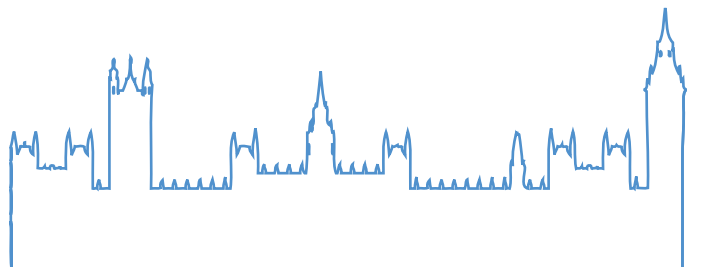
Ask your MP to:

- support Early Day Motion (EDM) 25 on climate change and carbon dioxide emissions; EDM 194 on deforestation, climate change and livestock; and EDM 524 on recognising climate change
- demand a government scheme that lives up to the UK's renewable energy potential (www.foe.co.uk/campaigns)
- urge his or her local council to investigate decentralised energy schemes, such as those in Manchester, Birmingham and Southampton (www.greenpeace.org.uk/efficiency/act)

ACTION ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION & MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT

Ask your MP to:

- sign EDM 588 on UK nuclear weapons and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference
- read and endorse the recommendations contained in the report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (www.icnnd.org)



Brussels diary

A healthy EU-UN partnership

More than 60 years after the founding of the United Nations, the European Union is helping the UN system to adapt to new realities and necessities.

Effective multilateralism is at the centre of the EU's external action. We are convinced that to durably address the many interconnected challenges of today (climate, financial, food, pandemics, etc.) there is no alternative to multilateralism. A key aim for the EU is to contribute to a strong UN that has the legitimacy, recognition and tools to effectively contribute to building a more peaceful, secure and equitable world. As the 2003 EU Security Strategy underlined: "in a world of global threats, global markets and global media, our security and prosperity increasingly depend on an effective multilateral system".

The EU-UN relationship is based on strongly convergent objectives and the

Union is a driving force in many areas: from pushing for UN reform to promoting human rights, from advancing UN normative work in areas such as the environment and social protection to sustaining UN disarmament and non-proliferation activities.

In operational terms, the EU has become a key partner for the UN in the implementation of development and humanitarian assistance – financial flows have been constantly above €1 billion per year in recent times – and, increasingly, in addressing a variety of threats and crises across the world.

Despite the complexity of the two organisations, the difference in constituencies and administrative structures, and the fact that cooperation often takes place in crisis and post-conflict situations, the partnership with the UN has delivered many valuable results.

To give a few concrete examples: for the past three years we have worked together in 17 countries to prevent mine-related casualties. Mine-risk education and rehabilitation programmes have helped inform millions of people and have significantly reduced the number of casualties.

The EU has also driven UN efforts to develop principles on and a monitoring mechanism for children and armed conflict (UN Security Council Resolution 1612). The two organisations work together in countries such as Colombia, Sierra Leone, Angola and Sri Lanka



to reintegrate children into their communities through psychosocial support, schooling and vocational training.

The joint programme to support gender equality and women's empowerment in national development processes is another good example. The programme focuses on effective implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and includes pilot actions in 12 countries around the world.

There are many reasons to be proud of the numerous joint initiatives between the EU and the UN, but we should continue to improve our capacity to work together by deepening policy dialogue and by strategically developing more initiatives. The Lisbon Treaty, by strengthening EU internal coherence and capacity to act, offers an important opportunity to do so.

Veronique Arnault is Director of Multilateral Relations and Human Rights at the European Commission, Directorate General for External Relations



UNA-UK HUSTINGS PACK

UNA-UK is producing a guide on how to hold a hustings for the upcoming UK general election, which will include questions to put to candidates on UNA-UK priorities.

The pack will be available online at www.una.org.uk/parliament from 15 March.

To find out more about UNA-UK's parliamentary advocacy and to read Lord Hannay's exchanges in the House of Lords, visit www.una.org.uk/parliament

Resources



BOOKS



Unacceptable Harm: A History of How the Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions was Won

John Borrie

UNIDIR, December 2009

This publication looks at the conception of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and how it came about through a partnership of civil society actors, parliamentarians, international organisations and committed states. It investigates why it took so long for the world to act, why it eventually did, and what lessons banning cluster munitions might hold for future disarmament efforts.

www.unidir.org



Building Peace After War (Adelphi 407)

Mats Berdal

The International Institute
for Strategic Studies,
October 2009

At a time when more peacekeepers are deployed around the world than at any other point in history, is the international will to intervene beginning to wane? And how capable are the systems that exist for planning and deploying 'peacebuilding' missions of fulfilling the increasingly complex tasks set for them? This book analyses the nature of the modern peacebuilding environment by examining the record of interventions from Cambodia in the early 1990s to contemporary efforts in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

www.iiss.org



The Economics and Politics of Climate Change

Dieter Helm and

Cameron Hepburn (eds)

OUP, October 2009

As the end of the initial Kyoto Protocol period gets nearer, leading climate change experts look at the critical road-blocks to agreement on this crucial issue, examining the economics of climate change, the incentives of the main players (the US, EU and China) and the policies governments can institute to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately shift our economies onto a low-carbon path.

www.oup.co.uk



Restoring the NPT: Essential Steps for 2010

Deepti Choubey

Carnegie Endowment
for International Peace,
November 2009

With growing fears about Iran and North Korea's nuclear programmes, the upcoming 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference offers a timely opportunity to strengthen the NPT regime. This report identifies achievable goals for the Review Conference and outlines steps that nuclear-weapon states (in particular the US) and non-nuclear-weapon states should take to avert failure.

www.carnegieendowment.org

FILMS

The films featured in this section were shown as part of the 2009 'We The Peoples' Film Festival, an annual event organised by UNA Westminster branch. The theme for 2009 was 'The Three Pillars of Freedom' and screenings, followed by panel discussions, were held at several venues across London, including the National Film Theatre and Riverside Studios. The festival also featured the work of nine young 'filmmakers for development'. Visit www.wethepeoples.org.uk for more information.

