



NEW WORLD

News and comment on the United Nations and UNA-UK

Oct-Dec 2006



The challenges ahead for Ban Ki-moon

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FROM EXEC

Welcome to the autumn 2006 issue of *New World*. Autumn is traditionally a time of change and, at the UN, it has been confirmed that Ban Ki-moon of South Korea will succeed Kofi Annan as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Lord Hannay has written to Mr Ban congratulating him on behalf of UNA-UK. An article on pages 13-17 outlines the challenges ahead for the new Secretary-General.

There have also been exciting changes at UNA-UK head office. Olliver Southgate has been appointed Deputy Executive Director, following the end of Simon Le Fevre's interim position, and Veronica Lie has been promoted to full-time Head of Advocacy. See page 4 to read more about Olliver and about our new Campaigns and Education Officer and Executive Assistant.

The year ahead has in store many challenges for the world and for the UN. Among the most pressing will be to ensure that the peace in

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The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of *New World* is noon on 27 November 2006. The next issue will cover the period 1 January to 31 March 2007. All contributions should be typed and sent by e-mail where possible to lie@una.org.uk. Digital photos should ideally be 300 dpi resolution.

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SAM DAWS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lebanon is sustained and that the international community now focuses its efforts on achieving a lasting settlement for the wider Middle East. See pages 8-11 for information about the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah and about the vital work being done by UN agencies to help the Lebanese rebuild their lives.

UNA-UK has thrown its weight behind efforts to establish an international arms trade treaty (ATT). The UK – along with the governments of six other countries – is sponsoring a resolution in the General Assembly, meeting now at the UN in New York, calling for the opening of negotiations towards such a treaty. See UNA-UK's website to read a letter from Lord Hannay to the FCO expressing support for an ATT and to read more about our work in this area.

As you will see from the UNA events listing on pages 28-33, there are many opportunities to get informed, get involved, and make a difference. UNA-UK is holding three exciting events for members before the end of 2006: the UN Day launch event for the annual parliamentary lobby, in London on 24 October; a major public conference about Trident and the NPT, in Cardiff on 2 December; and a seminar on the UN's role in overcoming corruption to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in Sheffield on 9 December.

We are delighted that Sir Michael Quinlan and Paul Ingram have con-

tributed articles about different aspects of the debate over the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent. Also included in this issue are guest articles from Gareth Thomas MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development; Anushay Hossain from UNIFEM UK; and Kirsten Hagon from UNDP South Darfur.

“ The year ahead has in store many challenges for the world and for the UN. Among the most pressing will be to ensure that the peace in Lebanon is sustained and that the international community now focuses its efforts on achieving a lasting settlement for the wider Middle East ”

The Young Professionals Network continues to develop from strength to strength. Over the next seven months YPN will be holding a series of seminars in London on the contribution of the

private sector to reaching the MDGs. This seminar series will be launched at a prestigious reception at the FCO on 14 November. We are also pleased to announce another launch, that of YPN Wales, on 9 November at the Welsh Assembly. See page 30 for more information.

UNA-UK has produced a new guide for members interested in establishing (or encouraging others to establish) student branches at universities. Read more about this on page 40.

A registration form for Annual Conference 2007 is included in this issue of *New World*. Sign up before 15 January 2007 for an early bird discount! And don't forget that 1 December 2006 is the deadline both for submitting policy issues and for nominations for elections to the UNA-UK Board of Directors and UNA Trust. See page 37 for more details of Conference 2007.

I would like to thank those branches and individuals who have recently made donations towards UNA-UK's campaigning and educational work. I encourage others to do so too. With the decision of the UNA-UK Board of Directors to abolish the compulsory quota and replace it with voluntary donations, many branches have found that they can do more locally. With your help, UNA-UK will be able to produce more materials to assist members in their local efforts to support the UN and raise awareness of its invaluable work.



UNA-UK welcomes new headquarters staff

Following the departure of Simon Le Fevre to UK Sport after serving as interim Deputy Executive Director, the permanent Deputy Executive Director, Olliver Southgate, is now in post. We are

delighted also that Natalie Samarasinghe has been appointed Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, and that Mark Rusling has joined the staff as the new Campaigns and Education

Officer. Tim Kellow, a temporary but most welcome addition to our team, is now also installed, as a peace and security consultant to UNA-UK on a two-month contract.

Olliver Southgate: Deputy Executive Director

Before joining UNA-UK, Olliver worked for Compassion in World Farming. As Director of Resources he served as second-in-command to the CEO. A member of the charity's strategic management team, Olliver was responsible for ICT, finance, administration and personnel, and managed a staff of 12. Prior to this, Olliver worked for 26 years at Barclays Bank in various management capacities. He holds an Associateship of the Chartered Institute of Banking and is active in his parish church.

Natalie Samarasinghe: Executive Assistant to the Executive Director

Natalie Samarasinghe has been appointed the new Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Natalie has extensive experience as a personal assistant to senior managers, including the Registrar of Oxford University and the Managing Director of Sri Lankan Airlines (Frankfurt Office), and has had challenging roles as a PA in local government. A child of a former UNIDO employee, she attended a UN-affiliated school in Vienna, and participated in the 1996 UN World Youth Forum. She has actively supported Amnesty International campaigns against institutional racism in Austria following the deaths of African immigrants in police custody. Natalie secured outstanding marks in her International Baccalaureate from the Vienna International School, and graduated with a BA (Hons) in Modern History from Oxford University, securing a distinction in her final year thesis. She has also recently completed an MSc in Human Rights from the LSE. Natalie speaks German and French.

Mark Rusling: Campaigns & Education Officer

Mark Rusling comes to UNA-UK with an exceptional grounding for the role of Campaigns and Education Officer. Originally from York, Mark has taught primary school children in India and international secondary school students in Cambridge, where he used model UNs as a key strategy for teaching. He has been active in the Fabian Society, setting up and then coordinating the Fabian Society Schools Citizenship Project, and serving as the International Officer on the Young Fabians Executive. He has also worked as a researcher and press officer for two Labour MPs. After securing five A grades at A level, and 10 GCSEs at A*, Mark graduated with a BA (Hons) in Law from Cambridge University and then was awarded a Diploma in Legal Practice from Nottingham Law School, subsequently qualifying as a solicitor from Linklaters. He also holds an MSc in Public Policy from University College London and speaks French.

Tim Kellow: John Bright Peace & Security Programme Consultant (two-month appointment)

Tim has a Master's degree in War Studies from King's College, London, and five years' professional experience of working on conflict issues, both at the policy level and in the field. Prior to joining UNA-UK, he worked as a consultant to companies operating in unstable regions, such as West Africa and Central America, providing risk and security assessments, and evaluating likely social impacts of operations. Previously he worked for the conflict transformation NGO, International Alert, in both its London headquarters and its office in Sri Lanka. Tim has also served as a risk analyst for a major commodity trading company; as an international development adviser at the House of Commons; and as a researcher for the security policy think-tank, the Centre for Defence Studies.

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Developments at the UN

UN Secretary-General issues second major report on conflict prevention

On 7 September 2006, the UN General Assembly debated Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report on preventing armed conflict, issued five years after his first comprehensive report on the subject. The report outlines a three-pronged approach to preventing armed conflict: targeting the sources of tension within and between societies, states and regions; reinforcing the norms and institutions for peace; and strengthening the mechanisms that can resolve disputes between countries.

The report also stresses the importance of addressing environmental degradation, corruption, youth unemployment, HIV/AIDS and the trade of illicit weapons and drugs. It further emphasises the need to help states build "national infrastructures for peace" – for example, constitutions, the capacity to hold credible elections and a political culture of democratic governance.

One of Kofi Annan's priorities in office has been to move the UN from a culture of reaction to one of prevention. A key conclusion of his latest report was that such a culture was indeed beginning to take hold but that "an unacceptable gap remains between rhetoric and reality in the area of conflict prevention".

Human Rights Council takes controversial action over Lebanon

On 11 August 2006, the new Human Rights Council passed a resolution calling for a commission of inquiry to be dispatched to the Middle East to investigate alleged human rights abuses by Israel during the recent conflict in Lebanon. The initial push for the resolution was led by a group of Islamic countries and supported by a total of 27 states, including Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Russia and South Africa. The resolution was opposed by 11 of the Council's members, including the EU

countries as well as Canada and Japan. There were eight abstentions.

A key challenge for the fledgling Council is to avoid the politicisation which undermined the credibility of the body it was set up to replace, the Commission on Human Rights. The Council has therefore come under criticism for passing the divisive resolution, which accuses Israel of "grave...violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law" but does not acknowledge Hezbollah's attacks on civilian centres in northern Israel.

What next for the climate change regime?

A major environmental conference will take place from 6 to 17 November 2006 at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya. Over this period parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the Kyoto Protocol will convene to identify ways of improving the international response to climate change.

Among the questions to be considered are how to improve countries' adaptation to the effects of climate change (now that some climate change is inevitable and indeed ongoing) and how technological transfer can be harnessed within strategies towards overcoming the problem. Perhaps the biggest challenge, however, will be how to map out a viable future for the Kyoto Protocol, given that its emission reduction targets expire in 2012, in such a way that elicits better cooperation from big emitters like the US and, increasingly, countries such as India, China and Brazil.

The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is due in 2007. The IPCC, an independent body of scientists set up in 1988 to review (rather than produce) research on climate change, is influential among policy-makers and widely considered the most authoritative source of information on the subject. It

was in fact the IPCC's first assessment report, in 1988, which prompted the creation of the UNFCCC in 1992.

The push for an arms trade treaty

Governments at the General Assembly this autumn will decide whether to begin negotiations towards an international arms trade treaty to regulate international arms transfers.

The GA will consider a draft resolution put forward in July 2006 by seven governments: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the UK. Of the UN's 192 member states, at least half must vote in support of the resolution for it to be passed; 55 governments have at this stage indicated their broad support for such a treaty.

UNA-UK is actively supporting the proposed treaty and is lobbying at the national and international levels. For more information please see www.una.org.uk

UN peacekeeping operations face major challenge

Over the course of 20 days in August 2006, the Security Council adopted three resolutions in response to the situations in Lebanon, Timor-Leste and Darfur. These resolutions will likely precipitate a significant expansion in UN peace operations worldwide.

Security Council Report, an independent organisation which aims to improve the consistency and quality of publicly available information about the Council, recently issued an analysis of this swell in resolutions. Entitled *Twenty Days in August: the Security Council sets massive new challenges for UN peacekeeping*, the report assesses the likely impact of this increase, the largest ever monthly surge in new UN operations, on such factors as mandate implementation, force generation, equipment availability and budget.

The report is available from the Security Council Report's website: www.securitycouncilreport.org



What it's like living and working in Darfur

Kirsten Hagon is a British-Australian rule of law officer with UNDP South Darfur. Kirsten – an active supporter of UNA-UK – was also the youth representative on the Australian delegation to the UN General Assembly during 2001. The initiative to send a youth delegate to the General Assembly originated with the youth wing of UNA Australia (much as UNYSA was the driving force behind the decision to send three UK youth delegates to the UN last year).

I have now been in Darfur for just over six weeks. I am based in Nyala, the capital of south Darfur state and a thriving metropolis in Darfurian terms. It has three restaurants, a couple of sets of traffic lights, and some bitumen roads, which are full of autorickshaws, little yellow cabs, utility trucks and UN and NGO 4WDs (four wheel-drives). There is also a large market with stalls of wilted vegetables, plenty of oranges and grapefruit, and tomatoes and okra laid out on tarpaulin to dry in the sun.

It's rainy season here: it pours down every few days, and the thunder bellows and shakes the house and rain slams in through the cracks. After the rain the *wadis* (dry creek beds) fill with water, everything turns green and the dirt roads become thick bogs. 4WDs are essential but, even so, access to the camps, where the internally displaced persons – or IDPs – live, can be tricky.

It is also planting season, but so many of the fields are empty. From the airplane on the flight between Nyala and al-Fasher (capital of north Darfur) one sees a patchwork of disused farmland, the nearby villages abandoned. Many people have left, due to their fears of militia attacks, and moved to the big towns. Here many have ended up in the IDP camps on the outskirts, living under plastic sheeting or in makeshift mud brick and grass huts.

The town is quiet, and one can almost forget that there is a conflict here. But we see plen-

ty of trucks full of armed men bristling with machine guns, some in uniform, many not. Outside Nyala it is more risky, and to some areas UN cars travel in convoys of three; to other areas no road transport is permitted. The security briefings have recently become longer, there are more incidents of inter-factional and inter-tribal conflict, and there are more frequent raids on villages by unidentified militias and attacks on convoys of food.

Security Council resolution 1706 – which calls for a UN peacekeeping force in Darfur – had a pretty big impact on our work and our ability to move around. A few days after the resolution was passed a government-organised demonstration was held in protest of the UN and the proposed peacekeeping force. The demonstrators threw rocks and bricks at UN and NGO offices and compounds; windows were broken and some cars damaged. A couple of unlucky guards received minor injuries. In al-Fasher students held a public meeting in favour of the resolution, and there were clashes with police – some people ended up in hospital and some deaths were reported. The IDPs were also aware of the resolution and from them I saw a very different response. In one camp the sheikhs presented a petition to UN-OCHA (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) expressing support for the UN force and asking for it to be deployed as soon as possible.

I have spent a lot of time in Kalma camp, an

enormous sprawl of tents and dust and mud brick huts and tattered plastic sheeting which takes us a good 40 minutes along muddy dirt tracks to get to. NGOs here estimate that there are 95,000 people in this camp alone. There is even a market as you drive in, and other sights are women selling vegetables, donkeys pulling carts, beautiful children waving, goats tethered to huts, women in bright cloth carrying pots or bundles of sticks on their heads, men in white *jalabeyas* and turbans and, somewhat frayed, the flags of NGOs flying from some of the buildings. Life isn't easy for the IDPs, and there are always problems – insufficient food, patchy soap distribution, and shelter in frequent need of repair or replacement. One of the biggest considerations these people have is security. This is a particular concern for women who often leave the relative safety of the camp to collect firewood (which they sell to buy essential items for their families) and in doing so risk attack.

It is a challenging context in which to work and often very frustrating, in particular when you consider the scale of the problems, the politics of the conflict here in Darfur and internationally, and the difficulties faced by humanitarian actors in carrying out their work. The project I am working on is the first UNDP rule



of law project to take place before a conflict has ended. We try to address some of the biggest problems in Darfur, apart from the lack of security – namely impunity for perpetrators of crimes and the lack of access to justice for victims. A key focus of the project is human rights and rule of law training: to government bodies, including police, prosecutors, judges and the military, and to the African Union Civil Police, lawyers, IDPs and host communities. We also work with a legal aid network to support lawyers in Darfur to take human rights cases to court, with a particular focus on gender-based violence, torture and the detention of vulnerable groups.

The Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs), established in a number of the IDP camps by UNDP and the International Rescue Committee, form another important component of our work. At the JCCs, IDPs are trained in the law and processes for accessing justice. These 'paralegals' mediate disputes in the camp, advise people on their rights and, where appropriate, assist people to access the police, courts and lawyers.

The lawyers and paralegals have such passion and belief in their work, and they are all incredibly brave – the work they do entails substantial risks. The paralegals come from many varied backgrounds – teachers and taxi drivers, students and mechanics, businessmen and farmers. A number of them have told me that they feel their work as paralegals was the best possible thing they could do for their communities now, and that they hope, after people are able to return home, the skills they have obtained will continue to benefit their communities. Many want to study law and see confidence in the law and bringing people to justice before courts as a real way towards peace and justice for Darfur as a whole. I hope they are right.



Photos © Kirsten Hagon

UNA-UK update on Darfur

On 31 August 2006, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1706, which mandates the existing UN mission in Sudan, currently stationed in the south of the vast country, to deploy to Darfur to help secure the implementation of the various peace agreements aimed at ending the bloodshed in the region. To this end, the resolution calls for UNMIS (United Nations Mission in Sudan) to be strengthened by up to 17,300 military personnel, as well as 3,300 civilian police personnel and 16 police units.

Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Council authorises UNMIS to use all necessary means to protect UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment; to ensure the security and freedom of movement of UN personnel and humanitarian workers; to prevent the disruption of the peace agreements by armed groups; to protect civilians under threat of physical violence; and to seize or collect arms or related material whose presence in Darfur is in violation of the relevant peace agreements and Security Council resolutions.

Despite broad support for resolution 1706 and for the proposed UN force, the initiative has run aground against the intransigence of the Sudanese government, which has refused to allow UN peacekeepers in Darfur, though they are permitted in south Sudan.

The Sudanese government claims that the presence of a UN force in Darfur would constitute an infringement on its sovereignty and has gone so far as to say that "any volunteering to provide peacekeeping troops to Darfur will be seen as a hostile act, a prelude to an invasion of a UN member country".

John Bolton, the US ambassador to the UN, has called this statement "a direct challenge to the Security Council".

