



NEW WORLD

News and comment on the United Nations and UNA-UK

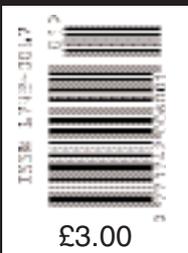
On track or derailed?

Progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals

HALFWAY TO
2015



PLUS: Justice not Vengeance
It's time to ditch the death penalty



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK
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July–September 2007

2007 Review of UN Peace Operations	Page 14
War and Democratic Accountability	Page 20
The UN Human Rights Council	Page 22
Cartooning for Peace	Page 35
Global Warming and the WI	Page 38



CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Director	3
UNA-UK Directory	4
UN: Miscellany	5
07-07-07: the MDG Halfway Point	6
2007 Review of UN Peace Operations	14
UNA-UK in Parliament	17
Annual Conference 2007	18
Waging War and Democratic Accountability	20
The UN Human Rights Council	22
It's Time to Ditch the Death Penalty	26
The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations	29
Cartooning for Peace	35
UNA Westminster Pays Tribute to Peacekeepers	36
The Women's Institute Tackles Waste	38
The Membership at Work	39
What's On?	40
Books on the UN	41
Web Resources and Letters	42
Young Professionals Network	43
Newer World	46
MDGs Progress Chart	48

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FROM SAM DAWS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

7 July 2007 marked the halfway mark towards the target of reaching the eight UN Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015. As the spread of graphs on pages 6–13 shows, progress in some parts of the world has been encouraging, but the situation in much of Africa continues to look bleak. UNA-UK continues to make the realisation of the Goals a priority within its campaigning work.

The International Day of UN Peacekeepers was commemorated again this year by an excellent conference at the Royal United Services Institute, organised by UNA-UK's Westminster branch (see page 36). As part of its own advocacy on the UN's role in peace and security, UNA-UK collaborated with New York University's Center on International Cooperation to launch the second *Annual Review of Peace Operations* on 26 June (see page 14).

The judicial killing of criminals has again made its way into the international spotlight, and UNA-UK has been working with the Italian Embassy in London to campaign for a UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty (see page 26).

In April, UNA-UK held a successful and enjoyable Annual Conference at Warwick University. The highlight of the event was a fascinating speech by Dame Margaret Anstee, a former UN Under-Secretary-General (see page 18). The UNYSA conference was again held in parallel with that of UNA-UK; for the newly elected Youth Council please see page 47.

UNA-UK members debated policy in commissions and in plenary before voting to produce a clear policy document, which is enclosed with this issue of *New World*. Among

the various initiatives and ideas endorsed by Annual Conference was the Women's Institute's quest to reduce packaging in shops as a contribution towards combating climate change. See page 38 to find out more about this practical initiative.

“UNA-UK continues to make the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals a priority in its campaigning work”

The Procedure Committee has decided that next year's Annual Conference will take place at Exeter University; it has also decided that, because of the timing of Easter, this conference will be held earlier in the year (28 to 30 March 2008). See page 19 for the key deadlines in the run-up to Annual Conference 2008.

UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network continues to thrive and now boasts close to 1,500 members. It recently teamed up with UNHCR to co-host the UK's flagship event to mark World Refugee Day 2007. Bemba Donkoh, the head of UNHCR in the UK,

gave the keynote speech, which you can read on page 44.

The month of June saw very positive UN-related developments in both the government and Parliament. Prime Minister Gordon Brown appointed Sir Mark Malloch Brown as an FCO minister with particular responsibility for the UN and Africa. We were delighted that Sir Mark's first UN-related public appearance as a minister was to open the UNA-UK launch of *The Oxford Handbook on the UN* at the FCO on 5 July. On 9 July, he was named a peer, becoming Lord Malloch-Brown. He was inducted formally into the House of Lords by UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay. UNA-UK has also written to new Foreign Secretary David Miliband to congratulate him on his new appointment.

Also in June, Lord Soley secured agreement to establish a new House of Lords select committee dealing with international organisations other than the EU. UNA-UK intends to provide assistance to, and work closely with, this committee when it begins work in the autumn.

The UK's new ambassador to the UN in New York, Sir John Sawers, will be taking up his post in August – we will be working closely with his office, building upon our history of productive cooperation with the UK Mission to the UN. Sir John's predecessor, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, is returning to the UK and will serve as President of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has now been in office for six months. He has faced a steep learning curve in the management of politics and people in a multilateral and multicultural setting. We wish him, and his staff, every success as they seek to maintain and build upon the legacy of Kofi Annan at this crucial time for the organisation.



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The United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading independent policy authority on the United Nations, with close links to academia, government policy-makers, parliamentarians, and the media.

Founded in 1945, UNA-UK campaigns for a strong, credible and effective United Nations equipped to contribute to international peace and security, the upholding of human rights around the world, and the promotion of sustainable development.

UNA-UK is independent of the UN and receives no funding from it. When needed, we

can therefore be critical of the organisation's decisions and actions and advocate reforms to enhance its effectiveness. While maintaining this independence, UNA-UK enjoys a productive and close working relationship with the UN Secretariat and the organisation's many agencies, funds, and programmes.

UNA-UK has a network of members and supporters across the country. Our members are organised into local branches, which are run by volunteers and hold their own events and initiatives. We have a strong presence at universities through

UNYSA, our youth and student wing, and we work with teachers to promote education about the UN in schools. Our dynamic Young Professionals Network is rapidly expanding, and we engage with the private sector, trade unions and faith communities to galvanise action on UN issues.

Through our policy and educational work, and the campaigning activities of our members, we support an effective United Nations at the heart of an international system governed by the rule of law and multilateral cooperation.



UN: Miscellany

UK offers further support to the Special Court for Sierra Leone

The trial of Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia, began in June before the Special Court for Sierra Leone, sitting in The Hague. Taylor stands charged with 11 counts of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, allegedly committed during Sierra Leone's brutal civil war. The British government has agreed to the UN Secretary-General's request to allow Taylor to be imprisoned in the UK should he be convicted by the Court. Since 2002, the government has been one of the Court's strongest supporters, contributing £12 million to its work.

Darfur peacekeeping force finally agreed?

In June the Sudanese government indicated its support for a 20,000-strong hybrid UN-AU peacekeeping force to be deployed to Darfur. It also gave assurances of humanitarian access to the region. But Khartoum has made similar promises before, and reneged on them.

While efforts to establish the hybrid force are underway, the UN is attempting to put together a 'heavy support package' to help bolster the beleaguered AU mission in Darfur. UN peacekeeping officials have been meeting with potential troop contributors.

Oslo process gathers momentum as US tries to open new track

At a meeting in May in Lima, more than 70 countries committed themselves to establishing a treaty banning cluster munitions that "cause unacceptable harm to civilians". Delegates at the meeting – the second in the Oslo process, which was launched in February this year – agreed to impose obligations on states to provide assistance to victims, clear contaminated land, and destroy stockpiles. Following further meetings, the treaty will be opened for signature in Norway in 2008.

The US appears to have reversed its opposi-

tion to a treaty in indicating its willingness to support negotiations on regulating cluster munitions. However, it is pushing for these talks to take place not through the Oslo process but through the UN CCW (Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons), where decisions are taken by consensus and the US – as well as China and Russia – may water down any agreement made.

Peacebuilding Commission turns one

June marked the end of the first session of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), established after the 2005 World Summit to provide sustained assistance to countries recovering from war and help them make the transition to lasting peace. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised the PBC's efforts to foster peaceful development in Sierra Leone and Burundi, where the Commission undertook its pilot interventions.

Disability Rights Convention breaks records

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in December 2006, opened for signature on 30 March 2007. Eighty-two states (including the UK) signed up – the highest number of signatories to a UN convention achieved on opening day. The Disability Rights Convention is also the first human rights treaty to be open to regional organisations (the European Community has signed it).

The treaty aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by the 650 million people worldwide living with disabilities. It does not create any new rights, but obliges signatories to introduce measures that promote the human rights of persons with disabilities without discrimination and to consider disability issues when adopting new policies. An expert committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will monitor its implementation.

Blair confirmed as Quartet envoy

After stepping down as Prime Minister on 27 June, Tony Blair was named as the new envoy of the Quartet of Middle East peacemakers, comprised of the UN, the EU, the US and Russia. Mr Blair will focus on building Palestinian institutions, promoting the rule of law, mobilising international support for the peace process, and encouraging economic growth. The Quartet's mandate stopped short of giving Mr Blair an explicit role as a mediator between the Israelis and Palestinians, but his remit does include liaison with other countries, donors and agencies, such as UNRWA (the UN Relief and Works Agency).

G8 leaders move forward on UN climate change process

At the G8 summit in June, leaders of the world's richest nations agreed to commit to a UN-led process to combat climate change. The deal calls for "substantial cuts" in greenhouse gas emissions by 2009, enabling the US, China and India to join a 'son of Kyoto' agreement under UN auspices. The EU, Canada and Japan have agreed to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, in a deal welcomed by Yvo de Boer, the head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, as "a very positive outcome". The US government agreed to "seriously consider" following this lead, but made its support conditional on China and India signing up to a worldwide agreement.

UN veteran Mark Malloch Brown is appointed Minister for UN

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has named former UN Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown to a new post: FCO Minister for Africa, Asia and the United Nations. Malloch Brown, who on 9 July was appointed a life peer, will not have Cabinet rank but will attend Cabinet meetings when necessary. Before becoming Deputy Secretary-General in February 2006, he was Kofi Annan's *Chef de Cabinet* – prior to that, he was head of the UN Development Programme. He has also held positions at the World Bank and UNHCR.

As part of his Cabinet reshuffle, Brown named David Miliband, formerly Environment Secretary, as Foreign Secretary. Douglas Alexander has been made International Development Secretary, replacing Hilary Benn, who succeeds Mr Miliband as Secretary of State for the Environment.



07-07-07

THE MDG HALFWAY POINT

The seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh year: 7 July 2007, the memorable date being held up as the midpoint to the deadline for reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals.

This midpoint – this milestone – is a place to evaluate progress, to take stock of how much ground has been covered, and of how much farther there is to go. The next few pages will allow you to do just that: they feature a selection of graphs and text taken from the latest *Millennium Development Goals Report (2007)*, an annual publication drawing on data gathered by over 20 UN bodies.

Advocates of the Goals will recognise the chief message of these graphs: that great strides have been made towards fulfilling the global targets, but that this success masks the hard fact that sub-Saharan Africa is lagging behind.

There is another, all too familiar, message: politicians are not delivering on their promises. In 2005, the G8 made much of its pledge to double aid to Africa. But between 2005 and 2006 official development assistance actually dropped. It is expected, furthermore, to fall again in 2007.

This does not tell the whole story. Many developing country governments need to do much more to fight corruption and to provide leadership in implementing strategies to drive forward pro-poor economic growth. Yet they cannot do this alone: they need predictable resource flows – in the form of further debt relief, aid and more equitable trade – to allow them to make long-term plans for effective public investment.

The poor do not need more empty pledges. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon writes in his foreword to the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2007*, "The world wants no new promises."

The text and graphs in this article have been extracted and reproduced from the Millennium Development Goals Report 2007.



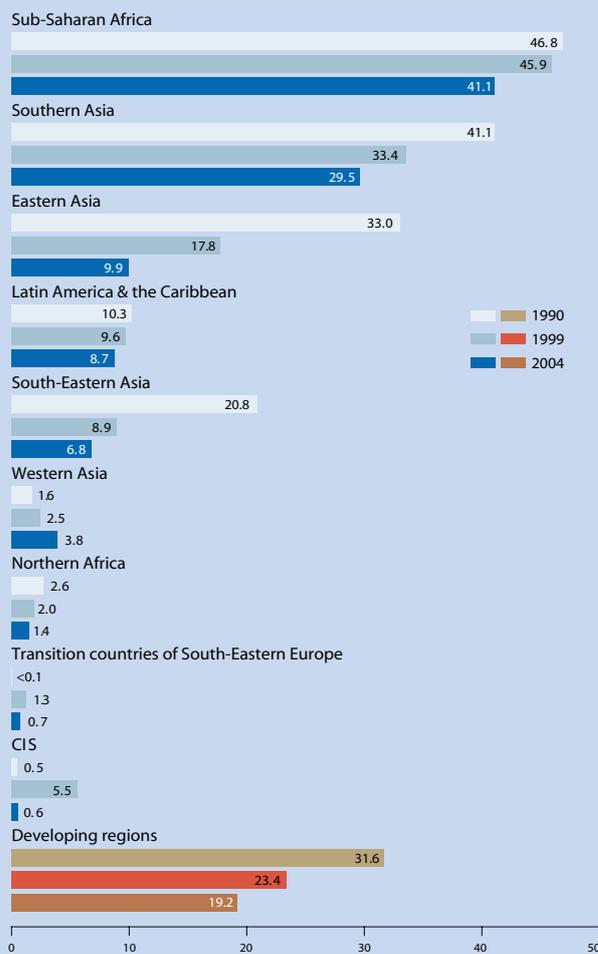
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1: Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

1. Proportion of population on less than \$1 (PPP) per day
2. Poverty gap ratio, \$1 per day
3. Share of poorest quintile in national income or consumption

Extreme poverty is beginning to fall in sub-Saharan Africa

Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day, 1990, 1999 and 2004 (Percentage)





The number of people in developing countries living on less than \$1 a day fell to 980 million in 2004 – down from 1.25 billion in 1990. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to 19 percent over this period. If progress continues, the MDG target will be met. But success is uneven since the decline in global poverty is mostly due to rapid economic growth in Asia. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from 46.8 percent in 1990 to 41.1 percent in 2004, with much of this progress having been achieved since 2000. The number of people living on less than \$1 a day is also beginning to level off, despite rapid population growth.

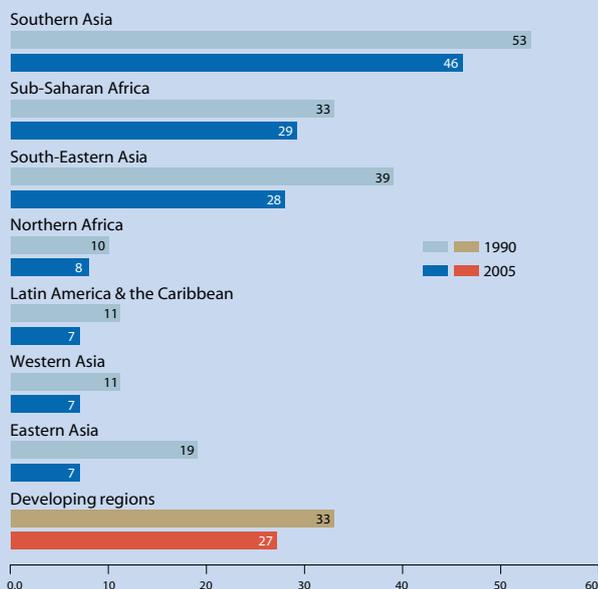
The per capita income of seven sub-Saharan countries grew by more than 3.5 percent a year between 2000 and 2005; another 23 had growth rates of more than two percent a year over this period, providing a degree of optimism for the future.

Target 2: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

- 4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age
- 5. Proportion of the population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

Child hunger is declining in all regions but on current trends target will be missed by 30 million children

Proportion of children under age five who are underweight, 1990 and 2005 (Percentage)



Globally, the proportion of children under five who are underweight declined by one fifth over the period 1990-2005. Eastern Asia showed the greatest improvement and is surpassing the MDG target, largely due to nutritional advances in China. Western Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean have also demonstrated significant progress. The greatest proportions of children going hungry continue to be found in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.



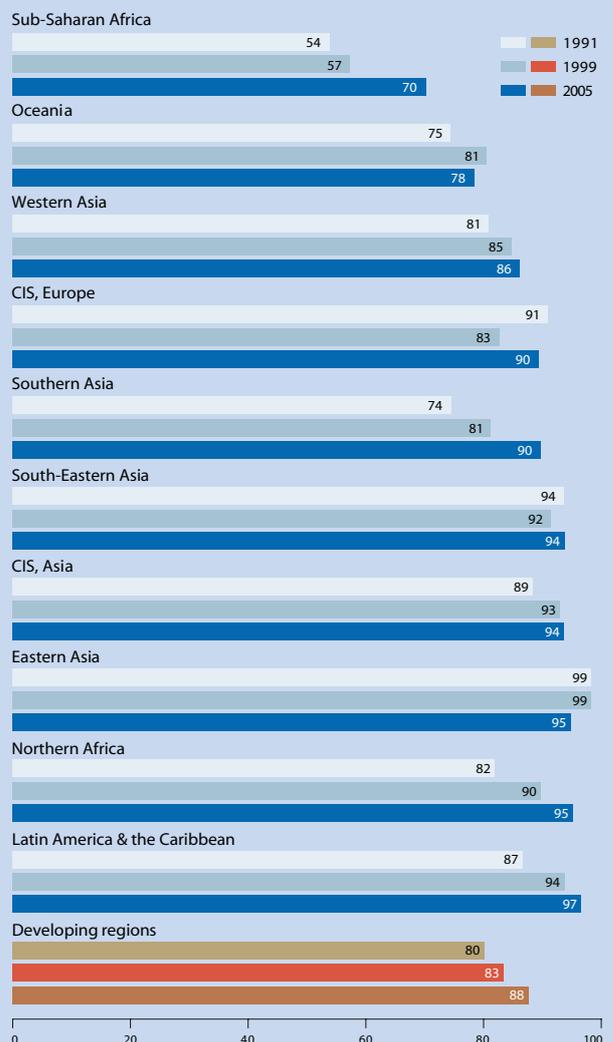
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 3: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

- 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education
- 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
- 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds

Strong push needed to enrol all children

Total net enrolment ratio in primary education,* 1990/1991, 1998/1999 and 2004/2005 (Percentage)



*Number of pupils of the theoretical school-age group for primary education, enrolled either in primary or secondary education, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

The net enrolment ratio in primary education in developing regions increased to 88 percent in the school year 2004/2005, up from 80 percent in 1990/1991. Although sub-Saharan Africa has made significant progress over the last few years, it still trails behind, with 30 percent of its children of primary school age out of school.