India: Child Trafficking after the Floods

A look at child trafficking in Bihar, India, where traffickers prey on lost and vulnerable children during the annual floods.

www.savethechildren.org.uk

Forgotten Freedom Fighters

The film follows former fighters who are unemployed and still waiting for the compensation promised to them, ten years after the ANC suspended its armed struggle against the South African government.

www.lefthandfilms.co.za/freedom/

Caso Rosendo Radilla – An Open Wound From Mexico's Dirty War

The story of Rosendo Radilla Pacheco, a prominent Mexican activist whose disappearance during the 'Dirty War' is still unresolved.

<http://hub.witness.org>

Chronic Neglect: The Water Crisis in El Salvador

Everyday stories that document the failures of El Salvador's water system, which have left nearly 60% of the rural population with no reliable access to water even though there is no water shortage.

<http://hub.witness.org>

LETTERS



Send your letters to:

Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK,
3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL

email: samarasinghe@una.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

LET'S GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP IN 2010!

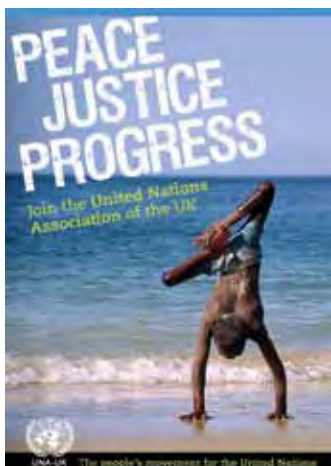
UNA-UK has produced a new membership leaflet with three different covers – one version is enclosed with this issue of New World. The next two issues will include the remaining two designs.

Based on feedback from members and branches, we have left the back page of the leaflet largely blank so that branches can include local information such as upcoming events or contact details. We have also included the option of making a donation to the UNA Trust for potential supporters who would prefer to give to a registered charity.

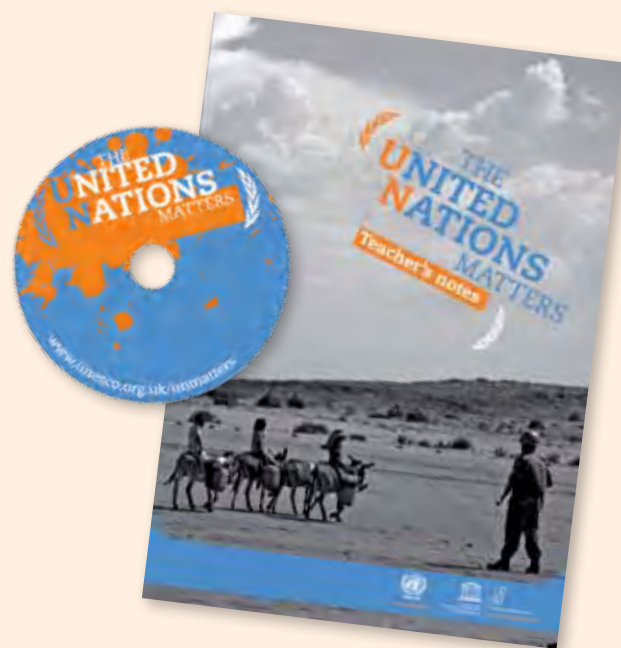
Personal contact is often the best way to attract new members to UNA-UK. If every UNA-UK member uses one of the new leaflets to recruit a friend or family member to the Association, we could double our membership in a single year!

The UNA Trust has also produced a leaflet, which gives an overview of the Trust's educational and charitable work, and details of the different ways in which this work can be supported. We hope this UNA Trust leaflet will be especially useful at 'flag day' collections and other fundraising events.

If you would like more copies of any of the leaflets, please contact Rich Nelmes, UNA-UK Membership Officer, on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456



TEACHING RESOURCE



'THE UNITED NATIONS MATTERS'

This exciting new teaching pack for the secondary level offers an accessible and comprehensive introduction to the United Nations with the aim of developing students' understanding of the UN system and how it works for peace, development and human rights. The pack encompasses five lessons:

- The UN: working for us all
- The UN: keeping the peace
- The UN: fighting poverty
- The UN: promoting human rights
- Model United Nations

Accompanied by notes for teachers and a CD ROM containing lesson plans and student worksheets, the pack aims to enable students to understand global issues from a range of perspectives and develop their own viewpoints on how best to tackle them. Using an interactive approach, students are asked to solve armed conflicts, construct a blueprint for nuclear disarmament and develop awareness-raising campaigns to fight poverty.

The pack was produced by UNA-UK in collaboration with UNESCO Associated Schools in the UK. Complimentary hard copies can be requested by contacting Rich Nelmes, UNA-UK Membership Officer, on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456.

Celebrating the founding of the United Nations

UN Day – 24 October – marks the formal establishment of the United Nations in 1945. For UNA-UK members and branches, the day has long been an opportunity to raise funds to support the work of the UN, and to introduce people to its work and the activities of UNA-UK.

For UN Day 2009, members organised 'flag day' collections, flag-raising ceremonies, conferences and outreach events. UNA-UK itself launched its 2009-10 parliamentary 'Lobby for the UN' (see page 28). Our Young Professionals Network once again held a reception at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to give its members an opportunity to learn about the ways in which the UK supports the work of the UN. (see page 41).