For more information on the UNDP Rule of Law Project see:

www.sd.undp.org/Darfur.htm

For more information about events in Sudan visit:

www.sudantribune.com

www.irinnews.org

www.reliefweb.int

www.unmis.org

www.crisisgroup.org



After Lebanon

time for wider UN engagement in the Middle East

Tim Kellow is a consultant to UNA-UK's John Bright Peace and Security Programme.

The Security Council's contribution: resolution 1701

On 11 August 2006, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1701 to bring to an end the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. While it took weeks of diplomatic haggling before the Security Council was able to agree on the resolution, the Council's contribution to resolving the immediate crisis has been significant, leading to speculation that it may be stepping up its engagement in the Middle East. Through resolution 1701, the Council helped to end 34 days of combat and authorised the establishment of a robust peacekeeping mission, for the first time agreeing unanimously to deploy a force to the region. Crucially, the resolution looks beyond the short term, setting out a framework for a durable peace based on terms advantageous to both Lebanon and Israel.

Over the course of the conflict over a thousand people were killed and over a million displaced; the cost of damage to infrastructure has been estimated at \$3.6 billion. The ceasefire, which took effect on 14 August, was therefore greeted with relief. Despite breaches by both parties, the ceasefire has held. Yet formidable challenges remain.

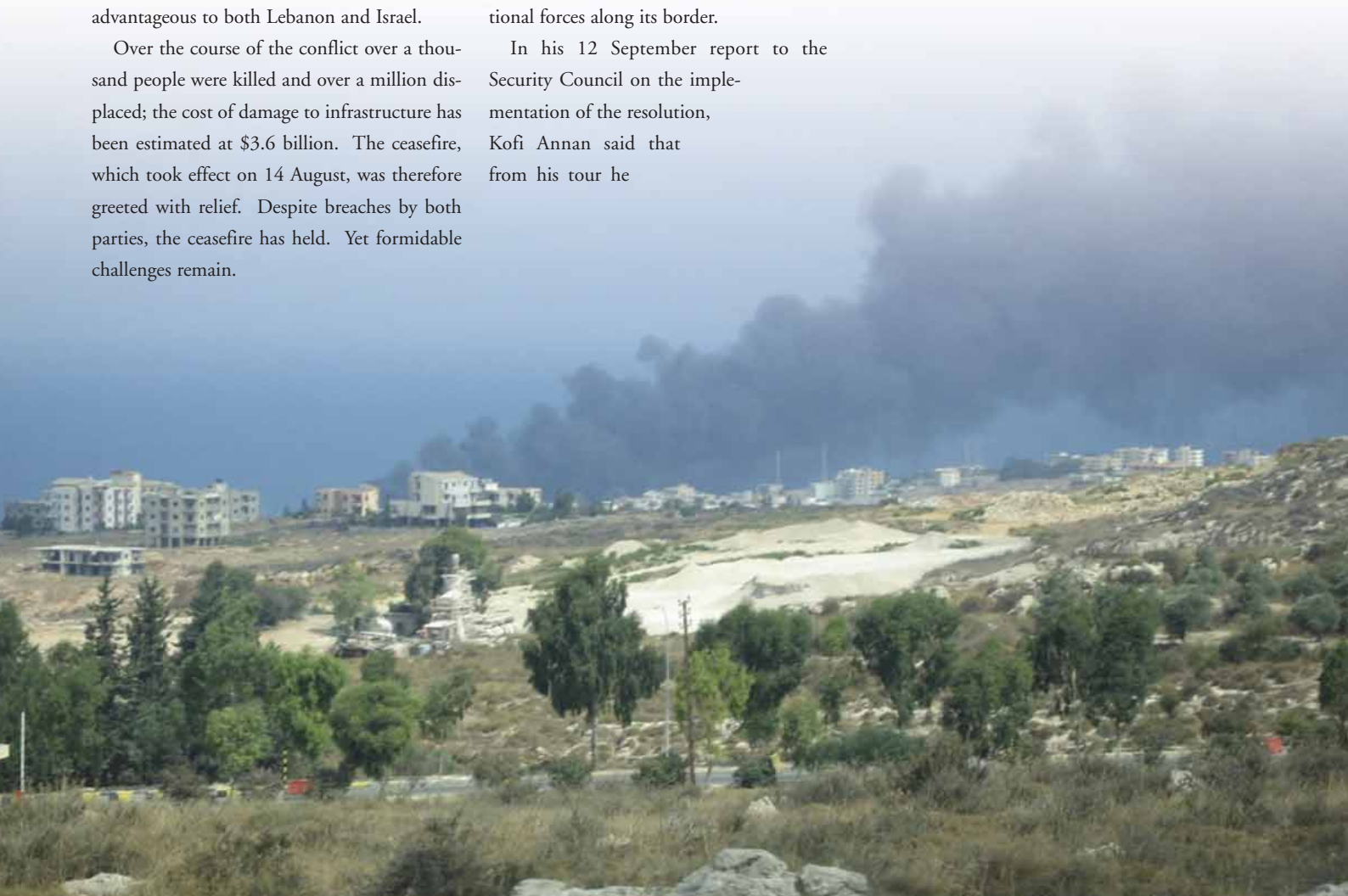
Consolidating the peace

The most immediate challenge is to consolidate the fragile peace. Resolution 1701 calls for UNIFIL, the existing UN mission in Lebanon, to be augmented from its current size of approximately 2,000 troops up to a maximum of 15,000.

The resolution assigns a leading role to the UN Secretary-General in peacemaking efforts. As part of his bid to galvanise diplomatic support for the resolution and to secure troop contributions, Secretary-General Kofi Annan met with EU foreign ministers before visiting key countries in the Middle East. A key aim of the tour was to resolve disagreements over the force's scope and constitution, in particular Israel's rejection of troops from countries with which it does not have diplomatic relations and Syria's objection to the deployment of international forces along its border.

In his 12 September report to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution, Kofi Annan said that from his tour he

had "discerned broad support for the implementation of [the] resolution...and was encouraged by the general commitment to restoring security and stability across the Middle East". He further stated, "I am pleased to note that my efforts appear to have contributed to securing the commitments of several troop-contributing countries." Kofi Annan noted also that there was "a general understanding" that Israeli forces would withdraw completely from Lebanese territory once UNIFIL had 5,000 troops in place and the Lebanese army was ready to deploy at the full strength of 15,000 troops.





The UN has confirmed that the bulk of Israeli troops have withdrawn. Their departure means, according to an Israeli army spokesman, that "every act of Hezbollah" is now the responsibility of the Lebanese government and, by extension, of the UN force deployed to support it. That Hezbollah has thus far refused to disarm challenges the full implementation of resolution 1701, which calls on the Lebanese government to exercise its "full sovereignty" throughout its territory, "so that there will be no weapons without the consent of the government of Lebanon and no authority other than the government of Lebanon". Another challenge will be to secure the release of the Israeli soldiers whose capture by Hezbollah sparked the conflict in the first place. The UN has appointed a mediator to try to broker the release of the soldiers, probably through a prisoner exchange.

UNA-UK's response

Following the outbreak of hostilities on 12 July, UNA-UK took the following actions:

- On 15 July 2006, the UNA-UK Board of Directors agreed on the text of a letter which was sent to the Foreign Secretary expressing UNA-UK's dismay at the deteriorating situation in the Middle East.
- As the situation in the Middle East worsened, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay and UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws appeared on numerous television and radio programmes calling for prompt and effective action by the international community. These included appearances on Sky News, Radio Scotland, BBC Radio 5 Live, Radio Wales, BBC World TV's 'Hard Talk', BBC 4's 'The World at One' and CNN.
- UNA-UK encouraged its members to write directly to the Embassy of Israel in London to express their concerns about the deaths of four UN observers killed by Israeli bombs on 25 July at their post in south Lebanon.
- On 1 August, Lord Hannay wrote again to the Foreign Secretary to deplore the continued deaths of civilians; the unwillingness of the US and the UK to call on Israel and Hezbollah to agree an immediate

Timeline

25 June	Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip capture an Israeli soldier.
12 July	As Israel steps up its offensive into Gaza to secure the soldier's release, Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon launch rockets into Israel and seize two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert calls the move "an act of war" and Israeli planes begin bombing Hezbollah positions and Israeli troops cross into southern Lebanon.
18 July	The evacuation of foreign citizens begins. The UN warns of a humanitarian disaster.
23 July	UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland visits Beirut and calls the destruction "a violation of humanitarian law".
25 July	Israeli air strike kills four UN observers in Khiyam, southern Lebanon.
5 August	US and France agree wording of a draft Security Council resolution calling for a "full cessation of hostilities".
11 August	The Council unanimously approves resolution 1701 which calls for a 15,000-strong force to deploy to southern Lebanon.
14 August	After 24 hours of intensified fighting a ceasefire begins at 0800 local time (0500 GMT).
7 September	Israel lifts sea and air blockade.
20 September	First phase of UN force's deployment is concluded, as the force reaches 5,000 troops.
22 September	UNIFIL commander confirms that Israel has begun withdrawing its troops.

Pledged troop contributions

(as at 27 September 2006)

France	2,000 troops (in initial leadership role)
Italy	2,500-3,000 troops (in leadership role from February 2007)
Bangladesh	2 battalions (up to 2,000 troops)
China	1,000 troops
Malaysia	1 battalion
Spain	1 mechanised battalion
Indonesia	1 battalion and an engineering company
Nepal	1 battalion
Turkey	up to 1,000 non-combat troops
Germany	coastal and border patrols but no combat troops
Poland	500 troops
Belgium	392 troops
Finland	250 troops
Qatar	200-300 military personnel
Norway	100 soldiers
Denmark	at least two ships

UNIFIL and UNIFIL II

The UN peacekeeping force being deployed to Lebanon is not a new force but an enlargement of an existing mission which has been stationed in Lebanon for nearly 30 years. In March 1978 Israel invaded Lebanon in retaliation for an attack by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation which had left many Israelis dead or wounded. After an appeal from the Lebanese government denying its involvement in the initial attack on Israel, the Security Council passed resolution 425, which called for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and the establishment of UNIFIL. As its full name – the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon – suggests, the mission was intended as a temporary measure. However, nearly 30 years later, UNIFIL looks more like a permanent feature of the region's security landscape.

The mandate of 'UNIFIL II' – as it is being called informally – is similar to that of 'UNIFIL I'. The mission is tasked with:

- monitoring the cessation of hostilities
- supporting the deployment of Lebanese forces as Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanese territory
- ensuring humanitarian access to civilian populations



ceasefire; and the failure of the Israeli government to agree to Kofi Annan's request for a joint UN-Israeli/international investigation into the killing of the UN observers.

- UNA-UK encouraged its members to write to their MPs and MEPs echoing the points made in Lord Hannay's letter, and to show their support for its contents by signing an

online petition which was forwarded to the Foreign Office.

- UNA-UK mobilised its youth and student and young professionals networks in support of an NGO text-messaging campaign demanding an immediate ceasefire.

Full details of these activities are available on the UNA-UK website. Also posted are copies

of the letters to the Foreign Secretary and the reply from the FCO.

The humanitarian situation

In the hours after the 14 August ceasefire, many of the displaced began returning to their homes, and emergency aid began flowing into the worst-affected areas of Lebanon. Within three weeks nearly all of the one million displaced had returned.

A look at some UN agencies on the ground

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

- During the crisis, WFP both provided emergency food aid and organised logistics on behalf of the UN humanitarian community in Lebanon. WFP was operational at the height of the fighting, delivering relief supplies to accessible areas.
- On 24 July, WFP launched a three-month, \$48-million emergency operation to provide food relief for the needy and logistical and telecommunications support to the whole UN humanitarian mission.
- WFP reached more than 700,000 people over the course of the crisis. During the five-week conflict, WFP distributed more than 7,250 metric tonnes of food and helped the Lebanese government import 12,300 tonnes of wheat during the blockade.
- WFP also trucked convoys of non-food humanitarian supplies including fuel, shelter material, water and hygiene and medical equipment.
- After the ceasefire WFP rapidly scaled up food deliveries, especially to the hardest-hit areas of southern Lebanon, where it coordinated the distribution of emergency food rations to 100,000 vulnerable people, and provided flour to bakeries to make traditional bread for families without cooking facilities.
- WFP expects to withdraw from the country by the end of October, following the assessment, in a 15 September report, that Lebanon would, by then, be food-secure.

READ MORE and DONATE at www.wfp.org

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- UNHCR, with 29 staff on the ground in Lebanon, 28 in Syria and six in Cyprus, has played a key role in providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by the crisis in Lebanon, both during the conflict and following the ceasefire.
- As soon as Lebanese civilians started fleeing their homes to escape Israeli bombing, UNHCR began distributing aid and emergency supplies to Lebanese people flooding into Syria, while waiting for safe road access into Lebanon.
- On 29 July, the agency's first relief convoy – carrying 140 tonnes of emergency relief items such as mattresses and blankets for the displaced – arrived in Beirut from Syria.

- Supplies were distributed to people sheltering in schools in mountain areas outside Beirut and in public buildings in the capital. A logistics base was set up in Cyprus to deliver supplies by sea. Airlifts, using UNHCR-chartered flights from Denmark and the Royal Jordanian Air Force from Amman, commenced on 10 August.
- By mid-August UNHCR had delivered enough supplies – mattresses, blankets, cooking stoves, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, water cans, kerosene cans, lanterns and tents – for 150,000 Lebanese returnees.
- When the ceasefire came into effect, UNHCR turned to support the rush of Lebanese as they made the journey home. In the first two days, some 46,000 returned, just from Syria. UNHCR teams stationed at the borders and at key points along routes back to Lebanon distributed water and emergency supplies.
- By 13 September, UNHCR had distributed more than 6,000 tents, 35,000 mattresses and 85,000 blankets to those who had lost their belongings in the war.
- UNHCR is focused on providing emergency shelter for the most vulnerable living outside the major cities, and also expects to help rehabilitate public buildings to serve as temporary shelter as people rebuild their homes.

READ MORE and DONATE at www.unhcr.org/lebanon-crisis

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- UNICEF's operations in Lebanon have focused on restoring water and health services and dealing with the menace of unexploded ordnance in southern Lebanon.
- Since the ceasefire took effect, UNICEF has distributed an estimated two million litres of water to communities in southern Lebanon.
- The agency has been labelling water bottles with warnings about cluster bombs and supporting public information campaigns about the danger posed by these munitions.
- Local UNICEF volunteers have been going door-to-door to distribute hygiene kits containing items such as soap, toothbrushes and towels.
- UNICEF expects to play a leading role in restoring the cold chain infrastructure which is needed to re-establish routine immunisation of children against measles and other diseases.



Many of the returnees have required humanitarian assistance. Their homes and livelihoods may have been destroyed and access to food, electricity, water and medicine may be restricted. Cattle and crops have suffered and the damage to public infrastructure is serious.

The challenge of securing the humanitarian needs of the returning population is compounded by the wide-spread presence of unexploded ordnance in Lebanese territory. The United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) has estimated that up to 100,000 unexploded cluster bomblets remain in southern Lebanon. UNMACC has furthermore stated that 90 per cent of all Israeli cluster-bomb strikes occurred within the last 72 hours of the conflict – that is, when the timing of the ceasefire had been agreed and it was known that civilians would be returning to these areas imminently. Jan Egeland, the UN's humanitarian chief, has called Israel's use of the weapon in Lebanon "completely immoral". UN de-mining teams have reported that the Israeli military has handed over maps illustrating the location of cluster-bomb strikes but that these maps lack the necessary detail to be of use.

Since the fighting stopped, cluster munitions have on average killed or wounded three people per day. There are serious economic consequences too: 70 per cent of southern Lebanon's income is derived from agricultural activity, and the scattered munitions effectively bar farmers from using their land. The presence of ordnance is also likely to constrain the ability of UNIFIL to carry out its mandate and poses a risk to humanitarian actors carrying out the relief and reconstruction effort.

The imperative of peace in the Middle East

Lebanon is recovering. UN humanitarian agencies are winding up operations, and OCHA – the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – is handing over the coordination of international activities to the UN Development Programme, signalling the shift from relief to reconstruction and economic recovery. Efforts will now focus on repairing public infrastructure, restoring key services, such as electricity and water, and confronting other byproducts of the fighting

– not least the munitions strewn across the region and the oil spill stretching along 150 kilometres of the Lebanese and Syrian coastline. A donor conference in Stockholm on 31 August raised more than \$940 million in new pledges of money, well above the target of \$500 million, bringing the total amount of money raised towards the rebuilding of Lebanon to \$1.2 billion.

Despite these encouraging signs, there is still much to be done if the underlying causes of the conflict are to be addressed. Most important will be the resuscitation of efforts to achieve a sustainable peace settlement for the wider Middle East. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has warned that, "in order to prevent a resurgence of violence and bloodshed, the underlying causes of conflict in the region must be addressed. Other crises cannot be ignored, especially in the occupied Palestinian territory, as they are all interlinked. Until the international community insists on a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, any one of these conflicts has the potential to erupt and engulf the entire region".



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More and more of us care about climate change, and want our voices and actions to count. That's why on Saturday November 4, in Trafalgar Square, Stop Climate Chaos will launch the I Count campaign. This is the start of something big, as organisations and individuals make their voices heard in the fight against climate change.