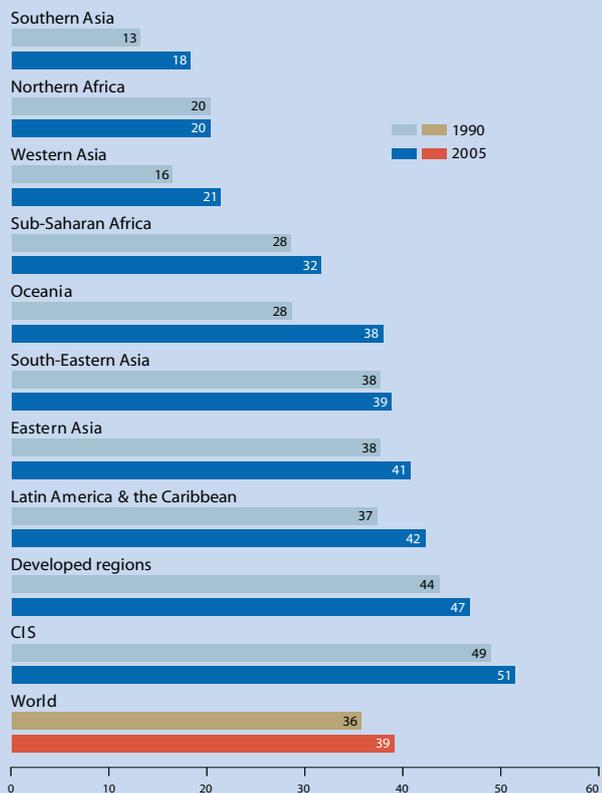
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

- 9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education
- 10. Ratio of literate women to men 15-24 years old
- 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
- 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments

Doors are opening slowly for women in the labour market

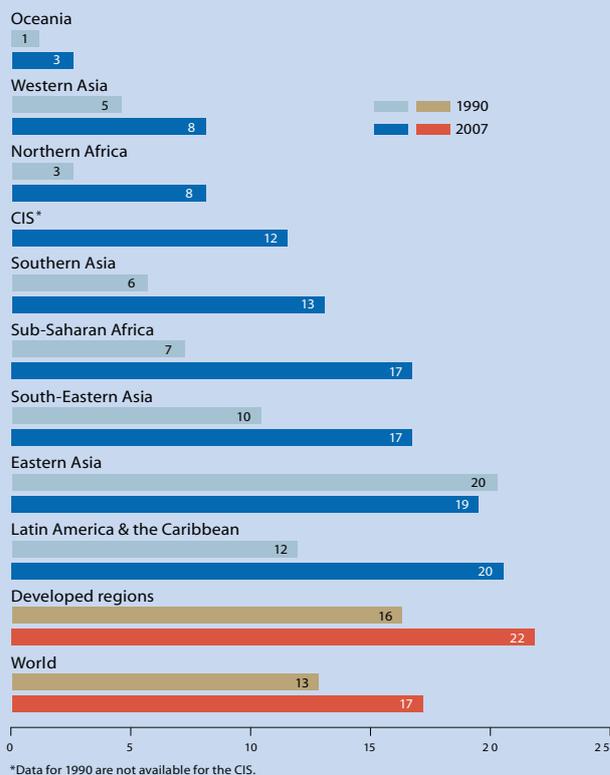
Employees in non-agricultural wage employment who are women, 1990 and 2005 (Percentage)



Women's participation in paid, non-agricultural employment has continued to increase slowly. The greatest gains are in some of the regions where women have the least presence in the labour market – in Southern Asia, Western Asia and Oceania. In Northern Africa, progress has been insignificant: only one in five paid employees is a woman, a situation that has remained unchanged for the last 15 years. In other regions, women are slowly gaining access to paid employment at a level on par with men, or, in the case of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), exceeding it.

Women gain ground politically, though men still wield control

Percentage of women in single or lower houses of parliament, 1990 and 2007



Globally, as of January 2007, women represented 17 percent of single and lower houses of parliament, up from 13 percent in 1990. However, women represented at least 30 percent of parliamentarians in only 19 countries. Rwanda is still leading the way, and is close to parity with 49 percent of parliamentary seats occupied by women, followed by Sweden and Costa Rica, where women's representation is 47 and 39 percent, respectively.

Encouraging signs, however, are coming from the Arab states. In 2006, for the first time, both women and men ran for election in Kuwait, where women obtained two parliamentary seats, and in the United Arab Emirates, where they won 23 percent of seats.

Worldwide, women's entry into political leadership positions is also widening. As of March 2007, 35 women were presiding officers in parliament. In contrast, there is no clear positive trend in the number of women in the highest positions of state or government. Thirteen women were heads of state or government in 2006, compared to nine in 2000 and 12 in 1995.



Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

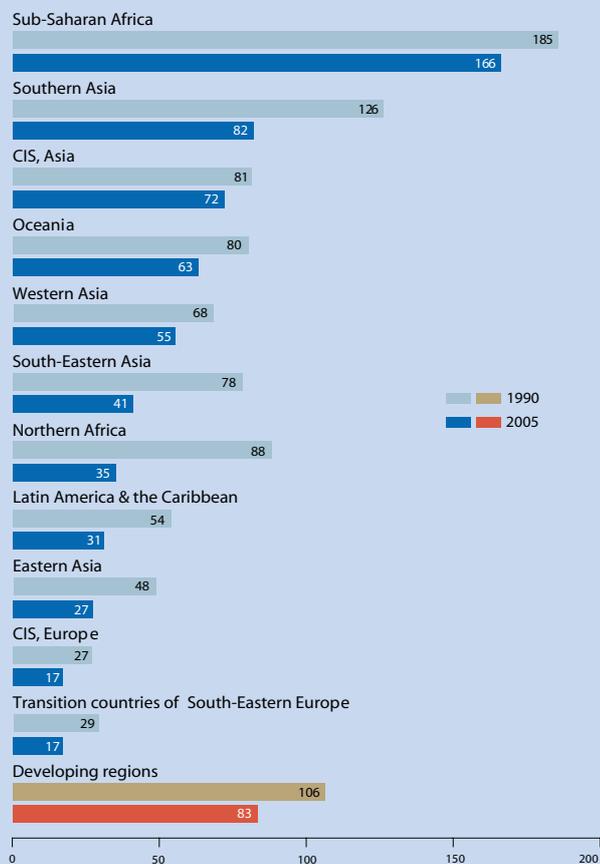
Target 5: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

- 13. Under-five mortality rate
- 14. Infant mortality rate
- 15. Proportion of one-year-old children immunised against measles



Child survival rates show slow improvement, and are worst in sub-Saharan Africa

Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 1990 and 2005



Estimates for 2005 indicate that 10.1 million children died before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes.

Though infant and child mortality rates have declined globally, the pace of progress has been uneven across regions and countries. Accelerated improvements are needed most urgently in sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, CIS countries in Asia and in Oceania.



Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 6: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

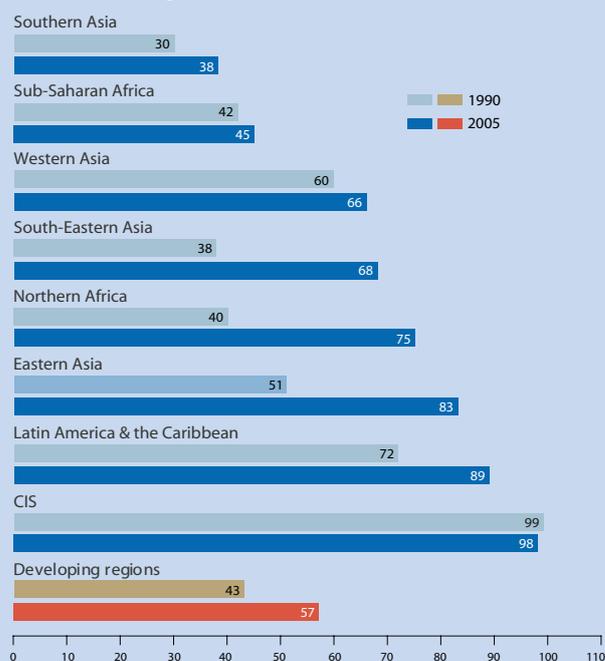
- 16. Maternal mortality ratio
- 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Half a million women continue to die each year during pregnancy or childbirth, almost all of them in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The vast majority of maternal deaths and disabilities could be prevented through appropriate reproductive

health services before, during and after pregnancy. Attendance at delivery by skilled health personnel is essential. The regions with the lowest proportions of skilled health attendants at birth are Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which also have the highest numbers of maternal deaths.

Health-care interventions need to be made more widely available

Proportion of deliveries attended by skilled health care personnel, 1990 and 2005 (Percentage)



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

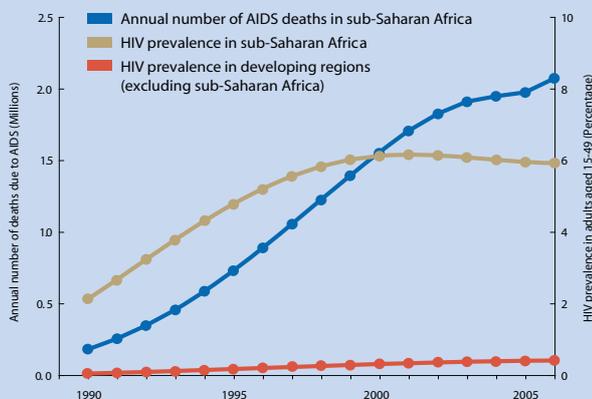
- 18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year-old pregnant women
- 19. Condom use rate; and population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- 20. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

By the end of 2006, an estimated 39.5 million people worldwide were living with HIV (up from 32.9 million in 2001), mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. Globally, 4.3 million people were newly infected with the virus in 2006, with Eastern Asia and the CIS showing the fastest rates of infection. The number of people dying from AIDS has also increased – from 2.2 million in 2001 to 2.9 million in 2006.



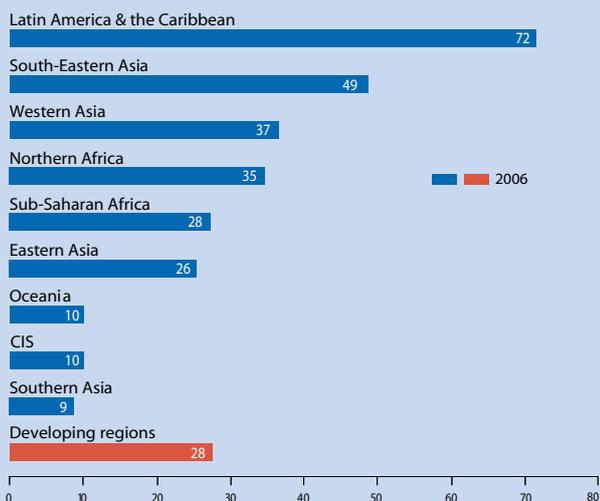
HIV prevalence has levelled off in the developing world, but deaths from AIDS continue to rise in sub-Saharan Africa

HIV prevalence in adults aged 15-49 in sub-Saharan Africa and all developing regions (Percentage) and number of AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa (Millions), 1990-2006



Though access to AIDS treatment has expanded, the need continues to grow

Population living with HIV in need of treatment who are receiving antiretroviral therapy, 2006 (Percentage)



The use of non-sterile injecting drug equipment remains the main mode of HIV transmission in CIS countries. Recently, injecting drug use has emerged as a new factor for HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in Mauritius, but also in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Southern and South-Eastern Asia, people are most often infected through unprotected sex with sex workers. Over the past two years, HIV outbreaks among men who have sex with men have also become evident in Asia – in Cambodia, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam. Power imbalances between men and women continue to drive the "feminisation" of the HIV epidemic. In 2006, women comprised 48 percent of people around the world living with HIV. As of December 2006, an estimated two million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in developing regions. This represents 28 percent of the estimated 7.1 million people in need. Though sub-Saharan Africa is home to most people living with HIV (63 percent), only about one in four of the estimated 4.8 million people there who need ART are receiving it.

In hardest hit areas, more than half of those living with HIV are women

Share of adults aged 15 years and older living with HIV, who are women, 1990, 2002 and 2006 (Percentage)



Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

- 21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria
- 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures
- 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
- 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly-observed treatment short courses

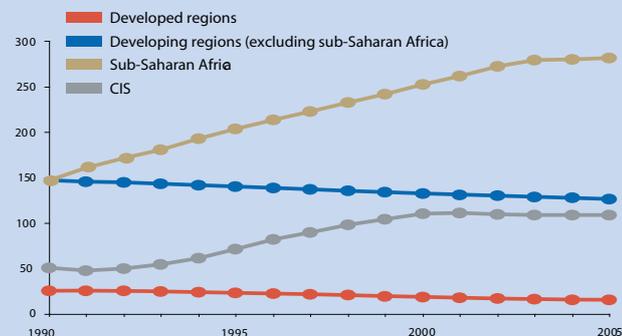
The incidence of tuberculosis – measured by the number of new cases per 100,000 people – has stabilised or begun to fall in most regions, following earlier downturns in prevalence and mortality. However, the total number of new cases was still rising slowly in 2005 due to population growth. An estimated 8.8 million new tuberculosis cases were reported in 2005, 7.3 million of which were in sub-Saharan Africa and the four



Asian regions. A total of 1.6 million people died of tuberculosis in 2005, including 195,000 people infected with HIV.

The incidence of tuberculosis is levelling off globally, but the number of new cases is still rising

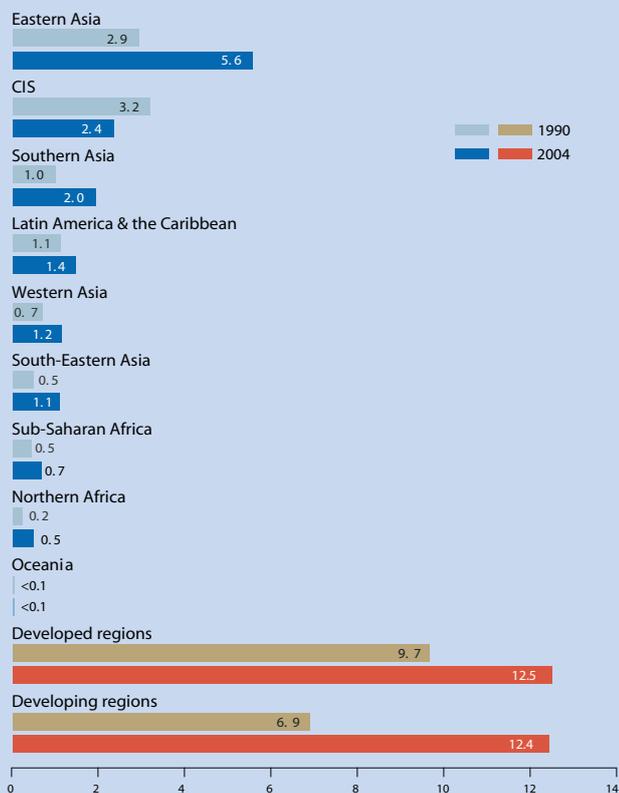
Number of new tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population (excluding people who are HIV-positive), 1990-2005



Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

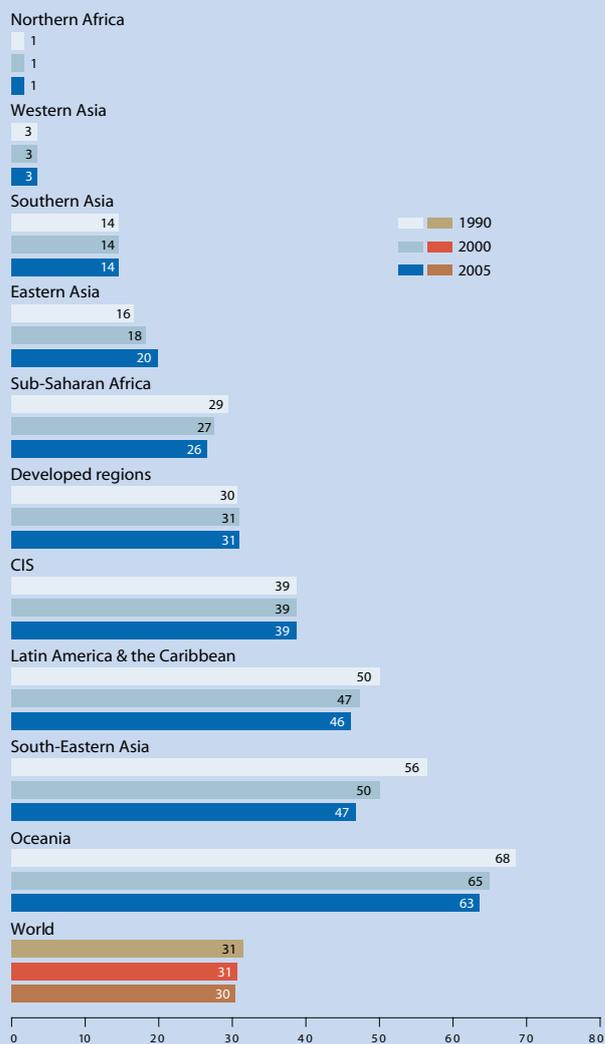
Growing greenhouse gas emissions continue to outpace advances in sustainable energy technologies

Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 1990-2004 (Billions of metric tons)



Deforestation continues, especially in biologically diverse regions

Proportion of land area covered by forests, 1990, 2000 and 2005 (Percentage)



Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

- 25. Forested land as percentage of land area
- 26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area
- 27. Energy supply (apparent consumption; kg oil equivalent) per \$1,000 (PPP) GDP
- 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)

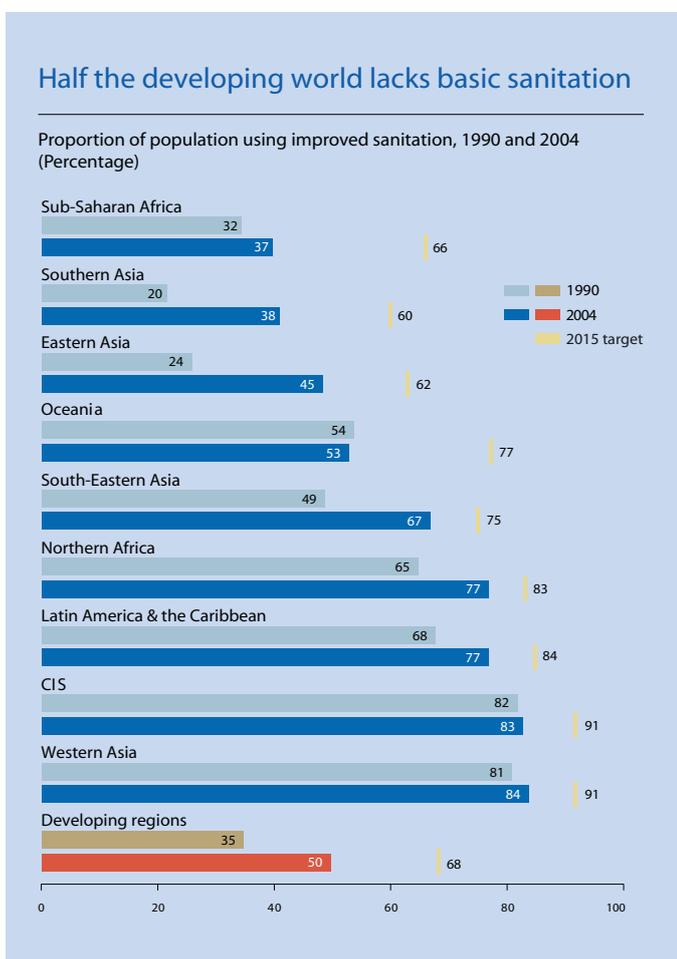
From 1990 to 2005, the world lost three percent of its forests, an average decrease of 0.2 percent a year. Deforestation continues at an alarming rate – about 13 million hectares a year. The rate of loss has been fastest in some of the world's most biologically diverse regions, including South-Eastern Asia, Oceania, Latin America, and sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to the loss of biodiversity, between 18 and 25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions each year are associated with deforestation, making it a key factor in climate change.