UNA-UK member activities received a special mention in Parliament this year. Dai Davies MP (Blaenau Gwent) tabled a parliamentary question asking the government what events were being held across the UK to mark UN Day. FCO Minister Ivan Lewis replied mentioning selected local UNA events (find out more by visiting www.theyworkforyou.co.uk)

A number of UNA branches in the **London & South-East** region held 'flag day' collections for UNICEF UK and the UNA Trust.

UNA Birkenhead also held a series of 'flag day' collections.

UNA Highgate & Muswell Hill raised over £500 through its 'flag day' activities.

UNA Tynedale held an afternoon tea, hosted by the Sheriff of Newcastle, and organised a UN banner dedication service in Prudhoe.

UNA Harpenden organised a UN flag-raising ceremony at the Harpenden Town Hall, a UN service and a Christmas card fair with the local UNICEF group.

UNA Southampton held a flag-raising ceremony with the Mayor of Southampton, followed by a mayoral reception and a talk on nuclear non-proliferation by Professor John Simpson of the University of Southampton.

UNA Exeter & District held a UN flag-raising ceremony with the Chairman of Devon County Council at the County Hall.

UNA Hull held a conference entitled 'The Prospects for Success at the UN Copenhagen Conference' with speaker John Prescott (MP for Hull East).

UNA Bury St Edmunds & Newmarket held a UN flag-raising ceremony at West Suffolk House, the joint offices of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council.



The Mayor of St Edmundsbury speaking at the ceremony © Martin Gienke

Together with the local Baha'is, Christian Aid, St. Gabriel's Convent, the local Society of Friends, and Thatcham Good Life, **UNA Newbury** held its annual flag-raising ceremony followed by a discussion in the Council Chamber.

UNA Lymington hosted YPN member Susannah Anastasi who spoke on 'The Global Compact and how the UN can encourage a socially responsible private sector'.

UNA Northern Ireland marked UN Day and the UN International Year of Astronomy simultaneously. Representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNYSA joined UNA members for this event, which included a tour of the Armagh observatory and a show in the Armagh Planetarium.

UNA Warwick & District hosted Dr Rosemary Hollis, who spoke on 'Israel and Palestine: is a two-state solution possible?' at St Paul's Church in Leicester.

UNA Stockport hosted its 22nd Annual International Supper/Music on the UN Day – an event attended by nearly 300 people. About £1,700 was raised to support UNICEF and the local branch.



© Shahla Haqjoo

Together with Greenwich Social Network, UNA Blackheath & Greenwich launched a series of meetings on refugees.

UNA Sudbury & District held a conference on 'Taking humanity from fear to hope: new directions for the worldwide community' with Lord Phillips of Sudbury, President of UNA Eastern region, in the chair.

UNA Shropshire held its annual UN service, which was led by the Reverend John Howard, at Church Stretton Methodist Church.

UNA Saffron Walden & District held its Annual Service of Rededication to the UN Charter and also set up a UN stall in the Saffron Walden Market Place.



Branch Chair Canon Michael Swindlehurst and Sheila Freeman Deutsch running the stall
© Francis Deutsch

Remembering...



Ruth Wenban-Smith

23 January marked one year since Ruth Wenban-Smith, UNA-UK Honorary Life Member and President of Lymington branch, died aged 94.

Ruth joined UNA-UK in 1973 and was Lymington's indefatigable branch secretary for 24 years. During this period, she served on the national and regional executive committees, and participated in conferences of the World Federation of UNAs in Ottawa, Athens and Barcelona. The variety of activities undertaken by Lymington branch, which grew to over 80 members, was largely due to Ruth's dedication and enthusiasm. She was heavily involved in work with schools and special events to mark anniversaries such as UN Day.

Ruth wholeheartedly believed that 'we the peoples' are the heart of the UN and that we must constantly pressure our own government and others to 'build a better world'. She disliked the denigration of UN staff as 'bureaucrats' whilst recognising the need to support the UN in fighting complacency and cynicism. Her view was that although we might not know which of our efforts will ultimately bear fruit, we should never give up. She was 'green' long before it became fashionable, and stitched and baked and typed (including transcribing Braille) till her very old age for the causes she believed in.

It was entirely in character that Ruth treated UNA-UK as a sixth child: she left an equal bequest to the Association and each of her five children, leaving both it and us to make the best use of her money and her example!

Rachel MW Smith



Joan Abrams

Joan Abrams, a pivotal member of UNA Stockport branch, passed away on 13 October 2009 aged 82 after a life dedicated to humanitarian action.

Joan's work with UNA-UK began in the early 1950s, shortly after she finished reading English at Oxford University. As a member of the branch's Executive Committee, she was instrumental in all the branch's achievements, notably the various projects carried out for the UN-designated 'Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World': including Stockport's 'Music for Peace', 'Art for Peace' and 'Poems for Peace'. Under her watch, the branch raised over £22,000 – at events such as the Annual International Supper – for clearing mines in Cambodia. Joan and her husband saw the minefield in question when visiting their son Jan, a UN official in that country.

Her daughter Frances said the following in the Stockport Times: "she had an amazing positive spirit and lived her life fully to the last moment".

Dr Shahla Haqjoo

Branch bulletin

UNA South Lakeland & Lancaster hosted a multi-faith dialogue for international peace and justice on 31 October 2009. Chaired by the Mayor of Kendal, the event attracted faith representatives from Kendal, Bolton and Barrow. A resolution on peace to be sent to the UN Secretary-General was agreed.