On the eve of critical international climate change talks in Nairobi, join thousands of people to send a message to the Prime Minister and other world leaders that they too must stand up to stop climate chaos.

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IT'S YOUR
VOICE...
YOUR **ACTIONS...**
YOUR **FUTURE...**
YOUR
PLANET.
TOGETHER,
WE CAN **STOP**
CLIMATE
CHAOS.

To join the campaign,
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The challenges for **BAN KI-MOON**

Sam Daws is Executive Director of UNA-UK and served for three years as First Officer in the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General.

The enduring legacy of Kofi Annan

Kofi Annan's ten years as Secretary-General are drawing to a close, with attention turning to the challenges facing his successor, Ban Ki-moon. Annan's legacy is likely to be an enduring one. He has galvanised international agreement around the eight Millennium Development Goals, bringing particular focus and new resources to the needs of Africa. He has championed the human rights of

individuals over assertions of state sovereignty by dictatorial leaders, and he has overseen the largest expansion of peacekeeping in the UN's history.

During Kofi Annan's decade in office there have been sweeping changes in the international political landscape. At the outset of his tenure it was clear that Annan recognised this reality and the implications for the UN itself: it had to change too. Annan has advocated reform both of intergovernmental bodies such as the Security Council and of the

staffing, financing and governance of the UN Secretariat, funds and programmes. These reform efforts have faced a range of obstacles, from bureaucratic inertia to political resistance by member states and unrepresentative staff unions.

Reform efforts were knocked off track when, shortly after characterising the war in Iraq as illegal, Annan found his management of the Oil-for-Food programme under fierce attack in the US media. Many commentators linked these two events, argu-



Photo © UN/DPI



Photo © UN/DPI

ing that the criticisms of Annan were politically inspired. This analysis has been lent credibility by the findings of the Independent Inquiry Committee which identified lapses in UN management in overseeing this ambitious project but found scant evidence of corruption in the Secretariat. The Committee's censure focused principally on the failings of private companies and member states.

Over the last year a number of tangible reforms have been made, resulting in improvements to the UN's governance and oversight systems, as well as in institutional evolution leading to the creation of a new Peacebuilding Commission, Human Rights Council, and Democracy Fund.

An initial challenge for Ban will be to make these new institutions a success and to maintain the support demonstrated at the 2000 Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit for a credible and effective UN. For without the right tools and resources at its disposal (and the most important resource of the UN has always been first-rate staff),

the UN will not be able to meet the high hopes we invest in it.

The challenges ahead for Ban Ki-moon:

'Internal' communication and management challenges

- *The need to listen to, and win the trust of, developing countries.* Ban received strong support from the United States during his election campaign. This presents an auspicious start in his relationship with an indispensable member state and the UN's major funder. Ban must also reassure other countries, particularly the G77 group of developing countries (many of whom are sceptical about US intentions towards the UN), that he understands their concerns and priorities. Over time he must articulate a clear vision for the organisation, demonstrating how a strong, independent Secretary-General, who has diplomatic tact but

is vocal when necessary, is in the interests of powerful and weak countries alike. Fulfilling this role effectively also requires the strength to say "no" when the UN is being set up to fail – when member states pass resolutions giving the Secretariat impossible mandates or incommensurate resources. Ban should take a number of simple and visible initial steps to engage with developing countries and their concerns:

- His first official visit should be to Africa, the continent that is host to the majority of UN peacekeeping operations, and which is at most risk of failing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Ban should make clear that he sees progress in Africa as a central objective of the UN system.
- The everyday crises that come before the Security Council should rightly receive his attention and focus. But



Ban must put aside time – both at the outset of his tenure and regularly throughout it – to attend meetings of ECOSOC, UNCTAD and other UN bodies of importance to the G77 and Non-Aligned Movement, as well as caucus meetings of the G77 itself.

- Ban and his transition team should spend the next three months actively seeking out talented individuals – especially developing country nationals – with demonstrated personal integrity and management ability, to appoint to senior UN Secretariat positions. This search should go beyond the usual government and diplomatic candidates to embrace those with private sector and civil society experience. He should identify and retain exceptional staff from Annan's Executive Office to provide valuable continuity. After assuming office he should initiate the restructuring of the Office of Human Resources Management, bringing to it a new 'headhunting' orientation aimed at identifying, attracting and retaining talented personnel, without neglecting the support and development of existing staff. Morale is low in the Secretariat. It can be

rebuilt if the UN's leadership (and this should be understood to include managers at all levels in the UN system) demonstrates the ability to listen, manage, and deliver results.

- Ban must show that he understands developing country concerns over proposals for changes to UN governance and the management of the Secretariat. He must then identify and work with key G77 partners who can help him modify proposals in order to gain G77 acquiescence while still delivering the needed reforms. It will take great skill to bring about administrative change in an environment in which there are so many more political obstacles than faced in national civil services or the private sector. There is no quick fix: agreement will likely take more than a year to achieve, and Ban's approach should be to build support steadily.
- *The need to be himself.* The seven previous Secretaries-General have demonstrated diverse personal and professional qualities. Ban brings to the job a reputation of calm confidence, astute judgement and quiet but effective political achievement. He will need all these qualities as well as the ability to articulate a clear vision of the organisation both

internally to an international staff and externally to the world, performing in the glare of the global media spotlight. Finding the strength to face daily and relentless challenges is made immeasurably easier when the Secretary-General feels that he can perform the role in a way that is true to himself, and which draws upon his own particular capabilities, background and personality.

- *The need to delegate but also to remain accessible.* Time is precious in the life of the Secretary-General. Effective delegation is therefore key to success in delivering results and change. However, failures in the management of the Oil-for-Food programme demonstrated the dangers of delegation in the absence of accountability and effective performance-monitoring. Another lesson from Annan's two terms of office is that the Secretary-General should avoid being isolated on the 38th floor, cut off from the realities of life in other departments, and for feedback relying mainly on Under-Secretaries-General with a vested interest in giving good reports about the health of their departments. More objective feedback will be obtained through the adoption of results-based management across the Secretariat. The Secretary-General should also conduct (preferably with advance notice) personal 'drop-by' visits – to every floor of the main Secretariat building, to the many outlying UN buildings in New York,

The other official candidates in the race

Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai (Afghanistan)

Mr Ghani is currently Chancellor of Kabul University and was previously Finance Minister in the Afghan government. He is a development economist with expertise in poverty eradication and post-conflict reconstruction. He is 57 and holds a doctorate from Columbia University.

Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka)

Mr Dhanapala is currently Senior Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka. He previously worked as a diplomat, including as his country's ambassador to Washington. He served for five years as UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. He is 67 years old and speaks fluent Mandarin.

Zeid al-Hussein (Jordan)

Prince Zeid, the cousin of King Abdullah II, is currently Jordan's ambassador to the UN and the chair

of the Consultative Committee for UNIFEM. He played a key role in setting up the International Criminal Court and led an inquiry into allegations of abuse and sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers. He is 42 and was educated at Cambridge University in the UK and Johns Hopkins University in the US.

Surakiart Sathirathai (Thailand)

Mr Surakiart was – until the September 2006 military coup in Thailand – one of his country's deputy prime ministers. His candidature for the post of UN Secretary-General was nevertheless supported by the interim administration. Mr Surakiart had the official backing of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). He is 48 years old.

Shashi Tharoor (India)

Mr Tharoor is currently UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public

Information. His 28 years of UN experience include serving as Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General, as well as working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and overseeing peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia. Now 50 years of age, he had obtained by the age of 22 a doctorate and two master's degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the US. Mr Tharoor is also a prize-winning author.

Vaira Vike-Freiberga (Latvia)

Ms Vike-Freiberga is currently President of Latvia, a position that she has held since 1999. She has a distinguished academic career as a psychology professor and for the past year she has served as a UN special envoy for United Nations reform. She is 68 and was raised and educated in Canada. She is the only non-Asian and the only female candidate to stand in this year's race.



and to the wider UN family of funds, programmes, specialised agencies, and field missions abroad. Such visits to UN staff at all levels increase productivity by boosting morale, and give the Secretary-General a glimpse of the reality of UN work 'on the ground' – not to mention an opportunity for some healthy exercise from all that walking!

- **The need to reform, but not forever.** There is an appetite for reform at the UN, but not for endless cycles of new public initiatives. Ban can secure some progress through a change in institutional culture within existing rules and regulations: innovation should be encouraged and rewarded, and clear objectives set, with staff development as one of these objectives. Successes should be publicised. Other measures will entail systemic change. In both cases, the language used must begin to shift from *reforming* the organisation to *strengthening* it.

'External' communication and systemic challenges

- **The need to perform in the global media.** In a world where CNN has been described as the 16th member of the Security Council, the Secretary-General needs to be an articulate and savvy media performer. In a September 2006 interview, former Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar expressed his regret that he had not performed better in the media in the 1980s, and stressed how important a skill this is for an effective Secretary-General.
- **The need to promote dialogue based on mutual respect.** The polarisation of 'the West' and 'Islam' glosses over the diversity within each category and so undermines the resolution of long-standing conflicts in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The neo-cons' characterisation of the coalition military action in Iraq as a 'crusade' has exacerbated the effects of this false division, and has both fuelled terrorism committed in the West in the name of Islam and militated against the project to win the 'hearts and minds' of the Iraqi people. Ban has an opportunity, albeit not an easy one, to create new dialogue between moderates from different cultures, based on principles of humility and mutual respect. Much depends upon whether the next US administration

recognises that perceptions matter and that, to combat networks such as al-Qaeda, it will be necessary to prioritise non-military strategies oriented towards weakening bases of support. Ban should give priority to the role the UN can play in supporting a durable peace between Israel and the Palestinians, not least because perceptions of this one conflict produce negative repercussions worldwide. Dialogue will also be needed to combat nuclear proliferation. Ban has considerable experience of dealing with North Korea in the context of the six-party talks but his nationality may cause difficulties in addressing North Korea's nuclear test. Iran will present its own unique challenges.

- **The need to build upon the human security agenda.** The Secretary-General must help implement the World Summit decisions, in order to strengthen the UN's capacity in the areas of development, human rights, and peace and security. The Secretary-General must also help ensure that solutions generated and largely implemented by states do not ignore the marginalised – indigenous groups, women, the disabled and the economically-disadvantaged.
- **The need to promote democracy and good governance.** Democracy is on the march worldwide. The last decade has seen a steady increase in the number of democratically elected governments in all regions of the world. This has placed in the spotlight UN structures which give under-democratic countries equal weight to democracies. At the same time, Western attempts to promote democracy elsewhere have frequently been seen as self-servingly selective and subject to double standards. In his capacity as Foreign Minister Ban has emphasised the importance of the spread of democracy. He must now build upon Kofi Annan's efforts to help democracy take root in diverse cultures, and in ways that are not seen to be externally imposed. Until only recently corruption was not taken seriously at the UN, in large part because of opposition from developing country despots who funnelled money abroad with the collusion of Western banks. International monitoring of money flows to address terrorism and organised crime has made this kleptocracy easier to track and harder to justify ignoring.

Ban Ki-moon at a glance

Name: Ban Ki-moon (pronounced *Bahn*)

Date of birth: 13 June 1944 (age 62)

Education:

- Master's degree in Public Administration, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, United States
- Bachelor's degree in International Relations, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

Career highlights:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea (since 2004)
- National Security Adviser to the President
- Foreign Policy Adviser to the President
- Chef de Cabinet for the President of the UN General Assembly 2001-2002
- 1st Secretary at the Permanent Mission of the ROK to the UN, New York
- Director of the UN Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seoul
- Postings to New Delhi, Washington and Vienna (as ambassador)
- Director-General, American Affairs, Seoul
- Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO)
- Vice-Chair of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission

Family:

- Married to Yoo Soon-taek, whom he first met at high school in 1962
- One son and two daughters



The Secretary-General and the Secretary-General-elect with their wives, Nane Annan and Yoo Soon-taek



Watch Kofi Annan's January 2006 speech to UNA-UK on DVD

Were you unable to attend the speech by Kofi Annan in January 2006? We now have available for free hire by UNA branches and regions a DVD recording of the event.

If you would like to show the DVD at a meeting of your branch, region or affiliate organisation, we would be delighted to lend you a copy. The DVD is approximately 60 minutes long. The request must be submitted in writing from an officer of the branch, and addressed to Mark Rusling, UNA-UK's Campaigns and Education Officer. We have limited copies of the DVD to lend out so please book ahead. The DVD will be sent to you seven days before your event, and must be returned within 48 hours of the event.

UNA-UK is in discussions with the FCO about the possibility of hosting in the summer of 2007 a joint event featuring the new Secretary-General. It is hoped that Mr Ban will agree to use such an occasion to deliver a major policy speech.

- *The need to recognise the importance of climate change.* Annan failed to recognise early enough the current and future effects of climate change. Climate change impinges on every area of the UN's work, exacerbating conflicts such as that in Darfur, and thwarting the MDGs in Africa. Strengthening institutional responses to climate change will be a difficult challenge for Ban.

How did Ban Ki-moon become the eighth UN Secretary-General?

The appointment process

The UN Charter says little about the appointment process of the Secretary-General, only that the Secretary-General "shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council" (Article 97). On the basis of guidance agreed by the Assembly in 1946 and subsequent practice, the Security Council reaches agreement in private on a single candidate: at least nine of the 15 members must cast an affirmative vote, with all five permanent members either agreeing or abstaining. (Before 1965 seven affirmative votes of 11 members were required, which meant that the explicit approval of one permanent member was needed.)

After coming to a decision, the Council forwards its recommendation to the General Assembly for the formal assent of UN member states, two-thirds of which must vote in favour of the candidate. The

Assembly's role in the selection of the Secretary-General is largely symbolic, and the Council's recommendation is traditionally confirmed 'by acclamation'.

The process of appointing the UN Secretary-General has been criticised for being opaque and for not conforming to best practice in comparable public sector appointments. In spring 2006 India proposed that the Security Council put forward a list of three possible names for the General Assembly to choose from. As might be expected, this did not receive the support of the Council's permanent members. Instead, the Council implemented measures put forward by Canada to improve the transparency of the process. This bore some fruit, with procedures adopted for official nominations of candidates by governments well in advance of the formal appointment, allowing more time for scrutiny. This was, however, accompanied by more overt lobbying by governments in support of 'their' candidates, including the proffering of trade and other economic incentives.

The 2006 straw polls

In the 2006 Secretary-General race, 'straw' polls were held by the Security Council to gauge the level of support for candidates before its formal decision. In the first three polls – one was held in July and two in September 2006 – Council members anonymously voted to 'encourage', 'discourage' or express 'no opinion' about nominated candidates. The ballot papers in those polls did not differentiate between permanent and non-permanent members, so it was impossible to tell whether the 'discourages' were from permanent or non-permanent members, and thus whether it was likely that a veto would be cast in a formal Council vote. The fourth ballot on 2 October 2006 did differentiate between permanent and non-permanent members, and revealed that Ban's candidature had received 14 'encourages' and one 'no-opinion', with no permanent members opposed. Shashi Tharoor, the current UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications, came second in every straw poll. He conceded defeat after the conclusive fourth straw poll.

The adjacent summary of the four straw polls demonstrates Ban's consistent lead throughout the contest, prior to his formal appointment by the Security Council and General Assembly.

First Security Council straw poll - 25 July 2006

	Encourage	Discourage	No opinion
Ban Ki-moon	12	1	2
Shashi Tharoor	10	2	3
Surakiart Sathirathai	7	3	5
Jayantha Dhanapala	5	6	4

Second Security Council straw poll - 14 September 2006

	Encourage	Discourage	No opinion
Ban Ki-moon	14	1	0
Shashi Tharoor	10	3	2
Surakiart Sathirathai	9	3	3
Zeid al-Hussein	6	4	5
Jayantha Dhanapala	3	5	7

Third Security Council straw poll - 28 September 2006

	Encourage	Discourage	No opinion
Ban Ki-moon	13	1	1
Shashi Tharoor	8	3	4
Vaira Vike-Freiberga	7	6	2
Surakiart Sathirathai	5	7	3
Zeid al-Hussein	3	6	6
Ashraf Ghani	3	6	6
Jayantha Dhanapala	3	7	5

Fourth Security Council straw poll - 2 October 2006

	Encourage	Discourage	No opinion
Ban Ki-moon	14	0	1
Shashi Tharoor	10	3(1)*	2
Vaira Vike-Freiberga	5	6(2)	4
Surakiart Sathirathai	4	7(2)	4
Ashraf Ghani	4	11(3)	0
Zeid al-Hussein	2	8(1)	5

*Figures in parentheses indicate the number of discouragements from permanent members.



The Great Debate

The decision on Trident and the implications for the NPT



The UK government has committed itself to a national debate over whether the UK's current nuclear-weapon system – Trident – should be renewed when it becomes obsolete. The government has said that this decision will be taken in this parliament.

