



NEW WORLD

News and comment on the United Nations and UNA

July–Sept 2005

Beyond the G8 from Gleneagles to New York

Solidarity not charity

an historic opportunity at the UN to
forge a global consensus



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
3 Whitehall Court London SW1A 2EL
Tel: 020 7766 3444
Fax: 020 7930 5893
E-mail: info@una-uk.org
www.una-uk.org

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UNA Directory

Main telephone number	020 7766 3444
Fax number	020 7930 5893
Main e-mail address	info@una-uk.org
Website	www.una-uk.org

General enquiries & information

info@una-uk.org	020 7766 3444
-----------------	---------------

Executive Director

daws@una-uk.org	020 7766 3451
-----------------	---------------

Membership enquiries & renewals

membership@una-uk.org	020 7766 3443
-----------------------	---------------

Fundraising

fundraising@una-uk.org	020 7766 3447
------------------------	---------------

Peace & security programme

aramsbotham@una-uk.org	020 7766 3446
------------------------	---------------

Policy enquiries & advocacy coordination

vlie@una-uk.org	020 7766 3451
-----------------	---------------

UNESCO UK Commission

lleung@una-uk.org	020 7766 3490
-------------------	---------------

Adopt-A-Minefield

Main telephone number	020 7925 1500
Fax number	020 7925 1900
Main e-mail address	info@landmines.org.uk
Website	www.landmines.org.uk

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3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL
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The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of *New World* is noon on Monday, 5 September 2005. The next issue will cover the period 1 October to 31 December 2005. Please send all contributions by e-mail where possible to vlie@una-uk.org. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi resolution.

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FROM SAM DAWS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the summer 2005 issue of *New World*. The renewal of UNA is entering a new phase: having built a stronger relationship with the government, expanded our strategic partnerships with NGOs and academia, and stabilised UNA's finances, we are now turning to outreach. To this purpose, we will be developing campaign materials in support of the policy priorities established by Annual Conference and increasing our national presence - in the media, in Parliament, and at a grassroots level as part of a wider membership drive. Youth has played a vital role in these successes, and is the fastest growing sector of our membership.

The 60th anniversary of the UN has been an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the UN and UNA. The speeches by three generations of UNA members at the 60th Annual Conference at the LSE were most inspiring, especially those of Archie Mackenzie and Shirley Pleydell - two of our members who are also veterans of the negotiations to found the UN in 1945 (see page 6). But this year is also a crucial moment to focus on what governments have *failed* to do, and to assert the efficacy and moral imperative of multilateral cooperation.

The last two months have seen the FCO-UNA engagement process on UN reform in full swing, with an exciting series of over a dozen public debates having been held across the country (see page 4). The success of these events has been largely due to dedicated staff and volunteers, both at the UNA-UK offices, but also throughout the country at branch, regional and national level, in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. I believe that these events can also be seen as an important precedent for holding high-profile UNA events outside of London.

I am delighted to announce further progress towards returning UNA to a sound financial footing. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, after a 15-year gap in funding UNA, has announced its decision

to provide a core grant of £120,000, of which £60,000 will be payable immediately. The JRCT has written to say that its Trustees "would be delighted to see a revitalised UNA and are willing to devote resources now to assist with the process of transformation". The funding marks the recognition of "the strategic value of an authoritative membership organisation promoting multilateralism and acting as a critical friend of the UN".

“ Youth has played a vital role in these successes, and is the fastest growing sector of our membership ”

UNA's financial needs, however, remain considerable, in particular since we have witnessed a recent dearth of legacy income, on which the UNA budget has traditionally depended. Please therefore do consider including the UNA Trust as a beneficiary in your will, and making either a one-off donation to the UNA Trust or a regular monthly gift. A form has been included on the back page of this issue of *New World*, should you wish to donate or become a regular giver. I am enormously grateful to those members that have contributed so generously to our UN@60 appeal already. With the receipt of the JRCT grant we can guarantee that money you donate to this appeal can be directed fully to new UNA campaign materials, and to our outreach to young people. We have so far received a total of £7,048 in response to the appeal contained in the April issue of *New World*, £5,528 of which will be recurrent income through regular donations. Please keep it coming!

Over the next 24 months I intend to oversee the beginning of a progressive shift of financial resources from headquarters back to the branch, with an increasing proportion of all membership dues being returned for use in local activities. The Board has already

agreed to abolish the unpopular regional quota, and for branch and regional public liability insurance to be paid centrally. The contribution of branches and regions to fundraising remains vital, but it will only be in support of specific UNA campaigns and humanitarian causes and no longer also for core costs.

The former MP for Putney and chair of the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group, Tony Colman, sadly lost his seat at the general election. UNA has written to Tony to express our gratitude for the enormous contribution he has made to increasing support for the UN in Parliament. We are currently working with Conservative MP Hugh Robertson to re-register the Group following the election and to establish a new set of officers. For the first time, *New World* has been distributed to all MPs, inviting them to become involved in both the new Group and UNA.

Over the next month we will be working with the UK Model UN network to secure government funding for educational events to mark the 60th anniversary of the first meetings of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, both of which were held in London in 1946.

During the next six months we will also be producing a wide range of one- and two-page briefings on UN topics, to support the campaigning phase of UNA renewal. These materials will be based on the policy set at Annual Conference and will be for use at an individual, branch and regional level. Contained in this issue of *New World* are briefings on the situation in Darfur and on the proposals for a Peacebuilding Commission. Also included are some ideas for individual action by UNA members on sustainable development issues, as attention turns from the G8 to the UN Millennium Review Summit in September.

As UNA moves forward and renews, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all our longtime members and supporters - you have been our lifeblood! With your help we will introduce new generations into our membership, and again turn UNA into a powerful force in this country.



Update on the

In Larger Freedom

UK public engagement process

We are nearing the end of the FCO-UNA public engagement process, having now held over a dozen national and regional symposia on the reform and strengthening of the UN. These events have proved very popular, attracting a cross-section of society, including youth, trade unions, parliamentarians, NGOs, the armed services and academia. Common themes have emerged: a clear and widespread support for a strengthened United Nations, and a reaffirmation of the UN's unique importance as both a forum for negotiating viable solutions to collective threats, and an instrument for taking collective action to meet diverse threats, from climate change to terrorism. Here are samples of the views expressed:

10 March: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

The need was stressed for a legally binding arms trade treaty. The role of education - and particularly that of girls - in development was emphasised and noted as indispensable to realising the Millennium Development Goals.

15 March: Cambridge Students' Union, Cambridge

The principle of the responsibility to protect was affirmed, and calls made for guidelines to be agreed on the practical application of the use of force under the UN Charter, for review and consultation by the Security Council prior to the authorisation of the use of force.

17 March: Civic Hall, Leeds

Following a stimulating introduction by then Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell MP, participants backed a root-and-branch overhaul of UN human resources policies and budgetary processes, with greater emphasis on an independent, well-resourced oversight capacity, and commitments from member states to reduce micro-management and political interference in recruitment and promotion.

19 May: Birmingham and Midlands Institute, Birmingham

Debt relief featured prominently, with the Co-Chair of the Jubilee Debt Campaign sharing valuable information on the issue. The Mayor of Birmingham addressed the meeting and the UK Ambassador to the UN, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, delivered the keynote address.

1 June: Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

This event was attended by several MSPs, with Des McNulty MSP sitting on the panel. The importance of cooperation between the Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN at the country-level, working through the Peacebuilding Commission, was stressed.

13 June: Malone House, Belfast

A number of participants called for membership criteria for a new UN Human Rights Council, requiring states to make progress in developing national human rights institutions before qualifying for membership. There was

a valuable youth presence, with several school representatives making insightful contributions to the debate.

17 June: University of Wales, Aberystwyth

Opened by the Vice-Chancellor and Lord Mayor, the event featured a keynote address by Lord Hannay. Participants stressed that any expansion of the Security Council should increase developing country representation yet also ensure that the Council's effectiveness is not impaired. There were calls for voluntary restrictions on the use of the veto, in the absence of formal Charter amendment.

23 June: Hulme Hall, Manchester

There was criticism of the types of conditionalities being placed on developing countries by the World Bank and IMF, in particular inappropriate privatisation of the public sector.

Although the UN reform 'roadshow' is coming to a close, the job of the National Rapporteurs is not yet finished. Over the course of the next month they will be compiling a report of the feedback gathered at all the events and will also incorporate the results from the expert engagement process. This report, to be presented to the Foreign Office in August 2005, will be free to those who participated in the public debates and will be available to others for £2.

Photos: Marisa Strutt/UNA



The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh



Tim Morris (second from left), Head of the FCO International Organisations Department, with public debate participants, and Scottish National Development Officer Frances Mildmay (far right)



FCO Reception for UN60

On Monday, 27 June 2005, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hosted a reception in the Locarno Suite to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw delivered the keynote speech in which he paid tribute to the work of UNA. UN veteran Archie Mackenzie was also present to relate his memories of the Charter negotiations in San Francisco 60 years ago.

Top left: Jack Straw. Bottom left: Archie Mackenzie. Above: UNA staff, Board and Youth Council members with Jack Straw and Archie Mackenzie (from left to right: Ashish Bhatt, Sam Daws, Archie Mackenzie, Sir Richard Jolly, Jack Straw, Richard Bartlett, Marina Faggionato, Veronica Lie and Robert Smith). Photos courtesy of the FCO.



Special Event on *In Larger Freedom*

On 12 May 2005, UNA organised a special event at the Foreign Press Association in London with Mr Edward Mortimer, Director of Communications in the UN Secretary-General's Office. Mr Mortimer briefed a packed audience on the prospects for success at the UN summit in September. A transcript of the event is available on the UNA website.



Photos: Benedict Parsons/UNA



UNA-UK Annual Conference 2005

UNA-UK's 60th anniversary Annual Conference was held at the London School of Economics on 2-3 April 2005. This was the first year that the UNYSA national conference was held in parallel with that of UNA-UK, and feedback suggests members very much welcomed this.

It was also the first time that we conducted an evaluation process in order to collect feedback on the format, content and venue of Annual Conference. A diverse range of views were expressed; a summary of the results can be found on the page opposite.

Profiles of Elected UNA-UK Board Members

Luckshan Abeysuriya

Age 55

Luckshan Abeysuriya is a self-employed professional accountant and has taught business studies. He holds an MA in international relations and read for a PhD on the UN Convention against Torture. Luckshan was also involved with the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus.

Luckshan is chair of the South Lakeland branch and Northwest Region. He has served two three-year terms on the board of Amnesty International UK (AIUK), and is currently AIUK's Nepal country co-ordinator.

Michael Blackshaw

Age 66

Michael Blackshaw was previously a local government director on environmental issues. He was then appointed UNA-UK's Regional Development Officer (RDO) for Southern Region.

As the RDO representative, Michael played a key role in the awayday process, assisting in formulating a vision for UNA and setting out the qualities sought in a new Executive Director. Michael recently retired from his position as RDO, but remains chair of the Reading branch.

T. Arwyn Evans

T. Arwyn Evans, who previously served as Mayor of Bangor, is a retired consultant orthopaedic surgeon and former county councillor. He is married with three children.

Having served as a UNA branch member and officer for a number of years, Mr Evans is now Chair of UNA Wales. He is a repre-

sentative to the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, a Presbyterian Church of Wales Elder, and a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Kate Grady

Age 22

Kate Grady has been on the Youth Council since 2003 as Vice-President and Immediate Past Vice-President. Since joining, Kate has made many vital contributions to UNA-UK's youth work: she was a key author of the UNYSA constitution; she participated in the awayday process and sat on the appointment panel which selected the new Executive Director; and she has been elected onto WFUNA Youth's Executive Committee.