Carbon dioxide emissions reached 29 billion metric tons in 2004 and continue to rise, as evidenced by increasing concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere. In South-Eastern Asia and Northern Africa, emissions more than doubled between 1990 and 2004. Yet, on a per capita basis, developing regions continue to emit far less CO₂ than developed regions. In 2004, developed regions accounted for about 12 tons per person on average. Western Asia, the highest per capita emitter among developing regions, produced less than half that amount. An individual in sub-Saharan Africa accounts for less than one tenth of the CO₂ produced by an average person in the developed world.

Target 10: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

- 30. Proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source
- 31. Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation

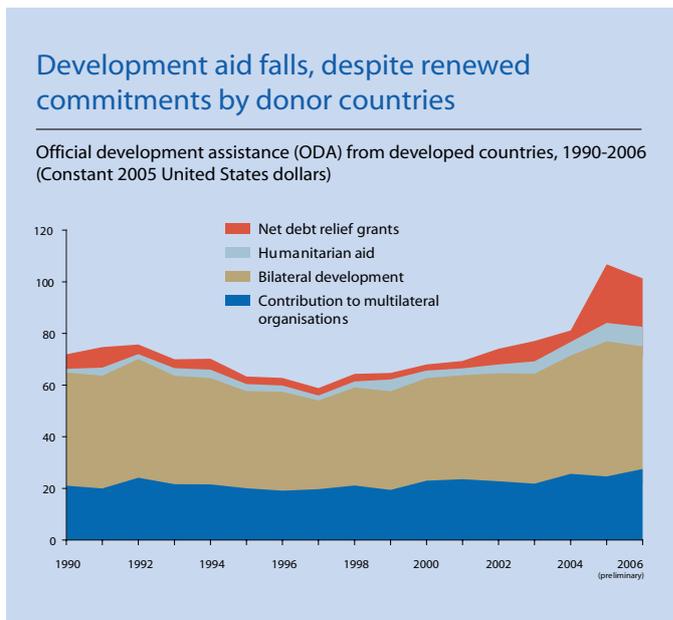


An estimated 1.6 billion people will need access to improved sanitation over the period 2005-2015 to meet the MDG target. Yet if trends since 1990 continue, the world is likely to miss the target by almost 600 million people.

Only Eastern, South-Eastern and Western Asia, Northern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean are on track to halve the proportion of people without basic sanitation by 2015. All other developing regions have made insufficient progress towards this target. In sub-Saharan Africa, the absolute number of people without access to sanitation actually increased – from 335 million in 1990 to 440 million people by the end of 2004.

Target 11: Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

- 32. Slum population as percentage of urban population (secure tenure index)



In 2005, aid rose to a record \$106.8 billion due to large debt relief operations, most notably for Iraq and Nigeria. In 2006, substantial debt relief to these two countries began to drop out of the equation, causing net aid disbursements to fall to \$103.9 billion – equivalent to 0.3 percent of developed countries' combined national income. In real terms, official aid dropped by 5.1 percent, the first decline since 1997. Even excluding debt relief, aid still declined by 1.8 percent from the year before.

Aid is expected to continue to fall slightly in 2007 as debt relief declines further. Other forms of aid will increase if donors fulfil their recent pledges. However, the present rate of increase in core development programmes will have to triple over the next four years if donors are to deliver on their promises.

Aid to the least developed countries (LDCs) has essentially stalled since 2003. Aid to sub-Saharan Africa, excluding debt relief for Nigeria, increased by only two percent between 2005 and 2006.

Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally

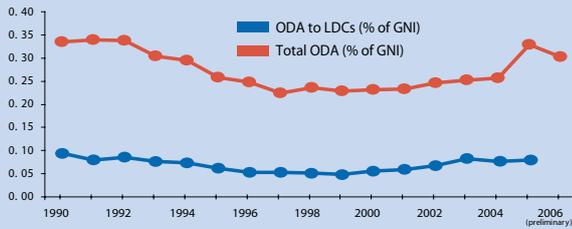
Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff- and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme



of debt relief for HIPC countries and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction

Donors pledge to double their aid to Africa, but there is little to show so far

Official development assistance from developed countries as a proportion of donors' gross national income, 1990-2006 (Percentage)



Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states

Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Official development assistance

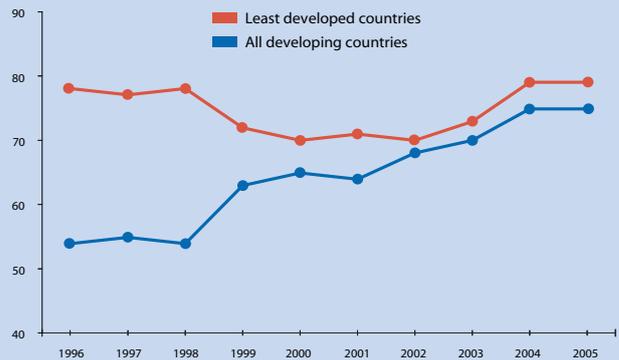
- 32.** Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7 percent in total and 0.15 percent for LDCs)
- 33.** Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- 34.** Proportion of ODA that is untied
- 35.** Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing states
- 36.** Proportion of ODA for transport sector in landlocked countries

Market access

- 37.** Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas
- 38.** Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing
- 39.** Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries
- 40.** Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Preferential market access has stalled for most developing countries

Proportion of imports from developing countries (excluding arms and oil) admitted to developed countries duty-free, 1996-2005 (Percentage)

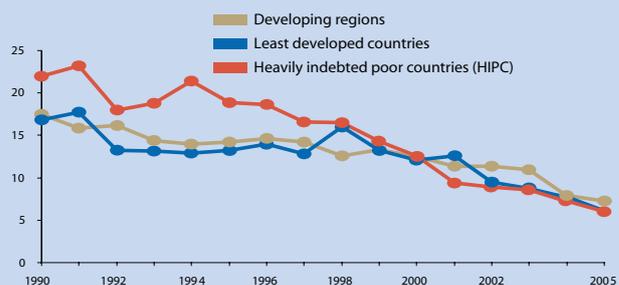


Debt sustainability

- 41.** Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled
- 42.** Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their completion points
- 43.** Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
- 44.** Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative
- 45.** Unemployment of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total
- 46.** Proportion of population with access to affordable, essential drugs on a sustainable basis
- 47.** Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population
- 48.** Personal computers in use and internet users per 100 population

The debt service burden of developing countries continues to lighten

External debt service payments as proportion of export revenues, 1990-2005 (Percentage)





“A year of ugly setbacks and glimmers of hope”

2007 review of UN peace operations

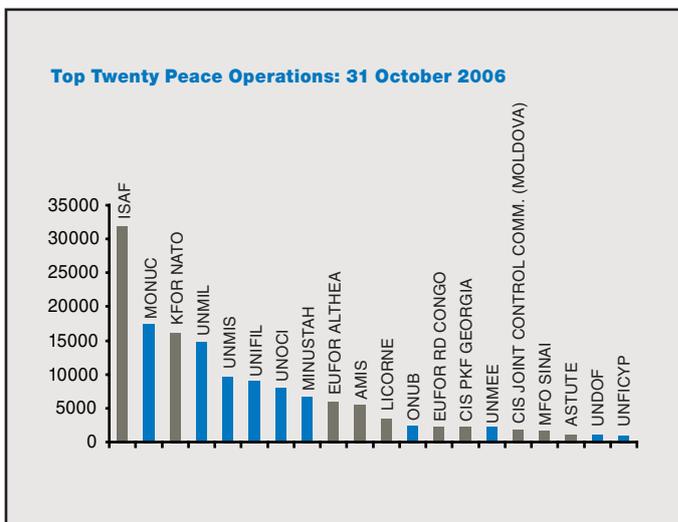
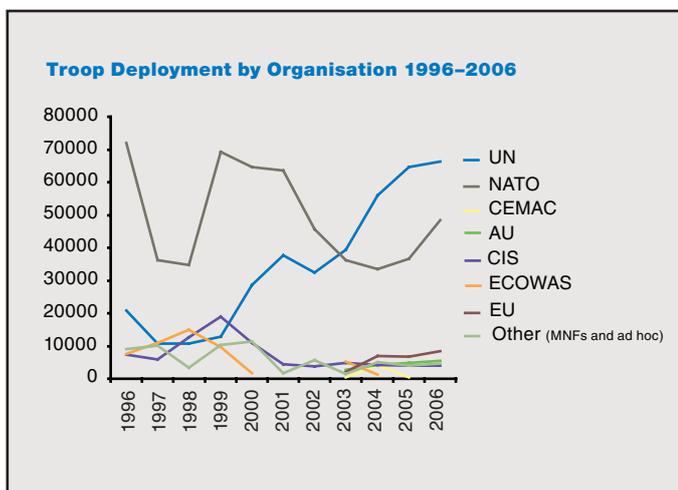
Tim Kellow is UNA-UK's John Bright Peace & Security Programme Officer. In this article, Tim draws on some of the salient conclusions of a major new report on peacekeeping.



The *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations*, produced by the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, is a series of reports which contain data and analysis on current UN and non-UN peace operations, highlighting key trends in deployments, including with respect to size, origin and destination.

The *Annual Review* was first produced in 2006. Since then it has become recognised as the leading reference tool in the field, an authoritative appraisal of what peace operations can and cannot achieve. This year's instalment improves upon the inaugural volume, drawing upon more diverse sources of data. This has produced a more thorough picture of both UN peace operations underway in 2006 and operations led by the European Union, the African Union and NATO.

The UN features prominently in the authors' assessment for 2006 – which they designate "the most testing year for peace operations since the 1990s". Several major trends are identified which hold valuable lessons for the future establishment and deployment of UN peace operations; three are summarized below:

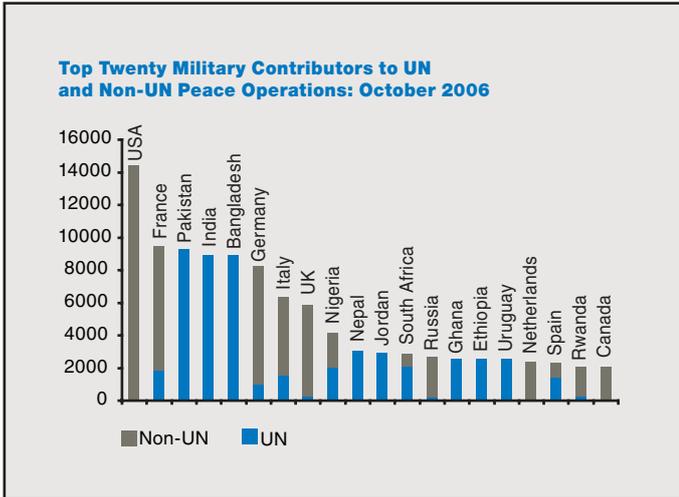


Some Key Trends

1. More UN peacekeepers were deployed than ever before.

By the end of 2006, UN uniformed personnel in the field numbered 80,368, up by 10,000 from the year before. This spike put deployments at a new record high, surpassing the previous peak of 77,000 reached during the Bosnian war. One reason for the escalation was that, as the UN fulfilled existing troop mandates in Africa, it also took on new demands: for example, the crisis in Lebanon and the re-emergence of instability in Timor-Leste.

It was not just UN troop levels which grew in 2006: the number deployed by regional organisations also swelled – by 28 percent, from 52,700 to 68,000, following six years of net decline. Though part of this jump can be traced to EU and AU support for UN operations, the bulk of the increase stems from the transfer of 12,000 US troops already in Afghanistan to NATO command.



2. New troop contributors to UN peace operations emerged.

At the end of 2006, Central and South Asia still topped the league of troop suppliers, with 43 percent of UN military personnel coming

from four countries: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal. Africa remained the second largest regional contributor, providing 26 percent.

Contrasting with this continuity were two surprises. First, in equipping UNIFIL with troop reinforcements following the Lebanese conflict in 2006, Europe made its first substantial contribution to the UN since Bosnia. Second, East Asia and the Pacific doubled their 2006 contributions (though this represents only a tenth of the Central and South Asian offering).

This rise in troop contributions from new regions was accompanied by an emerging pattern in the composition of forces in the Middle East and Africa.

Europe contributed 79.9 percent of UN troops in the Middle East, but just 2.8 percent to operations in Africa. In Africa, where demand for UN peacekeeping is highest, the overwhelming bulk of military personnel (85.1 percent) came from Central and South Asia, and Africa itself.

On 26 June, UNA-UK co-hosted the UK launch of the Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2007, in partnership with the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) and the Canadian High Commission.

Here is the line-up of expert speakers:



Gordon Morrison, Counsellor at the Canadian High Commission: *Canada continues to provide high value support to UN peacekeeping through capacity-building, training, planning and logistics as well as strategic contributions of personnel.*



Hugh Robertson MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations: *In an ever more dangerous world, the increased scope and number of UN deployments are testimony to the UN's role at the centre of world affairs. That role has never been more vital.*



Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair of UNA-UK: *UN peacekeeping is not about to be supplanted by coalitions of the willing or by 'hard power' practitioners like NATO. The experiences of Iraq and Afghanistan make it unlikely that these two models will be widely used in the future, although they*

cannot be entirely written out of the script. In fact both these cases show that hard power advocates may have more to learn from UN peacekeeping than vice versa.



Dr Bruce Jones, Series Editor and Co-Director of the Center on International Cooperation: *Peacekeeping is overstretched, and faces important challenges – of consent, of complexity, and of resource constraints. But an emergent global system of interlocking peace operations has proven surprisingly resilient – flexible, adaptable and even at times fast – in the face of unexpected crises. The UN and NATO form the bulwark of this system, with the EU and AU playing critical supporting roles: more fluid interactions among these four entities is the key to sustaining peacekeeping's 'good run'.*



St. John Gould, Deputy Head of the Conflict Issues Group at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office: *Greater multilateral cooperation in peacekeeping is essential. This means better operational cooperation – e.g. between the UN and the AU, EU and NATO – and, for a key regional organisation like the AU, the ability to draw on adequate capacity and stable funding. That is why the UK government is proposing, with partners, a mechanism at the UN to fund AU operations out of UN assessed costs.*

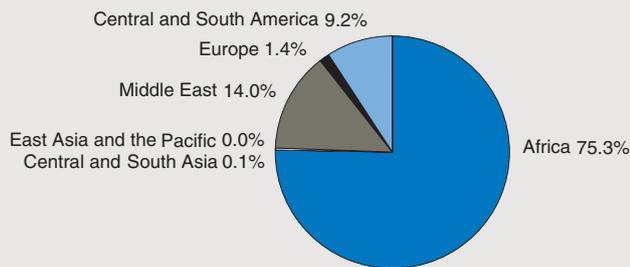


Stephen J. Stedman, Professor of Political Science at Stanford University and Research Director for the UN High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

All photos © UNA-UK/Marcus Dawes

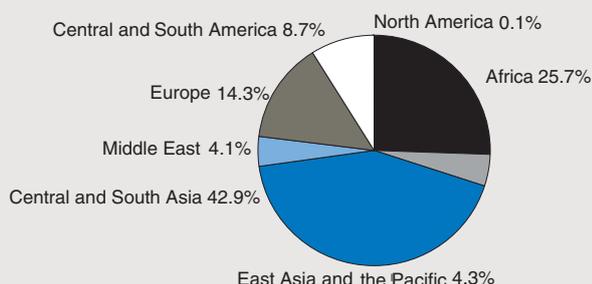


**Deployment of UN Military Personnel by Region
31 October 2006**



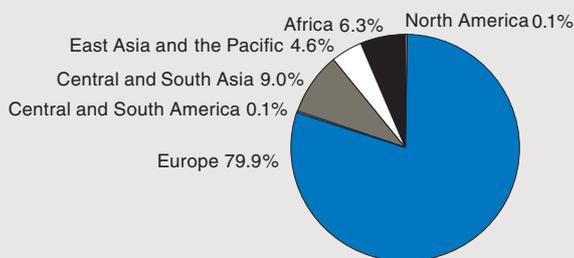
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

**Origin of UN Military Personnel by Region
31 October 2006**



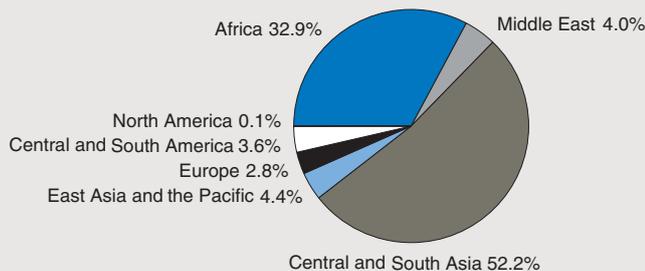
WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

**Origin of UN Military Personnel in the Middle East by Region
31 October 2006**



WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? (MIDDLE EAST)

**Origin of UN Military Personnel in the Africa by Region
31 October 2006**



WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? (AFRICA)

3. UN peace operations were characterised by an increase in adaptability.

Despite facing a real threat of overstretch, the UN was able – by being flexible – to respond effectively to concurrent crises. It shifted forces between operations according to need: from Liberia to Côte D'Ivoire, and from Burundi to the DRC; and it treated the European UNIFIL force as a 'privileged' mission, allowing it to make its own arrangements for getting troops on the ground in Lebanon. The UN also developed new command and control structures, and increasingly relied on 'hybrid' arrangements, joining forces with other organisations to match up strengths.