Malcolm Evans OBE, Professor of Public International Law at Bristol University and Chair of **UNA Gloucestershire Rural**, has been appointed to the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture. Established under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture, this group is charged with conducting regular visits to places where people are detained. We are delighted that Professor Evans has also agreed to join UNA-UK's expert advisory panel.

UNA Liverpool organised its 24th Model UN General Assembly on 19 November 2009. Held in the Town Hall, the Lord Mayor, Cllr Mike Storey OBE, gave the opening address and students representing 27 countries debated issues ranging from access to safe water to the future of UN peacekeeping.

Former MP for Norwich Dr Ian Gibson has been elected Chair of **UNA Norwich**. Dr Gibson said "when I was an MP I supported UNA-UK, which particularly in

Norwich, is a forum where people get beyond the humdrum to see the real issues".

UNA Bexhill & Hastings's meeting on climate change in the run-up to the Copenhagen conference was its best attended event to date. With a strong focus on local action, representatives from the council, Sussex Campaign for Better Transport and Crowhurst Community-Supported Agriculture spoke at the event. Pupils from St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill High School and Bexhill College also gave presentations.

Kevin Hutchens, former UNA-UK Board member for Scotland, sent us this photo of a peace memorial taken on Ben Nevis. He said "I had read the memorial existed in Lonely Planet, but was pleasantly surprised to find it was erected by UNA-Youth. What I do not know is

who put it up there or why". If you know the origins of the memorial, please get in touch with the editor on samarasinghe@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3451.

UNA Harpenden is heavily involved in a British Council programme that has fostered ties between schools in Harpenden and Mazar e Sharif and Kabul. On 12 December 2009, the branch hosted a talk by Nick Daymond, Headteacher of Roundwood Park School, Harpenden, and Yusof Mirzazada of Afghan Action, which is currently seeking funds for its carpet factory and IT training centres.

UNA West Oxfordshire held a hunger lunch for the World Food Programme in Haiti on 23 January 2010 and raised over £800.



UNA youth peace memorial on Ben Nevis © Kevin Hutchens

WE THE PEOPLES FILM FESTIVAL

This annual UNA Westminster festival showcases films from around the world relating to the work of the United Nations. In 2009, the theme of the festival was the 'Three Pillars of Freedom: freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to live in dignity'.

The opening night was held at University College London, where films on child trafficking were screened. At Riverside Studios, *World of Tibet* (a documentary about the Dalai Lama) was followed by a lively Q&A session. Environment and peace was the focus of the screening at the London School of Economics, and at the National Film Theatre, nine films by young people were shown. The evening was followed by a discussion with leading industry professionals including filmmakers and youth arts practitioners. The final event at Kingston University was hosted by UNA-UK's youth group there.

Work is already underway for the 2010 festival. Visit www.wethepeoples.org.uk for more information and see page 30 for details of selected films.

Listings



20 FEBRUARY

UNA EXETER & DISTRICT

The branch will host a conference entitled 'Beyond Copenhagen, the outcome and what next?' with speakers from the Met Office and Exeter University. This event will take place from 1.15 to 5.30pm at the Jury's Inn Hotel Exeter, Western Way, Exeter EX1 2DB.

Contact: Susan Stevens on 01392 256 559

20 FEBRUARY

UNA LYMINGTON

Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK Head of Communications, will speak on 'What has the UN ever done? – Communicating the work of the UN' from 1 to 2pm at Brockenhurst College, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst SO42 7ZE.

Contact: Patricia de Mowbray on 01590 679 030 or patricia@radioactive.org.uk

20 FEBRUARY

UNA NEWBURY

The branch will hold a coffee morning hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Kuldip Singh Kang, in aid of 'Citizens for change', a local project supporting a school in Kisumu, Kenya. Becky Chaplin, (Kennet School, Thatcham) will give a presentation and a 'bring-and-buy-sale' or tombola is planned. Help on the day and homemade cakes would be much appreciated. This event will take place from 10am to 12pm at Newbury Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AA.

Contact: Graeme Panting on 01635 863 331 or graemepanting@myguide.net

23 FEBRUARY

UNA HARPENDEN

The branch will hold a public meeting entitled 'Loss of biodiversity – why should we care?' addressed by Monica

MacDevette, Deputy Director of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge. This event will take place from 11am at St Nicholas, Church Hall, Harpenden AL5 2TP.

Contact: Trevor Evans on 01582 713 895 or jandt.evans@ntlworld.com

9 MARCH

UNA PUTNEY & ROEHAMPTON

The branch will hold a meeting to mark International Women's Day with the theme 'Crisis for women in the DRC – how can the UN help?'. Speakers include Vijay Mehta from Action for UN Renewal and representatives of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). This event will take place from 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, corner Upper Richmond Road and Gwendolen Avenue, Putney SW15.

Contact: Jo Stocks on 020 8870 5536 or jo.stocks@talk21.com, or Rob Storey on 07776 356 334 or StoreyRW@aol.com

10 MARCH

UNA EXETER & DISTRICT

The branch will hold its Annual General Meeting from 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Wynards Lane, Exeter EX2 4HU.

Contact: Susan Stevens on 01392 256 559

10 MARCH

UNA OXFORD

Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK Head of Communications, will speak on 'What chance for change in Sri Lanka?' from 5.30 to 6.30pm in the Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford.

Contact: Dr Neville Shepherd on 01865 761 630 or neville.shepherd@metronet.co.uk

REMINDER:

UNA-UK COMPANY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 16th Annual General Meeting of the Company will take place from 4pm to 6pm on Saturday, 6 March 2010 in the Eastwood Room, Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. Tea and coffee will be served from 3.30pm.