Tim Jarman

Age 22

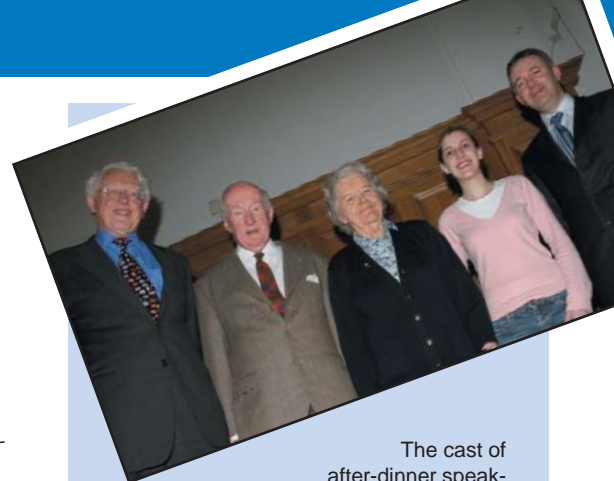
Tim Jarman has been a member of UNA for over six years. Since first joining his local branch in Tunbridge Wells (of which he is now Vice-Chair) at the age of 16, he has increased his involvement, serving on the Youth Council since 2002, and becoming its President in 2003.

More recently, he has been appointed Head Co-ordinator of WFUNA's youth division. Having already served on the Board for the past 2 years, he feels he still has much to offer as a fully elected Board member.

Linda McCulloch

Age 40

As chair of London & South East Region since 2003, Linda is committed to continuing to expand on the region's progress by



The cast of after-dinner speakers at Annual Conference

2005 was superb, featuring spokespeople from the different ages of UNA. Here Sam Daws and Sir Richard Jolly pose with Archie Mackenzie, Shirley Pleydell and Kate Grady. Mr Mackenzie and Ms Pleydell, both of whom are UNA members, were part of the British delegation to San Francisco in 1945 during the UN Charter negotiations. Kate Grady is a former Vice-President of the Youth Council and a newly elected UNA-UK Board member. Vice-Chair of the Board Janet Blackman also spoke. Photo: Benedict Parsons/UNA

developing new ways to communicate with potential new members in a succinct, comprehensive and creative way. She has served as regional representative to the Board and recently played a key role in the organisation of a successful Asylum and Immigration Conference in Croydon.

William Say

As a member of UNA since 1978, William Say believes profoundly in the ideals and objectives of the United Nations and wants to see them realised. UNA-UK, as the UN's main supporter organisation in this country, has a vital role to play in helping to communicate the UN's mission and principles to diverse audiences, including the government and young people.

David Wardrop

Age 61

David Wardrop has previously served on the UNA-UK Board and is also chair of UNA Westminster. He launched the branch's international law lecture (2003) and UN Peacekeepers Day conference (2004), and is developing its ambitious programme to mark the UN's 60th anniversary in 2005.

David is currently working on a virtual library for peace support operations. He is also Secretary of the Friends of the Alexandria Library and Secretary of the Hammersmith and Fulham Local Agenda 21 Forum.



UNA Annual Conference 2005 Feedback Response Summary

Reasons for attending Annual Conference:

To contribute to the formulation of policy

61.1% Yes
26.4% Partly
4.2% Not really

To meet/network with other members

61.1% Yes
29.2% Partly
1.4% Not really

To find out more about the UN and UNA

38.9% Yes
31.9% Partly
13.9% Not really

Other recurring reasons given:

- "to encourage the new Executive Director"
- "to debate Kofi Annan and the future of the UN"
- "to be an active UNA member"
- "to represent the branch"

Feedback on reduction from 3-day to 2-day Conference

44.4% Too short
44.4% Good
2.8% Too long

Holding UNYSA conference in parallel with UNA-UK Annual Conference is a good idea

50% Strongly agreed
41.7% Agreed
1.4% Disagreed

Do you feel the policy debates are a good way for UNA to establish policy?

25% Extremely good
59.7% Moderately good
8.3% Not good

How do you feel your views were reflected in the policy debates?

12.5% Very well reflected
63.9% Sufficiently reflected
8.3% Poorly reflected

Was the accommodation comfortable and clean?

33.3% Yes
54.5% Moderately
21.2% No

What did you think of the location of the accommodation?

27.3% Well located
45.5% Location was suitable
36.4% Poorly located

What did you think of the quality of the food?

34.7% Good
52.8% Adequate
2.8% Bad



- Over 91% of members said their expectations of Annual Conference 2005 were met reasonably or very well.
- Over 79% of members felt the Conference was good value for money.
- 73.6% of members were happy with the workshop topics on offer. 11.1% were unhappy, most notably due to the cancellation of the trade justice workshop.
- Over 90% of members thought the workshops were a moderately or extremely useful way to explore specific policy issues in greater depth with other UNA members.
- Nearly 96% of members were happy with the venue.
- Over 95% thought the information disseminated in advance of Annual Conference was good or adequate.
- 75% of members thought the materials available on the resource table were adequate. 8.3% did not.
- Over 93% of members thought UNA staff and volunteers were supportive. Only 4.2% thought the staff were merely adequate and no members thought they received bad service from the staff.

Photos: Benedict Parsons/UNA



UNA-UK 2005 SHORT POLICY STATEMENT

Achieving human security and defending multilateralism in the UN's 60th year

Introduction

UNA-UK affirms the value of multilateralism and a strong, credible and effective UN to address global challenges. The Asian tsunami and other humanitarian disasters, chronic poverty, environmental degradation, the continuation of brutal dictatorships, terrorism, and conflicts across the world all highlight the continuing need for international cooperation for the common good.

Both the UN and UNA celebrate their 60th anniversaries this year. We call on the UK Government to grasp this historic opportunity to make progress in implementing the commitments to the Millennium Declaration through:

- effecting progress towards the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- debating and, as appropriate, implementing the recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel Report *A more secure world: our shared responsibility* and the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Report *In Larger Freedom*.

We call on the Government to use these channels to pursue a strengthened and reformed UN system and to advance democracy and human security, recognising that this requires increased powers and robust finances.

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

We support the proposals of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the High-Level Panel's recommendations that the nuclear weapon states:

- take genuine steps towards disarmament by honouring their commitments under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty; and
- commit explicitly not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.

UNA asks the UK Government to take the lead in proposing that nuclear weapons abolition negotiations start this year, and to consider the draft treaty lodged by Costa Rica with the UN in 1997 as a basis of such negotiations.

We welcome the achievements of the 2004 Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mines Treaty and the Protocol V on Explosive Remains of Warfare, which was added to the Convention on Conventional Weapons and which will come into force when 20 states have ratified it, and the decision of the Inter-Governmental Group to discuss further measures to eliminate the explosive remains of war. We regard these as firm and important steps in tackling the problem of indiscriminate post-conflict weapons, and we urge the UK Government to support these measures wholeheartedly.

The UN Charter and the Use of Force

Respect for international law and legitimacy are more important than ever in relation to the use of military force. We support the High-Level Panel's view that Article 51 of the Charter does not allow preventive military action without the explicit consent of the Security Council. We further agree that the Council should use the Panel's five basic criteria of legitimacy when it considers authorisation of force under Chapter VII of the Charter.

We urge the Government to:

- support the UN High-Level Panel's proposal that no change should be made to weaken Article 51 of the UN Charter which lays down the correct procedure for action in self-defence, but does not allow for preventive attack against a sovereign state;
- declare that in no circumstances will it in future go to war against any sovereign state without the express authority of the UN Security Council (or genuine reason under Article 51);
- reaffirm treaties ratified during the 20th century which form the international rule of law, especially the Geneva Conventions, and support the Universal Nuremberg Judgement that 'to initiate a war of aggression is the supreme international crime'.

Human Rights

We believe that the resources currently allocated to the UN's human rights machinery fall far short of what is needed for a credible international response to human rights abuses. We support the High-Level Panel's recommendations to strengthen the UN Commission on Human Rights, particularly that:

- Commission members designate prominent and experienced human rights figures as the heads of their delegations;
- an advisory council or panel be established to support it;
- the High Commissioner report annually on the global human rights situation and regularly to the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission on the implementation of human rights provisions in Council resolutions.

Peacebuilding Commission

We welcome the Panel's recommendation to establish a Peacebuilding Commission and Support Office to prevent the slide into war of vulnerable states and to assist countries in their transition from war to peace. We urge the UK Government to work with the UN, international partners and civil society to expedite the establishment of this body.

Trade, Aid and Debt

We welcome the UK Government's initiative in seeking to establish a new International Finance Facility to 'front load' aid to help realise the MDGs, and the Government's efforts in furthering debt reduction. We urge the UK Government, and others, to cancel the debts of the poor-



est countries in Africa, and also those affected by the tsunami disaster. As a member of the 'Make Poverty History' coalition, we urge further efforts by the Government to remove trade barriers which discriminate against developing countries and call upon it to use its presidencies of the EU and G8 to secure progress towards a development-orientated round of trade negotiations.

However, some trade restrictions also guarantee a market for the weakest developing economies at the expense of the stronger. We urge the Government to ensure that protection for the weakest is not lost.

We urge the Government to:

- accelerate progress towards its own target for aid of 0.7% GNI so that it can be reached earlier than 2013;
- seek to persuade all of the 11 richest countries to set a timetable for achieving the 0.7% GNI target;
- adopt a version of the Tobin Tax to alleviate poverty; and
- work with the Global Call to Action Against Poverty towards 100% cancellation of the debt of the world's most impoverished countries.

UNA also calls for an end to the destructive and unjust conditions imposed by the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC). Assistance to poor countries should prioritise grants over loans in order that such countries have sustained financing to meet their basic needs. In seeking trade justice and free access to markets, poor countries must not be obliged to enter into inequitable bilateral agreements.

UNESCO

We welcome the re-establishment by the UK Government of the UNESCO National Commission. We are appalled by the destruction caused by coalition troops to parts of historic archaeological sites in Baghdad, which form part of humanity's cultural treasures. We call upon the Government to give priority to primary legislation to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its 2nd Protocol (1999) and to use its influence to encourage other coalition members to do the same.

Middle East

We welcome the recent ceasefire agreement reached by the Israeli Prime Minister and the President of the Palestinian National Authority and call upon all parties to take effective steps in fulfilment of the Road Map towards a lasting and comprehensive peace settlement in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions.

We believe that the killing of civilians and children by regular or irregular armed forces by either side will continue to occur unless there is some impartial international body on the ground. We call on both sides to accept a UN mandated Supervisory Body which would patrol particularly sensitive areas and seek to defuse dangerous incidents.

The UK Government should work with the US to introduce a new Security Council resolution reaffirming negotiations based on the "Road Map" and the unequivocal rejection of violence by both sides and prioritising:

- that the building of Jewish settlements on Palestinian land cease forthwith;
- that the "Security Barrier" be demolished or, if the Israeli Government cannot be sufficiently persuaded of the ineffectual nature of such a barrier, then immediately relocated so that it lies wholly within Israel's internationally recognised borders;
- that Israel begins a staged withdrawal from all Occupied Territories, in conjunction with a wholehearted effort by the Palestinian Authorities to put a stop to all political violence; and
- that all Israeli and Palestinian Schools adopt peace education programmes in place of the subtle encouragement of prejudice.

Darfur

Horried by atrocities committed against the people of Darfur, we welcome the UK Government's early support for the African Union missions deployed to the area. We urge much greater support by the international community for African-led efforts to halt further suffering and to make progress towards a lasting resolution of the conflict, as requested by the Secretary-General. We support the call of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur for those suspected of crimes against humanity and war crimes to be referred by the Security Council to the International Criminal Court.

In the longer-term, we endorse recommendation 6 (j) of the UN Secretary-General's Report *In Larger Freedom* to 'support the efforts of the ... African Union ... to establish standby capacities as part of an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities'.

Sexual Abuse by UN Peacekeepers

Gravely concerned at evidence of the sexual abuse of civilians by troops and civilian personnel serving on UN missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere, we call upon the Security Council to secure agreements from troop-contributing countries to ensure that suspected perpetrators face full investigation of allegations and prosecution where appropriate.