Remaining Challenges

These trends suggest that the UN can, given the political will and material resources, respond effectively to crises. In Lord Hannay's words, the 2007 *Review* "lay[s] to rest many myths about the UN and its supposed lack of relevance to our times". That said, the *Review* identifies some formidable challenges, both for the UN and for its partners.

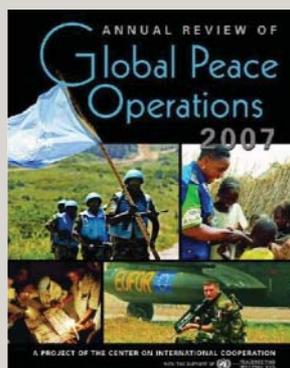
As peace operations expanded in 2006 so did resistance to them; and the scope for overcoming this resistance was constrained by disagreements among troop contributors over the use of force. Another major challenge highlighted is that of peace consolidation, of converting stability into enduring peace.

But by far the gravest challenge for the UN is Darfur. The 2007 *Review* concludes with this commentary on that conflict:

"In spite of the huge amount of attention paid to the crisis by the UN Security Council and Secretariat – and sufficient pledges of personnel – 2006 saw painfully slow progress from the African Union to the UN. The political obstacles are well known. But it remains tragic that, in a year in which the international community did unexpectedly well in getting peacekeepers to where they were needed, the UN still lacks a substantial presence where it is needed most of all."

Read it yourself!

You can buy the *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2007* at www.rienner.com, or download an electronic copy of the summary briefing paper at www.cic.nyu.edu/internationalsecurity/globalpeace.html



The *Annual Review* is produced with the support of the Best Practices Section of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Peace Academy.

All graphs have been reproduced with the permission of the Centre for International Cooperation.



UNA-UK steps up engagement with MPs and Peers

"I gather that you wish to be a Member of Parliament. The first lesson that you must learn is, when I call for statistics about the rate of infant mortality, what I want is proof that fewer babies died when I was Prime Minister than when anyone else was Prime Minister. That is a political statistic."

This pithy tutorial from Winston Churchill to an aspiring politician reminds us that Members of Parliament have long been subject to pressures to conform to short-term political exigencies. But for the efforts of international organisations such as the UN to bear fruit, long-term commitment from member states is needed – support which is neither contingent on party affiliation nor subject to electoral timetables. UNA-UK seeks to enhance understanding among parliamentarians of the scope as well as the limitations of multilateral approaches to diplomacy and power, so that MPs are better equipped to scrutinise foreign policy options and hold the executive to account when choices between multilateral and unilateral paths are under consideration.

In May, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay gave evidence on the UN Human Rights Council to the Conservative Party's Human Rights Commission, and briefed the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Terrorism about the UN's role in efforts to counter

this threat. UNA-UK has also continued its work with the Conservative Party's foreign affairs team, with Executive Director Sam Daws providing advice to one of its shadow ministers on UN reform.

UNA-UK recently submitted written evidence to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee about the UN's contribution to the Quartet's attempts to broker peace in the Middle East. And Lord Hannay continues to act as a lucid and effective advocate of the UN in the House of Lords.

Our most visible activities in Parliament are conducted through the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations (UN APPG), for which UNA-UK acts as the secretariat. The group regularly holds events bringing together MPs and peers with academic experts, NGO representatives and diplomats to debate aspects of the UN. Most recently the UN APPG co-hosted the launch of the *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations 2007* (see page 14). This event followed a talk held in Parliament the previous month about the Security Council's failure to resolve the crisis in Darfur (see article adjacent).

The United Nations Security Council: **From Rwanda to Darfur, Lessons Not Learned**

On 16 May, the UN APPG hosted a talk in the Grand Committee Room of the House of Commons entitled 'The United Nations Security Council: From Rwanda to Darfur, Lessons Not Learned'. The speaker, Colin Keating, was New Zealand's ambassador to the UN in New York between 1993 and 1996. He served on the Security Council in 1993 and 1994, and was Council President during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

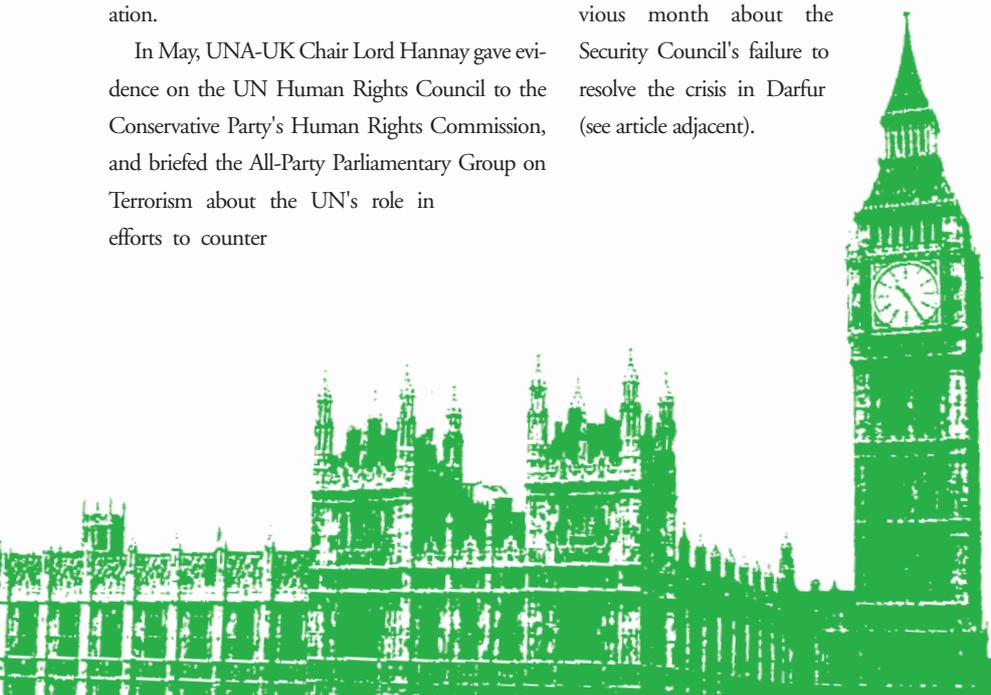
In 2005, Ambassador Keating became the founding Executive Director of Security Council Report, an independent non-profit organisation based in New York which produces reports and analysis about the work of the Council. A key aim of the organisation is to improve the Council's performance by acting as an objective, accurate and timely information resource for the body's ten elected, non-permanent members – which lack the institutional memory of their permanent counterparts.

Ambassador Keating's presentation shed light on the key obstacles to an effective international solution to the crisis in Darfur, and was followed by a stimulating question-and-answer session, in which parliamentarians, a former UN Under-Secretary-General and the Sudanese ambassador to London took part. UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay chaired the meeting.

An audio recording of Colin Keating's talk is available online at www.una.org.uk

UNA-UK recommends that you visit www.securitycouncilreport.org and sign up to Security Council Report's e-forecasts of the Council's activities.

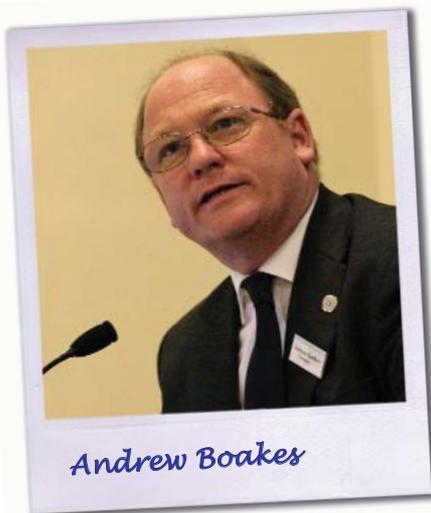
To read about Parliament's role in foreign policy-making, see pages 20-21 for 'Waging War and Democratic Accountability', written by Elizabeth Wilmshurst, head of the international law programme at Chatham House and former Deputy Legal Adviser at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.





Annual Conference **2007**

Towards a Strong, Credible and Effective United Nations



Andrew Boakes

ing discussion about the role of the UN in the international system. It also provided an opportunity for UNA-UK branches, regions and nations to network with members of both UNYSA – which held a parallel conference at the university – and the Young Professionals Network, which sent several representatives.

The plenary sessions and policy commissions, in which delegates debated and voted on policy proposals submitted prior to Annual Conference, covered the following six areas:

1. Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development
2. Human rights and humanitarian action
3. Gender and the UN
4. Peace and security
5. Middle East
6. UN reform and the promotion of multilateralism

The outcome of these debates was a comprehensive policy document titled 'Towards a strong, credible and effective United Nations', covering UNA-UK's main policy and advocacy areas (see below).

No Annual Conference would be complete without healthy differences of opinion. However, on one issue delegates were decidedly united: the need to acknowledge the legacy of achievement of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who

was succeeded by Ban Ki-moon in January of this year. Mandated by Annual Conference, Lord Hannay wrote to Kofi Annan, thanking him on behalf of the Association for his "lifetime of commitment to the UN" and his "eloquence", "compassion" and "personal integrity" (see opposite).

The highlight of the weekend for many was undoubtedly the excellent keynote speech by Dame Margaret Anstee. Dame Margaret served the UN for over four decades, rising to the rank of Under-Secretary-General – she was also the first woman to head a UN peacekeeping mission. These pioneering achievements occurred against adversity, and Dame Margaret's story, told at Annual Conference with great humour, was an inspiration to all.

An audio recording of this speech is posted on UNA-UK's website. If you missed Annual Conference, we urge you to listen to it! Or read about Dame Margaret's experiences in more detail in her book *Never Learn to Type*. For details of how to order this publication contact Natalie Samarasinghe on 020 7766 3457 or samarasinghe@una.org.uk

Branch officers may wish to borrow for branch use a copy of 'Wake up World', the UNICEF documentary featuring Vanessa Redgrave which was screened at Annual Conference. Contact Mark Rusling on 020 7766 3459.



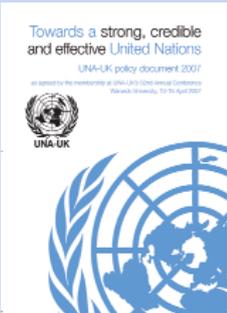
Dame Margaret Anstee

UNA-UK's 62nd Annual Conference was held at Warwick University from 13 to 15 April. The weekend was marked by stimulat-



Thelma de Leeuw

All photos © UNA-UK/Benedict Parsons



Towards a Strong, Credible and Effective United Nations
UNA-UK policy document 2007

UNA-UK policy document 2007

The 2007 Annual Conference policy document has been printed as an A5 booklet – if you are a member, this will have been included in your copy of this issue of *New World*. If you are not a member but would like a copy, please visit www.una.org.uk or call Mark Rusling on 020 7766 3459.



*Letter from
UNA-UK Chair
Lord Hannay
to former UN
Secretary-General
Kofi Annan*



UNA-UK
UN Association of the UK
3 Whitehall Court
London SW1A 2EL

17 April 2007

Dear Kofi,

The Annual Conference of the UN Association of the United Kingdom (UNA-UK) met last weekend at Warwick University in Coventry. The Conference unanimously asked me to write to express our heartfelt thanks to you for your lifetime of commitment to, and achievement at, the UN. No Secretary-General bore a heavier burden. Thanks to you the voice of the UN, expressed with eloquence and compassion, was heard in every corner of the world. Through good times and bad you kept faith with the organisation, and your personal integrity was an enormous asset and inspiration to all. Your major campaign for reform towards the end of your mandate pointed the way ahead with skill and precision; we only regret that it was not as fully acted on by the member states as it should have been.

We hope that one day you may be willing to appear again on a UNA-UK platform, which will enable us to thank you in person for all you did for the UN all these years. Meanwhile, we trust that you and Nane will benefit from some tranquillity after those ten hectic years in the spotlight.

Yours ever,

David Hannay
Chair, UNA-UK

The United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a company limited by guarantee (registered no. 2885557).



Karl Miller



Lord Hannay

Key dates leading up to Annual Conference 2008

We are delighted to announce that UNA-UK Annual Conference 2008 will be held at Exeter University on 28-30 March. Here are some important dates leading up to this:

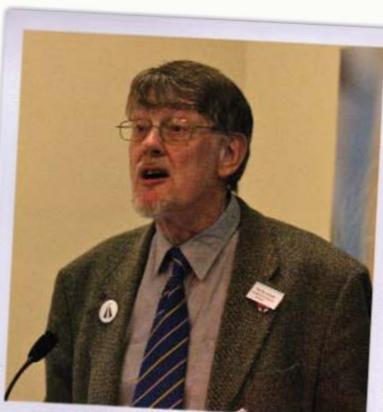
1 Dec 07: Deadline for submission of policy issues and domestic motions

1 Dec 07: Deadline for nominations of candidates for election to the UNA-UK Board of Directors and the UNA Trust

25 Jan 08: Preliminary agenda to be sent out

18 Feb 08: Deadline for submission of comments/amendments

14 Mar 08: Final agenda to be sent out



Neville Grant



Janet Blackman

Waging War and Democracy

Elizabeth Wilmshurst is head of the international law programme at Chatham House and was formerly Deputy Legal Adviser at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. She is a member of UNA-UK's expert Advisory Panel.

'The time has come for Parliament's role to be made more explicit in approving, or otherwise, decisions of the Government relating to the major, or substantial, deployment of British forces overseas into actual, or potential, armed conflict.'

With these words, the Commons on 15 May 2007 indicated that it ought no longer to be legal and constitutionally possible – except in emergencies – for the Prime Minister to commit British troops into conflict abroad without parliamentary approval. The government's support for this position represents a major shift (see box).

While there are other countries which have the same position as the UK currently does, different approaches can be found – for example in Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and the US. Each

of these countries has its own system of control by the legislature over the executive, although not all of them are regarded as very effective.

The present powers of the UK government were examined last year by the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution. In its July 2006 report, *Waging War: Parliament's Role and Responsibility*, the Committee concluded that the government should indeed seek parliamentary approval before deploying British forces outside the United Kingdom into actual or potential armed conflict. This change, in the Committee's view, should not be effected by new legislation but by 'parliamentary convention' – a flexible rule which usually evolves over time, but which the Committee envisaged as emerging fully grown.

The government rejected this recommendation, even in the relatively weak terms in which it was cast. The government emphasised that it was not conceivable that the country would go to war without parliamentary approval, except in cases

of emergency, but it did not consider that there should be any formal requirement for such approval. The change in the government's position followed Tony Blair's resignation speech and was heralded by Gordon Brown in the launch of his leadership campaign.

It is the 2003 Iraq conflict that has provided the incentive for change. A vote was indeed sought before the conflict began. But that was at the very last minute, when substantial troop deployment had already taken place, and when the pressure to support military action was very powerful in view of the enormous diplomatic and other repercussions which would have resulted if parliamentary approval was not secured.

Six private members' bills have since been introduced to require parliamentary approval before deployment of troops into conflict; none has been adopted.

The reasons why this reform is needed were explained in evidence to the Lords constitution select committee and by speakers in debates in both Houses. Democratic legitimacy depends upon parliamentary approval. It is not right that we should have to rely on the will of government to decide to seek such approval.

There would be other advantages. We need decision-making on the use of military force to be a better process in practice. The change would impose a discipline on the government to clarify its objectives for military intervention, and this in itself could help with the effectiveness of the operation. It could also benefit the morale of the forces. Further, there would be more pressure on the government to explain fully the facts and any surrounding circumstances, and that would allow Parliament to take a decision with a better understanding. Finally, but by no means least important, a requirement to



Photo © iStockPhoto



mocratic Accountability

secure parliamentary approval may also encourage more openness about the basis in international law on which the government is proposing to enter into a military engagement.

Arguments which have been put forward against giving a formal role to Parliament have included concerns that prior parliamentary agreement would undermine the flexibility and speed of military responses. This is not a knock-down argument but it supports the need for making suitable provision for emergency situations where secrecy and surprise are essential. Retrospective approval can be sought in an emergency. Tactical and operational decisions would not be taken by Parliament.

There have been concerns about defining the trigger for the government to seek approval: it is notoriously difficult to determine what a 'conflict' is. It may be possible to avoid the word in the new

arrangements – what is important is to seek approval for deployment into military action or operations.

It will be necessary to avoid confusion about the legal consequences of Parliament's approval or lack of approval. The new arrangements will not obviate the need to ensure a proper basis in international law for participation in military operations; the giving of parliamentary approval will not mean that the operation is by that fact lawful under international law. Nor would it absolve government or the troops from complying with international law in the conduct of the hostilities. Further, the arrangements should make it clear that individual troops are not themselves responsible for illegality if they participate in operations without parliamentary approval.

The government will now set consultations in hand and will come forward with detailed propos-

als for Parliament to consider. In providing for all the necessary conditions and exceptions, care will have to be taken to ensure that the new arrangements do not include so many loopholes that the reform is robbed of its content. The core of the requirement should be to receive approval prior to the deployment of troops; and, in seeking this, the government should inform Parliament of the objectives of the deployment, its international legal basis, and its likely duration, as well as an estimate of its size. In times of emergency, approval should be sought from Parliament after the event.