All UNA-UK members have been sent a letter enclosing the following documents:

- formal AGM notice
- draft financial summary for the year ended 30 June 2009
- minutes of the AGM held on 5 June 2009
- profiles of members standing for the four elected places on the UNA-UK Board of Directors (please note that we received exactly four nominations for the four elected places, so no ballot will be held. The AGM does, however, still need to approve these appointments)

If you haven't received any of these documents, or are unable to attend and would like to request a proxy voting form, please contact Carol Hodson, Company Secretary and Head of Governance & Finance, on hodson@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3455.

19 MARCH

UNA BIRKENHEAD

The branch will host a talk and Q&A with Chris Davies MEP on 'Copenhagen and the limits of the UN process'. Chris Davies is a Lib Dem Euro-MP for the North West and attended the recent Copenhagen conference on climate change. This event will take place at 7.30pm at the Westbourne Hall Community Centre, 59 Westbourne Road, West Kirby, Wirral CH48 4DQ.

Contact: Peter Guyan on 01515 120 946 or peterguyan@ntlworld.com

19 MARCH

UNA TYNEDALE

The branch host a talk by Fiona Hall MEP on the developing links between the European Parliament and the UN. This event will take place at 2pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Branch End, Stocksfield NE43 7NA.

Contact: Les Ashworth on 01661 842 675 or les.ashworth@virgin.net

20 MARCH

UNA SOUTHAMPTON

The branch will host a one-day human rights conference

entitled 'Born free and equal?'. Speakers will include Rob Atkinson (Amnesty International) on poverty and human rights violations, and Sister Teresa (founder of the Medaille Trust) on trafficking. There will also be workshops on women's rights, children's rights, asylum seekers, refugees, and homelessness.

The conference is supported by a coalition of local groups interested in human rights. This event will take place from 10am to 4.30pm at the Central Baptist Church, Devonshire Road, The Polygon, Southampton SO15 2GY. Fee £5.00 to include lunch. Registration forms and further information are available on request.

Contact: Margaret Matthews on 02380 557 334 or memat56@tiscali.co.uk

6 APRIL

UNA CHELTENHAM

The branch will hold a public

meeting with speaker Lee Adamson on 'The International Maritime Organization' from 7.15 to 8.45pm at Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL50 2SX.

Contact: Sue Thompson on 01242 235 072 or suethompson682@hotmail.com

12 APRIL

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

UEL's Centre on Human Rights in Conflict will host a public lecture by Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. The event will take place from 4.30 to 6pm in Room DH 001, Duncan House, Stratford High Street, London E15 2JB

Visit www.uel.ac.uk/chrc or contact v.perry@uel.ac.uk

27 APRIL

UNA SHROPSHIRE

Together with Concord College and South Shropshire Interfaith

Forum, the branch will hold 'Building Bridges, a conversation across cultures', an event on war and peace in Afghanistan.

This event will take place from 7.15 to 9.30pm at Concord International College, Acton Burnell Hall, Shropshire SY5 7PF.

Contact: Canon Noel Beattie on 01694 725 530 or noelandsuzanne@dsl.pipex.com, or visit www.unashropshire.org.uk

18 MAY

UNA CHELTENHAM

The branch will hold a public meeting with speaker Dr Bryan Carroll (Deputy Director of Bristol Zoo) on 'The protection of gorillas'. The meeting will take place from 7.15 to 8.45pm at Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL50 2SX.

Contact: Sue Thompson on 01242 235 072 or suethompson682@hotmail.com

MEMBERS' FORUM

This online forum showcases news and views from UNA-UK members and branches. Current contributions include: a press release on UN Day from Carol Conlin of UNA Northern Ireland, a new book on Counter-Terrorism by long-standing UNA member and former senior lecturer in international relations Dr David Whitaker, and an article on UN reform by YPN member Alexa van Sickle. Please send contributions to samarasinghe@una.org.uk or by post to UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

Have your say! Visit www.una.org.uk/MembersForum

UN FORUM 2010

An effective UN in a more secure and just world



Saturday, 12 June 2010

Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Featuring:

- High-level speakers on human rights, development, climate change and peace and security, including Dr Hans Blix, former head of the UN's nuclear watchdog
- An expert panel debate on making the UN more effective chaired by BBC presenter Zeinab Badawi
- Workshops, films, and stalls

This exciting one-day event hosted by the United Nations Association of the UK will be the UK's largest civil society gathering on the UN.

This event is **free**, but prior registration is required. To register your interest in attending, please visit www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010 or telephone 020 7766 3456.

Have your say on how to make the UN work better!

www.una.org.uk/UNForum2010

UNA-UK's traditional policy-making conference will next be held in 2011. Look out for information in the next issue of New World.

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

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

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

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



UNYSA checklist for 2010

- ✓ Seal the deal
- ✓ Stop the spread
- ✓ Feed the world
- ✓ Spread the word

Happy New Year from your Youth Council! Last year was a great one for UNYSA. We produced two campaign toolkits: one for our flagship nuclear non-proliferation initiative 'Stop the Spread', which was launched in the UK and internationally, and the other for 'Seal the Deal', our push for a fair global climate deal. Both are available from www.una.org.uk/youth.

In addition to taking on two of the biggest threats facing the world, we worked on our other brief – equipping young people. Our Regional Development Team has more in store for you this year. In 2010 we will also focus on building a better understanding of the UN through teaching and Model UN. Several UNYSA branches are holding MUNs this spring – check out our website to decide which ones to attend.

Finally, as many of you will know, there's an important election coming up. No, not the UK general election. The race is on to see who will succeed this year's Youth Council. The election will be held at our Annual Conference on 27 March at the Saïd Business School in Oxford – see the box opposite for information on the speaker line-up and on how to submit your candidacy.

See you there!