UNA-UK's contribution to this debate will begin with a major conference, to be held in Cardiff on 2 December 2006, in partnership with UNA Wales and the David Davies Memorial Institute of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. This conference will seek to convene a broad range of views on the issue with the aim of stimulating a balanced and informed debate. We hope to host disarmament campaigners, defence experts, journalists and government representatives.

The Cardiff conference will grapple with many questions. Do nuclear weapons enhance or undermine the UK's national security? If the decision is taken to renew or replace Trident, what are the implications for the UK's obligations under international law? Why does the decision need to be taken now?

Some of these questions, and others, are raised in the following two guest articles, which we have included as catalysts for debate. Do you have views you would like to share? Please e-mail these to Tim Kellow on kellow@una.org.uk

Guest article 1

A UK perspective on curbing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Sir Michael Quinlan served for many years as a United Kingdom civil servant, mostly in the defence field, where he was at several stages particularly involved in nuclear-weapon policy, doctrine and arms control. He was Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence from 1988 to 1992, and Director of the Ditchley Foundation from 1992 to 1999. Sir Michael is a member of UNA-UK's expert Advisory Panel.

Governments around the globe have worried for over half a century about the spread of 'weapons of mass destruction', the portmanteau term covering biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. The world has at present largely, and perhaps unwisely, lost sight of biological and chemical weapons; but it is natural that nuclear weapons should arouse special concern given their unmatched power of instant destruction alongside the fact that, for better or worse, their existence has been widely integrated into the structures of world security.

The degree of concern is now at one of its highest points, with grave unease about the actions and intentions of North Korea and Iran.

The nuclear non-proliferation regime has several component instruments, but the key-stone is the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), with more adherents than any other treaty in history. Its acceptance of five states as nuclear-weapon possessors, with all others debarred, is regularly criticised as unbalanced, and these five states need continuously in their actions and statements to tackle that criticism. The treaty is, however, not just a bargain between the five nuclear-

weapon states and the rest; it is, crucially, a bargain also within the rest to fend off the dangers, instabilities and costs of nuclear-arms races among themselves. In securing this benefit to all, the treaty-centred regime remains a striking success, confounding predictions in the 1960s of 25 or 30 nuclear-weapon states by 2000. But there have been setbacks, as in South Asia in the 1990s (though there was no inherent treaty breach), in the clandestine trade in nuclear materiel and know-how run by A.Q. Khan, and in the activities of North Korea and Iran. Curtailing the scale and impact of such setbacks needs continuing effort – indeed



sometimes sacrifices – by all the states that value the regime's benefits.

The ideal path is to strengthen preventive methods and norms, and processes for ensuring their observance, through universally applicable rules rather than case-by-case action that risks being seen as arbitrary and lacking in consistent legitimacy. It is therefore regrettable that the 2005 review conference of NPT parties was a virtual fiasco, and that the United Nations World Summit later that year did not carry forward the admirable proposals about WMD put forward in the December 2004 report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. Those disappointments are over the dam, but the ideas should not be discarded.

Both North Korea and Iran are seriously disquieting, but the latter presents the more pressing problem in view of its size and wealth, strategic position and political weight in a deeply unsettled yet very important region. Even if one were ready to dismiss as mere rhetoric President Ahmadinejad's assertions that Israel should

be "wiped off the map" – and it is understandable that Israel itself will scarcely be able with total confidence so to dismiss them – the defection from the NPT-centred regime of so significant a state would be gravely damaging both in itself and as a potential spur to emulation by neighbours. Iranian acquisition of a nuclear armoury might ultimately have to be accepted and managed as a painful reality; no attractive military course is guaranteed to prevent it permanently. But there is then all the more need, given the severity of the prospective harm, that the international community, especially the Security Council, be willing (and – better still – be seen in advance, for deterrence, as willing) to impose heavy political and economic penalties should Iran persist, even when that entails costs for the imposers. The issue may become an uncomfortable test of how much the world truly minds about nuclear non-proliferation.

In the background of all these current issues lies that of disarmament by the nuclear five. Article VI of the NPT and further undertakings given at review conferences

commit them to eventual total nuclear disarmament (though the treaty sets that alongside general and complete disarmament by all parties). Most of the five – very notably the United Kingdom – have greatly reduced their nuclear armouries, and it is foolish to expect complete abolition by all five without radical changes in the world's political landscape, since arms exist for genuinely perceived security reasons. Nevertheless, there remains scope to do more.

The Article VI goal must be a factor among those assessed by the UK government as it considers whether and, if so, how to undertake the steps needed soon if the UK is to retain its nuclear-weapon capability beyond the early 2020s, when the present Trident-based force becomes unsustainable. Article VI cannot reasonably be interpreted as imposing an obligation to abandon capability regardless of what others do. It is, however, both a consideration tending against renewal, and an argument, if capability is to be renewed, for reducing its scale and salience to the greatest practicable extent. It is to be hoped that the government is rigorously exploring options for that.

Guest article 2

Do we really need to make the decision now?

Paul Ingram is Senior Analyst at BASIC (British-American Security Information Council). In this article he argues that the decision to renew the UK's nuclear-weapon system does not need to be taken now, and that it is in the UK's interest to delay the decision.

Introduction

The current rush to decide whether to replace Trident is unnecessary, reduces military flexibility and interoperability with the United States, further undermines the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and stymies an open debate. It also entails commitment to spending when public finances and particularly defence equipment spending are likely to come under increasing pressure.

The government has claimed that the decision needs to be taken in this parliament if a new nuclear-weapon system is to be in place by

the early 2020s, when it is estimated that the four submarines forming the backbone of the current Trident weapons system will become obsolete. But in its June 2006 report, the House of Commons Defence Committee forecasted that a binding commitment to the replacement of Trident could wait until 2014, beyond which point actual construction – and significant financial outlay – needs to start in order to have the successor system ready in time.

This briefing supports the Defence Committee's conclusion that the ultimate

decision need not be taken before 2014, but argues also that this deadline is a conservative one, based on flawed estimates of the life expectancy of the submarines. There are technical reasons for believing that the submarines can remain operable for longer than expected, and that costs could be reduced by avoiding a full replacement programme.

A longer delay is thus both possible and desirable, and would serve to:

- allow a proper debate informed by a Green Paper;



- maximise military flexibility with regard to future uncertain threats, and to avoid premature redundancy of follow-on systems caused by the UK being out-of-step in its procurement timelines with the United States, upon whom we rely for the missile systems; and
- enable the UK government to mount a high-profile leadership initiative in the international arena to strengthen the NPT and move towards multilateral disarmament (much as the UK has led on climate change).

The arguments for delaying the decision

Delaying the decision to replace Trident would confer a number of important military, strategic and political advantages:

- **Maintaining maximum flexibility of response makes military sense:** if we were to delay we would have a clearer idea of the threats the UK is likely to face when the current system comes nearer to the end of its life.
- **An early replacement would throw us out of sync with the Americans.** The UK Trident system relies upon missiles drawn from a common pool maintained by the Americans and currently planned to run until 2042. A Trident follow-on system would have to be compatible with both an upgraded version of the existing missiles and any (as yet undetermined) US follow-on missile.
- The NPT, the cornerstone of the worldwide regime to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, is currently under significant strain, partly as a result of the widely perceived failure of the nuclear-weapon states to live up to their disarmament commitments under Article VI of the NPT. While the UK government believes it has lived up to its responsibilities by reducing numbers and readiness, the pressure it can place on Iran and North Korea – with the support of the rest of the international community – is weakened while it clings to the utility of its own nuclear deterrence. **A decision to replace Trident at this point, there-**

by giving notice of an indefinite commitment to nuclear deterrence, would send a damaging signal to other states.

- Many of those advocating the replacement of Trident argue that retaining a nuclear deterrent would allow the UK to enter international negotiations from a position of strength. **However, there is a case to be made that delaying the decision would bolster the UK's international leverage, enabling it both to initiate high-level disarmament negotiations, with a view to influencing other recognised and unrecognised nuclear-weapon states, and to do so before investing heavily in a replacement system.**
- The UK government's public spending plans in the run-up to the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review are under severe strain. Although the bulk of the procurement spend for a replacement will probably not be needed until after 2014, political pressure to tighten public expenditure is likely to be a key theme in the debate over a Trident successor system. **It would be irresponsible to make an irreversible decision committing a future government to expenditure of the scale required for Trident's replacement,** particularly given that there already exists a projected shortfall in the military procurement budget plans for 2011-2020.¹
- Fruitful discussion about the future of Trident has until now been stifled by an information blackout within Whitehall, and clouded by widespread prejudice and political hyper-sensitivity rooted in the polarised debates of the 1980s. **If a White Paper (announcing the government's position) is hurried out, and a formal, brief debate held afterwards on its contents (effectively after the decision), the public will have been cheated of its legitimate right to have a say in the decision.** In contrast, a Green Paper, outlining the options for consideration, would facilitate informed debate.

The submarines: the weakest link

The Trident system has three key components: the missiles (Trident II D5 submarine-launched

ballistic missiles); the warheads; and the platform (four Vanguard-class nuclear-powered submarines). It is generally agreed that, while the UK will need to involve itself at some point this year or next with US plans to upgrade parts of the Trident D5 common missile pool, the missiles and warhead systems will not need replacing before 2042. The weakest link of the UK Trident system is its platform: the Vanguard-class submarines. The timetable for decision-making is thus driven by their life expectancies, and by the lead-time required to replace them.

Life expectancy

The lifespan of the Vanguard-class submarine, which was designed in the 1980s during the Cold War, was originally pegged at 30 years, a figure cited in the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) of 1998. However, in 2006, a memo from the Ministry of Defence to the Defence Committee posited a life expectancy of 25 years. In evidence submitted to the Committee it was suggested that the minimum life expectancy would be 25 years, but that this could be extended to 30. Within this framework, one could expect Trident's oldest boat, HMS Vanguard, which was commissioned in 1994, to be in service until 2019 – or 2024 with an extension.

However, this calculation does not appear to take into account changes to the UK's operational policy introduced by the 1998 SDR. An outcome of these operational changes will have resulted in reduced stress on both the submarines' hulls and their reactor steam-raising plants – two key determinants of a submarine's durability.

Prior to the 1998 SDR the stated operational policy was to have either one or two boats out at a time (three in extreme circumstances), and to maximise the number of days at sea. For a significant proportion of time, with the procurement of four submarines, this would mean two boats out at sea. The 1998 SDR asserted Britain's continued commitment to this policy – Continuous-at-Sea Deterrence (CASD) – but announced that only one submarine would be on patrol at a time, and that readiness would be reduced considerably (a clear hint that patrolling would also be reduced).



While these changes would still require that two boats were out for short handover periods, the number of at-sea hours for each submarine would be cut considerably. This implies fewer hours at depth, longer hours on the surface, and thus less pressure on the reactors and the hulls. The expected lifespan of the submarines, with extension measures, could actually therefore be closer to 40 years – the age at which the Americans expect their submarines to go out of service. As the American Ohio-class submarines have similar features to the UK's Vanguard-class boats, the MoD should, at the very minimum, be pressed to explain this discrepancy.

A lead-time of six to seven years?

Britain's nuclear weapons were one of the hottest domestic issues of the 20th century. It is inconceivable that the government would not have considered in minute detail the political implications of its announcement that it would be making a decision on the replacement of Trident during this parliament. The purported need for an early decision was trailed in the 2003 Defence White Paper and in evidence before the Defence Committee in 2004, and was referred to several times in the 2005 general election.

If the purpose of the UK's nuclear weapons is indeed to provide a minimum effective deterrent at greatest value for money, it is surprising that the government perceived a need for a major political debate over replacing Trident in this decade. Even assuming that (a) the stated MoD timelines are accurate (and for the reasons already outlined above, this is doubtful), and (b) the option to replace is considered to be the best option for Britain's security needs (something we dispute, but space precludes a further discussion here), then it would be a great deal cheaper and quicker simply to build three to four replacement submarines based upon existing designs. This could have been termed an 'extension' of the current system, rather than replacement – a less controversial formulation both domestically and internationally. It would also mean a dramatically reduced development period and a shorter time between initial and 'main gate'

Continuous-at-Sea Deterrence (CASD)

It requires three boats to ensure that one is out at any one time (one on patrol, one in dock in preparation and one in refit). Four boats give added security in case of catastrophic damage or exceptionally poor performance: two boats can be in refit or repair at any one time without affecting CASD.

The Defence Committee report highlights the option of dropping the CASD requirement, something which could be expected to prolong further the life-expectancy of the existing system. Such a proposal would be resisted strongly by the MoD, as CASD is considered a fundamental component of Britain's deterrent posture.

However, it is difficult to justify CASD in an age when Britain faces no first-strike military threat. It is usually said that the UK needs to ensure it has a continuous stealthy capability, as the launch of a submarine in crisis could escalate tensions. However, UK policy appears in fact to value the option of sending a signal of intent, and ministers have made several statements in support of maintaining sub-strategic capability (that is, the ability to 'fire a shot across the bows'). Launches of additional boats are in any case likely during a crisis, both to increase the number of boats on patrol and to maximise flexibility.

Given these contradictions, the government should give a full justification of the CASD policy before a decision is made to replace Trident.

decisions (i.e. when major expenditure and actual construction begin). Hence, the lead-time would not be 14 years, but more like six to seven, as it takes roughly five years to construct a Vanguard-class submarine.

Conclusion

The government has promised a full debate on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent before any decisions are formally taken. However, according to the Defence Committee, the government "has offered no explanation of the nature of the decisions that are required. Nor has it sought to clarify the timetable within which those decisions would need to be taken and implemented".

The Committee also notes that the MoD has refused thus far to participate in its inquiry; and the government has asked the public to wait for the publication of the White Paper – effectively the announcement of the decision. This is hardly the environment in which a meaningful and informed debate can be expected to take place.

Among the questions the MoD should be asked are the following:

1. Why is a decision needed so quickly? What sort of lead-times is the MoD operating on?
2. Why has the government not increased its

estimate of the life expectancy of the submarines as a result of operational changes since the SDR?

3. Why is there such a large discrepancy between US Ohio-class and UK Vanguard-class life expectancy rates?
4. What kind of life-extension work would be required to ensure the submarines were serviceable for a longer period of time?
5. Has there been a recent review of the policy of CASD (since 1998), and why has the option of reforming the policy been prematurely rejected when the UK faces no first-strike threat?

This article is a shorter version of a BASIC special briefing published on 24 July 2006. For the full original see www.basincint.org

1 Aviation Week & Space Technology estimates a funding gap of £11.6 billion over this period. See Britain Faces Long-Term Military Procurement Crunch, Douglas Barrie, 16 July 2006.

Why not write to your MP and ask the questions above?

To keep us up-to-date on your contact with your MP, send copies of your correspondence to UNA-UK's Campaigns and Education Officer, Mark Rusling.



Time for Change

Redesigning the UN's development operations

The UN High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence in Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment, of which UK Chancellor Gordon Brown is one of 15 members, was established by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in February 2006. The Secretary-General formed the Panel in response to the call made at the 2005 UN World Summit for improved coordination of the activities and methods of the various bodies which make up the UN.

Gareth Thomas MP is Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for International Development (DfID), where he leads on the UN. In this article he argues that, although the UN has made many invaluable contributions over the course of its 60-year history, reform of the way in which it carries out its work – particularly in the area of development – is now urgently required.

I was encouraged to see that recent issues of *New World* have closely followed the various branches of UN reform: Security Council expansion; the establishment of the new Human Rights Council; efforts to improve the UN's management practices; measures to enhance the effectiveness of the General Assembly; and reforms to improve the performance of the UN across the fields of humanitarian assistance, the environment and development. It is this last area of the UN's work where reform is long overdue and where, until now, too little attention has been focused.

The UN has an essential and unique role to play in the world with its triple responsibilities for peace and security, development and human rights. Its legitimacy and credibility allow it to operate where no other body can. This is most evident in fragile states where other bodies may not be perceived as impartial. No other global institution, furthermore, can set, and engender acceptance of, norms



Gareth Thomas speaks at the UN.

and standards in the way that the UN can – for examples see the UN's role in developing the rights of the child, women and indigenous peoples, and in the recent evolution of international criminal law. In humanitarian response, too, the work of the UN is unrivalled, as the UN's reaction to the December 2004 tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan has proved.

In the area of development, the UN has a long history of achievement, dating back to its inception 60 years ago – notable examples are the eradication of smallpox and the virtual eradication of polio, thanks to the efforts of the World Health Organisation and UNICEF. More recently the UN's great contribution to development has been the Millennium Development Goals: these have for the first time given the entire international develop-

ment community a rallying point in the effort to improve the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. However, despite these valuable contributions, the UN does not perform as well as it could in development operations.

During the course of its 60 years, as activities have expanded and decisions accumulated, the UN has become a fragmented institution, with excessive competition for resources between agencies, funds and programmes in the UN family. For example, a total of 22 UN agencies work on water and sanitation alone; some countries have over 20 separate UN agencies to deal with on the ground; and, in Vietnam, 11 UN agencies account for only 2 per cent of development aid the country receives. This proliferation of agencies engenders duplication, waste and inefficiency.