This change is overdue. As Kenneth Clarke said during the debate on 15 May, this may be one of the few beneficial outcomes of the Iraq conflict.



A major cause of the English Civil War was the attempted use by Charles I of the Royal Prerogative to levy taxes without parliamentary consent.

Picture © National Gallery

Information note from UNA-UK

The Prime Minister can currently deploy troops without parliamentary approval by exercising the Royal Prerogative. The Royal Prerogative comprises a series of powers legally held by the Queen but in reality exercised by politicians. The Royal Prerogative, which covers aspects of both domestic and foreign affairs, can apply to the making of treaties, the recognition of states, the accreditation of diplomats, the declaration of war and the deployment of armed forces abroad.

Parliament did vote in the run-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. But critics have argued that the vote was taken too late, and on the basis of partial – some say wrong – information. Consequently, pressure has grown for formalising and enhancing parliamentary scrutiny over the decision to send troops abroad, and there have since been several bids to make it a requirement that Parliament approve military deployments.

Most recently, the Conservatives tabled a motion which "supported the principle that parliamentary approval should be required for any substantial deployment of British Armed Forces into situations of war or international armed conflict". This was rejected, though a broadly similar but more circumspect government amendment was accepted. The new motion reads as follows:

This House welcomes the precedents set by the Government in 2002 and 2003 in seeking and obtaining the approval of the House for its decisions in respect of military action against Iraq; is of the view that it is inconceivable that any Government would in practice depart from this precedent; taking note of the reports of the Public Administration Select Committee, HC 422 of Session 2003-04, and of the Lords Committee on the Constitution, HL 236 of Session 2005-06, believes that the time has

come for Parliament's role to be made more explicit in approving, or otherwise, decisions of the Government relating to the major, or substantial, deployment of British forces overseas into actual, or potential, armed conflict; recognises the imperative to take full account of the paramount need not to compromise the security of British forces nor the operational discretion of those in command, including in respect of emergencies and regrets that insufficient weight has been given to this in some quarters; and calls upon the Government, after consultation, to come forward with more detailed proposals for Parliament to consider.



The UN Human Rights Council

A break with the past or more of the same?

This article was written by **Veronica Lie**, UNA-UK's Head of Advocacy, and **Natalie Samarasinghe**, Executive Assistant to the UNA-UK Executive Director.

The shift from Commission to Council

The creation of the new UN Human Rights Council on 15 March 2006 engendered great expectations. The Commission on Human Rights, the body which the Council was set up to replace, had become mired in politicisation – all too often held back from doing its job as its members used the forum to deflect criticism of their own shoddy human rights records.

Therefore, the UN General Assembly, in resolution 60/251, agreed to equip the Council with new features meant to discourage some of the machinations which had so hamstrung the Commission:

- The Council was elevated in status, and is now a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, whereas the Commission had reported to ECOSOC.
- It is able to hold meetings throughout the year – the Commission had convened for just six weeks, making it ill-placed to respond promptly to human rights violations.
- The Council has the capacity, when faced with urgent human rights situations, to call special sessions.
- With a membership of 47 (down from the Commission's 53) the Council is slightly smaller and (theoretically) less unwieldy.
- Appointments to the Council require a simple majority in the General Assembly, with voters pledging to take into account candidates' contributions to human rights.

- Council members having committed gross violations of human rights can be suspended by a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly.
- The Council is mandated to set up a Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a mechanism to scrutinise the human rights records of all states.

Now that a year has passed since the Council was established, it is time to ask: How has the Council fared in its first year of operation? Is it the improvement upon its much-maligned predecessor everybody has been waiting for? And are the decisions it has made on its various procedures and mechanisms the right ones, or the wrong ones?

Year one

A judicious assessment of the Council's first year yields up some notable achievements. However, these wins tend to be highly qualified, and on the whole the Council has not lived up to the hopes which greeted its inception.

Qualified successes

On the positive side, investing the Council with the ability to call special sessions has proved an important reform, and should allow the body to boost its 'rapid response' capacity. The fourth special session, held in December 2006, rightly took on the urgent situation in Darfur (though only following strong representations by then Secretary-General Kofi Annan). The resulting resolution was accepted unanimously, suggesting that there is

scope for agreement among the Council's often divergent members. However, the wording of the resolution has been disparaged for being weak.

The Council can arguably claim some success in the area of human rights standard-setting. On 29 June 2006 it adopted the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and approved the landmark Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

As for the Council's membership, and whether the reforms of resolution 60/251 can keep egregious human rights violators from getting onto the body, there has been some progress. Notorious 'baddies' like Sudan and Zimbabwe are no longer members; and at the Council's most recent election, on 17 May, countries were able, by persuading Bosnia to stand, to block Belarus's bid to get elected.

This bodes well for the Council, since the most hard-hitting criticism of the Commission was that its members included the very human rights abusers the body should have been censuring. Yet the plus of outmanoeuvring Belarus was undercut by an important minus: of the five regional groupings, three put forward only as many candidates as there were seats available. This put Egypt on the Council, despite widespread concerns about the use of torture by the Egyptian security services and police, and the government's refusal to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit the country.

Causes for concern

Politicisation persists: Of the four special sessions held in the Council's first year, three focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and produced one-sided resolutions. For instance, the resolution on the 2006 Lebanese crisis lambasted the disproportionate effects of Israel's actions on Lebanese civilians, but glossed over the impact of Hezbollah's rockets on Israeli civilians (on the basis of a restrictive interpre-

There are no specific criteria for membership so gross human rights violators are not automatically prevented from attaining membership. Also, now that membership is limited to two terms (a maximum of six consecutive years) this effectively means that countries with poor human rights records, which might not have been elected had there been a bigger pool of candidates, may be more likely to obtain seats.



tation of the Council's mandate in only making recommendations to UN member states).

Bloc divisions may be getting deeper: Divisions along bloc lines may have been exacerbated by the slight reduction of the membership and disadvantaging of the Western European and Latin American groupings. Also, the Organization of the Islamic Conference is highly coordinated and wields increasing influence in relation to other blocs, contributing to fears that a blinkered emphasis on Israel will continue.

The US remains disengaged: The US has not yet stood for election, citing as reasoning "a nearly singular focus on issues relating to Israel, for example, to the exclusion of examining issues of real concern to the international system". There is some media speculation, however, that the success in frustrating Belarus's attempt to get a place on the Council may encourage the US to stand next year.

The Human Rights Council's institution-building text: a blueprint for success?

Resolution 60/251 assigned the Council two immediate tasks. The first was "to develop the modalities and necessary time allocation for the universal periodic review mechanism". The second was to review the "mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities" of the Commission, and agree which should be carried over and which could be improved "in order to maintain a system of special procedures, expert advice and a complaint procedure". In both cases the Council was given a deadline: agreement needed to be reached within a year of the holding of its first session.

The Council met this deadline, but only just – reaching agreement only minutes before time ran out. The outcome text, entitled 'Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council', was born out of compromise: two particularly contentious questions having long-term implications were how to take forward the Universal Periodic Review and how to define the roles of the Special Procedures.

Universal Periodic Review

It is this feature which most sets the Council apart from the Commission. The logic of the

The reduced number of seats allocated to Latin America and Western Europe has shifted the political balance on the Council, making it harder to obtain agreement on resolutions condemning specific countries for their human rights violations. I believe that this compositional change will likely blight the Council's performance in coming years.

Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA-UK

peer review is that, in subjecting all UN member states' human rights records to scrutiny, the universality of human rights is reinforced, and accusations of double standards are limited. Also – so the argument goes – since members of the Human Rights Council will be examined first, states with something to hide will not try to get a seat.

The institution-building text specifies that the UPR should promote the universality of all human rights and ensure the "universal coverage and equal treatment of all states". The mechanism is described as an intergovernmental process, to be based on cooperative interaction with the state under review. The text notes that the UPR should avoid duplicating the work of the treaty bodies, and provides for NGO input as well the integration of a gender perspective.

The text is unclear on follow-up, with outcomes based on voluntary commitments, sharing of best practice and technical assistance. How exactly the Council will address persistent non-cooperation is left open-ended.

Special Procedures

The Special Procedures are a system of independent human rights experts which tackle both thematic issues (eg. torture, violence against women and the right to housing) and country situations.

Some countries had been pushing for the abolition of the country mandates – that is, the experts tasked with monitoring the human rights situation in a particular country. In the end the Council agreed to preserve the power to appoint these experts. Though the mandates for Belarus and Cuba were eliminated, Burma, Burundi, the DRC, Haiti, Liberia, North Korea, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia and Sudan remain on the list.

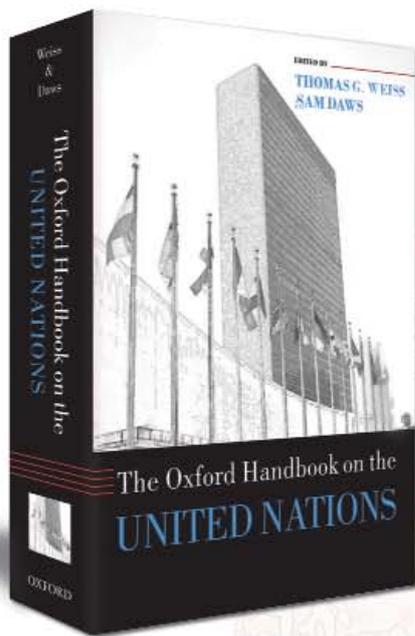
The Special Procedures are arguably the most flexible and responsive mechanisms in the UN's human rights machinery. The Council's review of them was therefore watched very closely, and there are fears that the appointment procedure set out in the institution-building text, alongside a new 'code of conduct', will constrain the Special Procedures' freedom and independence of action – together with their expertise, their most valuable assets.

The work of many decades

The Human Rights Council's institution-building text will now be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement at its 62nd session in September; and in five years' time the General Assembly will commission another review of the Council's work. It is hoped that this appraisal will show that the Human Rights Council bears little resemblance to the Commission in the latter's final years, and that it has contributed measurably to the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. But in an article written to mark the one-year anniversary of the Council, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay offers the following cautionary note:

The UN's human rights agenda is not something that can be resolved in a few months or even a few years; it is the work of many decades. Indeed, if one is being honest, it will need to continue virtually in perpetuity. That is why it is important not to be dissuaded by temporary setbacks or discouraging developments; and why it is important to make the Council work as it was intended to do.

Lord Hannay's full article, 'A Challenging First Anniversary for the UN's Human Rights Council', can be viewed at www.una.org.uk



The Oxford Handbook on the UNITED NATIONS

Edited by **Thomas G. Weiss**, Presidential Professor and Director, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, The CUNY Graduate Center, and **Sam Daws**, Executive Director, United Nations Association of the UK

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Thomas G. Weiss is Presidential Professor of Political Science at The CUNY Graduate Center and Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, where he is co-director of the United Nations Intellectual History Project. He is the chair of the Academic Council on the UN System and the former editor of its journal, *Global Governance*. He has written or edited some 35 books and numerous articles about multilateral approaches to international peace and security, humanitarian action, and sustainable development.

Sam Daws is Executive Director of the United Nations Association of the UK. He has served as a senior policy adviser on UN issues for 17 years, including three years as First Officer in the Executive Office of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He previously directed a Geneva-based international consultancy. He undertook doctoral studies on UN reform at New College, Oxford, and has been a visiting fellow at Cambridge and Yale Universities. He has written or edited six books on the UN.

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CONTENTS:

Foreword by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Part I: Introduction

- 1 World Politics: Continuity and Change since 1945 *Thomas G. Weiss & Sam Daws*

Part II: Theoretical Frameworks

- 2 Political Approaches *Michael Barnett & Martha Finnemore*
- 3 Legal Perspectives *José E. Alvarez*
- 4 Evolution in Knowledge *Leon Gordenker & Christer Jönsson*

Part III: Principal Organs

- 5 General Assembly *M. J. Peterson*
- 6 Security Council *David M. Malone*
- 7 Economic and Social Council *Gert Rosenthal*
- 8 Trusteeship Council *Ralph Wilde*
- 9 Secretariat: Independence and Reform *James O. C. Jonah*
- 10 Secretary-General *Edward Newman*
- 11 International Court of Justice *James Crawford & Tom Grant*

Part IV: Relationships with Other Actors

- 12 Regional Groups and Alliances *W. Pal S. Sidhu*
- 13 Bretton Woods Institutions *Ngaire Woods*
- 14 Civil Society *Paul Wapner*
- 15 Private Sector *Craig N. Murphy*
- 16 Media *Barbara Crossette*

Part V: International Peace and Security

- 17 Disarmament *Keith Krause*
- 18 Peaceful Settlement of Disputes and Conflict Prevention *Rama Mani*
- 19 Peacekeeping Operations *Michael Doyle & Nicolas Sambanis*
- 20 Sanctions *David Cortright, George A. Lopez & Linda Gerber-Stellingwerf*
- 21 Peace Enforcement *Michael Pugh*
- 22 Humanitarian Intervention *Ramesh Thakur*
- 23 Post-Conflict Peacebuilding *Roland Paris*
- 24 Terrorism *Jane Boulden*

Part VI: Human Rights

- 25 Norms and Machinery *Bertrand G. Ramcharan*
- 26 International Criminal Court and Ad Hoc Tribunals *Richard Goldstone*
- 27 Humanitarian Action and Coordination *Jeff Crisp*
- 28 Women and Gender *Charlotte Bunch*
- 29 Children *Yves Beigbeder*
- 30 Minorities and Indigenous Peoples *Maiván Clech Lâm*
- 31 Human Security *Fen Hampson & Christopher K. Penny*

Part VII: Development

- 32 Coordinating Economic and Social Affairs *Jacques Fomerand & Dennis Dijkezeul*
- 33 Health and Infectious Disease *Gian Luca Burci*
- 34 Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development *Nico Schrijver*
- 35 Organized Crime *Frank G. Madsen*
- 36 Democracy and Good Governance *W. Andy Knight*
- 37 Human Development *Richard Jolly*

Part VIII: Prospects for Reform

- 38 Principal Organs *Edward C. Luck*
- 39 Financing *Jeffrey Laurenti*
- 40 Widening Participation *Chadwick Alger*

Appendices

- Suggested Further Reading
- Charter of the United Nations
- Statute of the International Court of Justice
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Subject Index
- Name Index

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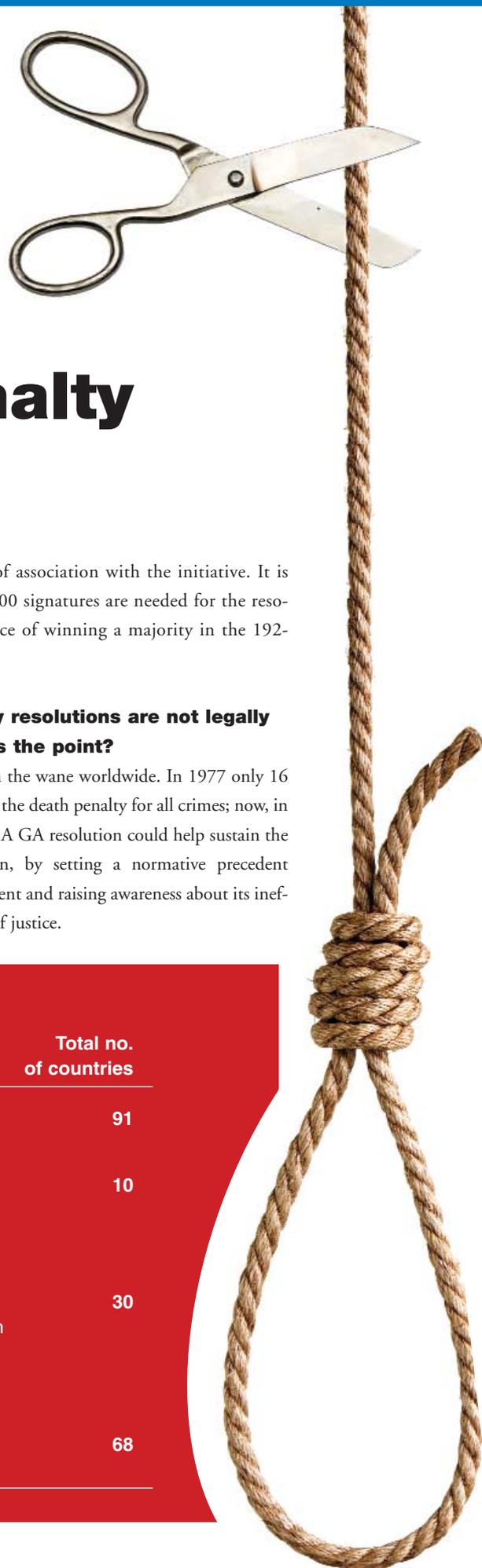
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JUSTICE not VENGEANCE



It's time to **ditch the death penalty**

In partnership with the Italian Embassy in London, UNA-UK is helping to raise awareness about the bid to secure a General Assembly (GA) resolution on a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty. The UNA-UK website now features a set of pages dedicated to this campaign. To view visit www.una.org.uk/justicenotvengeance.

This autumn, at the 62nd session of the General Assembly, the European Union will table a resolution calling for a universal moratorium on the death penalty. The impetus for the plan came from Italy, which has over the last few months been canvassing other member states for their support in advance of the meeting of the GA. So far, approximately 90 countries have indicated their endorsement by

signing a declaration of association with the initiative. It is thought that at least 100 signatures are needed for the resolution to stand a chance of winning a majority in the 192-member GA.

General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, so what's the point?

The death penalty is on the wane worldwide. In 1977 only 16 countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes; now, in 2007, 91 have done so. A GA resolution could help sustain the trend towards abolition, by setting a normative precedent against capital punishment and raising awareness about its ineffectiveness as a means of justice.

