

Letter to the Editor...

Lymington UNA

SIR, — This year we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations (UN). The Lymington branch of The United Nations Association (UNA) will likewise celebrate its 70th anniversary and take stock of its series of talks on the UN's work we have had from September to March each year.

We, along with UNA members and supporters across the UK, are proud that our country is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid. Through this support, the UK is helping to build a more stable, prosperous future for us all.

Overseas aid is an investment in our future. Faced with cross-border challenges such as Ebola and climate change, the UK's national interests increasingly dovetail with our global responsibilities. Our security and prosperity depend on us working together with other states at international institutions like the United Nations to find workable solutions.

This year, the UK has the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues. Countries will come together at the UN to adopt new global goals to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. We want the UK to work hard for goals that are not just ambitious, but inclusive, and well-resourced.

As well as exercising leadership on the world stage, we also want the UK to set an example at home. This includes pressing ahead with enshrining the 0.7% target into law, outlining how the UK will support the new goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a real difference to the most vulnerable people.

As UK — and global — citizens we all have a stake in international development. We don't just want the UK to do its bit — we want it to lead the way.

At our March 28th meeting the Rt. Hon. Desmond Swayne MP will address the public at Lymington Community Centre from 2-4pm and answer the question 'Why is International Development as vital as ever in today's world?'

On April 25th, also at Lymington Community Centre from 2-4pm, there will be a hustings where parliamentary candidates from all national political parties will be invited to answer questions related to the importance of international development.

Patricia de Mowbray (secretary)

Martina Humber (chair)

Lymington UNA branch