Oil for Food

We are extremely concerned over the serious allegations made against UN officials and others in relation to the Oil for Food Programme and welcome the Interim Report of the Independent Inquiry Committee of 3 February 2005. We are disappointed with the UN management failures identified by the Report, but welcome the commitment of the Secretary-General to undertake sweeping management reforms to improve UN credibility and accountability, and call for improvements in the Security Council's supervision of such programmes. We await the Committee's Final Report which we hope will point to areas where improvements in transparency and accountability can be made in management by the Secretariat and UN member states.

Civil Society

We welcome the Report of the UN Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations and call upon the UK Government both to uphold the profile of the Report internationally and to support increased civil society access to UN meetings and to information about the UN. We reaffirm the importance of women and youth in the work of the UN and in all the policies and programmes of UNA-UK.

This Policy Statement incorporates the operative parts of resolutions passed at Annual Conference 2005 not already contained in the draft 1000-word statement. Motions that were not reached by Annual Conference will be considered further by the UNA Policy Committee and then the Board on 9 July 2005.

Janet Blackman, Chair, UNA Policy Committee



UNA-UK Peace and Security: DARFUR

by Rod Latham

At the same time as a Sudanese peace seemed within reach, following a brutal civil war which over the course of two decades claimed the lives of 2 million people, a parallel tragedy engulfed the western region of Darfur. This conflict, which the United Nations at one time labelled "the world's worst humanitarian crisis", began in early 2003. Two years later, and despite widespread calls for action within the international community, appallingly little has been done to address the situation in Darfur, and halt the grave abuses we know to be occurring there.

In 2003 rebels based in Darfur attacked government forces and installations in reaction to the Sudanese government's perceived bias in favour of the 'Arab' population. To repress the insur-

gency, Khartoum exploited and stoked tribal rivalries, giving support to 'Arab' militants - known as the Janjaweed. The Janjaweed have since waged a brutal campaign against the 'non-Arab' rebels, involving the systematic killing, raping and maiming of civilians, the burning of villages, the poisoning of wells, and the deliberate devastation of arable land. Up to 300,000 persons have died while two million others are displaced, many fleeing to neighbouring Chad or to refugee camps along the border.

Despite exhortations by the UN Secretary-General for decisive steps to be taken, the UN itself has been able to accomplish little, potentially robust Security Council measures all but stymied in the past by the prospect of vetoes from China and/or Russia - both of whom have strong economic ties to Khartoum. Atrocities, meanwhile, pro-

ceeded unabated, and the Sudanese government continues to act with relative impunity, even retaining its place on the UN Commission for Human Rights.

Some recent developments, however, have been encouraging, with negotiations between the rebels and government, which broke down at the end of last year, resuming in Nigeria in June 2005. Earlier, in late March 2005, the UN had passed within the space of a week three resolutions relating to Sudan, effecting a travel ban and asset freeze for all human rights violators, as well as lim-

“ Despite exhortations by the UN Secretary-General for decisive steps to be taken, the UN itself has been able to accomplish little ”

ited sanctions on the regime. Perhaps most importantly, however, the latest of these resolutions, S/RES/1593 (2005), referred the situation in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC), an action welcomed by Human Rights Watch as "a historic step towards justice for massive human rights violations". Because Sudan is not a party to the Rome Statute, the treaty establishing the

UNA-UK Policy Statement: Darfur

Horrified by atrocities committed against the people of Darfur, we welcome the UK Government's early support for the African Union missions deployed to the area. We urge much greater support by the international community for African-led efforts to halt further suffering and to make progress towards a lasting resolution of the conflict, as requested by the Secretary-General. We support the call of the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur for those suspected of crimes against humanity and war crimes to be referred by the Security Council to the International Criminal Court.

In the longer-term, we endorse recommendation 6 (j) of the UN Secretary-General's *In Larger Freedom* Report to 'support the efforts of the ... African Union ... to establish standby capacities as part of an interlocking system of peacekeeping capacities'.





ICC, a referral from the Security Council is the only means of giving the court jurisdiction over the crimes committed in Darfur. The resolution was passed with 11 votes in favour and four abstentions - by Algeria, Brazil, China and the US.

While the referral is indeed a positive step, the Security Council must do more. It should in particular lend robust and energetic support to the African Union (AU), which has recently pledged to double its presence in Darfur. The existing AU ceasefire monitoring force - comprising a mere 2,000 troops - is inadequate, lacking, for example, the capacity for deployment to rural areas and thus unable to guarantee the safety of civilians. The Security Council must therefore facilitate an increase in numbers on the ground, by providing all necessary financial, logistical, and other forms of support, while maintaining critical pressure on Khartoum.

“ While the referral is indeed a positive step, the Security Council must do more ”

The need for decisive, bold action is acute: the International Crisis Group has estimated that 10,000 people may be dying each month; the World Food Programme has been forced to halve food rations because of shortfalls in funding; and Kofi Annan described his recent visit to the area as "heart-wrenching" and "little short of hell on earth". While the UN must employ all means currently at its disposal to achieve peace in the region, competing interests among Security Council members may thwart an effective response in the short term. The AU - imperfect though it is - must instead act as the conduit for action, with national governments and international organisations in supporting roles. In the long term, the failure of Darfur underscores the imperative for UN reform and for reaching agreement on the responsibility to protect.

Right: precious food aid to Darfur.
Photo courtesy of the Samaritans





UNA-UK Peace and Security:

THE PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

by Nadia Shahbaz

Since the end of the Cold War - and the rise in frequency of civil wars - peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding have emerged as "the operational face of the United Nations in international peace and security". The UN has experienced notable successes in this type of activity, with the increased involvement of the UN in peace operations coinciding with a distinct decline in the incidence of civil wars (see graph).

However, marred by this record of success are egregious failures, which point to the UN's limited competency in effecting the shift from war to peace and development. The High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change speculates that, "[if] two peace agreements, the 1991 Bicesse Agreement for Angola and the 1993 Arusha Accords for Rwanda, had been successfully implemented, deaths attributable to war in the

1990s would have been reduced by several million".

Both the High-Level Panel and the Secretary-General have linked these failures to an institutional gap at the United Nations which hampers the ability of the international community to act effectively in the area of post-conflict peacebuilding.

The Peacebuilding Commission according to the Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

To address this institutional gap, the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change recommended to the UN Secretary-General the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission, to be active throughout the continuum of conflict - from the stages of early-warning through to preventive action and post-conflict peacebuilding. The core functions of the

Commission were envisioned by the Panel to be as follows:

- identifying countries at risk of collapse into violence and instability;
- working with the national government to prevent the descent into greater instability;
- contributing to the planning for transitions between conflict and post-conflict peacebuilding; and
- marshalling the active support of the international community for post-conflict peacebuilding over the requisite period of time.

The Peacebuilding Commission according to *In Larger Freedom*

After a period of consultation with member states, the Secretary-General produced his own report, entitled *In Larger Freedom*, in which he voices his support for the Peacebuilding Commission. The Secretary-General, however, proposes a different emphasis in the Commission's responsibilities. In particular the Secretary-General advises against the preventive, early-warning function the High-Level Panel prescribes for the body, arguing instead that existing UN mechanisms for operational prevention should be strengthened.

The Secretary-General proposes that the Peacebuilding Commission specifically act to:

- improve UN planning, in the period immediately following conflict, for sustained recovery, focusing particularly on establishing the necessary institutions;
- ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities, in part by providing an overview of assessed, voluntary and standing funding mechanisms;
- improve coordination of post-con-

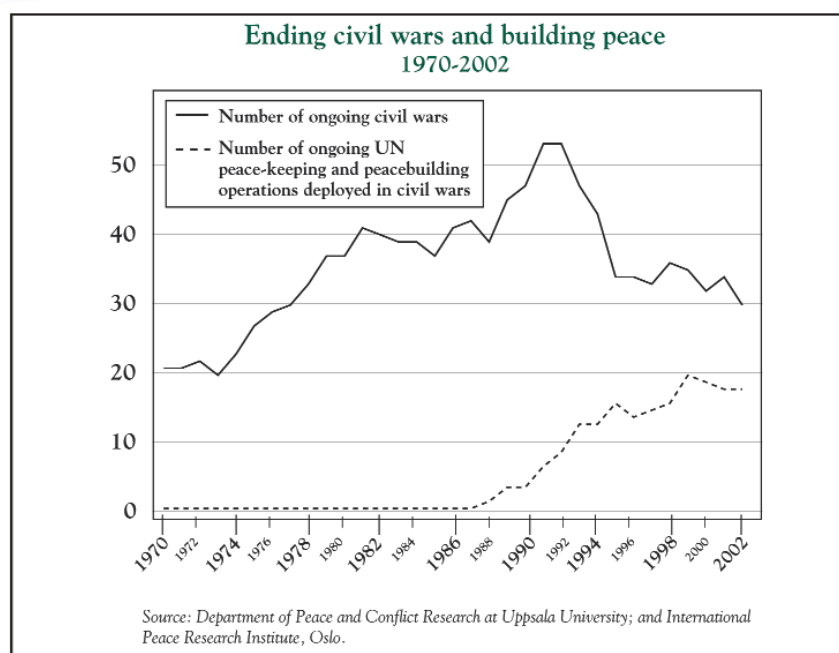




Photo: UN/DPI

flit activities, including those of UN funds, programmes and agencies, and also act as a forum for the exchange of information on post-conflict recovery strategies among major bilateral donors, troop contributors, relevant regional actors and organisations, the international financial institutions and the national or transitional government of the country concerned; and

- sustain the political attention of the international community to cover adequately the period of post-conflict recovery.

Structure and composition of the Peacebuilding Commission

The High-Level Panel recommends that the Peacebuilding Commission be kept "reasonably small", and the Panel and

the Secretary-General put forward broadly similar ideas on the composition of the proposed body. Its core membership would draw from a subset of the Security Council; the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); major donors to a (voluntary) standing fund for peacebuilding; and principal troop contributors. During country-specific operations, local stakeholders - such as national representatives, regional organisations, troop contributors and principal donors to the country - would be involved, which would encourage national ownership of the operation. Deemed vital is the input of the international financial institutions (IFIs) and regional organisations, and the Secretary-General accordingly remains in consultation with the IFIs to determine the potential contribution each would make to the Commission's activities.

UNA is also keen that the Peacebuilding Commission provides access for expert input from NGOs with a field presence in vulnerable states.

Depending on the phase of the conflict, the Peacebuilding Commission would report in sequence to the Security Council and to ECOSOC. The Commission would receive support from the UN Secretariat via a new Peacebuilding Support Office, which would encourage the integration of system-wide peacebuilding policies and strategies.

Nearly half of all civil wars relapse into disorder and violence within five years, at a devastating cost to development, security and human rights. If the UN is to reassert itself as the most effective vehicle for international cooperation in the pursuit of global peace, it is imperative that it be furnished with the capacity to sustain the shift from war to peace.

UNA-UK Policy Statement: The Peacebuilding Commission

We welcome the Panel's recommendation to establish a Peacebuilding Commission and Support Office to prevent the slide into war of vulnerable states and to assist countries in their transition from war to peace. We urge the UK Government to work with the UN, international partners and civil society to expedite the establishment of this body.

**UNA-UK Action:****Beyond the G8****to the Millennium Review Summit and through to 2015**

The **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** campaign, of which UNA-UK is a member, has done an admirable job in using the G8 Summit as a focal point for raising awareness about poverty and galvanising political attention on the inter-related issues of trade, aid and debt. In April 2005, for example, the results of a YouGov Poll commissioned by **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** were published. According to this poll, 70 per cent of the electorate have since 2001 taken some action with respect to global poverty.

This political energy appears to have secured some important gains in advance of the G8 summit - the EU has declared its intention of allocating by 2015 0.7% of its GNI to aid, and plans have been

announced for cancelling the debt of 18 of the world's poorest countries.