Box 1: The Death Penalty Categorised

Typology	Description	Total no. of countries
Abolitionist for all crimes	countries with laws which do not provide for the death penalty for any crime	91
Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only	countries with laws which do not provide for the death penalty in the case of 'ordinary' crimes (eg. murder) but which do apply capital punishment in the case of 'exceptional' crimes (eg. war crimes)	10
Abolitionist in practice	countries with laws which do provide for the death penalty but which have not applied it within the past ten years and are believed to have a policy of not carrying out executions and/or have committed internationally to non-use of the death penalty	30
Retentionist	countries with laws which provide for the death penalty for ordinary as well as exceptional crimes	68

Much of the information on these pages is drawn from www.amnesty.org/deathpenalty



Box 2: Changes in China and the US?

China is the world's most prolific executioner. It is also the most secret. Official information suggests that approximately 1,000 executions were carried out in 2006, but Amnesty International puts the likely actual number much higher – at 8,000.

There are signs that China's use of the death penalty will in future be subject to greater scrutiny within China itself. On 1 January 2007 a judicial amendment came into effect which requires all death sentences to be approved by the Supreme People's Court. Commenting on this reform in an address to the UN Human Rights Council in March, Chinese representative La Yifan said: "By doing this, we are seeking to limit the application of the death penalty in China. I am confident that with the development and the progress in my country the application of the death penalty will be further reduced and it will be finally abolished."

The United States executes far fewer people than China and it is much more transparent but, as the world's superpower, it is among the highest-profile executioners. In 2006, 53 people were put to death in 12 American states.

In *Roper v. Simmons* (2004), the US Supreme Court found the execution of juvenile offenders to be in contravention of the US Constitution – the Court referred to the international trend towards abolition to support its finding. More recently, in December 2006 Florida Governor Jeb Bush suspended all state executions and appointed a commission to review "the humanity and constitutionality of lethal injections" following the botched execution of Angel Diaz. The lethal chemicals used to kill Diaz were injected incorrectly, into his soft tissue rather than his veins, and he struggled for over half an hour before finally being pronounced dead.

A resolution could also have a strong effect on countries which are 'abolitionist in practice' – that is, those which have not formally outlawed capital punishment but which have not used the death penalty within the last ten years. See box 1 for Amnesty International's 'typology' of national policies towards the death penalty.

Another possible outcome of a General Assembly resolution could be to encourage policy changes in high-profile retentionist countries such as China and the US, where the official stance on capital punishment may be shifting. See box 2.

and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of those sentenced to death, while imprisoned and during the execution.

Where does the UK stand on the death penalty?

The UK abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 1998, the same year that the Human Rights Act was passed. The last execution in the UK was carried out in 1964. The UK also works internationally against the death penalty through the EU, which specifies abolition as a criterion for membership.

“Can the state, which represents the whole of society and has the duty of protecting society, fulfil that duty by lowering itself to the level of the murderer, and treating him as he treated others?”

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General, 2000

Where does the UN stand on the death penalty?

UN organs have consistently and categorically opposed the death penalty. Though capital punishment is not expressly forbidden by any comprehensive international treaty, the principle of the right to life is enshrined in article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also applicable is article 5 of the Declaration, which forbids the torture

“The real security for human life is to be found in a reverence for it. If the law regarded it as inviolable, then the people would begin also so to regard it. A deep reverence for human life is worth more than a thousand executions in the prevention of murder; and is, in fact, the great security for human life. The law of capital punishment while pretending to support this reverence does in fact tend to destroy it.”

John Bright MP, English statesman and orator, 1868



3 reasons to ditch the death penalty

The push to end the death penalty does not stem from a squeamish reluctance to take the necessary steps to deliver justice. It has as its basis, rather, the belief that effective criminal justice and secure, democratic societies cannot exist without the full recognition of human rights, which are by definition universal.

Here are three reasons why the death penalty should be ditched:

1. it violates the right to life

- Human rights are universal and unconditional. The fact that someone has committed a crime – even a heinous one – does not strip him or her of the right to life.

2. it doesn't work

- Flaws in the criminal justice systems mean that the innocent, as well as the guilty, get executed.
- The application of the death penalty is subject to discrimination with race, age, gender and social class playing a prominent role in sentencing and access to legal representation.
- The death penalty is often meted out arbitrarily – with no common benchmarks, for instance, for what is punishable by death. In 2001, for example, a man in Washington state was executed for the murder of a woman after turning himself in, pleading guilty at the trial and waiving his right to appeal. Two years later, in the same state, another man – who had murdered 48 women – escaped the death penalty by cooperating with the authorities. He was instead imprisoned for life.
- It is commonly thought that killing someone is cheaper than imprisoning them; but this is not necessarily the case. The US government estimates that a single death penalty case, from the point of arrest through to execution, costs US \$1-3 million. According to the US Bureau of

Justice, the average cost of life imprisonment is approximately US \$500,000.

- Repeated studies have shown that the death penalty does not deter crime; nor does abolishing capital punishment encourage crime.

3. it is cruel and inhuman

- Fundamental among basic human rights is that which provides that no one shall be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – a right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); and the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT).
- ICCPR and CAT go beyond the right to life to address legal access and representation; conduct of hearings, trials and appeal procedures; and the treatment of those in jail. States parties to these treaties thus have a legal obligation to ensure that people on death row are treated justly and humanely.
- But many abolitionists also argue that being on death row is itself tantamount to torture, pointing to physical conditions (up to 23 hours a day in a small cell, with one hour of solitary recreation, subject to near continuous sensory deprivation and no or inadequate medical care), as well as severe psychological pressure. Many inmates are not told when they are to be executed; nor are their relatives. Time spent on death row in Japan, Pakistan and the US is likely to amount to several years or even decades. Conversely, in countries like Kuwait and Somalia, executions can be carried out within days or even hours of sentencing, with the type and severity of the execution method to be specified by the victims' families.

Do you feel strongly about the death penalty? **Then do something about it!**

- **Write to your MP** in the run-up to the 62nd session of the General Assembly, urging full government support for a resolution on a moratorium.
- Urge your MP to **sign Early Day Motion 1807**, 'Global Moratorium on the Death Penalty (2)', tabled by Greg Mulholland MP
- Add your name to the **Community of Sant'Egidio's international petition** in support of the moratorium.
- Campaign to **have your city recognised as a 'City for Life'**.

Visit our website to find a template letter for writing to your MP, and more information about the petition and 'City for Life' initiative:

www.una.org.uk/justicenotvengeance

If you do not have access to the internet but are interested in taking forward any of these actions, we can send you materials by post. For more details, call Natalie Samarasinghe on 020 7766 3457.



UNA-UK makes important contribution to scholarship on the **United Nations**

Veronica Lie is Head of Advocacy at UNA-UK

UNA-UK members will be pleased to learn that, with this summer's publication of *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, UNA-UK is consolidating its standing as the UK's leading independent policy authority on the United Nations. The *Handbook* – the definitive one-stop guide to the United Nations – is co-edited by our Executive Director Sam Daws in partnership with Professor Thomas G. Weiss of the Ralph Bunche Institute in New York.

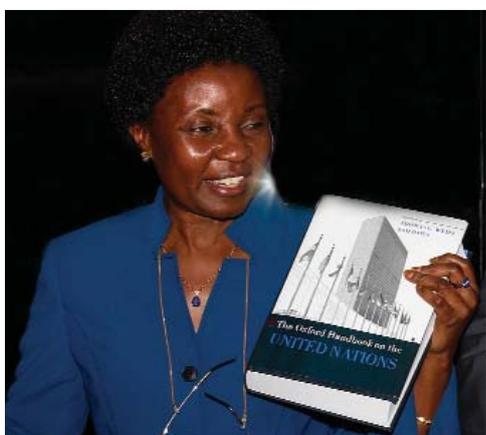
Featuring contributions by 47 of the world's foremost

experts on the international body, the *Handbook* outlines the key theoretical frameworks for understanding the UN; explains its principal organs and relationships with external actors; assesses its record in the areas of peace and security, human rights and development; and evaluates prospects for its reform. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has written the foreword.

The *Handbook* has now been launched in New York and London. A photo spread of the launch events follows.



UN Deputy Secretary-General Dr Asha-Rose Migiro launches *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* in New York.



All photos © Ralph Bunche Institute

Above: Sam Daws thanks the Deputy Secretary-General for her speech, which highlighted the importance of the contribution of policy analysts and academics to the UN's work. Inset: Dr Migiro with the *Handbook*.

The publication of the *Handbook* has been commemorated at several high-level events on both sides of the Atlantic. On 6 June, in New York, UN Deputy Secretary-General Dr Asha-Rose Migiro launched the book to a large international audience at the opening of the 20th anniversary conference of the Academic Council on the UN System. Ambassador Karen Pierce of the UK Mission to the UN also generously hosted a dinner for 70 people at her residence to mark the book's publication; and the UN bookshop organised a special roundtable and book signing for permanent missions, NGOs and UN Secretariat staff. The UN launch was chaired by DPI Under-Secretary-General Kiyoo Akasaka.



Speakers at the FCO event included (left to right) Lord Hannay of Chiswick, UNA-UK; Sir (now Lord) Mark Malloch Brown, FCO; and Dr Ngaire Woods, Oxford University.



All photos © UNA-JK/JA/Bpromotions



The Handbook is launched at the FCO

The UK launch took place on 5 July and was hosted by the FCO in its beautiful Locarno Rooms. Chaired by Lord Hannay, the event featured a speech by new FCO Minister Sir Mark Malloch Brown and presentations by Professor Sir Adam Roberts, Ambassador Nick Thorne and Dr Ngaire Woods. Professor Tom Weiss and Sam Daws made closing remarks.

You can download a webcast of the FCO event on UNA-UK's website: www.una.org.uk

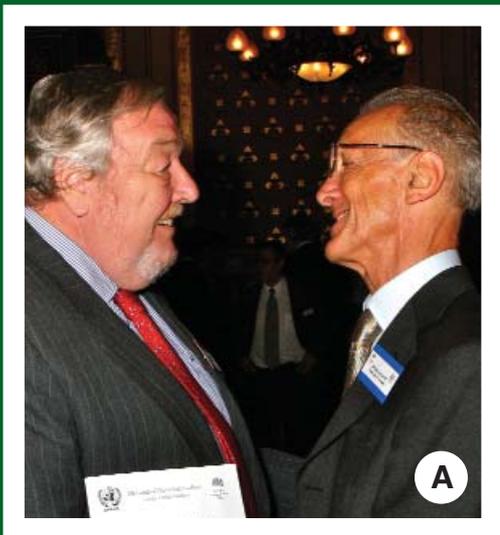


All people are named left to right.
A: Alan Hunt, Oxford University Foreign Service Programme, Dr Anthony McDermott, FCO, Prof. Sir Adam Roberts, Oxford University, and Prof. Mats Berdal, King's College London. **B:** Sir John Sawers, FCO. **C:** Jeremy Carver, Clifford Chance, and Stephen Pattison, FCO. **D:** Baroness Whitaker, House of Lords. **E:** Dr Justin Morris, Hull University, Prof. Sally Morphet, ex-FCO, and Jennifer Smith, CAFOD. **F:** Dr Richard Caplan, Oxford University, and Aliza Watters and Tarun Chhabra, YPN. **G:** Gillian Briggs, UNA, Prof. Oliver Ramsbotham, Bradford University, Elnora Ferguson, UNA, and Bevis Gillett, UNA Trust.



“This *Handbook* addresses one of the UN's main weaknesses – the lack of knowledge about how it actually works, about what we can reasonably hope it will do, and what we cannot reasonably expect it to do. The book could be a multiplier to a wider, deeper understanding of the UN and an antidote to the wild swings of public opinion which result in excessive expectations when the UN does something well and excessive denigration when it does not.”

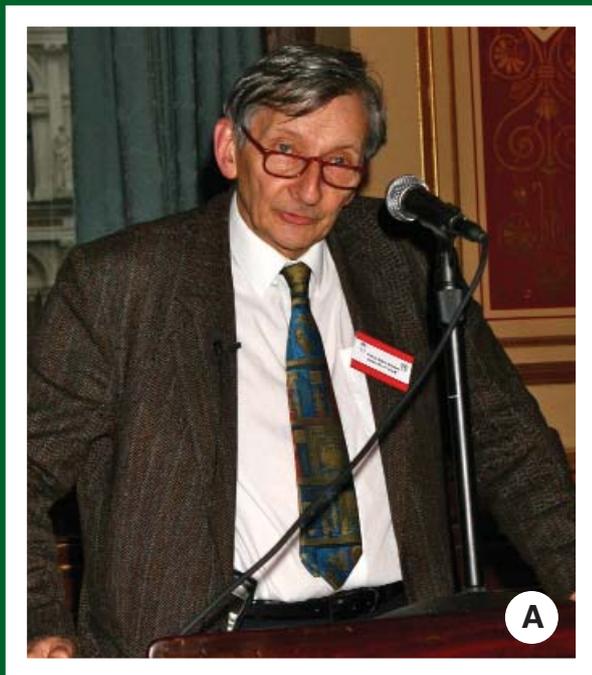
Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair of UNA-UK



All people are named left to right. A: Ambassador Nick Thorne, FCO, and Sir Frank Berman, Essex Street Chambers. B: Lord Hannay, UNA-UK, and Prof. Tom Weiss, co-editor of *The Handbook*. C: Nick Perks, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. D: Priya Malik, Oxford University, Ashish Bhatt, Canonbury Group, and Dr Ngaire Woods, Oxford University. E: Sam Daws, co-editor of *The Handbook*, and Dr Taylor Sherman, Cambridge University. F: Thelma de Leeuw and Janet Blackman, both UNA-UK Board of Directors, Elias Mitropoulos, Oxford University, and Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the IMO. G: Victoria Hibell, Philip Everest, Amir Riaz, Christopher Banks and Rob Gordon, all FCO.

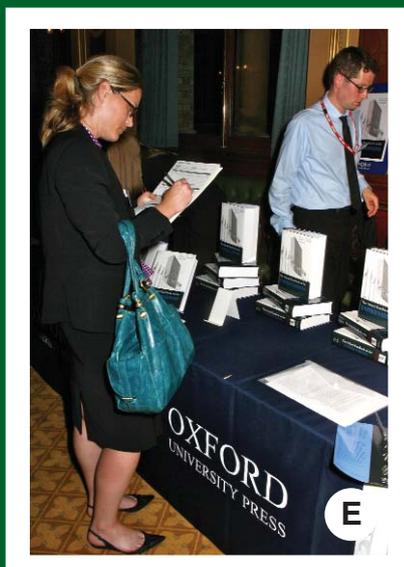
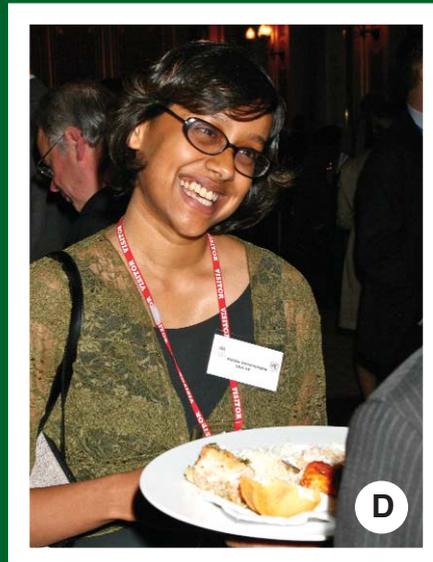


Available only in hardback at present, *The Oxford Handbook on the UN* retails for £85 but is available at a 30 percent discount to UNA-UK members (£59.50). A paperback edition, with a price of £20-30, will be published in late 2008. After expenses, any proceeds from the UK share of royalties of the hardback edition will go to the UNA Trust. More information about the *Handbook* and ordering information can be found in the OUP advertisement on pages 24-25.



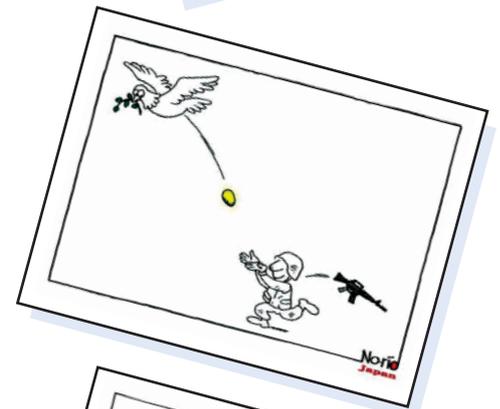
All people are named left to right.
A: Prof. Sir Adam Roberts, Oxford University
B: Will Daws, BBC
C: Dame Margaret Anstee, former UN Under-Secretary-General
D: Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK
E: Sarah Meagher, Exclusive Analysis, and Dominic Byatt, OUP
F: Dr Taylor Sherman, Cambridge University, Bremley Lyngdoh, LSE, and Veronica Lie, UNA-UK

All photos © UNA-UK/JABpromotions





Cartooning for Peace



When, in 2005, Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* published cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed, a furore ensued: the cartoonists received death threats; Tehran played host to a counter-exhibition questioning the Holocaust; and Muslim countries boycotted Danish goods - all unmistakable illustrations of the potency of political cartooning.

'Cartooning for Peace' - an initiative conceived by French cartoonist Plantu and launched in October 2006 at UN Headquarters in New York - seeks to harness the power of the cartoonist to help 'unlearn intolerance', and highlight how cartoons can be a medium for promoting peace.

The launch at the UN featured a two-day conference and an exhibition of cartoons by some of the world's most renowned political cartoonists. This event has spurred subsequent exhibitions in Geneva, Paris and Brussels, with future events planned in Antibes, France, and Atlanta, Georgia.

To view all of the cartoons drawn as part of this initiative, visit www.unric.org



UNA Westminster pays tribute to peacekeepers

David Wardrop is Chair of UNA Westminster and a member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors



Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary



General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of Staff of the British Army

UNA Westminster and the International Day of UN Peacekeepers

UNA-UK's Westminster branch led the way again this year in commemorating the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, which pays tribute to those individuals who are serving in peace operations around the world and to those who have lost their lives in so doing.

On 23 May, UNA Westminster held its fourth annual conference to mark this important day; this year the event focused on both peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. The Folke Bernadotte Memorial lecture – the centrepiece of the conference – was delivered by Professor Paul Collier, Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University.