However, as DfID's 2006 White Paper highlights, effective international organisations are needed now more than ever to balance competing national interests, and to find solutions to problems that cannot be solved by individual countries alone. Only by working multilaterally can we tackle epidemics like AIDS or avian flu, or agree solutions to climate change or other threats to development. The UK government remains strongly committed to working through the international system, but believes that, if the UN is to carry out its tasks effectively, reform is needed. UN agencies and programmes must be rationalised and even merged where necessary. And at the country level, rather than the proliferation of agencies, there needs to be a unified UN presence based around a single programme, with one leader, one office and one budget.

This coherence at the country level is needed to promote a more joined-up response – one that is able to draw upon the UN's diversity of specialised knowledge. It is also needed to improve the way we finance the UN to produce more effective responses and better performance. We need more consolidated funding that allows national governments to work with the UN to plan and manage their own assistance, according to their own priorities and on a more reliable and predictable basis. Incidentally, some progress is already being made in improving the coordination of the UN at the country level, in Cape Verde and Vietnam, where the approach of having country teams united behind one programme, and in one office, is being piloted.

I believe that the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence, set up in February 2006 by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (which includes our Chancellor Gordon Brown), is the best opportunity in a generation to ensure that the UN can be relaunched to make it fit for purpose. The Panel's work has benefited from the input of developing country governments, UN country teams, donors and civil society organisations. In late June the Chancellor hosted one of the Panel's consultations at No. 11 Downing Street. This meeting, in which UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws par-

ticipated, looked specifically at how to reform the way donors fund the development work of the UN.

Since its establishment, the Panel has considered the UN resident coordinator system; the financing of the UN system (for example how best to fund the headquarters and country-level operational work); harmonising business practices across the UN in such areas as human resource management and evaluation; and cross-cutting issues such as gender, the environment, sustainable development and humanitarian response.

The Panel has now had its final meeting and will report its recommendations to the Secretary-General during the 61st session of the General Assembly. However, the story will not end here. Not only governments but also UN Associations and other civil society organisations – from both the UK and the rest of the world – will have an important role to play in ensuring the Panel's work delivers demonstrable results. If the Panel's efforts bear fruit, I believe that the outcome will be first and foremost good for developing countries, but also good for the UN's supporters

and donors, and good for the United Nations as a whole.

UNAs and civil society can make a vital contribution by:

- continuing to make the case for multilateralism and for more effective international institutions;
- highlighting the importance of the Panel's work, to governments, supporters of the UN, and the UN itself; and
- ensuring the recommendations and work from the Panel are taken forward and seen through to implementation – this means not only challenging each UN agency to work more closely within and beyond the UN system, but also ensuring those who finance the UN do so in a way that improves the ability of governments to manage their priorities in a more reliable and predictable environment.

We all want to see a reinvigorated international system with the UN at its core. We all need now to work together to see a UN that can meet the challenges of the 21st century: it's time for change.



Photo © UN/DPI



CORRUPTION

as an obstacle to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals

Tim Kellow is a consultant to UNA-UK's John Bright Peace and Security Programme, and a member of the committee leading the Young Professionals Network's work on 'Business and the MDGs'.

Corruption: the MDGs under threat

Corruption is a key obstacle faced by the United Nations in its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For many years government representatives at the UN avoided discussing the debilitating effects of corruption on economic and social development, in large part because many government leaders benefited from corrupt practices. However, the groundbreaking work of NGOs such as Transparency International on anti-corruption issues sparked public demands for better governance worldwide. It also stimulated a surge in research and inquiry which demonstrated definitively that corruption impedes development, principally in two ways: by undermining the effectiveness of development assistance and by stymieing the emergence of a strong private sector.

Corruption saps public resources and can nullify the benefits of development assistance to poor countries. Funds given to governments aimed at facilitating development are frequently stolen by corrupt officials or diverted to capital-intensive projects, enabling those in charge to skim off profits. Results are that schools and hospitals are under-funded, depriving children of primary education and leading to fatalities from treatable illness and childbirth. Those already in poverty are forced to pay bribes to gain access to key services or to get justice in the courts.

A flourishing private sector is widely seen as a vital component of any successful devel-

opment strategy, not least because it encourages foreign investment. Corruption thwarts the development of the private sector and throws up obstacles to business. It undermines the rule of law, fostering an atmosphere of uncertainty which distorts markets and increases the risks and costs to business. Corruption encourages bribery and multiplies the time it takes to set up a business. Unofficial border and duty taxes stifle cross-border trade, depriving countries of the gains of regional trade and restricting access to global markets. Furthermore, the non-enforcement of social and environmental regulations by corrupt public officials often leads to further health and livelihood problems for local populations.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption

Growing acceptance of the negative development impacts of corruption has helped to build the necessary support for finding a global solution to the problem. On 4 December 2000, the UN General Assembly established an ad hoc committee to negotiate the text of an international legal instrument to combat corruption. The efforts of this committee led to the creation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), adopted by the General Assembly on 31 October 2003. UNCAC entered into force on 14 December 2005.

UNCAC can be viewed as the first official universal recognition of corruption as a major obstacle to development. UNCAC's main

objectives are to: promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more effectively; promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of, and fight against, corruption, including in asset recovery; and promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property. UNCAC provides a comprehensive set of standards and measures to tackle corruption and facilitates coordinated action by governments working with all relevant stakeholders in the system.

Before UNCAC, prosecuting corruption was problematic due to a lack of inter-state cooperation which made it difficult to follow the trail of funds diverted abroad by corrupt officials. The Convention provides for an effec-





Photo © UN/DPI

tive system of international mutual legal assistance, and facilitates international cooperation in the recovery of stolen assets. The Convention also gives people who have suffered damage from corruption the right to initiate legal proceedings against responsible parties.

A global problem - a global solution

The global nature of corruption means that it affects every sector of society in every country; therefore the responsibility of addressing it falls not only on developing countries but also on the developed countries that are often the source or the final destination of corrupt payments. The Convention has enabled the UN and other organisations to weigh in against corruption by encouraging good practice in two important areas: the private sector and the donor community.

The private sector has much to gain from reducing corruption. It also has much to contribute to development through its role in propelling economic growth and job creation. In recognition of this, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced, at the first Global Compact Leaders Summit on 24 June 2004, the addition of anti-corruption as a tenth core principle of the Global

Compact. In his speech he said, “the Compact is now better positioned to address one of the most pernicious obstacles to growth and development, and to cooperate more intensively with groups such as Transparency International.”

Embodied in UNCAC is the awareness that donor countries need to be actively engaged if corruption is to be eliminated. While development assistance is essential to building capacity to fight corruption, it is also in some instances an enabling factor. The Convention accordingly calls for a partnership between aid-receiving and aid-providing countries to find ways to combat corruption.

A weakness of the Convention is that its provisions are not directly enforceable. However, it provides a mandate to fight corruption on a global scale, and furnishes civil society groups with a framework for developing tools to measure corruption and for holding their governments accountable.

UNA-UK to mark UN Anti-Corruption Day

In the spirit of promoting the engagement of civil society within anti-corruption initiatives, UNA-UK is teaming up with Transparency International UK and UNA Sheffield to hold a

joint event to look at ways of overcoming corruption as an impediment to the MDGs. This event will be held in Sheffield on UN Anti-Corruption Day (Saturday, 9 December), just prior to the first conference of the states parties to UNCAC.

For more information and details of how to register please call 020 7766 3459 or visit www.una.org.uk

For additional information about combating corruption, both internationally and in the UK, see:

Transparency International:

www.transparency.org

Transparency International UK:

www.transparency.org.uk

UN Office on Drugs and Crime:

www.unodc.org

UK Action Plan for Combating International Corruption:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/corruption-action-plan.pdf



Environmental degradation and women

The search for fire in Africa

Anushay Hossain is Executive Assistant at UNIFEM UK. In this article she explores the relationship between gender inequality and environmental degradation, using the example of deforestation in Africa.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) argues that the direct relationship between women and the environment, particularly in the developing world, is to a large extent determined by gender – that is, not by biological factors but rather by "the socially created roles and responsibilities that continue to fall to women in households, communities and ecosystems throughout the world". Gender and gender inequality, therefore, play a strong role in the developing world in determining how the environment is exploited. Conversely, the impact of this exploitation – in many cases environmental degradation – also has an important and often adverse influence on the lives of women and, by extension, their children.

In many developing countries, women work 12 hours or more a day, putting in an average of 13 hours more than men every week. The poor infrastructure of many developing countries, coupled with inadequate access to clean water, makes it necessary for women to dedicate a large portion of their time and energy to

providing their households with fuel and water. Indeed, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that one third of a Sudanese woman's daily caloric intake is expended on transporting water and fuel.

An important manifestation of poverty is the lack of access to clean and safe household fuels. This 'energy poverty' engenders a heavy reliance on local sources of fuel, such as natural woodlands. In most places in Africa, for example, wood contributes to over two-thirds of the total energy used in rural villages; this wood dependency has in turn led to serious deforestation, contributing to soil erosion and precipitating a situation described by the World Bank as an "environmental disaster". Yet the effects of Africa's deforestation extend beyond the environment, having in particular a dramatic impact on the poorest and most vulnerable groups of the population: women and children.

The gathering and supply of firewood is primarily the responsibility of women. As deforestation escalates, through the pressures of population growth and the detrimental effects of

soil erosion on the fertility of the land, women are forced to journey farther and farther afield in search of wood for fuel. Deforestation thus multiplies – in Sudan's case by four – the time women spend seeking and gathering wood. It can now take up to five hours to gather enough wood for one 'head-load', each of which can weigh anywhere from 21 to 38 kilograms. Broken bones, backaches and snakebites are not uncommon, and girls are often taken out of school so that they can help their mothers cover the increased distances.

Reports from international aid agencies in Darfur suggest an even more malign correlation between deforestation and women. As the land around refugee camps is stripped of trees, and women and children are forced to travel farther in search of wood, the likelihood of rape and sexual assault by bandits, or *shiftas*, increases. The *shiftas* justify their attacks by claiming that their trees are being 'raped', and that they in turn have the right to rape in retaliation. (The fate for men or boys sent to collect firewood is often no better, and they are also attacked or killed.)

Wood dependency does not only jeopardise the immediate security of women; it also exposes them to serious, long-term health risks. Given that it is traditionally women who are responsible for cooking, it is they – and their young children nearby – who inhale the smoke and toxic gases emitted by the burning of the wood. This is compounded by the inefficiency of the stoves and the poor ventilation of rural residences.

Women in Africa inhale 150 times the amount of dangerous pollutants identified by WHO guidelines as the top limit. Those exposed to high levels of indoor smoke experience adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as low birth-weight, and are three times more likely to develop asthma, tuberculosis, heart disease and lung disease. The most common respiratory problems caused are acute lower respiratory infection (ALRI), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic bronchitis. For African children under the age of five, ALRI is among the leading causes of death.

In many parts of Africa, women have taken the reins in efforts to counter deforestation.



“ Advancing gender equality, through reversing the various social and economic handicaps that make women voiceless and powerless, may also be one of the best ways of saving the environment, and countering the dangers of overcrowding and other adversities associated with population pressure. The voice of women is critically important for the world's future – not just for women's future ” Amartya Sen

The 'Green Belt Movement', founded by Wangari Maathai, Kenyan environmentalist and the first African woman recipient of the Nobel peace prize, works to slow deforestation by tree-planting, promoting the preservation of biodiversity, educating people about their environmental rights and promoting the rights of women and girls. According to Maathai, "implicit in the action of planting trees is a civic education, a strategy to empower people and to give them a sense of taking their destiny into their own hands...so women can control the direction of their own lives".

If deforestation in Africa illustrates how gender inequality exposes women to very specif-

ic environmental risks, the steps required to combat environmental degradation show how empowering women is key to the protection of the environment. The degradation of the environment in many developing countries is closely associated with population growth: the education of women and girls and enhanced access to reproductive health services and family planning are thus fundamental to lessening environmental stress. It is also essential that women are included in natural resource man-

agement and are educated about 'greener' and more efficient strategies for natural resource use. Despite their centrality to the way in which natural resources are exploited, women often have little or no input into decision-making about the environment; according to UNFPA development agencies still focus technical assistance on men.

There are many ways in which women's lives intertwine with the earth's changing environment. In order to reverse environmental degradation, a comprehensive approach is needed, one which reflects the complex relationship linking the protection of the environment to sustainable population levels, reproductive health and women's rights. Without an integrated strategy, efforts to reach the seventh Millennium Development Goal – that which calls for environmental sustainability – will founder, and this in turn will make the achievement of the other MDGs very unlikely.





UNA-UK IN 2006

Key International Dates and Events 2006 and 2007

2 Oct 06	World Habitat Day (Theme: 'Cities, magnets of hope')	5 Dec 06	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
6 Oct 06	2nd session of the Human Rights Council ends	9 Dec 06	International Anti-Corruption Day
16 Oct 06	World Food Day (Theme: 'Investing in agriculture for food security')	10 Dec 06	Human Rights Day
17 Oct 06	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18 Dec 06	International Migrants Day
24 Oct 06	United Nations Day , to mark the date on which the UN Charter came into force in 1945	19 Dec 06	UN Day for South-South Cooperation
24-30 Oct 06	UN Disarmament Week	31 Dec 06	Official end of Kofi Annan's second term as UN Secretary-General
6 Nov 06	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	24-28 Jan 07	Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (Davos, Switzerland)
6-17 Nov 06	12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and 2nd meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (Nairobi, Kenya)	27 Jan 06	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust
15-18 Nov 06	12th International Anti-Corruption Conference (Guatemala City and Antigua, Guatemala)	8 Mar 07	United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
16 Nov 06	International Day of Tolerance	21 Mar 07	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
20 Nov 06	Universal Children's Day	21 Mar 07	Beginning of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
25 Nov 06	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	22 Mar 07	World Day for Water
27 Nov-8 Dec 06	3rd session of the Human Rights Council	7 April 07	World Health Day
29 Nov 06	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	21 May 07	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
1 Dec 06	World AIDS Day	29 May 07	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
2 Dec 06	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	5 Jun 07	World Environment Day
3 Dec 06	International Day of Disabled Persons	6-8 Jun 07	G8 Summit (Heiligendamm, Germany)
		20 Jun 07	World Refugee Day
		9 Aug 07	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
		12 Aug 07	International Youth Day
		8 Sep 07	International Literacy Day
		21 Sep 07	International Day of Peace

External events

LSE Lecture Series: The United Nations at 60 - relic or relevant?

To mark the 60th anniversary of the first meeting of the General Assembly, held in London in 1946, the London School of Economics is holding a series of lectures looking at the work of the United Nations and the challenges that it faces this century.

Upcoming lectures are:

The United Nations in the 21st century - a perspective from a developing country

Wednesday, 25 October 2006, 6.30-8pm

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa

The ICJ, the United Nations system and the rule of law

Monday, 13 November 2006, 6.30-8pm

Judge Rosalyn Higgins, President of the International Court of Justice

Power without glory: UN contributions to economic and social thinking and practice

Tuesday, 21 November 2006, 6.30-8pm

Sir Richard Jolly, co-director of the UN Intellectual History Project, former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and former Chair of UNA-UK

For further information please e-mail events@lse.ac.uk or call 020 7955 6043.

Global Development Forum

On Wednesday, 25 October 2006, from 7 to 8.30pm, Lord Hannay, Chair of UNA-UK,

will be joined by Simon Maxwell of the Overseas Development Institute in a discussion about the UN's ability to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Tickets cost £8.

For details on booking a place see www.global-development-forum.org

Stop Climate Chaos

With street bands, films and speakers, 'I-Count' is the climate change event of the year. Running from 1 to 3pm on Saturday, 4 November the event will take place on the eve of major international climate negotiations to draw attention to the need to do something now to stop climate chaos.

To register or to download an information pack, visit www.icount.org.uk



Reports received of UNA branch, regional and national events

Highgate and Muswell Hill

On 17 June 2006 Highgate and Muswell Hill UNA held its 60th annual garden party. To celebrate, the branch treated itself to a 60th anniversary cake which was cut by Irene Norton, the current chair of the committee and a veteran branch activist who recalls a time when the group had 900 members!

The branch would like to thank the speakers and, for hosting the event in her home, Sarah Kaye. Acknowledgements are also due to the branch's supporters (including Rose Hacker) and to Joe Ball, who has now retired as treasurer of the branch.

Harpenden

Scenes from Harpenden UNA's annual garden party, held this year on 22 July.

Cheltenham

On 12 August Cheltenham UNA held a 'tea and talk' event called 'Bethlehem Experience' to raise awareness of the UN-supported Beheishah Palestinian refugee camp in Bethlehem. The talk was given by Joanne Moston, who had served as a nurse in Bethlehem and had been deeply moved by the plight of the Palestinian people.

On retirement, Joanne decided to devote her time to helping the refugees in the Beheishah camp. She now travels to and from the camp several times a year, bringing small handicrafts (such as olive wood carvings and embroidery) back to the UK for sale, and returning to Bethlehem with money, children's clothing, school materials and medical equipment.