P.S. For those of you who are interested in the 'other' election, UNA-UK's hustings pack, with questions to put to candidates on UN issues, will be available from 15 March 2010 from www.una.org.uk/parliament

Nick Boucher – President
Pranav Sawhney – Vice-President
Alix Walton – Model UN & Education Officer
Morris Marah – Model UN & Education Officer

Luke Harman – Regional Development Coordinator
Sagal Ali – Regional Development Deputy
Hao Chen – Campaigns Officer
Chris Day – Campaigns Officer

Can we take on the two biggest threats facing the world?

On 21 November 2009, students from across the country participated in our campaign conference. Hosted by the excellent Leicester UNYSA branch, the event aimed to inform and inspire action on climate change and nuclear non-proliferation. In their presentations, UNA-UK's Tim Kellow and Kate Lyons of Global Action Plan highlighted the importance of civil society and business in pushing these issues up the agenda, and of getting the word out to young people worldwide.

UK is a member), the march called on world leaders to agree an effective and equitable successor to the Kyoto Protocol at the Copenhagen climate change summit. In the end, what emerged from Copenhagen fell far short of our expectations. But all is not lost, and it is vital that we keep up the pressure in 2010 to ensure our governments deliver on climate change. See pages 12-15 for a briefing on the conference and to read extracts from Chris Day's Copenhagen blog.

Seal the deal at Copenhagen

UNYSA members were out in force for 'The Wave' march in London on 5 December 2009. Organised by the Stop Climate Chaos coalition (of which UNA-

UNYSA network grows stronger

On 7 November 2009, UNYSA branch representatives gathered at the University of Birmingham to discuss how to deepen cooperation between our 10,000 members across the UK. At the meeting, two regional chairs were elected: Emilie O'Herne from York UNYSA (Northern



UNYSA member tries out Global Action Plan eco driving simulator at the UNYSA conference in Leicester on 21 November 2009 © Jagdish Choksi/Jach designs/UNA-UK

and Ann Marie Eu from LSE UN Society (Southern), who will work to coordinate the activities of branches in their areas. Several initiatives discussed – such as a national e-group with a calendar and speaker database – are currently being developed. The Regional Development Team is also organising a project management workshop in early April 2010 – details will be posted on the UNYSA website shortly.

Teaching why the UN matters

Morris Marah visited the UNA branch in Highgate in September 2009 to talk about the work of UNYSA. At this event, he was invited to visit Latymer All Saints Primary School by head teacher Sarita Singh, who asked him to speak on



human rights during the school's 'equality week'. Morris gave presentations on children's rights to three Year 6 classes using UNA-UK's human rights teaching pack.

Here is his report:

"The pupils displayed great interest. They asked all kinds of questions about

how they could relate what they were learning to their daily lives, and especially enjoyed carrying out the activities contained in the pack. The whole experience really inspired me because it was my first time talking about these topics to kids of that age. I left them some comic books on health and climate change which UNA-UK had provided.

I would like to say a massive 'thank you' to Sarita, and urge all UNYSA branches to participate in our Schools Outreach Programme. In addition to the human rights pack, UNA-UK has now produced another teaching resource, this one covering all the main areas of the UN's work (see page 31). If you want more information or tips on presenting to children, contact me on morris.marah@hotmail.co.uk."

Register
now!

www.una.org.uk/youth

UNYSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

Fighting poverty: helping the UN to meet the Millennium Development Goals

Saturday, 27 March
Saïd Business School, Oxford

This year's Annual Conference is set to be the best ever. And it's completely free of charge. You may even qualify for a travel bursary.

We know you won't want to miss it!

Keynote: Professor Paul Collier

Paul Collier is Professor of Economics at Oxford University and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies. He is the author of the best-selling book 'The Bottom Billion' and a former UN special adviser on Haiti.

Presentations by:

Caroline Hurford (World Food Programme) and Sophie Tholstrup (Department for International Development)

Youth Council 2010-11 elections:

Your chance to get more involved with UNYSA and UNA-UK. Available positions are: President, Vice President, Campaigns and Policy Officers (2), Education and MUN Officers (2) and Regional Development Officers (2). You can find out what these roles entail on our website.

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

Feeding the billion: LSE kickstarts UNYSA's food security campaign



Isabella
Hayward

Rushing in between classes,

scrambling for change to buy a bacon sandwich or impatiently queuing for pizza on a Friday night... It's easy to take food for granted and forget that millions of people around the world don't know where their next meal will come from.

World Food Day is held each year on 16 October. The date marks the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and now serves to heighten public awareness about hunger, malnutrition and poverty. In 2009, the Day focussed on 'achieving food security in times of crisis' and it is indeed a time of crisis – for the first time in history the number of people going to bed hungry has topped one billion.

The age of the food surplus is over. While there is currently enough food for every man, woman and child on the planet, reserves are depleted and the cost of food remains stubbornly high in the developing world, pushing even more people into hunger.

Why is it that we need to be reminded that hunger is one of the greatest threats to humanity, and that for some, a meal is something you might come by every three days? Why is the issue so often disregarded in the media in favour of announcing sports scores and celebrity scandals? Those who cannot feed themselves suffer in silence and it is only when natural disasters strike that the naked truth becomes crystal clear. This is no

more evident than in Haiti now, where the development failures and high levels of deprivation have been exposed.

Food is not just a human right but essential to building a better future for millions. Providing food aid is not only temporary relief from a larger problem – it is a vital first step towards a long-term solution. Without proper nutrition, people with diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis don't stand a chance. If children eat a good meal at school they are more likely to stay in education. By investing in this generation, we increase the possibility of them changing their countries for the better as adults.

