



SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITY

The UN in the 21st Century

Preparation: Read the fact sheet that accompanies this activity. For further information please visit www.unesco.org.uk/un_matters and www.un.org

Outcome

⇒ To develop a set of priorities for the UN in 2010-2020.

Activity

Part 1

As a class, look at the following three media headlines which appeared in 2010 and discuss what the main priorities for the UN should be in the next decade:

UN Conference Confronts Dramatic Loss of Biodiversity

RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, 18 October 2010

1 million Haitians in 1,300 squalid camps [following earthquake]

The Associated Press, 7 October 2010

Cancun climate change talks headed nowhere

The Hindu, 20 September 2010

Compile a list of the priorities you have identified through the discussion.

Part 2

The preamble of the UN Charter starts with 'We the peoples of the United Nations' but it is usually government officials and politicians that represent the member states at UN meetings. With the development of the internet, mobile phone technology and new social media, there are great opportunities for the UN involve people from across the world in its work.

In small groups, pick one of the priorities you have identified and develop suggestions for how you think the UN can best take this forward. Think about how the UN can use the internet to help improve its work and decisions.

Each group should then present its ideas to the class, so that the class as a whole can agree on the top three suggestions.