Joanne painted a moving picture of life in the camp. The event was well-attended, so many of the handicrafts on display were sold and generous donations made to this most deserving cause.



Southern Counties Region

From 26 to 27 August UNA Southern Counties Region held its annual conference at the University of Chichester. The conference focused on climate change and featured enlightening presentations from, among others, Dr Douglas Holdstock, Dr Saleemul Huq and Mary Holdstock.

Dr Holdstock, the editor of *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, gave a factual overview of climate change, highlighting what is actually known of this complicated phenomenon and what is not known. His presentation was followed by that of Dr Saleemul Huq, of the International Institute of Environment and Development, who gave an outline of the development of environmental legislation and spoke of the need to identify and implement strategies for both adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Mary Holdstock then focused on the invaluable lessons which can be learned from local initiatives, describing how Woking Borough Council was pioneering the integration of renewable energy with sustainable green technologies, and in so doing tackling fuel poverty, saving money and cutting its emissions of greenhouse gases.

A highlight of the two-day conference was the appearance made by 14-year-old Jordan Stephens and 17-year-old Sofia Zabalotkish, named by DEFRA to be 'Climate Challenge Champions' of their respective regions, the Southeast and the Midlands. Each gave a presentation, Jordan giving the audience cause for thought by comparing greenhouse gases to a school-yard bully, and Sofia wowing her listeners with her deft handling of the

science of climate change.

Congratulations and thanks to the conference's main organisers, Ruth Barker and Wendy Ellis!

Mid-Cornwall

On 14 September, Mid-Cornwall UNA hosted a talk by

Susan Matthew, a UNA member from Exeter and a former UN staff member. After starting out at the UN Information Centre in London, Susan served with missions in an array of locations, including Lebanon, Cyprus, Somalia, Rwanda, Namibia and New York. One of her chief responsibilities was to set up UN missions, for example by identifying safe residential housing for civilian staff.

One challenge Susan faced was attempting to establish a UN mission against the backdrop of complete anarchy in Mogadishu: there were no communications systems and armed gangs roamed the streets. Despite this turmoil, Susan travelled the country, witnessing harrowing scenes of deprivation and suffering. She recounted her amusement when she had heard that, in her early days in Somalia, someone had described her as "the mama in charge of peacekeeping".

For a complete report of Susan Matthew's talk, compiled by Joy McMullen of Mid-Cornwall UNA, see UNA-UK's website: www.una.org.uk



Mid-Sussex Global Peace Campaign marks the International Day of Peace on 21 September by entertaining passers-by at the Burgess Hill Market Place shopping centre. Children were given blue UN balloons and some wrote peace messages on white paper doves.

Participants take a well-deserved break.



Artwork points the way to UNA Southern Counties' annual conference.

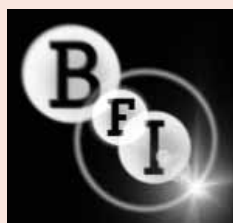
Photos © William Say





Future Branch Events

UNA Westminster teams up with the National Film Theatre to bring the UN to the big screen



On Saturday, 2 December, UNA Westminster will host the UK's first annual UN documentary film festival at the National Film Theatre. The day-long marathon will feature 22 of the best films produced over the last year by the UN, its agencies and independent producers. The films, which range from short TV 'fillers' to full-length documentaries, include several category-winners from 'Stories from the Field', the second annual UN documentary film festival held in New York in April 2006.

- ***Deadly Catch - Lake Victoria's AIDS Crisis***
Shows how, 20 years after the illness was discovered, calls for prevention remain unheeded (OCHA and the Integrated Regional Information Network)

- ***Mother Aysha***
Tells the story of a woman living in the Gaza Strip who rescues her family from poverty by starting a business with an UNRWA loan (UNRWA)
- ***Gilberto Gil against Child Labour***
How Brazil's minister of education uses his musical talents to fight against child labour (ILO)
- ***From Peace to Politics: Burundian Women Take Charge***
Depicts the political engagement of women in Burundi, first as peace activists during the civil war and now as members of parliament in the post-war period (UNIFEM)
- ***The Real Sex Traffic***
A Ukrainian man searches for his pregnant wife who has been trafficked to Turkey (Ric Esther Bienstock)

- ***The Making of a Martyr***
Uncovers those who teach – and pay – children to take their own lives (Brooke Goldstein and Alistair Leyland)

The day will conclude with the screening of *A Workshop for Peace*, a documentary which marks the 60th anniversary of the UN with a behind-the-scenes story of the original team of architects struggling to design the UN's headquarters.

The films will be screened in four sessions, from 11am to about 8pm, allowing time for discussion and refreshments. Tickets may be purchased through the NFT website at www.bfi.org.uk/incinemas/nft

A full description of each film is posted in the 'future programme' section of UNA Westminster's website: www.unawestminster.org.uk



From Peace to Politics: Burundian Women Take Charge. Film still © UNIFEM



UNA Stockport harnesses poetry for peace

UNA Stockport has been working locally to make its own contribution to the International Decade of the Culture of Peace, which began in 2001 and runs until 2010.

The branch is running, throughout the Decade, a series of projects aimed at harnessing creativity – as manifested, for instance, in music or the visual arts – to raise awareness of conflict and the need to end it. On 24 October UNA Stockport will launch 'Poetry for Peace', the next project in the innovative series. The branch will then be inviting people with a connection to Stockport to submit, up until the deadline of 3 March 2007, poems about peace, preferably touching on the relationship of conflict to climate change. An anthology of selected entries will be published, in the summer/autumn of 2007.

For more information contact Marjorie Hendley on 01625 873 968.

This list of events is not exhaustive. To be added to our regular e-mail bulletin of upcoming events, write to membership@una.org.uk

Blackheath & Greenwich

On Wednesday, 18 October, Chris Doyle, Director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), is giving a talk in Blackheath on the role of the UN in furthering the peace process in the Middle East. The talk, to be followed by a question-and-answer session and refreshments, will take place in the Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park from 8.10pm, just after the short AGM of Blackheath & Greenwich UNA. All are welcome. For further information please contact Neville Grant on 020 8858 8489.

East Gloucestershire

On Thursday, 19 October at 6pm, there will be a talk, led by Richard K. Bell of the US Embassy, on US foreign policy and the UN. For further details please contact chris.dickenson@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Norwich & District Branch

On Friday, 20 October, there will be a talk by Caitlin Phillips on the UN in the Congo at the Friends Meeting House, Upper Goat Lane, Norwich from 1 to 1.45pm. Hot drinks and biscuits will be served at 12.15 pm and are included in the

entrance charge of £2. For further details please call 01603 435 790.

East London

On Saturday, 21 October from noon to 4.30pm, UNA East London looks forward to welcoming new east London resident Katherine Ronderos to their UNA/UNICEF Flag Day collection. Please meet at Embankment underground station. Members from other branches are very welcome to come along; their branch will get credited with their 'branch share'. For further details contact Bruce Robertson on 020 8983 4215 or by e-mail on bruce@prexie.com

Lymington

On Saturday, 21 October at 12.30pm, Dr Michael Irwin, UNICEF representative in Bangladesh, will address an audience at the Lymington Community Centre on his 30-year career with the UN. For further details e-mail peter.anson3@btinternet.com

UNA-UK

Please be reminded that the annual parliamentary lobby is taking place on the afternoon of UN Day, 24 October. See back page for further details.

London & Southeast Region

On Tuesday, 24 October at 5pm, UNA London & Southeast Region is launching

its UN Travelling Roadshow, a four-day event being held in Canterbury during One World Week. The Roadshow is intended to illustrate to people how the UN influences their lives and how they can work with it at the local level. For more details of the opening ceremony or the Roadshow itself see page 33 or visit www.unalondonandse.org

Westminster

On Tuesday, 24 October at 6.30pm, UNA Westminster will hold its AGM in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House, Westminster. This will be followed by a meeting to discuss UN Security Council resolution 1325, on women, peace and security. The speakers include Joan Ruddock MP and Dr Shatha Beserani, founder of the Iraqi Women for Peace and Democracy Campaign. For further information please telephone David Wardrop on 020 7385 6738 or e-mail him on davidwardrop@bulldoghome.com

Norwich & District

On Tuesday, 24 October at 7pm, a UN Day service will be held at Princes Street United Reformed Church. There will be an address by Julia Hausermann, Director of UK Association of Rights & Humanity, entitled 'Your Rights – My Responsibility'. For further details call 01603 435 790.

Women's Advisory Council (WACUNA)

On Thursday, 26 October at 2pm, WACUNA is holding a meeting at the offices of UNICEF UK to discuss UNICEF UK's report on children and trafficking. For more information e-mail Suzanne Long on sdlong@tiscali.co.uk

Cambridge

On Friday, 27 October, UNA Cambridge will meet at the Quaker Meeting House in Jesus Lane, Cambridge from 1 to 2pm. Dr Marcus Gehring from Cambridge



University's Centre of International Studies will speak on legal aspects of international trade. For further details please call 01223 560 033 or e-mail bhawes8046@aol.com

Saffron Walden

On Saturday, 28 October at 3pm, UNA Saffron Walden is participating in a mayoral reception to welcome recent immigrants to Saffron Walden. The next day, on Sunday, 29 October, the branch's annual service will be held at 6.30pm at the Baptist Church in High Street. Lord Phillips of Sudbury will give the keynote address. E-mail francis.deutsch@ntlworld.com for more details on either event.

Stockport

On Saturday, 28 October, UNA Stockport's annual international supper will take place at Trinity Methodist Church, Davenport, Stockport. There will be music and the usual array of home-cooked food from many national traditions. For more information contact Joan Abrams by e-mail on abrams_tony@yahoo.co.uk

Guildford

On Sunday, 29 October at 3pm, there will be a multi-faith celebration of UN Day at St Nicolas Church Room, Millmead, Guildford, with a guest speaker and representatives from seven major faiths. Please call 01483 415 773 for further details.

Cleveland

Cleveland UNA will hold its annual inter-faith service on Sunday, 29 October at 3pm in the Friends Meeting House, Cambridge Road, Middlesborough. For further details please contact Irene MacDonald on macdonald.15@virgin.net or Richard Stainsby on richard@gtayton.demon.co.uk

Canterbury

On Sunday, 29 October at 6.30pm, UNA Canterbury's annual service will be held in

the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. The Lord Mayor will read the preamble to the UN Charter and the preacher will be Professor Frances Young, Cadbury Professor of Theology at Birmingham University. For more information please contact Maddy Webster on 01227 761 894.

Oxford

On Tuesday, 31 October from 1 to 2pm, Sir Marrack Goulding will give the Evan Luard Memorial Lecture on peacebuilding in Oxford Town Hall, St Aldgates. For further information please contact Margaret Stanton on 01865 515 195.

Sheffield

On Tuesday, 31 October at 7.45pm, at St Mark's Church in Glossop Road, there will be a meeting to discuss 'The UN: achievements and problems'. For more information please call Elizabeth Coates on 01142 377 583.

London & Southeast Region

On Saturday, 4 November UNA London and Southeast Region will hold its AGM at the town hall in Croydon. See www.unalondonandse.org/Pages/events.htm for more details.

UNA-UK Young

Professionals Network

On Thursday, 9 November the Young Professionals Network will be launching a YPN group in Wales. For more information see page 38 or the YPN website: www.una.org/ypn

Sheffield

On Saturday, 11 November from 10.30am to 4pm, there will be a UNA stall at the peace and craft fair in Sheffield Town Hall. For more information please call Elizabeth Coates on 01142 377 583.

UNA-UK Young

Professionals Network

Following a launch reception on 14 November in the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office, YPN will be holding a series of seminars over the next seven months about the role that business can play in helping the world to achieve the MDGs. See page 38 or the YPN website: www.una.org.uk/ypn

Norwich & District

On 15 November from 1 to 1.45pm, Professor Deryke Belshaw will give a talk entitled 'Can reducing carbon emissions make poverty history?' at the Friends Meeting House, Upper Goat Lane, Norwich. Hot drinks and biscuits will be served at 12.15 pm and are covered in the entrance charge of £2. For further details please call 01603 435 790.

Reading

On 15 November at 7.30pm in room 1 of the Reading International Solidarity Centre, UNA Reading will be addressed by John Madeley on the subject of 'The World Food Summit +10'. All are welcome. Please e-mail sidamparam@supanet.com for further details.

Sheffield University

UNYSA

On 24 November at 5pm, Sam Daws will be giving a talk at Sheffield UNYSA on the challenges ahead for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. For more information contact Kevin Kittoe on poa05kk@shef.ac.uk

Saffron Walden

On 29 November at 12.45pm in the Friends Meeting House, UNHCR's Peter Kessler will talk about the work of the UN Refugee Agency. Lunch, from midday, is available if booked beforehand. For more information e-mail Francis Deutsch at francis.deutsch@ntlworld.com

UNA-UK, UNA Wales and the David Davies Memorial Institute

On Saturday, 2 December, UNA-UK, UNA



UNA London & Southeast Region takes the UN on the road – to the Canterbury Festival

UNA London & Southeast Region is using UN Day to launch its UN Travelling Roadshow, a four-day event taking place during One World Week and the Canterbury Festival. The Roadshow is free and is being held in St Andrew's United Reformed Church Hall, Watling Street, Canterbury.

The Roadshow will open on 24 October and close on 27 October. A launch reception will be held on the first day, with a series of nine workshops focusing on seven subjects to follow over the course of the three remaining days. The Roadshow will also feature a UN exhibition, with stalls from UNA London & Southeast Region's partner organisations.

Tuesday, 24 October

Opening ceremony and reception

5pm to 7pm

Wednesday, 25 October

1 Introduction to how the UN relates to civil society

Sheila Kesby, UNA London & Southeast

10.30am to 12 noon

2 Why not a UN peace-ensuring force?

Geoff Meaden, UNA Canterbury

12.30pm to 2pm

3 Local and global citizenship

Sheila Kesby

2.30pm to 4pm

4 Jubilee Debt Campaign: its achievements and frustrations

Richard Podger, East Kent Jubilee Debt Campaign

4.30pm to 6pm

Thursday, 26 October

5 Women, peace and security

Amy Barrow, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

10.30am to 12 noon

6 Local and global citizenship

Sheila Kesby

12.15pm to 1.45pm

7 Healthcare and social and economic development

Mary Brown and Sylvia Dental, Royal College of Nursing

5pm to 6.30pm

Friday, 26 October

8 Fairtrade: local action on global poverty

Richard Norman, Canterbury District Fairtrade Network

10.30am to 12 noon

9 Introduction to how the UN relates to civil society

Sheila Kesby

12.30pm to 2pm

To RSVP for the opening ceremony or book a place in one of the workshops, please visit www.unalondonandse.org

Wales and the David Davies Memorial Institute are holding a one-day public conference in Cardiff on the future of the non-proliferation regime and the UK's nuclear weapons capability. For more information see page 18.

Westminster

On Saturday, 2 December, UNA Westminster and the National Film

Theatre are hosting a UN film festival. See page 30 for more details.

UNA-UK, UNA Sheffield and Transparency International UK

On Saturday, 9 December, UNA-UK, UNA Sheffield and Transparency International UK are hosting a conference on the challenge of overcoming corrup-

tion to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. For more information see page 25.

Lewisham

On Sunday, 10 December, there will be a human rights lunch at 48 Bromley Road, Catford SE6 2NP. Patricia Rogers, Jubilee Debt Campaign Director, will lead a discussion on debt relief. If you would like to attend please call David Hamilton on 020 8690 5108.

Belfast

On the morning of Saturday, 16 December, UNA Belfast is hosting a members' meeting with Sam Daws, UNA-UK Executive Director, to discuss the current and future work of the Association over a cup of coffee. Venue and exact time are to be confirmed. For more information call Hilary Sloan on 028 9068 2379.

Advance notice from UNA Edinburgh

UNA Edinburgh is organising an exciting one-day series of lectures and discussions about different aspects of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The event, to be held at the Scottish Parliament on Monday, 29 January 2007, will be chaired by Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA-UK, and will feature the participation of Scottish politicians and leading experts from around the UK. Lord Hannay, Chair of UNA-UK, will deliver one of four keynote lectures.

More information will be included in the next issue of *New World* and in the events calendar on the UNA-UK website.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Although the International Year of Peace took place in 1986 many groups found a way of permanently marking it – as with the Peace Path on Beachy Head in Sussex. Some of us in the Movement for the Abolition of War are now preparing a map of the British Isles, showing as many peace-related locations as we can find. Some are gardens, some monuments, some statues, some plaques, and some other places of significance.

The more information we get the better the map will be. It would therefore be a big help if UNA supporters who know of locations of this sort would get in touch!

Bruce Kent

Movement for the Abolition of War

*Bruce can be reached on
020 8340 6639 or at the address below:*

*Movement for the Abolition of War
11 Venetia Road
London N4 EJ*

the leadership of both sides in this dispute that they are violating international law: Hezbollah by firing rockets into Israel, and Israel for its disproportionate response in failing to identify clearly enemy locations and causing the deaths of many civilians.