'Today's students are the thinkers, policy-makers and leaders of tomorrow. It's vital to 'feed' their minds and harness that brain-power for a better future'

On World Food Day 2009, LSE UNYSA began its cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP). On the day itself, our society hosted Caroline Hurford, WFP's Senior Public Affairs Officer in London, who gave an account of her work and the problems faced by WFP. Our members then went out to the heart of the campus to raise money and awareness. We promoted WFP's 'Fill the cup' campaign, which features the red plastic cup used by WFP to serve children in the developing world hot school meals. For one week we started campaigning at breakfast time, setting up a big blue tent in the middle of Houghton street, LSE's main artery. Adorned with home-made banners and posters put together by our PR Officer, our tent was hard to ignore.

Why has LSE UNYSA decided to work with the WFP? Our President, Tomás Guilherme da Costa, said "2010 is a big year for the UN Millennium Development Goals, of which eradicating poverty and hunger are central aims. With five years left until the 2015 deadline, the General Assembly is hosting a major summit in September to mobilise urgent global action. As the largest humanitarian organisation, providing food to 100 million people in 80 countries each year, WFP is a natural partner in helping us to push for action".

LSE UNYSA strives to promote the UN's principles and work on campus. With the support of UNA-UK, we want to continue and expand the impact we have on how students think about and engage with human development in all sorts of different arenas. Today's students are the thinkers, policy-makers and leaders of tomorrow. It's vital to 'feed' their minds and harness that brain-power for a better future.

So, before you buy your lunch today, think of all those people who won't be having any!

Isabella Hayward is the events director of the United Nations Society at the London School of Economics (LSE UNYSA)

The UNYSA Youth Council would like to congratulate LSE UNYSA on leading the way and encourages other branches to follow suit. This is how you can help:

- organise a 'Fill the cup' fundraising event. It costs WFP just 16p to provide a child with a school meal – how little it takes to make a big difference
- donate to WFP's Haiti appeal
- contact the WFP in London to see if they can provide you with a speaker
- support WFP's 'Billion for a Billion' campaign
- raise awareness of hunger at twitter.com/fighthunger and become a fan of WFP on Facebook

Visit www.wfp.org for more information

You can keep up with UNYSA on:

www.una.org.uk/youth
www.twitter.com/campaignsunysa
www.unysacampaigns.blogspot.com
Facebook group: UNYSA-UK

You can also sign up to our monthly e-newsletter, which features news, action points, events and career opportunities, by visiting
www.una.org.uk/youth



JUNIOR AWARDS OFFERED FOR 2010/11

The International Studies Committee of the Gilbert Murray Trust is offering up to six Junior Awards of up to £500 each to support a specific project (such as a research visit to the headquarters of an international organisation, or a short course at an institution abroad), which will assist the applicant in his or her study of the work and purposes of the UN. It is not intended as general financial support for the study of international affairs.

Applicants should on 1 April 2010 be no more than 25 years of age (but applications will be considered from those who are above this age if they are able to put forward special reasons for their delayed education, such as ill health). They must be studying, or have studied, international relations at an institution of higher education in the UK.

The deadline for applications is 1 April 2010. For information on how to apply, contact Tiphaine Lanneluc on t.lanneluc@lse.ac.uk

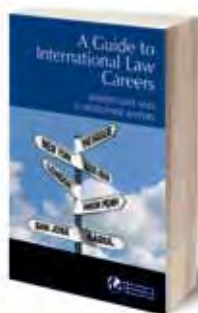


DISSERTATION AWARD PROGRAM

ACUNS is offering an award of US \$1000 for dissertations that look beyond the substance of a particular global problem and the applicant's disciplinary background and clearly demonstrate a direct link to institutional issues of the UN system. To be eligible, candidates must:

- be at the Ph.D., J.S.D. or LL.M. level and engaged in the writing stage of their programme
- be or become a member of ACUNS

The deadline for applications is 12 March 2010. To find out more about how to apply, and to become a member of ACUNS, visit www.acuns.org



A GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW CAREERS

Anneke Smit & Christopher Waters
British Institute of International and
Comparative Law, January 2010

The experience of many students studying public international law at university is, 'This is fascinating, but what can I do with it?' This guide explores the options available to law graduates beyond traditional or domestic law career paths, and offers a step-by-step approach to considering whether and how to pursue a career in one of these areas. The text is supplemented by practitioners' views and experiences, and appendices containing concrete information on the most useful internships, short courses and Master's programmes.

www.biiicl.org

Share your experience *Have you worked or interned for the UN?*

**Please send 300-400 words
outlining:**

- where you worked
- what you did
- your experiences and tips for others interested in a similar role

to Helen Franzen on
ypn@una.org.uk

Selected submissions will be
posted online at una.org.uk/ypn

Networking for good

FCO Minister praises YPN

On 28 October 2009, UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network (YPN) held its annual reception at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). Over 300 YPN members – including many new recruits – attended this prestigious event which provided an opportunity to share experiences and seek advice on careers in the international field.



YPN members network at the FCO on 28 October 2009 © Marcus Dawes/UNA-UK

YPN
Young Professionals Network



YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
NETWORK
of UNA-UK

An opening address from Anwar Choudhury, Director of International Institutions at the FCO, was followed by a speech from Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, FCO Minister for the UN, who reflected on the importance of young professionals engaging with international affairs, and praised UNA-UK for its 'crucial role in helping the FCO to connect with views and thinking on the UN'.

After her remarks, Susannah Anastasi of the YPN Advisory Group gave a brief overview of the Network's past successes and goals for the future. Susannah also took the opportunity to bid farewell to the outgoing YPN coordinator Tim Kellow whose great enthusiasm for the Network will be missed.

business.un.org

The UN has launched a new website designed to match the needs of UN organisations with the resources and capacities of the private sector.

business.un.org lets companies browse through a catalogue of UN 'needs' and partnership opportunities. Companies can also submit ideas for collaboration. Based on shared interests, the site flags and connects potential matches.