However, these pledges have yet to be implemented, and UNA and its partners must maintain pressure on the UK government to ensure that these words are translated into action. 'More and better aid', 'fairer trade' and 'debt relief' are not mere hoops through which G8 heads of state can jump to obtain the approbation of their respective electorates. Tangible progress in these areas is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a whole.

It is time, therefore, to look beyond Gleneagles to the UN in New York where not only eight but 191 governments will meet to discuss the challenges of - not just trade, aid and debt - but also human

rights and security, as well as the entire range of issues covered by the MDGs. We can neither make poverty history nor eliminate its effects in just one year; we must remember that this will be a long-term struggle lasting until 2015 and beyond.

From words to action:

UNA has established strategic partnerships with the Trade Justice Movement, World Development Movement and Jubilee Debt Campaign in order to further UNA campaign goals in the area of sustainable development, as set out by the 2005 Annual Conference. Please go to the UNA website for more information on action you can take, or follow the instructions below.

Act!...**...to make the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) more democratic:**

- Whilst improving links to the rest of the UN system have enhanced the degree of oversight of IFI policies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank still suffer from a lack of democratic accountability. The International Parliamentarians' Petition calls for greater involvement by parliamentarians around the world in order to ensure democratic scrutiny of the policies of these powerful bodies.
- To read more about the Petition and to see whether your MP has signed it visit www.ippinfo.org/index.htm

...to support trade justice:

- You can cast your ballot in favour of trade justice by visiting www.tjm.org.uk/action.shtml or by texting JUSTICE to 84118, charged at your operator's standard rate.
- On this same website you can find out how to take action on the EU and Economic Partnership Agreements, on forced liberalisation by the WTO and on IMF and World Bank conditionalities.

...to put an end to forced privatisation of public services:

- UK aid money is being used to push countries to privatise the provision of water, despite evidence showing that this is not an effective way of getting clean water to the poorest people.
- Ask the UK government to stop this practice. Visit www.wdm.org.uk/campaigns/act/index.htm for more information.

...to call for debt cancellation:

- Send a message to the G7 finance ministers to call for the immediate and unconditional cancellation of the most impoverished countries' debts. For sample text and useful facts on debt, visit www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

...to show your support for a tax on international currency transactions:

- Call on Gordon Brown to raise money for development by levying a stamp duty on international currency transactions. To read more about this proposal and the 'Do It Now Gordon' campaign, visit www.tobintax.org.uk



MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY and the United Nations

The UN Millennium Campaign was launched in October 2002 to encourage citizens from around the world to hold their governments to account for the pledges made in the Millennium Declaration of 2000. Out of this was born the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, a civil society alliance spanning scores of countries in support of the MDGs. **MAKEPOVERTY-HISTORY** is the UK arm of this movement.

For more information see www.millenniumcampaign.org or www.whiteband.org.



The **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** rally in Trafalgar Square. Photo courtesy of Oxfam.

The Millennium Development Goals have given vital cohesion to international development strategies and provided an invaluable set of benchmarks by which to hold governments to account on their development pledges. UNA remains committed to the MDGs and will continue to campaign for their full implementation. However, we can aim higher. The MDGs very much represent minimum standards, and the system and concepts upon which they are predicated have been criticised for having certain drawbacks. For example:

1. Whilst employing global targets provides clarity, aggregate measurements obscure local and regional realities. In this respect, the cases of China and India are illustrative for two reasons. First, high rates of national economic growth conceal the fact that many Chinese and Indian regions are not on target to reach the MDGs. Second, the massive size of the populations of these two countries has inflated the effects of Chinese and Indian successes towards achieving the Goals. Thus, global progress on the MDGs fails to reflect the fact that conditions in sub-Saharan Africa are actually in some cases deteriorating.
2. Much of the discourse around the implementation of the MDGs continues to focus on development as a mechanism for achieving other objectives - for example combating terrorism - rather than being pursued as an end in itself.
3. A target-based system prioritises economic productivity as a means to development, to the neglect of qualitative considerations. Ultimately, the MDGs do not address the underlying structural inequalities of the global economic system which engendered the conditions leading to poverty in the first place.
4. The MDGs place disproportionate demands on developing countries to meet time-bound, concrete targets, while the developed world has been charged with only one task. MDG 8 - creating a global partnership for development - is furthermore ambiguous, which has led to the charge that it will be the governments of poor countries, rather than those of developed countries, who will be blamed should progress towards the MDGs ultimately stall.

For more critical debate of the MDGs please see the website of Trocaire, an Irish development NGO:
www.trocaire.org/policyandadvocacy/mdgs.htm

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005



The task facing world leaders as they meet in New York this September is in many ways more daunting than that which confronted heads of state in 2000 for, "instead of setting targets, this time world leaders must decide how to achieve them."

This is the point made by the UN Secretary-General in his foreword to a new report which summarises the data charting progress on the MDGs. The publication is a collaborative effort, involving the input of over 20 UN bodies, as well as the WTO, OECD and Inter-Parliamentary Union. It is a key background document for the Millennium Review Summit.

The report's verdict is mixed. The number of people worldwide living in extreme poverty has declined by 130 million since 1990, a trend led by the economic growth of the countries of Eastern, South Eastern and Southern Asia. However, these improvements were countered by escalating numbers of extreme poor in other areas, most notably in sub-Saharan Africa, where average incomes have actually fallen, from 62 cents a day in 1990 to 60 cents in 2001.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005 can be downloaded for free on the UN Statistics Division website (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd>). Alternatively, UNA HQ has a number of these booklets available. Please call 020 7766 3443 for more information on ordering.



Climate Change: “one of the great

The Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change came into force in February 2005, following its ratification by Russia a few months earlier. The Kyoto Protocol commits its parties to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% before 2012. The achievement of this target will be an important step, but only a very modest one.

The Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012, and the UN Secretary-General has called on member states to develop a new, “more inclusive international framework [...],

with broader participation by all major emitters and both developed and developing countries, to ensure a concerted globally defined action [...] to mitigate climate change, taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities.”

We urge the UK government, which has declared climate change a priority for its stewardship of the G8, to follow through on this commitment and use its international influence to identify and implement robust measures to deal with what Kofi Annan has called “one of the greatest environmental and developmental threats in the 21st century”. The UK’s chief scientist has gone fur-

ther, pronouncing climate change to be a more serious threat than terrorism. UNA-UK will be monitoring the government’s actions in relation to climate change throughout 2005, and we will work to hold both ministers and parliamentarians to account on promises made at Gleneagles and in New York in September.

But we must not wait for heads of state to act: we, too, can all make changes to our lifestyles to lessen the negative impact of human activity on the environment.

In the box are some simple things you can do to reduce waste and save energy - and, in most cases, money, too!

Things you can do to reduce waste and save energy

- Choose alternatives to using cars whenever possible; walk, cycle, car share, or use public transport. A third of car journeys are less than two miles in distance.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Use a 40°C washing cycle when you use a washing machine instead of 60°C - you will use a third less electricity.
- Choose the right size pan for the food and cooker, and keep lids on when you are cooking.
- Don’t boil a whole kettle of water for just one cup of tea.
- Defrost your fridge regularly: it will run more efficiently.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows.
- Invest in improved insulation including loft insulation, draught proofing and double glazing.
- Check that hot water tanks and pipes in your house are lagged properly.
- Turn off all electrical appliances when they are not in use instead of leaving them on standby, particularly televisions and computers.
- Buy your electricity from a renewable resource. Renewable energy is better for the environment, as it produces only small amounts of carbon dioxide.
- Buy energy efficient appliances - including light bulbs. Look for ‘A’ rated products, which are most efficient, and stay away from ‘G’ rated products, which are least efficient.
- Recycle your light bulbs and lamps. Mercury from just one fluorescent tube can make 30,000 litres of water unsafe for drinking. To find out how to recycle all sorts of lamps, visit www.lampcare.com
- Recycle your mobile phone. It is estimated that 100 million phones will be discarded this year, potentially leaking highly toxic chemicals into the environment. Mobile phones, which are typically discarded after 18 months of use, can be donated for use in the developing world, where they can serve a valuable economic function by providing a means of communication. If your mobile phone is unsuitable for reuse, it should be recycled safely. For more information, go to www.greenersolutions.co.uk or call 020 8274 4040.
- If you have a garden, use vegetable waste from the kitchen and the garden for compost instead of just throwing the waste away.
- Not sure what you can recycle or where you can recycle it? Go to www.recycle-more.co.uk and type in your postcode for the nearest recycling bank.
- To minimise air travel, contemplate alternative modes of transportation, holiday locally, and reduce business trips by using video conferencing.

Useful websites

- ScottishPower: www.scottishpower.co.uk
- NPower: www.npower.com
- PowerGen: www.pgen.com
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: www.unfccc.int
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/
- G8 Gleneagles 2005: www.g8.gov.uk
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: www.ipcc.ch
- The Carbon Trust: www.carbontrust.co.uk



greatest threats of the 21st century"

Climate Change Facts

- In 2001 the UK used 4.7 million tonnes of plastic but only 7% of this was recycled and 8% incinerated. The rest went into landfill sites.
- 'E-waste' - electronic and electrical waste such as computers and home appliances - is growing three times faster than any other type of municipal waste.
- Every 6,000 miles, a car produces its weight in carbon dioxide emissions. SUVs are even worse, emitting 43% more greenhouse emissions and 47% more air pollution than the average car.
- The UK has one of the worst recycling rates in Europe - just 12% compared to 64% in Austria, 52% in Belgium, and 47% in the Netherlands.
- Air travel accounts for 5.5% of UK's climate-changing emissions, and is considered the fastest-growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK.

A TICKING TIME BOMB . . .

**Former Environment Minister Michael Meacher
at Lewisham Branch's AGM**

On 26 May, the Lewisham UNA branch welcomed to its AGM the Rt Hon. Michael Meacher MP as keynote speaker. He demonstrated his continued command of environmental issues, following his term as Minister of State for the Environment from 1997 to 2003, and delivered a brilliant, and frightening, address entitled 'The Ticking Time Bomb'. The well-attended and lively meeting was chaired by Mr Steve Bullock, the Mayor of Lewisham.

Mr Meacher identified the most important environmental issues of today, focusing on resource depletion, population growth, and climate change:

- Given current trends, our oil supplies will be exhausted within 50 years, and our water requirements will increase fivefold over the next 25 years. Half the fish stock has already been depleted, and it is estimated that only 2% of these stocks could be recovered. Food crops, too, are under serious threat, from both drought and flooding.
- Exacerbating resource shortages is the increasing rate at which the human population is growing. 150,000 years passed before the human population numbered one billion. By the end of the 20th century it took only 12 years for the global population to grow by the same amount. By 2075 the world population is expected to total 24 billion, placing

unsustainable demands on a dwindling resource base.

- Climate change means that temperatures are rising and that some parts of the world are getting dryer as others get wetter. Natural disasters have quadrupled in the last 30 years; this is reflected in mounting insurance costs, which are outstripping by five the growth of global incomes. Forecasts suggest that insurance may become prohibitively expensive in 30 years' time, and perhaps even unavailable in 60. There is also an urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - the Kyoto commitment to a 5% reduction is only a fraction of the 60% cut which is deemed necessary. India and China are now adding a new dimension to this crisis: as these countries continue industrialising, their emissions are expected to exceed within a decade those of all other industrialised countries combined.

Mr Meacher argued that a change in individual lifestyles would play a key role in making more efficient use of available resources. To illustrate, he cited the fact that one quarter of the heat from our ovens never reaches our food (for ways in which you can make small changes with a big impact, see page opposite).

A lively question and answer session followed the speech. Issues raised included the

expediency of phasing out more quickly subsidies on oil and gas; the desirability of a tax on aviation fuel; the dangers of methane hydrants; and the benefits of installing solar panels for all new housing.

The formal part of the meeting ended with musical entertainment by Lewisham's 'choir with a conscience', the Strawberry Thieves.