Finally, if there is sufficient evidence to bring about prosecutions for war crimes, then it should be reiterated that the leaders of the warring parties should be prosecuted – if necessary up to and including the Israeli Prime Minister. The international community must make it absolutely clear that no one is above the law.

The above issue regarding international law will undoubtedly be complicated by the fact that the US administration under Bush has, by flouting established international law through its practices at Guantanamo Bay, created a precedent. It's not surprising that others follow its example.

David Thomas

UNA Wales

than later we may find acceptance of the concept of a standing rapid development capability for the UN” is of great significance.

I found that comment, however, difficult to reconcile with David's concluding remark that “General Nambiar also told his audience...that he agreed with his fellow panelists' decision to exclude from the report a proposal for a UN standing force”. I therefore sought enlightenment from the full text of the speech on the UNA London and Southeast Region website.

The relevant passage reads thus:

"In the context of ready availability of forces for UN peace operations it would appear that the only real answer for meeting crisis situations that call for a speedy deployment of military forces, civilian police, and some civil affairs and humanitarian aid personnel . . . is to raise and maintain a standing UN rapid deployment force. I had therefore suggested to the Panel that we strongly recommend the creation of such a force in our Report. Whereas all members of the Panel, as also the UN Secretary-General and members of the Secretariat, endorsed the concept as such, most of them appeared to feel that it was unlikely to receive general support on grounds of costs of raising and supporting such a force as also on grounds of political acceptance of the idea. I find these postulations quite unconvincing but had to bow to what was projected as the greater wisdom. In my view, reluctance to endorse such a concept, particularly by the more powerful countries of the developed world, is primarily because they would not like to see their own influence and ability to manipulate events diluted by the

Dear Editor,

As I write the crisis in the Middle East seems to be escalating out of control. I would like to make the following comments, which have been expressed by others.

Firstly, Prime Minister Tony Blair should have called for an immediate ceasefire at the start of this crisis. He seemed instead to have chosen to toe the George Bush line.

Secondly, I would like to make the point that the UN has warned

Dear Editor,

I was most interested to read, in the July-September 2005 issue of *New World*, David Wardrop's report of the speech of General Satish Nambiar at Westminster UNA's annual conference to mark international peacekeepers day. As David pointed out, General Nambiar was the only member of Kofi Annan's High-Level Panel with UN military experience, so his opinion that “sooner rather



provision of such ready capability to the United Nations. To that extent, I am of the opinion that much of the talk about strengthening the UN and making it more effective is rhetoric and symbolism."

For us, as UNA members, it is instructive to reflect that as long ago as 2001 Annual Conference endorsed the proposal for a UN standby force, and that has remained the Association's policy ever since. How much has been done to publicise and promote this vital aspect of our policy? The answer is, I believe, very little. Surely the time has arrived when UNA ought to be giving a clear lead to public opinion and to recalcitrant governments too in urging the essential action which would ensure that in relation to the Rwandan massacre and similar tragedies we could say 'never again' and really mean it.

Derek Smith

Twickenham & Richmond UNA

Editor's note: *This letter was submitted for publication in an earlier issue of New World. The editor apologises for this oversight.*

A UNA-UK briefing paper from 2004 on enhancing the rapid reaction capability of the UN is accessible on the peace and security section of the UNA-UK website.

Dear Editor,

Age and its disadvantages were pushed aside as I read through your July-September 2006 issue over the weekend.

In particular, it confirmed my impression, from watching John Bolton's occasional appearances on TV bulletins and in the press, of his

utter unsuitability as the current US ambassador to the UN.

Having observed the qualities of young American Quaker volunteers in the ruins of Italian villages, participating in the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's emergency projects long ago (1946-47), I feel sure they and their heirs, too, may well share my opinion regarding J.B.

The whole July-September issue of *New World* gave me hope for the future of the UN itself and UNA too! Keep up the good work!

Charles Williams

Once-upon-a-time IVSP member (b. 1919)

Dear Editor,

I looked forward eagerly to reading the article 'Peacekeeping Matters' by Dr Bruce Jones, particularly as the report of the inaugural *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations* was launched with a ceremony decorated by many knowledgeable experts in the field. But I was bitterly disappointed, since there was no mention or discussion of the relation between the UN Charter and the post-1945 invention of UN peacekeeping by Dag Hammarskjöld. The need for peacekeeping mandates to comply with the Charter, particularly Chapters VI and VII, and the Charter's safeguard of state independence, is not discussed. In light of such an omission, the real achievements and the dilemmas of UN peacekeeping are not constructively examined. While we could agree that, if peacekeeping matters, so too do its logistics, such solutions as are suggested by Dr Jones seem impractical and flawed. Whatever has happened to those dozen or so standby

forces agreements signed between the UN and individual states? Would they provide a useful bridge between the present unsatisfactory adhocery and the fantasy, as Jones puts it, of a UN standing army?

In his statistics and graphs Jones seems to conflate peacekeeping under some UN authority with any out-of-home territory deployment of forces by regional organisations. But the remits or actions of such regional organisations, presumably including NATO, have been very varied with differing relationships to UN peacekeeping and to states' obligations under the Charter.

The only merit I see in Jones's work is that it shows that not all US opinion on these matters is hostile to the UN. I would have found an update of Sir Marrack Goulding's book 'Peacemonger' much more valuable. Now that Sir Marrack is a member of UNA-UK's new advisory panel of experts, perhaps he would contribute such an update to the next issue of *New World*?

Betty Scharf

Hendon UNA

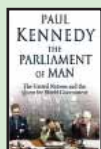
Editor's note: *The Annual Review of Global Peace Operations is produced by New York University's Centre on International Cooperation with the support of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Peace Academy. An article about the 2006 review, written by Dr Bruce Jones, is featured in the July-September 2006 issue of New World.*

Readers are reminded that letters to the editor of *New World* are edited only for grammar, length and style, and not for accuracy of information.



RESOURCES

Recent books on the UN



The Parliament of Man: The United Nations and the Quest for World Government

Paul Kennedy
Allen Lane, July 2006



Planet in Peril: An Atlas of Current Threats to People and the Environment

United Nations University, May 2006



The United Nations, Peace and Security: From Collective Security to the Responsibility to Protect

Ramesh Thakur
Cambridge University Press, July 2006



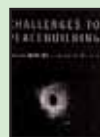
The United Nations Development Programme: A Better Way?

Craig N. Murphy
Cambridge University Press, September 2006



International Governance of War-Torn Territories: Rule and Reconstruction

Richard Caplan
Oxford University Press, August 2006



Challenges to Peacebuilding: Managing Spoilers During Conflict Resolution

Edward Newman and
Oliver Richmond (eds)
United Nations University, August 2006

UN System Websites: Recent Additions

UN in General

- New site of the President of the 61st UN General Assembly
www.un.org/ga/president/61
- New site for the UN Office of Legal Affairs
untreaty.un.org/ola
- Updated organisation chart of the UN system
www.un.org/aboutun/chart.html

Peace & Security

- UN Action to Counter Terrorism
www.un.org/terrorism/strategy
- White Paper on Targeted Sanctions
www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/60/887
- UN Peacemaker
www.un.org/peacemaker

Millennium Development Goals

- New site for the Water for Life Decade (2005-2015)
www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/index.html

- The Least Developed Countries Report 2006 (UNCTAD)
www.unctad.org
- New site on the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development
www.un.org/migration
- 2006 World Drug Report (UNODC)
www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

- The Crisis in Lebanon: Environmental Impact (UNEP)
www.unep.org/lebanon
- Recovery Efforts in Lebanon (UNDP)
www.undp.org/lebanon
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
www.un.org/disabilities/convention
- OHCHR Rule of Law Tools for Post-Conflict States
www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications



ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

An Annual Conference booking form is included in this issue of *New World*. We hope to see as many members as possible at Warwick University this year. If you've never been before, give it a try!

Policy formulation

As explained in the July-September 2006 issue of *New World*, the Procedure Committee has introduced changes to the procedures for policy formulation of Annual Conference, which will in 2007 be held at Warwick University from 13 to 15 April.

The Procedure Committee will be asking branches, regions, affiliates, the UNA-UK Board, and groups of six members to submit, instead of formal motions, up to five 'policy issues' of up to 150 words. Policy issues can contain the same substance as traditional motions – e.g. specifics of what UNA would like the UK government to undertake in relation to an aspect of the UN's work – or they can express a more general concern about a topical issue – e.g. such as a civil war or a famine in a country.

Example of a policy issue submission

"Our branch is greatly concerned at the failure to equip the UN system with the resources and machinery required to reflect the importance of gender as a cross-cutting issue of fundamental relevance to all the areas of the UN's work. UNA-UK should consider a range of options for restructuring the UN to address this shortcoming."

These policy issues will be composited into a draft policy document divided into key themes. Then, instead of formal amendments, 'comments' will be sought on this document (again, up to five, each with a maximum of 150 words). The comments will be incorporated into a restructured policy document so that it reflects differences of opinion among our membership. These views on policy can then be aired in an informed way at Annual Conference, and votes taken on key issues, so that UNA-UK's new policy positions will be clear.

Timetable

- **1 December 2006**
Deadline for submission of policy ideas for Annual Conference by branches, regions, affiliates, the UNA-UK Board, and groups of six members
- **14 December 2006**
Meeting of the Procedure Committee, followed by the compositing of submissions by UNA-UK staff into a policy document during early January
- **22 January 2007**
Annual Conference preliminary agenda to be sent out (to include the policy document for comments)
- **3 February 2007**
Meeting of the UNA-UK Board of Directors
- **2 March 2007**
Deadline for submission of comments
- **15 March 2007**
Meeting of the Procedure Committee
- **30 March 2007**
Annual Conference final agenda to be sent out (to contain policy document to be debated at the conference)

Costs

We are pleased to inform you that the cost of the full standard residential package, if booked before 15 January 2007, will be £155, or £170 including the optional Sunday lunch. This year's venue, Warwick University, was the cheapest of the four universities approached in the region.

Details of all the booking options are included in the booking form inserted in this copy of *New World*.

Elections to the UNA-UK Board and the UNA Trust!

Have you thought of standing for election to the UNA-UK Board of Directors or to the UNA Trust? Now is your chance.

Each year eight individuals are elected to serve as directors on the UNA-UK Board, and one to serve as a UNA Trust trustee. Successful candidates serve for one year.

Please note that those elected assume legal responsibilities and liabilities that arise from taking on these positions.

As UNA-UK seeks continuous improvements to its governance practices, UNA-UK members with experience on other boards and trusts are encouraged to apply.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the UNA-UK website, or requested from Olliver Southgate by e-mail on southgate@una.org.uk, or telephone on 020 7766 3469. Completed forms must be returned to the Executive Director no later than 1 December 2006.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

Ambition with a Conscience

Young professionals for peace, justice & sustainable development

Tim Jarman is a member of the UNA-UK Board and the YPN Steering Committee.

The Young Professionals Network as a whole may have been quiet over the summer break, but its new sub-committees have been working hard to plan a host of events.

A major initiative being launched in the coming months is the YPN 'Business and the MDGs' programme. The initiative will promote the active involvement of the private sector in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Following a launch reception on 14 November at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, YPN will be holding a series of seminars over the next seven months. Each seminar will be held in Portcullis

House and will focus on one key area in which business has a major – if not necessary – role to play in furthering sustainable development. The topics of the seminars and the dates on which they will be held are as follows:

- Engaging business in efforts to improve transparency, accountability and respect for human rights in unstable or poor governance countries (21 November 2006)
- Promoting ethical supply-chain management and building the capacity of local business (23 January 2007)
- Strengthening the work force through better access to health and education, especially for vulnerable

groups (20 March 2007)

- Engaging the private sector in the struggle against climate change (22 May 2007 (tbc))

We are pleased to announce that YPN is growing rapidly! On 9 November, in partnership with UNA Wales, we will be launching the **Welsh YPN** in an exciting event in the Welsh Assembly. The First Minister for Wales, Rhodri Morgan AM, is the sponsor.

Further information on both the Business and the MDGs event programme and the YPN Wales launch, including details on how to sign up, are posted on the website.

That's it for now – but stay tuned!

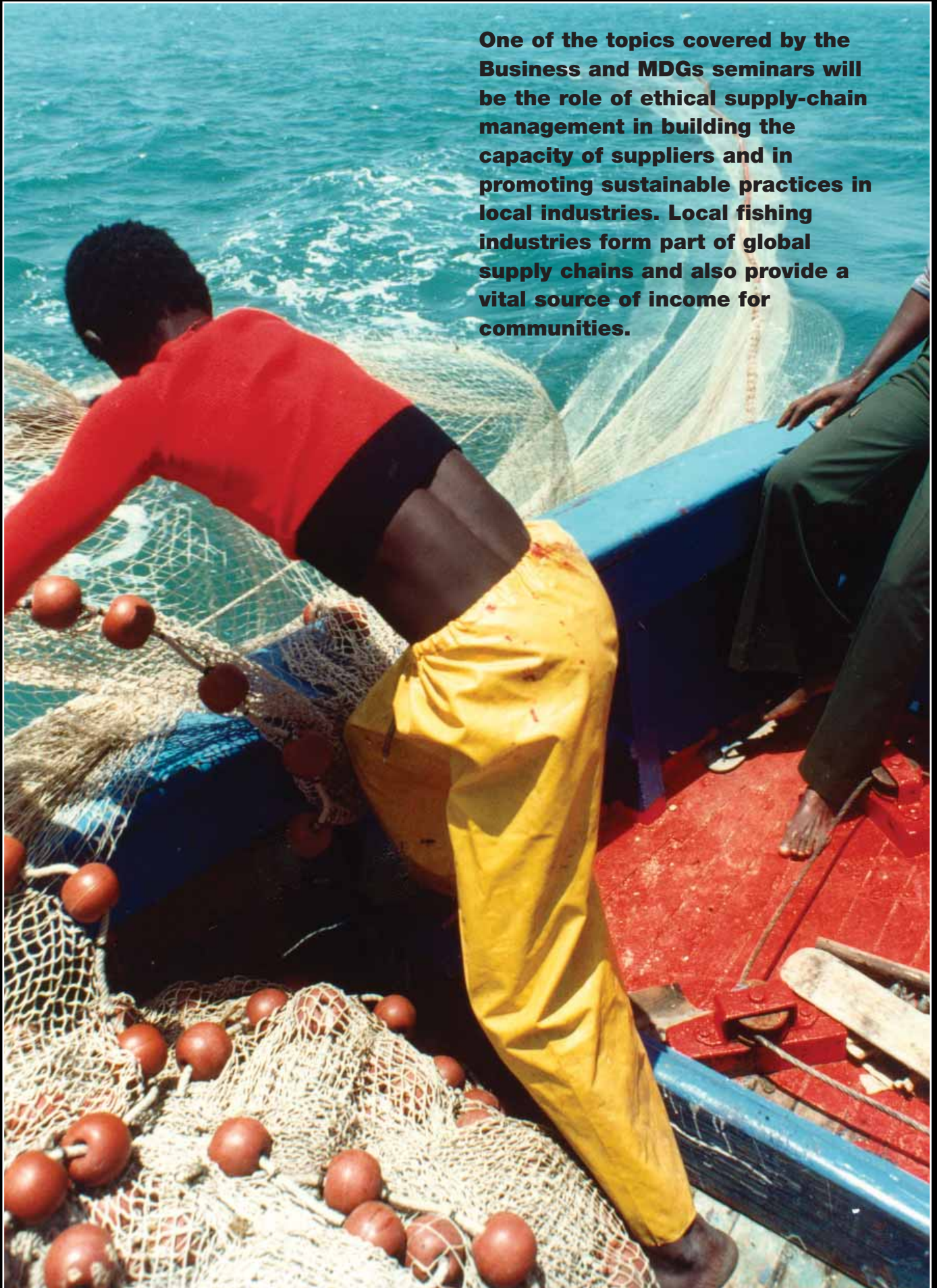
www.una.org.uk/ypn



Photos © UN/DPI



One of the topics covered by the Business and MDGs seminars will be the role of ethical supply-chain management in building the capacity of suppliers and in promoting sustainable practices in local industries. Local fishing industries form part of global supply chains and also provide a vital source of income for communities.