While numerous business-UN partnerships already exist, companies have in the past expressed frustration over the lack of a single entry point identifying UN needs across the multitude of specialised agencies, funds and programmes. Many of the site's features follow recommendations made in an assessment of the UN response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as businesses around the world, are invited to register and populate the site in the coming months. Several Haiti-related needs have been posted on the site. The site is coordinated by the UN Global Compact and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Project funding was provided by the UN Foundation.

Visit **business.un.org** to see how your company can help the UN!

YPN participates in the UK Network of the UN Global Compact

Last year, at the request of the UK Network of the UN Global Compact, YPN members were invited to participate in meetings on corruption, business and human rights, and moving towards a low-carbon economy. The Global Compact is a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative set up by the UN which aims to further 10 principles that cover human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption (within the scope of business enterprise). If you are a YPN member specialising in corporate social responsibility, keep your eye out for similar opportunities this year by visiting www.una.org.uk/ypn

Website overhaul

The YPN website is in the process of being overhauled, and we would appreciate any suggestions you have for improvements in the information and resources provided, as well as the layout.

Please send your suggestions to Helen Franzen, UNA-UK Communications Officer, on ypn@una.org.uk

THE YPN INTERVIEW:

NAME: Andrew Collinson

PLACE OF WORK: London Development Agency

YPN MEMBER SINCE: 2009



What do you do?

Presently I am on secondment from the London Development Agency (LDA), which promotes sustainable economic growth for London, to the Olympic Park Legacy Company. I head up their online presence and manage various aspects of their digital projects, from websites and intranets to the roll-out of a new stakeholder database.

In addition to your day job, you also do a lot of campaigning for action on climate change – tell us more about that.

I first got involved with Stop Climate Chaos (SCC) by undertaking a web and media internship – a perfect fit for my work experience and passion for environmental issues. Since then, my growing desire to ‘do my bit’ has kept me involved with SCC. Most recently I worked as Artist Liaison during The Wave march in December 2009, which was an incredible experience. Afterwards I attended a conference with Ed Miliband, who answered the delegates’ questions post-march. It has also been rewarding to use my web skills at other organisations, on their climate change campaigns in particular, helping them to reach their audiences across a variety of online channels.

It must be hard to juggle your work and voluntary commitments – what drives you?

I want to practice what I preach. You can’t go around trying to get others to change their lifestyles without rolling up your sleeves and getting involved yourself. That is why I continue to volunteer. I feel honoured to be involved with the coalition, which is in my opinion at the forefront of the most pressing debate of our generation, in this country and indeed the world.

UNA-UK is part of SCC and many of our members participated in The Wave. Do you think mass civil society action makes a difference?

Absolutely. The sheer number and diversity of those who participated in ‘The Wave’ – politicians, activists, young and old – means that people take notice, even if it is just to criticise. It raises awareness of how far we’ve come in the fight for action. I realise I might sound idealistic but so many times in the climate debate you hear people say ‘what can I, just one person, do?’. By standing together, others can no longer make that statement – that in itself is the success of mass action. The challenge, of course, is to keep up the momentum afterwards.

What is your view on the outcome of the Copenhagen climate conference?

While I appreciate the complexity of such negotiations, I must confess I’m disappointed. The ‘political accord’ appears to be a long way off the robust plan and fair deal that we need, but it is hopefully a first step in the right direction. Another important step would be to convince more private-sector firms to see action on climate change as a long-term opportunity rather than a short-term ‘nuisance’.

The LDA works for both economic growth and sustainability – do you ever feel that your job conflicts with your environmental activism?

I think when you are passionate about any issue, you are bound to run into conflicting views, including where you work. At the most basic level, I have countless arguments with colleagues simply trying to get them to turn off their computer screens! Most organisations still don’t have ‘green’ strategies so I’m pleased that LDA itself has a number of initiatives in place, and is working closely with the Mayor of London to help London achieve its ‘green’ targets and reduce its carbon footprint. But if these initiatives don’t filter down to employees, then the battle is already half lost. Implementing a robust environmental strategy is about changing our disposable culture, and it should be at the top of any organisation’s agenda, just like health and safety or equality and diversity. Hopefully by contributing in-house I am helping to instigate a change in that culture.

What advice would you give someone looking to get a foot on the NGO ladder?

To remain determined and use your friends and contacts to full effect. It sounds clichéd but it really does work – it was a friend who stumbled on the SCC internship and suggested I go for it. I worked longer hours at my paid job and did the internship on other days. It was tough but having the internship on my CV enabled me to get work at other organisations, which in turn resulted in being recommended for other projects. Finally I ended up at LDA. It is easy to look back now and see it as a clear path, but it didn’t feel like it at the time! I would also recommend trying to get experience outside London, where the competition is less fierce and the opportunities no less interesting. Above all, persevere! You never know what those two months of work experience may develop into.



HELP HAITI DROP THE DEBT

Donations are flooding into Haiti after the devastating earthquake that struck on 12 January. But every day money is still flowing out of the country in the form of crippling debt repayments.

As a member of the Jubilee Debt Campaign, UNA-UK is calling for the urgent cancellation of Haiti's debts, which amount to roughly \$900 million. Whilst the G7 countries have now pledged debt cancellation, the IMF is yet to turn its recent loan into a grant.

Petition the UK to do all it can to ensure the G7 pledge is kept and all emergency earthquake assistance is provided in the form of grants, not debt-incurring loans.

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

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