People were invited to the meeting to be "provoked, challenged and stimulated". They were all that - and more!

*Dr Gill
Mackilligin
(Member of
Lewisham
UNA branch
and Vice-Chair
of UNA
London &
South East
Region Executive
Committee)*





2005: The International Year of Microcredit

Empowering women to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

by **Katherine Ronderos**

In 1998, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit. All those involved in poverty eradication were asked to focus on how the provision of credit and other financial services could lead to self-employment and income generation amongst the poorest people in the world. More than 70 million people are estimated to have benefited from these initiatives - but this is just 1% of the world's poor that could gain.

Microcredit is a small amount of money loaned to a low-income client by a bank or other institution. Microfinance is the provision of a wider range of financial services. By providing credit, savings schemes, insurance and money transfers, these initiatives make poor households less vulnerable and more resilient. They are better able to meet basic needs and to deal with sudden expenses that arise, for example from illness or crop failure.

“By directly empowering poor people, particularly women, microfinance has become one of the key driving mechanisms towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals”

Mark Malloch Brown, former administrator of UNDP

Studies in Bangladesh reveal that, over a period of eight years, only 4% of those without access to any credit services managed to pull themselves out of poverty. But, amongst those individuals and families who did have such access, more than 48% achieved this goal. An overall repayment rate of 97% suggests, furthermore, that this progress is sustainable.

Of course, microcredit and microfinance alone do not constitute a panacea for the problems of the developing world. But they do form a fundamental basis for development on which those in poverty can build to generate income and gain access to better employment, education and health care.

Microcredit is particularly important for women. Over 70% of those living on under \$1 a day are women. In the developing world, a woman will, on average, earn 25% less than a man despite working longer hours. With access to credit, women can own assets, including land and housing, play a stronger role in decision-making, and take on leadership roles in the community. In Bolivia, for example, studies have identified a direct correlation between the improved access of women to credit and greater participation in local government. Furthermore, income generation amongst women has wide-ranging effects on development as a whole: in Tanzania, for instance, as women have become more financially assertive, a corresponding decrease in the use of child labour has been noted. Other studies relate



Photo: UN/DPI

microcredit for women to an increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate, an indicator of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal addressing HIV/AIDS.

The UN Capital Development Fund is producing a 'Blue Book' later this year, which will identify barriers to financial access and stimulate concrete action aimed at building more inclusive financial structures. You can read more about the book at: www.uncdf.org/bluebook



International Year of
Microcredit



UN60 Birthplace Tour

Chris Dickenson, Secretary, East Gloucestershire Branch

The following is an excerpt from an account by UNA member Chris Dickenson of his recent trip to San Francisco with his wife Norma. The two travellers visited myriad UN landmarks, among them the Herbst Theatre, upon which the 50 founding states of the UN signed the UN Charter 60 years ago. For the full story, which is both thoughtful and eloquent, visit UNA's website.

A side street walk brought us to a fountain of granite blocks and pools representing the continents and oceans. On 1 March 1945 President Franklin Roosevelt addressed the US Congress and an extract from his speech is engraved on the fountain:

"The structure of world peace cannot be the work of one man, or one party, or one nation...it must be a peace which rests on the co-operative effort of the whole world."

Adjacent, a polished black granite monument some three metres high is inscribed with the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are at Market Street, one of San Francisco's great thoroughfares, but we are also at the entrance to a wide pedestrian avenue some 150 metres long. This is the 'walk of great ideas' - the United Nations Plaza.

As part of the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations in the summer of 1995, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan and Archbishop Desmond Tutu formally dedicated the plaza. The broad walk is interrupted by white marble paving panels revealing the Preamble to the UN Charter - at its centre the familiar emblem of the United Nations. There are benches and lawns planted with sycamores, holly oaks and Lombardy poplars. Granite lamp standards list the member nations as they joined over the 50-year period, with blank standards left for later arrivals, such as Switzerland.

It was as visitors to the Muir Woods that our UN birthplace tour was to end. We were not just here to experience the enormity and impressive longevity of the Californian redwoods,

and two plaques explained our presence: on 19 May 1945, delegates from all over the world, working in San Francisco to establish the UN, came here to honour the memory of Franklin Roosevelt, who had died a month earlier. In 1955, UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld visited Muir Woods and said, "Persons who love nature find a common basis for understanding people of other countries, since the love of nature is universal among men of all nations".

Later this year New York will be centre stage for the 60th anniversary celebrations and much soul-searching, as the UN faces what Kofi Annan so aptly described a "fork in the road". Whatever happens we should take heart from the organisation's origins in the halls of San Francisco and the enduring redwoods of California. Such faith is alive and well in San Francisco and we remain grateful for the experience.



United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, and a black granite monument to the founding of the UN. Photos by Chris Dickenson.



UNA in UN60

Future events and activities

Purley with Sutton

There are three events coming up in Purley with Sutton. The Annual Youth Get Together and International Lunch runs from noon on 9 July 2005.

From 9.00am to 5.00pm on 27 August 2005, a Branch Flag Day is being held in Oxted and Caterham.

Finally, on 6 September 2005 the Sutton branch is holding its AGM at 4, The Causeway, Sutton. Simon Walters will be talking about his six months in Vietnam. For more information on any of the above contact John Chitty on 020 8668 3337 or visit the branch website www.ps-una.org.uk

Norwich

There are myriad events coming up in Norwich. The series of lunchbox meetings continues, with Paul Newby and Robert George speaking about policing in Bosnia from 1.00pm on 15 July 2005, at the Friends Meeting House in Norwich.

At 7.00pm on 17 August 2005, a Garden Party is being organised with Norwich Inter Faith Link. Bring a vegetarian dish to share to 93 Low Road, Hellesdon, near Norwich.

The branch AGM, which includes the Capital Quiz and Grand Draw, is being held from 1.00pm on 16 September 2005 at the Friends Meeting House, Norwich.

The following day, 17 September 2005, the Eastern Region Council AGM is being held at Johnson Hall, Stapleford, near Cambridge, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. The title of the meeting is 'Making the Region Value for Branches' and guests include Sam Daws, UNA Executive Director. For more information on any of the above, call 01603 660 005 or 01603 435 790.

To celebrate UN60, the Norwich branch is jointly organising an International Peace Conference with the District Peace Council. Entitled 'Conflict Resolution and Prevention', the event is being held on the weekend of 8-9 October 2005 at the University of East Anglia.

Speakers will include Mark Curtis (Director of the World Development Movement), Dr Anat Matar (Senior Lecturer, Tel Aviv University), Bruce Kent, Malcolm Harper and three speakers from Friends of the Earth, Middle East. There will also be a number of workshops. Please contact Marguerite Finn at bededog@btinternet.com for details.

Stratford upon Avon

There are two events coming up at the Stratford branch, both of which will fundraise for UNICEF. There is a Branch Garden Party, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm on 16 July 2005, and a charity stall at Stratford Market, on 12 August 2005. For more information please contact Sylvia Clark on 01789 552 200 or sylclark@ntlworld.com

Hendon and Golders Green

From 11.00am to 3.00pm on 16 July 2005, the Hendon and Golders Green Branch will be running a stall at the Charities Fair at Golders Green Unitarians, 31½ Hoop Lane, NW11. Please contact p.barbour1@btinternet.com for more information.

Southampton

At 2.00pm on 16 July 2005, a UN60 Garden Party is being held at 60 Radway Road, Southampton. Please ring 023 8077 9806 for more information.

Two more events follow in September. At 2.00pm on 17 September 2005 the branch AGM is being held at Edmund Kell Hall, Bellevue Road, Southampton.

On 21 September 2005 a candlelit vigil is taking place at the Peace Foundation in celebration of International Peace Day. The branch is hoping that the Mayor will attend in her official capacity. For more information on either event please contact Margaret Matthews on 023 8055 7334 or MeMat56@aol.com

Reading, Surrey Heath and Newbury

These three branches are collaborating to run a UN/UNA charity stall from 28-31 July 2005, but are still in need of volunteers. If you can help, please contact Sid (Reading branch) at sidamparam@supanet.com

South Lakeland and Lancaster City

Prominent peace campaigner Bruce Kent will be delivering a talk on 'War, Peace, and the United Nations' at the Shakespeare Centre, Kendal, Cumbria starting at 7.30pm on 11 August 2005. All enquiries should be directed to Luckshan Abeysuriya on 01539 532 961 or labeysuriya@onetel.net

Welwyn and Hatfield

On 7 August 2005, the branch is organising a college car park collection. Please contact Rob Lloyd on 01707 336 427 or marg.lloyd@ntlworld.com

Southern Region

From 2-4 September 2005, the Southern Region Annual Conference is taking place at the Bishop Otter Campus of University College Chichester. The theme of the conference is Africa. Speakers include Professor Michael Mortimore on 'poverty and resilience in semi-arid Africa'; Professor James Fairhead on 'environment and development in the Guinea forest/savannah mosaic'; Dr Patrick Darling on 'Africa's archaeological tourist potential' and Malcolm Harper on 'the Report of the Commission for Africa'. For more information please contact Fanny Lines on 01483 285 229.

West London

The branch AGM will be held at 7.00pm on 16 September 2005, at 1 Kenilworth Road, Ealing, London, W5 5PB. The current branch officers will be retiring and it is essential that as many interested members as possible attend this meeting to ensure that the valuable grassroots work of the branch can be continued. For further information please contact Ian Hackett on 020 8579 7706 or ianhackett@tinyworld.co.uk

Merton

At 7.30pm on 23 September 2005, Sam Daws will be speaking on 'The UN at 60: Challenges and Opportunities for UN Reform' at the Wimbledon Guild House,



30/32 Worple Road, SW19. This is only 5 minutes from Wimbledon station.

Following the Millennium Review Summit, the Merton branch is holding a series of four lunchtime workshops in October to review progress made after the Summit. Each event runs from 1.00pm to 2.30pm, every Monday in October, in the Common Room, Wilberforce House, 119 Worple Road, London SW20 8ET. Topics include nuclear weapons, preventing armed conflict, UN reform, and making poverty history.

For more information on the above, please contact Alison Williams on

020 8944 0574 or on the following e-mail alison.williams8@btopenworld.com

Bexhill and Hastings

Continuing his tour of UNA branches, Bruce Kent will be speaking on 'War, Peace and the United Nations' at 11.00am on 24 September 2005, at Parkhurst Hall, Bexhill. Please contact Allan Bula, branch secretary on allanbula@talk21.com

Chichester and District

The branch AGM will be held at 7.15pm on 26 September 2005 at St. Paul's Parish Room, Chichester. Call 01243 641 222 for details.

Eastbourne

On 8 October 2005, the Eastbourne branch is hosting a Uganda Evening in the theatre at Sussex Downs Park College. All are welcome. This event is part of a network of fundraising activities in the Eastbourne area in support of several integrated development projects for Buyaga village in Uganda. Two youth members from the Eastbourne branch, Andrew Bassett and Alex Hall, are going to assist with some village surveys prior to a major community resource centre building project in the village in June 2006.

Contact Ian Elgie at ianelgie@hotmail.com for more information.

Westminster Branch:

Packed audiences for military and legal experts General Satish Nambiar and Judge Rosalyn Higgins

1 June 2005

Member of High-Level Panel speaks out for UN standing force on International Peacekeepers Day

"I do feel that sooner rather than later we may find acceptance of the concept of a standing rapid deployment capability for the UN," stated retired General Satish Nambiar, Director of the United Service Institution of India. The General's speech formed part of Westminster UNA's annual Peacekeeping Conference hosted by the Royal United Services Institute, London.

General Nambiar, the only member of Kofi Annan's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change with UN military experience, expanded on this opinion whilst delivering the 2nd Folke Bernadotte lecture:

"Much of the talk about strengthening the UN and making it more effective is rhetoric and symbolism. The developed world has shown increasing reluctance over the last few years in providing military personnel for UN peace operations - particularly for difficult missions in Africa. Western governments prefer making available their well-equipped forces to NATO or EU sponsored interventions, even in missions outside their area of operations, to the exclusion of the UN, which they then pronounce as incompetent to run such missions."