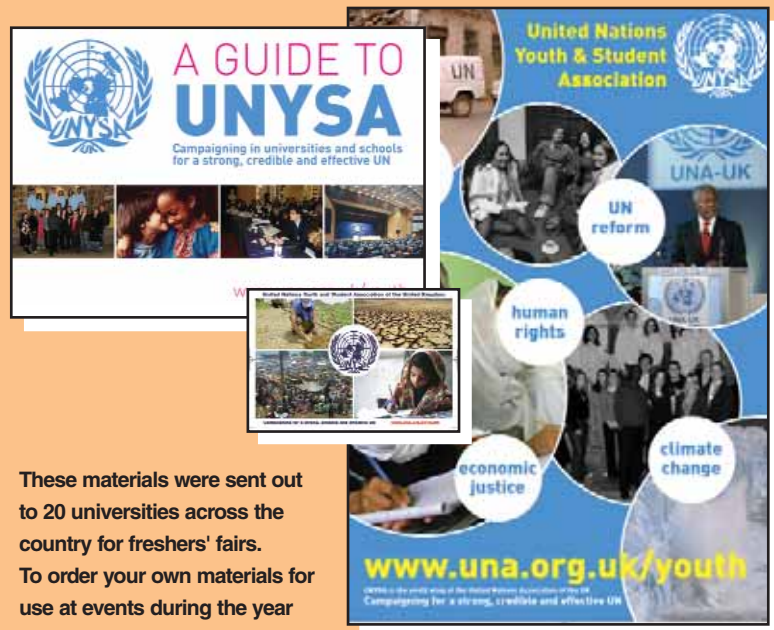
Welcome from the President!

With the start of a new academic year looming, students all over the country are packing up a motley collection of mugs and textbooks, taking their leave of friends and parents, and looking forward to a busy year of studies. Here at UNYSA we are also looking forward to a busy year. Over the summer we have prepared new materials to support the campaigning work of UNYSA (see inset) and we have met with branches and started to plan our events and activities for the coming year.

Once again we are promoting the Stop AIDS and Citizenship campaigns (you can find out more about these and download materials from our website: www.una.org.uk/youth), and are continuing our work with UNA-UK to campaign for a strong and credible UN. Youth Council members have tried to attend as many freshers' fairs around the UK as possible. We look forward to hearing all about branch plans for the year: don't forget to let us know what you are planning so that we can publicise events in the pages of *Newer World* and on the website.

Above all, on behalf of the Youth Council, I would like to wish you a very happy and productive year.

Marina Faggionato



These materials were sent out to 20 universities across the country for freshers' fairs. To order your own materials for use at events during the year please contact Mark Rusling on rusling@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3459.

Also available are UNYSA pens and balloons.

Pictures from top left: *Guide to UNYSA: how to campaign in universities for a strong, credible and effective UN*, UNYSA poster and UNYSA postcard

Oxford International Model United Nations (OxIMUN) 3-5 November 2006

OxIMUN 2006 will be a thought-provoking and enriching experience, in which delegates can share, discuss and refine a common vision through diplomacy and negotiation. Set in several of Oxford's most beautiful colleges, OxIMUN offers delegates a unique opportunity to debate in the historic surroundings and rich cultural environment of one of Europe's oldest universities.

The conference is open to both group and individual delegates, who can choose between ten committees: the Security Council, the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee, the Disarmament and International Security Committee, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council, the European Council, the World Trade Organisation, the World Health Organisation, the African Union and the Crisis Committee.

Isabel Summers is OxIMUN Secretary-General.

OxIMUN is renowned for its high standards of debate and its impeccably organised programme. For this year's conference we expect approximately 400 delegates from Europe and beyond, bringing with them an exceptional diversity of views and backgrounds.

OxIMUN aims to provide ample opportunity for debate and maximum participation for each delegate. With its committees ranging in size from 15 to 60 delegates, OxIMUN is tailored to the experienced delegate as well as to those new to MUN, as our policy advisers are always ready to provide assistance and information on the relevant topics.

For more details about this exciting MUN event please visit www.oxfordmun.org.uk



United Nations Youth Leadership Summit

"Tell me what kind of young people you have, and I will tell you the future of your country."

President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal

In the July-September 2006 issue of *New World*, we announced that Sara Fazlali and Rich Bartlett had been selected as delegates to attend the United Nations European Youth Leadership Summit. This article recounts Sara and Rich's experiences in Vienna and tells of their next big step: the Global Youth Leadership Summit, at the UN in New York!

From the 19 to 21 June, Rich and Sara (both members of UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network), attended the UN European Youth Leadership Summit in Vienna. The summit was a landmark event, uniting young leaders from across the European Union and the accession countries of Bulgaria and Romania. The summit was organised by the UN Office of Sport for Development and Peace on behalf of the UN system and was hosted by the government of Austria during its EU Presidency. The purpose of the event was to discuss ways to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through sport, culture and peace.

Rich and Sara played an active role in the summit both as participants in the workshops and as contributors to the Vienna Declaration. The Vienna Declaration, a statement written and adopted by the delegates to the summit, expresses the determination of Europe's young generation to play its part in promoting development and peace. The Declaration also urges all EU member states to fulfill their pledges to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to development assistance.

The UN is now expanding the forum of discussion beyond the regional to the global and,

at the end of October in New York, will be hosting the first ever Global Youth Leadership Summit. This global summit, like the regional meetings which preceded it, will have as its focus the contribution of youth to the MDGs through sport, development and peace. Each UN member state will be represented by two young leaders – one man and one woman. We are delighted that, on the strength of their contribution to the European summit, both Sara and Rich were invited to participate in the global summit in New York. Sara has also been asked to serve as a co-moderator for a discus-

sion on education, gender and maternal health care.

Key guests at the summit will include UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, various heads of state and government, and representatives of instrumental UN agencies, the UN Millennium Project, and the University for Peace. High-profile sports figures will also participate, among them Ronaldinho and the presidents of FIFA and Barcelona Football Club.

Visit www.un.org/youthsummit for more information about the UN Youth Leadership Summits, or to read the Vienna Declaration.

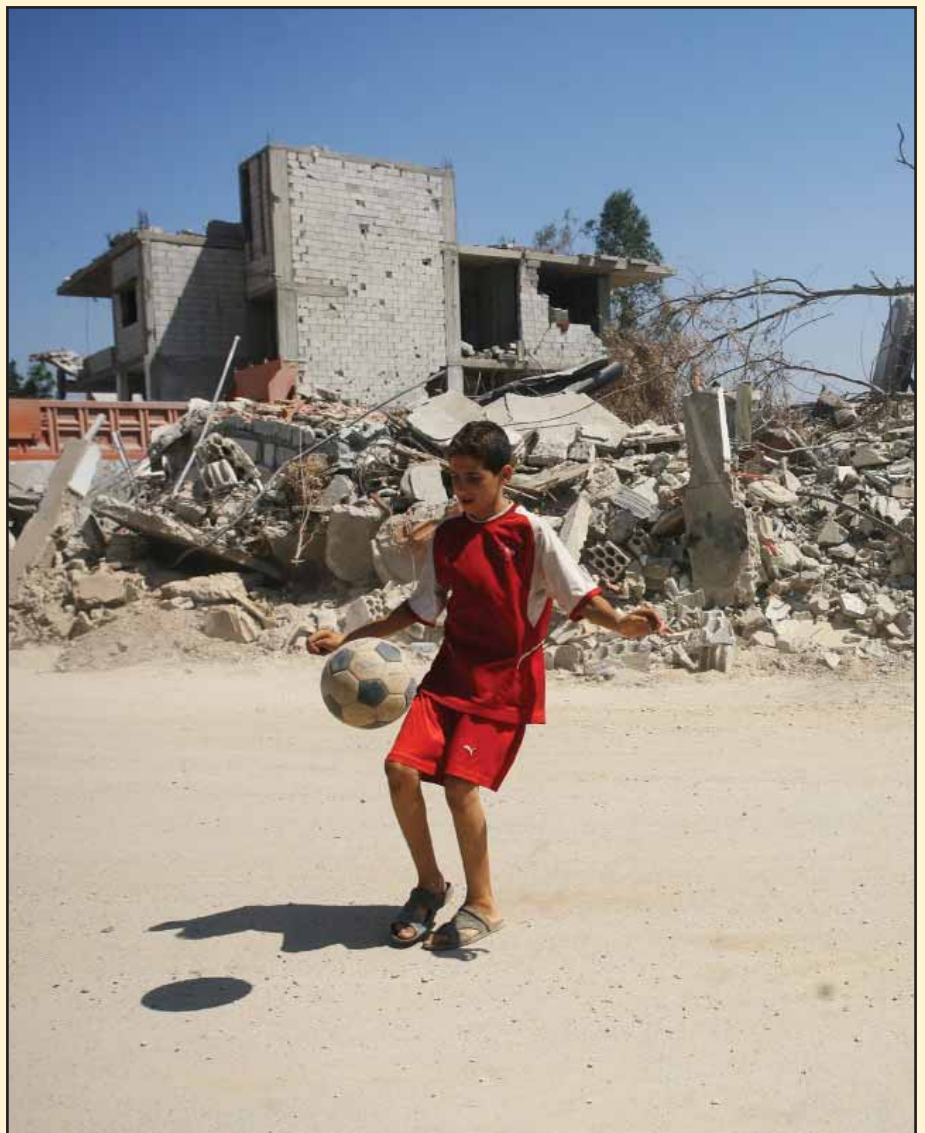


Photo © UNHCR/A. Brantfwaite



The People's Heritage

Marina Faggionato is President of UNYSA and wrote her master's dissertation on cultural heritage.

In the last issue of *Newer World* Jo told us about her travels and visits to sites of important cultural significance in southeast Asia. In this article Marina anticipates and answers some questions you may have about cultural heritage.

What is cultural heritage?

Although the term used to refer exclusively to the monumental remains of cultures, it is now used more broadly to include intangible elements too. Generally, however, we still use the definition as set out in the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in which cultural heritage is said to refer to the monuments, buildings and sites that are "of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science", and "of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view".

What about natural heritage?

Natural heritage is increasingly being seen as an important aspect of the wealth of all nations, and so advocates of natural heritage are seeking ways to protect natural sites that are of value from a scientific, conservation or aesthetic perspective

Why do we need to protect these places?

Sadly such sites are at the mercy of a number of destructive forces. War is obviously a particular source of danger, as is theft. Heritage is also at risk from development – both directly (e.g. through building on important sites) and indirectly (e.g. through threats to marine heritage by over-fishing, coastal development and pollution).

So is this risk a new thing?

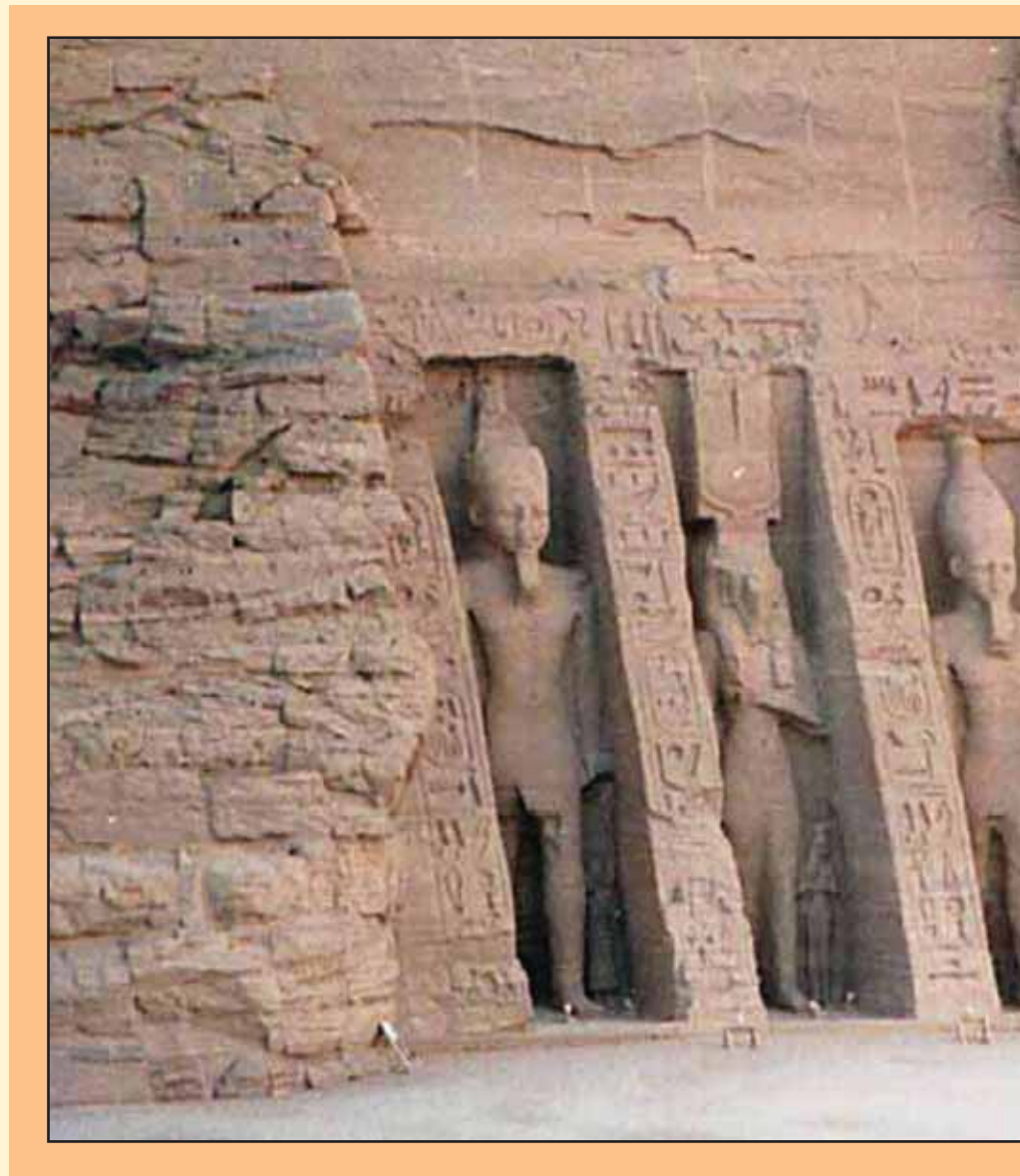
No. It seems that as far back as the time of the Romans it was the done thing for a conquering army to triumph in the rape of works of art. While the Romans carried back much of the looted material to be paraded in processions through the streets

of Rome, other armies have simply destroyed whatever they could, seeking to obliterate the cultural references of the conquered people. It would seem that these tactics are also a feature of modern warfare. Notwithstanding its inclusion on the World Heritage List, the outstanding city site of Dubrovnik was subjected, between October 1991 and early 1992, to a shelling campaign that destroyed 63 per cent of the available space. In March 2001 the great rock sculptures at Bamiyan were destroyed by the Taliban, who through their

actions took from the world the tallest standing Buddhas in the world.

What does the UN do to help?

Since the 18th century attempts have been made to protect cultural property, but it was not until after the wide-scale destruction wreaked by World War II that a collective effort was made to define and protect cultural heritage in times of war. This was then extended beyond the setting of conflict to protect cultural and natural heritage at all times. There





are now a number of important international agreements designed to help protect cultural and natural heritage, including:

- 1 First Protocol of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954)
- 2 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)
- 3 UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- 4 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995)

UNESCO has also established a committee to pro-

mote the return of cultural property to its country of origin, as well as a fund to support member states in such actions, and has prepared an information kit about the restitution of cultural property.

Are there any success stories?

Yes! When the Aswan High Dam was planned in Egypt it became clear that this would flood the Abu Simbel archaeological site. After a UNESCO campaign the archaeological work on the sites was sped up, and two of the temples were in fact taken apart and moved to higher ground. From this spectacular start, work has continued all over the world to protect and preserve heritage under threat; not least among those successes are those of Angkor and Hampi that Jo told us about in the last issue.

Whether we have seen them in person, or marvelled at them on film, we can be in little doubt of the importance of cultural and natural heritage and the role that the UN plays in preserving this heritage for future generations.

For more information please visit www.unesco.org where you can browse the World Heritage Site and take a virtual tour of some of the outstanding sites around the world that we can all lay claim to.

The twin temples of Abu Simbel were carved out of the mountain side during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II in the 13th century BC.



UN DAY LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

2.30pm to 4.30pm, Tuesday, 24 October, **Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House**

UNA-UK and Action for UN Renewal would like to invite you to the launch of the 2006-07 parliamentary lobby on the UN.

The purpose of the lobby is to seize the attention of MPs at the beginning of the new parliamentary session and heighten awareness of and support for the UN's central role in:

- combating catastrophic climate change
- stemming nuclear proliferation
- implementing the responsibility to protect in Darfur
- achieving economic justice to make the Millennium Development Goals possible
- reinvigorating the Middle East peace process

There will be speakers to give presentations and answer questions on some of the topics above, among them Lord Hannay, Chair of UNA-UK; Ashok Sinha, Director of Stop Climate Chaos; and Paul Ingram, Senior Analyst at BASIC. The event will be opened by Hugh Robertson MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN.

There will also be loads of resources – including glossy briefings and factsheets on the above subjects – for you to take away with you to help you lobby your MP in the coming months.

You are advised to arrive a little early on the day in order to allow sufficient time to clear security. You are also advised to check in with UNA-UK headquarters the morning of the event, as room bookings in the House of Commons are subject to change.

You are encouraged to invite your MP to this event. An invitation flyer is posted on UNA-UK's website which you can download and send to him or her. If you don't know how to contact your MP, get in touch with us and we will help you to do so.



Have you signed up for the launch event?

You can do so online at www.una.org.uk or by contacting Mark Rusling, UNA-UK's Campaigns and Education Officer, on rusling@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3459