The keynote speaker: what Professor Paul Collier said

In his lecture, entitled 'Learning how to reduce the risk of failure in the post-conflict process', Professor Collier presented statistics from roughly 70 post-conflict situations illustrating the risk of these countries relapsing into conflict. The data showed that the level of risk changed from decade to decade, with the first being substantially more dangerous than the next. Overall, Collier's analysis put the average risk of reverting to conflict at 40 percent, the outcome of several political, military and economic factors.

Sources of risk and strategies for lowering it

Political reform, in the wake of conflict, needs to be supplemented by military and economic strategies in order to lesson the risk of relapse, with peacekeeping one means of doing so. New democracies are significantly at risk, with the chance of a re-emergence of violence twice as high the year after post-conflict elections. Professor Collier noted that, while democracy should be promoted for its intrinsic value, data suggests that severe autocracies are in fact quite successful at maintaining post-conflict peace.



Pupils from the Greycoat School for Girls and Westminster City School for Boys



General Philippe Stoltz, former Chief of Staff, UNFIL

“ An impoverished ghetto of one billion people will be increasingly impossible for a comfortable world to tolerate. ” Professor Paul Collier



Former UN Under-Secretaries-General Dame Margaret Anstee and Sir Marrack Goulding



UNA-UK Peace & Security Programme Officer Tim Kellow leading a procession to the Cenotaph

The risk of reversion to conflict is strongly associated with the rate of economic growth. Zero growth carried a 42 percent risk rate while 10 percent growth carried a 27 percent risk rate. Lower income levels are associated with higher risk. Resources therefore need to be allocated inversely to income.

The Bottom Billion

Almost one billion people – 70 percent of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa – reside in 58 economically stagnant or declining countries. This particular group of people – the billion individuals living in countries caught in poverty traps – forms the point of departure for Professor Collier's latest book, *The Bottom Billion*. In it, he asks, "Why are the

poorest countries failing and what can be done about it?" For more information on *The Bottom Billion*, see page 41.

Remembering the fallen

As in previous years, the conference paused at 1pm for participants to join representatives from 66 diplomatic missions and other groups to lay wreaths at the Cenotaph in memory of the military, police and civilian personnel who had lost their lives serving the United Nations. A full report on the conference and wreath-laying ceremony is posted on the website of UNA Westminster: www.unawestminster.org.uk

The conference was oversubscribed – no doubt due to the high calibre of the speakers! In addition to Professor Collier the line-up included **Ify Agboola of the FCO** and **Lesley Abdela from SheVolution**, who spoke on the evolving role of women in the post-conflict process; **Karin Christiansen from ODI**, who explained how donors' efforts to help fragile states sometimes held them back; **Andy Bearpark of the British Association of Private Security Companies**, who noted the growing role of these companies in post-conflict states; and **General Philippe Stoltz, of the French army and until recently Chief of Staff of UNIFIL**, who shared his first-hand views of the challenges faced by this mission.

The sessions were chaired by **Sir Marrack Goulding**, a former UN Under-Secretary-General; **Lord Hannay of Chiswick**, Chair of UNA-UK and former UK Ambassador to the UN in New York; **Dr Jonathan Eyal**, Director of International Security Studies at RUSI; and **Dame Margaret Anstee**, a former UN Under-Secretary-General.



Global warming and climate change

WOMEN'S GROUPS SEEK ACTION AT BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL LEVELS

Roslyn Kissel is Vice-Chair of WACUNA

On 9 June, WACUNA (the Women's Advisory Council of UNA) hosted a study day on climate change; the focus was on how women, who are disproportionately affected by climate change, could themselves contribute to solutions. The programme featured speakers from a range of organisations, reflecting the different levels of debate and action within efforts to combat climate change: John Gordon, from the UK National Commission to UNESCO, spoke on the economic consequences of climate change; Veronica Lie, Head of Advocacy at UNA-UK, provided an overview of the UN's role within efforts to secure meaningful international action on climate change; and Jane Ryan from Camden Council gave practical advice about how to cut carbon footprints – through recycling, composting and 'green' consumer choices.

Ruth Bond from the Women's Institute was also present to speak about WI's formidable fight against excess packaging. This campaign targets supermarkets and demands that they:

- get rid of excessive packaging on food products
- use only compostable and recyclable materials where packaging is required
- reduce the number of carrier bags given away
- donate food waste to charities wherever possible and compost the rest

- buy more local and regional foods to cut down on food miles and reduce the need for packaging

The WI campaign has scored some important successes; the WI website features a chart documenting changes which have been implemented by companies such as Marks & Spencer, ASDA, Sainsbury's and the Co-operative. For more information visit www.womens-institute.co.uk



Photo © iStockPhoto

The Women's Institute's *Stop Excess Packaging* campaign was endorsed formally by UNA-UK members at the Association's 62nd Annual Conference, which was held in April. The policy proposal encourages UNA-UK members to lobby their MPs to sign EDM 733, which seeks to raise awareness about the initiative.

In July 2004, Asma Jahangir was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. As part of her mandate she makes country visits; and in June she visited the UK at the request of the government.

UNA-UK member Benedict Parsons was instrumental in organising a meeting at the House of Lords at which the Special Rapporteur was able to meet with representatives of groups focusing on promoting inter-faith dialogue. Suzanne Long, a member of UNA-UK's Policy Advisory Committee, attended the meeting on behalf of UNA-UK. She has written a report of the meeting which can be viewed at www.una.org.uk



Photo © UNA-UK/Benedict Parsons



The Membership **at Work**

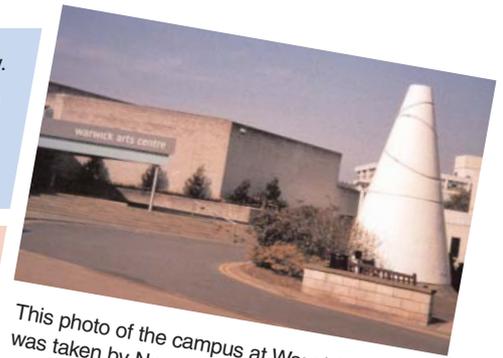
Bury St Edmunds UNA: On 3 February Bury St Edmunds UNA held a tree-planting day. Assisted by a local organisation called 'Woodland Ways', branch members planted 60 trees. The town mayor stopped by to give her encouragement.

To find out more about the branch's activities contact Deborah McKinley on 01284 830 578.

Bexhill & Hastings UNA: On 24 March the branch hosted a talk by Michael Foster, MP for Hastings and Rye, about climate change. Mr Foster noted that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had said that climate change was as dangerous as war, and argued that the UN had a major role to play in finding effective solutions to the problem.

On 28 May the branch held an 'open organic garden morning' to raise funds. Despite the wintry weather the branch was able to better the previous year's sum, with the tomato plants and rhubarb selling particularly well. The branch also used the occasion to educate guests about the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

For more information about Bexhill & Hastings UNA contact Allan Bula on 01424 210 410.



This photo of the campus at Warwick University was taken by Nagalingamudaly Sidamparampillai ('Sid'). Sid has stepped down from the UNA-UK Board of Directors, and we would like to thank him warmly for his contribution.



Enfield & the Barnets UNA: Enfield & the Barnets UNA teamed up with Middlesex University to hold a simulation of the UN Security Council on 28 March. The aim was to help students get a better understanding of international organisations and international governance, and also to help them develop their communication, negotiation and team-building skills.

Members of the branch chaired the sessions and served as mentors for the participants. The students were grouped into delegations to act on behalf of the Council and were joined by teams representing the World Bank, the World Health Organization, Amnesty International and Oxfam.

To read a full report on the event, written by branch member Francis Sealey, visit www.una.org.uk

Harpenden UNA: On 12 May Professor Andrew Tomkins spoke to Harpenden UNA about international child health. Professor Tomkins is Director of the Centre for International Health and Development at the Institute of Child Health, University College London.

Professor Tomkins's talk focused on the 11 million child deaths each year, many from entirely preventable causes, and highlighted some shocking disparities: fewer than 6.5 percent of babies in Britain are born below 2.5kg whereas in Bangladesh this figure sits at 35 percent.

Low birth weight is associated with increased infant mortality, one of the problems the Millennium Development Goals address; MDG 4 – 'reduce child mortality' – contains a target calling for a two-thirds reduction in the under-five mortality rate between 1990 and 2015.

For the full report of the meeting, compiled by branch Vice-President Sonia Ayres, visit www.una.org.uk



UNA member Sonia Ayres meets the new Prime Minister

South-East Berkshire UNA: On 5 June, the branch helped organise a meeting in Wokingham about 'Green Care' – an emerging approach to physical and mental well-being which promotes contact with nature as a means of improving health.

This approach is backed up by research carried out at the University of Essex, which has found an association between 'green exercise' – eg. farming, gardening, hiking and camping – and significant improvements in self-esteem and mood. The importance of this finding is underscored by the World Health Organization's estimate that, by 2020, depression and depression-related illness will constitute the greatest source of poor health.

The university researchers also found that, while green exercise leads to marked decreases in blood pressure, being in unpleasant urban areas is linked to higher blood pressure.

Green Care uses working farms to facilitate interaction with the natural environment for psychiatric patients, people with learning disabilities, the elderly and troubled young people. Farmers receive payments for taking on patients (in addition to the free labour and the profits from the food produced). Though countries like Norway, Italy, Germany and Austria boast hundreds of Green Care farms, the UK has none.

South-East Berkshire UNA is part of a growing network of individuals and organisations in favour of Green Care farms. If you want to promote a farm like this in your region, contact Barbara Stafford on 01189 627 797.



Future UNA branch, regional and national events

Cambridge UNA

On Friday, 27 July, UNA Cambridge will host its annual garden party at the Margaret Beaufort Institute (Grange Road, Cambridge) from 3pm to 5pm, and there will be tea and a bookstall. The cost is £2. For further information, please contact Bernard Hawes on bhawes8046@aol.com

Bexhill & Hastings UNA

On Saturday, 6 October, the branch will hold an event at which Quaker activist John Limes will speak on 'Peacemaking in Palestine'. The

meeting will take place in the Garden Room at Sackville Road Methodist Church. Coffee will be served at 10.30am and the talk will begin at 11am.

For further details contact Allan Bula on 01424 210 410.

South Lakeland & Lancaster City UNA

On Saturday, 27 October, the branch will run a 'One World Week' conference (see below for more information on One World Week 2007),

which will focus on nuclear-weapons policy and climate change. UNA-UK John Bright Peace & Security Programme Officer Tim Kellow will give a talk entitled 'After the Trident decision: nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation regime'; he will be joined by Maggie Mason of the World Development Movement who will speak on 'Climate Change: global problems, local solutions'.

The conference will begin at 10.45am and end at 3.45pm. For further details contact Luckshan Abeyesuriya on 01539 532 961.

Also of interest...

Global Week of Action on Debt

14-21 October will be a global week of action on debt. For more information visit www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

Global White Band Day: Stand Up and Speak Out

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty falls on 17 October; this is also Global White Band Day, when campaigners around the world show solidarity against poverty and call on governments to do more to eradicate it. This year's international action – called Stand Up and Speak Out – aims to build on the success of last year's white band day, which made it into the

Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest single coordinated mobilisation of people recorded.

See www.standagainstpoverity.org for more details.

UNIFEM UK Musical Extravaganza

On Wednesday, 17 October – the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty – UNIFEM UK in Wales is hosting a musical extravaganza at St David's Hall, Cardiff. The event will be a major fundraising effort for the Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, and will showcase Wales-based talent, ranging from classical music to theatre, jazz and ballet.

For further information, please visit www.unifemuk-music.co.uk

One World Week 2007

One World Week 2007 will run from 21 to 28 October, with the theme 'All Together Now'. One World Week, which is held each year around UN Day to promote community well-being and international citizenship, will soon be totally web-based. Its website is under construction but will shortly feature downloadable resources, including an events diary, campaigning ideas and useful contacts.

Visit www.oneworldweek.org for more information.

UNA-UK is very sorry to announce the death of **Jim Addington**, a long-time member of the Association. Jim, the indefatigable chair of Action for UN Renewal was a great peace activist. An obituary written by Vijay Mehta, Jim's friend and colleague, is available from head office. Please call Mark Rusling on 020 7766 3459 to obtain a copy.

A farewell party was held for **Mike Wood** at the Farmers Club on 11 July. Many members and former staff and volunteers attended. Though in the April-June issue of *New World* we promised that this issue would contain a feature on Mike Wood's remarkable contribution over the years, we are delaying until the October issue, so that we can incorporate all of the wonderful photos that were taken at the party.



Recent books on the UN



From Manager to Visionary – The Secretary-General of the United Nations

Kent Kille

Palgrave Macmillan, August 2007



Indigenous Rights and United Nations Standards

Alexandra Xanthaki

Cambridge University Press, May 2007



The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations

Thomas Weiss and Sam Daws (eds.)

Oxford University Press, May 2007



A Dialogue of the Deaf: Essays on Africa and the United Nations

Adekeye Adebajo and Helen Scanlon

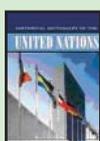
Jacana Media, May 2007



Iraq: Preventing a New Generation of Conflict

Markus Bouillon, David Malone and Ben Rowsell (eds.)

Lynne Rienner, April 2007



Historical Dictionary of the United Nations

Jacques Fomerand

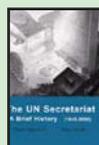
Scarecrow Press, February 2007



The Unfinished Story of Women and the United Nations

Hilikka Pietilä

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, January 2007



The UN Secretariat: A Brief History

Thant Myint-U and Amy Scott

International Peace Academy, 2007



The United Nations and the European Union – An Ever Stronger Partnership

Jan Wouters, Frank Hoffmeister and Tom Ruys (eds.)

Cambridge University Press, December 2006



The Middle Power Project: Canada and the Founding of the United Nations

Adam Chapnick

UBC Press, July 2006



Global Development and Human Security

Robert Picciotto, Funmi

Olonisakin and

Michael Clarke

Transaction Publishers, April 2007



Unintended Consequences of Peacekeeping Operations

Chiyuki Aoi, Cedric de Coning and

Ramesh Thakur

United Nations University, June 2007

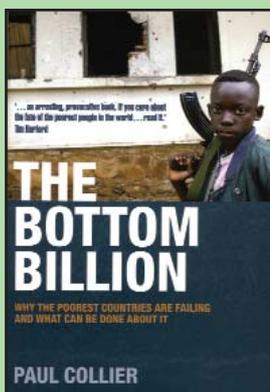


Towards Full and Decent Employment

José Antonio Ocampo and

Jomo K. S. (eds)

Zed Books, August 2007



The Bottom Billion

Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It

By Paul Collier

In a work described by *The New York Times* as "the best book on international affairs so far this year", Paul Collier points out that global poverty is falling quite rapidly for about 80 percent of the world. The real crisis lies in the bottom billion – a group of about 50 failing states, whose problems cannot be relieved by traditional approaches to reducing poverty. To help them, Collier calls for preferential trade policies, new laws against corruption, and a greater willingness to conduct military interventions.

The Bottom Billion can be obtained at a discounted price of £12 from www.amazon.co.uk



UN System Websites: Recent Additions

General

- How the UN and the EU cooperate [UNRIC document]
www.unric.org

Peace and Security

- Fact Sheet on the International Compact with Iraq
www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/note6078.doc.htm
- Managing Peace Operations [report of the Secretary-General]
www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/61/858
- OIOS report into sexual exploitation allegations
www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/61/841
- Security Council Mission on the Kosovo Issue [report]
www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/2007/256
- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/peacekeepersday/2007

Sustainable Development and the MDGs

- Africa and the MDGs – 2007 Update
www.un.org/millenniumgoals/docs/MDGafrica07.pdf
- ECOSOC [new website]
www.un.org/ecosoc
- World Economic Situation and Prospects
www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html

- Education under attack [UNESCO report]
www.unesco.org/education/attack/educationunderattack.pdf
- Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage [UNESCO report]
http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_climatechange.pdf
- International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics
www.iknowpolitics.org/
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
www.un.org/events/desertification/2007

Human Rights and Humanitarian Action

- Legislative History of the Convention on the Rights of the Child [OHCHR publication]
www.ohchr.org/english/about/publications/reference.htm
- What the UN can do to assist non-self governing territories [DPI report]
www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization/assist_nsgv_brochure.pdf
- Human Rights and Business Learning Tool
www.ohchr.org/english/issues/globalization/business/HR_business_learning.htm
- International Court of Justice [redesigned website]
www.icj-cij.org

Letters

An Incontestable Truth

Congratulations on the article in the April-June issue of *New World* which exposed the Channel 4 'swindle'. And thank you for publishing my letter, though I wish you had included the web references, so that those who wished could readily find out more.

I suggest that in a future issue you provide information about 'An Incontestable Truth', the DVD commissioned by the All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group, which is chaired by Colin Challen MP. The film explains and promotes the concept of contraction and convergence as "the irreducible response to climate change". The DVD also contains a section by Aubrey Meyer, who originated the concept, as well as further comments from a score or more of contributors, including Sir Crispin Tickell, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Dr Mayer Hillman, who argues that Aubrey Meyer

deserves a Nobel Prize. Another strong supporter was Jon Snow; perhaps he could be encouraged to persuade Channel 4 to show at least some of it, to counter the mischief of its 'Great Global Warming Swindle' programme!

Peter Greaves

UNA Blackheath & Greenwich

Notes from the Editor: 'An Incontestable Truth' was launched in the House of Commons by the All-Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group on 28 March 2007. To obtain a copy contact challenc@parliament.uk

The web references to which Peter refers are as follows: www.simpol.org.uk and www.gci.org.uk

No one is above the law

Law – whether national or international – serves to underpin the orderly functioning of civilised society. Given this, it is imperative that the enforcement of law is swift and appropriate.

With the above in mind, I would like to draw

attention to certain regimes which need to be reminded about their obligations under international law, and the consequences they should face for not upholding this law. I have two governments in mind: those of Zimbabwe and of Sudan. In the latter case, the International Criminal Court has moved to request the issue of summonses against two alleged perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur region of that country. In the case of Zimbabwe there are signs that the people of Zimbabwe have had enough of Robert Mugabe, so maybe a tipping point is approaching for regime change, which may well be brought about by people power.