General Nambiar also told his audience, however, that he agreed with his fellow panelists' decision to exclude from the report a proposal for a UN standing force.

Also contributing to the one-day conference were Jonas Alberoth, Director of the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Stockholm; David Wardrop, chair of Westminster UNA; and Group-Captain Andrew Steele, from the Joint Doctrine and Concepts Centre. These presentations were followed by robust and wide-ranging debate.

The full text of General Nambiar's speech will be posted on the UNA London and Southeast Region website (www.unalondonandse.org).

16 May 2005

A new leadership role for the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

"There is a continuing leadership role for the International Court of Justice", said Judge Rosalyn Higgins, ICJ member, in an address to UNA members on 16 May 2005. The address, entitled 'The ICJ in a rapidly changing world', was the third Ruth Steinkraus Memorial Lecture, organised by Westminster UNA in association with the SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy.

Judge Higgins noted that international law is no longer the sole preserve of specialist academic practitioners, and expressed some concern with regard to the current preoccupation with Iraq and international criminal trials, to the exclusion of almost everything else. She observed, it seemed with some resignation, that the High-Level Panel on UN reform made scant reference to the ICJ.

"It is striking that the Panel appeared to think that the sole role of law in a better UN is effectively to prosecute individual war criminals."

By contrast, Kofi Annan, in *In Larger Freedom*, referred to the ICJ's role in settling disputes by judicial means and highlighted the importance of its Advisory Opinion procedure.

This event was sponsored by Clifford Chance. For a full transcript, see the UNA website.

This section is based on material submitted by David Wardrop, chair of Westminster UNA.

United Nations 60th Anniversary



Gifts and Souvenirs

To mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, it has created a collection of gifts and souvenirs featuring the official 60th Anniversary emblem.

The collection also contains gifts featuring the design donated by the award-winning designer, Armando Milani. This design shows a dove ferrying the letter "A" between the words "war" and "peace".

**For a complete selection of items
please visit:
<https://unp.un.org>**

The UN on the Big and Small Screens

The Interpreter

The Hollywood film *The Interpreter* stars Nicole Kidman as Silvia Broome, an African-born UN interpreter who overhears an assassination plot against an African leader scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly. Once she discovers she is also a target, Tobin Keller, played by Sean Penn, enters the plot as the Secret Service Agent assigned to protect her. Keller, however, grows suspicious of his charge's story, leading the film into a series of twists.

The film's UN setting is unique, as it was the first time the UN chambers were made accessible to a film crew. Sydney Pollack, the film's director, obtained Kofi Annan's personal agreement to film at the UN.

The Interpreter will be available on DVD later this summer.



Above: Sean Penn and Catherine Keener in *The Interpreter* (photo courtesy of Universal Pictures). Inset: Sam Daws meets Director Sidney Pollack at the UK premiere in Leicester Square (photo: Scott Myers/PIC Photos)



Characters and scenes from the game. Graphics courtesy of the World Food Programme.

World Food Programme: Food Force

The most popular thing since sliced bread

'I'm behind the wheel of a lumbering supply truck on a dirt road on the island of Sheylan. Gripped by a food crisis that has been exacerbated by civil war, the people of Sheylan need the staples my convoy is carrying. As a rookie member of a World Food Programme relief mission, I want to prove I have what it takes to save lives.

But I've failed to clear the road of mines, and I lose a truck and all its food. As a result of my clumsy leadership, people will starve to death. This may only be a game, but a bit of the chill of real lives in jeopardy reaches through the pixels.'

This narration, featured in the *Economist*, is the latest testimony to cyber-space as 'the great

translator', and pays tribute to the ingenuity of the UN World Food Programme's savvy new computer game Food Force.

The game features reality-based scenarios built around practical problem-solving, such as negotiating with rebel forces at roadblocks or searching for refugees. The underlying message is that poverty and hunger are not intractable features of the modern world, but are rather obstacles that can be overcome through practical, concrete solutions.

Food Force is the Apple website's second most popular download and can be downloaded for free on www.food-force.com





Sample Feedback from the UNA-UK Annual General Meeting 4 June 2005

As announced in the April-June issue of *New World*, it was necessary for legal reasons to hold this year's Annual General Meeting separately from Annual Conference.* The AGM therefore took place on Saturday, 4 June, and attracted a large number of both new and long-standing members.

After completion of the formal agenda, and as part of the process of UNA renewal, the AGM served as an opportunity for members to hold a very lively brainstorming session on the future direction and strategy of UNA, chaired by Sir Richard Jolly. Below you will find samples of some of the many valuable points raised.

UNA-UK should...

- continue to foster strategic partnerships with other NGOs, along the lines of its continuing participation in the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** coalition, as a means of making the most effective use of resources
- build up a cadre of people in the UK who can speak in defence of the UN
- be more audacious and controversial
- give greater emphasis to sustainable development and conflict avoidance
- build upon the strengths of the new-look *New World*, and continue to use channels of information as a multiplier for membership and for enhancing UNA's influence
- continue to make use of *pro bono* experts from the communications, legal and management fields to help renew UNA
- find innovative ways of increasing and diversifying its membership, so that it can enhance its influence on government policy
- continue to foster its relationship with parliamentarians, both through the Westminster UN All-Party Parliamentary Group and through its new links with the devolved assemblies
- ensure that measures continue to be implemented for improving transparency of UNA finances, so as to assure donors that their funds are directed to their intended purpose
- review the historical emphasis on individual membership when successful membership organisations tend to have regular donors, and consider raising subscriptions of certain membership groups
- recognise that UNYSA is not peripheral to UNA's work, but rather that youth are absolutely central to the future success and indeed very existence of UNA, and take active measures to integrate UNYSA more fully into the activities of UNA
- give due attention to recapturing the "lost generation" of members - those who have left university and are now wage earners

The UNA Board is keen that all members and branches have an opportunity to input ideas on the renewal of UNA over the next 12 months. Send your views to your Board regional representative, or directly to UNA Executive Director Sam Daws on daws@una-uk.org or by post to him at Head Office.

* We have had some enquiries as to why the AGM is being held separately from UNA's Annual Conference this year. This was not an oversight, nor a result of any omission on the part of UNA or the UNA Board, but was unavoidable this year due to a legal technicality which arose from the size of the Stakeholder Forum deficit and its reflection in the 03/04 UNA accounts. Last year, UNA's auditors informed the UNA Board that the auditing of the UNA Trust accounts (which occurs in the New Year) was required prior to completing the audit of the UNA accounts, since UNA required a significant financial grant from the UNA Trust for the financial year ending 30 June 2004 to balance its accounts, and the auditors needed to confirm that there had been sufficient funds available for transfer from the UNA Trust to do this. It was not possible to hold the AGM until all official notifications had been sent to all UNA members. There is a legal requirement that six weeks' notice be given to all members of the date, place and agenda of the AGM, and the approved summary accounts published. These notifications are usually included in the January-March issue of *New World* so that the AGM can be held simultaneously with Annual Conference in April. Since, in the light of UNA's unique financial situation last year, the auditors were not able to sign off on the accounts in time for notice to be given in the January *New World*, it was not possible to hold the AGM simultaneously with Annual Conference. Therefore, the UNA Board directed that proper notice of the AGM was given in the April-June issue of *New World*, and that the AGM be held this year on 4 June 2005.



LETTERS

Letter from the extreme South West!

Dear Editors,

I attended the UNA-UK Annual Conference in London this April, and found it a deeply inspiring and interesting experience. It was especially enhanced by the warm welcome given to me by everyone upon learning that I was from the Mid Cornwall branch of UNA in the extreme South West. We are the only group between Exeter and Landsend, and the only surviving branch in the county. It also made me realise how cut off we are down here in Cornwall - indeed, "an endangered species" as one conference member so aptly commented!

However, we are determined to survive and thrive. With this in mind, I am drawing attention to our activities, in the hope that this will encourage the formation of other groups down here. We are based in St Austell, with some members travelling from Truro and Newquay to enjoy a range of talks and activities, many of which have given rise to enduring links with people in Germany, Belarus, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and India. We travel too! Several members took part in the London March, one member recently ran in the Rome Marathon, to raise money for WaterAid and one has just returned from visiting our Belarusian student contact in Minsk. We were delighted when Kate Grady of UNYSA accepted an invitation to speak to students at Bodmin Community College last November, and several members visited County Hall in Truro to hear Independent MP Martin Bell deliver a highly interesting talk on politics.

Truro Cathedral will be the lovely venue for our annual Interfaith Celebrations on 9 October. However, the highlight of the year will be the planned visit by Sam Daws, new Executive Director of

UNA-UK. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming him to glorious Cornwall.

VERNA ROBERTS
Cornwall

Campaign priorities for UNA-UK

Dear Editors,

In speaking to individuals and groups that have an interest in public affairs, I am struck by the fact that UNA is almost unknown by folk one would expect to have come across it. Bodies such as Oxfam, Amnesty, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, and one or two other national NGOs, spring readily to people's minds, but not UNA. In fact there seems to be some confusion in the minds of many people about the difference between UNA and the UN itself. This is a sad state of affairs, and of course some members may contest what I am saying, but I can only recount my own experience.

It seems to me that UNA has a particular problem which does not affect most other NGOs and it is this: the UN itself is concerned with practically every activity of humankind from the seabed to outer space - peace, security, human rights, the environment, trade, development, refugees, climate change, health, agriculture, disaster relief, law of the sea, aviation, monetary matters, investment - the list is virtually endless. UNA has struggled valiantly over the years to mirror all these activities. The agenda for our Annual Conference this year contains a motion from our Board of Directors which proposes as campaigning priorities the Millennium Development Goals (an enormous topic in itself), human rights, and peace and security - as well as disarmament, rule of law and UN reform. Any one of these could keep us all occupied for about 10 years.

I suspect that this diffusiveness of our efforts is one of the reasons we do not

make sufficient impact on the public mind. Oxfam, Christian Aid, Tearfund, War on Want, CAFOD concentrate on aid and development; Friends of the Earth on the environment and other bodies (eg CND Cymru and CAAT) on relatively specific issues. We in UNA try to do the lot! It simply is not feasible - or at least the result of our efforts over such a diffuse field is that we strike home little if at all. If this analysis is correct, and many members may dispute it, what do we do about it?

It seems to me that the one area in which UNA has a unique responsibility is peacekeeping, peacemaking, the avoidance or containment of conflict, the role and duties of the Security Council, and possibly the ancillary powers of the General Assembly. No other NGO that I know of covers this particular field, though I suppose CND and CAAT might claim that their work is related to it. It appears to me that if UNA concentrated its collective mind on this topic (which involves of course reform of the Security Council itself) we might make some impact on public thinking.

I know that this is a very difficult proposition to promulgate within UNA because many of our most dedicated members are committed precisely because of the humanitarian work of the UN and particularly of its agencies - UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNHCR, the World Food Programme, the World Bank etc - and consider the furthering of that work as top priority for their efforts. I do not in any sense undervalue their commitment but most of that field is covered, admirably in most cases, by other NGOs, some of whom I have mentioned above, and their sharper focus makes a bigger impact on the public mind that UNA is able to do.

The other counter to the general drift of my views is that the public will simply not be the slightest bit interested in arcane arguments about the composition of the Security Council and the legalistic interpretation of this body's resolutions. That is true but the Iraq conflict has demonstrated that people are stirred in the most remark-



able fashion by issues of peace and war and the commitment of British women and men to wars in far off places (the Falkland conflict is another example from a different perspective).

Moreover it is indisputable that a war (especially a civil war such as we have had for years in Angola, the Congo, and the Sudan) destroys all that humanitarian and aid agencies seek to build. Schools, hospitals, homes, water supplies, agriculture are swept away by fighting; and the subsequent lawlessness can make it impossible for years if not decades to rebuild the shattered society. Effective peacekeeping or peacemaking could be considered the best possible form of aid and development! And UNA has a unique role in this field or public debate - why not concentrate on it?