I hope that the United Nations and the international community will move quickly to gather evidence for prosecutions to be brought, and that it is made abundantly clear that no one – not even presidents or prime ministers – is above the law.

David J Thomas

UNA Wales



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK

AMBITION WITH A CONSCIENCE: Young professionals for peace, justice & sustainable development

YPN Update

The UNA-UK Young Professionals Network has a new steering committee in place. With an impressive range of professional credentials, the committee is well-placed to drive forward the network's growth and development (see right).

The committee's purpose is to provide general direction for the network, working closely with UNA-UK to reach out to new groups and reinforce YPN's standing as the leading network of its kind. Over the coming months the committee will oversee the launch of 'Working for Peace', a blog documenting the first-hand experiences of young professionals living and working in conflict-affected countries. There are also plans for an international law initiative, and for a continuation of our work on the business contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. We also hope to set up a database of YPN members' skills and interests. So watch this space!

In the meantime, read on for the keynote speech delivered by Bemba Donkoh, the UN Refugee Agency's representative to the UK, at the World Refugee Day event co-hosted by YPN on 20 June.

Tim Kellow

YPN coordinator

To contact the YPN steering committee e-mail
[ypn@una.org.uk](mailto:yjn@una.org.uk)

YPN Steering Committee

Andrew Smith (Chair)

Management consultant specialising in business and international development. UNA-UK Board member

Susannah Anastasi (Vice-Chair)

External Relations Manager at Salix Finance Ltd., a company that helps the public sector tackle climate change

Richard Bartlett

Executive at PricewaterhouseCoopers in the public sector and government department. Currently studying to become a chartered accountant

Richard Broadbent

Trainee solicitor at Collyer Bristow LLP and Chair of the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society Young Solicitors Group

Tim Jarman

Assistant Tax Advisor at Ernst & Young LLP. UNA-UK Board member

Lauren van Staden

Project Coordinator at the King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London

Lin Yan

Economist in the civil service

Full biographies and photos are posted on the YPN website:
www.una.org.uk/ypn

“All I need is a song in my heart”



Networking in action



Simon Hughes MP



Katie Hatfield, Right to Play UK



Mandy Ayres, Nike UK/Ireland

All photos © UNA-UK/JABpromotions

On World Refugee Day 2007, Bemma Donkoh, UNHCR Representative to the UK, spoke to YPN about the needs of refugee children and what UNHCR and its partners are doing to help them.

“How fitting an occasion this is: today is World Refugee Day, when the UN Refugee Agency tries to focus worldwide attention on the plight of the millions of refugees and displaced people around the world. Whether in remote camps or in nearby neighbourhoods, there are always ways we can help them. But we cannot do this alone.

I started by observing how fitting today's gathering is. The focus of attention for this year's World Refugee Day is refugee youth – a significant proportion of refugees are infants, toddlers, boys and girls. This is the group targeted by ninemillion.org, the global online campaign launched last year which raises awareness and funds for education and sport programmes for the world's nine million young refugees. In the first place, it is most fitting that UNA-UK's Young Professional Network is sponsoring this evening's event – a case of youth supporting youth. And, if I may be forgiven for reminiscing a bit, let me recall that UNA-UK was one of the first organisations to fund UNHCR during the Hungarian crisis, so the engagement of your parent organisation with refugees has been longstanding.

Also fitting is the presence here of Nike and Right to Play, given their participation within ninemillion.org. With the support of partners like these, UNHCR can begin to turn the tide, giving refugees hope for the future and new

opportunities for their families and their communities.

What do refugee children and youth need? Thinking of this brought back two of my most poignant memories.

The first memory is that of attending an open day at the school of my son, then aged six, in Washington DC. His first grade class was scheduled to perform a song at the event. When their turn came in the programme, I was

On 20 June, the Young Professionals Network and UNHCR co-hosted the UK's flagship World Refugee Day event. Bemma Donkoh, the head of UNHCR in the UK, delivered the keynote speech. She was joined by Katie Hatfield, Senior Project Manager at Right to Play, and Mandy Ayres, Corporate Responsibility Manager at Nike UK. UNHCR, Right to Play and Nike work together on ninemillion.org, a global campaign to heighten awareness of refugee children and raise funds for sport and education programmes to help them improve their lives.

Want to know more? Visit:

- ninemillion.org
- www.unhcr.org.uk
- www.righttoplay.co.uk
- www.nikeresponsibility.com



moved to tears, I remember, by the words of the song they sang:

All I need is a song in my heart, food in my belly, and love in my family.

I remember the sense of sadness and accountability that song aroused in me, as I looked at my child and pondered how little he needed to get by, and yet how much, when one considered life's challenges and what it would take to guarantee him those very simple rights – to have fun, play, sing and learn, to eat three times a day (at least!), and to be assured the security of his family and friends and of his living environment.

The other experience occurred before I became a mother myself. The year was 1991; I was serving as a UNHCR protection officer in Zambia and was asked to accompany the country's refugee commissioner and the Angolan ambassador to Zambia on a visit to Meheba Camp, to discuss the implications of the latest Angolan peace agreement with the several thousands of Angolans who had been residents in the camp for several years. There, in Meheba camp, I came across a young girl: she appeared no older than 13 or 14 years old and she had a baby of about eight months strapped to her back. When I asked about her, I was forcibly amazed to learn from the camp administrator that she was, in fact, the mother of the child on her back – she looked almost as guileless, immature and awkward as the baby she carried.

Recalling that picture of a dirty-faced, innocent-looking mother and child, I wonder about the chances that refugee children like that have to attain the goals described in the MDGs: access to rights that ensure proper human development, such as universal primary education, prevention of extreme poverty and hunger, gender equality and empowerment of girls; and, for the baby, to survive to a mature age and not fall prey to the scourge of child mortality, to benefit from better maternal health, and to live free from the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

There are three ways we at the UN Refugee Agency endeavour to realise these goals for refugees: we strive to protect, to build and to advocate. We must protect refugee rights to safety, shelter and health, focusing special attention on the most vulnerable people, particularly chil-

dren, women and girls. We ensure that states keep borders open to people fleeing persecution and adhere to the 1951 Refugee Convention and other relevant international refugee protection standards. In the case of children and youth, the right to be protected and cared for is guaranteed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and so we try to use every opportunity we get here in the UK to urge the UK to reaffirm its commitment to that Convention and to its protocol in relation to child soldiers.



Bemma Donkoh, UNHCR Representative to the UK

We work with our partners to build the capacity of refugees to fend for themselves once they are able to do so. Working in partnership is key to this. UNHCR's Council of Business Leaders, for example, is providing solutions to equip refugees with the tools and skills they will need for their future. The Council currently comprises the following companies: Manpower, Merck, Microsoft, Nike and Pricewaterhouse-

Coopers. One example of partnership in action is ninemillion.org.

Tens of millions of children live in refugee-like situations. These are youth who have seen their parents killed, who have fled their homes because of war, or who have been born in a refugee camp and known nothing else. All too often, the world's refugee youth are forgotten. They are denied their basic rights to childhood and are left with uncertain futures. Yet despite the trauma and conflict of their lives – and the harsh conditions of a refugee camp – they are connected by a universal love of sport and the desire to learn and create a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

The ninemillion.org campaign is an innovative advocacy tool, bringing together specific corporate skills to address the needs of refugee youth worldwide. The campaign plan, drawn up in consultation with Nike and Microsoft, strives to achieve a long-term, results-oriented, mutually beneficial collaboration in pursuit of a common aim – namely, improving the lives of refugee children.

Ninemillion.org is about giving the world's refugee youth a chance to see beyond their current situation and begin to rebuild their lives. It is also about each one of us gaining an understanding of what it is to be a refugee, and taking action to help create a better future for many of them.

Let's remember that refugee children, like other children, are saying to the world:

All I need is a song in my heart, food in my belly, and love in my family.”

This is an edited version of Ms Donkoh's speech. For the full speech visit www.una.org.uk/ypn

We are grateful to LEWIS Media Centre for generously providing us use of the venue.

Missed the event? Then listen online: www.una.org.uk/ypn features audio recordings of the presentations and Q&A.



Kofi Annan and Meat Loaf?

Now that the storm clouds of exams have cleared and the blue skies of summer have arrived, it's time to take stock of another eventful year for UNYSA's university branches. You have held debates, lectures, Model UN conferences, campaigns, fundraising events, dinners, film nights...the list goes on.

I hope that you have learned something yourself about the UN's work, and that you have been able to persuade others of the importance of a strong, credible and effective world body. If you have, you will be living up to Kofi Annan's adage: "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress."

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have worked with UNYSA this year. If you are leaving university this summer, do carry on your work. If you haven't yet joined UNA-UK, UNYSA's parent organisation, then please do so. Why not also join our Young Professionals Network? You can sign up for both on UNA-UK's website – www.una.org.uk. When you do leave uni please do your best to fill your committee positions and send me updated contact details.

Some branches have contacted me about packs for freshers fairs. Well, as Meat Loaf sang, you took the words right out of my mouth. I will be in touch with every branch soon to find out what you need for your stalls, and we will be sending the packs out over the summer.

Kofi Annan and Meat Loaf in the same article – the heat must be getting to me.

Have a great summer!

Mark Rusling



Leeds UNYSA: Loud and Proud!

Christina Okello is Leeds UNYSA's Communications Officer

At Leeds UNYSA, we are passionate about international affairs and believe that change can come about if we work together and voice our concerns. This was the motivation behind our informal debates, appropriately named 'Koffee with Kofi' and 'Banter with Ban', which appealed to even the shyest of our members. The topics varied, but the purpose was always the same – to imagine how the UN could intervene in a particular situation.

In December 2006, after organising 'Debate as a Diplomat' training sessions, we sent a delegation to the Queen's University Model UN conference in Belfast. We dominated the proceedings, with two of our students serving as President and Deputy President of the Security Council. As all good diplomats must do, we grappled with conflicting national interests and political impasse, representing Sudan and the US on the Security Council and working for peace between Israel and Lebanon.

We have sought to bring the UN's message to the younger members of our community through our participation in local schools' citizenship lessons. We introduced pupils to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and invited them to create their own version. Their ideas were inventive and their enthusiasm knew no bounds. Our social events have also sought to raise awareness of important issues like landmines – in November 2006, we held our annual 'Night of a Thousand Dinners', in support of Adopt-A-Minefield, which united students from different cultures over sumptuous foods from all corners of the globe.

We do also occasionally leave the indisputable delights of West Yorkshire behind to go abroad! We travelled to The Hague to witness the preliminary hearings of the case against Charles Taylor in the International Criminal Court, and to see first-hand The Hague International Model UN, the largest in Europe. Next year, with rigorous Model UN training under our belts, we plan to return to The Hague to take part in the conference, and even envisage going as far afield as Mexico to attend the World Model UN! Indeed this coming year

promises to be bigger and better than ever, as we plan to host our first Leeds 'World Party' to promote international solidarity. We also aim to extend our education work to teach more Leeds students about the positive work of the UN. We want to restore faith in the UN as a credible organisation, understanding that many are disillusioned about it. However, we urge these people not to be silent – change is possible. We have a voice in the UN, and now, more than ever, is the time to use it.

For more information about Leeds UNYSA, please write to us at unaleeds@hotmail.co.uk





Faces of the Future

Your New Youth Council

UNYSA's new Youth Council was elected on 14 April at UNYSA's annual conference at Warwick University. Moving from left to right, here they are. To contact any of them, e-mail unysa@una.org.uk

Branch Membership Officer: Pawel Kuznicki

I am a student of economics and international relations at the University of St Andrews. I chose to be active in UNYSA as it is an organisation of people who sincerely believe in the ideals of the UN.

Individual Membership Officer: Bethany Mander

I'm studying economics and international development at Bath University, and have previously worked for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. If you are an individual member who would like to become involved with UNYSA, then do get in touch!

Treasurer: Karen Wong

I'm studying social policy at the University of York. I previously worked for UNICEF and am also a student member of UNIFEM-UK Yorkshire.

Secretary: Shengke Zhi

I am a PhD candidate at Manchester University and this is my second year on the Youth Council. I am an avid youth campaigner.

President: Luke Harman

I am a third-year international relations student at the University of St Andrews. UNYSA has the potential to act as the voice for British young people on a range of international issues, and I hope to realise that potential this year.

Press Officer: Nadja Freeman

I currently work in international affairs, and formerly served as a press officer in Brussels. I look forward to raising UNYSA's profile, particularly through a revamped website.

Education Officer: Avnish Raichura

I grew up in Kenya and am now studying international relations at Leeds University. I am President of Leeds UNYSA, having previously served as Talks and Debates Officer, and I have organised and taken part in many Model UN events.



Photo © UNA-UK/Benedict Parsons

Vice-President: Ravina Handa

A graduate of Birmingham University, I will begin studying next year for a Masters in Law, in order to fulfil my ambition of becoming an environmental lawyer. I want to contribute to the expansion of UNYSA while bringing creativity and energy to the Youth Council's work this year.

Campaigns Officer: Zaid Kamona

I currently attend Kingston University, and helped to launch its UNA branch. I hope to raise awareness of the important issues that the UN is involved in, such as climate change and trade justice, and look forward to working closely with other members on these issues.

The UN Youth and Student Association (UNYSA) is the youth wing of UNA-UK, with societies and groups at universities and schools around the country.

Would you like to join UNYSA or set up a UNYSA group at your school or university?

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

Millennium Development Goals: 2007 Progress Chart

Since their establishment in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals have become a universally shared framework for development. They are a means for developing countries and their development partners to assess their ability to work together to reach meaningful targets in key areas. Governments, United Nations agencies and other international organisations, and major civil society groups are actively using the MDGs as benchmarks for their development efforts.

The Goals set out time-bound and measurable targets for reducing poverty, increasing school attendance, promoting gender equality, averting maternal and child deaths, improving health care, combating major diseases and achieving environmental sustainability. A final Goal is building partnerships between developed and developing countries, which is a prerequisite to attaining the other Goals and to improving the well-being of the world's poorest people.

Progress at the MDGs mid-point

The Millennium Declaration established 2015 as the target date for achieving most of the MDGs, with 1990 generally used as a baseline. The chart below shows progress as of June 2007, based on data for selected indicators in each of the eight Goals. The assessment is based on an analysis of trends between 1990 and the latest year for which data are available. Given the time lag between collecting data and analysing them, the latest information available for some of the indicators is from 2004 or 2005.



Goals and Targets	Africa		Asia				Oceania	Latin America & Caribbean	Commonwealth of Independent States	
	Northern	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western			Europe	Asia

GOAL 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Reduce extreme poverty by half	low poverty	very high poverty	moderate poverty	moderate poverty	very high poverty	low poverty	---	moderate poverty	low poverty	low poverty
Reduce hunger by half	very low hunger	very high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	high hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	moderate hunger	very low hunger	high hunger

GOAL 2 | Achieve universal primary education

Universal primary schooling	high enrolment	low enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	moderate enrolment	moderate enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment	high enrolment
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GOAL 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women

Equal girls' enrolment in primary school	close to parity	almost close to parity	parity	parity	close to parity	close to parity	close to parity	parity	parity	parity
Women's share of paid employment	low share	medium share	high share	medium share	low share	low share	medium share	high share	high share	high share
Women's equal representation in national parliaments	very low representation	low representation	moderate representation	low representation	low representation	very low representation	very low representation	moderate representation	low representation	low representation

GOAL 4 | Reduce child mortality

Reduce mortality of under-five-year-olds by two thirds	low mortality	very high mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality
Measles immunization	high coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	high coverage	low coverage	high coverage	high coverage	high coverage

GOAL 5 | Improve maternal health

Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters*	moderate mortality	very high mortality	low mortality	high mortality	very high mortality	moderate mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	low mortality
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GOAL 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS	low prevalence	very high prevalence	low prevalence	low prevalence	moderate prevalence	low prevalence	moderate prevalence	moderate prevalence	moderate prevalence	moderate prevalence	low prevalence
Halt and reverse spread of malaria*	low risk	high risk	moderate risk	moderate risk	moderate risk	low risk	low risk	moderate risk	low risk	low risk	
Halt and reverse spread of tuberculosis	low mortality	high mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality	low mortality	moderate mortality	moderate mortality	

GOAL 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability

Reverse loss of forests**	low forest cover	medium forest cover	medium forest cover	high forest cover	medium forest cover	low forest cover	high forest cover	high forest cover	high forest cover	low forest cover
Halve proportion without improved drinking water	high coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	high coverage	low coverage	high coverage	high coverage	moderate coverage
Halve proportion without sanitation	moderate coverage	very low coverage	very low coverage	low coverage	very low coverage	moderate coverage	low coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage	moderate coverage
Improve the lives of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	very high proportion of slum-dwellers	high proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	high proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	low proportion of slum-dwellers	moderate proportion of slum-dwellers

GOAL 8 | Develop a global partnership for development

Youth unemployment**	very high unemployment	high unemployment	low unemployment	high unemployment	moderate unemployment	very high unemployment	low unemployment	high unemployment	high unemployment	high unemployment
Internet users	moderate access	very low access	moderate access	moderate access	low access	moderate access	low access	high access	moderate access	moderate access

Country experiences in each region may differ significantly from the regional average. For the regional groupings and country data, see mdgs.un.org.

Sources: United Nations, based on data and estimates provided by: Food and Agriculture Organization; Inter-Parliamentary Union; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunication Unit; UNESCO; UNICEF; World Health Organization; UNAIDS; UN-Habitat; World Bank – based on statistics available as of June 2007.

Compiled by: Statistics Division, UN DESA. Photo by: Adam Rogers/ UNCDF

The progress chart operates on two levels. The words in each box tell what the current rate of compliance with each target is. The colours show the trend, toward meeting the target by 2015 or not. See legend below:

- Target already met or very close to being met.
- Target is expected to be met by 2015 if prevailing trends persist, or the problem that this target is designed to address is not a serious concern in the region.
- Target is not expected to be met by 2015.
- No progress, or a deterioration or reversal.
- Insufficient data.

* The available data for maternal mortality and malaria do not allow a trend analysis. Progress in the chart has been assessed by the responsible agencies on the basis of proxy indicators.

** The assessment is based on a new methodology and therefore not comparable with previous assessments.