FRANK HOOLEY

Montgomeryshire

UNA Wales has formally endorsed Frank Hooley's recommendation to focus specifically on issues related to peace.

UNA-UK has also taken steps to streamline its remit and will concentrate on the promotion of human security, which - in line with the recommendations put forward by Kofi Annan in his report In Larger Freedom - is predicated upon the recognition that development, human rights, and peace and security are fundamentally interlinked and mutually dependent.

Ideas for UNA branches in UN60

Dear Editors,

The 60th anniversary of the UN is passing quickly. However, there is still time for branches to give much needed publicity to the UN and UNA. Branches could plant trees in public places in their towns. They would have to apply to their borough councils or county councils for a space in a local park or public area.

This is a great opportunity to get the press involved. The local MP or mayor could perform the ceremony, which makes a good photograph for the newspaper with a write-up about the UN or UNA.

GILLIAN BAILEY

Cheltenham

The Non-Proliferation Regime

Dear Editors,

I was puzzled to read in the April-June issue of *New World*, in the Peace and Security article by Alexander Ramsbotham and Sarah Carter, two conflicting statements relating to the nuclear non-proliferation regime:

1. "The Panel's report maintains that the challenge of prevention requires a global, multilayered response [...] that enhances the capability of the Security Council to enforce non-proliferation agreements."
2. "The Panel also recommends that states join the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)".

Surely the PSI is a way of removing power from the UN Security Council, which has a duty to enforce the observation of the NPT, to other governments - i.e. that of the US - which act independently. The PSI focuses on horizontal proliferation and diverts attention away from US plans for 'mini-nukes', star wars and its declared Nuclear Posture Initiative, which identifies seven countries it might nuke in a first strike.

What use would the Non-Proliferation Treaty be then?

JOAN ABRAMS

Stockport

The UN High-Level Panel Report proposals for ECOSOC

Dear Editors,

The Panel's recommendations for reforming the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), contained in paragraph 274, open with the following statement: "The framers of the UN Charter understood that peace and security were inseparable from economic development."

Since 1945 the truth of this has become increasingly apparent. Yet, in spite of this rhetoric, the different UN bodies dealing with peace and security, on the one hand, and economic development, on the other, have never been linked closely together. ECOSOC, with its large membership of developing countries, has never had the

clout of the Security Council; and the Bretton Woods Institutions operate outside the UN and apparently nothing is going to change. The Panel clearly accepts the *status quo*. Surely this is an attitude of negativism if not despair: is there no such thing as political will? Or grass roots pressure?

The Panel's proposals for a Peacebuilding Commission, bringing together the Security Council, ECOSOC and the Bretton Woods Institutions could be welcomed as a small step in the right direction (though there could be problems of muddled responsibility, bureaucracy etc.). However, the proposal limits the role of ECOSOC to a source of 'guidance', 'inputs' and 'support'. All this is disappointing if one had hoped for a bolder ECOSOC contribution.

There have been at least two other important papers putting forward proposals for upgrading ECOSOC: the first, a 1995 report entitled *Our Global Neighbourhood*, by the Commission on Global Governance, which was chaired by Ingvar Carlsson and Shridath Rampal; the second, a Christian Aid report titled *Global Challenges* which was authored by Frances Stewart and Sam Daws in 2000. Both of these reports propose the establishment of a UN Economic and Security Council, but their well-argued case for upgrading economic issues at the UN has been ignored.

Why is the economic element consistently down-played? The roots of poverty are economic. So are the roots of war; and they will continue to be so in a world geared to the self-interest of nation-states who are competing for ever scarcer raw materials such as oil or minerals. Until there is courage and vision, the United Nations is never going to gain the allegiance of concerned young people like those who march in support of the development and anti-globalisation movements. The Panel is deluding itself when talking of social issues it claims that "[the] UN shows it has strong grass roots support for its goals and can thus mobilise public opinion in their favour". But to get that support the UN needs to be much braver and more radical about the way those goals can be achieved.

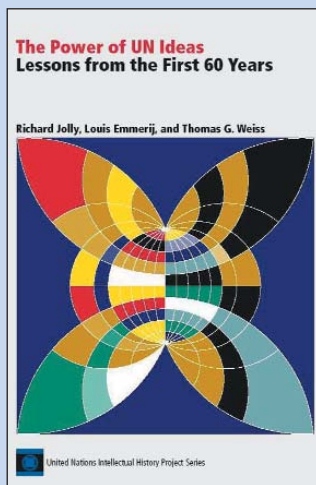
The Panel has missed an opportunity.

EILEEN DAFFERN

Brighton



BOOKS & RESOURCES



The Power of UN Ideas: Lessons from the First 60 Years

In the January to March issue of *New World*, we brought your attention to the UN Intellectual History Project, of which UNA Chair Sir Richard Jolly is a co-director. The aim of this project has been to bring to light the less familiar successes of the UN - to show how the UN has actually been 'ahead of the curve' throughout its 60-year history.

Most of us know, for example, that - because of the UN - more civil wars have been settled by mediation in the last 15 years than in the previous 200. Most of us are aware, too, that the UN, through the World Health Organisation, has been instrumental in eradicating small pox. But did you know that 10 Nobel Laureates over the last 60 years have worked with or for the UN? And did you know that, when you peruse the pages of the *Economist* or the *Financial Times*, you are viewing data processed with the help of a universally acknowledged statistical system pioneered by the UN?

A concise and well-written summary of the Intellectual History Project has now been published and is available through UNA. This slim volume, co-written by Sir Richard Jolly, can be purchased for £5. Please contact Ed Brenton on 020 7766 3443 or membership@una-uk.org to order.

Making Sense of World Conflicts: Education resource for secondary schools

Oxfam has just released a new resource targeted for use in teaching English, Citizenship and PSE to 13-17 year olds. Making Sense of World Conflicts is the most recent installment in a series entitled 'Global Issues for Secondary Schools'. It contains lesson plans, case studies and statistics, and recommends UNA-UK Model UN events as an effective way of teaching about conflict resolution.

The resource can be ordered at www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/conflict for £15. Free sample activities can be downloaded from the same site.

Peaceworkers UK

Peaceworkers UK is an organisation which aims to contribute to the allevia-

tion of suffering caused by violent conflict by promoting and facilitating the implementation of civilian strategies for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

Towards this purpose, Peaceworkers UK recruits civilian personnel and provides training in essential skills for working in conditions of conflict. It hosts a Peaceworkers Register from which international organisations such as the UN often recruit to support overseas peace programmes, and has deployed people to Kosovo, Moldova, Sierra Leone, the DRC and Uganda. For more information, visit www.peaceworkers.org.uk or call Peaceworkers on 020 8981 7088.

Documentary on Sergio Vieira de Mello

'En Route to Baghdad' is a documentary about Sergio Vieira de Mello. The film,

which won director Simone Duarte a Silver Medal Award from the UN Correspondents Association, is said to "capture the man's passion and provides a compelling illustration of how the UN has quietly but doggedly shaped our world".

'En Route to Baghdad' is available on DVD. To read about or to buy the film visit <http://home.nyc.rr.com/sergiodemellodoc>

Obituaries:

We are sorry to hear of the recent deaths of **Kitty Murby** and **Algar Reed**.

Full obituaries can be viewed on the UNA website and are also available in hard copy by calling Ed Brenton on 020 7766 3443.



The UNA@60 Appeal

Through the UNA@60 appeal we have already received a great deal of support from UNA members. We are extremely grateful for this.

But we still need help so that we can continue our work in our 60th anniversary year and beyond.

Just £3 a month will go a long way to rejuvenate UNA to make it a stronger voice in support of the UN in the UK. Printed on the back page of this issue of *New World* is a form for making regular donations to the UNA Trust by Direct Debit. If you are a UK taxpayer, and you tick the Gift Aid box, we can claim back from the government 28p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you.

In order to simplify matters for donors of £9 or over per month, the UNA Trust will pay the standard membership subscription to the Association on your behalf. If you are a UK taxpayer and donate £9 or more per month, we are able to claim an extra £28 on your whole donation - even including your membership subscription.

The UNA@60 appeal form can be sent to the UNA Trust at the address below. No postage stamp is necessary.

UNA Trust, FREEPOST SW211, London SW1A 2YZ

The UNA Trust is an independent body which exists to educate and fundraise in support of the UN and, to this purpose, traditionally provides essential funding for the charitable work of UNA-UK.





Recent Books on the UN



UN Role in Promoting Democracy: Between Ideals and Reality

Edward Newman and Roland Rich,
editors

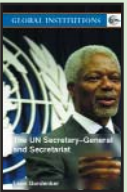
United Nations University Press
2004



Balancing the Development Agenda: James D. Wolfensohn and the Renaissance of the World Bank 1995-2005

James Wolfensohn

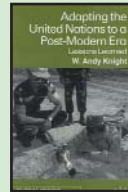
The World Bank
2005



The UN Secretary-General and Secretariat

Leon Gordenker

Routledge
2005



Adapting the United Nations to a Post-Modern Era

W. Andy Knight, editor.

Palgrave Macmillan
2005

UNA History: The Way Ahead

Frank Field, UNA member and former director, has now spent many dusty hours toiling amongst the many papers and booklets from UNA's past. Thanks to his dedication and perseverance, you will be able to read the full history in the next issue of New World!

Here is a taster:

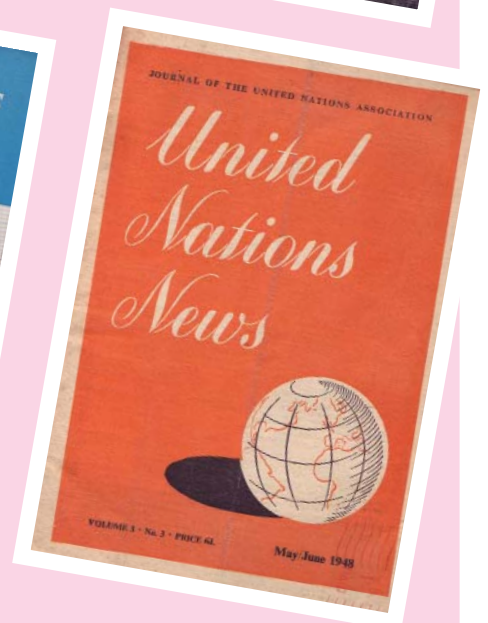
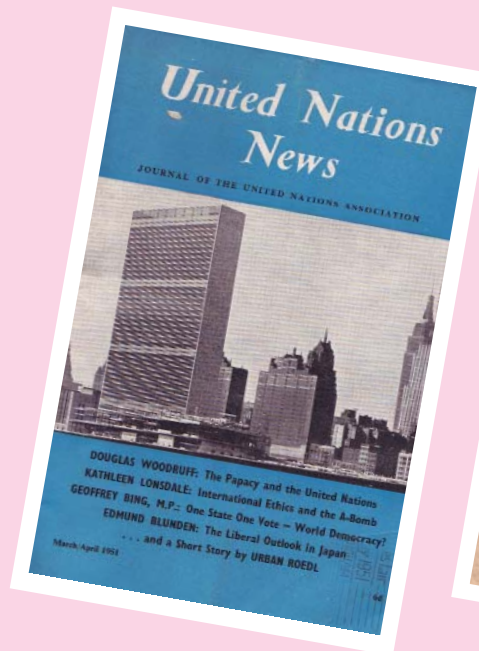
In 1953 UNA undertook a major membership drive. The 'Way Ahead Campaign', as it was called, culminated in a mass rally in the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 17 December 1953. For many weeks previously, volunteers from youth sections and branches, some 200 in all, had been rehearsing under professional direction, to play crowd scenes in a pageant specially written for the occasion.

During the final rehearsal, Dag Hammarskjöld appeared unannounced on the stage, with George Ivan Smith, Director of the UN Information Centre.

"There was an embarrassed silence," recalls one youth section member. "We were not expecting to get so close to the Secretary-General!"

For a few minutes he chatted informally to the cast, who were impressed that he had taken the trouble to come immediately after his arrival in London. Later we learned that he had cancelled a short holiday in order to come to London for this event.

We would still welcome any anecdotes or photographs you may wish to share with us and would be particularly grateful for any stories pertaining to the last two decades. Please send your material to Veronica Lie at 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL or vlie@una-uk.org





INTRODUCING THE NEW YOUTH COUNCIL

Krishna Khunti UNYSA Communications Officer

This year UNYSA held its National Conference on 2 April 2005 at the London School of Economics. The annual event saw the departure of the old Youth Council members, who had served for two

consecutive terms in office, and the election of both a new Youth Assembly and Council.

The Youth Council-elect aims to build upon the positive work of its predecessor

and inject some fresh energy into UNYSA, in order to ensure its ongoing success, both on a local level and on a global platform.

We now have the pleasure of introducing the new Youth Council.

Joanna Birch-Phaure
Marina Faggionato
Dipti Patel
Sumedh Rao
Michael Gillespie
Krishna Khunti
Ravina Handa
Amina Dahbi Skali
Mark Simpkins
Zanele Hatshnayo

President
Vice-President
Campaigns Officer
Treasurer
Membership Officer
Communications Officer
Individual Membership Officer
Secretary
Website Officer
MUN Officer

president@unysa-uk.org
vicepresident@unysa-uk.org
campaigns@unysa-uk.org
finance@unysa-uk.org
membership@unysa-uk.org
communications@unysa-uk.org
individual_members@unysa-uk.org
secretary@unysa-uk.org
website@unysa-uk.org
mun@unysa-uk.org

Immediate Past President
Immediate Past Vice-President

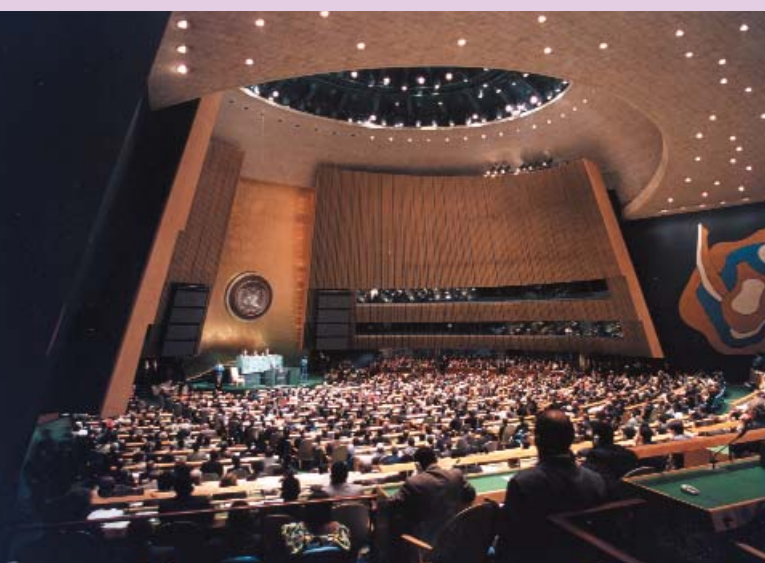
Rich Bartlett
Helene Claes

ipp@unysa-uk.org
ipvp@unysa-uk.org

To read more about the new Youth Council, please consult our website www.unysa-uk.org

YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK OUT AT THE UN

Rich Bartlett Immediate Past President



The UN General Assembly, New York. Photo: UN/DPI.

UNYSA-UK and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are very pleased to announce the appointment of three youth delegates to represent British youth at the General Assembly in October this year.

There was great interest in the youth delegate positions throughout the country. We received several hundred applications, generating a high level of competition. The 15 strongest candidates were short-listed and interviewed by a panel at the FCO, which consisted of two members of staff from the FCO and me, Rich Bartlett, for UNYSA. The candidates gave a short presentation on the World Programme of Action for Youth and faced a series of challenging questions from the panel.

As you will read in the following section, the selected youth delegates have a wealth of experience in youth participation both in the UK and internationally. They are a diverse delegation, representing British youth from all walks of life.

UNYSA looks forward to supporting the youth delegates as they consult and liaise with youth and youth organisations in the UK in the lead-up to their trip to New York.



THE UK YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FREDERICK BERNAS

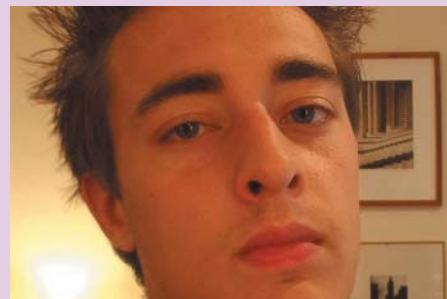
My name is Frederick Bernas; I'm 18 years old and live in Chiswick, West London. At the moment I'm studying for A2 Levels in English, History and Politics.

I'm thrilled to have been selected to represent the UK's young people at the UN and am really looking forward to it. I've already done lots of youth empowerment work, having been involved with the UK Youth Parliament for nearly 18 months as both an

MYP for Hounslow and the representative for London on the Procedures Group (the elected 'cabinet' of the organisation).

Work I've done includes setting up a London 2012 Olympic Bid youth forum, so young people can have their say on the plans, and helping the Department for Constitutional Affairs organise their first ever Schools Conference.

It is incredibly important that young people are consulted on the issues significant to us by decision-makers at all levels. Sending youth delegates to the UN is a fantastic step towards this and I will do my best to repre-



sent truly the views of young people in the UK. I also hope that we'll be able to improve the perception of youth in the media - we're not all yobs, thugs and hooligans!

KRISTOFER MCGHEE

I am Kristofer McGhee and originally from just outside Glasgow. I study Business and Management and Public Policy at the University of Glasgow and start my fourth year after the summer break. At university, I am the newly elected Vice-President of the Glasgow branch of UNYSA - it was this that brought to my attention the advertisement for the position of youth delegate to the United Nations. Additionally, I chair the Education and Lifelong Learning

Committee of the Scottish Youth Parliament and have been elected Treasurer. I also volunteer as a Panel Member for Glasgow Children's Panel, supporting and aiding disadvantaged children and young people.

My selection as one of the three UK youth delegates is highly exciting: travelling to New York; consulting and representing UK young people and youth organisations; presenting to the UN General Assembly; meeting new people and learning about international youth participation. Undoubtedly, as delegates, we will encounter some barriers and difficulties, but



the challenge is to overcome these in order to represent best the young people of the UK. It is a task I am certainly looking forward to and I feel honoured to have been selected from over 600 applicants!

KEELEY WILLIAMS

My name is Keeley Willams and I am 20 years old. I live in Stratford, East London. I am currently studying Psychology at Brunel University, where I have just completed my third of four years.

I have been a member of the Newham Youth Parliament for the past six years, and I was an MYP at the UKYP three years ago. I was selected to attend the Earth Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa with an umbrella group called 'Your Wake Up Call'. This was a great experi-

ence which involved lobbying ministers and delegates from around the world about the issues surrounding sustainable development.

The opportunity for three young people to become the UK's youth delegates and attend the General Assembly in New York is fantastic and I am so privileged to be one of them. I aim to make the most of it, not just for my own personal gains but so that the UK's youth are represented positively and productively. Youth participation is so important: it needs to be accessible, it needs to be given publicity and it needs to be regarded highly. Young people are always spoken about and spoken to, and



there is rarely a platform where young people can be heard constructively and consulted with in a way which is not tokenistic. As young people we need to be involved in the decision-making about us in order to be powerful and to own our future.



A NEW PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL YOUTH

Sumedh Rao

UNYSA-UK Treasurer

The World Youth Leadership Network (WYLN) will be launched at the WYLN Global Summit in December this year. Sessions will cover cultural diplomacy; terrorism; the role of youth in building a safer and peaceful world; gender equality and empowerment of African youth. There will be over a thousand delegates from all over the world.

One is Alphonse Kouagou, who grew up in a village in Benin, a small West African country, as the only one of ten brothers and sisters who could read or write. He was the first in his family to leave his village and went on to get a BS, CPA and MBA in the US. Another delegate is Yasuhide Nakayama, a member of the House of Representatives - Japan's House of Commons.

And then there's....er.....me! Well I suppose it takes all types. Anyway, I'll be representing the UNYSA contingent as a strategic partner so I'm waiting for your input. Check out the website at www.wyln.org and, if you have any comments, you can e-mail them to me at finance@unysa-uk.org making sure that you put 'WYLN' in the subject heading.

The summit will take place in a youth centre near Harajuku in Tokyo so, if all else fails, I'm sure we can pick up some of Gwen Stefani's rejects on the way back. What UN affiliated organisation doesn't need four mute, strangely dressed backing dancers, right?

ZAHRA AFSHAR: WINNER! "THE UN IS 60, BUT I'M NOT."

In the fall of 2004 UNYSA - in collaboration with Scribendi Inc. - launched an essay competition entitled "The UN is 60, but I'm not! We're the new generation, time for new ideas." After a painstaking process UNA-UK, UNYSA and Scribendi Inc. selected Zahra Afshar as the winner. The editors of *New World* would now like also to acknowledge Zahra's prize-winning essay, which can be viewed on the UNYSA website at www.unysa-uk.org

As part of her prize, Zahra will be given the opportunity this summer to work for an international development programme in the country of her choice.



Photo courtesy of Oxfam

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY, STOP AIDS, AND THE G8 SUMMIT

Ravina Handa and Dipti Patel

Individual Membership Officer and Campaigns Officer

The Make Poverty History campaign is organising a rally in July to coincide with the G8 summit, held this year in Gleneagles, Scotland, where the heads of rich states are discussing major issues of the day and including Africa as a top priority. The campaign facilitates movement towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by pressuring governments on trade justice, debt cancellation and more and better aid.

UNYSA has been working actively with various groups involved with the march and in particular our partners in the Student Stop AIDS Campaign (SSAC), emphasising our support for the fight against the deadly virus. Today AIDS is the fourth biggest killer in the world and the greatest cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. To date 13 million men, women and children have died of AIDS in the region, while 26 million more are infected. Nigeria alone is home to 10% of the world's total number of people living with HIV and AIDS. According to the United Nations, we are experiencing the "most devastating epidemic humanity has ever known." The spread of the virus represents an interna-

tional crisis of staggering proportions, which is why we must take an active part in raising awareness through our campaigning and show that we have a desire to act.

The rally is only a first step. More needs to be done to exert pressure on the UK government if the Millennium Development Goals are to be realised. UNYSA is coordinating activities with SSAC to educate young people about the issues, empower them, get them more involved and make the most of their energy and commitment to bringing about change. Our focus this year is on Access to Care and Treatment. SSAC are producing an HIV/AIDS student pack, including general information as well as how to participate, which will be available during September for our branches and interested members. Many events have been planned for the coming year, ranging from speaker events at various universities to workshops. World AIDS day is on 1 December.

To keep up-to-date on forthcoming events and find out how you can get involved visit: www.makepovertyhistory.org and www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk

UNYSA HOODIES on tour!

Do you remember the bit in *Amelie* when the eponymous heroine – in an effort to tempt her mourning father into travelling – arranges for his garden gnome to be photographed in various far-flung parts of the world? Well, we'd now like you to exchange your garden gnome for a UNYSA hoodie, pose in an innovative location and send the photo to Veronica, either to vlie@duna-uk.org or 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. The most surprising photo will win a £25 voucher to HMV.

Don't have a hoodie? UNYSA hoodies are available in small, medium, large and extra-large, and cost just £15 plus £2 P&P. For more details on how to order, please call 020 7766 3444.

The deadline for receipt of photos is 1 September 2005.



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